

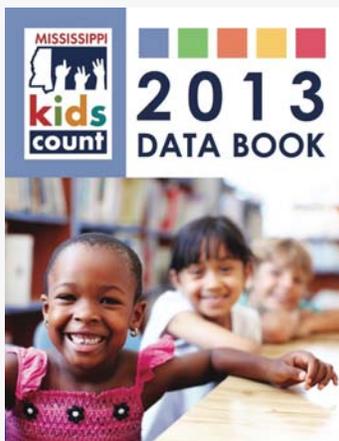


[About Us](#)

**Free Access & Reliable Data**

Looking for the most current data on child well-being? Our National KIDS COUNT data center provides state rankings for four domains: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family & Community.

[Read on...](#)



**MS Data Book  
Access Online!**

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## METRO JACKSON COLLEGE FAIR

Mississippi KIDS COUNT is excited to partner with Parents & Kids Magazine, the College Knowledge Project and Gear Up Mississippi to host the 2014 Metro Jackson College Fair, Tuesday February 18th at the Jackson Convention Center. Over 3500 high school students from across the state are expected to attend!



Actor, author and humanitarian Hill Harper will speak. Best known for his role as Dr. Sheldon Hawkes on CSI: NY, Hill is currently starring on USA network's Covert Affairs. He has authored four New York Times best sellers and is the founder of the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation, dedicated to empowering, encouraging, and inspiring youth to succeed through mentorship, scholarship, and grant programs.

For more information about the College Fair, please contact Anne Buffington at [anne.buffington@ssrc.msstate.edu](mailto:anne.buffington@ssrc.msstate.edu) or 662.325.1590.



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## The "State" of School Readiness

### Findings from Kindergarten Teacher Survey Revealed

Mississippi KIDS COUNT's latest report, [Ready or Not](#), is the result of the first ever state-wide survey of Mississippi public school kindergarten teachers in which respondents estimated that 41% of their students were not "kindergarten ready" and identified the lack of preparation for kindergarten as the top challenge they face. Seventy-one percent of teachers surveyed indicated they had at least one child in their classroom repeating the kindergarten year. Teachers also revealed high levels of stress during assessment periods. The lack of child preparedness coupled with the new Common Core standards were primary reasons teachers stressed the need for universal access to quality Pre-K programs in Mississippi and overwhelmingly (82.9%) supported the adoption of universal school readiness assessments. The survey results coincided with the release of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's policy report, [The First Eight Years: Giving Kids a Foundation for Lifetime Success](#) which details how a child's development across critical areas of well-being is essential to make the effective transition in elementary school.

## Improvements in Education and Health Move Mississippi Up

Mississippi has improved its ranking for overall child well-being according to data released in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's annual [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#). Eight of the 16 indicators used to rank states in the areas of economic well-being, education, health, and family and community showed slight improvements, moving Mississippi into the 49th position

for the first time in the 24 year history of the Foundation's Data Book. New Mexico fell to 50th. Check out some of the media coverage [here](#).

## How Does Your County Compare?

Have you ever wondered how your county compares to the rest of the state or nation in areas like education or health? You can get this data and more at the KIDS COUNT [Data Center](#).

## Stay Connected

Join the conversation and make a difference!

### Request MS KIDS COUNT Data Workshop

We have the tools and resources you need. Follow us on [Twitter](#) for upcoming webinars or [contact](#) us to schedule a workshop in your community.

### MS KIDS COUNT Success Stories

Interested in programs or organizations that improve the well-being of children and families in your community?

[View 2013 Success Story Winners](#)

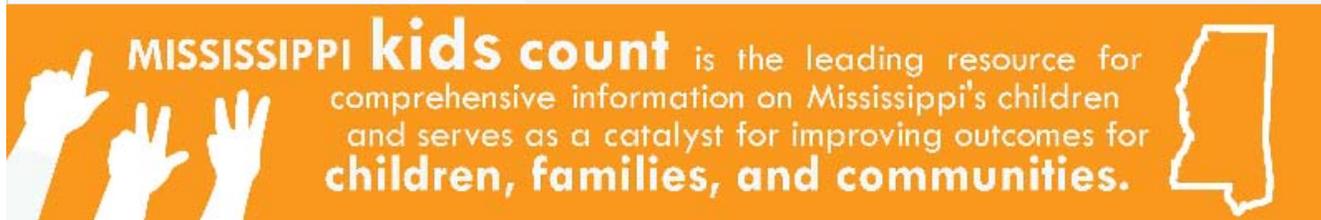
### 2013 Mississippi Infographics For You

Writing a final report or applying for an important grant? We think our infographics focused on health, education, and housing & employment in Mississippi might be what you need. Located in our 2013 Data Book and online, we hope you find them useful.

[Download Health & Wellness Infographic](#)

[Download Education Infographic](#)

[Download Housing & Employment Infographic](#)



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MSU SSRC | One Research Park, Suite 103 | Starkville | MS | 39759