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2010 KIDS COUNT National Fact Sheet

A Project of

**The Annie E. Casey
Foundation**

Baltimore, Md., July 27, 2010 – The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2010 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* shows that since 2000, five of the 10 key indicators of child well-being improved, three indicators got worse, and two areas are not comparable based on the most recent year of data available. Overall improvements in child well-being that began in the late 1990s stalled in the years just before the current economic downturn.

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- Five areas have improved: the infant mortality rate, child death rate, teen death rate, and teen birth rate; and the percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates.
- Three areas have worsened: the percent of babies born low-birthweight, the child poverty rate, and the percent of children living in single-parent families.
- Two areas are not comparable: changes made to the American Community Survey’s (ACS) 2008 questionnaire regarding employment affected the ability to track trends for the percent of teens not in school and not working, and the percent of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment.

The data in the 2010 *Data Book* do not reflect the current period of economic recession at the national level. The indicators in the report come from the 2008 ACS, which reflects information for the 12 months prior to the survey date. The economic downturn effects were not felt by most U.S. families until the end of 2008 and into late 2009, with unemployment peaking at 10.1 percent during October 2009.

The KIDS COUNT Data Center – One-Stop Source for Child Well-Being Data

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

The 21st *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is complemented by an online Data Center that is regularly updated with hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city information. Users can access:

- **The only compilation of the 2007 teen birth rates** for all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico.
- **Popular topics** such as KIDS COUNT overall rankings, the number of children in poverty; and children living in single-parent families.
- **Geographic Profiles** that include education, economic well-being, health, and more.
- **Customizable maps, trend lines, and rankings** for use in publications and presentations.
- **Data** covering large racial and ethnic groups and children in immigrant families.

Users who download maps and information from the Data Center to place on their own websites benefit from having that information automatically updated through syndication.

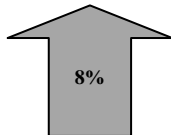
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(more)

In the 2010 *Data Book* Foreword, Casey Foundation President and CEO Patrick T. McCarthy asserts that the conditions facing America's children during the current recession are not truly known. The discussion covers the need for state and federal agencies to collect data on children more frequently, in order to measure what really matters to address well-being issues. Four steps that the federal government can take to improve the collection of data on our nation's children are outlined: 1) expanding the National Survey of Children's Health; 2) adopting a Supplemental Poverty Measure; 3) increasing the sample size of the ACS; and 4) addressing problems in the Vital Records System.

10 Measures of Child Well-Being

Percent Change

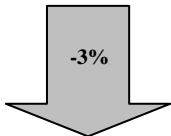


Percent of low-birthweight babies continues to increase.

Between 2000 and 2007, the percentage of low-birthweight babies (less than 5.5 lbs) increased from 7.6 percent to 8.2 percent, an increase of 8 percent, although the upward trend appears to have halted.

Best rate in 2007: Alaska (5.7 percent)

Worst rate in 2007: Mississippi (12.3 percent)

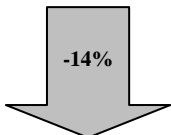


Infant mortality rate has remained relatively stable, after five decades of decline.

After several decades of constantly falling infant mortality rates, improvements have stalled. The infant mortality rate (6.7 deaths per 1,000 live births) in 2007 is slightly less than the rate of 6.9 seen in 2000. The Infant Mortality Rate varies widely across states, with best state-level rates being less than half that in the worse states.

Best rate in 2007: Washington (4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births)

Worst rate in 2007: Mississippi (10 deaths per 1,000 live births)

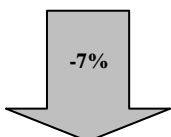


Child death rate continues to improve.

The child death rate continues to improve, with a slight drop from 22 out of every 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14 in 2000 to 19 deaths per 100,000 in 2007.

Best rate in 2007: Rhode Island (9 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

Worst rate in 2007: Mississippi (34 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

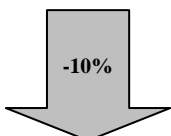


Teen death shows improvement with continuing decline.

The death rate for youth ages 15 to 19 dropped from 67 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2000 to 62 deaths per 100,000 in 2007. In 2007, 13,229 adolescents ages 15 to 19 died.

Best rate in 2007: Vermont (35 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)

Worst rate in 2007: Alaska (100 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)

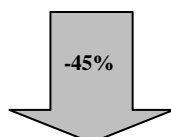


Teen birth rate continues to drop.

Nationally, the teen birth rate fell from 48 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 2000 to 43 births per 1,000 females in this age range in 2007. In 2007, approximately 1,219 births to teen occurred each day. Although still below the rate of 2000, the teen birth rate increased from 40 to 43 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 between 2005 and 2007.

Best rate in 2007: New Hampshire (20 births per 1,000 females)

Worst rate in 2007: Mississippi (72 births per 1,000 females)



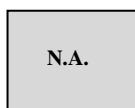
Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates continues to improve.

The rate of teens not in school and without a high school diploma has declined steadily between 2000 and 2008. The 2008 rate is slightly more than half the rate in 2000 (6 percent compared to 11 percent).

Best rate in 2008: Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire (3 percent)

Worst rate in 2008: Alaska, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico (10 percent)

Percent Change

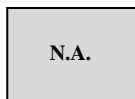


Percent of teens not attending school and not working had national average of 8 percent in 2008.

Note: The 2008 ACS made significant changes to its questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. Due to these changes in methodology, comparisons were not made in the 2010 *Data Book* to estimates from previous years. In 2008, about 8 percent of teens between the ages of 16 and 19, or 1.4 million, were neither enrolled in school nor working.

Best rate in 2008: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire (4 percent)

Worst rate in 2008: Arkansas (12 percent)

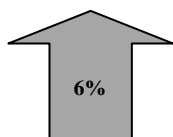


Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment had national average of 27 in 2008.

Note: The 2008 ACS made significant changes to its questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. Due to these changes in methodology, comparisons were not made in the 2010 *Data Book* to estimates from previous years. In 2008, 27 percent of children in the United States, or 20.2 million, lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment.

Best rate in 2008: Nebraska, Utah (19 percent)

Worst rate in 2008: Mississippi (35 percent)

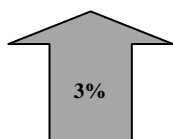


Children living in poverty increases, even before the current economic downturn.

The percentage of children living in poverty (income below \$21,834 for a family of two adults and two children in 2008) increased from 17 in 2000 to 18 percent in 2008. This represents about 1 million more children living in households with incomes below the poverty line in 2008 than 2000.

Best rate in 2008: New Hampshire (9 percent)

Worst rate in 2008: Mississippi (30 percent)



Percent of children living in single-parent families rose slightly.

There was a small increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent families, from 31 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2008. About 22.7 million children lived in single-parent families in 2008.

Best rate in 2008: Utah (18 percent)

Worst rate in 2008: Mississippi (45 percent)

Note on data sources: The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* uses the most up-to-date state level estimates from Federal statistical agencies. The data on the percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates, the percent of teens not attending school and not working, the percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, the percent of children in poverty, and the number of children living in single-parent families come from the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS and reflect conditions in 2008. Data on births and deaths come from the National Center for Health Statistics, with the exception of the teen birth rates that were collected from state health departments. All health data reflect events in 2007.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization, whose primary mission is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. For more information, visit www.aecf.org.

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data launches at 12:01 a.m. EDT, July 27, 2010 at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>. Through the *KIDS COUNT Data Center*, users can download the complete *Data Book*, access hundreds of other measures of child well-being, and view real-time information on portable devices.

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