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News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Wyoming'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. Wyoming ranks 28th 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 Wyoming improved on three of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on five other measures, conditions worsened for Wyoming'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 Wyoming go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/wy>.

Wyoming ranks among top 10 states on two economic-based indicators.

With a rate of 12 percent in 2008, Wyoming tied for seventh among the 50 states in the percentage of children in poverty. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.) Additionally, the state tied for 10th nationally in the share of children living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment. In 2008, 23 percent of Wyoming children lacked secure parental employment.

Teen birth rate increases.

Since 2000, the teen birth rate in Wyoming has increased 21 percent to a 2007 rate of 51 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. Wyoming was one of five states that worsened on this measure.

Share of low-birthweight babies continues to rise.

The share of low-birthweight babies in Wyoming not only increased from 8.3 percent in 2000 to 9.1 percent in 2007, it also increased from the 2006 rate of 8.9 percent. Wyoming's 2007 rate is well above the national share of 8.2 percent.

Percentage of teens not in school and not high school graduates falls significantly.

In 2008, 6 percent of Wyoming teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates. This is down significantly from the 2000 rate of 10 percent.