

## How America Ranks among 35 Rich (OECD) Countries for Investing in Children and Key Child Outcomes

The U.S. is one of the richest countries in the world having the highest gross domestic product among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the most billionaires. The U.S. also has the largest budget as the federal government spends more than any other country. Unfortunately, we do not prioritize our children in that budget. We spend more money than any other country on defense but invest less in areas such as early childhood and education. In turn, our children are far behind on key performance outcomes. Income inequality in the U.S. is also high, such that few are rich and many of our children are poor. Below, we have included key facts regarding how America ranks among 35 rich countries for investing in children and on key child outcomes. For all measures, countries were ranked 1-35 with one meaning a country is doing the best and 35 meaning a country is doing the worst. For some measures, data were not available for all 35 countries.

### America's Rank for Income and Wealth

- 1<sup>st</sup> for gross domestic product (purchasing power parity), 2016<sup>1</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> for number of billionaires, 2017<sup>2</sup>
- 32<sup>nd</sup> for income inequality, meaning the U.S. has one of the largest gaps between the rich and poor, 2015<sup>3</sup>

### America's Rank for Government Spending

- 1<sup>st</sup> for military spending (in US dollars), 2016<sup>4</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for military spending (percent of GDP), 2016<sup>5</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> for spending on health (percent of GDP), 2016<sup>6</sup>
- 30<sup>th</sup> for spending on early childhood education and care (percent of GDP), 2013<sup>7</sup>
- 20<sup>th</sup> for spending on education (percent of GDP), 2013<sup>8</sup>

### America's Rank on Key Child Outcomes

- 30<sup>th</sup> for percent of children in poverty, 2015<sup>9</sup>
- 33<sup>rd</sup> for percent of children under age 15 who do not have adequate access to food, 2014/2015<sup>10</sup>
- 30<sup>th</sup> for percent of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds (low birthweight), 2014<sup>11</sup>
- 26<sup>th</sup> for percent of 1-year-olds vaccinated for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, 2014<sup>12</sup>
- 32<sup>nd</sup> for number of infants who die before their 1st birthday, 2014<sup>13</sup>
- 31<sup>st</sup> for number of teenage births, 2015<sup>14</sup>
- 29<sup>th</sup> for percent of children under age 5 enrolled in early childhood and primary education, 2014<sup>15</sup>
- 20<sup>th</sup> for reading scores of 15-year-olds, 2015<sup>16</sup>
- 31<sup>st</sup> for math scores of 15-year-olds, 2015<sup>17</sup>

Among rich countries, the U.S. also has the highest number of children and teens killed with guns and is the only member of the United Nations (U.N.) that has not ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>18</sup>