2017 Florida Child Well-being Index - Terminology and Sources

All rates are per 100 (percentages) unless otherwise noted.
An asterisk (*) represents data that are suppressed due to confidentiality.
Data are not available (N.A.) for some baseline year variables.

Index Rank
Rankings are based on a scale containing 16 indicators of child well-being. Indicators in each category are:

Economic- children in poverty, unemployment rate, high housing cost burden, teens not in school and not working

Education- students not ready for Kindergarten, fourth-grade students not proficient in English Language Arts, eighth-grade students not proficient in math, high school students not graduating on time

Health- low-birthweight babies, uninsured children, overweight and obese 1st, 3rd, and 6th-grade students, high school teens who used alcohol/drugs in the past 30 days.

Family and Community- children in single parent families, children living in high poverty areas, children with verified maltreatment, and youth contacts with the Juvenile Justice System.

Given the nature of our data, we were able to convert all data to ratios by county. Working with ratios by county gave us the advantage to compare all counties fairly, regardless of the county's population size. All of our indicators were selected to follow the same direction, in our case, lower numbers are best. That way when we summed all ratios, high values in one indicator did not mask low values in another or vice versa. Scores for each indicator were summed to produce a score for each of the four categories by county. Then, the scores for the four categories were summed to produce an overall county score. The counties were ranked from 1 (best) to 67 (worst) for each category and as an overall rank for the state.

Economic
Children in poverty – Children under age 18 who are living below the federal poverty level as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program.

In 2014, the poverty threshold for two adults and two children under age 18 was $24,008.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program provides annual estimates of income and poverty statistics for all school districts, counties, and states. The main objective of this program is to provide estimates of income and poverty for the administration of federal programs and the allocation of federal funds to local jurisdictions. In addition to these federal programs, state and local programs use the income and poverty estimates for distributing funds and managing programs. The estimates are not direct counts from enumerations or administrative records, nor direct estimates from sample surveys. Instead, for counties and states, they model income and poverty estimates by combining survey data with population estimates and administrative records. For school districts, they use the model-based county estimates and inputs from federal tax information and multi-year survey data to produce estimates of poverty. Detailed information about SAIPE methodology and data input can be found at
https://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html

U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, Washington, DC

Unemployment rate – The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Unemployed - All persons who had no employment during the reference week (identified in the survey), were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to

find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Employed - All persons who, during the reference week, (a) did any work at all (at least 1 hour) as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, and (b) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs

Labor force - comprises all persons age 16 and older classified as employed or unemployed.

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is a federal-state cooperative effort in which monthly estimates of total employment and unemployment are prepared for approximately 7,500 areas. These estimates are key indicators of local economic conditions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for the concepts, definitions, technical procedures, validation, and publication of the estimates that state workforce agencies prepare under agreement with BLS. The concepts and definitions underlying LAUS data come from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the household survey that is the source of the national unemployment rate. State monthly model-based estimates are controlled in "real time" to sum to national monthly employment and unemployment estimates from the CPS. These models combine current and historical data from the CPS, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, and state unemployment insurance (UI) systems. Estimates for counties are produced through a building-block approach known as the "Handbook method." This procedure also uses data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES program, state UI systems, and the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), to create estimates that are adjusted to the statewide measures of employment and unemployment. Detailed information about unemployment statistics can be found at https://www.bls.gov/lau/

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC

High housing cost burden - Households spending more than 30 percent of income for housing costs.

2015 estimates by Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, based on 2010 U.S. Census data and population projections by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.
Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Teens not in school and not working – Teens age 16-19 who were not enrolled in school, unemployed, and not in the labor force.

Not enrolled in school – All teens age 16-19 not enrolled in school either part-time or full-time.

Unemployed – All civilians age 16-19 are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, and (2) were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to start a job. Also included as unemployed are civilians who did not work at all during the reference week, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available for work except for temporary illness.

Not in the labor force - All people age 16-19 who are not classified as members of the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired workers, and seasonal workers interviewed in an off season that were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 5 year estimates, table B14005

Education

Students not ready for kindergarten – The number of students who were identified as not ready to begin kindergarten on the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS). ECHOS is an observational instrument that is used to monitor the skills, knowledge, and behaviors a student demonstrates or needs to develop.

Office of Early Learning, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida

The Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) has replaced the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT 2.0). Beginning with the 2014-15 school year the student assessment results reported are based on the new standards. Students FSA responses are scored into 5 categories:
Level 1- Inadequate – Highly likely to need substantial support for the next grade/course.
Level 2 - Below satisfactory – Likely to need substantial support for the next grade/course.
Level 3 - Satisfactory – May need additional support for the next grade/course.
Level 4 - Proficient – Likely to excel in the next grade/course.
Level 5 - Mastery – Highly likely to excel in the next grade/course.

Fourth grade students not proficient in English Language Arts – The percent of 4th grade students scoring inadequate, below satisfactory, and satisfactory on the English Language Arts FSA.

Eighth grade students not proficient in math - The percent of 8th grade students scoring inadequate, below satisfactory, and satisfactory on the Math FSA.

Office of Assessment, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida

High school students not graduating on time - The percent of high school students not graduating on time as defined by the Federal Graduation Rate.

> Federal Graduation Rate - Federal regulations require each state to calculate a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, which includes standard diplomas but excludes GEDs, both regular and adult, and special diplomas. The US Department of Education (USED) adopted this calculation method in an effort to develop uniform, accurate and comparable graduation rates across all states. The USED required states to begin calculating the new graduation rate in 2010-11. Florida's graduation rate is a cohort graduation rate. A cohort is defined as a group of students on the same schedule to graduate. The graduation rate measures the percentage of students who graduate within four years of their first enrollment in ninth grade. Subsequent to their enrollment in ninth grade, students who transfer out and deceased students are removed from the calculation. Entering transfer students are included in the graduation rate for the class with which they are scheduled to graduate, based on their date of enrollment. In the calculation, stringent guidelines are prescribed for not only the definition of a graduate, but also for the definition of a transfer. Students who transfer to adult education programs or Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities remain with their regular high schools' cohorts.

Bureau of Accountability and Reporting, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida

Health

Low birthweight babies - Infants born to resident mothers who weighed less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs. 8.2 oz.) at birth.

Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, Florida

Uninsured children – Children under age 18 with no health insurance coverage.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program produces timely estimates for all counties and states by detailed demographic and income groups. The SAHIE program produces single-year estimates of health insurance coverage for every county in the U.S. The estimates are model-based and consistent with the American Community Survey (ACS). They are based on an "area-level" model that uses survey estimates for domains of interest, rather than individual responses. The estimates are "enhanced" with administrative data, within a Hierarchical Bayesian framework. Detailed information about SAIPE methodology and data input can be found at https://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/index.html

U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Washington, DC

Overweight and obese 1st, 3rd, and 6th grade students – The total 1st, 3rd, and 6th grade students with a body mass index greater than or equal to the 85th percentile.

Florida schools are required to do Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings for students in 1st, 3rd, and 6th grade to identify children who are at risk for obesity which may lead to other health problems. The screening uses the child's age, height, and weight to determine body density. It does not take into account muscle mass or bone structure. BMI is a number calculated from a person's weight and height. BMI provides a reliable indicator of body fatness for most people and is used to screen for weight categories that may lead to health problems.

        Healthy weight – 5th through the 84th percentile
        Underweight – less than the 5th percentile
        Overweight – 85th through the 94th percentile
        Obese – greater than or equal to 95th percentile

Note: 2007-2008 data were used for the baseline year for Osceola and Putnam Counties due to no students being reported as screened for BMI in 2008-2009.

State of Florida 2013–2014 Summary of School Health Services
School Health Services Program, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, Florida

High school teens who used alcohol/drugs (past 30 days) – The percent of surveyed high school youth who indicated they had used alcohol or any illicit drug in the past 30 days.

Note: 2012 survey data were used for Hardee County due to lack of participation in the 2014 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. 2008 data were used for the baseline data in Okeechobee County due to lack of participation in the 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.

2014 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office, Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, Florida

Family and Community

Children in single parent families – Children under age 18 living in families with only one parent present. Parent is either a male householder or a female householder with no spouse present.

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 5 year estimates, table B09002

Children living in high poverty areas – Children living in census tracts with poverty rates of 30% or more.

Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census Summary File 1 and Summary File 3 and the 2006-2010 to 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-year data.
Population Reference Bureau, Washington, DC

Children with verified maltreatment – These data show the number of unduplicated children with at least one child protective investigation finding of verified. The ratio of unduplicated children with at least one child protective investigation is applied to the total child population (ages 0-17) to obtain a maltreatment rate per 1,000 children in the county.   Data are unduplicated so that each child only appears once in the analysis. Data are reported for the period July 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016 due to data availability in the first 11 months of SFY 2015-16.

> Investigation- Once a call to the Florida Abuse Hotline is accepted, it is referred to either a Department of Children and Families or the Sheriff's office for a Child Protective Investigator to conduct a thorough investigation that aligns with Florida's Safety Methodology.

This investigative finding is used when a preponderance of credible evidence exists and results in a determination that the specific harm or threat of harm was the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect. In high risk cases where abuse is verified, a referral to the Community Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency is made for services.
Note: Due to availability, data are for eleven months of fiscal year 2015-2016.

FSFN Data Repository; Run Date August 9, 2016
Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, Florida

Calendar Year 2016 Population Estimates
Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Florida Legislature

Youth contacts with the Juvenile Justice System - the rate (per 1,000 population age 10-17) of youth reported to the Florida Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

Bureau of Research & Data Integrity, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Tallahassee, Florida