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### **Fact Sheet: 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book**

Our ability to progress as a state depends on the degree to which we can create opportunities for all children to succeed. Kansas ranks 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Kansas improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on four other measures, conditions worsened for Kansas kids. Two measures were not comparable to previous years.

The 21<sup>st</sup> 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 and county level. To access information for Kansas go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ks>.

**\* Kansas continues to rank in the top 10 nationally on four indicators.** Measured against other states, Kansas ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of teens not in school and not working; 7<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of children without secure parental employment; 9<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of children in single-parent families; and 10<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of teens who were not attending school and were not high school graduates.

**\* Infant mortality worsens in Kansas.** The infant mortality rate in Kansas was 7.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007, which was 16 percent higher than it was in 2000. This rate equates to 333 Kansas infants dying in 2007. Nationally, Kansas tied Michigan for 40<sup>th</sup> on this measure, a significant drop from a ranking of 29 in last year's Data Book.

**\* Child poverty exceeds 2000 level.** In 2008, 15 percent of children in Kansas – approximately 100,000 – lived in poverty. This is nearly 20,000 more children in poverty than in 2000, and does not yet fully reflect the recent recession. (*Editor's Note: A family of two adults and two children were considered in poverty if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.*)