2019
Florida Child Well-being Index

What is the Index?

- Each year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation publishes an index of child well-being that allows comparisons between states using national datasets, such as the Census (https://www.aecf.org/resources/2019-kids-count-data-book/)

- This index has an overall score that ranks the states 1-50, as well as domain scores for Economic, Education, Health & Family and Community well-being.

- We decided to develop an index of Florida counties that allows a similar comparison of counties based on child well-being.

So why didn't we use the same indicators as the Annie E. Casey Foundation?

- The Casey Foundation only uses data that allows comparisons between states. Sometimes these data are not as current as data available at the state or county level, e.g., low birthweight babies and reading proficiency.

- There are some indicators that are not available at the national level that we think give a more comprehensive view of child well-being for informing child well-being policy, like child maltreatment.

Data Sources and Definitions

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- We use both national and state data sources for sixteen indicators in our index.

- The indicators fall into four categories: Economic, Education, Health & Family and Community.

Economic Indicators

- 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 using 2012 and 2017 data. Learn more at https://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html

- Unemployment Rate

  - The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) 2012 and 2017 data. For information, see https://www.bls.gov/lau/

- High housing cost burden

  - Households spending more than 30% of income for housing costs (rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses). U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 5 year estimates.

- Teens not in school and not working

  - Teens age 16-19 who were not enrolled in school, unemployed, and not in the labor force. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 5 year estimates.

Education Indicators

- 3 & 4 year old children not enrolled in school

  - 3 and 4 year old children who were not enrolled in either public or private school. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 5 year estimates.

- 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 Florida Standard Assessment (FSA). Office of Assessment, Florida Department of Education. Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment, Florida Department of Education school years 2014-2015 and 2017-2018.

- Eight 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. Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment, Florida Department of Education school years 2014-2015 and 2017-2018.

- High school students not graduating on time

  - The percent of high school students not graduating on time as defined by the Federal Graduation Rate. Bureau of Accountability and Reporting, Florida Department of Education. 2012-2013 and 2017-2018 (cohort graduation rate).

Health Indicators

- 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 2012 and 2017 data.

- Uninsured children

  - Children under age 19 with no health insurance coverage. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates 2011 and 2016 data.

- 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. State of Florida 2012-2013 and 2017–2018 Summary of School Health Services, School Health Services Program, Florida Department of Health.

- High school teens who used alcohol or drugs in the 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. 2014 and 2018 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office, Florida Department of Children and Families.

Family & Community Indicators

- **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 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 5 year estimates.

- **Children living in high poverty areas**

  - Children under age 18 living in census tracts with poverty rates of 30% or more. Special run of U.S. Census data completed by the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, DC 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 5 year estimates.

- **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. Baseline data is from 2012-2013. Data are reported for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Florida Department of Children and Families and Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

- **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, Bureau of Research & Data Integrity, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice 2012-2013 and 2017-2018 data.

Development of the Index

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1

Advantage: compare all counties fairly, regardless of the county's population size

All data were converted to ratios by county.

2

Advantage: when we summed all ratios, high values in one indicator did not mask low values in another or vice versa

All indicators followed the same direction, i.e. lowest number is best.

3

Scores for each indicator were added up to produce a score for each of the four categories by county.

4

The scores for the four categories were added up to produce an overall county score.

5

The counties were ranked from 1 (best) to 67 (worst) for each category and as an overall rank for the state.
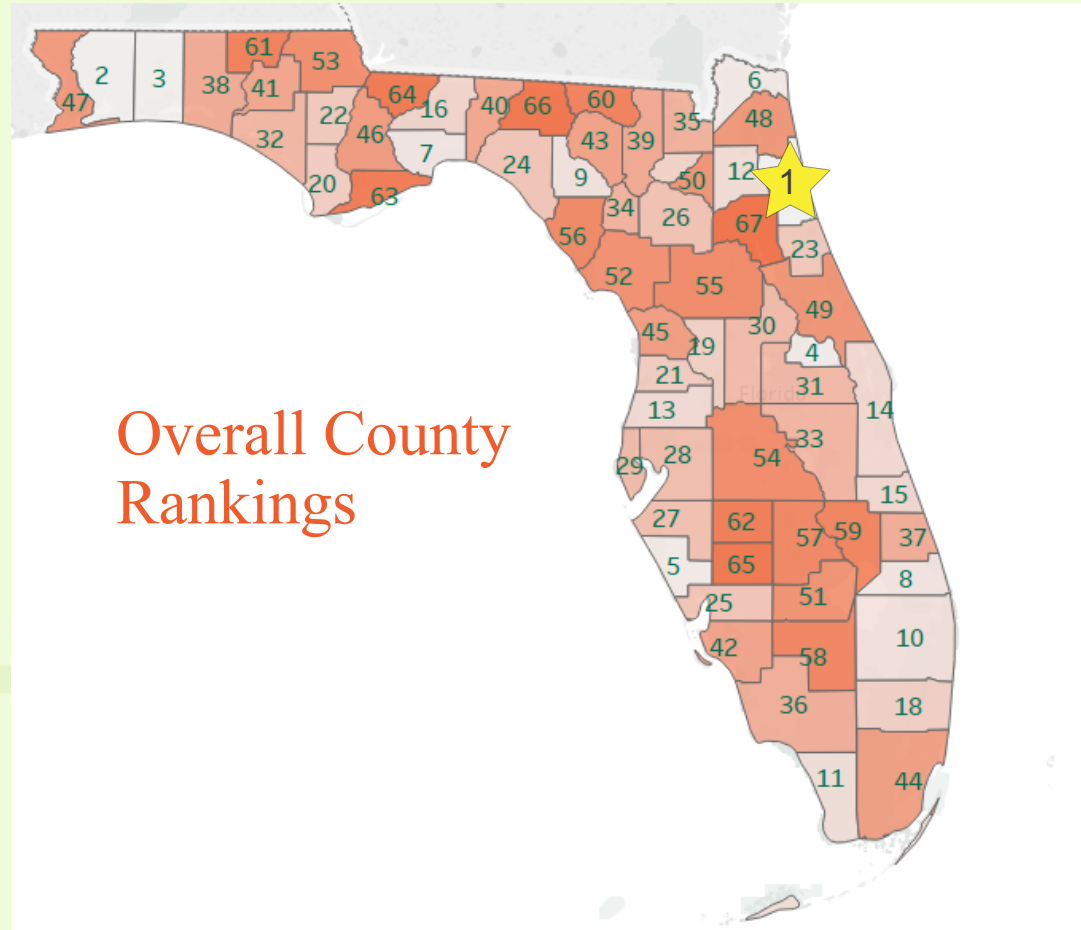
County Rankings

Overall County Rankings

2019 Index in Rank Order of Counties

County	Rank	County	Rank
Saint Johns	1	Gilchrist	34
Santa Rosa	2	Baker	35
Okaloosa	3	Collier	36
Seminole	4	Saint Lucie	37
Sarasota	5	Walton	38
Nassau	6	Columbia	39
Wakulla	7	Jefferson	40
Martin	8	Washington	41
Lafayette	9	Lee	42
Palm Beach	10	Suwannee	43
Monroe	11	Dade-Miami	44
Clay	12	Citrus	45
Pasco	13	Liberty	46
Brevard	14	Escambia	47
Indian River	15	Duval	48
Leon	16	Volusia	49
Union	17	Bradford	50
Broward	18	Glades	51
Sumter	19	Levy	52
Gulf	20	Jackson	53
Hernando	21	Polk	54
Calhoun	22	Marion	55
Flagler	23	Dixie	56
Taylor	24	Highlands	57
Charlotte	25	Hendry	58
Alachua	26	Okeechobee	59
Manatee	27	Hamilton	60
Hillsborough	28	Holmes	61
Pinellas	29	Hardee	62
Lake	30	Franklin	63
Orange	31	Gadsden	64
Bay	32	Desoto	65
Osceola	33	Madison	66
		Putnam	67

2019 Index in Alphabetical Order

County	Rank	County	Rank
Alachua	26	Lake	30
Baker	35	Lee	42
Bay	32	Leon	16
Bradford	50	Levy	52
Brevard	14	Liberty	46
Broward	18	Madison	66
Calhoun	22	Manatee	27
Charlotte	25	Marion	55
Citrus	45	Martin	8
Clay	12	Monroe	11
Collier	36	Nassau	6
Columbia	39	Okaloosa	3
Dade-Miami	44	Okeechobee	59
Desoto	65	Orange	31
Dixie	56	Osceola	33
Duval	48	Palm Beach	10
Escambia	47	Pasco	13
Flagler	23	Pinellas	29
Franklin	63	Polk	54
Gadsden	64	Putnam	67
Gilchrist	34	Saint Johns	1
Glades	51	Saint Lucie	37
Gulf	20	Santa Rosa	2
Hamilton	60	Sarasota	5
Hardee	62	Seminole	4
Hendry	58	Sumter	19
Hernando	21	Suwannee	43
Highlands	57	Taylor	24
Hillsborough	28	Union	17
Holmes	61	Volusia	49
Indian River	15	Wakulla	7
Jackson	53	Walton	38
Jefferson	40	Washington	41
		Lake	30

County movement compared to the baseline year

Economic

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Education

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Health

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Family and Community

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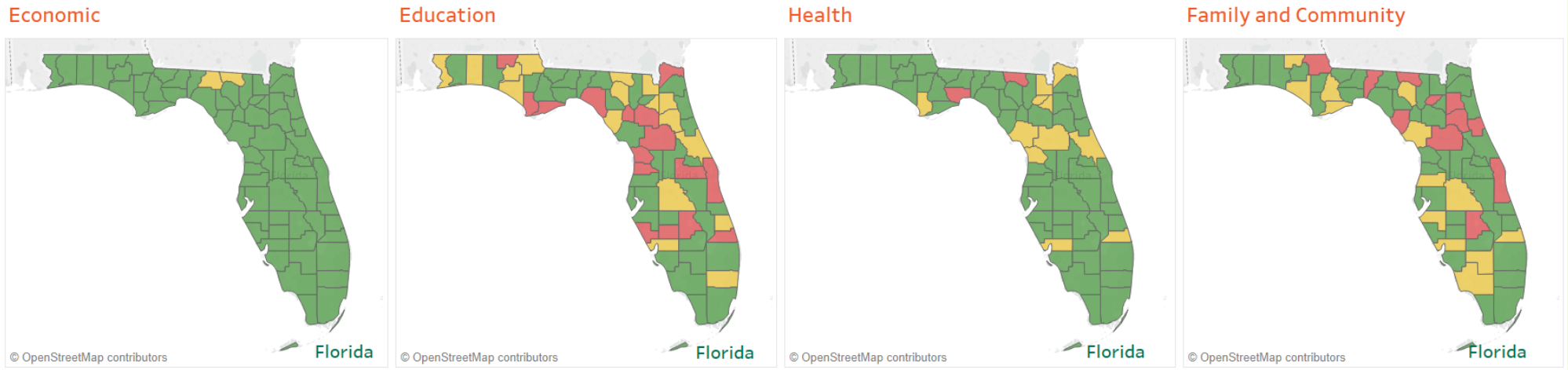
Legend
✔ Areas moving towards improved child wellbeing
❗ Holding steady
✘ Areas to work on

Limitations

1. Measures had to be available for two time points.

2. Measures had to be available at the county level.

3. Measures had to be rated such that they were interpreted as lower scores being better (e.g., fewer students not graduating on time is better than more students not graduating on time).

Limitations (continued)

4. 2018 and 2019 index rankings may be compared. However, keep in mind that the position in the ranking is relative to the position of other counties as well.

5. Interpretation of the index should be made carefully since the index was developed only taking into account *these* 16 indicators. Selection of other indicators might yield different results. These 16 indicators were selected because they represent domains that are known to impinge on child-wellbeing. That means that counties that fared well should keep working in other areas too and also counties that did not fare as well on these particular indicators should not get discouraged as they might be having great success in other areas.

Summary of Findings

- Florida is moving in the right direction overall, as compared to 5 years ago, especially in economic and health domains (but this doesn't mean stop working, especially gains in health insurance coverage!)

- Keep working on education, especially with respect to ensuring access to early childhood education which has not changed in those 5 years (math, reading and graduation improved)

- Keep working on family and community prevention and intervention initiatives to address child maltreatment and anti-poverty measures

Questions?

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