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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
North Dakota's Kids – Opportunities and Well-Being**

North Dakota's ability to progress as a state depends on the degree to which we can create opportunities for all children to succeed. As a result, it is important to be knowledgeable about our children's well-being and curious about strategies we can take to create environments that nurture healthy, well-educated new generations of citizens. Fortunately, KIDS COUNT provides valuable information on child well-being.

The new national *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that, in comparison with 2000, North Dakota has improved on two of the 10 measures affecting child well-being. Yet on four other measures, conditions worsened for North Dakota's kids. Conditions remained unchanged on two measures, and two others were not comparable to previous years. North Dakota currently ranks 12<sup>th</sup> nationally in the KIDS COUNT state-by-state study of the well-being of America's children.

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 North Dakota go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/nd>.

**North Dakota currently ranks in the top 10 on five of 10 indicators.**

Nationally, North Dakota ranked third in both the percentage of children without secure parental employment and the percentage of children in single-parent families. The state also ranked fourth in the percentage of low-birthweight babies; eighth in the percentage of teens not in school and not working; and ninth in the teen birth rate.

**Percentage of low-birthweight babies falls below 2000 level.**

Between 2006 and 2007, the share of low-birthweight babies in North Dakota decreased from 6.7 percent to 6.3 percent. The state's 2007 level on this measure has fallen below its 2000 rate of 6.4 percent—making it one of only two states to have shown such a decline.

**Teen birth rate rises since 2000.**

The teen birth rate in North Dakota was 29 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2007, which was 7 percent higher than the rate was in 2000. North Dakota was one of five states that have performed worse on this indicator since 2000.

**Child poverty rises in previous year to 2000 level.**

North Dakota's child poverty rate increased from 13 percent in 2007 to 15 percent in 2008, reverting back to its 2000 level. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)