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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
Ohio'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. Ohio ranks 29th 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 Ohio improved on three of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000: child death rate, teen birth rate and percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates. Yet on four other measures, conditions worsened for Ohio's kids: low birth weight babies, infant mortality, children in poverty and children in single parent families. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure (teen death rate), and two others were not comparable to previous years: teens not attending school and not working, and children without secure parental employment.

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 Ohio go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/oh>.

**Share of teens not in school and not high school graduates cut in half.**

In 2008, 5 percent of Ohio teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates. This percentage is half the rate it was in 2000. Ohio tied for 10th nationally on this measure.

**Child mortality shows improvement.**

Ohio's child death rate was 18 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14 in 2007, which was 22 percent lower than it was in 2000 and 10 percent below the 2006 rate.

**Child poverty rises from 2000 level.**

The percentage of children in Ohio living in poverty has increased from 16 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2008—the same level it was in 2007. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)

**After improving in first half of 2000s, teen birth rate rises in recent years.**

Ohio's teen birth rate in 2007 was 41 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19, down 11 percent from its 2000 level. However, the state's rate has risen 8 percent since reaching a low of 38 births per 1,000 teens in 2004. This recent increase suggests a possible reversal from the earlier trend.