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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
California'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. California ranks 19th 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 California improved on six of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on two other measures, conditions worsened for California'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 California go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ca>.

Infant mortality among the nation's lowest, but higher than in previous year.

The infant mortality rate in California was 5.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007—ranking the state fifth on this measure. Despite being lower than it was in 2000, however, infant mortality worsened by 4 percent between 2006 and 2007.

California performs better than national average on other health-related indicators.

Besides infant mortality, California did better than the national average on the other four health-related indicators—the percentage of low-birthweight babies, the child death rate, the teen death rate, and the teen birth rate.

Child poverty mirrors national rate.

The percentage of California's children in poverty stood at 18 percent in 2008—the same as it was nationally. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income for that calendar year fell below \$21,834.) About 1.7 million children in California were poor in 2008.

Increase in share of children in single-parent families.

The percentage of California children living in single-parent families has increased from 30 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2008, matching the national share.