

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
July 27, 2010, 12:01 a.m., EDT

CONTACT: Kim Varner
202-842-3600, Ext. 254
kidscount@hagersharp.com

Rennae Daneshvary, PhD
702-895-3540
rennae.daneshvary@unlv.edu

**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Nevada'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. Nevada ranks 36th 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 Nevada improved on five of the ten measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on two other measures, conditions worsened for Nevada'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 Nevada go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/nv>.

Nevada ranks near bottom nationally on two indicators examining teen well-being.

In 2008, 10 percent of Nevada teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates—down from 16 percent in 2000. Despite the improvement, Nevada tied three other states for 47th on this indicator. Meanwhile, 11 percent of the state's 16- to 19-year-olds were not in school and not working in 2008, ranking Nevada 45th (with four other states) on this latter measure.

Teen birth rate continues downward trend.

The teen birth rate in Nevada was 55 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2007. Not only was this rate 13 percent lower than it was in 2000, it also was 2 percent below the 2006 rate. Nevada was one of just six states where the teen birth rate fell between 2006 and 2007.

Child poverty increases from 2000, but stays below national average.

In 2008, 15 percent of Nevada's children lived in poverty, up from 13 percent in 2000. The state's child poverty rate remains below the U.S. rate of 18 percent, however. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)