

# KIDS' HEALTH IN THE U.S.



## DIFFICULTIES MAKING OR KEEPING FRIENDS IN 2016

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released 2016 results from the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), which provides traditional measures of health status and access to care among children along with rich data on the social factors that determine health including family, neighborhood, and social context. Among the social determinants explored in the NSCH is experiencing difficulties making or keeping friends. We highlight 2016 findings for this indicator below.

### NATIONWIDE

# 21.1 PERCENT

of kids nationwide experienced difficulties making or keeping friends in 2016.\* That is approximately

# 10,259,000 KIDS

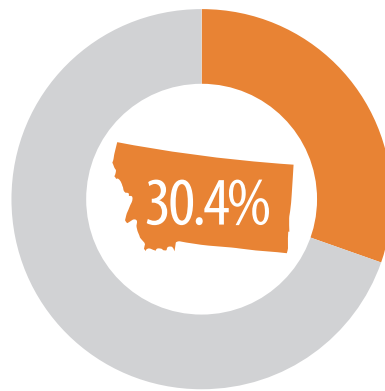


\*This measure represents kids (6-17) whose parents reported "a little or a lot of difficulty" to the following question: "Compared to other children his or her age, how much difficulty does this child have making or keeping friends?"

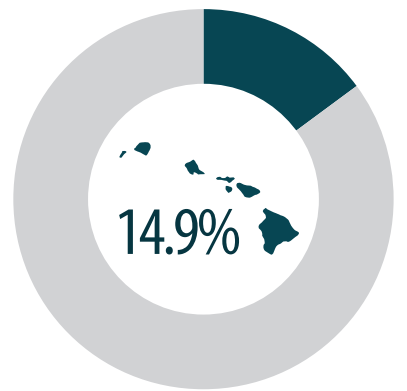
### IN THE STATES

Among the states, Montana had the highest percentage of children that experienced difficulties making or keeping friends in 2016, at 30.4%. This was more than double the rate of Hawaii (the lowest) in 2016, at 14.9%.

#### MONTANA

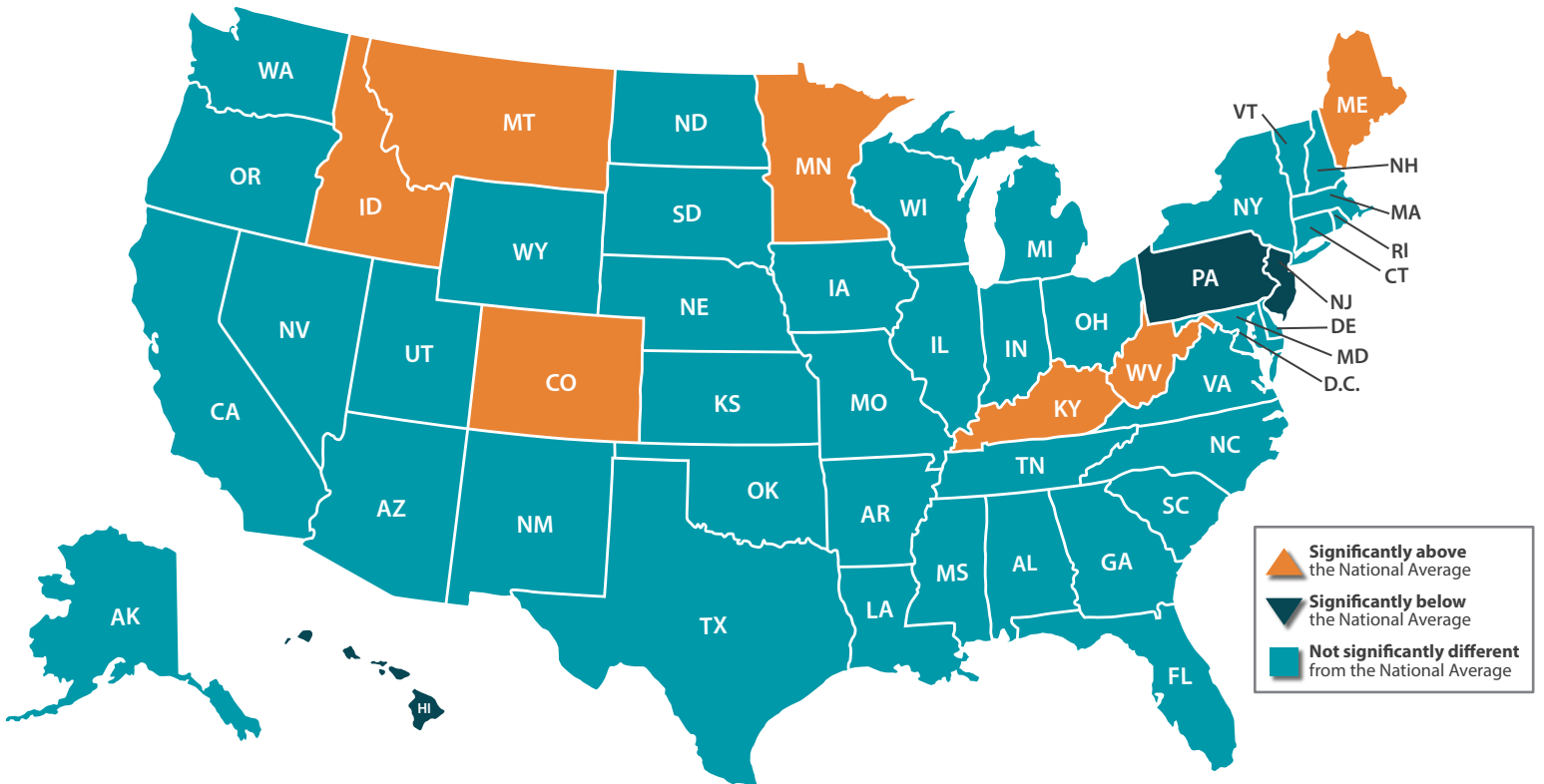


#### HAWAII



### STATE COMPARISON TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

In seven states, the percentage of kids that experienced difficulties making or keeping friends was significantly above the national average in 2016, while only three states reported percentages significantly below the national average.\*



▲ Significantly above the National Average  
 ▼ Significantly below the National Average  
 ■ Not significantly different from the National Average

**21.1% NATIONAL AVERAGE**

- 21.3% Alabama
- 21.8% Alaska
- 23.1% Arizona
- 22.1% Arkansas
- 18.7% California
- 25.8% Colorado
- 20.8% Connecticut
- 19.0% Delaware
- 17.8% D.C.
- 20.7% Florida
- 17.8% Georgia
- 14.9% Hawaii
- 27.0% Idaho
- 22.7% Illinois
- 22.9% Indiana
- 22.4% Iowa
- 22.1% Kansas
- 26.3% Kentucky
- 20.8% Louisiana
- 27.1% Maine
- 18.0% Maryland
- 23.6% Massachusetts
- 18.4% Michigan
- 25.7% Minnesota
- 22.8% Mississippi
- 25.8% Missouri
- 30.4% Montana
- 21.6% Nebraska
- 23.3% Nevada
- 24.5% New Hampshire
- 16.8% New Jersey
- 25.3% New Mexico
- 19.8% New York
- 19.8% North Carolina
- 20.1% North Dakota
- 22.0% Ohio
- 24.7% Oklahoma
- 22.3% Oregon
- 17.1% Pennsylvania
- 22.3% Rhode Island
- 25.3% South Carolina
- 24.8% South Dakota
- 21.5% Tennessee
- 21.9% Texas
- 22.6% Utah
- 23.2% Vermont
- 20.6% Virginia
- 21.3% Washington
- 27.3% West Virginia
- 22.1% Wisconsin
- 25.4% Wyoming

\* Statistically significant at the 95% level and accounting for the dependent relationship between state and national estimates.

