KIDS COUNT Data Center

Comprehensive, up-to-date information on child well-being for Oklahoma, its counties, other states and the nation at the click of a mouse

Community Level Information on Kids (CLIKS)

The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) have joined forces to provide comprehensive on-line national, state and community level data and information on the well-being of children to users in Oklahoma and across the nation.   The new KIDS COUNT Data Center is the place to get all the information you need about children and families living in your state and community, allowing the generation of custom reports at no cost to the user.

OICA and AECF partner to make available and maintain a new web-based national, state and community level data and information system about children and their families at http://datacenter.kidscount.org or www.kidscount.org (then clicking on "data center" under Kids Count in the left hand list of initiatives). The indicators from the popular KIDS COUNT series (the National KIDS COUNT Data Book and the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook), enhanced with additional national, state and city-level indicators from the latest American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau and other relevant sources, can be quickly accessed to help citizens, community leaders and policymakers as they make data-driven decisions.

With the KIDS COUNT Data Center information the user can make Oklahoma specific and national charts, graphs and maps, downloading the data and images to a computer, a website or sharing it with a social networking destination.

ACCESSING the KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

First, go to http://datacenter.kidscount.org or www.kidscount.org (then click on "Data Center" under Kids Count in the left hand list of initiatives). The KIDS COUNT Data Center home page will be visible.

Prominent on Data Center's home page the user will find featured data items comparing rates for some indicators for all the states. The user can click the buttons at the right top of the graph to view the relative standing of the various states for different featured indicators. These items may be changed periodically. Any of the featured data items can be clicked on to receive additional information about them. The featured data is part of the national database, directly available to the user anytime while working with data from the Data Center's home page.

Next, go directly to the state of Oklahoma, click on the tab at the top or the box marked "Data by State."

Once the user arrives at the "Data by State" page, click on "Oklahoma" from the list or on the map.

Oklahoma's home page will be visible.

Prominent on Oklahoma's home page the user will find a few featured data items and at least one map or chart displaying important pieces of Oklahoma information. These items may be changed periodically. Any of the featured data items can be clicked on to receive additional information about them.

The featured data is part of the Oklahoma database, directly available to the user anytime while working with data from Oklahoma's home page.

Once at Oklahoma's home page the user can choose between working with state level data (and all counties) or working with community level data (focusing on one county) by clicking on one of the boxes.

It is recommended that the user begin with the state and all of its counties. On the left side of this box the user can immediately change to another Oklahoma geographic area, like a specific county, or the City of Tulsa or Oklahoma City for which some data is available. It is suggested that the user leave it on the State of Oklahoma during their initial access.

The indicator options in the middle of the box allow the user to choose which indicators will be profiled for them. To learn what indicators are currently included in each option, select the option and scroll down through each profile.

- The **Featured Indicators** option includes only those indicators listed on the State home page and may change frequently.

- The **Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Indicators** option includes the featured data as well as all the additional data monitored in the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook and other related data. Information and data in this section can be viewed at the state level or county level.

- The **National KIDS COUNT Indicators** option includes the data monitored in the National KIDS COUNT Data Book. Information and data in this section can be viewed at the state level and, with the exception of the state's overall rank, the data is available for Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

- The **Customized Report** option allows the user to create a unique profile for the state, any county, Oklahoma City or Tulsa. The user can pick and choose from a list including all of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Indicators and numerous additional indicators made available by the National KIDS COUNT Program. The Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Indicators can be displayed for the state or any Oklahoma county. The additional indicators provided by the National KIDS COUNT Program can be displayed for the state or one of its two large metropolitan areas (Tulsa or Oklahoma City). To learn what indicators are available for your preferred geographical area, first choose your preferred geographical area, then select "Custom Profile," expanding the list under each category.

National KIDS COUNT Indicators *(as of June 2009)*
Overall state rank
Low birthweight babies
Infant mortality
Child deaths
Teen deaths
Teen births by age group
Teens who are high school dropouts
Teens not attending school and not working
Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment
Children in poverty
Children in single-parent families

- The **By Category** option allows the user to create a limited profile, including only the indicators in one of the categories of data available: Demographics, Education, Economic Well-Being, Family and Community, Health or Safety and Risky Behaviors. **The user can select a geographical area (the state, any county, Oklahoma City or Tulsa) and all available indicators in the category selected by the user will be displayed.**

On the top half of the right side of this box the user can make all of the definitions, sources and notes related for each indicator show and be printed out below each indicator box. It is recommended that the user check that box to be able to understand the details of the indicator presented.
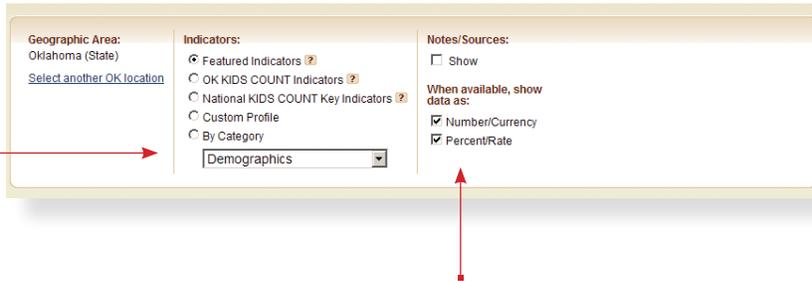
On the bottom half of the right side of this box the user can choose what data is shown for each indicator, with options available to show just the number (or currency if that is appropriate for the indicator), or just the percent or rate, or both. It is recommended that the user check both boxes during their initial review to be able to understand what is available for each indicator presented.

CREATING RANKINGS, MAPS, OR TREND GRAPHICS

Return to Oklahoma's home page, clicking on the location in the upper right hand portion of the page marked "Rankings, Maps, or Trend Graphics by Topic" to create charts, graphs and maps to help visualize the data.

Like the profile selections, the user is given options to select among the list of indicators which can be mapped, ranked or graphed.

- The **Featured Indicators** option includes only those indicators listed on the State home page and may change frequently.

- The **Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Indicators** option includes the featured data as well as all the additional data monitored in the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook and other related data. Information and data in this section can be viewed at the state level or county level. Clicking on this option presents the user with a list of indicators from which to choose. A selection can be made by clicking on the desired indicator.

- The **National KIDS COUNT Indicators** option includes the data monitored in the National KIDS COUNT Data Book. Information and data in this section can be viewed at the state level and, with the exception of the state's overall rank, the data is available for Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

- The **By Category** option allows the user to view the available options listed by category: Demographics, Education, Economic Well-Being, Family and Community, Health or Safety and Risky Behaviors.

RANKING AN INDICATOR

First, choose the indicator for which a ranking is desired. To follow this example, choose "Child Poverty — Annual Estimates" from either the alphabetical Oklahoma KIDS COUNT list, or from the By Category list under "Economic Well-Being" after expanding the category to display all options.

OR
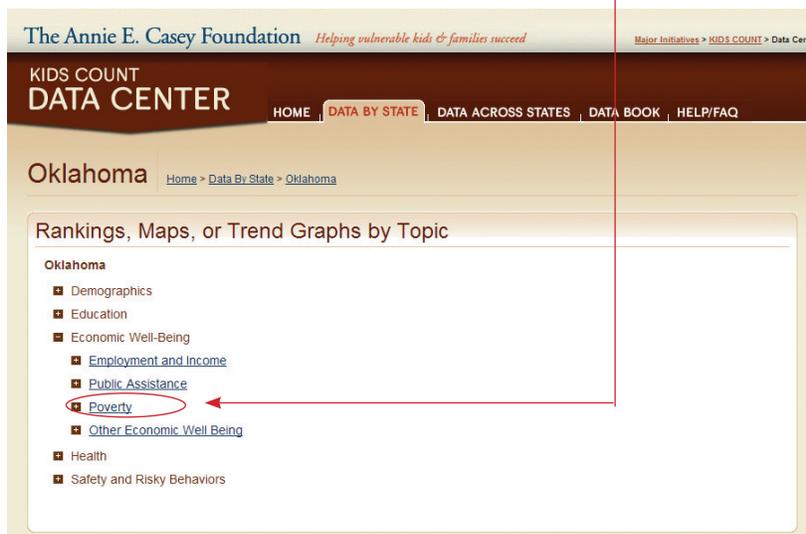
Next, the Data Center will display the results of the ranking, which is typically pre-selected as the default. If the ranking does not appear, make sure the tab across the top marked "123 Ranking" has been selected.

The user has the option of changing the display, format and content of the ranking data by making choices on the option bar appearing at the top of the results. To best understand each choice the user is encouraged to try each selection.

Since all counties are ranked, the "Geographic Areas" option will only need to change when creating a line graph.

The Data Center displays the latest time period available, however the "Year" option can be clicked to access a drop down list allowing the user to change to any other year for which data is available.

The "Data Type" option works as a toggle which, when both types of data are available, displays rates (or percents), then numbers, as chosen by the user.

The Data Center displays Oklahoma's counties alphabetically, however the "Sort Order By" option can be clicked to display Oklahoma's counties by a numerical value, in the order it is ranked.

The Data Center displays Oklahoma's county rankings from low to high, however under the "Sort Order By" option the other arrow can be clicked to display Oklahoma's county rankings from high to low.
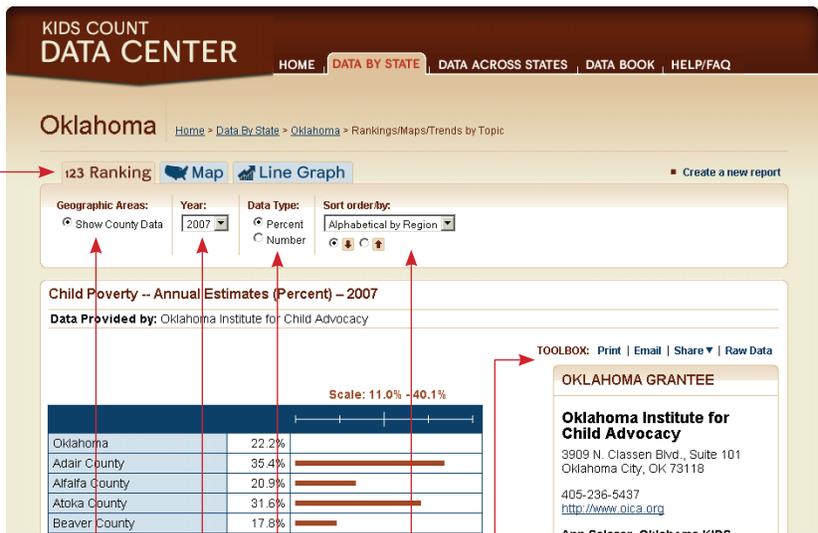
Anytime the user is viewing a ranking list, "raw data" can be selected from the "Toolbox" on the upper right-hand side of the page to download all of the data used into an Excel spreadsheet which can be saved to the user's personal computer. While at the "Toolbox," the page being viewed can also be printed, emailed or shared with a social networking destination.

MAPPING AN INDICATOR

Again, choose the indicator for which a mapping is desired. To follow this example, stay with "Child Poverty — Annual Estimates" already selected, this time clicking on the tab marked "Map" at the top of the page.

The Data Center uses a natural break classification method, which reflects patterns in the data by dividing the map into naturally occurring groups. Using statistical tools, this method determines cut-off points for each group by identifying large gaps in data values. Under the map is a legend which defines the range assigned to each color on the map. The user can move the cursor over any county and the county name and specific data related to that county will be displayed. After each map is a list of the areas falling into each group on the legend. As with Ranking, Mapping provides several display options.

The initial three options are the same. First, since all counties are ranked, the "Geographic Areas" option will only need to change when creating a line graph. Second, the Data Center displays the latest time period available, however the "Year" option can be clicked to access a drop down list allowing the user to change to any other year for which data is available. Third, the "Data Type" option works as a toggle which, when both types of data are available, displays rates (or percents), then numbers, as chosen by the user.

The new option available for Mapping allows the user to change from solid colors to patterns, or when color printing is not being used, to change to gray scale colors or patterns.

Again the "Toolbox" is available to easily download the raw data into an Excel spreadsheet which can be saved to the user's personal computer. While at the "Toolbox," the page being viewed can also be printed, emailed or shared with a social networking destination. The map image itself can be added to the user's own website or saved to the user's personal computer.

GRAPHING AN INDICATOR

Again, choose the indicator for which a line graph is desired. To follow this example, stay with "Child Poverty — Annual Estimates" already selected, this time clicking on the tab marked "Line Graph" at the top of the page. The Line Graph option allows the user to compare data over a series of years in up to seven different areas. As with all other display choices, the user selects several options on the bar at the top of the page.

First, from the left end of the option bar, the user selects the geographical areas to be compared. Using the drop-down menu above the "Add Location" button, the user selects and adds up to seven geographical areas to compare. The areas chosen can include the entire state or any counties the user wishes to plot. Changes can be made by re-selecting one of the areas chosen and clicking the "Remove Location" button. It is recommended for the user to make the same selections chosen in the example shown below (choosing the entire state, Cleveland County and McCurtain County).

Next the user selects the range of years to appear on the Line Graph. The Data Center pre-selects the earliest through the latest time frames available for each indicator. The user can change the time frames graphed by clicking on the drop down menu and selecting a different beginning and/or ending time frame. Once the time frames are chosen, the user can select "Ascending" or "Descending" to establish whether the line moves from the earlier years to the later years, or from the later years to the earlier years.

The "Data Type" option works as a toggle which, when both types of data are available, displays rates (or percents), then numbers, as chosen by the user.

Once the Line Graph is designed, the user clicks the "Submit" button to view the results.

HINT: Graphs comparing the state to counties or comparing very large counties to very small counties work best when rates or percents, rather than numbers, are compared. Large fluctuations may appear among the indicators when numbers are selected, distorting the Line Graph.

The Data Center displays a color-coded Line Graph custom-made to the user's specifications. Below the graph, a legend explains which color depicts which area. Below the legend appears a data table displaying the precise data used in the line graph. Definitions, sources and notes follow.

Again the "Toolbox" is available to easily download the raw data into an Excel spreadsheet which can be saved to the user's personal computer. While at the "Toolbox," the page being viewed can also be printed, emailed or shared with a social networking destination. The line graph image itself can be added to the user's own website or saved to the user's personal computer.
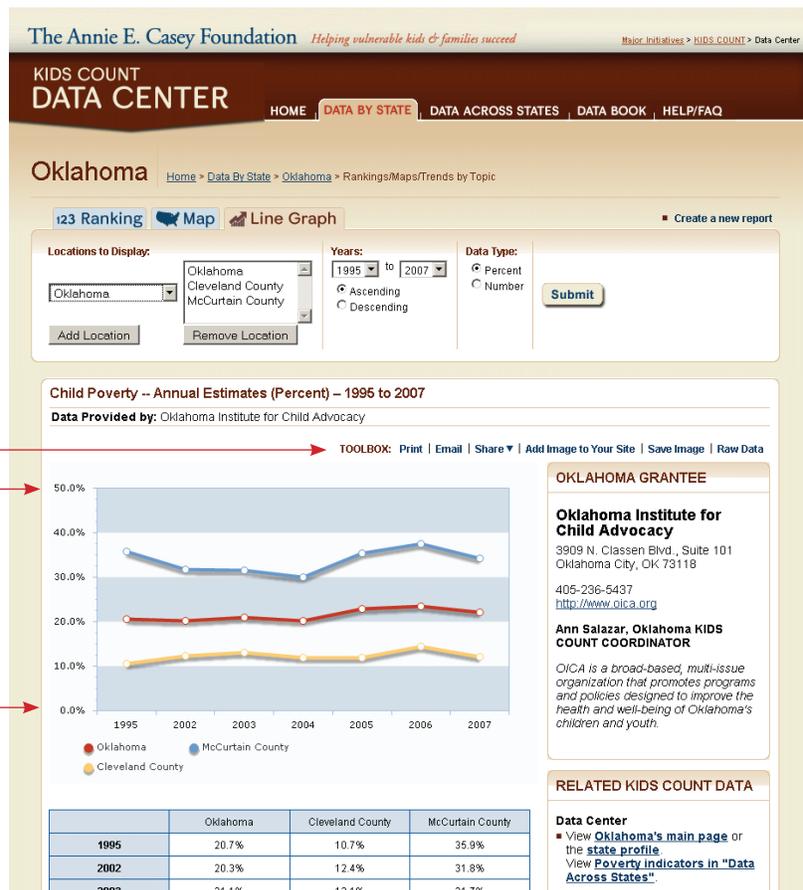
CONCLUSION

This document highlights only some of the capabilities of the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Once you become familiar with the web site you will quickly discover new ways to navigate and use its powerful tools to help citizens, community leaders and policymakers as they make data-driven decisions.

Data used in the KIDS COUNT Factbook is updated periodically by the U.S. Census Bureau and the various Oklahoma agencies. Additional related data not published in the KIDS COUNT Factbook is also available and updated periodically. As soon as possible after its release such data will be placed on the KIDS COUNT Data Center, making the KIDS COUNT Data Center information more current and more comprehensive than the latest KIDS COUNT Factbook publication. When using information from the KIDS COUNT Factbook be sure to check the KIDS COUNT Data Center for the latest updates and to find out what complementary data is available.