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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Hawaii'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. Hawaii ranks 22nd 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 in the last year Hawaii improved on 2 and worsened on 3 of the 10 measures affecting child well-being. There was no change on 3 measures, and 2 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 Hawaii go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/hi>.

Hawaii ranks second nationally on two indicators.

Among the 50 states, Hawaii ranked second on both the teen death rate and the percentage of children in poverty. These data indicate Hawaii had one of the lowest teen death rates and percentage of children in poverty in the nation.

Child poverty remains low.

The percentage of children in Hawaii living in poverty fell from 13 percent in 2000 to 10 percent in 2008—the second lowest rate in the country and significantly below the national rate of 18 percent. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.) Note that the data in the 2010 Data Book do not reflect the current period of economic recession. The indicators in the report come from the 2008 American Community Survey, which reflects information for the 12 months prior to the survey date. The economic downturn effects were not felt by most U.S. families until the end of 2008 and into late 2009.

Infant mortality rises compared to previous year.

Hawaii's infant mortality rate in 2007 was 6.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, a decrease from the 8.1 rate in 2000. However, in 2006 the infant death rate was 5.6 per 1,000 live births, suggesting a possible reversal of the longer-term trend.

Increase in teens not in school and not high school graduates.

The percentage of Hawaii teens ages 16-19 that were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates rose from 5 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2008. The state's 2008 rate is higher than the U.S. rate of 6 percent.