North Dakota KIDS COUNT is committed to helping inform local and state discussions about how to secure better futures for all of North Dakota's children. The North Dakota KIDS COUNT program provides data focused on six main components of children's well-being, in order to provide a broad portrait of North Dakota children's experiences, including:

DEMOGRAPHICS. Knowing who the children are provides a foundation with which to understand how the children are doing. Demographic indicators offer insight into changes in the number of children, age and racial distributions, and differences in rural and urban distributions.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. The economic health of children and families is important because children thrive in stable, stress-free environments. Children living in families with employed parents have access to resources that help provide stability and security. Economic well-being indicators offer insight into the number of children living in low income situations as well as the number of children who receive benefits from TANF, Child Care Assistance, free and reduced price lunches, and Food Stamps which help them provide for their children's needs and attain self-sufficiency.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION. Every child deserves opportunities for intellectual growth, skill-building, socialization, and extracurricular activities that enhance their self-esteem and prepare them to transition to adulthood successfully after completing high school. Early Care and Education indicators offer insight into quality child care availability and costs, school enrollment, special education needs, expenditures per student, dropout rates, achievement scores, and the likelihood of pursuing advanced education and/or workforce endeavors.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY.   Family structure is an important indicator of child well-being because family type is often associated with children's access to resources, such as income. Children in married-couple families are more likely to live in households with higher incomes than children who live in single-parent homes, for example. Family and Community indicators offer insight into various types of families in North Dakota, such as married-couple families, single-parent families and working mothers, grandparent caregivers, and foster families.

HEALTH. The physical and mental health of a child is vital to overall well-being. Health indicators provide insight into prenatal experiences of mothers, birth outcomes, health insurance access, screening and immunization rates, and opportunities for health assistance through the Medicaid program, Healthy Steps (SCHIP), and WIC.

SAFETY & RISKY BEHAVIORS. Providing children with safe and secure environments free from abuse and neglect will improve the likelihood of positive educational, emotional, and social outcomes that extend well into adulthood. Safety and Risky Behaviors indicators give insight into situations of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, children's experiences with the juvenile justice system, and their tendency to engage in binge drinking and drug use.

You can locate information on each of these components of child well-being though our DATA, PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, and TOPICS pages.