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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Pennsylvania'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. Pennsylvania ranks 23rd 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 Pennsylvania improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on four other measures, conditions worsened for Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/pa>.

Child poverty rises since 2000.

The percentage of children in Pennsylvania living in poverty was 17 percent in 2008, up from 15 percent in 2000. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.) Children living in poverty are more likely to have poor nutrition, chronic health problems, be less prepared for and have more difficulty in school.

Pennsylvania ranks in the top tier of states on the indicator measuring teen birth rate.

In 2008, 31 of 1000 females ages 15-19 in Pennsylvania gave birth. Teens giving birth are less likely to complete their education and more likely to raise a child in poverty. This rate has declined since 2000.

Pennsylvania shows improvement in child and teen mortality.

In 2007, the child death rate in Pennsylvania was 18 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, 10 percent below the rate in 2000. Similarly, the state's teen death rate has fallen 2 percent since 2000, reaching 59 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19 in 2007.

Infant mortality increases since 2000.

Pennsylvania's infant mortality rate was 7.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007, up 7 percent from its level in 2000. The state's rate is well above the U.S. rate of 6.7 infant deaths per 1,000 births.