

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
July 27, 2010, 12:01 a.m., EDT

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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Wisconsin'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. Wisconsin ranks 10th nationally in the *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state analysis of the well-being of America's children. The *Data Book* reveals that Wisconsin improved on five of the 10 measures of child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Wisconsin'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 Wisconsin go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/wi>.

Wisconsin ranks among top 10 states on four of 10 indicators.

Nationally, Wisconsin ranked fourth in the percentage of teens who were not enrolled in school and who were not high school graduates (4%). The state also ranked fifth in the share of teens neither in school nor working (5%); seventh in the percentage of children without secure parental employment (22%); and 10th in the percentage of children in poverty (13%).

Share of teens not in school and not high school graduates improves since 2000.

In 2008, 4 percent of Wisconsin teens ages 16-19 (12,225) were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates. While this is an increase from the 3 percent found in the previous year, it is a decrease from the 2000 rate of 6 percent.

Teen birth rate continues to decline.

Wisconsin's teen birth rate in 2007 was 32 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19; down 9 percent from 2000 and significantly lower than the national average of 42.5 per thousand.

Low birthweight continues to rise.

In 2007, 7.0 percent of Wisconsin babies were of low birthweight, up from 6.5 percent rate in 2000 and 6.9 percent in 2006. Wisconsin is nevertheless doing slightly better than the national average of 8.2 percent on this measure.