

What if Arkansas were 1st in the U.S.?

Arkansas is near the bottom in terms of poverty, education, and overall health. Here is how things would be different if we were #1.

If we did as well as the best-performing states in...

...Economic well-being

The child poverty rate would be cut in half, 92,000 more kids would have parents with year-round full-time jobs, and 8,400 more teens would be in school or working.

...Health

There would be 140 fewer teen and child deaths, 1,150 fewer babies born at low-birth-weights and 20,400 more kids with health insurance.

...Education

There would be 15,400 more 3- and 4-year-olds attending school, and a third of the students not graduating high school on time would instead get their diploma in their senior year.

How do we rank now?

Economic well-being

36th

Economic well-being rankings are based on the number of kids whose parents have high housing cost burdens, child poverty rates, parental employment, and the number of teens who are either employed or in school.

Education

38th

Education rankings are based on 4th- and 8th-grade reading proficiency, the percent of 3- and 4-year-olds who are in school, and on-time high school graduation rates.

Health

46th

Health rankings are based on child and teen death rates, percent of babies born at low birth-weights, health insurance rates for kids, and teen alcohol and drug abuse.

Family and community

45th

family and community context rankings are based on the rate of kids whose parents lack a high school diploma, single parent households, the percent of kids who live in high poverty areas, and the teen birth rate.

Overall ranking

44th

Arkansas's overall ranking for these four areas is 44th. We have a long way to go!

When we invest in the health, education, and well-being of our children, we're investing in a brighter future for all Arkansans!