

PRESS RELEASE

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New National, State Scorecard on Children's Progress Shows Need to Create More Opportunity for Children of Color

Race for Results Show Obstacles to Reaching Key Milestones, Especially Children of Color

AUSTIN, TEXAS--- With one in 11 children in the U.S. calling Texas home, America's future prosperity depends on Texas' ability to prepare all our children to achieve their full potential. But a [new Annie E. Casey Foundation report](#) shows Texas and the nation have much ground to cover to ensure that all kids – especially children of color – are positioned to thrive.

The KIDS COUNT® policy report, [Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children](#), unveils the new Race for Results index, which uses 12 developmental, health and educational indicators to compare how children are progressing across racial and ethnic groups at the national and state level. Using a scale of one to 1,000 (from worst to best), Latino children, who scored 376, and African-American, with a score of 386, are doing distressingly worse than other children, a pattern that holds true in nearly every state. Asian and Pacific Islander children in Texas have the highest index score at 824, followed by white children at 710 and American-Indian at 631.

[Children of color already represent the majority of our nearly seven million Texas kids](#), with more than three million Hispanic and 809,000 African-American children. [As leading demographers have shown for years](#), Texas must create better opportunities for education and jobs for all kids, but particularly kids of color which tend to be lower income. If we do not, we risk becoming a poorer, less competitive state with a less well-educated workforce.

“Texas’ children are the face—and the future—of the U.S.,” said Dr. Frances Deviney, Texas KIDS COUNT Director. “The inevitable costs of letting any group of kids fall behind in their education or health is unacceptably high for Texas and the future of the country.”

The *Race for Results* index is based on 12 indicators that measure a child's success for each stage of life, from birth to adulthood. The indicators were chosen based on the goal that all children should grow up in economically successful families, live in supportive communities and meet developmental, health and educational milestones. To compare results across the areas in the index, the indicators are grouped into four areas: early childhood; education and early work; family supports; and neighborhood context.

“This index is a wake-up call for Texas and our responsibility to the next generation,” said Ann Beeson, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, home to the KIDS COUNT project in Texas. “When a sizeable group of Texas kids, particularly kids of color, are facing serious barriers to success, there is a clear call for both public and private action to create equitable opportunities for all kids.”

The report makes four policy recommendations to help ensure that all children and their families achieve their full potential:

- Gather and analyze child wellbeing data by race and ethnicity to inform policies and decision making;
- Utilize data and impact assessment tools to target investments to yield the greatest impact for children of color;
- Develop and implement promising and proven programs and practices focused on improving outcomes for children and youth of color; and
- Integrate strategies that explicitly connect vulnerable groups to new jobs and opportunities in economic and workforce development.

[Click here for a Texas data snapshot.](#)

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For More Information

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