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**News from the 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Facts at a Glance: Child Well-Being in Louisiana**

Louisiana ranks 49th nationally in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The 2009 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that since 2000, Louisiana improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being. Yet on five other measures, conditions worsened for Louisiana's kids, and on one measure conditions remained unchanged. The 20th annual *Data Book* also contains the Annie E. Casey Foundation's essay, which focuses on the country's progress in keeping track of children's well-being.

This year's *Data Book* is complemented by the expanded KIDS COUNT Data Center, an online interactive database that contains hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city information. To access information for Louisiana go to datacenter.kidscount.org/la.

Louisiana ranks in the bottom 10 on nine of 10 indicators.

Nationally, Louisiana ranked 49th on six key measures of child well-being, including the percent of low-birthweight babies, the infant mortality rate, the percent of teens ages 16 to 19 who are not in school and not working, the percent of children without secure parental employment, the percent of children in poverty, and the percent of children in single-parent families.

Child death rate drops.

The child death rate in Louisiana decreased 24 percent, from 34 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 14 in 2005 to 26 deaths per 100,000 children in 2006. Despite this decline, Louisiana's child death rate remained above the national average of 19 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 14.

Teen birth rate rises.

After decreasing between 2000 and 2005, Louisiana's teen birth rate climbed from 49 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 2005 to 54 births per 1,000 in 2006. Between 2005 and 2006, the national teen birth rate had a much smaller increase—from 40 to 42 births per 1,000.

Child poverty remains persistently high.

In 2007, more than one quarter (27 percent) of children in Louisiana were living in poverty. Child poverty is at the same level in Louisiana as it was in 2000, and remains much higher than the national average of 18 percent. In Louisiana, about 283,000 children were poor in 2007.