

Definitions, Notes and Sources

Adequate Prenatal Care: Percentage of births wherein prenatal care was begun by the fourth month of pregnancy and 80.0 percent or more of the recommended prenatal visits were made (2007 data) and percentage of births wherein prenatal care was begun in the first trimester and a total of nine prenatal visits were made (1997 data). The 1997 data were calculated using the "Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index," while those for 2007 were computed using the "Kotelchuck Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index." As such, the data reported for 1997 and 2007 are not totally comparable and caution should be exercised in their use. For additional information, see: Milton Kotelchuck, "An Evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a Proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index," *American Journal of Public Health*, 1994, (84[9]:1,414-1,420).

Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Selected Maternal and Child Health Statistics for 1997* (Table 8) and *2007* (Table 9).

Births to Unmarried Teens: The number of live births to unmarried females aged 10 through 19 expressed as a percentage of live births to women of all ages.

Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Alabama Vital Events, County Profiles*, Vol. IV (1997 and 1998) and *County Health Profiles* (1999-2007).

Child Birth Index: Percent of total births wherein mothers made all recommended visits for prenatal care, and did not experience excessive weight gain, smoke or drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy. Also, includes mothers with two or fewer previous children and mothers who had not recently given birth to another child (i.e., within the last 18 months). Higher percentages on the child birth index suggest that infants will be born healthier and will have a better opportunity to receive the parental care and support they need during the formative stages of life. In previous editions of the *Kids Count Data Book*, this indicator was referred to as the "child health index."

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Children on Child Care Subsidy Wait Lists: Children of families who are eligible for child care subsidies, but who cannot be placed in child care due to funding restraints. Data reported are for May 2009.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Child Care Services Division.

Children Committed to DYS: Number of children committed by the juvenile court system to the Alabama Department of Youth Services during 2008.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Youth Services.

Child Day/Night Care Facilities: The number of legal child day care/night care facilities located within a specified county as of May 2009. "Legal facilities" are those that are licensed with the Alabama Department of Human Resources. This indicator encompasses family day/night care homes (serving six children or less), group day/night care homes (serving 7-12 children), licensed day/night care centers (serving more than 12 children), and day/night care centers that are exempt from licensure (serving more than 12 children with church or other exemption). Homes where children are cared for by relatives or friends, as well as those that operate as businesses but are not licensed with the Alabama Department of Human Resources, are not included in these numbers.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Child Care Services Division.

Child Death Rate: Number of deaths from all causes to children aged 1 through 14 per 100,000 children of those ages.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Children Enrolled in ALL Kids: Number of children under 19 years of age who are not otherwise covered by health insurance (including Medicaid) who are enrolled in the state health insurance program. Data reported as of May 31, 2009.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health, ALL Kids Program.

Children in Foster Homes: A family setting caring for one to six children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the Department of Human Resources has placement and care responsibility. Data reported as of July 31, 2008 for Crenshaw, Lee, and Montgomery counties and as of September 30, 2008 for all other counties. Because of the implementation of a new data collection and processing system by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, gaps may exist in the data reported herein. Therefore, caution is suggested in using these numbers.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Family Services Division.

Children in Group Homes: A congregate care setting of more than six children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the Department of Human Resources has placement and care responsibility. This includes but is not limited to group homes, child care institutions, nursing homes, shelters, residential facilities, and hospitals. Data reported as of July 31, 2008 for Crenshaw, Lee, and Montgomery counties and as of September 30, 2008 for all other counties. Because of the implementation of a new data collection and processing system by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, gaps may exist in the data reported herein. Therefore, caution is suggested in using these numbers.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Family Services Division.

Children with Indication of Abuse or Neglect: Number of children with indication of abuse or neglect per 1,000 children under 18. This measure involves instances of child abuse or neglect where both credible evidence and the professional judgment of the social worker substantiate that an alleged perpetrator is responsible for harming the child. Data appearing in *Kids Count Data Books* prior to 2004 are for calendar years, while those reported thereafter are for fiscal years. Because of the implementation of a new data collection and processing system, gaps may exist in the data reported herein for FY2008. Therefore, caution is suggested in using these numbers.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Family Services Division.

Children Medicaid Eligible: Number of children under the age of 21 who were eligible for Medicaid during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Data provided by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Children in Poverty: Children under 18 living below the federal poverty threshold expressed as a percentage of all children under 18 and children under 18 living below the federal poverty threshold for the specified race category (i.e., white, African American, or "other") expressed as a percentage of all children in that race classification. The data reported for all children are for 1997 and 2007, while those reported by race are for 1989 and 1999 (drawn from the 1990 and 2000

censuses). Hence, the numbers disaggregated by race will not sum to the numbers reported for the total population of children. Disaggregated data by race for 1997 and 2007 are not available.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for 1997 and 2007*, Released December, 2008 (data for all children below poverty in 1997 and 2007); and Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population*, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Summary Tape File 3, Table P119 and Bureau of the Census, *2000 Census of Population*, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Summary File 3, Table P87, Released 2002 (poverty data for children by race for 1989 and 1999).

The poverty threshold for a family of four (two adults and two related children under 18) was \$16,276 in 1997 and \$21,027 in 2007. Caution should be exercised in comparing poverty data from model-based estimates (as reported herein for 1997 and 2007) between counties, over time, and with decennial census data (see *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*, General Cautions about Comparisons of Estimates, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov).

Children in Protective Services: Cases opened for a family when there is a risk or threat of harm that is unmanaged. This includes preventive services, child protection, supervision ordered by the court, children in need of supervision, and home evaluations. Data reported as of July 31, 2008 for Crenshaw, Lee, and Montgomery counties and as of September 30, 2008 for all other counties. Because of the implementation of a new data collection and processing system by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, gaps may exist in the data reported herein. Therefore, caution is suggested in using these numbers.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Family Services Division.

Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies: Children living with parents who are working and/or participating in an educational or training program for a minimum average of 15 hours a week and whose income is no more than 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for initial eligibility and no more than 150% of the FPL for continued eligibility. Data reported are for May 2009.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Child Care Services Division.

Children Receiving Free/Reduced Priced Meals: Percent of public school students that applied for and were approved for free or reduced-priced meals. Data reported are for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Data provided by the Alabama Department of Public Education.

Children in Single-Parent Families: Percent of own children under 18 years of age residing with only one parent. Since data reported are for "own children," they do not include children who live in households with a single grandparent, aunt, uncle, or another person who is not the parent.

Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics*, CP-1-2 (Alabama), Tables 40 and 58 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office) and Bureau of the Census, *2000 Census of Population*, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Summary File 3, Table P16, Released, 2002.

Employed Mothers with Young Children: Percent of mothers with children under six either employed or serving in the armed forces. Data reported are for 1990 and 2000.

U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census,

1990 Census of Population, Summary Tape File 3A, Issued in CD-ROM Format, December, 1992, Table P073 and Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Summary File 3, Table P45.

Families with Children Below 185% of Poverty: Percent of all families with related children under 18 below 185 percent of the federal poverty threshold in 1999.

Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Summary File 3, Table PCT61, Released 2002. The poverty threshold for a family of four (two adults and two related children under 18) was \$16,895 in 1999.

First Grade Retention: The number of students enrolled in the first grade during the specified school year who were not promoted to the second grade expressed as a percentage of the total number of students enrolled in the first grade. Data are reported for public schools only.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Graduation Rate: Estimated percentage of public high school students who graduate on time with one of four diplomas (advanced, regular, career tech advanced, or career tech regular). The number of students receiving these four diplomas is divided by the size of the ninth grade class four years earlier multiplied by 100. The size of the ninth grade class is estimated by summing the enrollment in the eighth grade in the prior year, the enrollment in the ninth grade in the next year, and enrollment in the tenth grade in the subsequent year and dividing by three. This procedure for estimating graduation is referred to as the "average freshman graduation rate" and is sanctioned for interim use by the U.S. Department of Education until a more refined version of "graduation" is implemented nationwide in 2010-2011. For additional information see: U.S. Department of Education, *High School Graduation Rate: Non-Regulatory Guidance*, December 12, 2008, Department of Education Website, <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf>, Accessed July, 2009. Due to changes in the types of diplomas that were awarded by Alabama public high schools between 2007 and 2008, graduation-rate data reported in this year's *Data Book* may not be totally comparable to those reported in the 2008 *Data Book*. Therefore, caution should be used in making comparisons between the two sets of data.

Alabama State Department of Education, *Enrollment by Ethnicity and Gender and Graduate Report by System and School* (both for selected years), Department of Education Website, <http://www.alsde.edu/PublicDataReports/Default.aspx>, Accessed July 2009, and special tabulations provided by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Infant Mortality Rate: Number of deaths to infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Alabama Vital Events, County Profiles*, Vol. IV (1997 and 1998) and *County Health Profiles* (1999-2007).

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate: Number of arrests of persons under age 18 for violent offenses (homicide/manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault) per 100,000 persons aged 10 through 17.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, Statistical Analysis Center.

Juvenile Violent Crime Court Referral Rate: Number of cases disposed of by the juvenile court system involving persons under 18 years of age referred to the courts for murder/manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, or simple assault per 100,000 persons aged 10 through 17.

Alabama Department of Youth Services, Office of Development and Information Services, Statistical Report for 1998 (Table 4) and special tabulations provided by the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts for 1999 through 2008.

Low Weight Births: Percentage of all live births recorded as low birth weight (under 5.5 pounds or 2,500 grams).

Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Alabama Vital Events, County Profiles*, Vol. IV (1997 and 1998) and *County Health Profiles* (1999-2007).

Median Household Income: The point at which half of the households are above a specified income level and half of the households are below. Data reported are for 1997 and 2007.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for 1997 and 2007*, Released December, 2008. Incomes for 1997 have been adjusted for inflation so that they are comparable with 2007 dollars. Caution should be exercised in comparing income data from model-based estimates (as used herein) between counties, over time, and with decennial census data (see *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*, General Cautions about Comparisons of Estimates, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov).

Persons Below Poverty Level: The number of persons living below the federal poverty threshold expressed as a percentage of the total population. Data reported are for 1997 and 2007.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for 1997 and 2007*, Released December, 2008. The poverty threshold for a family of four (two adults and two related children under 18) was \$16,276 in 1997 and \$21,027 in 2007. Caution should be exercised in comparing poverty data from model-based estimates (as used herein) between counties, over time, and with decennial census data (see *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*, General Cautions about Comparisons of Estimates, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov).

Population: Unless otherwise noted, "children" refers to persons under 20 years of age.

Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Summary File 1, Tables P14 and PCT12H-PCT120, Released March, 2002; and Bureau of the Census, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, *Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007*, Released August 2008.

Prenatal Care in First Trimester: Percent of mothers who started prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy. Data reported are for 1997 and 2007.

Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Alabama Vital Statistics, 1997*, Table 7 and *Alabama Vital Statistics, 2007*, Table 10.

Preventable Teen Death Rate: Number of deaths from homicide, suicide, and accidents to persons aged 15 through 19 per 100,000 persons in that age group.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Special Education Enrollment: Special education students enrolled in grades K-12 expressed as a percentage of all students enrolled in K-12. Data reported are for the 1998-1999 and 2008-2009 school years and were collected through a special census undertaken during December of those years. All categories of exceptionality are included in the data reported herein, except for the gifted.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working: Percent of youth aged 16-19 who are not enrolled in school and who are unemployed or not in the labor force (i.e., looking for work). Data reported are for 1990 and 2000.

Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Table PO61 and Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population, Census Bureau Website, www.census.gov, Table P38, Released March, 2002.

Trend Analysis: Trends are indicated for selected indicators using a linear curve estimation model with time as the independent variable. Trends are indicated as "improving" (I) or "worsening" (W) when the patterns over time are linear and model coefficients are statistically significant. Otherwise, trends are indicated as "indeterminant" (—). Trends are not provided for children in single-parent families and children in poverty because of lack of sufficient data, nor are they provided for other selected indicators.

Vulnerable Families: First births to unmarried teenage mothers not finishing high school as a percentage of first births to women of all ages. Includes only births where the birth order is known.

Special tabulations provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

All data are reported by county of residence except the juvenile violent crime arrest rate (tabulated according to the county where the arrest occurred), the juvenile violent crime court referral rate (tabulated according to the county where the offense took place) and children committed to DYS (tabulated according to the county where the adjudication occurred). Crime data reflect information that is reported by local law enforcement officials to the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center. However, they should be viewed with caution because of possible variations in arrest and reporting practices among law enforcement agencies.

The number of cases reported for some indicators and/or counties can be quite small. Caution should be exercised in using rates that are derived from a small number of cases and in using rates that are computed using small populations. Although not reported in the 2009 Alabama Kids Count Data Book, three-year average rates (which help to smooth annual fluctuations when the number of cases is small) are available for most of the indicators used herein. Contact VOICES for Alabama's Children for more information.

The information appearing in this book is based on data reported to Alabama Kids Count by various Alabama agencies which, in turn, are sometimes dependent on other data collection entities. While we make every effort to reproduce this information as accurately as possible, we cannot guarantee that all of the data supplied to us are totally accurate. Reporting and tabulation errors beyond our control, therefore, may affect the validity of some of these data.