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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Oregon'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. Oregon ranks 18th nationally in the *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. This is an improvement from last year's *2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, where Oregon ranked 19th. While every step towards improvement should be applauded, the *Data Book* reveals that Oregon still has plenty of work to do when it comes to protecting children from poverty. The road to Oregon's economic recovery is slow and we must work as a state to equip families with the necessary supports they need to participate in growing our economy.

Statewide Indicators from the *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*:

Percent of Oregon children living in families without secure parental employment higher than national average

As Oregon's unemployment rate remains steadily above the national average, new data shows that 29 percent of Oregon children are growing up in households where their families do not have secure employment. Recent cuts to Employment Related Day Care threaten even more families' ability to keep working as they struggle to pay for child care.

Percent of children in poverty steadily grows

The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty continues to increase. In Oregon, there are 154,198 children who are growing up in families with income at or below 100 % of the Federal Poverty Level (\$22,050 for a family of four).

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 Oregon go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/or>.

Founded in 1991, Children First is Oregon's most respected non-profit, non-partisan child advocacy organization committed to improving the lives of Oregon's vulnerable children and families. Our mission is to make long-term systemic change by advocating for the policies and

programs that keep children healthy and safe and strengthen families. KIDS COUNT is a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private charitable organization that funds a nationwide network of projects that support disadvantaged children and families. www.cffo.org