# STATE CHILD WELL-BEING RANKING:

# ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

**CO-AUTHORED BY**

**SUSAN M. ENGEL, M.S.**
**sengel@cisunix.unh.edu**

**CAROLYN FIELD, M.A.**
**cfield@cisunix.unh.edu**

**DAVID FINKELHOR, Ph.D.**
**david.finkelhor@unh.edu**

**SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT,**
**& FAMILY RESEARCH LABORATORY**
**UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
**126 Horton SSC**
**Durham, NH 03824**
**603-862-2761**
**www.unh.edu/frl**

**May 2000**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an alternative way of viewing the ranking of states according to child well-being. A conventional way of ranking states is provided annually by the Kids Count Data Book, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Kids Count ranking scheme measures the level of the problem at one point in time, 1996. Instead of using data from just 1996, this study computed rankings in two alternative ways. First, trend data from 1985 to 1996 was used to assess the amount of change in child well-being in each state. A composite of the 10 indicators was then compiled to form a new ranking of the states based on percent change from 1985 to 1996.

Second, this study adjusted each indicator of child well-being to take into account demographics, specifically the percent black children in each state. The adjusted scores were then used to form another composite ranking. This ranking indicated how well each state did on child well-being taking into account the effect of race.

These new ways were undertaken to deal with a major problem with the Kids Count ranking. The Kids Count ranking is largely attributable to racial composition. In fact, the size of the African-American population explains 63 percent of the score in Kid's Count ranking. This means that states are essentially being ranked by their demography, not by the effect of efforts to improve the well-being of children. This report argues that a ranking ought to allow a state with a historically large number of African Americans to rank well if they make gains from where they have been or where they would be expected to be based on demography.

These two different methodologies revealed different images of a state's level of child well-being. When ranked according to the percent change in the indicator over an 11-year period, (Table A - Composite):

- Utah ranked first, Alaska second, and Maine third.
- New Hampshire fell from first to ninth.
- Two New England states, Massachusetts and Connecticut fell from the top quartile in the original Kids Count ranking to the bottom quartile.
- District of Columbia remained at the bottom of the ranks.
- All Southern states, with the exception of Louisiana, moved out of the bottom quartile in the composite ranking. When assessing the effectiveness of social policy, this method of analysis is better suited to assess improvement. As seen above, the regional trends shift when change in child well-being is taken into account.

When states were ranked after controlling for the percentage of black children, (Table B - Composite)

- Maryland rises to the rank of number one.
- No states in the deep South remained in the bottom quartile rankings.

The two methodologies used by here illustrate some aspects to ranking systems. Several states differ in their quartile ranking from one map to the other. This inherent problem with ranking systems means that any ranking must be analyzed taking into account its limitations. Policy makers need to take into account the variability of rankings and be sure to not become

complacent as a result of consistent high rankings for some states on measures of well-being. Multiple perspectives in rankings are necessary to acquire an accurate assessment of child well-being. This report concludes the importance of utilizing various statistical methodologies to measure child well-being.

**Table A - Composite. Re-ranking by Percent Change in Composite Score, 1985 - 1996**

| Quartile Rank | New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Utah | -0.7569 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | Alaska | -0.6058 | 25 |
| 1 | 3 | Maine | -0.5514 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | Wisconsin | -0.5378 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | Indiana | -0.5294 | 15 |
| 1 | 6 | Vermont | -0.4286 | 9 |
| 1 | 7 | Georgia | -0.3914 | 42 |
| 1 | 8 | Michigan | -0.3628 | 30 |
| 1 | 9 | New Hampshire | -0.3627 | 1 |
| 1 | 10 | Arkansas | -0.3276 | 43 |
| 1 | 11 | New Jersey | -0.2882 | 10 |
| 1 | 12 | Colorado | -0.2571 | 16 |
| 1 | 13 | South Carolina | -0.2419 | 45 |
| 2 | 14 | North Dakota | -0.2299 | 2 |
| 2 | 15 | Virginia | -0.2140 | 19 |
| 2 | 16 | Iowa | -0.1730 | 7 |
| 2 | 17 | Delaware | -0.1425 | 27 |
| 2 | 18 | Wyoming | -0.1357 | 26 |
| 2 | 19 | Idaho | -0.1211 | 23 |
| 2 | 20 | Tennessee | -0.1178 | 44 |
| 2 | 21 | California | -0.0999 | 31 |
| 2 | 22 | Florida | -0.0629 | 40 |
| 2 | 23 | Washington | -0.0534 | 20 |
| 2 | 24 | West Virginia | -0.0532 | 39 |
| 2 | 25 | Pennsylvania | 0.0053 | 22 |
| 2 | 26 | Rhode Island | 0.0082 | 17 |
| 3 | 27 | South Dakota | 0.0104 | 14 |
| 3 | 28 | Maryland | 0.0192 | 24 |
| 3 | 29 | Hawaii | 0.0316 | 13 |
| 3 | 30 | Montana | 0.0326 | 21 |
| 3 | 31 | Alabama | 0.0668 | 47 |
| 3 | 32 | Illinois | 0.0675 | 34 |
| 3 | 33 | Mississippi | 0.0680 | 50 |
| 3 | 34 | Texas | 0.0726 | 38 |
| 3 | 35 | Kentucky | 0.1229 | 41 |
| 3 | 36 | New Mexico | 0.1304 | 48 |
| 3 | 37 | Oregon | 0.1448 | 29 |
| 3 | 38 | Oklahoma | 0.1616 | 35 |
| 3 | 39 | Massachusetts | 0.1693 | 8 |
| 4 | 40 | North Carolina | 0.1717 | 37 |
| 4 | 41 | Nevada | 0.2144 | 36 |
| 4 | 42 | New York | 0.2741 | 33 |
| 4 | 43 | Ohio | 0.2841 | 28 |
| 4 | 44 | Minnesota | 0.2915 | 3 |
| 4 | 45 | Louisiana | 0.3030 | 49 |
| 4 | 46 | Kansas | 0.3482 | 18 |
| 4 | 47 | Missouri | 0.4128 | 32 |
| 4 | 48 | Connecticut | 0.5347 | 12 |
| 4 | 49 | Nebraska | 0.5803 | 11 |
| 4 | 50 | Arizona | 0.6103 | 46 |
| 4 | 51 | District of Columbia | 1.9086 | 51 |

**Figure 1. Composite child well-being based on Improvement 1985-96**

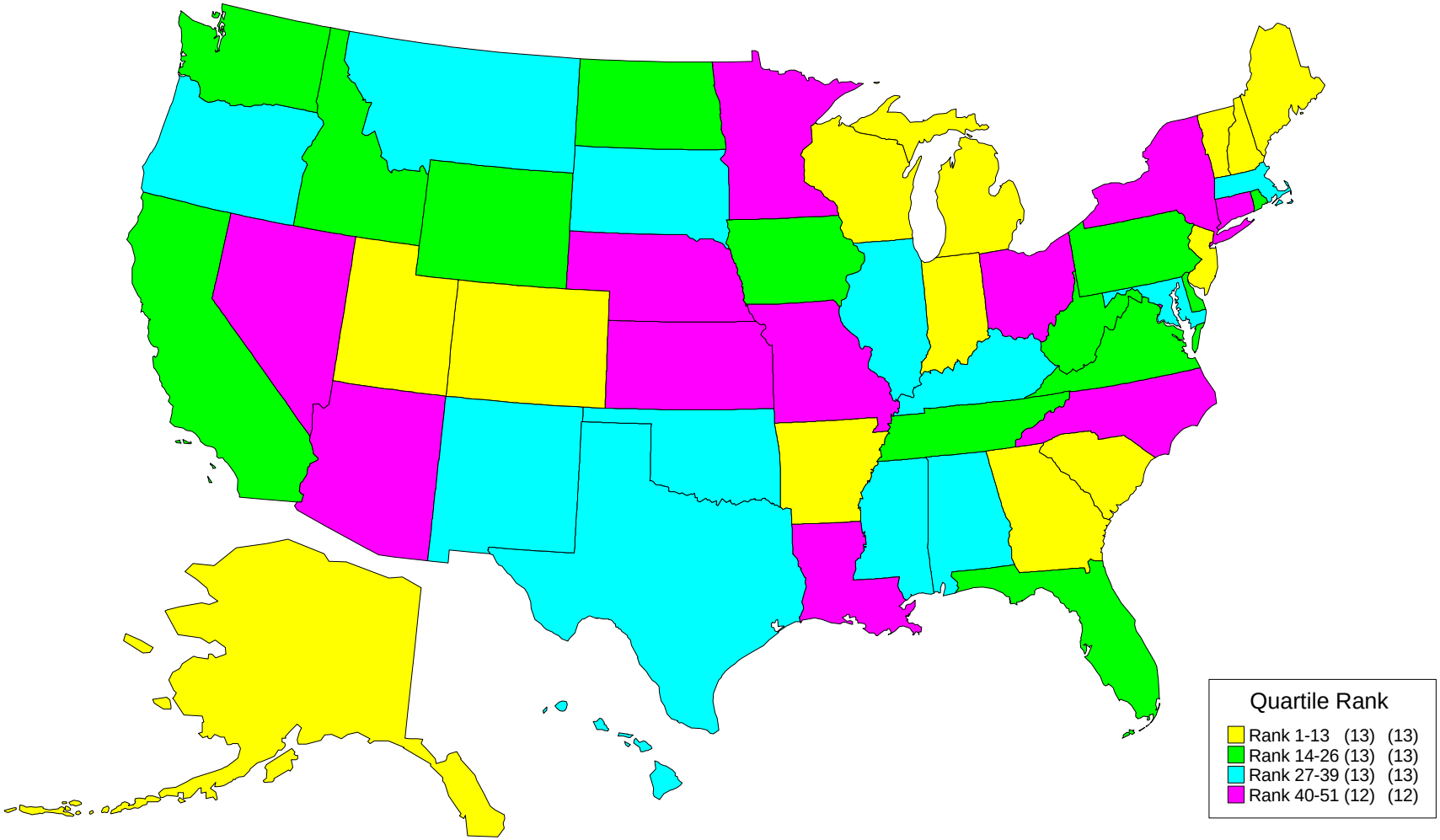
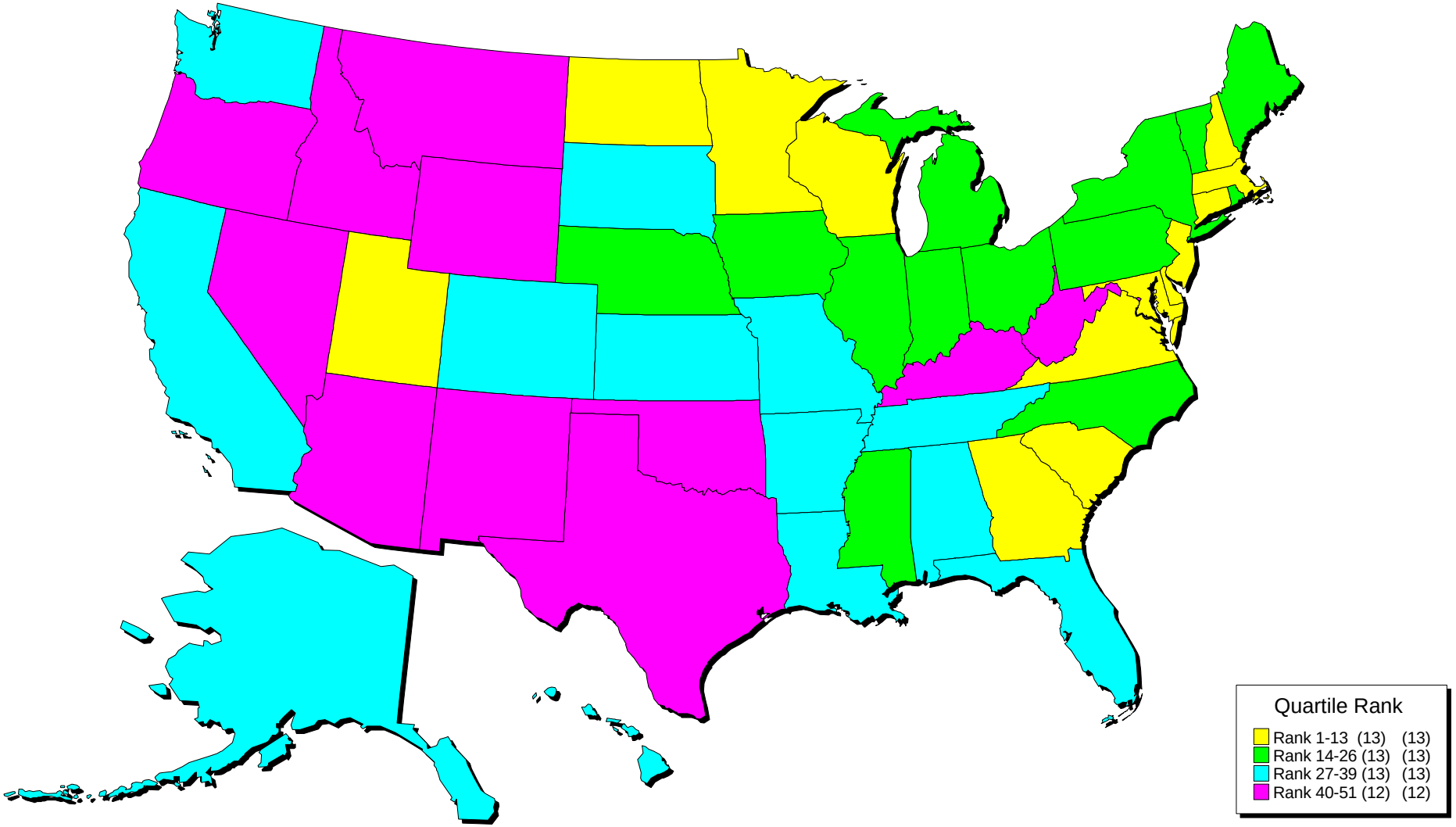


**Table B - Composite. Re-ranking by Standardized Residuals on Composite Score, Adjusted for Race**

| Rank | State | Score | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maryland | -1.29864 | 24 |
| 2 | New Jersey | -1.05222 | 10 |
| 3 | Virginia | -1.00477 | 19 |
| 4 | New Hampshire | -0.88298 | 1 |
| 5 | Wisconsin | -0.81604 | 4 |
| 6 | North Dakota | -0.77293 | 2 |
| 7 | Delaware | -0.73363 | 27 |
| 8 | Minnesota | -0.71387 | 3 |
| 9 | Massachusetts | -0.70841 | 8 |
| 10 | South Carolina | -0.57513 | 45 |
| 11 | Georgia | -0.53759 | 42 |
| 12 | Connecticut | -0.50963 | 12 |
| 13 | Utah | -0.42720 | 5 |
| 14 | Maine | -0.39482 | 6 |
| 15 | Iowa | -0.32295 | 7 |
| 16 | Michigan | -0.28874 | 30 |
| 17 | North Carolina | -0.28870 | 37 |
| 18 | Pennsylvania | -0.26946 | 22 |
| 19 | Nebraska | -0.25087 | 11 |
| 20 | Ohio | -0.23015 | 28 |
| 21 | Indiana | -0.17818 | 15 |
| 22 | Mississippi | -0.13842 | 50 |
| 23 | Illinois | -0.10796 | 34 |
| 24 | Vermont | -0.10578 | 9 |
| 25 | New York | -0.08099 | 33 |
| 26 | Rhode Island | -0.02400 | 17 |
| 27 | Alabama | 0.00670 | 47 |
| 28 | Missouri | 0.02757 | 32 |
| 29 | Florida | 0.03426 | 40 |
| 30 | Kansas | 0.05163 | 18 |
| 31 | Louisiana | 0.06208 | 49 |
| 32 | Hawaii | 0.06294 | 13 |
| 33 | Washington | 0.10073 | 20 |
| 34 | South Dakota | 0.15886 | 14 |
| 35 | Colorado | 0.16271 | 16 |
| 36 | Alaska | 0.27155 | 25 |
| 37 | Arkansas | 0.33424 | 43 |
| 38 | California | 0.33702 | 31 |
| 39 | Tennessee | 0.38306 | 44 |
| 40 | Idaho | 0.38981 | 23 |
| 41 | Montana | 0.39669 | 21 |
| 42 | Oregon | 0.43187 | 29 |
| 43 | Texas | 0.48351 | 38 |
| 44 | Nevada | 0.57796 | 36 |
| 45 | Oklahoma | 0.58139 | 35 |
| 46 | Wyoming | 0.68414 | 26 |
| 47 | Kentucky | 0.87335 | 41 |
| 48 | West Virginia | 1.19292 | 39 |
| 49 | Arizona | 1.52932 | 46 |
| 50 | District of Columbia | 1.70399 | 51 |
| 51 | New Mexico | 1.87577 | 48 |

## Figure 2. Composite child well-being 1996 Adjusted for Race



## INTRODUCTION

The 1999 *Kids Count Data Book* is the tenth annual child well-being profile compiled by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The *Kids Count* book produces a national ranking of each of the fifty states and Washington D.C. based on a composite score of 10 measures of child well-being. In the past ten years, New Hampshire has been rated number one in child well-being seven times, including 1999. Other states that scored high in the 1999 rankings are other northeastern ones, including Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. On the bottom end of the rankings, Washington D. C. has ranked last (51) each year and Louisiana has ranked 50$^{th}$ four times in the past 11 years. Other Southern states have also consistently ranked towards the bottom of the composite rankings. This suggests that there could be demographic features such as racial composition affecting the rankings.

The issue of child well-being is complicated and the status of children probably has multiple sources. The well-being of children in any one state may be related to many causes, including regional trends, demographic makeup, and long term historical factors which impact the well-being of residents. For example, the long term effects of slavery in the South and its disruption of family life still prove to be detrimental to African American progress. For example, between 1880 and 1960, African American children were 2 to 3 times more likely to live with only one or neither of their parents than were white children. This high rate of single parenthood among African American families is not a new phenomena, but instead, is apparently the extension of long historical family patterns that trace back to slavery (Ruggles 1994). The high incidence of single parenthood could lead to other problems for African Americans such as poverty, health problems, and educational difficulty. The legacy of slavery and other demographic factors remind that states start out with disparate burdens in their efforts to improve child well-being. In fact, we found in our analysis that

the percentage of African American children in the population accounted for 63% of the variation between the states in the Kids Count overall ranking.

In addition, public policy addressing the issue of child well-being should aim to affect long term trends. Therefore, from a policy point of view, the central issue should not be rankings on well-being indicators for a single year, but rather the level of improvement over time based on some starting point. Ranking states based solely on the 1996 indicators only ranks them for one year. It does not indicate what each state is doing to improve their child well-being over a longer span of time. To rank based on the percent change in the indicator's rate over a set period of time would better indicate the effort each state has put forth to improve child well-being and/or the extent of its efforts success or failure to make improvements in this area, whatever their starting point.

## METHODS

To deal with the major problem with the use of these indicators, we re-analyzed the well-being indicators in two alternative ways, one to account for level of improvement and one to acount for African American demographics. We will describe what we did to calculate new rankings. The *Kids Count* rankings do not take into account the extent of improvement which has taken place in some states regarding measures of children's well-being. To account for this, the percent of improvement between 1985 and 1996 (as opposed to the yearly individual scores) has been used as an alternative way to assess the child well-being in each of the states. This tells us better which states have been making the most progress to improve conditions for children, whatever their starting point. Using this method of ranking by percent change, a new ranking of the states has been compiled for each of the ten indicators and a composite rank. The composite ranking was compiled by taking the sum of the percent change scores for all ten indicators and then dividing that sum by the 10. This composite

score was then used to compile an overall ranking based on percent change between 1985 and 1996. By ranking the indicators by their percent change between these years, the long term efforts of each state to improve child well-being has been more adequately assessed. The results then indicate the states that have made the largest gains in child well-being.

The *Kids Count* ranking also does not take into account the significance of racial composition in child well-being outcomes from state to state. We used a common statistical technique called regression to do this. In order to adjust for the effects of the percent of black children in each state, the scores of the individual state child well-being items have been regressed on the percentage of black children in the population. The standardized residuals from these regressions were then ranked in a manner which convey's how states performed on each indicator while adjusting for percent black children in the population. A composite score was then computed by adding the standardized residuals of each of the measures and dividing by ten. This results in another overall ranking which in effect controls for percent black children in the population. This ranking allows for an evaluation of a state given its percentage black child population. It allows one to gauge whether a state is doing as well as, better, or worse on an indicator than would be predicted given its percentage black child population.

## RANKING BY LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENT

Tables 1A through 10A show the re-ranking of states on each of the ten indicators based on the level of improvement from 1985 to 1996. Table A Composite and Figure 1 display the overall re-ranking based on the composite scores of percent change on the ten indicators. Tables 1B through 10B are the re-rankings for each indicator after controlling for the effects of percent black child population. Table B Composite and Figure 2 present a second re-ranking of the states based on a

composite derived from their standardized residuals. In addition, two maps are presented for visual representations of the geographical distribution of the ranks based on the two composite scores.

Percent Change: Low Birth-weight Babies. Table 1A shows that New Hampshire is still ranked first on this measure of child well-being, indicating that it has made considerable improvements in the percentage of low birth-weight babies born in that state over the 11-year period. California moved from tenth in the *Kids Count* ranking to second, showing that it has also made improvement in lowering the percent of low birth-weight babies born in their state. Georgia and Florida made large leaps in the ranking going from 40th and 35th respectively, to 5th and 6th. New Mexico is another state that moved up the ranks. All of these changes show that when taking percentage change into account, states may improve or decline dramatically in their rankings.Percent Change: Infant Mortality Rate. Table 2A shows that in the infant mortality ranking, Maine still remained number one. Delaware ranked second, having apparently made great strides in decreasing the incidence of infant mortality as it has gone up 19 slots in the rank. New Hampshire fell from second in the *Kids Count* rank to fourth. Furthermore, Washington D.C. moved up from a rank of 50th in the original ranking to 32nd when ranked on percent change.

Percent Change: Child Death Rate. The ranking for this measure is shown in Table 3A. Delaware ranked first (up from fourth) and Alaska second, having moved up from 32nd on the original *Kids Count* rank. New Mexico also moved up from its previous ranking of 42nd in the *Kids Count* rank to fourth in the new ranking. New Hampshire dropped from third to 22nd in the new ranking scheme. Evidently, improvements have not been drastic in the child death rate for this state and the rank based solely on the 1996 data may be misleading. Vermont also dropped drastically in this ranking from a previous 11th to a rank of 39th.

Percent Change: Teen Deaths Caused by Accident, Homicide, or Suicide. Table 4A indicates that New Hampshire ranked first on this indicator, even rising from its previous rank of second. Hawaii dropped from a previous 9th to 29th, and Pennsylvania dropped sharply from 15th to 46th when based on percent change. Montana moved up the ranks considerably, jumping from 15th to second.

Percent Change: Teen Birth Rate. The ranking based on the percent change from 1985-1996 for this indicator is shown in Table 5A. Maine scores the highest on percent reduction in the teen birth rate over the 11-year period. New Hampshire was ranked first by *Kids Count*, but in this ranking fell to 10th. Oklahoma and Louisiana have apparently made large strides in decreasing their teen birth rates, and Minnesota has not done well with a drop of 37 places on the ranks as compared to the *Kids Count* rankings.

Percent Change: Teen High School Dropouts. Wisconsin ranked first on the *Kids Count* rank and it remained first when ranked on percent change of high school dropouts. Iowa, on the other hand, dropped from second to 19th in this version of ranking. Texas moved up from a dismal 45th in the *Kids Count* rank to 17th when based on percent change, indicating much improvement in Texas in lowering the percentage of their teen dropouts. New Hampshire sits at second, having moved up from its original sixth in the *Kids Count* ranking.

Percent Change: Teens not Attending School and not Working. Table 7A shows the results for the ranking on this measure, and Wisconsin holds the number one spot in this new ranking, just as it did in the *Kids Count* ranking. Indiana moves up to second from its rank of 11th by *Kids Count*. South Carolina, now ranked seventh, displays much improvement on this measure with a 31% reduction in the number of teens not attending school and not working over the ten year period. Another Southern state, Tennessee, also moves up the ranks when based on percent change. New Hampshire, however, drops from third to tenth.

Percent Change: Children Living with Parents with no Full-time, Year-round Employment. Alaska ranked first on this indicator, a rise of 24 places from the original *Kids Count* rank. This indicates that although Alaska's percentage on this indicator in 1996 was relatively average, there has been a 38% improvement in this level between 1985 and 1996. Iowa, on the other hand, stays in the same place at second for both ranking schemes. Alabama moved up from an original 14th to eighth. Kansas moved down drastically from fifth to 25th and New Hampshire moved from a rank of 12 to last place on this measure, indicating that New Hampshire deteriorated with respect to other states on this measure over the 11-year period.

Percent Change: Child Poverty. As seen in Table 9A, Iowa moved from a previous rank of sixth to first. Some Southern states moved up in the new ranking considerably. These states include Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and West Virginia, indicating that although their 1996 child poverty rates may still have been relatively high, they have made much progress in lowering those percentages over the 1985-1996 time period. The opposite effect can be seen when looking at New Hampshire, however. New Hampshire was ranked first in the original *Kids Count* ranking on this measure, but when ranked on amount of improvement, New Hampshire falls to 50th.

Percent Change: Families with Children Headed by a Single Parent. On this measure Utah ranked first. Nevada ranked fourth as opposed to the *Kids Count* rank of 29th on this measure. New Hampshire's percent change rank is 40th, a drastic change from the original *Kids Count* rank of 13th. Georgia moved up from 35th to seventh. Washington D.C. moved up the ranking from last place to 19th.

Composite: Percent Change 1985-1996. Table A Composite displays the reranking of states on a composite score based on the percent change between 1985 and 1996 on the ten indicators. Also provided is a map displaying the states according to their new rankings on this composite. The

results indicate that when considering amount of change, states originally ranked low on child well-being, actually ranked high when considering their improvement over the years in child well- being. Utah ranked first on the composite of percent change. Alaska ranked second, up from 25th. New Hampshire fell from first to ninth. This is indicative of the fact that some states have made more improvements on the child well-being indicators than New Hampshire did in the 11-year period. Interestingly enough, Washington D.C. still ranked last even when reranked on percent change. This indicates that Washington D.C. has not shown much improvement in its child well-being outcomes over this 11-year period.

## RANKING WITH RACE ADJUSTMENT

The rankings listed in Tables 1B-9B show the results of ranking the indicators with the racial composition of each state adjusted for. Figure 2 displays a map with the national composite rankings after adjusting for the percent of African American children in each state.

Percent Low Birth-weight Babies. Table 1B shows that when ranked after adjusting for the effect of the percent black children in the population, New Hampshire still ranked first, just as it did in the original *Kids Count* ranking. There are some Southern states such as Georgia, West Virginia and Mississippi that moved up many places in the ranks when adjusting for percentage black children. New Mexico is ranked 48th on this reranking. It is probably the high percentage of Hispanic, not black children, that explains the variance in low birth-weight babies there however.

Infant Mortality Rate. The results in Table 2B indicate that Massachusetts ranked first when adjusting for the effects of the percent black child population on the infant mortality rate. As in the previous example, some Southern states rose up the rankings when considering the effects of percentage black children. South Carolina moved from its original rank of 38th to third. Louisiana moved from 45th to sixth when taking into account the effect of its large black population.

Child Death Rate. Table 3B shows Delaware ranked first on this measure of child well-being. New Hampshire fell from third to seventh, while Maryland rose from 20th to fourth. Vermont fell from 12th to 24th. South Carolina fared better, having moved from 49th to 39th. Also, another Southern state, Georgia, moved from 39 to number 18, indicating that adjusting for the effect of the large black population, South Carolina's child death rate is not as high as would be expected.

Teen Deaths Caused by Accident, Homicide, or Suicide. Delaware ranked first on this revised indicator of child well-being as shown in Table 4B. South Carolina rose from 36th to 5th. Louisiana and Florida also moved up considerably from 45th and 18th to eighth and ninth respectively, indicating their teen violent death rates are not as high as would be predicted by their percentage black child population.

Teen Birth Rate. As seen in Table 5B, Maryland ranked first, up from its original rank of 29th. New Hampshire fell from first to fourth and Montana fell from seventh to 20th. New Mexico stayed near the bottom with a rank of 50; however, the percentage of black children there is not high. This rank may be more related to New Mexico's larger Hispanic population. Further studies could test this relationship.

Teen High School Dropouts. Table 6B reveals that Wisconsin ranked first, as it did previously. Maryland went from 9th to 15th, Mississippi rose from 35th to 24th, and South Carolina went up from 36th to 29th. Washington D.C. went from a rank of 37 to 13, a sizable increase. For Washington D.C., there is little variation in the percentage teen dropouts that is not explained by the percentage black children in the population.

Percent Teens not in School and not Working. Table 7B reveals that three Midwestern states, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Minnesota rank first, second and third respectively on this measure, similar to their rankings on the *Kids Count* scale. Georgia moved up from a rank of 35 to 23. Much

of the variation in this indicator is explained when taking the percentage of black children in Georgia into account.

Percent of Children Living with Parents not Having Secure Employment. Table 8B shows that Nebraska remained first when controlling for the percent black children in the population. Maryland moved up from 16th to second. New Hampshire fell from 12th to 21st with this ranking scheme. Mississippi and Tennessee moved up from respective ranks of 48 and 33 to 24 and 25. Vermont moved from 15 to a rank of 28. Washington D.C. and West Virginia remain at the bottom of this rank which indicates that even when adjusting for race, the percent of the children in the state living with parents without secure employment is still relatively high.

Percent of Children in Poverty. Table 9B shows that Maryland moved up from 18th to first when adjusting for the percent black children in each state. New Hampshire fell from first to sixth. Virginia moved up from 17 to number 3 and another Southern state, Georgia, moved from 35th to ninth. North and South Carolina increased in rank from 33 and 41 to 14 and 23 respectively. It appears that when taking into account the proportion of black children in these Southern states, the percentage of children in poverty is less than expected.

Percent Families Headed by a Single Parent. Utah faired best on this indicator of child well-being, just as it did previously in the original Kids Count rankings. Maryland, ranked second, rose from 24th. Georgia rose from 39th to third. South Carolina and Louisiana also rose dramatically in rank when the percent black child population was held constant. New Hampshire moved from a *Kids Count* rank of 14th to a rank of 36th on this measure and Vermont fell from 16th to 39th.

Composite: Standardized Residuals after Regressing Percent Black Children on each Indicator. The final ranking based on the standardized residuals is presented in Table B Composite. A second map displays the quartile rankings based on this composite. Maryland ranked first, whereas

it was originally ranked 24th in the *Kids Count* book. New Hampshire moved from the *Kids Count* rank of number one to number four when controlling for percent black children. Most notably, South Carolina moved up from a composite rank of 45 to a rank of 10. Other Southern states that had significant changes were Georgia, Mississippi, and Virginia. Curiously enough, Alabama ranked in the middle of this new ranking.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results indicate that different methods for approaching the same data can reveal radically different images of a state's level of child well-being. When ranked by the absolute levels of the indicators in 1996, New Hampshire seems to have the highest level of child well-being. When ranked according to the percent improvement in the indicator over an 11-year period, Utah holds the number one spot. When adjusting for the percentage of black children in the population, Maryland rises to the rank of number one. This illustrates the arbitrary aspect to ranking systems; they can vary in their results based on the measures and methods used in calculations. Further evidence of this is provided in a comparison of the two maps presented here. Several states differ in their placement in the two new rerankings. This inherent problem with ranking systems means that any ranking must be regarded with caution. Policy makers need to take into account the variability of rankings and be sure to not become complacent as a result of consistent high rankings on measures of well-being calculated from a single method. This study shows that different methodologies in rankings lead to different conclusions. To account for this fact, multiple approaches to rankings may be better than a single list to acquire an accurate assessment of child well-being.

We believe that the two ranking methods described in this research allow a fairer estimation of child-well being levels across the United States than those provided by *Kids Count*. The ranking methods we have utilized enable us to assess each state's child well-being by taking into account

improvement over time and racial composition of each state. A state that is burdened by its history or by its demographics is going to have a more difficult time achieving favorable child well-being levels than a state with no such challenges. We should rank well-being in a way that states with initial adversities that make improvements, despite the odds, are given the recognition due for those efforts. Recalculating the rates to focus on improvements over time or to focus on its performance adjusted for demographics are both ways of allowing some of those more disadvantaged states to shine if they are doing a good job, despite their challenging circumstances.

After reranking the states according to their percentage change and controlling for their percentage black child population, different regional trends emerge. In the original *Kids Count* composite rankings, a cluster of Southern states rank in the last quartile and a cluster of New England states rank in the top quartile. As shown in the two maps provided, based on the new composites, New England no longer lies in the top quartile rankings. Likewise, some Southern states rose out of the bottom quartile rankings to reach the top using these different methodologies. In conclusion, the shifts in rankings based on different methodologies suggest that any national composite rankings must be viewed tentatively.

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## APPENDIX

Other Problems with the Indicators

*Kids Count* compiled information from all U.S. states and the District of Columbia using 10 indicators of child well-being. The 10 indicators are: percent low birth-weight babies, infant mortality rate, child death rate, rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, suicide, teen birth rate, percent of high school dropouts, percent of teens not attending school and not working, percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment, percent of children in poverty, and percent of families with children headed by a single parent. These indicators were chosen among many available variables because they were deemed to be accurate and available for every state and the District of Columbia. Furthermore, these indicators were chosen because they reflected experiences from a broad age range of children.

It is worth noting the limitations of these indicators, however. First, a number of their indicators use death statistics that contain a peculiar counting rule. For both child and teen death rates (number of deaths from all causes to children between 1 and 14 and teens age 15 to 19 per 100,000 respectively), deaths are recorded in the place of residence and not in the state in which the deaths occurred. This could be a problem if, for example, teens in a state border community frequented the neighboring state to illegally purchase alcohol which then led to teen drunk driving accidents. If they were killed in an accident in the neighboring state, their deaths would still be recorded in their legal state of residence. This would implicate their state of residence instead of the state which had more danger for the teens to get into. It might be a more accurate measure of each state's dedication to teen safety to record teen violent deaths by the state in which they occur.

Another indicator with potential weaknesses is the percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment. This indicator may include those families that depend

on seasonal employment that provides for them an adequate income for a year. For example, plowing snow or construction are types of employment that are largely seasonal and yet can be lucrative enough to support a family for the entire year. Some states, such as Alaska, where many citizens earn their entire year's income from seasonal fishing, have many residents who work during one season and make enough income for their families for the entire year. Therefore, it would be incorrect to assume that these families did not provide enough for their families because their main employment was not year-round.

Another problem with the indicators concerns the ages of the children covered. These indicators are weighted for measuring the well-being of very young children and teenagers, whereas by contrast, preadolescents are under represented. Also, the indicators that measure the well being of teens commonly contain data for 19 year-olds; an age that is outside the legal definition of childhood. Using such data may degrade the validity of the indicator.

A final concern with the indicators is the use of so many mortality indicators and the neglect of some other potentially important domains for child well-being. For instance, there is no measure of child maltreatment in its many forms such as physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. Further, there is no emphasis on teen or child crime victimization or perpetration in the items chosen by Kids Count to be included in their well-being index. High child crime rates could, arguably, be evidence of problems with the well-being of a state's children. Further, other social indicators which have not been included in the Kids Count rankings include issues such as child care and medical care availability for families with children. If lower income families do not have immediate access to quality subsidized childcare and medical facilities, this could impact the children's physical well-being.

**Table 1A. Percent Change Low Birth-weight Babies, 1985-1996**

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | New Hampshire | -4.00 | 1 |
| 2 | California | 1.67 | 10 |
| 3 | Vermont | 3.33 | 11 |
| 4 | Oregon | 3.92 | 2 |
| 5 | Georgia | 4.94 | 40 |
| 6 | Florida | 5.33 | 35 |
| 7 | Idaho | 5.45 | 6 |
| 8 | South Dakota | 5.45 | 6 |
| 9 | New Mexico | 5.63 | 25 |
| 10 | Washington | 5.66 | 4 |
| 11 | Texas | 5.88 | 21 |
| 12 | Arkansas | 6.25 | 40 |
| 13 | South Carolina | 6.98 | 47 |
| 14 | District of Columbia | 7.52 | 51 |
| 15 | Arizona | 8.06 | 18 |
| 16 | Nevada | 8.70 | 25 |
| 17 | Connecticut | 9.09 | 21 |
| 18 | Rhode Island | 9.52 | 19 |
| 19 | New York | 10.00 | 31 |
| 20 | Virginia | 10.00 | 31 |
| 21 | North Carolina | 10.13 | 44 |
| 22 | Massachusetts | 10.34 | 14 |
| 23 | Illinois | 11.11 | 37 |
| 24 | Tennessee | 11.39 | 45 |
| 25 | Missouri | 11.94 | 25 |
| 26 | Alaska | 12.24 | 3 |
| 27 | Montana | 12.28 | 14 |
| 28 | Hawaii | 12.31 | 23 |
| 29 | Mississippi | 12.50 | 49 |
| 30 | Kentucky | 12.86 | 35 |
| 31 | Kansas | 13.11 | 19 |
| 32 | Maryland | 13.16 | 43 |
| 33 | Michigan | 13.24 | 31 |
| 34 | New Jersey | 13.24 | 31 |
| 35 | Ohio | 13.64 | 25 |
| 36 | Pennsylvania | 13.64 | 25 |
| 37 | Louisiana | 13.79 | 49 |
| 38 | Colorado | 14.29 | 45 |
| 39 | Oklahoma | 15.63 | 24 |
| 40 | Maine | 15.69 | 9 |
| 41 | Utah | 15.79 | 17 |
| 42 | West Virginia | 15.94 | 37 |
| 43 | Alabama | 16.25 | 48 |
| 44 | North Dakota | 16.33 | 5 |
| 45 | Delaware | 16.44 | 40 |
| 46 | Wyoming | 18.31 | 39 |
| 47 | Indiana | 18.75 | 30 |
| 48 | Nebraska | 18.87 | 12 |
| 49 | Wisconsin | 18.87 | 12 |
| 50 | Minnesota | 20.83 | 6 |
| 51 | Iowa | 25.49 | 14 |

**Table 2A. Percent Change Infant Mortality Rate, 1985-1996**

| New rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maine | -51.65 | 1 |
| 2 | Delaware | -48.65 | 30 |
| 3 | Wyoming | -47.54 | 16 |
| 4 | New Hampshire | -46.24 | 2 |
| 5 | Massachusetts | -45.05 | 2 |
| 6 | Washington | -43.93 | 11 |
| 7 | Oregon | -43.43 | 6 |
| 8 | South Dakota | -42.42 | 7 |
| 9 | New Mexico | -41.51 | 13 |
| 10 | South Carolina | -40.85 | 38 |
| 11 | California | -37.89 | 9 |
| 12 | North Dakota | -37.65 | 5 |
| 13 | Utah | -37.50 | 11 |
| 14 | Rhode Island | -36.59 | 4 |
| 15 | Connecticut | -36.00 | 16 |
| 16 | Texas | -35.71 | 15 |
| 17 | New York | -35.19 | 20 |
| 18 | New Jersey | -34.91 | 19 |
| 19 | Hawaii | -34.09 | 8 |
| 20 | Florida | -33.63 | 28 |
| 21 | Alaska | -33.33 | 24 |
| 22 | Virginia | -33.04 | 33 |
| 23 | Kentucky | -33.04 | 28 |
| 24 | Minnesota | -32.95 | 9 |
| 25 | Montana | -32.04 | 20 |
| 26 | West Virginia | -30.84 | 26 |
| 27 | Colorado | -29.79 | 28 |
| 28 | Pennsylvania | -29.09 | 35 |
| 29 | Michigan | -28.95 | 36 |
| 30 | Idaho | -28.95 | 26 |
| 31 | Maryland | -28.57 | 39 |
| 32 | District of Columbia | -28.37 | 51 |
| 33 | Georgia | -27.56 | 46 |
| 34 | Nevada | -27.06 | 13 |
| 35 | Illinois | -26.50 | 42 |
| 36 | Iowa | -26.32 | 20 |
| 37 | Missouri | -25.49 | 30 |
| 38 | Tennessee | -25.44 | 39 |
| 39 | Ohio | -25.24 | 33 |
| 40 | Louisiana | -24.37 | 45 |
| 41 | North Carolina | -22.03 | 46 |
| 42 | Oklahoma | -22.02 | 39 |
| 43 | Arizona | -21.65 | 30 |
| 44 | Indiana | -20.18 | 43 |
| 45 | Arkansas | -19.83 | 48 |
| 46 | Wisconsin | -19.78 | 25 |
| 47 | Mississippi | -19.71 | 50 |
| 48 | Alabama | -16.67 | 49 |
| 49 | Vermont | -16.47 | 23 |
| 50 | Kansas | -10.75 | 37 |
| 51 | Nebraska | -9.38 | 43 |

**Table 3A: Percent Change Child Death Rate, 1985 - 1996**

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Delaware | -53.49 | 4 |
| 2 | Alaska | -46.43 | 32 |
| 3 | Washington | -36.11 | 11 |
| 4 | New Mexico | -34.00 | 42 |
| 5 | Rhode Island | -33.33 | 1 |
| 6 | Minnesota | -33.33 | 4 |
| 7 | Pennsylvania | -32.26 | 6 |
| 8 | Massachusetts | -32.00 | 2 |
| 9 | Florida | -30.95 | 26 |
| 10 | California | -30.30 | 11 |
| 11 | Michigan | -29.73 | 22 |
| 12 | Utah | -28.57 | 19 |
| 13 | Oklahoma | -28.57 | 32 |
| 14 | Tennessee | -26.83 | 32 |
| 15 | Colorado | -25.00 | 16 |
| 16 | Maine | -24.14 | 8 |
| 17 | New Jersey | -24.14 | 8 |
| 18 | New York | -23.33 | 11 |
| 19 | Virginia | -23.33 | 11 |
| 20 | Arkansas | -23.26 | 42 |
| 21 | Maryland | -21.88 | 19 |
| 22 | New Hampshire | -21.74 | 3 |
| 23 | Wisconsin | -21.43 | 8 |
| 24 | Kansas | -20.51 | 38 |
| 25 | Wyoming | -20.00 | 45 |
| 26 | Arizona | -20.00 | 41 |
| 27 | Texas | -19.44 | 26 |
| 28 | Hawaii | -19.23 | 6 |
| 29 | Illinois | -18.75 | 22 |
| 30 | North Dakota | -17.24 | 16 |
| 31 | Idaho | -17.14 | 26 |
| 32 | Ohio | -16.67 | 19 |
| 33 | North Carolina | -16.67 | 32 |
| 34 | Louisiana | -16.28 | 45 |
| 35 | Georgia | -16.22 | 38 |
| 36 | Mississippi | -12.77 | 50 |
| 37 | Indiana | -12.12 | 26 |
| 38 | Montana | -8.33 | 42 |
| 39 | Vermont | -8.00 | 11 |
| 40 | Kentucky | -6.90 | 24 |
| 41 | Nevada | -6.25 | 32 |
| 42 | Missouri | -3.23 | 32 |
| 43 | Alabama | -2.70 | 45 |
| 44 | Oregon | 0.00 | 26 |
| 45 | South Carolina | 2.63 | 49 |
| 46 | Iowa | 3.57 | 26 |
| 47 | Connecticut | 4.35 | 16 |
| 48 | West Virginia | 6.90 | 38 |
| 49 | Nebraska | 12.00 | 25 |
| 50 | South Dakota | 28.57 | 45 |
| 51 | District of Columbia | 81.25 | 51 |

**Table 4A: Percent Change Teen Violent Death Rate (Accident, Homicide, Suicide), 1985 - 1996**

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | New Hampshire | -47.62 | 2 |
| 2 | Montana | -42.55 | 15 |
| 3 | Rhode Island | -33.33 | 1 |
| 4 | Massachusetts | -33.33 | 3 |
| 5 | Vermont | -31.34 | 9 |
| 6 | Oregon | -20.55 | 21 |
| 7 | Florida | -20.00 | 18 |
| 8 | Connecticut | -18.37 | 5 |
| 9 | New Jersey | -18.18 | 4 |
| 10 | Iowa | -16.92 | 15 |
| 11 | Delaware | -16.00 | 7 |
| 12 | Ohio | -15.69 | 8 |
| 13 | Texas | -15.00 | 31 |
| 14 | California | -14.49 | 23 |
| 15 | Michigan | -14.49 | 23 |
| 16 | Washington | -13.79 | 12 |
| 17 | Colorado | -13.64 | 19 |
| 18 | Alaska | -11.43 | 46 |
| 19 | West Virginia | -10.00 | 27 |
| 20 | New York | -8.89 | 6 |
| 21 | New Mexico | -8.82 | 46 |
| 22 | Minnesota | -8.77 | 13 |
| 23 | Utah | -7.69 | 26 |
| 24 | Nebraska | -6.56 | 19 |
| 25 | Oklahoma | -6.33 | 34 |
| 26 | Maine | -5.88 | 11 |
| 27 | Wisconsin | -5.45 | 13 |
| 28 | Arizona | -1.18 | 44 |
| 29 | Hawaii | 0.00 | 9 |
| 30 | North Carolina | 1.43 | 32 |
| 31 | Indiana | 3.17 | 30 |
| 32 | Nevada | 4.11 | 37 |
| 33 | South Carolina | 5.63 | 35 |
| 34 | North Dakota | 7.41 | 21 |
| 35 | Idaho | 7.89 | 41 |
| 36 | Kentucky | 8.96 | 33 |
| 37 | Wyoming | 10.00 | 50 |
| 38 | Virginia | 11.32 | 23 |
| 39 | Missouri | 11.76 | 37 |
| 40 | Alabama | 12.33 | 41 |
| 41 | Louisiana | 13.33 | 45 |
| 42 | South Dakota | 13.64 | 35 |
| 43 | Maryland | 14.29 | 28 |
| 44 | Georgia | 15.28 | 43 |
| 45 | Arkansas | 16.05 | 48 |
| 46 | Pennsylvania | 17.39 | 15 |
| 47 | Kansas | 19.40 | 39 |
| 48 | Tennessee | 20.90 | 40 |
| 49 | Illinois | 23.08 | 28 |
| 50 | Mississippi | 29.73 | 49 |
| 51 | District of Columbia | 562.22 | 51 |

## Table 5A: Percent Change Teen Birth Rate, 1985-1996

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maine | -22.73 | 4 |
| 2 | Vermont | -21.05 | 1 |
| 3 | Oklahoma | -11.90 | 34 |
| 4 | Utah | -11.11 | 13 |
| 5 | Wyoming | -10.71 | 16 |
| 6 | Louisiana | -10.42 | 43 |
| 7 | West Virginia | -9.38 | 26 |
| 8 | South Dakota | -8.33 | 9 |
| 9 | Kentucky | -7.50 | 34 |
| 10 | New Hampshire | -6.25 | 1 |
| 11 | North Dakota | -5.88 | 3 |
| 12 | Montana | -4.55 | 7 |
| 13 | Pennsylvania | -4.00 | 13 |
| 14 | Mississippi | -3.70 | 50 |
| 15 | Missouri | -3.13 | 31 |
| 16 | Arkansas | -2.17 | 44 |
| 17 | Florida | 0.00 | 34 |
| 18 | Alaska | 0.00 | 17 |
| 19 | Nebraska | 0.00 | 9 |
| 20 | Wisconsin | 0.00 | 9 |
| 21 | South Carolina | 0.00 | 39 |
| 22 | Virginia | 0.00 | 22 |
| 23 | Kansas | 0.00 | 22 |
| 24 | Georgia | 2.27 | 44 |
| 25 | Tennessee | 2.56 | 38 |
| 26 | Ohio | 3.45 | 28 |
| 27 | Maryland | 3.45 | 28 |
| 28 | Washington | 4.00 | 17 |
| 29 | Indiana | 6.45 | 32 |
| 30 | Texas | 6.52 | 48 |
| 31 | Alabama | 7.14 | 44 |
| 32 | Michigan | 7.69 | 22 |
| 33 | Idaho | 8.33 | 17 |
| 34 | New Jersey | 9.52 | 12 |
| 35 | New Mexico | 9.52 | 47 |
| 36 | Iowa | 10.53 | 7 |
| 37 | Colorado | 11.11 | 28 |
| 38 | Illinois | 12.50 | 33 |
| 39 | North Carolina | 13.89 | 39 |
| 40 | Massachusetts | 17.65 | 6 |
| 41 | New York | 18.18 | 17 |
| 42 | Minnesota | 18.75 | 5 |
| 43 | Hawaii | 21.74 | 22 |
| 44 | Delaware | 24.24 | 39 |
| 45 | Arizona | 25.64 | 48 |
| 46 | California | 25.81 | 37 |
| 47 | Oregon | 26.09 | 26 |
| 48 | Connecticut | 26.32 | 13 |
| 49 | Rhode Island | 28.57 | 21 |
| 50 | Nevada | 35.48 | 42 |
| 51 | District of Columbia | 49.06 | 51 |

**Table 6A: Percent Change Teen High School Dropouts (Ages 16-19), 1985-1996**

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wisconsin | -50.00 | 1 |
| 2 | New Hampshire | -45.45 | 6 |
| 3 | Indiana | -45.45 | 6 |
| 4 | Connecticut | -44.44 | 2 |
| 5 | Virginia | -33.33 | 16 |
| 6 | West Virginia | -30.77 | 22 |
| 7 | Arkansas | -30.77 | 22 |
| 8 | Maine | -30.00 | 10 |
| 9 | Kansas | -25.00 | 6 |
| 10 | Vermont | -22.22 | 10 |
| 11 | District of Columbia | -21.43 | 35 |
| 12 | Utah | -20.00 | 16 |
| 13 | Louisiana | -20.00 | 38 |
| 14 | Florida | -20.00 | 38 |
| 15 | Alabama | -20.00 | 38 |
| 16 | Rhode Island | -20.00 | 38 |
| 17 | Texas | -18.75 | 45 |
| 18 | Idaho | -18.18 | 22 |
| 19 | Iowa | -16.67 | 2 |
| 20 | New Jersey | -14.29 | 6 |
| 21 | Tennessee | -13.33 | 45 |
| 22 | Maryland | -12.50 | 10 |
| 23 | Massachusetts | -12.50 | 10 |
| 24 | Wyoming | -11.11 | 16 |
| 25 | Michigan | -11.11 | 16 |
| 26 | Alaska | -10.00 | 22 |
| 27 | Oklahoma | -9.09 | 29 |
| 28 | California | -9.09 | 29 |
| 29 | Mississippi | -8.33 | 35 |
| 30 | North Carolina | -7.69 | 38 |
| 31 | Georgia | -7.14 | 45 |
| 32 | Arizona | -5.88 | 50 |
| 33 | North Dakota | 0.00 | 2 |
| 34 | Washington | 0.00 | 22 |
| 35 | New York | 0.00 | 22 |
| 36 | Hawaii | 0.00 | 2 |
| 37 | Delaware | 0.00 | 29 |
| 38 | Kentucky | 7.69 | 49 |
| 39 | New Mexico | 8.33 | 45 |
| 40 | South Carolina | 10.00 | 35 |
| 41 | Illinois | 11.11 | 29 |
| 42 | Pennsylvania | 14.29 | 16 |
| 43 | Montana | 16.67 | 10 |
| 44 | South Dakota | 25.00 | 29 |
| 45 | Colorado | 25.00 | 29 |
| 46 | Ohio | 28.57 | 22 |
| 47 | Nevada | 30.77 | 51 |
| 48 | Oregon | 33.33 | 38 |
| 49 | Minnesota | 40.00 | 10 |
| 50 | Missouri | 50.00 | 38 |
| 51 | Nebraska | 60.00 | 16 |

## Table 7A: Percent Teens Not Attending School and Not Working, (Ages 16-19), 1985 - 1996

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wisconsin | -55.56 | 1 |
| 2 | Indiana | -41.67 | 11 |
| 3 | Iowa | -37.50 | 3 |
| 4 | Michigan | -36.36 | 11 |
| 5 | New Jersey | -33.33 | 6 |
| 6 | North Dakota | -33.33 | 1 |
| 7 | South Carolina | -30.77 | 22 |
| 8 | Virginia | -30.00 | 11 |
| 9 | Maine | -30.00 | 11 |
| 10 | New Hampshire | -28.57 | 3 |
| 11 | Alabama | -28.57 | 33 |
| 12 | Minnesota | -28.57 | 3 |
| 13 | West Virginia | -27.78 | 47 |
| 14 | Vermont | -27.27 | 19 |
| 15 | Wyoming | -27.27 | 19 |
| 16 | Mississippi | -26.67 | 39 |
| 17 | Kansas | -25.00 | 6 |
| 18 | Oklahoma | -25.00 | 22 |
| 19 | California | -25.00 | 22 |
| 20 | South Dakota | -25.00 | 6 |
| 21 | Louisiana | -23.53 | 47 |
| 22 | Alaska | -23.08 | 33 |
| 23 | Georgia | -23.08 | 33 |
| 24 | Utah | -22.22 | 11 |
| 25 | Maryland | -22.22 | 11 |
| 26 | Arkansas | -21.43 | 39 |
| 27 | Kentucky | -20.00 | 43 |
| 28 | Montana | -20.00 | 19 |
| 29 | Tennessee | -18.75 | 47 |
| 30 | North Carolina | -18.18 | 22 |
| 31 | Illinois | -18.18 | 22 |
| 32 | Pennsylvania | -18.18 | 22 |
| 33 | Nevada | -15.38 | 39 |
| 34 | Delaware | -12.50 | 11 |
| 35 | Rhode Island | -10.00 | 22 |
| 36 | Idaho | -10.00 | 22 |
| 37 | Colorado | -10.00 | 22 |
| 38 | Ohio | -10.00 | 22 |
| 39 | Missouri | -10.00 | 22 |
| 40 | Hawaii | -9.09 | 33 |
| 41 | Oregon | -9.09 | 33 |
| 42 | Texas | -7.69 | 43 |
| 43 | New Mexico | -6.67 | 50 |
| 44 | Connecticut | 0.00 | 6 |
| 45 | Florida | 0.00 | 39 |
| 46 | New York | 0.00 | 33 |
| 47 | Nebraska | 0.00 | 6 |
| 48 | Arizona | 9.09 | 43 |
| 49 | Washington | 9.09 | 43 |
| 50 | District of Columbia | 13.33 | 51 |
| 51 | Massachusetts | 16.67 | 11 |

**Table 8A: Percent Change Children Living With Parents Without Full-time, Year-round Employment, 1985 - 1996**

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Alaska | -38.30 | 25 |
| 2 | Iowa | -35.71 | 2 |
| 3 | Colorado | -32.26 | 5 |
| 4 | Indiana | -31.25 | 9 |
| 5 | Utah | -30.77 | 2 |
| 6 | North Dakota | -26.92 | 4 |
| 7 | Wisconsin | -26.67 | 9 |
| 8 | Nevada | -26.47 | 14 |
| 9 | Nebraska | -26.09 | 1 |
| 10 | Alabama | -25.00 | 34 |
| 11 | Wyoming | -25.00 | 5 |
| 12 | Arkansas | -23.68 | 25 |
| 13 | Hawaii | -21.05 | 34 |
| 14 | Georgia | -19.44 | 25 |
| 15 | Minnesota | -19.23 | 5 |
| 16 | South Carolina | -18.42 | 37 |
| 17 | West Virginia | -18.37 | 50 |
| 18 | Pennsylvania | -17.65 | 22 |
| 19 | Virginia | -17.24 | 13 |
| 20 | Tennessee | -17.14 | 25 |
| 21 | Michigan | -16.22 | 37 |
| 22 | Ohio | -14.71 | 25 |
| 23 | Mississippi | -14.29 | 48 |
| 24 | Delaware | -13.33 | 17 |
| 25 | Kansas | -12.50 | 5 |
| 26 | South Dakota | -12.00 | 9 |
| 27 | Illinois | -11.76 | 34 |
| 28 | Washington | -11.43 | 37 |
| 29 | North Carolina | -10.34 | 17 |
| 30 | New Mexico | -10.26 | 45 |
| 31 | Maine | -10.00 | 20 |
| 32 | Kentucky | -8.33 | 42 |
| 33 | Maryland | -7.41 | 14 |
| 34 | New Jersey | -7.14 | 17 |
| 35 | Missouri | -6.90 | 20 |
| 36 | Idaho | -6.67 | 22 |
| 37 | Oklahoma | -6.45 | 25 |
| 38 | Montana | -6.45 | 25 |
| 39 | Texas | -6.45 | 25 |
| 40 | Oregon | -5.71 | 42 |
| 41 | Florida | -5.71 | 42 |
| 42 | Vermont | -3.85 | 14 |
| 43 | Rhode Island | -3.03 | 40 |
| 44 | California | -2.78 | 45 |
| 45 | Arizona | 0.00 | 40 |
| 46 | Massachusetts | 0.00 | 22 |
| 47 | Louisiana | 2.63 | 49 |
| 48 | New York | 2.94 | 45 |
| 49 | Connecticut | 7.41 | 25 |
| 50 | District of Columbia | 14.29 | 51 |
| 51 | New Hampshire | 15.00 | 12 |

**Table 9A: Percent Change Children in Poverty, 1985 - 1996**

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Iowa | -35.00 | 6 |
| 2 | Nebraska | -33.33 | 5 |
| 3 | Indiana | -31.58 | 6 |
| 4 | Utah | -28.57 | 1 |
| 5 | Colorado | -26.67 | 4 |
| 6 | Georgia | -24.00 | 30 |
| 7 | Vermont | -23.53 | 6 |
| 8 | Alabama | -22.58 | 39 |
| 9 | Arkansas | -20.69 | 37 |
| 10 | West Virginia | -19.35 | 42 |
| 11 | South Dakota | -19.05 | 23 |
| 12 | North Dakota | -18.75 | 6 |
| 13 | Wisconsin | -18.75 | 6 |
| 14 | Tennessee | -18.52 | 36 |
| 15 | Delaware | -17.65 | 11 |
| 16 | Michigan | -17.39 | 30 |
| 17 | Alaska | -16.67 | 1 |
| 18 | Missouri | -15.00 | 23 |
| 19 | Idaho | -14.29 | 28 |
| 20 | Illinois | -13.64 | 30 |
| 21 | New Jersey | -12.50 | 11 |
| 22 | Hawaii | -11.76 | 17 |
| 23 | Mississippi | -11.76 | 48 |
| 24 | North Carolina | -9.52 | 30 |
| 25 | Wyoming | -6.67 | 11 |
| 26 | Minnesota | -6.67 | 11 |
| 27 | Maine | -6.67 | 11 |
| 28 | Washington | -6.25 | 17 |
| 29 | Oregon | -5.56 | 23 |
| 30 | Rhode Island | -5.56 | 23 |
| 31 | Pennsylvania | -5.26 | 28 |
| 32 | South Carolina | -4.00 | 39 |
| 33 | Nevada | 0.00 | 11 |
| 34 | Virginia | 0.00 | 17 |
| 35 | Ohio | 0.00 | 30 |
| 36 | Kansas | 0.00 | 17 |
| 37 | Montana | 0.00 | 30 |
| 38 | Kentucky | 4.17 | 42 |
| 39 | New Mexico | 7.14 | 48 |
| 40 | Texas | 8.70 | 42 |
| 41 | New York | 8.70 | 42 |
| 42 | Florida | 14.29 | 39 |
| 43 | Massachusetts | 14.29 | 22 |
| 44 | Louisiana | 14.29 | 50 |
| 45 | Maryland | 15.38 | 17 |
| 46 | Oklahoma | 21.05 | 37 |
| 47 | District of Columbia | 21.21 | 51 |
| 48 | California | 23.81 | 46 |
| 49 | Arizona | 23.81 | 46 |
| 50 | New Hampshire | 25.00 | 1 |
| 51 | Connecticut | 41.67 | 23 |

## Table 10A: Percent Change Families Headed by a Single Parent, 1985 - 1996

| New Rank | STATE | Percent Change | Old Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Utah | -6.67 | 1 |
| 2 | Colorado | -4.35 | 4 |
| 3 | Indiana | 0.00 | 4 |
| 4 | Nevada | 8.00 | 29 |
| 5 | Maryland | 8.33 | 20 |
| 6 | New Jersey | 10.00 | 4 |
| 7 | Georgia | 12.00 | 35 |
| 8 | Michigan | 12.00 | 35 |
| 9 | California | 13.04 | 20 |
| 10 | Vermont | 14.29 | 13 |
| 11 | Wisconsin | 15.00 | 8 |
| 12 | Illinois | 17.39 | 29 |
| 13 | Oregon | 17.39 | 29 |
| 14 | Alaska | 18.18 | 20 |
| 15 | Massachusetts | 18.18 | 20 |
| 16 | New York | 18.52 | 47 |
| 17 | Idaho | 18.75 | 2 |
| 18 | South Carolina | 19.23 | 43 |
| 19 | District of Columbia | 19.23 | 51 |
| 20 | Montana | 20.00 | 13 |
| 21 | Iowa | 21.05 | 8 |
| 22 | Hawaii | 23.81 | 20 |
| 23 | Florida | 24.00 | 43 |
| 24 | Rhode Island | 27.27 | 35 |
| 25 | Arizona | 27.27 | 35 |
| 26 | Maine | 27.78 | 8 |
| 27 | Connecticut | 28.57 | 29 |
| 28 | Nebraska | 29.41 | 4 |
| 29 | Ohio | 30.00 | 20 |
| 30 | Kentucky | 31.58 | 17 |
| 31 | Tennessee | 31.82 | 40 |
| 32 | Arkansas | 33.33 | 35 |
| 33 | Pennsylvania | 33.33 | 13 |
| 34 | Delaware | 34.78 | 43 |
| 35 | Oklahoma | 35.00 | 29 |
| 36 | Missouri | 36.84 | 20 |
| 37 | North Carolina | 38.10 | 40 |
| 38 | Mississippi | 40.00 | 49 |
| 39 | Alabama | 40.91 | 43 |
| 40 | New Hampshire | 41.18 | 13 |
| 41 | South Dakota | 43.75 | 8 |
| 42 | Minnesota | 43.75 | 8 |
| 43 | Washington | 44.44 | 20 |
| 44 | Texas | 44.44 | 20 |
| 45 | Virginia | 45.00 | 40 |
| 46 | North Dakota | 46.15 | 2 |
| 47 | Louisiana | 52.17 | 49 |
| 48 | West Virginia | 56.25 | 17 |
| 49 | New Mexico | 60.00 | 47 |
| 50 | Wyoming | 66.67 | 17 |
| 51 | Kansas | 68.75 | 29 |

## Table 1B: Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | New Hampshire | -1.46 | 1 | 4.80 |
| 2 | Oregon | -1.09 | 2 | 5.30 |
| 3 | Alaska | -1.04 | 3 | 5.50 |
| 4 | Washington | -0.96 | 4 | 5.60 |
| 5 | Georgia | -0.90 | 42 | 8.50 |
| 6 | Minnesota | -0.76 | 7 | 5.80 |
| 7 | California | -0.76 | 10 | 6.10 |
| 8 | Virginia | -0.66 | 34 | 7.70 |
| 9 | Wisconsin | -0.64 | 13 | 6.30 |
| 10 | North Dakota | -0.56 | 5 | 5.70 |
| 11 | Mississippi | -0.52 | 50 | 9.90 |
| 12 | Maryland | -0.50 | 43 | 8.60 |
| 13 | Massachusetts | -0.49 | 15 | 6.40 |
| 14 | South Dakota | -0.46 | 8 | 5.80 |
| 15 | South Carolina | -0.46 | 47 | 9.20 |
| 16 | Idaho | -0.43 | 6 | 5.80 |
| 17 | Nebraska | -0.36 | 12 | 6.30 |
| 18 | Maine | -0.34 | 9 | 5.90 |
| 19 | Florida | -0.30 | 35 | 7.90 |
| 20 | Texas | -0.18 | 22 | 7.20 |
| 21 | Michigan | -0.10 | 31 | 7.70 |
| 22 | New York | -0.09 | 33 | 7.70 |
| 23 | Vermont | -0.05 | 11 | 6.20 |
| 24 | Ohio | -0.05 | 28 | 7.50 |
| 25 | Missouri | -0.04 | 25 | 7.50 |
| 26 | Iowa | -0.03 | 14 | 6.40 |
| 27 | North Carolina | -0.02 | 44 | 8.70 |
| 28 | Connecticut | -0.01 | 21 | 7.20 |
| 29 | New Jersey | 0.01 | 32 | 7.70 |
| 30 | Louisiana | 0.02 | 49 | 9.90 |
| 31 | Illinois | 0.06 | 37 | 8.00 |
| 32 | Kansas | 0.06 | 19 | 6.90 |
| 33 | Alabama | 0.06 | 48 | 9.30 |
| 34 | Delaware | 0.08 | 41 | 8.50 |
| 35 | Pennsylvania | 0.17 | 29 | 7.50 |
| 36 | Montana | 0.17 | 16 | 6.40 |
| 37 | Arizona | 0.19 | 18 | 6.70 |
| 38 | Rhode Island | 0.22 | 20 | 6.90 |
| 39 | Arkansas | 0.30 | 40 | 8.50 |
| 40 | Oklahoma | 0.32 | 24 | 7.40 |
| 41 | Utah | 0.34 | 17 | 6.60 |
| 42 | Indiana | 0.46 | 30 | 7.60 |
| 43 | Nevada | 0.52 | 26 | 7.50 |
| 44 | Tennessee | 0.60 | 46 | 8.80 |
| 45 | Hawaii | 0.85 | 23 | 7.30 |
| 46 | Kentucky | 0.90 | 36 | 7.90 |
| 47 | District of Columbia | 1.00 | 51 | 14.30 |
| 48 | New Mexico | 1.14 | 27 | 7.50 |
| 49 | West Virginia | 1.46 | 38 | 8.00 |
| 50 | Wyoming | 2.14 | 39 | 8.40 |
| 51 | Colorado | 2.18 | 45 | 8.80 |

## Table 2B: Infant Mortality Rate, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Massachusetts | -1.82 | 3 | 5.01 |
| 2 | Maine | -1.69 | 1 | 4.43 |
| 3 | South Carolina | -1.42 | 38 | 8.41 |
| 4 | Rhode Island | -1.38 | 4 | 5.22 |
| 5 | New Hampshire | -1.18 | 2 | 4.96 |
| 6 | Louisiana | -1.04 | 45 | 9.03 |
| 7 | Texas | -1.03 | 15 | 6.32 |
| 8 | Delaware | -0.90 | 30 | 7.58 |
| 9 | North Dakota | -0.87 | 5 | 5.27 |
| 10 | California | -0.85 | 10 | 5.94 |
| 11 | New York | -0.84 | 20 | 6.96 |
| 12 | New Jersey | -0.82 | 19 | 6.87 |
| 13 | Florida | -0.80 | 28 | 7.45 |
| 14 | Nevada | -0.76 | 13 | 6.16 |
| 15 | Maryland | -0.76 | 39 | 8.47 |
| 16 | Connecticut | -0.74 | 17 | 6.43 |
| 17 | Virginia | -0.71 | 34 | 7.71 |
| 18 | Oregon | -0.71 | 6 | 5.57 |
| 19 | Minnesota | -0.57 | 9 | 5.90 |
| 20 | Hawaii | -0.53 | 8 | 5.81 |
| 21 | Washington | -0.48 | 11 | 5.98 |
| 22 | South Dakota | -0.41 | 7 | 5.73 |
| 23 | Georgia | -0.34 | 47 | 9.21 |
| 24 | Utah | -0.10 | 12 | 6.04 |
| 25 | New Mexico | -0.01 | 14 | 6.24 |
| 26 | Missouri | 0.06 | 31 | 7.58 |
| 27 | Colorado | 0.08 | 18 | 6.61 |
| 28 | Ohio | 0.16 | 33 | 7.70 |
| 29 | Wyoming | 0.23 | 16 | 6.36 |
| 30 | Tennessee | 0.25 | 40 | 8.50 |
| 31 | Michigan | 0.27 | 36 | 8.08 |
| 32 | North Carolina | 0.34 | 46 | 9.16 |
| 33 | Mississippi | 0.36 | 50 | 11.03 |
| 34 | Wisconsin | 0.46 | 25 | 7.35 |
| 35 | Pennsylvania | 0.52 | 35 | 7.83 |
| 36 | Kentucky | 0.55 | 29 | 7.49 |
| 37 | Illinois | 0.67 | 42 | 8.64 |
| 38 | Iowa | 0.68 | 21 | 7.00 |
| 39 | Alaska | 0.73 | 24 | 7.17 |
| 40 | Montana | 0.90 | 22 | 7.00 |
| 41 | Vermont | 0.97 | 23 | 7.09 |
| 42 | West Virginia | 0.98 | 27 | 7.42 |
| 43 | Arkansas | 1.02 | 48 | 9.27 |
| 44 | District of Columbia | 1.11 | 51 | 14.90 |
| 45 | Alabama | 1.12 | 49 | 10.50 |
| 46 | Arizona | 1.22 | 32 | 7.63 |
| 47 | Idaho | 1.25 | 26 | 7.36 |
| 48 | Oklahoma | 1.50 | 41 | 8.53 |
| 49 | Kansas | 1.58 | 37 | 8.35 |
| 50 | Indiana | 1.59 | 43 | 8.69 |
| 51 | Nebraska | 2.15 | 44 | 8.72 |

## Table 3B: Child Death Rate, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Delaware | -11.38 | 4 | 19.61 |
| 2 | Rhode Island | -9.94 | 1 | 15.64 |
| 3 | Massachusetts | -8.77 | 2 | 17.46 |
| 4 | Maryland | -8.39 | 20 | 24.73 |
| 5 | Virginia | -8.26 | 11 | 22.55 |
| 6 | New Jersey | -7.09 | 8 | 21.63 |
| 7 | New Hampshire | -6.22 | 3 | 18.03 |
| 8 | Pennsylvania | -6.12 | 7 | 21.48 |
| 9 | New York | -5.78 | 15 | 23.24 |
| 10 | Minnesota | -5.08 | 5 | 20.13 |
| 11 | Wisconsin | -4.03 | 9 | 22.36 |
| 12 | Hawaii | -3.74 | 6 | 21.12 |
| 13 | Connecticut | -3.48 | 17 | 23.75 |
| 14 | Michigan | -3.20 | 22 | 25.87 |
| 15 | Illinois | -3.18 | 23 | 26.33 |
| 16 | California | -3.00 | 14 | 23.13 |
| 17 | Ohio | -2.91 | 21 | 25.36 |
| 18 | Georgia | -2.66 | 39 | 31.38 |
| 19 | Washington | -2.42 | 13 | 22.76 |
| 20 | North Carolina | -2.28 | 33 | 29.66 |
| 21 | Maine | -1.83 | 10 | 22.38 |
| 22 | Colorado | -1.74 | 16 | 23.64 |
| 23 | Florida | -1.57 | 28 | 28.74 |
| 24 | Vermont | -1.51 | 12 | 22.71 |
| 25 | Tennessee | -0.79 | 32 | 29.53 |
| 26 | North Dakota | -0.29 | 18 | 23.98 |
| 27 | Kentucky | 0.28 | 24 | 26.86 |
| 28 | Utah | 0.35 | 19 | 24.60 |
| 29 | Louisiana | 0.87 | 47 | 36.40 |
| 30 | Texas | 1.28 | 31 | 29.02 |
| 31 | Missouri | 1.65 | 34 | 29.89 |
| 32 | Indiana | 1.74 | 29 | 28.76 |
| 33 | Nebraska | 2.09 | 25 | 27.59 |
| 34 | Alabama | 2.24 | 46 | 35.78 |
| 35 | Arkansas | 2.81 | 43 | 33.10 |
| 36 | Oklahoma | 3.14 | 35 | 29.96 |
| 37 | Mississippi | 3.37 | 50 | 40.61 |
| 38 | Nevada | 3.56 | 36 | 30.07 |
| 39 | South Carolina | 3.81 | 49 | 38.66 |
| 40 | Oregon | 3.84 | 26 | 28.50 |
| 41 | Iowa | 3.99 | 30 | 28.78 |
| 42 | Idaho | 4.46 | 27 | 28.63 |
| 43 | Alaska | 5.12 | 37 | 30.26 |
| 44 | Kansas | 5.17 | 38 | 31.24 |
| 45 | West Virginia | 6.35 | 40 | 31.49 |
| 46 | Arizona | 7.16 | 41 | 32.22 |
| 47 | Montana | 8.42 | 42 | 32.58 |
| 48 | New Mexico | 8.75 | 44 | 33.34 |
| 49 | Wyoming | 11.41 | 45 | 35.67 |
| 50 | District of Columbia | 11.62 | 51 | 57.81 |
| 51 | South Dakota | 12.17 | 48 | 36.43 |

## Table 4B: Teen Violent Death Rate, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Delaware | -1.46 | 7 | 42.40 |
| 2 | New Jersey | -1.24 | 4 | 36.31 |
| 3 | Maryland | -1.15 | 28 | 63.55 |
| 4 | New York | -1.13 | 6 | 41.20 |
| 5 | South Carolina | -1.07 | 36 | 75.48 |
| 6 | Rhode Island | -0.99 | 1 | 25.86 |
| 7 | Ohio | -0.93 | 8 | 42.84 |
| 8 | Louisiana | -0.88 | 45 | 85.04 |
| 9 | Florida | -0.87 | 18 | 56.12 |
| 10 | Massachusetts | -0.86 | 3 | 33.55 |
| 11 | Virginia | -0.86 | 25 | 59.19 |
| 12 | Connecticut | -0.83 | 5 | 39.89 |
| 13 | Mississippi | -0.83 | 49 | 95.93 |
| 14 | North Carolina | -0.67 | 32 | 71.06 |
| 15 | Georgia | -0.66 | 43 | 83.11 |
| 16 | Alabama | -0.58 | 42 | 82.47 |
| 17 | Michigan | -0.54 | 24 | 58.76 |
| 18 | New Hampshire | -0.51 | 2 | 32.71 |
| 19 | Illinois | -0.44 | 29 | 64.23 |
| 20 | Pennsylvania | -0.41 | 16 | 54.22 |
| 21 | Wisconsin | -0.24 | 14 | 52.46 |
| 22 | Hawaii | -0.18 | 9 | 45.68 |
| 23 | Washington | -0.10 | 12 | 49.94 |
| 24 | Vermont | -0.04 | 10 | 46.16 |
| 25 | Minnesota | -0.02 | 13 | 52.22 |
| 26 | Tennessee | -0.01 | 40 | 81.11 |
| 27 | California | 0.02 | 23 | 58.66 |
| 28 | Texas | 0.02 | 31 | 67.79 |
| 29 | Maine | 0.03 | 11 | 48.19 |
| 30 | Nebraska | 0.07 | 19 | 56.69 |
| 31 | Indiana | 0.08 | 30 | 65.38 |
| 32 | Iowa | 0.12 | 15 | 54.16 |
| 33 | Colorado | 0.12 | 20 | 57.46 |
| 34 | Missouri | 0.21 | 37 | 75.93 |
| 35 | Montana | 0.25 | 17 | 54.44 |
| 36 | Oregon | 0.26 | 21 | 57.52 |
| 37 | West Virginia | 0.35 | 27 | 62.64 |
| 38 | North Dakota | 0.36 | 22 | 58.23 |
| 39 | Oklahoma | 0.41 | 34 | 73.95 |
| 40 | Kentucky | 0.42 | 33 | 72.86 |
| 41 | Utah | 0.43 | 26 | 60.03 |
| 42 | Arkansas | 0.43 | 48 | 94.03 |
| 43 | Nevada | 0.54 | 38 | 76.07 |
| 44 | Kansas | 0.77 | 39 | 80.18 |
| 45 | South Dakota | 0.95 | 35 | 75.26 |
| 46 | Arizona | 1.10 | 44 | 84.21 |
| 47 | Idaho | 1.18 | 41 | 81.71 |
| 48 | Alaska | 1.38 | 46 | 92.91 |
| 49 | New Mexico | 1.50 | 47 | 93.34 |
| 50 | Wyoming | 2.13 | 50 | 109.84 |
| 51 | District of Columbia | 4.35 | 51 | 297.56 |

## Table 5B: Teen Birth Rate, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maryland | -13.12 | 29 | 29.64 |
| 2 | New Jersey | -10.68 | 12 | 22.91 |
| 3 | Virginia | -10.28 | 22 | 27.66 |
| 4 | New Hampshire | -9.19 | 1 | 15.08 |
| 5 | Vermont | -9.07 | 2 | 15.15 |
| 6 | New York | -8.66 | 17 | 25.55 |
| 7 | Massachusetts | -8.48 | 6 | 19.93 |
| 8 | North Dakota | -8.21 | 3 | 16.09 |
| 9 | Minnesota | -7.76 | 5 | 18.52 |
| 10 | Maine | -7.38 | 4 | 16.81 |
| 11 | Wisconsin | -7.08 | 9 | 21.66 |
| 12 | Pennsylvania | -6.80 | 15 | 24.45 |
| 13 | Michigan | -6.12 | 25 | 28.20 |
| 14 | Connecticut | -6.06 | 14 | 24.40 |
| 15 | South Carolina | -5.01 | 41 | 41.34 |
| 16 | Louisiana | -4.89 | 43 | 42.89 |
| 17 | Nebraska | -4.66 | 10 | 22.22 |
| 18 | Iowa | -4.04 | 8 | 21.37 |
| 19 | Ohio | -3.12 | 28 | 29.52 |
| 20 | Montana | -2.87 | 7 | 21.22 |
| 21 | South Dakota | -1.93 | 11 | 22.36 |
| 22 | Missouri | -1.60 | 31 | 30.99 |
| 23 | Kansas | -0.26 | 23 | 27.79 |
| 24 | Florida | -0.18 | 34 | 36.72 |
| 25 | Washington | -0.12 | 18 | 26.10 |
| 26 | Utah | -0.01 | 13 | 24.27 |
| 27 | Rhode Island | 0.25 | 21 | 27.28 |
| 28 | Alaska | 0.36 | 20 | 26.49 |
| 29 | North Carolina | 0.56 | 39 | 40.85 |
| 30 | Wyoming | 0.62 | 16 | 24.91 |
| 31 | Georgia | 0.78 | 46 | 45.44 |
| 32 | Mississippi | 0.80 | 50 | 52.14 |
| 33 | Illinois | 0.90 | 33 | 36.14 |
| 34 | Alabama | 1.68 | 45 | 45.30 |
| 35 | Idaho | 2.36 | 19 | 26.46 |
| 36 | Hawaii | 2.44 | 24 | 27.97 |
| 37 | West Virginia | 2.58 | 26 | 28.70 |
| 38 | Delaware | 2.73 | 40 | 41.03 |
| 39 | Indiana | 2.87 | 32 | 32.92 |
| 40 | Tennessee | 3.34 | 38 | 40.25 |
| 41 | Colorado | 3.53 | 30 | 30.16 |
| 42 | Oregon | 4.31 | 27 | 29.44 |
| 43 | Oklahoma | 7.56 | 36 | 37.18 |
| 44 | Kentucky | 7.79 | 35 | 36.93 |
| 45 | Arkansas | 8.06 | 44 | 44.92 |
| 46 | District of Columbia | 8.99 | 51 | 78.99 |
| 47 | California | 10.97 | 37 | 39.16 |
| 48 | Nevada | 13.13 | 42 | 42.10 |
| 49 | Texas | 17.29 | 48 | 48.84 |
| 50 | New Mexico | 20.80 | 47 | 45.77 |
| 51 | Arizona | 22.90 | 49 | 48.86 |

## Table 6B: Percent Teen Dropouts, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wisconsin | -4.98 | 1 | 4.00 |
| 2 | Hawaii | -3.87 | 2 | 4.80 |
| 3 | New Jersey | -3.85 | 6 | 5.60 |
| 4 | Connecticut | -3.82 | 4 | 5.33 |
| 5 | North Dakota | -3.69 | 3 | 4.87 |
| 6 | Indiana | -3.48 | 7 | 5.63 |
| 7 | Iowa | -3.23 | 5 | 5.43 |
| 8 | Kansas | -2.98 | 9 | 5.93 |
| 9 | Maryland | -2.88 | 15 | 7.47 |
| 10 | New Hampshire | -2.65 | 8 | 5.90 |
| 11 | Massachusetts | -2.15 | 11 | 6.80 |
| 12 | Maine | -1.97 | 10 | 6.57 |
| 13 | District of Columbia | -1.78 | 37 | 11.20 |
| 14 | Minnesota | -1.78 | 14 | 6.97 |
| 15 | Montana | -1.73 | 12 | 6.80 |
| 16 | Vermont | -1.61 | 13 | 6.93 |
| 17 | Virginia | -1.58 | 19 | 8.30 |
| 18 | Michigan | -1.12 | 21 | 8.40 |
| 19 | Utah | -1.05 | 16 | 7.50 |
| 20 | Nebraska | -0.90 | 17 | 7.90 |
| 21 | Pennsylvania | -0.86 | 20 | 8.37 |
| 22 | Arkansas | -0.64 | 26 | 9.13 |
| 23 | Wyoming | -0.62 | 18 | 7.93 |
| 24 | Mississippi | -0.57 | 35 | 10.60 |
| 25 | New York | -0.51 | 25 | 9.00 |
| 26 | Ohio | -0.43 | 23 | 8.93 |
| 27 | Delaware | -0.41 | 29 | 9.50 |
| 28 | Illinois | -0.05 | 30 | 9.57 |
| 29 | South Carolina | -0.02 | 36 | 10.67 |
| 30 | West Virginia | 0.07 | 22 | 8.80 |
| 31 | Alaska | 0.24 | 24 | 8.97 |
| 32 | Oklahoma | 0.57 | 31 | 9.63 |
| 33 | Washington | 0.66 | 28 | 9.40 |
| 34 | California | 0.77 | 32 | 9.70 |
| 35 | Idaho | 0.87 | 27 | 9.40 |
| 36 | South Dakota | 1.18 | 33 | 9.73 |
| 37 | Alabama | 1.34 | 39 | 11.77 |
| 38 | Louisiana | 1.40 | 43 | 12.23 |
| 39 | Colorado | 1.49 | 34 | 10.27 |
| 40 | North Carolina | 1.66 | 40 | 11.77 |
| 41 | Georgia | 2.37 | 46 | 12.90 |
| 42 | Florida | 2.39 | 42 | 12.17 |
| 43 | Rhode Island | 2.78 | 38 | 11.60 |
| 44 | Tennessee | 2.82 | 45 | 12.60 |
| 45 | Missouri | 2.94 | 44 | 12.30 |
| 46 | Oregon | 3.40 | 41 | 12.03 |
| 47 | Texas | 4.04 | 47 | 13.30 |
| 48 | Kentucky | 4.51 | 49 | 13.53 |
| 49 | New Mexico | 4.82 | 48 | 13.43 |
| 50 | Arizona | 7.35 | 50 | 16.07 |
| 51 | Nevada | 7.53 | 51 | 16.53 |

## Table 7B: Percent Teens not in School and not Working, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wisconsin | -4.12 | 2 | 4.30 |
| 2 | North Dakota | -4.08 | 1 | 3.77 |
| 3 | Minnesota | -3.10 | 4 | 5.00 |
| 4 | New Jersey | -3.05 | 7 | 6.00 |
| 5 | Virginia | -3.02 | 11 | 6.60 |
| 6 | Iowa | -3.02 | 3 | 4.97 |
| 7 | Maryland | -2.82 | 18 | 7.43 |
| 8 | Connecticut | -2.82 | 6 | 5.83 |
| 9 | New Hampshire | -2.41 | 5 | 5.43 |
| 10 | Delaware | -2.40 | 15 | 7.27 |
| 11 | Kansas | -2.27 | 8 | 6.07 |
| 12 | Nebraska | -1.95 | 9 | 6.23 |
| 13 | Michigan | -1.85 | 16 | 7.30 |
| 14 | Indiana | -1.73 | 13 | 6.87 |
| 15 | South Carolina | -1.72 | 30 | 9.00 |
| 16 | Massachusetts | -1.68 | 12 | 6.70 |
| 17 | South Dakota | -1.44 | 10 | 6.40 |
| 18 | North Carolina | -0.96 | 29 | 8.97 |
| 19 | Utah | -0.61 | 14 | 7.23 |
| 20 | Mississippi | -0.54 | 42 | 10.83 |
| 21 | Alabama | -0.53 | 34 | 9.83 |
| 22 | Illinois | -0.50 | 26 | 8.77 |
| 23 | Georgia | -0.47 | 35 | 10.03 |
| 24 | Maine | -0.40 | 17 | 7.43 |
| 25 | Ohio | -0.27 | 25 | 8.67 |
| 26 | Missouri | -0.16 | 27 | 8.77 |
| 27 | Oklahoma | -0.04 | 22 | 8.50 |
| 28 | Wyoming | -0.01 | 19 | 7.83 |
| 29 | Pennsylvania | 0.02 | 28 | 8.77 |
| 30 | Vermont | 0.10 | 20 | 7.93 |
| 31 | Montana | 0.22 | 21 | 8.03 |
| 32 | Colorado | 0.45 | 23 | 8.60 |
| 33 | Idaho | 0.82 | 24 | 8.63 |
| 34 | Rhode Island | 0.83 | 31 | 9.03 |
| 35 | New York | 0.96 | 36 | 10.10 |
| 36 | California | 1.01 | 32 | 9.37 |
| 37 | Florida | 1.05 | 39 | 10.53 |
| 38 | Arkansas | 1.28 | 41 | 10.77 |
| 39 | Hawaii | 1.56 | 33 | 9.57 |
| 40 | Louisiana | 2.03 | 47 | 12.93 |
| 41 | Nevada | 2.15 | 40 | 10.60 |
| 42 | Alaska | 2.32 | 37 | 10.40 |
| 43 | Oregon | 2.51 | 38 | 10.47 |
| 44 | Texas | 2.74 | 44 | 11.53 |
| 45 | District of Columbia | 2.76 | 51 | 16.57 |
| 46 | Kentucky | 3.22 | 45 | 11.70 |
| 47 | Arizona | 3.44 | 43 | 11.50 |
| 48 | Tennessee | 3.68 | 49 | 13.17 |
| 49 | Washington | 3.91 | 46 | 12.00 |
| 50 | West Virginia | 4.92 | 48 | 13.00 |
| 51 | New Mexico | 6.00 | 50 | 13.93 |

## Table 8B: Percent of Children Living with Parents Without full-time, year-round Employment, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Nebraska | -8.66 | 1 | 17.4 |
| 2 | Maryland | -7.67 | 16 | 25.3 |
| 3 | Iowa | -7.23 | 2 | 18.2 |
| 4 | Virginia | -7.08 | 13 | 23.8 |
| 5 | Utah | -6.73 | 3 | 18.2 |
| 6 | North Dakota | -5.55 | 4 | 19.4 |
| 7 | North Carolina | -5.50 | 19 | 26.4 |
| 8 | Wisconsin | -5.37 | 9 | 21.5 |
| 9 | Kansas | -5.18 | 8 | 21.4 |
| 10 | Minnesota | -5.10 | 5 | 20.7 |
| 11 | Colorado | -5.06 | 7 | 20.9 |
| 12 | Indiana | -5.04 | 11 | 22.4 |
| 13 | Georgia | -4.70 | 31 | 29.1 |
| 14 | Delaware | -4.63 | 18 | 26.4 |
| 15 | Wyoming | -4.24 | 6 | 20.7 |
| 16 | Alabama | -3.75 | 34 | 29.6 |
| 17 | South Carolina | -3.33 | 39 | 31.2 |
| 18 | New Jersey | -2.98 | 17 | 26.0 |
| 19 | South Dakota | -2.84 | 10 | 22.1 |
| 20 | Nevada | -1.98 | 14 | 25.0 |
| 21 | New Hampshire | -1.63 | 12 | 23.3 |
| 22 | Arkansas | -1.61 | 27 | 28.8 |
| 23 | Missouri | -1.45 | 21 | 27.1 |
| 24 | Mississippi | -1.10 | 48 | 35.6 |
| 25 | Tennessee | -1.03 | 33 | 29.4 |
| 26 | Illinois | -0.10 | 35 | 29.6 |
| 27 | Pennsylvania | -0.07 | 23 | 27.9 |
| 28 | Vermont | 0.09 | 15 | 25.0 |
| 29 | Ohio | 0.33 | 29 | 28.9 |
| 30 | Texas | 0.90 | 30 | 29.0 |
| 31 | Michigan | 1.20 | 37 | 30.5 |
| 32 | Massachusetts | 1.27 | 24 | 28.0 |
| 33 | Connecticut | 1.27 | 28 | 28.9 |
| 34 | Oklahoma | 1.34 | 26 | 28.6 |
| 35 | Maine | 1.71 | 20 | 26.6 |
| 36 | Idaho | 2.85 | 22 | 27.7 |
| 37 | Alaska | 2.86 | 25 | 28.6 |
| 38 | Florida | 2.88 | 43 | 33.3 |
| 39 | Louisiana | 3.44 | 49 | 38.6 |
| 40 | Hawaii | 4.42 | 36 | 29.9 |
| 41 | Montana | 4.55 | 32 | 29.4 |
| 42 | Washington | 4.72 | 38 | 30.5 |
| 43 | Rhode Island | 5.47 | 40 | 31.6 |
| 44 | New York | 5.94 | 47 | 35.2 |
| 45 | Kentucky | 6.35 | 44 | 33.4 |
| 46 | Arizona | 6.74 | 41 | 32.4 |
| 47 | Oregon | 7.50 | 42 | 32.8 |
| 48 | California | 8.26 | 45 | 34.9 |
| 49 | New Mexico | 9.86 | 46 | 35.1 |
| 50 | District of Columbia | 11.08 | 51 | 55.9 |
| 51 | West Virginia | 14.56 | 50 | 40.3 |

## Table 9B. Percent of Children in Poverty, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maryland | -8.56 | 18 | 14.87 |
| 2 | Delaware | -7.49 | 15 | 13.98 |
| 3 | Virginia | -6.77 | 17 | 14.53 |
| 4 | New Jersey | -5.77 | 12 | 13.60 |
| 5 | Alaska | -5.59 | 3 | 10.49 |
| 6 | New Hampshire | -5.07 | 1 | 10.19 |
| 7 | Colorado | -5.04 | 4 | 11.26 |
| 8 | Utah | -4.96 | 2 | 10.30 |
| 9 | Georgia | -4.80 | 35 | 19.48 |
| 10 | Indiana | -4.71 | 7 | 13.10 |
| 11 | Nebraska | -4.26 | 5 | 12.15 |
| 12 | Wisconsin | -4.06 | 9 | 13.18 |
| 13 | Nevada | -3.44 | 14 | 13.90 |
| 14 | North Carolina | -3.40 | 33 | 18.94 |
| 15 | Iowa | -2.66 | 8 | 13.10 |
| 16 | Minnesota | -2.60 | 11 | 13.55 |
| 17 | Vermont | -2.51 | 6 | 12.72 |
| 18 | Kansas | -1.96 | 19 | 14.97 |
| 19 | Missouri | -1.90 | 24 | 17.03 |
| 20 | North Dakota | -1.85 | 10 | 13.42 |
| 21 | Wyoming | -1.37 | 13 | 13.89 |
| 22 | Illinois | -1.23 | 32 | 18.88 |
| 23 | South Carolina | -1.22 | 41 | 23.81 |
| 24 | Maine | -1.18 | 16 | 14.04 |
| 25 | Massachusetts | -0.93 | 22 | 16.15 |
| 26 | Michigan | -0.90 | 31 | 18.80 |
| 27 | Connecticut | -0.85 | 25 | 17.15 |
| 28 | Pennsylvania | -0.78 | 28 | 17.56 |
| 29 | Hawaii | -0.78 | 20 | 15.04 |
| 30 | Washington | -0.77 | 21 | 15.35 |
| 31 | Ohio | -0.40 | 30 | 18.56 |
| 32 | Alabama | -0.30 | 39 | 23.52 |
| 33 | Rhode Island | 0.72 | 26 | 17.20 |
| 34 | Oregon | 0.93 | 23 | 16.56 |
| 35 | Tennessee | 1.47 | 36 | 22.32 |
| 36 | South Dakota | 1.98 | 27 | 17.24 |
| 37 | Arkansas | 2.47 | 38 | 23.30 |
| 38 | Idaho | 2.75 | 29 | 17.93 |
| 39 | Florida | 2.77 | 40 | 23.61 |
| 40 | Mississippi | 2.96 | 49 | 30.19 |
| 41 | Montana | 3.92 | 34 | 19.10 |
| 42 | District of Columbia | 4.27 | 51 | 39.75 |
| 43 | Oklahoma | 5.44 | 37 | 23.06 |
| 44 | New York | 5.70 | 44 | 25.35 |
| 45 | Texas | 6.27 | 42 | 24.75 |
| 46 | Louisiana | 6.63 | 50 | 32.29 |
| 47 | Kentucky | 7.71 | 43 | 25.12 |
| 48 | California | 8.53 | 46 | 25.52 |
| 49 | West Virginia | 9.30 | 45 | 25.37 |
| 50 | Arizona | 9.79 | 47 | 25.79 |
| 51 | New Mexico | 14.47 | 48 | 30.04 |

## Table 10B: Percent Families Headed by Single Parent, Adjusted for Race

| New Rank | State | Score | Old Rank | 1996 Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Utah | -8.34 | 1 | 14.13 |
| 2 | Maryland | -6.96 | 24 | 26.20 |
| 3 | Georgia | -5.89 | 39 | 28.37 |
| 4 | New Jersey | -5.48 | 7 | 22.37 |
| 5 | South Carolina | -3.87 | 46 | 31.37 |
| 6 | Indiana | -3.54 | 6 | 22.27 |
| 7 | North Dakota | -3.42 | 2 | 19.07 |
| 8 | Mississippi | -3.28 | 49 | 34.83 |
| 9 | Idaho | -3.07 | 3 | 19.30 |
| 10 | Alabama | -2.62 | 43 | 31.03 |
| 11 | North Carolina | -2.56 | 40 | 29.17 |
| 12 | Pennsylvania | -2.40 | 15 | 24.10 |
| 13 | Wisconsin | -2.25 | 8 | 22.80 |
| 14 | Arkansas | -2.18 | 35 | 27.57 |
| 15 | Nebraska | -1.84 | 4 | 22.13 |
| 16 | Illinois | -1.74 | 31 | 27.07 |
| 17 | Colorado | -1.60 | 5 | 22.23 |
| 18 | Missouri | -1.34 | 23 | 25.93 |
| 19 | Louisiana | -1.20 | 50 | 34.87 |
| 20 | Texas | -1.18 | 21 | 25.50 |
| 21 | Ohio | -1.08 | 26 | 26.23 |
| 22 | Virginia | -1.07 | 42 | 29.30 |
| 23 | Minnesota | -0.76 | 10 | 22.87 |
| 24 | Kentucky | -0.71 | 17 | 24.57 |
| 25 | Tennessee | -0.58 | 41 | 29.20 |
| 26 | Michigan | -0.04 | 38 | 28.23 |
| 27 | Iowa | 0.34 | 11 | 23.47 |
| 28 | South Dakota | 0.35 | 9 | 22.83 |
| 29 | Delaware | 0.52 | 44 | 31.10 |
| 30 | Maine | 1.05 | 12 | 23.47 |
| 31 | Montana | 1.17 | 13 | 23.53 |
| 32 | Florida | 1.33 | 45 | 31.10 |
| 33 | Connecticut | 1.35 | 33 | 27.40 |
| 34 | Massachusetts | 1.37 | 25 | 26.23 |
| 35 | Oklahoma | 1.37 | 30 | 26.93 |
| 36 | New Hampshire | 1.50 | 14 | 23.97 |
| 37 | California | 1.63 | 27 | 26.37 |
| 38 | West Virginia | 1.76 | 18 | 25.30 |
| 39 | Vermont | 1.79 | 16 | 24.23 |
| 40 | Kansas | 1.91 | 29 | 26.57 |
| 41 | Nevada | 1.95 | 32 | 27.13 |
| 42 | Alaska | 2.16 | 22 | 25.70 |
| 43 | Hawaii | 2.30 | 20 | 25.50 |
| 44 | Washington | 2.77 | 28 | 26.37 |
| 45 | Wyoming | 2.92 | 19 | 25.40 |
| 46 | New York | 3.52 | 47 | 31.73 |
| 47 | Rhode Island | 4.14 | 37 | 28.20 |
| 48 | Oregon | 4.44 | 34 | 27.40 |
| 49 | Arizona | 4.59 | 36 | 28.03 |
| 50 | New Mexico | 9.56 | 48 | 32.43 |
| 51 | District of Columbia | 13.20 | 51 | 62.10 |