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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Connecticut'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. Connecticut ranks eighth 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 Connecticut improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Connecticut's kids. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure, and two others were not comparable to previous years.

After decline, overall infant mortality reverts to 2000 level.

Infant mortality in Connecticut reached a low of 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003. Since then, however, Connecticut's infant mortality rate has moved steadily upward to 6.6 infant deaths per 1,000 births in 2007—reverting to its 2000 level in the process. Unfortunately, the infant mortality rate in the state's largest and poorest cities has not declined and in some cases has actually increased. For example, the 2007 rate in Bridgeport was 9.5 percent, 13.1 percent in Hartford, and 8.4 percent in New Haven.

Statewide teen birth rate continues to fall.

Connecticut's teen birth rate in 2007 was 23 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. Not only is this rate 26 percent lower than it was in 2000, but also 4 percent below the state's rate in 2006. Among the 50 states, Connecticut was one of only six where teen birth rates continued falling between 2006 and 2007.

Teen birth rate as percent of all births rises

According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the teen birth rate as a percent of all births in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven rose between 2004 and 2007. In Bridgeport, the teen birth rate rose from 38 births per 1,000 births to 42 teen births per 1,000 births. In Hartford, the rate rose from 51 teen births per 1,000 births to 60 teen births per 1,000 births. In New Haven, the rate rose from 38 teen births per 1,000 in 2004 to 50 per 1,000 births in 2007.

Share of children in single-parent families rises.

The percentage of Connecticut children living in single-parent families increased from 27 percent in 2000 to 30 percent in 2008. During 2008, 230,000 of the state's children lived in single-parent families. According to the American Community Survey, 51 percent of Bridgeport children (18,147) lived in single-parent families in 2007. In Hartford, 74 percent of children (23,337) lived in single-parent families, and 60 percent (16,551) in New Haven.

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 Connecticut go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ct>.