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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
New Mexico'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. New Mexico ranks 46th 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 New Mexico improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for New Mexico's kids. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure, and two others 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 New Mexico go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/nm>.

New Mexico ranks in the bottom 10 nationally on six of 10 indicators.

Among the 50 states, New Mexico ranked 49th in the teen birth rate; 48th in the teen death rate and the percentage of children in single-parent families; 47th in the child poverty rate and the percentage of teens who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates; and 42nd in the child death rate.

Two in five children live in single-parent families.

The percentage of New Mexico children living in single-parent families increased from 33 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2008. By comparison, 32 percent of U.S. children live in such arrangements.

Recent increase brings teen birth rate to 2000 level.

After falling to 61 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2004, New Mexico's teen birth rate has slowly increased in recent years to 66 births per 1,000 teens in 2007. That brings the rate back to the level it was in 2000.

Child poverty rate falls.

The percentage of New Mexico children living in poverty has fallen from 26 percent in 2000 to 24 percent in 2008. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)