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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Massachusetts' 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. Massachusetts ranks fifth 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 Massachusetts improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Massachusetts' kids. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure, and two others 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 Massachusetts go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ma>.

Massachusetts ranks among the top 10 nationally on seven of 10 indicators.

Massachusetts ranked second nationally on two indicators: the infant mortality rate and the teen birth rate. The state also ranked third in the child death rate; fourth in the percentage of teens who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates; fifth in the percentage of teens who not in school and not working; and seventh in both the teen death rate and the percent of children in poverty.

Teen birth rate reverses post-2000 downward trend.

The teen birth rate in Massachusetts was 22 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2007, down 15 percent from its level in 2000. The 2007 rate, however, is 5 percent higher than it was a year earlier, suggesting a possible reversal of the longer-term trend.

Teen mortality rises above 2000 rate.

Although still well below the national rate, the teen death rate in Massachusetts increased 26 percent between 2006 and 2007, reaching 44 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19. The state's teen death rate is 10 percent greater than it was in 2000.

Child poverty improves since 2000.

Massachusetts' child poverty rate was 12 percent in 2008—an improvement from both the 2007 rate of 13 percent and the 2000 rate of 14 percent. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)