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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
Virginia'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. Virginia maintains a rank of 16th 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 Virginia improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on four other measures, conditions worsened for Virginia's kids. Two measures were not comparable to previous years.

The 21st annual *Data Book* is complemented by the expanded Virginia 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 Virginia go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/va>.

**Virginia ranks among top 10 states on secure parental employment.**

In 2008, 23 percent of Virginia's children lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment—well below the U.S. rate of 27 percent. Among the 50 states, Virginia tied for 10th on this measure.

**Improvement in teen birth rate stalls.**

In 2007, the teen birth rate in Virginia was 35 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19, a 15 percent drop from the 2000 rate. However, the rate did not change between 2006 and 2007.

**Share of teens not in school and not high school graduates among lowest in the country.**

The percentage of Virginia teens ages 16-19 who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates has fallen by more than half, from 9 percent in 2000 to 4 percent in 2008. Virginia tied for fourth nationally on this measure.

**Increase in low birthweight and infant mortality.**

The share of low-birthweight babies in Virginia increased from 7.9 percent in 2000 to 8.6 percent in 2007. During that same period, the infant mortality rate in Virginia rose 13 percent

to 7.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. On both indicators, Virginia also performed worse than the previous year.