

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

July 27, 2010, 12:01 a.m., EDT

CONTACT:

Kim Varner
202-842-3600, Ext. 254
kidscount@hagersharp.com

Terry Schooley
302-831-1083
terrys@udel.edu

**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Delaware'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. Delaware ranks 27th 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 Delaware improved on six of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on two other measures, conditions worsened for Delaware'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 Delaware go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/de>.

Low-birthweight remains high, but holds steady from previous year.

In 2007, 9.3 percent of Delaware's births were of low birthweight, a figure that is 8 percent higher than it was in 2000 and well above the national rate. Between 2006 and 2007, however, the state percentage held steady. Delaware tied Kentucky for 43rd nationally on this measure.

Teen birth rate continues to improve.

Delaware's teen birth rate in 2007 was 40 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19—a decrease of 17 percent from 2000 and of 5 percent since 2006. Delaware is one of only six states that showed improvement on this measure between 2006 and 2007.

Child poverty provides a mixed picture.

The percentage of children in Delaware living in poverty was 14 percent in 2008. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income for that calendar year fell below \$21,834.) While this represents an improvement from the state's 2007 rate of 15 percent, child poverty remains slightly higher than it did in 2000.

Secure parental employment better than national average.

The share of children in Delaware living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment was 25 percent in 2008, slightly better than the national average. By comparison, 27 percent of U.S. children lacked secure parental employment.