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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
District of Columbia's Kids – Opportunities and Well-Being Status

Our ability to progress as a community depends on the degree to which we can create opportunities for all children to succeed. The *2010 national KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children, reveals that the District of Columbia improved on seven of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000.

The 21st annual national *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 the District of Columbia go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/dc>.

Infant mortality rises to pre-2000 levels.

Between 2006 and 2007, the District of Columbia's infant mortality rate rose 16 percent to 13.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. That makes the 2007 rate higher than the District's 2000 rate of 12.0 infant deaths per 1,000 births. The District of Columbia had 116 infant deaths in 2007. Infant mortality in Ward 3 was 4.3 per 1000 while infant mortality in Ward 8 was 20 per 1000.

Low birthweight continues to fall.

At 11.1 percent in 2007, the District of Columbia's share of low-birthweight babies is 3 percent lower than it was in 2006. This percentage also is 7 percent lower than it was in 2000, and only two of the 50 states can also make that claim.

SAT scores of public high school seniors continue downward trend.

The overall average SAT score of the 2009 graduating class decreased 6 points from 1,202 to 1,196 between 2008 and 2009. This continued a decline from the previous year. The scores remain significantly below the average score of 1,493 for public school students nationwide.

Two in five children lack secure parental employment.

The share of District of Columbia children living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment was 41 percent in 2008. By comparison, 27 percent of U.S. children lacked secure parental employment. When disaggregated by ward, the data reflects significant disparities in unemployment rates, with Ward 3 having the lowest unemployment rate and Ward 8 having the highest unemployment rate.