



Franklin County

VERMONT KIDS COUNT

2009

total population	48,022
children under 18	11,852
median income	\$52,761
children living in poverty ²	1,446
% children living in poverty ²	12.2%

Economic Security

	2000			2009 ¹			% change in County rates, 2000 - most recent	County rate compared to state rate
	County total	County rate	State rate	County total	Current rate	State rate		
Food Stamps	1,703	13.4	12.6	2,204	18.6	18.3	38.4%	1.7% higher
Dr. Dynasaur/Medicaid ³	4,818	38.0	35.7	5,400	45.6	43.9	19.8%	3.9% higher
TANF (Reach-up) ⁴	1,044	8.2	7.6	842	7.1	6.6	-13.8%	8.3% higher
School Meals ⁵	2,853	32.9	25.9	3,354	39.8	38.0	20.9%	4.7% higher
New Families at Risk ⁶	24	10.6	8.4	19	7.7	6.1	-27.9%	26.3% higher

ECONOMIC SECURITY

At \$52,761, the county median household income was 2% higher than the state median of \$51,555.

39.8% of public school students were approved for School Meals Programs, slightly higher than the state average of 38.0%.

18.6% of children received 3SquaresVT (food stamp) benefits, slightly higher than the state average.

Rates of 3SquaresVT enrollments and students approved for School Meals have both increased by almost 20% since 2000—which may be related to increased child poverty as well as improved outreach.

45.6% of children were enrolled in Dr. Dynasaur/Medicaid, compared to the state average of 43.9%.

With the exception of poverty, median income estimates and school meals, all rates and counts are based on three-year averages. For example, the year 2009 represents the average of 2007-2009.

¹ 2009 data except School Meals (2010) and New Families at Risk (2008).

² Since the estimates are not based on direct counts, county data should not be compared. Smaller population areas have wider confidence intervals and should be used with caution. For more details and cautions, see:

<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saige/saige.cgi>. The 2009 Federal Poverty Threshold was \$21,756 for a family with two adults and two children.

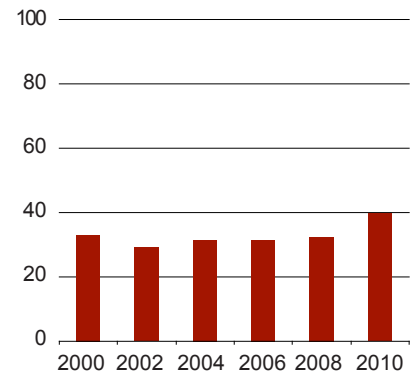
³ Dr. Dynasaur, Vermont's public health insurance program for children and pregnant women.

⁴ The Reach-Up Program is Vermont's version of TANF, the federal Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program.

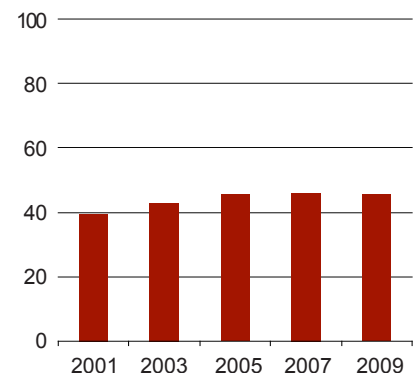
⁵ Public school students approved for free and reduced-price Federal School Meals.

⁶ Percentage of first births to unmarried women under 20 with less than 12 years of education.

Percent of Students Approved for Federal School Meals

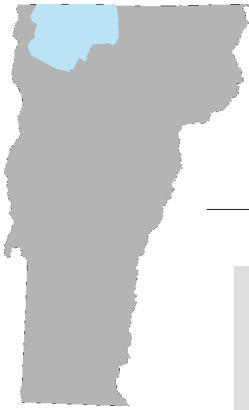


Percent of Children Enrolled in Dr. Dynasaur/Medicaid



Voices
for Vermont's Children





Franklin County

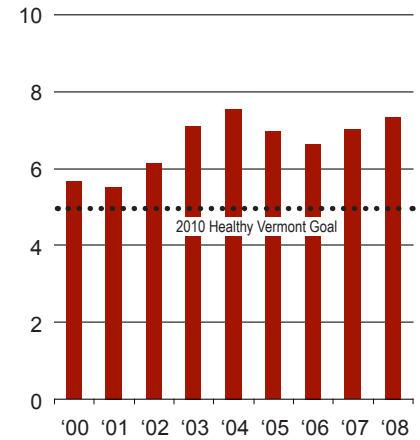
VERMONT KIDS COUNT



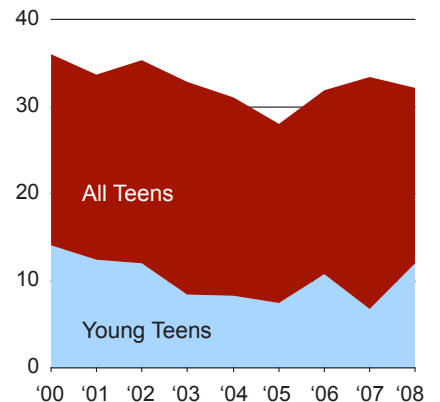
Health Indicators

	2000			2008		
	County total	County rate	State rate	County total	County rate	State rate
Population <18 ¹	12,671	28.2	24.3	11,852	24.7	20.7
Early Prenatal care ²	498	84.1	80.8	513	87.0	83.2
Low Birthweight ³	34	5.7	6.1	44	7.4	6.7
Infant Mortality ⁴	3	5.5	6.2	4	7.2	5.1
Child Deaths ⁵	1	10.1	16.4	1	7.0	14.3
Teen Deaths ⁶	3	94.1	71.9	3	90.7	47.4
Young Teen Births ⁷	15	14.1	11.3	13	12.0	8.1
All Teen Births ⁷	55	36.0	23.9	51	32.2	21.4

Percent Low Birthweight Babies



Births to Teens and Young Teens per 1,000 Births



HEALTH

The Franklin County child population declined far less than other counties, by only 6.5% between 2000 and 2009. It also has the largest percentage of children per county—25% of the population, compared to the Vermont average of 21%.

Babies with low birth weight—under 5.5 pounds—are at risk of respiratory conditions, cognitive and developmental delays, and long-term conditions. Our *Healthy Vermonters 2010* goal is to reduce the percentage of low birth weight babies to 5.0%. Franklin County's rate is headed in the wrong direction—it increased to 7.4% of all live births, up from 5.7% in 2000.

Teen birth rates were 32.2 per 1,000 teen girls aged 15-19, which is 12% lower than in 2000.

Franklin County had the second highest percent of pregnant women receiving prenatal care within the first trimester—87%, approaching the *Healthy Vermonters 2010* goal of 90%.

2008 data except population (2009); 2008 data are from the Vermont Department of Health. All health rates and counts are based on three-year averages. For example, the year 2008 represents the average of 2006-2008. Rates based on small counts should be used with caution. Such rates may change significantly from one period to the next—even if the actual count only increased from 1 to 2.

- 1 Children ages 0-17 as percent of total population.
- 2 Pregnant women who seek early prenatal care (within first trimester), per 100 live births.
- 3 Infants weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth per 100 live births.
- 4 Infant deaths less than one year of age per 1,000 live births.
- 5 Child deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14.
- 6 Teen deaths per 100,000 youths ages 15-19.
- 7 Young Teen Births refer to mothers ages 15-17; All Teen Births refers to mothers ages 15-19. Rates are per 1,000 females of the same age.

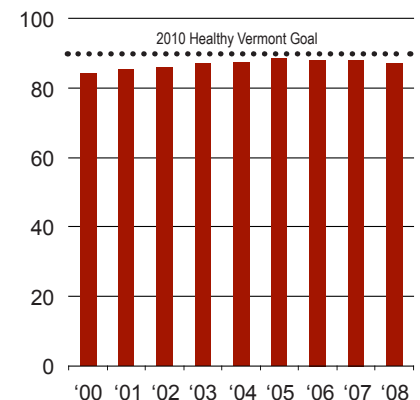
For definitions and sources: <http://www.voicesforvtrkids.org/wp-content/uploads/kidscount/sources.pdf>

Vermont KIDS COUNT research is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their support but acknowledge that the findings presented in these county pages are those of Voices for Vermont's Children alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.

Voices
for Vermont's Children



Percent Pregnant Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care





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Franklin Central SU

Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans
Fairfield Center School
St. Albans City Elementary School
St. Albans Town Educational Center

Franklin Northeast SU

Bakersfield Elementary School
Enosburg High School
Montgomery Elementary School
Richford High School

Franklin Northwest SU

Missisquoi Valley Union High School
Sheldon Elementary School

Franklin West SU

Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax
Georgia Middle School

Youth Risk Behaviors and Assets

Cigarettes

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who had smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	21	15	16	17
Franklin Northeast SU	28	22	19	28
Franklin Northwest SU	24	20	20	21
Franklin West SU	14	15	15	11
Vermont	20	16	16	16

Alcohol

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who had used alcohol during the past 30 days

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	42	38	43	36
Franklin Northeast SU	47	43	46	46
Franklin Northwest SU	34	30	37	39
Franklin West SU	33	31	37	29
Vermont	39	37	39	36

Marijuana

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who had used marijuana during the past 30 days

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	26	21	18	22
Franklin Northeast SU	30	21	22	25
Franklin Northwest SU	20	19	15	21
Franklin West SU	22	18	17	23
Vermont	25	22	21	22

Inhalants

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who had ever used inhalants

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	15	14	14	10
Franklin Northeast SU	14	12	12	13
Franklin Northwest SU	15	15	14	14
Franklin West SU	11	19	12	11
Vermont	13	12	12	10

Depression

Percent of students who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least 2 weeks that they stopped doing some normal activities

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	23	23	22	23
Franklin Northeast SU	23	24	21	22
Franklin Northwest SU	29	28	24	25
Franklin West SU	23	17	20	19
Vermont	23	22	20	21

Sex (ever)

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who have ever had sexual intercourse.

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	37	41	42	44
Franklin Northeast SU	46	44	42	50
Franklin Northwest SU	39	38	41	45
Franklin West SU	29	29	30	34
Vermont	35	36	37	40

Bullying

Percent of students who were bullied during the past 30 days

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	NA	18	21	22
Franklin Northeast SU	NA	22	18	22
Franklin Northwest SU	NA	20	25	26
Franklin West SU	NA	17	20	20
Vermont	NA	18	17	17

Bullying

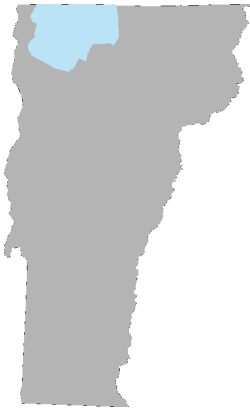
Percent of students who bullied someone during the past 30 days

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	NA	25	28	26
Franklin Northeast SU	NA	29	27	28
Franklin Northwest SU	NA	22	25	29
Franklin West SU	NA	23	26	22
Vermont	NA	21	21	20

Physical Activity

Percent of students, grades 8-12, who vigorously exercised 3 or more times per week

	2003	2005	2007*	2009
Franklin Central SU	66	65	53	41
Franklin Northeast SU	66	61	49	45
Franklin Northwest SU	63	64	42	40
Franklin West SU	67	69	57	57
Vermont	67	67	49	45



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Youth Risk Behaviors and Assets

Parents Talk

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, whose parents talk with them about school weekly or more often

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	73	74	79	78
Franklin Northeast SU	67	69	74	72
Franklin Northwest SU	66	68	70	72
Franklin West SU	68	76	78	78
Vermont	75	78	79	77

Students Decide

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who report that students help decide what goes on in their school

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	43	45	52	46
Franklin Northeast SU	38	42	50	49
Franklin Northwest SU	33	36	43	53
Franklin West SU	40	43	51	53
Vermont	46	46	51	50

Volunteer

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who spend 1 or more hours per week volunteering in their community

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	42	40	41	38
Franklin Northeast SU	43	42	42	46
Franklin Northwest SU	45	42	43	43
Franklin West SU	43	39	38	38
Vermont	45	46	45	42

Youths Valued

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who report they feel valued by their community

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	40	38	46	42
Franklin Northeast SU	39	38	43	41
Franklin Northwest SU	37	36	41	41
Franklin West SU	37	36	40	42
Vermont	42	45	47	47

Clubs

Percent of all students, grades 8-12, who spend 1 or more hours per week in clubs/organizations outside of school

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Franklin Central SU	25	24	28	24
Franklin Northeast SU	22	25	23	25
Franklin Northwest SU	24	22	24	21
Franklin West SU	27	28	22	19
Vermont	28	31	30	27

* Survey question changed to 5 or more times for 60 minutes in 2007

ABOUT THE VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY:

The Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a voluntary survey of 8th-12th graders attending Vermont middle- and high-schools (and elementary schools that include 8th grade) that seeks to monitor trends in student health and risk behaviors. Administered every two years since 1993, in 2009 nearly 30,000 8th-12th grade students representing 143 schools and 55 supervisory unions were surveyed. The resulting data in the report is based on a representative sample to accurately reflect state demographic distribution, with a +/-5% error rate. Although the report offers data down to the supervisory union level, comparing the numbers of one supervisory union to another or to the state should be done with caution, because while the statewide percentages are "weighted," individual supervisory union percentages are not. It is possible that apparent differences, especially small differences, are due to demographic characteristics, rather than true differences in prevalence.

Survey information and indicator significance: <http://www.voicesforvkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/whyimportant.pdf>

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Voices
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