



Embargoed For Release Until  
12:01 a.m. EDT November 4, 2013

Contact:  
DC Action for Children  
HyeSook Chung  
202-234-9404  
[hchung@dckids.org](mailto:hchung@dckids.org)

## **26,000 DC Children Ages Birth to Eight (42 percent) In Low-Income Households; 80 Percent Under Age Six Did Not Receive Developmental Screening**

Every child in the nation's capital is born ready to learn, but too many do not receive the stimulation and care they need for healthy development and educational success, according to the national policy report [\*The First Eight Years: Giving Kids A Foundation for Lifetime Success\*](#) released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

It is critical that the District address barriers to success for black and Hispanic children and children from low income families. In 2011, 53 percent of DC children under age five were black and 15 percent were Hispanic. The likelihood that a young child in DC lived in a low-income household was 42 percent, slightly lower than the national average of 48 percent.

To ensure all DC children get a strong start in life, we recommend three policy goals:

1. Support parents as they care for their children
2. Improve access to quality early care and education, health care and other services
3. Ensure that care is comprehensive and coordinate for all children ages birth to eight.

"The KIDS COUNT policy report shows us a clear path forward to give all of DC's young children and their families the assets and supports they need to thrive," said HyeSook Chung, executive director of DC Action for Children. "Investing in healthy development and educational success for our young children will benefit all of DC in the long run."

--MORE--

While DC is a national leader in Pre-K access, we are also moving towards improved, comprehensive services for young children ages birth to eight through:

- Implementing expanded access to early intervention services for young children with developmental delays and disabilities.
- Proposed legislation to encourage healthy, local food offerings in child care facilities.
- Discussions of how to ensure a higher quality of care and instruction in child care facilities and Pre-K providers in every DC neighborhood.
- Efforts by the DC Home Visiting Council to expand access to evidence-based home visiting services for families throughout the District.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's [\*\*\*The First Eight Years\*\*\*](#) policy brief includes a portrait of how U.S. children are faring in each of the four areas of child development, and more detailed recommendations for how to achieve the three policy recommendations. New indicators on early childhood development in DC and all 50 states will also be available in the KIDS COUNT data center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#DC/3/0>) on November 4, 2013. These include the percentage of children enrolled in Pre-K, rate of developmental screenings, access to home visiting and prevalence of mental and emotional health problems among parents.

Follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation and this issue on Twitter @aecfkidscount and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT>.

###

Founded in 1992, DC Action for Children ([www.dckids.org](http://www.dckids.org)) is a nonprofit organization that provides data-based analysis and policy leadership on critical issues facing DC children and youth, to promote policies and actions that optimize child and family well-being. DC Action is the KIDS COUNT grantee for the District, tracking key indicators of child and youth well-being and neighborhood well-being for children and youth. Follow us on Twitter at @ActforDChildren and like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dcaction>.