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## 2010 KIDS COUNT Minnesota Fact Sheet

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book ranks Minnesota number two in terms of overall child wellbeing. Nonetheless, it is important to look at our progress over time as well as our position relative to other states. The 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book reveals that since 2000, Minnesota has improved on five indicators, worsened on three indicators, and two indicators are not historically comparable. These changes mirror national trends.

- **Five areas of improvement:** infant mortality rate, child death rate, teen death rate, teen birth rate, and percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates
- **Three areas have worsened:** children in poverty, low birth-weight babies, and children in single-parent families
- **Two areas are not comparable based on 2008 available data:** percent teens not in school and not working and percent children without secure parental employment. This is due to changes in the American Community Survey (ACS) questionnaire.

### **Child poverty is increasing.**

The percentage of children living in poverty in Minnesota (income below \$21,834 for a family of two adults and two children in 2008) increased from 9 percent in 2000 to 11 percent in 2008. Approximately 26,000 more children have fallen into poverty in Minnesota from 2000 (114,000) to 2008 (140,000). This is a 23 percent increase. Nationally, the number of children living in poverty has increased by only 8 percent over the same time period.

### **Percent of low birth-weight babies is increasing.**

Between 2000 and 2007, the percentage of low birth-weight babies increased from 6.1 percent to 6.7 percent. Continuing racial and ethnic disparities may be playing a role in this increase. African-American, Asian, and American Indian infants in Minnesota are more likely to be born at low birth-weight compared to White infants, which may be due to access to health care and adequate prenatal care. Research also concludes that long-term exposure to stress experienced by women of color and American Indian women may affect birth outcomes.

### **The percentage of children living in single-parent families increased.**

The percentage of children living in single-parent families increased from 21 percent in 2000 to 25 percent 2005. Families are more vulnerable to poverty when their economic security depends on only one parent.

**Both child and teen death rates are falling.**

Between 2000 and 2007, the child death rate (ages 1 to 14) fell from 18 per 100,000 in 2000 to 15 per 100,000 in 2007. The decrease among teen deaths (15-19) is more significant, falling from 52 per 100,000 in 2000 to 43 per 100,000 in 2007. While these numbers are among the lowest in the country, many child and teen deaths are preventable and lower numbers can be achieved.

**Births to teen mothers are declining.**

The teen birth rate fell from 30 births per 1,000 females (ages 15 to 19) in 2000 to 28 births per 1,000 females in this age group in 2007. Teen birth rates have dropped across almost all racial and ethnic groups in Minnesota. However, the Hispanic teen birth rate is nearly six times the White rate and the Asian teen birth rate is more than double the White rate.

**Minnesota has the nation's lowest percentage of high school dropouts.**

From 2000 to 2008, the percent of teens (ages 16 to 19) not in school and not high school graduates decreased from 7 percent to 3 percent—ranking the lowest in the country.

**The KIDS COUNT Data Center – One-Stop Source for Child Well-Being Data**

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

The 21<sup>st</sup> *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is complemented by an online Data Center that is regularly updated with hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city information. Users can access:

- **The only compilation of the 2007 teen birth rates** for all 50 states.
- **Popular topics** such as KIDS COUNT overall rankings, the number of children in poverty; and children living in single-parent families.
- **Geographic Profiles** that include information on education, economic well-being, health, and more.
- **Customizable maps, trend lines, and charts** for use in publications and presentations.
- **Rankings** of states, cities, and other geographic areas.
- **Data** covering large racial and ethnic groups and children in immigrant families.

**Users who download maps and information from the Data Center to place on their own websites have the benefit of having that information automatically updated through syndication.**

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