

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
July 27, 2010, 12:01 a.m., EDT

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

Georgia maintained its national ranking of 42 in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2010 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state study comparing the well-being of America's children. Georgia has hit a plateau, unable to climb out of the bottom 10 states. The good news is that trends since 2000 show that Georgia has improved on five of 10 critical measures, but has slipped on two, and remained unchanged on one. The data in the 2010 book predates the current economic recession, which began in late 2008.

The 21st annual *Data Book* is complemented by the online KIDS COUNT Data Center with hundreds of measures reporting national, state, county, and city information. Georgia information is available at datacenter.kidscount.org/ga or gafcp.org/kidscount.

Georgia ranks in the bottom 10 on three of 10 indicators.

Georgia fell one spot to 45th in the percentage of teens not in school and not working; Rankings remained unchanged for the percentage of children in single-parent families (43rd); and infant mortality rate (42nd).

Percent of low-birthweight babies reverses long-term increase.

The rate of low-birthweight babies born in 2007 in Georgia was 9.1 percent, which is higher than its 2000 level of 8.6 percent. Georgia improved on this measure between 2006 and 2007, but remains higher than the national average of 8.2 percent. Georgia's ranking moved from the bottom 10 to 38th in the nation on this measure.

Rate of teens not in school and not high school graduates is cut in half.

Between 2000 and 2008, the percentage of Georgia teens ages 16–19 not enrolled in school and not high-school graduates dropped from 16 to 8 percent. Georgia's rate remains higher than the national average of 6 percent. Georgia saw its greatest improvement in this measure, jumping to 36th in the nation.

A rise in teen birth rate is reversing a long-term improvement.

Although Georgia's 2007 teen birth rate of 55 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 is 13 percent below its rate in 2000, it also is 2 percent higher than it was in 2006. Georgia's national ranking dropped from 39th to 40th on this measure.

Teen death rate worsens from previous year.

Georgia saw an increase in teen deaths in 2007. The rate increased from 71 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15 – 19 in 2006 to 73 teen deaths per 100,000 in 2007. While lower than the 2000 rate of 76 deaths per 100,000 teens, Georgia's rate is higher than the nation's rate of 62 teen deaths per 100,000. The state slipped in ranking from 28th to 33rd in the nation on this measure.