



### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Ingham County's Most Recent Kids Count in Michigan Data Released**

Kids Count in Michigan is part of a broad national effort to measure the well-being of children at the state and local levels. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this state data provided by the Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP), provides policy analysis based on evidence and shines a spotlight on pressing issues in order to improve programs and policies for children and families.

Key areas the data is focused on includes Population, Economic Security, Education, Health and Safety and Family and Community. The latest report compares data from 2010 to 2020 unless otherwise noted. Areas in which Ingham County has seen improvement is children ages 0-17 living in poverty, 3-and 4-year olds attending preschool and students graduating on time. Areas in which the county fell since 2010 included less than adequate prenatal care, number of children in families being investigated for child abuse/neglect and the deaths of young adults ages 18-24.

“Kids Count provides the best available data for us to look at trends in education, economic security, health and community well-being,” notes Michelle Nicholson, Executive Director of Early Childhood Services at Ingham Intermediate School District (Ingham ISD). “Of particular concern is the worsening trends in health and safety for children. While the most recent report shows slight improvement in confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect, and out of home placements, this is still an area of great concern. We need to consider access to opportunity for the adults in the children’s lives, as well as the children, when trying to improve well-being,” Nicholson also noted.

According to the MLPP, “a child’s well-being should not be determined by their race, place or income, but data shows that this is the reality. That is why our racial equity lens considers how policy decisions help or hinder outcomes. We also consider access to opportunity for the adults in kids’ lives, as well as the children, when working to improve well-being.”

Ingham ISD provides a variety of programs that can assist families in the areas of early childhood such as Early On, Great Parents Great Start, Great Start Collaborative, Great Start Readiness and Early



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Childhood Special Education services. Information and contacts for [these programs](#) are available on the [Ingham ISD website](#).

Ingham Intermediate School District offers program and services to staff and students in the districts of Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville and Williamston. For more information, visit [Ingham ISD](#) ([www.inghamisd.org](http://www.inghamisd.org)).

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