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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Michigan'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. Michigan ranks 30th 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 Michigan improved on five of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on two other measures, conditions worsened for Michigan's 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 Michigan go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/mi>.

Michigan falls among bottom 10 states in secure parental employment.

Nationally, Michigan ranked 44th in the percentage of children living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment. In 2008, 31 percent of the state's children lacked secure parental employment, compared with 27 percent for the United States as a whole.

Child poverty worsens since 2000.

The percentage of Michigan children living in poverty increased significantly between 2000 and 2008, rising from 14 percent to 19 percent—placing the state's rate above the national average. Between 2007 and 2008, however, the child poverty rate did not change. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)

Child mortality improves in Michigan.

At 18 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14 in 2007, Michigan's child death rate was 18 percent lower than it was in 2000 and the same as it was in 2006.

Low birthweight shows signs of improvement from previous year.

Although the share of low-birthweight babies in Michigan—8.2 percent in 2007—exceeded the 2000 rate, it did decrease 2 percent from its level in 2006. This suggests a possible reversal from the longer-term trend.