



Child & Family

POLICY CENTER

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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book **Iowa'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. Iowa ranks sixth 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 Iowa improved on five of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Iowa'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 Iowa go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ia>.

Iowa leads the nation on two teen-based indicators.

In 2008, 3 percent of Iowa teens ages 16-19 were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates). During that same year, 4 percent of the state's teens were not in school and not working. Iowa tied for first place nationally on both measures.

Iowa ranks in the top 10 on five of 10 indicators.

Besides tying for first in both the percentage of high school dropouts and the percentage of teens not in school and not working, Iowa ranked fourth in the percentage of children without secure parental employment; seventh in the percentage of children in single-parent families; and eighth in the infant mortality rate.

Infant mortality rises after earlier decline.

The infant mortality rate in Iowa was 5.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007—15 percent lower than the rate was in 2000. However, the 2007 rate is 8 percent higher than it was during the previous year, suggesting a possible reversal of the earlier trend.

Child poverty is slightly above its 2000 level.

The percentage of children in Iowa living in poverty increased from 13 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2008. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.) About 101,000 children in Iowa were poor in 2008.