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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
Arizona's Kids – Opportunities and Well-Being Status**

Our ability to progress as a state depends on the degree to which we can create opportunities for all children to succeed. Arizona ranks 39th nationally in the *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The *Data Book* reveals that Arizona improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on four other measures, conditions worsened for Arizona's kids. Two measures were not comparable to previous years.

The 21st annual *Data Book* is complemented by the expanded KIDS COUNT Data Center, which contains hundreds of measures of child well-being and allows users to create maps and graphs of the data at the national, state, county, and city level. To access information for Arizona go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/az>.

**Arizona ranks in the bottom 10 on four of 10 indicators.**

Arizona ranked 45th nationally in the teen birth rate and the percentage of teens not in school and not working; 44th in the percentage of high school dropouts; and 41st in the percentage of children in single-parent families.

**High school dropout rate cut in half since 2000.**

The percentage of teens ages 16-19 in Arizona who were high school dropouts has been cut in half, falling from 18 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2008. About 32,000 Arizona teens were neither enrolled in school nor high school graduates in 2008.

**Arizona's rate of low-birthweight babies is better than the national average.**

The percentage of low-birthweight babies in Arizona stood at 7.1 percent in 2007—the same level as in 2006 and barely above the level 7.0 percent level in 2000. Arizona's rate of low-birthweight babies is significantly lower than the national rate of 8.2 percent.

**Infant mortality worsens from the previous year.**

The infant mortality rate in Arizona increased 6 percent between 2006 and 2007. At 6.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the state's rate is higher than it was in 2000.