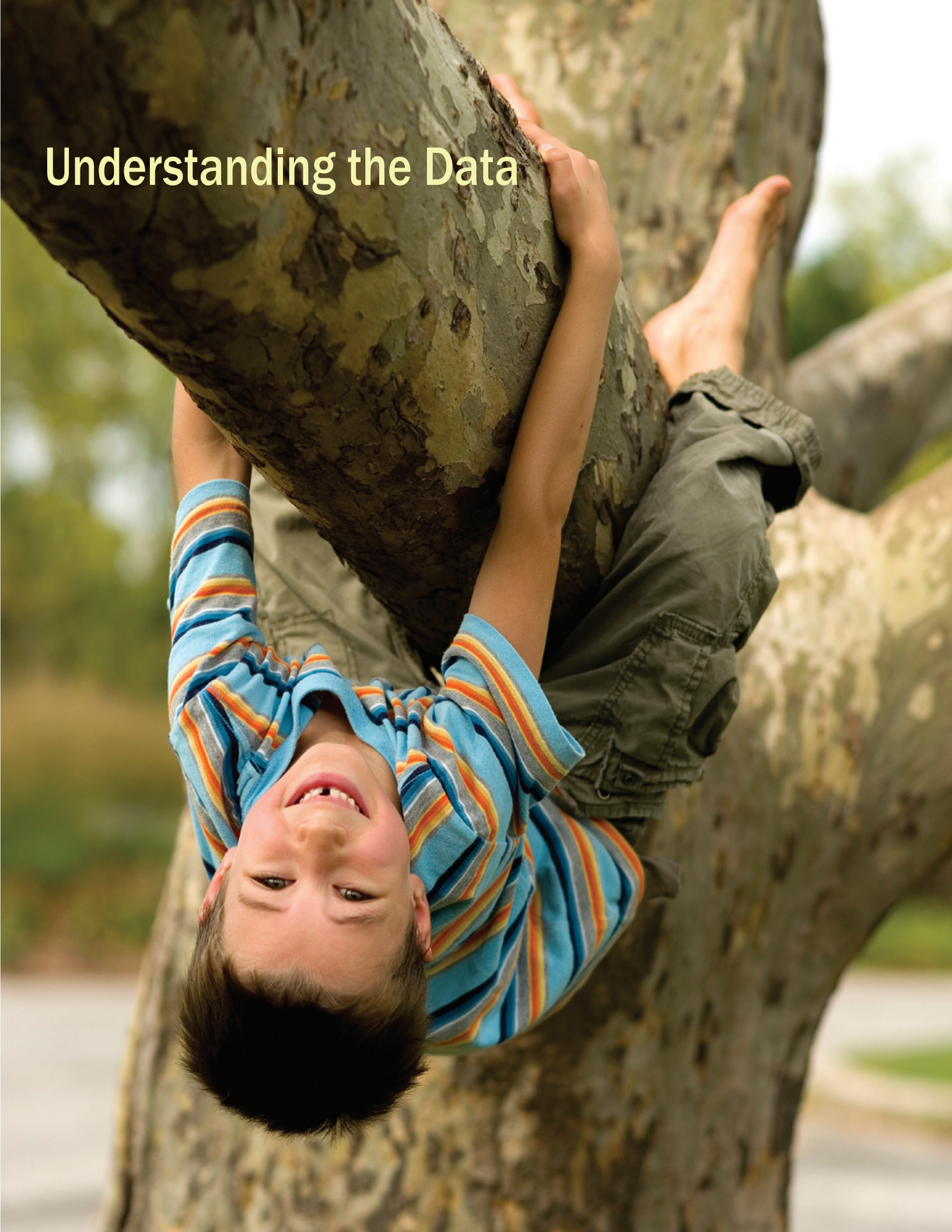


Understanding the Data



INTERPRETING THE DATA

Understand What is Being Measured

It is important to understand what is being measured and how. Several types of data information are available for each benchmark: numbers, average annual numbers, county and state rates, percentage change between years, base and recent data, and county rankings. The *Methodology and Sources* later in this section details what each benchmark means, what data is included and its sources.

Beware of Small Numbers

County populations vary significantly. Such variations should be considered when interpreting the differences among counties. Be aware that small counties may have a small number of events (e.g., child deaths, arrests for violent crimes) which can cause rates to vary considerably from year to year without reflecting real change. For this reason, the benchmarks use three-year averages to improve the reliability of rate comparisons.

Low rates may appear in counties with large populations. Relying solely on rates, without considering the numbers involved, may result in overlooking locations that have large numbers of suffering children.

Remember the Uses and Limits of Data

Benchmarks provide important baseline information. Effective use of benchmarks requires them to be understood in a broad context. They provide one way to look at how children are doing in a county or state. Benchmarks can provide the starting place to initiate dialogue with others who share your interest. There are many important perspectives required to piece together a complete picture. Collect additional data and viewpoints to flesh out the most useful view of child well-being in your own area.

Important Changes in the 2005 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook and After

Beginning in 2005 progress (or lack of progress) is measured from the middle of the 1990's, quantifying the impact of more recent social and policy changes on the well-being of Oklahoma's children, families and communities. Extreme caution should be used when comparing the changes over time reported for benchmarks in this and future Factbooks to changes over time reported for the same benchmarks in Factbooks published before 2005.

Also, beginning in 2005, detail for several state benchmarks is expanded. **Low Birthweight Infants** will report births

weighing less than 5 ½ pounds *and* births weighing less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces. **Births to Teens** will report births for girls ages 15 through 17, births for older teens ages 18 and 19, *and* births for the combined ages of 15 through 19. **Child and Teen Death** will report deaths among children ages 1 through 14, deaths among teens ages 15 through 19 *and* deaths among the combined ages of 1 through 19. Users of these expanded data categories should choose the indicators that best serve their purposes, remaining cognizant of the overlap in data for some of the groups detailed.

Beginning in 2009, Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook will no longer include a separate page collecting all of the data and information available for each county. To gather that information the reader is referred to the new KIDS COUNT Data Center, which included county profiles along with a large amount of expanded data. For details about using the Data Center, see the Focus Section of the 2009 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook. To access the KIDS COUNT Data Center on the world wide web, 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).

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

Data and information used in the 2009 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook came from a wide variety of sources in Oklahoma and around the nation. This section identifies sources for the information found in this document and methods used for computations where applicable.

There is no agreement about the specific terminology or the number of categories that should be used to classify race and ethnicity. The various sources use different titles to report racial characteristics. Some indicators were not available by race at all. This makes it difficult to look across the indicators by race. Persons within each race or ethnic group are encouraged to re-title or refer to the data in a manner that reflects their preferences.

Extreme caution should be used when reviewing, using and comparing data related to Hispanic populations. Some agencies count Hispanic children as a race and others consider Hispanic to be an ethnicity whose children can be any race (White, African American, American Indian, Asian and so on). Of those counting Hispanic children as an ethnicity, not all maintain statistics on the proportion of children who are Hispanic.

As a result, when Hispanic is counted as a race, data may appear as follows:

White	70.0%
American Indian	10.0%
African American	10.0%
Hispanic	5.0%
Asian	2.0%
Other	3.0%
TOTAL	100.0%

When Hispanic is counted as an ethnicity, data may appear as follows:

White	72.0%
American Indian	11.0%
African American	11.0%
Asian	2.0%
Hispanic	5.0%
Other	4.0%
Non-Hispanic	95.0%
TOTAL	100.0%

Births to Young Teens are live births that occur to mothers ages 15 through 17. **Births to Older Teens** are live births that occur to mothers ages 18 and 19. **Births to Teens** are live births that occur to mothers ages 15 through 19. The data is reported by place of mother’s residence, not place of the birth. Births count the total resident live births to mothers in this age group for two three-year periods (1994 through 1996 and 2005 through 2007), resulting in three-year rates. Rates are displayed as births per 1,000 females between ages 15 through 17, ages 18 and 19, and ages 15 through 19. Base population data for the state and counties is the average of 1994, 1995 and 1996 Census population estimates (adjusted to estimate the number of females in the referenced age groups), approximating the midpoint of the three years of base birth data displayed. Current female teen population utilizes the bridged race methodology from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated to estimate the population for each of the three years displayed. This bridging process allows the Census population data collected by multi-racial categories to be used with public health data collected by single-race categories. Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander. Hispanic ethnicity is reported separately. The state total

may vary from the total of all the counties since the state total may include births for which the county of residence was unknown and the total of the counties may exclude births suppressed to protect confidentiality. Birth rates may vary slightly from those reported in earlier editions of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook as a result of improved population estimates or improved data collection methods.

SOURCE: Birth data provided by Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH); Base population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Research and Policy, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division, for 1994, 1995 and 1996. Recent population data uses U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *United States Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories*, updated to estimate 2005, 2006 and 2007 populations.

Child Abuse and Neglect means harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare by a person responsible for the child’s health or welfare. Several changes made to Oklahoma’s Child Abuse Statutes during the 2007 Legislature were not in effect during the time periods for which data was collected. The following definitions follow the law in effect during the period covered by the 2009 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook. Child Abuse includes sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or non-accidental physical or mental injury. Abuse can also include harm resulting from failing to protect or abandoning a child. Sexual Abuse includes rape, incest and lewd or indecent acts or proposals by a person responsible for the child’s welfare. Sexual Exploitation includes a person responsible for the child’s welfare allowing or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution or pornography or engaging in child pornography. Neglect means failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, and supervision; failing to provide special care made necessary by the physical or mental condition of the child; or abandonment. *Title 10 Okl. St. Ann. 2006 § 7102.* Data includes reports of suspected abuse or neglect containing allegations of serious or immediate threats to a child’s safety for which there were formal investigations and, of those, the number for which abuse or neglect was confirmed. The data compares child abuse and neglect confirmations for two three-year periods (Fiscal Years 1995 through 1997 and Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008), resulting in three-year rates. Rates

are displayed as confirmations per 1,000 children under age 18. Base child population data for the state and counties is the midpoint between the 1990 and 2000 Census populations, approximating the midpoint of the three years of base child abuse and neglect data displayed. Current child population data for the state and counties is the estimate by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2006, approximating the midpoint for the three years of recent child abuse and neglect data displayed. Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander and Unknown. Hispanic is not reported as a race or as an ethnicity.

SOURCE: Child abuse and neglect data provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Population data uses U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A*; U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary File 1*; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division for 2005 and 2006.

Child Deaths are the number of deaths of children from ages 1 through 14. **Teen Deaths** are the number of deaths of teens from ages 15 through 19. **Child and Teen Deaths** are the number of deaths of youth from ages 1 through 19. The data is reported by place of residence, not place of death. The data counts deaths from all causes. The data compares the deaths for two three-year periods (1994 through 1996 and 2004 through 2006), resulting in three-year rates. Rates are displayed as deaths per 100,000 children from ages 1 through 14, deaths per 100,000 teens from ages 15 through 19, and deaths per 100,000 youth from ages 1 through 19. Base population data for the state and counties is the average of 1994, 1995 and 1996 Census population estimates (adjusted by the State Data Center to estimate the number of children and teens in the referenced age groups), approximating the midpoint of the three years of base death data displayed. Current population data for the state and counties is the average of estimates by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2004, 2005 and 2006 (adjusted to estimate the number of children and teens in the referenced age groups), approximating the midpoint for the three years of recent death data displayed. **Cause of Death** measures the number and percent of deaths that are caused by diseases, accidents and violence. By definition, deaths by violence include murder, suicide and deaths that occur during legal interventions.

Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander. For purposes of display unknown races are excluded. Hispanic ethnicity is reported separately. The state total may vary from the total of all the counties since the state total may include deaths for which the county of residence was unknown, and the total for the counties may exclude deaths to protect confidentiality.

SOURCE: Death data provided by Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). Base population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Research and Policy, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division, for 1994, 1995 and 1996. Recent population data uses U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *United States Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories*, updated to estimate 2004, 2005 and 2006 populations.

Child Population is the total resident population under age 18 including dependents of Armed Forces personnel stationed in the area. **Child and Youth Population** adds additional data to count youth up to the age of 20. Population data for the state and counties is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2007, and adjusted to estimate the number of children and teens in the referenced age groups.

SOURCE: Data uses U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division, 2007.

Children in Poverty counts the related children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. Related children are the children related to the "family head" by birth, marriage or adoption and include relatives such as nieces and nephews. Children under age 18 who do not live in a household where they are related to the head of the household are not included in this analysis. Data counts poor related children calculated as a percent of all related children in 2007. Updated annually using the Consumer Price Index, the poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, are based upon the amount of money required to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. A family is classified as poor if its income falls below this minimum standard. For example, in 2007, a single adult (under age 65) with one child would be counted as poor if their income fell below \$1,191/month; with two children

below \$1,392/month; with three children below \$1,758; and so on.

SOURCE: Data uses U.S. Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2007.

Economic Cluster is a generalized term depicting the economic climate in a group of counties. The base **County Economic Index** is a measure developed by ranking Child Poverty Rates (1995), Per Capita Personal Income (average annual amount, 1994 - 1996), Percent of Children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (average monthly caseload, FY 1995 - FY 1997) and Unemployment Rates (average annual rate, 1994 - 1996). The recent **County Economic Index** is a measure developed by ranking Child Poverty Rates (2007), Per Capita Personal Income (average annual amount, 2004 - 2006), Percent of Children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (average monthly caseload, FY2006 - FY2008) and Unemployment Rates (average annual rate, 2005 - 2007). Each county is ranked on each factor. The four individual county rankings are combined into an index in which the lower the number, the wealthier the county. **Economic Clusters** (also referred to as Quintile Divisions) result from each county being ranked according to its Economic Index and grouped into one of five clusters composed of approximately twenty percent (20%) of the state's population during the period displayed (2006). Clusters which deviate from twenty percent result from individual county populations and several counties having tied indexes.

Cluster 1 (Wealthiest) currently includes 16 counties with a combined population of 681,426 (18.8% of the state's population). "Wealthiest" counties each have an Economic Index between 39 and 79.

Cluster 2 (Wealthier) currently includes 4 counties with a combined population of 661,860 (18.3% of the state's population). "Wealthier" counties each have an Economic Index between 80 and 95.

Cluster 3 (Middle) currently includes 19 counties with a combined population of 591,521 (16.4% of the state's population). "Middle" counties each have an Economic Index between 98 and 141.

Cluster 4 (Poorer) currently includes 2 counties with a combined population of 815,618 (22.5% of the state's population). "Poorer" counties each have an Economic Index of 151.

Cluster 5 (Poorest) currently includes 36 counties with a combined population of 866,891 (24.0% of the state's population). "Poorest" counties each have an Economic Index between 152 and 285.

SOURCE: Poverty data uses U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 3; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary File 3; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2007. Per Capita Personal Income data uses Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, 1994-1996 and 2004-2006. Data counting children receiving AFDC or TANF provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Unemployment Rate data provided uses data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2005, 2006 and 2007. Population data uses U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division for 2007.

Infant Mortality is death occurring to an infant under 1 year of age. The data is reported by place of mother's residence, not place of birth or death. Rates are calculated per 1,000 live births. The data counts the total resident live births and the deaths for two three-year periods (1994 through 1996 and 2004 through 2006), resulting in three-year rates. Base population data for the state and counties is the average of 1994, 1995 and 1996 Census population estimates (adjusted by the State Data Center to estimate the number of infants), approximating the midpoint of the three years of base death data displayed. Current population data for the state and counties is the average of estimates by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2004, 2005 and 2006 (adjusted to estimate the number of infants), approximating the midpoint for the three years of recent death data displayed. Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander. Unknown races are excluded. Hispanic ethnicity is reported separately. The "race of child" reflects the mother's race. The state total may vary from the total of all the counties since the state total may include deaths for which the county of residence was unknown and the total of the counties may exclude deaths suppressed to protect confidentiality.

SOURCE: Infant mortality data provided by Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). Base population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center,

Research and Policy, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division, for 1994, 1995 and 1996. Recent population data provided uses U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *United States Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories*, updated to estimate 2004, 2005 and 2006 populations.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests count arrests of youth from the ages of 10 through 17 for violent offenses. **Violent Crimes** include homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The annual arrest figures include all arrests for violent crimes during the year, including repeated arrests of the same individual for different offenses. Rates compare the number of arrests of youth ages 10 through 17 for violent crimes to all children ages 10 through 17 and is reported as a rate per 100,000 youths. The data compares juvenile violent crime rates for two three-year periods (1994 through 1996 and 2005 through 2007). Base population data for the state and counties is the average of 1994, 1995 and 1996 Census population estimates (adjusted by the State Data Center to estimate the number of youth ages 10 through 17), approximating the midpoint of the three years of base crime data displayed. Current population data for the state and counties is the average of estimates by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 2005, 2006 and 2007 (adjusted to estimate the number of youth ages 10 through 17), approximating the midpoint for the three years of recent crime data displayed. Changes in the number of arrests may reflect changes in juvenile crime, police activity and/or public policy. While policies and practices regarding juvenile arrests may vary from county to county and city to city, it is widely believed that the policies are more consistent for violent crimes than for less serious crimes. Data counts juveniles by age or by race, but age and race cannot be compared. Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian and Asian. There is no provision for reporting other races. Hispanic ethnicity is reported separately. Several Oklahoma counties reported no juvenile violent crime arrests during the years included in the 2009 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook.

SOURCE: Arrest data provided by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). Population data uses U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Level of Prenatal Care addresses the timing and amount of medical care and monitoring an expectant mother receives. **The Recommended Level of Prenatal Care (Adequate)** is care that begins in the first trimester with ten or more visits. Rates are calculated as percentages of all live births. Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander. Hispanic ethnicity is reported separately. Births count both the total resident live births and those receiving the recommended level of care for the three-year period from 2005 through 2007, resulting in a three-year rate. The state total may vary from the total of all the counties since the state total may include births for which the county of residence was unknown and the total of the counties may exclude births suppressed to protect confidentiality.

SOURCE: Birth and prenatal care data provided by Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). Population data uses U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *United States Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories*, updated to estimate 2005, 2006 and 2007 populations.

Low Birthweight Infants are live births weighing under 5 ½ pounds (2,500 grams). Very Low Birthweight Infants are live births weighing under 3 pounds, five ounces (1,500 grams). The data is reported by place of mother's residence, not place of birth. Births count the total resident live births, the low weight births and the very low weight births and compare two three-year periods (1994 through 1996 and 2005 through 2007), resulting in three-year rates. Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander. Unknown races are excluded. Hispanic ethnicity is reported separately. The "race of child" reflects the mother's race. The state total may vary from the total of all the counties since the state total may include births for which the county of residence was unknown and the total of the counties may exclude births suppressed to protect confidentiality.

SOURCE: Birth, low birthweight births and very low birthweight data provided by Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). Base population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Research and Policy, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Division, for 1994, 1995 and 1996. Recent

population data uses U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, United States Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories, updated to estimate 2005, 2006 and 2007 populations.

Rural, Mid-Size and Metropolitan are classifications of Oklahoma counties based on population and proximity to metropolitan communities using the nine-part U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. Rural means a county with less than twenty thousand residents living in its cities and towns, having codes numbering 6 (urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metropolitan county), 7 (urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metropolitan county), 8 (completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metropolitan county) or 9 (completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metropolitan county). Fifty of Oklahoma's 77 counties are designated as Rural by this definition. Mid-Size means a non-metropolitan county with a population of twenty thousand or more residents living in its cities and towns, having codes numbering 5 (urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metropolitan county) and 4 (urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metropolitan county). Ten of Oklahoma's 77 counties are designated as Mid-Size by this definition. Metropolitan is a county designated as such by the Office of Management and Budget meaning an urbanized area characterized by population density, urbanization and population growth, having codes numbering 3 (counties in metropolitan areas with fewer than 250,000 population), 2 (counties in metropolitan areas with 250,000 to 1 million population) and 1 (counties in metropolitan areas with 1 million population or more). Seventeen of Oklahoma's 77 counties are designated as Metropolitan by this definition.

SOURCE: Data provided by the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy and Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families using Rural KIDS COUNT! Sharing the Stories and Statistics from Oklahoma and Arkansas (August 2004), Annie E. Casey Foundation.

School Dropouts count youth of any age who quit school without graduating. High School Dropouts count youth age 18 and under who quit high school (grades 9 through 12). The data presents the number of school dropouts and high school dropouts for two three-year periods (school

year 2001/2002 through 2003/2004 and school year 2005/2006 through 2007/2008). High School Dropout Rates compare the number of high school dropouts age 18 and under to the fall enrollment in grades 9 through 12. School officials in Oklahoma are required to notify the State Department of Education of the name, address, race and age of any pupil dropping out of school. Title 70, Okl. Supp. 2005 § 35 e (A). Race is reported as White, African American, American Indian, Hispanic and Asian. Other races are counted with Whites. Hispanic children, for the purposes of this data, are counted as a race, rather than an ethnic group preventing precise racial comparisons between this data and other data in the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook.

SOURCE: Data provided by the Office of Accountability, Education Oversight Board, Oklahoma State Department of Education.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2008). *KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-being*. Baltimore, Maryland.

Division of Children and Family Services. (2006). *Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics, Fiscal Year 2006*. Oklahoma Department of Human Services: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Division of Children and Family Services. (2007). *Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics, Fiscal Year 2007*. Oklahoma Department of Human Services: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Office of Accountability. (May 2008). *Profiles 2007 State Report*. Education Oversight Board: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. (2007). *Crime in Oklahoma: 2007 Uniform Crime Report*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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.