# South Dakota: What Would It Take?

The Annie E. Casey Foundation publishes an annual data book that contains an assessment of child well-being nationally based on 16 indicators in four domains: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. This year, South Dakota ranked 14th in overall child well-being. While the state moved up four places from last year, there are still improvements to be made. This edition of the Facts on KIDS publication presents the numbers it will take for South Dakota to improve child well-being by 10% and to equal the top-ranked state.

## Economic Well-Being

**Domain Ranking 6**

**Children in Poverty, 2014: 18% or 37,000 children**

**10% improvement:** reduce by **4,000** the number of children in poverty.

**To equal the top state:** decrease by **10,000** the number of children in poverty.

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Children living in households with a high housing cost burden, 2014: 21% or 44,000

To improve by **10%,** South Dakota would need to reduce by 4,000 the number of children living in households with a high housing cost.

**To equal the top state,** South Dakota would need to decrease that number by 8,000.

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Teens (16-19 years old) not in school and not working, 2014: 6% or 2,700 children.

To improve by **10%,** South Dakota would need to reduce by 300 the number of teens not in school and not working.

**To equal the top state,** South Dakota would need to decrease that number by 1,000.

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**Children whose parents lack secure employment, 2014: 23% or 48,000 children**

**10% improvement:** reduce by **4,000** the number of children whose parents lack secure employment.

**To equal the top state:** decrease the number by **6,000** of children whose parents lack secure employment.

## Education

**Domain Ranking 31**

Young children (3 and 4 year olds) not in school, 2012-2014: 61% or 15,000 children

**To equal the top state: decrease by 7,000 the number of young children not in school.**

**10% improvement: reduce by 2,000 the number of young children not in school.**

—Fourth graders not proficient in reading, 2015: 65%. To improve by **10%**, South Dakota would need to reduce the percentage to 59%. **To equal the top state**, South Dakota would need to decrease the percentage to 50%.

—Eighth graders not proficient in math, 2015: 66%. To improve by **10%**, South Dakota would need to reduce the percentage to 59%. **To equal the top state**, South Dakota would need to decrease the percentage to 49%.

—High school students not graduating on time, 2012/13: 16%. To improve by **10%**, South Dakota would need to reduce the percentage to 14%. **To equal the top state**, South Dakota would need to reduce the percentage to 7%.
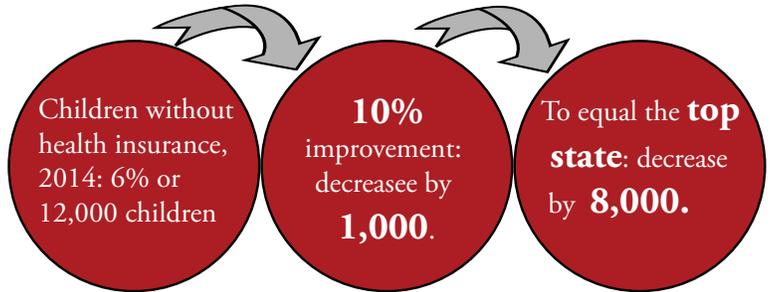
## Health

**Domain Ranking 26**

Child and teen death rate per 100,000, 2014: 32% or 71 deaths

**To equal the top state: decrease by 38 the number of child and teen deaths.**

**10% improvement: reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 7.**

Children without health insurance, 2014: 6% or 12,000 children

**10% improvement: decreasee by 1,000.**
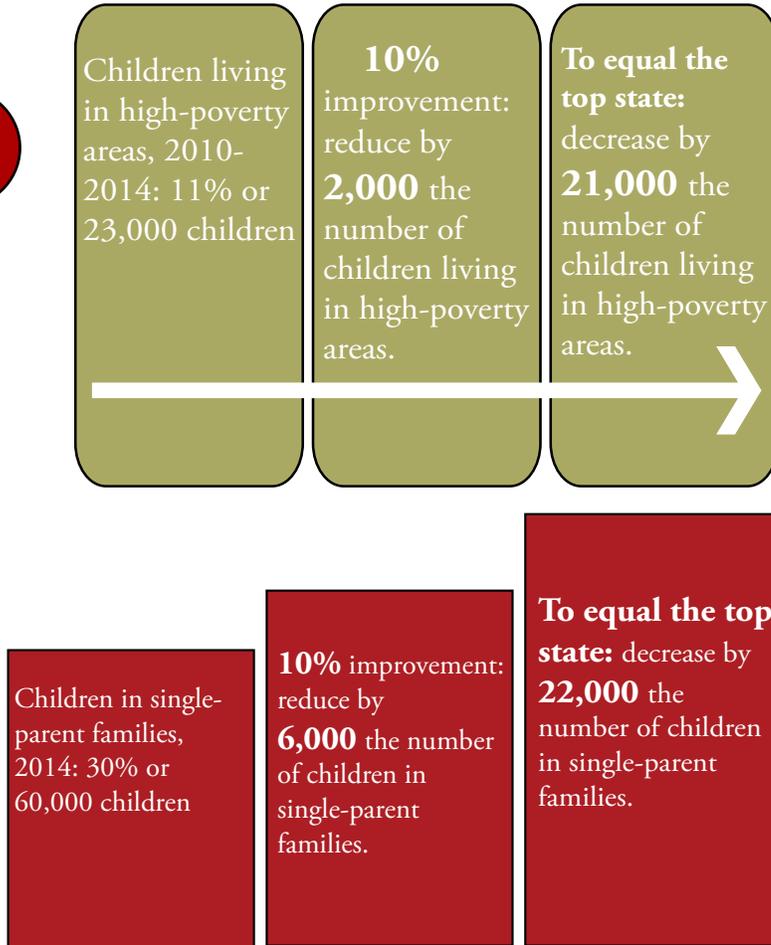
To equal the **top state**: decrease by **8,000.**

—Low birthweight babies, 2014: 6.5% or 800 babies. To improve by **10%** and **to equal the top state**, South Dakota must reduce by 79 the number of low birthweight babies.

—Teens (ages 12 to 17) who abused alcohol or drugs, 2013-2014: 5% or 3,000 teens. **To equal the top state**, South Dakota must decrease the percentage to 4%.

# Family and Community

**Domain Ranking**

**19**

Children living in high-poverty areas, 2010-2014: 11% or 23,000 children

**10%** improvement: reduce by **2,000** the number of children living in high-poverty areas.

**To equal the top state:** decrease by **21,000** the number of children living in high-poverty areas.

Children in single-parent families, 2014: 30% or 60,000 children

**10%** improvement: reduce by **6,000** the number of children in single-parent families.

**To equal the top state:** decrease by **22,000** the number of children in single-parent families.

—Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma, 2014: 6% or 12,000 children.

To improve by **10%**, South Dakota must reduce the number by 1,000.

**To equal the top state**, South Dakota must decrease the number by 4,000.

—Teen births (per 1,000), 2014: 26% or 735 births per 1,000.

To improve by **10%**, South Dakota would need to reduce the number by 91.

**To equal the top state**, South Dakota must decrease the number by 427.

## Definitions and Data Sources

Data are from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey unless otherwise noted. •**Economic Well-Being Indicators: Children in poverty** is the percentage of children under the age of 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as issued each year by the U.S. Census Bureau. In calendar year 2014, a family of two adults and two children fell in the "poverty" category if their annual income fell below $24,008. **Children whose parents lack secure employment** is the share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time, year-round employment. For children living in single-parent or married couple families, this means that the resident parent or both parents did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. **Children living in households with a high housing cost burden** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in households where more than 30 percent of monthly household pretax income is spent on housing-related expenses, including rent, mortgage payments, taxes and insurance. **Teens not in school and not working** is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full or part time) and not employed (full or part time). This measure is sometimes referred to as "opportunity" or "disconnected youth." •**Education Indicators: Young Children not in school** is the percentage of children ages 3 and 4 who were not enrolled in school (e.g. nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten) during the previous three months. **Fourth graders not proficient in reading** is the percentage of fourth-grade public school students who did not reach the proficient level in reading as measure by NAEP. *SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.* **Eighth graders not proficient in math** is the percentage of eighth-grade public school students who did not reach proficient level in math as measure by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). *SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.* **High school students not graduating on time** is the estimated percentage of an entering freshman class not graduating in four years. The measure is derived from the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR), which uses aggregate student enrollment data to estimate the size of an incoming freshman class and aggregate counts of the number of regular diplomas awarded four years later. *SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD).*

**Low-birthweight babies** is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data reflect the mother's place of residence, not the place where the birth occurred. *SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.* **•Health Indicators: Children without health insurance** is the percentage of children under age 18 not covered by any health insurance. **Child and teen deaths** is the number of deaths, from all causes, to children between ages 1 and 19 per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred. *SOURCES: Death Statistics: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. Population Statistics: U.S. Census Bureau.* **Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs** is the percentage of teens ages 12 to 17 reporting dependence on or abuse of either illicit drugs or alcohol in the past year. Illicit drugs include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants or prescription drugs used nonmedically. *SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health.* **•Family and Community Indicators: Children in single-parent families** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own unmarried parent, either in a family or subfamily. Single-parent families may include cohabiting couples. **Children in families where the household lacks a high school diploma** is the percentage of children under age 18 living in households where the household head does not have a high school diploma or equivalent. **Children living in high-poverty areas** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in census tracts where the poverty rate of the total population is 30 percent or more. **Teen births** is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence, rather than the place of the birth. *SOURCES: Birth Statistics: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. Population Statistics: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.*