

# ***KIDS COUNT? Yes. But Do They Count in Louisiana?***

**An Historical Bibliography of Louisiana Newspaper Headlines**

**Regarding Annual *KIDS COUNT* Reports Since 1990**

**An Advocacy Paper  
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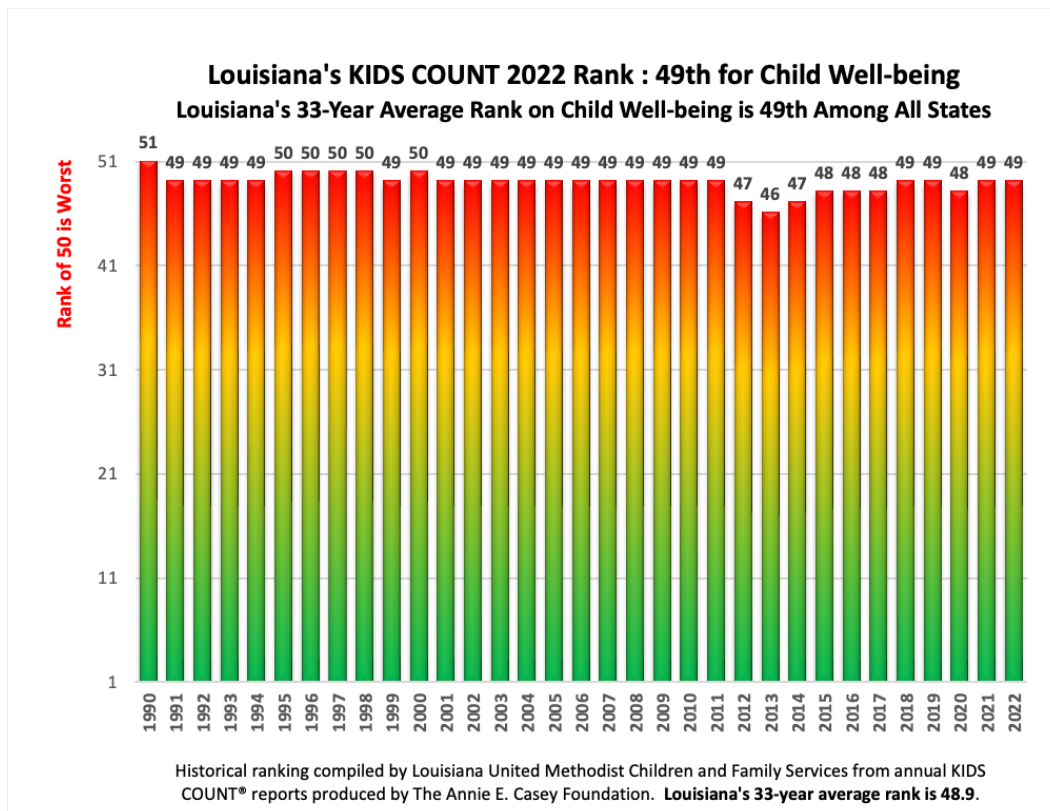
**Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services, Inc.  
*Serving Louisiana's Children and Families for 120 Years***

**<https://LUMCFS.org/advocacy>**

***KIDS COUNT*: Yes. But Do They Count in Louisiana?**  
**An Historical Bibliography of Louisiana Newspaper Headlines**  
**Regarding Annual *KIDS COUNT* Reports from 1990 through 2022**

In 1990, The Annie E. Casey Foundation produced the first *KIDS COUNT Data Book* which ranked the U.S. states for child well-being. Each year since, child welfare researchers across the nation have gathered data, and evaluated numerous measures of child well-being in each state. The findings from the states are evaluated and the states are ranked in an annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*. The latest version is available at: <https://www.aecf.org/resources/2022-kids-count-data-book/>

In 1990, Louisiana ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation for child well-being. Overwhelmed by a crack cocaine epidemic, Washington DC was ranked 50<sup>th</sup> – ahead of Louisiana. Beginning at 51<sup>st</sup> meant the only way forward was to improve. Sadly, Louisiana has not improved by much. Louisiana has held tenaciously to a 33-year average rank of 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for child well-being. Generally, during the last three decades, Louisiana’s children would have fared better in every other state but one.



## Typical Louisiana *KIDS COUNT*-related Headlines from 1990 to 2022

Each year, Louisiana's newspapers have prominently reported news about Louisiana's *KIDS COUNT* rank among the states. Often, these news reports were front-page headlines, and this is as it should be. News reports about the disadvantaged conditions of Louisiana's children deserve the attention of every citizen. Louisiana responds promptly and energetically to the crises our state endures, except for this one – the **steady-state crisis of poor child well-being**.

From the hundreds of annual headlines printed in Louisiana's newspapers during the last three decades about our state's chronic crisis of child well-being, the following collection is a sample of headlines from each of the previous 33 years. Each year, the headlines vary, but the stories tell the same truth: **Louisiana has not yet prioritized her children.**

### A Small Collection of Headlines about Child Well-being from Louisiana Newspapers

*Fund the future: State must prove kids do count, The Poor Kids: Children pay a high price for poverty, La. ranks worst in child poverty, Leading Indicators: Children's poverty costs us in more ways than one, Report: State ranked 49th, Louisiana among worst for helping its children, Kids at risk. Report: many La. Children face poor odds from start, Blight takes the bloom out of Louisiana youth, Study: 'At risk' children, families keep increasing, La. Child poverty rate is 2nd in U.S.: Idle teenager percentage tops nation, La. Children: Odds against them, Study: Children in danger in state, La. life hard on kids: State ranks 49th in child quality of life, 50th in the nation: Louisiana behind in caring for children, Kids count last in Louisiana, Kids Count: Have mercy on state's children, Kid Stats: La. worst among states in children's well-being, Study: Louisiana worst state to be a child, Child welfare improvements fall short, Louisiana's children fight the odds, Louisiana's children suffer: state ranks 50th in child well-being, Children: Despite improvements, state still trails nation, Study: La. lags in child health care, Study paints bleak picture for children, Children in Louisiana still deserve better, Study: State ranks 49th, Well-being of children still major concern, LA's at 49 and holding: Do children count?, State among worst in nation for children affected by poverty, Fighting against all odds: Report shows Louisiana tops list of children living in poverty, La. 49th in child well-being, Report: State's children face challenges, Kids Count data point finger at state, Time to say, 'Enough!', Mississippi only state below Louisiana in child well-being study, Estimated 29% of*

*Acadia children living in poverty, Report: For kids, Louisiana is trouble, Louisiana ranks at bottom for child welfare, La. ranks 49th in children's wellbeing, Louisiana ranks 49th nationwide in child welfare survey, State improves in annual kids survey, but economic issues still a hurdle for many, Report: Economic well-being of kids slips, Louisiana's kids are worse off than those in 46 other states, report says, Louisiana is at the bottom of another list: Child poverty numbers called 'disturbing', State among worst places to be a child, La. Almost last in Kids Count 2015, More children in poverty now than during recession, Louisiana near bottom in Kids Count 2015, Report: Louisiana's youth too poor, too sickly, well-being of kids is among worst in US, 'Family values state' that doesn't value families? Kids Count ranking reveals Louisiana's challenges, some bright spots, One in four Louisiana kids live in poverty, Without Pre-K, Louisiana children start off at a disadvantage, Louisiana remains one of the worst states for child well-being, and Louisiana ranked 49th in child welfare.*

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Citation</i>
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1990	51	Wiley Hilburn Jr., Judy Johnson, Frank May. (1991, June 22) "Fund the future: State must prove kids do count". <i>The Times</i> , pp. 16A
1992	49	Thao Hua. (1992, March 23) "La. ranks worst in child poverty". <i>The Times</i> , pp. 1A
1991	49	Thao Hua. (1992, March 30) "The Poor Kids: Children pay a high price for poverty". <i>The Times</i> , pp. 9A
1992	49	Nichele Hoskins, Rodney Grunes. (1992, March 24) "Leading Indicators: Children's poverty costs us in more ways than one". <i>The Times</i> , pp. 17A
1992	49	Bill Decker. (1992, March 23) "Report: State ranked 49th, Louisiana among worst for helping its children. <i>The Daily Advertiser</i> , pp. 1
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