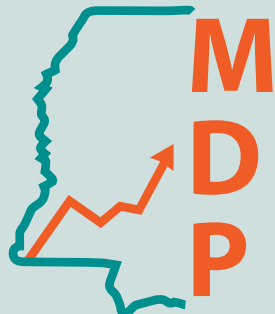


Enhancing Child Well-Being in Mississippi

A Guide to Improving KIDS COUNT Outcomes and Rankings



Mississippi Data Project

A Special Report of the
Mississippi Data Project

February 2018

Introduction and Background

The concept of child well-being covers a broad range of concerns related to the physical, social and emotional development of a child. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has been ranking US states on overall child well-being for more than two decades. Rankings are determined by a state's faring on 16 indicators, which are organized by four domains: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. These rankings are then used to determine the states' overall standing from highest (1) to lowest (50). Mississippi has consistently found itself at or near the bottom of these rankings; however, according to the most recently released data, the state has shown some progress since the last rating period. Within the education domain, there was improvement in three of the four areas, with the largest advancement being in fourth graders not proficient in reading (down from 79% in 2013 to 74% in 2015). On other indicators the state fared either as well as (e.g., teens who abuse alcohol or drugs) or better than the national average (children living in households with a high housing cost burden, young children not in school, children without health insurance and children in families where household head lacks high school diploma). The data are not as encouraging for the percentage of children living in high poverty areas, children living in households with high housing cost burden and teens not in school and not working; all of those statistics have remained unchanged.

Mississippi is also one of the states in which the WK Kellogg Foundation has concentrated some of its US work; the other places are Michigan, New Mexico and New Orleans, LA. The Foundation contracted with the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University to examine the Kids Count indicators and determine how much improvement would need to occur for Mississippi to advance its rankings. Other organizations have prepared similar reports for the remaining place-based locations. This report utilizes several vantage points to estimate the extent to which Mississippi has to "move the needle" on each of the 16 indicators to achieve better outcomes for its youngest residents. It begins with very minimal movement (up 1+ positions), then projects the impact of a moderate gain (5+ positions) before expanding to the ideal, the top ranking (1st). The next factor examined is the extent an indicator has to decrease (in percentage points) to improve the coordinating ranking. Thirdly, estimates project how many children would be impacted by the improved outcome. Lastly, recommendations are made related to efforts the state and/or other entities can take to move each indicator forward.

Summary Findings

These data suggest that a lower performing state does not have to make monumental gains in an indicator to have a meaningful impact on its population; in those areas where the state is not performing well, even minimal improvement

can affect a significant number of children. This is important because the state ranks 46th or lower on 11 of the 16 indicators. For example, in order for Mississippi to move from 50th place to 49th for children living in poverty, it would take a 6% drop in child poverty, and result in 14,452 fewer children living in that condition. Reading and math scores, both of which have shown recent improvement, would have to make even smaller decreases in the percentages of children scoring below proficient- in either subject- to achieve at least a one-step improved ranking (3% and 1%, respectively). Some of the recommendations in this report are in the forms of policy changes that must occur at the state level. Others address programmatic efforts that could be implemented by either the state government or other state/public/private sector partnerships. Many could conceivably come at little or no cost to the state. For instance, financial obligations would be minimal in ensuring that clinicians and public officials promote the proper use of child restraint systems in vehicles to reduce child and teen deaths, or in promoting the use of conscious discipline techniques, including "restorative justice" programs across all school districts to reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time. Others, such as providing high-quality home visiting programs for families identified as high risk for child abuse and neglect in the effort to reduce child and teen deaths, would require a substantial investment of resources and/or changes in state level policy.

This report offers perspective to what it means to move between rankings on a given indicator, both in terms of the magnitude of the change that has to occur and the potential number of children and families that would be impacted.

A Note on KIDS COUNT Rankings


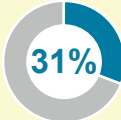
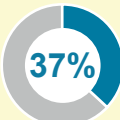
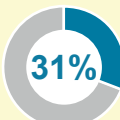

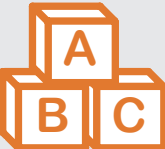

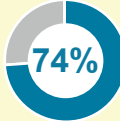
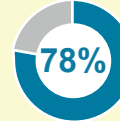


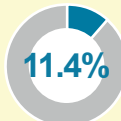
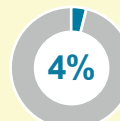
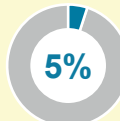

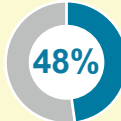
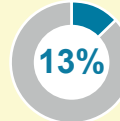
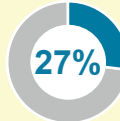
States are ranked by indicators as well as domains. It is important to note that while states cannot tie on the overall rankings, they can tie on the indicator rankings. For example, Mississippi's overall rank for 2017 is 50th, meaning that it had the lowest total rank among all states. However, when examining the individual indicator rankings Mississippi ranked 5th for the percentage of "teens who abuse alcohol and drugs in 2016" (5%), as did 29 other states.

Because states can tie on indicator rankings, a small change in outcomes can mean a much larger jump in terms of ranking. In other words, a small improvement in the percentage of teens who abuse alcohol and drugs could have meant Mississippi was ranked anywhere from 1st to 4th, depending on how many other states did just as well.

In addition, Mississippi's ranking in any given year is the result of more than just how well Mississippi performed on an indicator that year. It also depends on how well the other 49 states fared. Ranking improvement estimates in this report are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings.

Mississippi KIDS COUNT Profile

Overall Rank (2017): 50th

Domains	Indicators of child well-being			
 <p>Economic Well-Being Domain Rank: 50th</p>	<p>Children at or below the poverty level</p>  <p>224,000 children (2015)</p> <p>Worse since 2014 (29%) Worse than US average (21%)</p>	<p>Children whose parents lack secure employment</p>  <p>272,000 children (2015)</p> <p>Worsened since 2014 (36%) Worse than US average (29%)</p>	<p>Children living in households with a high housing cost burden</p>  <p>229,000 children (2015)</p> <p>Unchanged since 2014 (31%) Better than US average (33%)</p>	<p>Teens (16-19) not in school and not working</p>  <p>17,000 teens (2015)</p> <p>Unchanged since 2014 (10%) Worse than US average (7%)</p>
 <p>Education Domain Rank: 48th</p>	<p>Young children not in school</p>  <p>42,000 children (2013-15)</p> <p>Improved since 12-14 (51%) Better than US average (53%)</p>	<p>Fourth graders not proficient in reading</p>  <p>(2015)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (79%) Worse than US average (65%)</p>	<p>Eighth graders not proficient in math</p>  <p>(2015)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (79%) Worse than US average (68%)</p>	<p>High school students not graduating on time</p>  <p>(2014-15)</p> <p>Worsened since 13-14 (22%) Worse than US average (17%)</p>
 <p>Health Domain Rank: 48th</p>	<p>Low-birthweight babies</p>  <p>4,387 babies (2015)</p> <p>Worsened since 2014 (11.3%) Worse than US average (8.1%)</p>	<p>Children without health insurance</p>  <p>29,000 children (2015)</p> <p>Improved since 2014 (5%) Better than US average (5%)</p>	<p>Child (1-14) and teen (15-19) death rates (per 100,000)</p> <p>40</p> <p>308 deaths (2015)</p> <p>Worsened since 2014 (39) Worse than US average (25)</p>	<p>Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs</p>  <p>12,000 teens (2013-14)</p> <p>Improved since 12-13 (6%) Same as US average (5%)</p>
 <p>Family and Community Domain Rank: 50th</p>	<p>Children in single-parent families</p>  <p>324,000 children (2015)</p> <p>Worsened since 2014 (47%) Worse than US average (35%)</p>	<p>Children in families where household head lacks high school diploma</p>  <p>91,000 children (2015)</p> <p>Improved since 2014 (14%) Better than US average (14%)</p>	<p>Children living in high-poverty areas</p>  <p>198,000 children (2011-15)</p> <p>Unchanged since 10-14 (27%) Worse than US average (14%)</p>	<p>Teen (15-19) birth rate (per 1,000)</p> <p>35</p> <p>3,536 births (2015)</p> <p>Improved since 2014 (38) Worse than US average (22)</p>

Source: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 and 2017
Mississippi KIDS COUNT, Family and Children Research Unit, Social Science Research Center

Get more KIDS COUNT data at datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MS



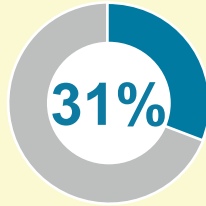
Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children Living in Poverty*

2017 indicator
ranking



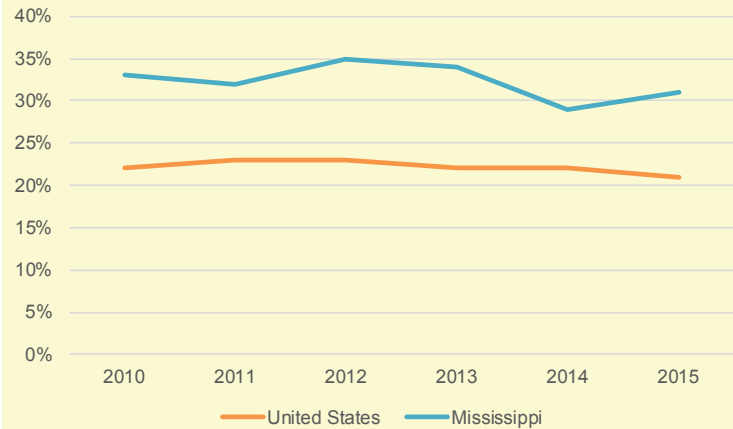
Percent of
children in poverty



Number of children in poverty

224,000

Trends in child poverty



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to **49th**

It would take a

6%

drop

in child poverty



Which means

14,452
fewer children in poverty

To move up
5+ rankings to **43rd**

It would take an

19%

drop

in child poverty



Which means

43,355
fewer children in poverty

To move up to
the top ranking **1st**

It would take a

65%

drop

in child poverty



Which means

144,516
fewer children in poverty

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Use interagency commissions and innovation funds to promote public-private collaboration, align policies and programs, and ensure policies help families achieve financial stability.
- Ensure families have access to state and federal programs that boost income, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Simplify eligibility rules for vital income supports, such as housing and assistance programs.
- Support home visiting programs that can help families build relationships with organizations focused on employment and financial coaching.

*Children living in families with incomes below \$24,036 for a family of two adults and two children, 2015

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2015



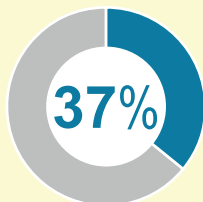
Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children in Families without Secure Employment*

2017 indicator
ranking

49th

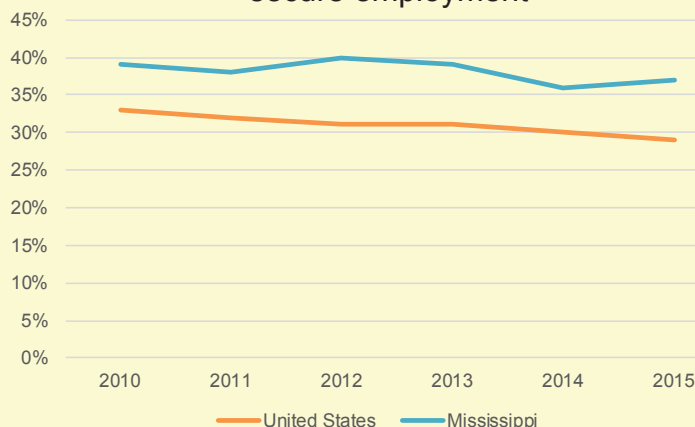
Percent of children in families
without secure employment



Number of children in families without
secure employment

272,000

Trends in children in families without
secure employment



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to

44th

It would take a

8%
drop

in children in this
situation

Which means

22,054
fewer children in this situation

To move up
5+ rankings to

30th

It would take a

19%
drop

in children in this
situation

Which means

51,459
fewer children in this situation

To move up to
the top ranking

1st

It would take a

46%
drop

in children in this
situation

Which means

124,973
fewer children in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Provide parents with multiple pathways, such as education and workforce training programs, to get family-supporting jobs and achieve financial stability.
- Ensure parents have access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education that allows them to play their dual roles as parents and employees.
- Adopt policies that give parents needed flexibility at work, such as paid family and sick leave.
- Promote college preparation programs in each school district across the state.
- Increase employment opportunities for college graduates.

*Children (ages 0-17) living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, 2015

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings.
Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2015



Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children Living in Households with High Housing Cost Burdens*

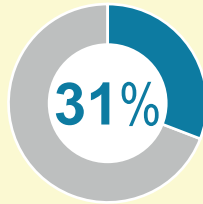
2017 indicator ranking

27th

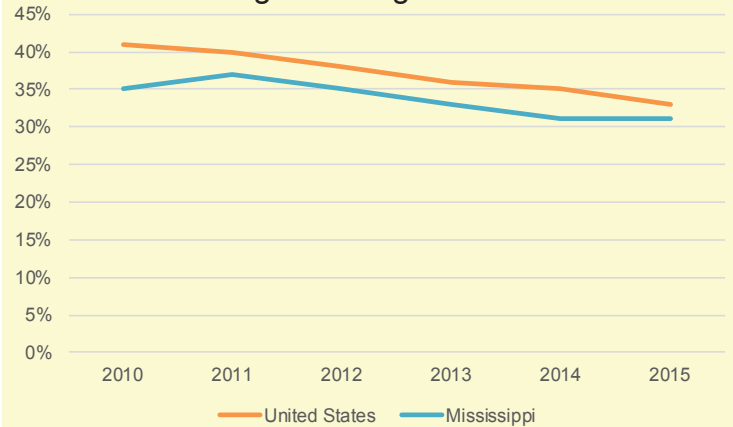
Number of children living in households with high housing cost burdens

229,000

Percent of children living in households with high housing cost burdens



Trends in children living in households with high housing cost burdens



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

23th

It would take a

3% drop

in children in this situation

Which means

7,387

fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to

12th

It would take a

16% drop

in children in this situation

Which means

36,935

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

45% drop

in children in this situation

Which means

103,419

fewer children in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Provide affordable housing located near thriving job markets.
- Protect more families from predatory lending practices that can lead to home foreclosure.
- Provide financial coaching for families to help them design strategies to manage income, plan and save for the future, and build assets.
- Increase mixed-income public housing programs to create more positive living environments that can provide lower-income families with resources to promote upward economic mobility.

*Children (ages 0-17) in households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing, 2014

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2015



Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Teens Not in School and Not Working*

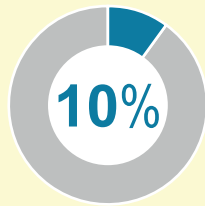
2017 indicator
ranking

47th

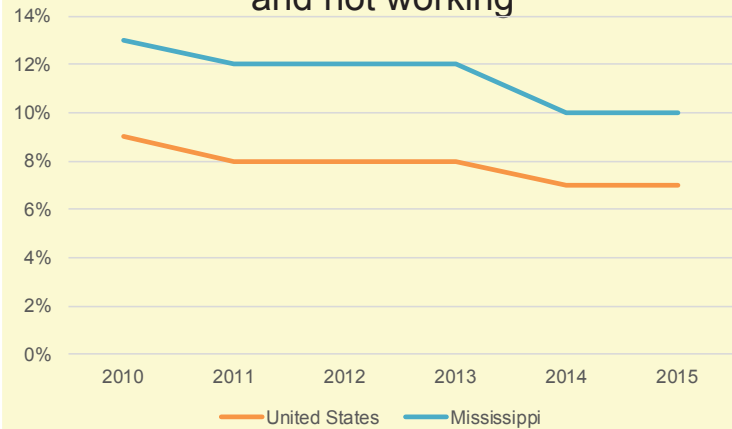
Number of teens not in school and
not working

17,000

Percent of teens not in
school and not working



Trends in teens not in school
and not working



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to

40th

It would take a

10%
drop

in teens not in school
and not working

Which means

1,700

fewer disconnected teens

To move up
5+ rankings to

5th

It would take a

50%
drop

in teens not in school
and not working

Which means

8,500

fewer disconnected teens

To move up to
the top ranking

1st

It would take a

60%
drop

in teens not in school
and not working

Which means

10,200

fewer disconnected teens

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Create incentives, such as a youth payroll tax credit, to encourage more businesses to hire young people.
- Enact initiatives to lower the cost of college.
- Create access to education-oriented youth employment and career exploration programs.
- Promote tuition guarantee programs throughout Mississippi as a strong incentive for high school students to graduate and attend community colleges.

*Teens (ages 16 to 19) not attending school and not working, 2015

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2015



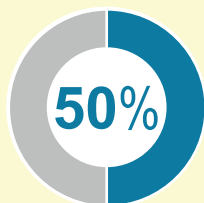
Education

INDICATOR: Young Children Not in School*

2017 indicator ranking



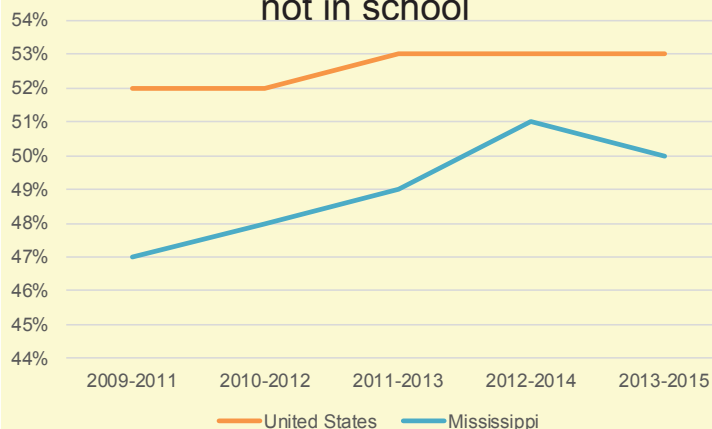
Percent of young children not in school



Number of young children not in school

42,000

Trends in young children not in school



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

7th

It would take a

4%

drop

in young children not in school



Which means

1,680

fewer young children not in school

To move up 5+ rankings to

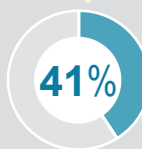
3rd

It would take a

18%

drop

in young children not in school



Which means

7,560

fewer young children not in school

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

28%

drop

in young children not in school



Which means

11,760

fewer young children not in school

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Ensure high-quality early childhood care and education is affordable to all families across the state.
- Increase the number of Pre-K Collaborative classrooms to have at least one per school district over the next 5 years, beginning with the geographical areas where the state's most disenfranchised children live.
- Utilize home visiting programs to educate parents on the value of early learning.
- Promote coordination among early care and education programs.
- Increase access to and enrollment in Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

*Young children (ages 3 and 4) attending a school or class of institution providing educational experiences (which can include nursery school, preschool, pre-K, Head Start, and kindergarten).

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2015



Education

INDICATOR: 4th Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading*

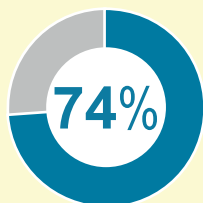
2017 indicator ranking



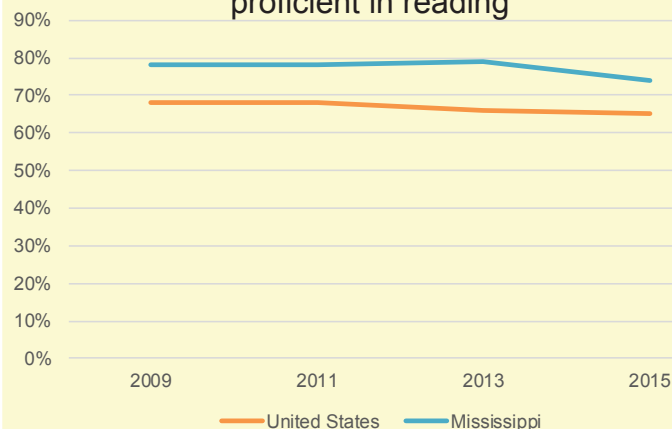
Number of 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading

27,095

Percent of 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading



Trends in 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

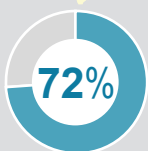
To move up 1+ rankings to

48th

It would take a

3%
drop

4th graders in this situation



Which means

732

fewer 4th graders in this situation

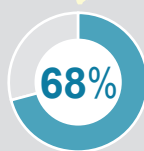
To move up 5+ rankings to

38th

It would take a

8%
drop

4th graders in this situation



Which means

2,197

fewer 4th graders in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

32%
drop

4th graders in this situation



Which means

8,788

fewer 4th graders in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Promote a coordinated early childhood developmental health system, with screening, referral & follow-up for all children.
- Develop a coherent system of early care and education that prepares children for the challenges of 4th grade and beyond.
- Encourage and enable parents, families, and caregivers to play their respective roles as co-producers of good outcomes for children.
- Utilize practical solutions to summer learning loss, which contributes to the under-achievement of children from low-income families

*Fourth graders scoring below proficient in reading on the National Assessment of Education Progress

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP, 2007-2015; MS Department of Education Enrollment by Grade, 2015



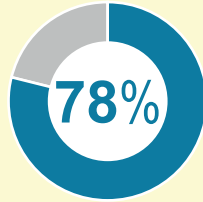
Education

INDICATOR: 8th Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math*

2017 indicator ranking

46th

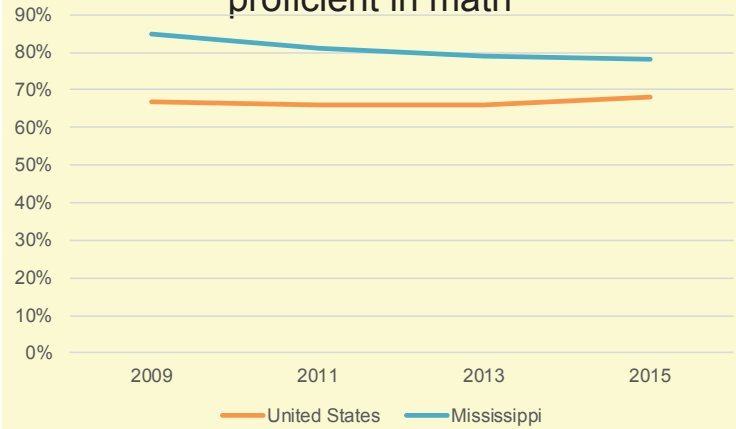
Percent of 8th graders scoring below proficient in math



Number of 8th graders scoring below proficient in math

27,990

Trends in 8th graders scoring below proficient in math

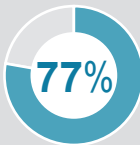


WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 45th

It would take a

1% drop



in 8th graders in this situation

Which means

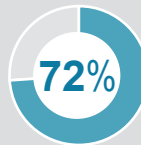
359

fewer 8th graders in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to 38th

It would take a

8% drop



in 8th graders in this situation

Which means

2,153

fewer 8th graders in this situation

To move up to the top ranking 1st

It would take a

37% drop



in 8th graders in this situation

Which means

10,406

fewer 8th graders in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Ensure all school districts have necessary funding to provide students with a high-quality education that prepares them for the opportunities of tomorrow.
- Provide high-quality before- and after-school, mentorship, and tutoring programs to provide added academic assistance to low-income and low-performing students, or those whose parents may not be able to help them with homework.
- Provide math coaches and professional development for math teachers.

*Eighth graders scoring below proficient in math on the National Assessment of Education Progress

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence Mississippi's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP, 2007-2015; MS Department of Education Enrollment by Grade, 2015



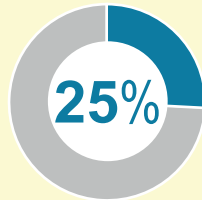
Education

INDICATOR: High School Students Not Graduating on Time*

2017 indicator ranking

Percent of high school students not graduating on time

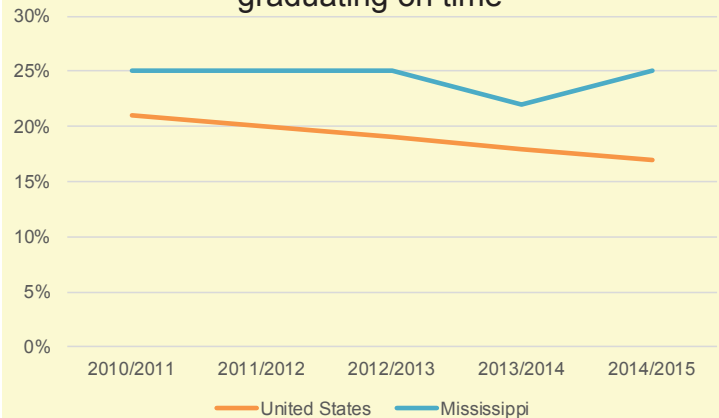
47th



Number of high school students not graduating on time

9,464

Trends in high school students not graduating on time



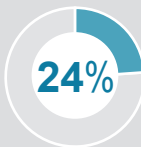
WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 46th

It would take a

4% drop

in students in this situation



Which means

379

fewer students in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to 35th

It would take a

20% drop

in students in this situation



Which means

1,893

fewer students in this situation

To move up to the top ranking 1st

It would take a

64% drop

in students in this situation



Which means

6,057

fewer students in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Support evidence-based drop-out and teen pregnancy prevention programs, and provide support for vulnerable students who are at risk for dropping out.
- Focus on understanding the root problems that trigger misbehavior and ensure school counselors are available and equipped to help address them in order to prevent high suspension rates among students, which can lead to drop-out.
- Promote use of conscious discipline techniques, including “restorative justice” programs across all school districts.
- Implement systems to identify and address chronic absenteeism.

*Members of a freshman class not graduating in four years; this measure not the same as the percentage of students who drop out.

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Health

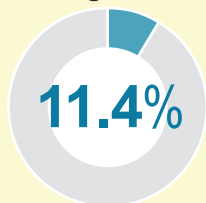
INDICATOR: Low-Birthweight Babies*

2017 indicator
ranking



50th

Percent of low-
birthweight babies

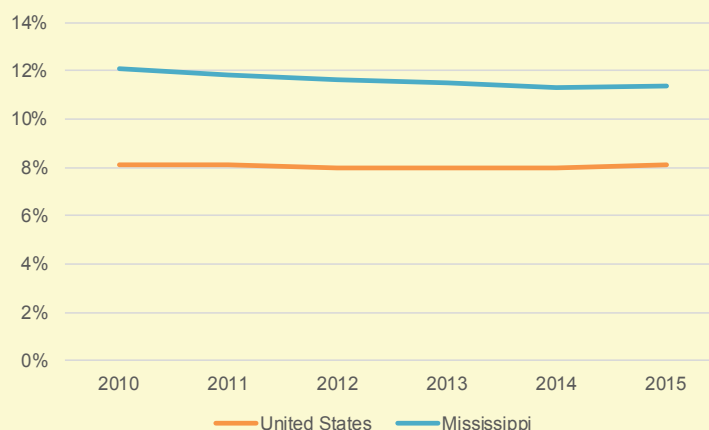


11.4%

Number of low-birthweight babies

4,387

Trends in low-birthweight babies



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to

49th

It would take a

7%

drop

in low-birthweight
babies



10.6%

Which means

308

fewer low-birthweight babies

To move up
5+ rankings to

44th

It would take a

18%

drop

in low-birthweight
babies



9.3%

Which means

808

fewer low-birthweight babies

To move up to
the top ranking

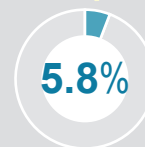
1st

It would take a

49%

drop

in low-birthweight
babies



5.8%

Which means

2,155

fewer low-birthweight babies

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Ensure treatment of chronic diseases in women, which have a relationship with poor birth outcomes.
- Develop comprehensive services that address behavioral, social, and environmental risk factors for poor birth outcomes.
- Promote increased prenatal care within the first trimester, access to and interconceptional care and understanding of the association between chronic stressors and negative birth outcomes.
- Expand and fully fund health and nutrition programs for pregnant teens.

*Babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds.

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Health

INDICATOR: Children without Health Insurance*

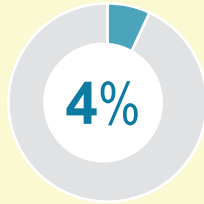
2017 indicator
ranking

16th

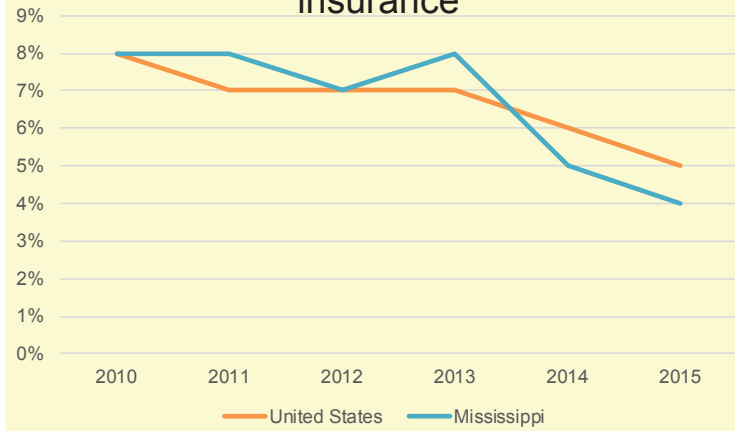
Number of children without health
insurance

29,000 

Percent of children
without health insurance



Trends in children without health
insurance



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to

5th

It would take a

25%
drop

in children without
health insurance

Which means

7,250 

fewer children without insurance

To move up to
the top ranking

1st

It would take a

75%
drop

in children without
health insurance

Which means

21,750 

fewer children without insurance

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Expand Medicaid and implement outreach and enrollment programs to help cover those children who are eligible, but still not enrolled in Medicaid.
- Simplify the Medicaid enrollment and recertification process for children.
- Provide outreach to families who qualify for the Children's Health Insurance Program, but may not be aware of the program or enrolled.
- Ensure children and families have access to high-quality, affordable health insurance.

*Percent of children (ages 0-17) without health insurance.

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Health

INDICATOR: Child and Teen Deaths*

2017 indicator ranking

46th

Child and teen death rate

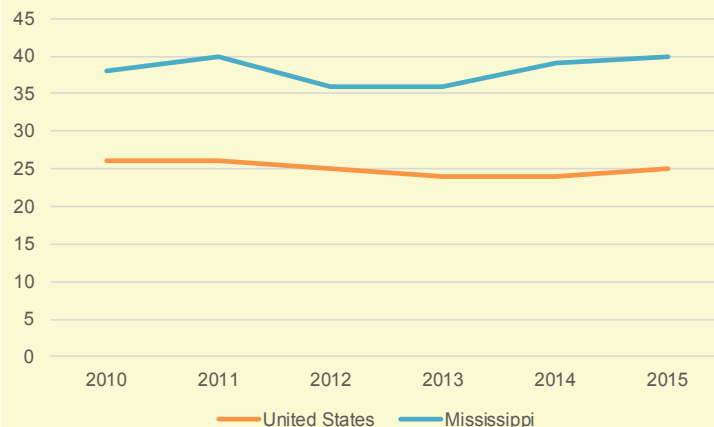
40

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

Number of child and teen deaths

308

Trends in child and teen death rate



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

45th

It would take a

8%

drop

in child and teen deaths

37

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

Which means

23



fewer child and teen deaths

To move up 5+ rankings to

39th

It would take a

20%

drop

in child and teen deaths

32

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

Which means

62



fewer child and teen deaths

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

63%

drop

in child and teen deaths

15

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

Which means

193



fewer child and teen deaths

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Ensure that clinicians and public health officials are promoting the proper use of child restraint systems in vehicles.
- Promote passage of a statewide bicycle helmet law.
- Provide high-quality home visiting programs for families identified as high risk for child abuse and neglect.
- Provide funding for suicide prevention programs for youth.
- Increase funding for child protective services to increase staff and reduce caseloads.
- Enact stronger gun safety laws to limit unauthorized child access to guns.

*Child and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19)

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2017; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings.

Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2017 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Public Use Files for 2008-2015



Health

INDICATOR: Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse*

2017 indicator
ranking



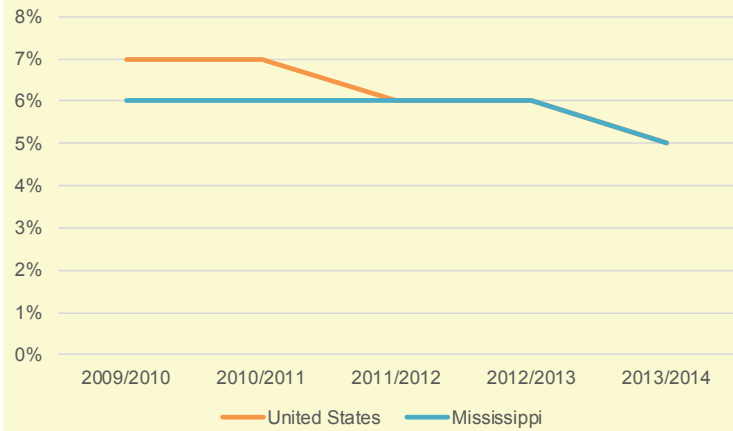
Percent of teens abusing
alcohol and drugs



Number of teens abusing alcohol
and drugs

12,000

Trends in teen alcohol and drug abuse



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

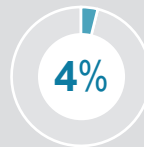
To move up to
the top ranking

1st

It would take a

20%
drop

in teens abusing
alcohol and drugs



Which means

2,400

fewer teens abusing alcohol and drugs

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Review state policies in the serving of alcohol to promote more alcohol consumption in establishments within or nearby schools, technical institutions, community colleges, colleges and/or universities.
- Promote county-level research to assess underage drinking and the level of enforcement in Mississippi, with a particular emphasis on college and university campuses.
- Expand mental health programs for children, youth, and families.
- Fund drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for youth at an early intervention stage to prevent further problems and recidivism.

*Teens (ages 12 to 17) who reported abusing alcohol or drugs in the past year.

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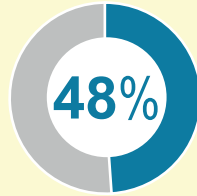
Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children in Single-Parent Families*

2017 indicator
ranking

50th

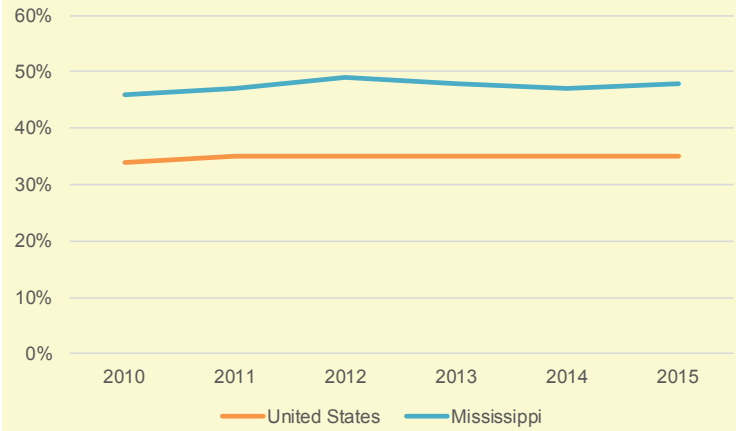
Percent of children in
single-parent families



Number of children in single-parent
families

324,000

Trends in children in single-parent families



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

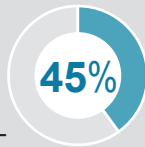
To move up
1+ rankings to

49th

It would take a

6%

drop



in children in single-
parent families

Which means

20,250

fewer children in this situation

To move up
5+ rankings to

39th

It would take a

17%

drop



in children in single-
parent families

Which means

54,000

fewer children in this situation

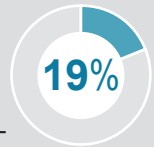
To move up to
the top ranking

1st

It would take a

60%

drop



in children in single-
parent families

Which means

195,750

fewer children in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Promote high school and community instruction on evidence-based sexuality education, marriage and relationship skills.
- Provide home visiting programs for teen parents.
- Fund mentorship and other pregnancy prevention programs for teens.
- Support career pathways approaches that align adult education with industry needs in low-income areas across the state.

*Children (ages 0-17) in single-parent families

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Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children in Families where Household Head Lacks High School Diploma*

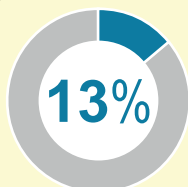
2017 indicator ranking

37th

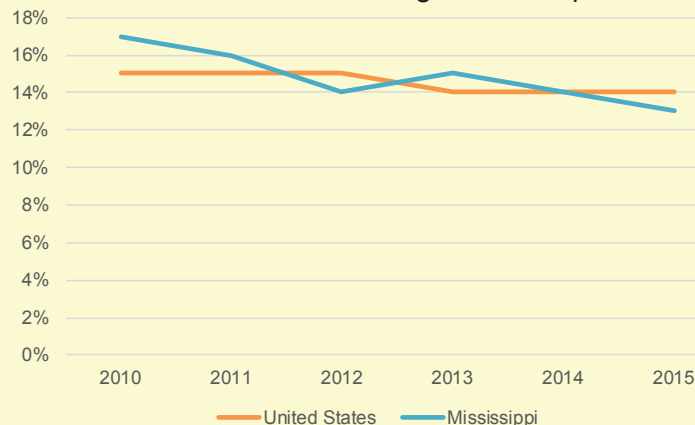
Number of children in families where household head lacks high school diploma

91,000

Percent of children in families where household head lacks high school diploma



Trends in children in families where household head lacks high school diploma



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

30th

It would take a

8%

drop

in children in this situation

Which means

7,000

fewer children in this situation

12%

To move up 5+ rankings to

6th

It would take a

38%

drop

in children in this situation

Which means

35,000

fewer children in this situation

8%

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

69%

drop

in children in this situation

Which means

63,000

fewer children in this situation

4%

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Expand access to high school equivalency programs, adult basic education, post-secondary education, and job training through a career pathways approach.
- Provide need-based financial assistance for these programs to low-income and low-skilled adults.
- Fund evidence-based drop-out prevention programs that combine education, job training, and youth development.
- Expand access to education-oriented youth employment and career exploration programs.
- Promote school and community-based programs that encourage pregnant teenagers to stay in school and increase accessibility of education for young parents.

*Children (ages 0-17) in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.

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Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children Living in High-Poverty Areas*

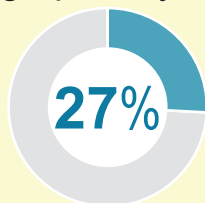
2017 indicator ranking

50th

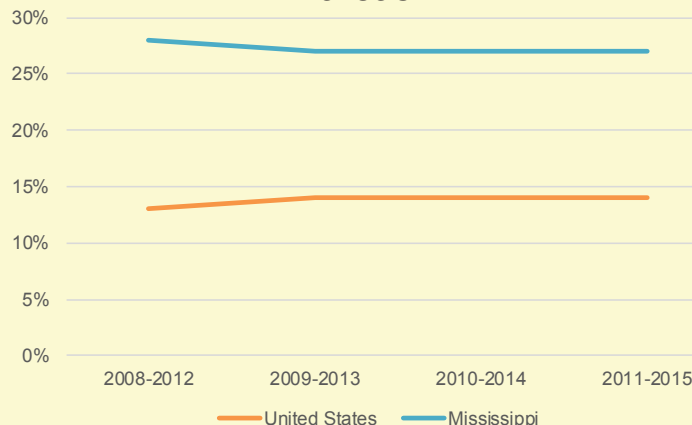
Number of children living in high-poverty areas

198,000

Percent of children living in high-poverty areas



Trends in children living in high-poverty areas



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to **49th**

It would take a

7%

drop

in children living in high-poverty areas

Which means

14,667

fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to **45th**

It would take a

33%

drop

in children living in high-poverty areas

Which means

66,000

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking **1st**

It would take a

96%

drop

in children living in high-poverty areas

Which means

190,667

fewer children in this situation

WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Promote community change efforts that integrate revitalization with human capital development.
- Help low-income workers by increasing the minimum wage.
- Analyze data by geography, race, and income in order to target economic development policies where they are most needed; ensure that public investments create jobs & business opportunities for low-income communities.
- Integrate economic inclusion strategies within economic and workforce development efforts.
- Ensure all Mississippians have access to entrepreneurship programs and opportunities to start or expand a business.

*Children (ages 0-17) living in high-poverty areas, which are defined as census tracts with poverty rates equal to or greater than 30%

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Family and Community

INDICATOR: Teen Birth Rate*

2017 indicator
ranking

46th

Teen birth rate

35

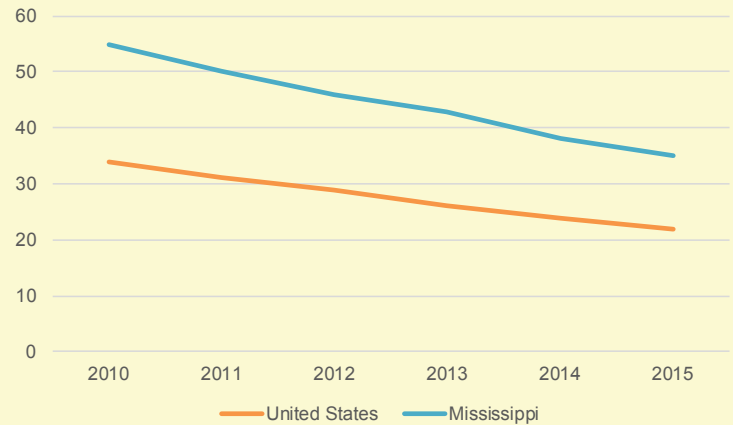
births per 1,000
female teens

Number of teen births

3,536



Trends in teen birth rates



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to

45th

It would take a

3%

drop

in teen births

34

births per 1,000
female teens

Which means

101

fewer teen births



To move up
5+ rankings to

39st

It would take a

17%

drop

in teen births

29

births per 1,000
female teens

Which means

606

fewer teen births



To move up to
the top ranking

1st

It would take a

74%

drop

in teen births

9

births per 1,000
female teens

Which means

2,627

fewer teen births



WHAT MISSISSIPPI CAN DO

- Promote comprehensive, coordinated, sequential health education from pre-K to 12th grade.
- Provide funding and support for school-based health centers to ensure teen access to health professionals and better integrate health care with social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive development for teens.
- Increase the number of school-based nurses to the recommended national standards of child-nurse ratios.
- Require evidence-based standards for teen pregnancy prevention programs to help young people avoid pregnancy.

*Teen births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19

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Additional findings about the well-being of Mississippi's children, including additional reports from the Mississippi Data Project, are available at: www.msdatapoint.com
For more information, contact: MsDataProject@gmail.com

