

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE**

July 27, 2010, 12:01 a.m., EDT

**CONTACT:**

Kim Varner  
202-842-3600, Ext. 254  
[kidscount@hagersharp.com](mailto:kidscount@hagersharp.com)

Melissa Breazile  
402-597-3100 (Office)  
402-677-8794 (Mobile)  
[kidscount@voicesforchildren.com](mailto:kidscount@voicesforchildren.com)

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

**Nebraska ties for first nationally on two indicators.**

Among the 50 states, Nebraska tied for first nationally in the percentage of teens who were not in school and not working, as well as the percentage of children without secure parental employment. In 2008, 4 percent of Nebraska teens ages 16-19 were neither in school nor working. In that same year, 19 percent of children in the state lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, the lowest rate in the nation

**Nebraska ranks among top 10 states on three other measures.**

In addition to the two above-mentioned measures, Nebraska ranked fourth in the percentage of teens who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates; sixth in the percentage of children in single-parent families; and 10th in the child poverty rate.

**Infant mortality ranking drops.**

Nebraska's infant mortality rate went up between 2006 and 2007. This increase also marked a plunge in national rankings – from 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation to 25<sup>th</sup>. The state infant mortality rate in 2007 was just higher than the national rate, 6.8 compared to 6.7 deaths per 1,000 births.

**Teen birth rate rises after long-term decline.**

Nebraska's teen birth rate was 36 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2007, which was 5 percent lower than it was in 2000. Between 2006 and 2007, however, the state's rate increased 9 percent, suggesting a possible reversal of the longer-term trend.

**Child poverty higher than in 2000.**

Nebraska's child poverty rate was 13 percent in 2008. Although lower than in 2007, it is above the state's 10 percent rate in 2000. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)