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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Washington'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. Washington ranks 11th 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 Washington improved on six of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on one other measure, conditions worsened for Washington'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 Washington go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/wa>.

Infant mortality rate is lowest in the country.

Washington had the nation's lowest infant mortality rate—4.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007. Washington also ranked first on this measure in 2006 and second in 2005. The state's rate is 8 percent lower than it was in 2000, although it did rise 2 percent between 2006 and 2007.

Washington ranks in top 10 nationally on three other indicators.

In addition to the infant mortality rate, Washington ranked among the nation's top 10 states on three other KIDS COUNT measures. The state ranked fourth in the percentage of low-birthweight babies; sixth in the child death rate; and ninth in the percentage of children in single-parent families.

After decline, teen birth rate increases in the previous year.

Washington's teen birth rate in 2007 was 35 births per 1,000 teens ages 15-19, down 10 percent from where it was in 2000. However, the 2007 rate is 6 percent higher than its 2006 rate, suggesting a possible reversal in the longer-term trend.

Share of teens not in school and not high school graduates falls.

The percentage of Washington teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates has fallen from 9 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2008.