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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Indiana'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. Indiana ranks 33rd 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 Indiana improved on five of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Indiana'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 Indiana go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/in>.

Indiana performs worse than the national average on eight of 10 indicators.

Indiana fared worse than the nation as a whole on eight of the 10 indicators. And on those other two measures—the percentage of teens not in school and not working and the child poverty rate—the state and national rates were the same.

Low birthweight continues steady increase.

The share of low-birthweight babies in Indiana has risen steadily: from 7.4 percent in 2000, to 8.2 percent in 2006, to 8.5 percent in 2007.

Mortality-based indicators improve.

Since 2000, Indiana has improved on all three mortality-based indicators. The state's infant mortality rate was 7.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007, a 3 percent decrease from 2000. At 21 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14 in 2007, the child death rate is 16 percent lower than in 2000. And Indiana's teen death rate fell 11 percent between 2000 and 2007, reaching 68 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19.

Child poverty rate rises.

The percentage of children in Indiana living in poverty increased from 14 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2008. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.) About 283,000 Indiana children were poor in 2008.