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**CONTACT:**

Kim Varner  
202-842-3600, Ext. 254  
kidscount@hagersharp.com

Raymonde Charles  
401-351-9400, Ext. 22  
rcharles@rikidscount.org

**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
Rhode Island'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. Rhode Island ranks 17th best 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 since 2000, Rhode Island has improved on 5 of 10 measures affecting child well-being. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ri>.

**Rhode Island ranks among the top 10 best on 3 of 10 key indicators of child well-being**

Nationally, Rhode Island ranked among the top 10 best states on three indicators: child deaths, teen deaths and births to teens. Rhode Island had the lowest child death rate in the U.S. at nine deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 14, which is a 47% decline since 2000. Rhode Island had the second lowest teen death rate in the U.S. (39 per 100,000 teens ages 15 to 19), and the 10th best teen birth rate in the country (30 births per 1,000 teen girls ages 15 to 19).

**Economic indicators present a mixed picture in Rhode Island**

In 2008, 30% of children in Rhode Island were living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, higher than the U.S. rate of 27%. By contrast, child poverty in Rhode Island, at 15% in 2008, was below the national rate of 18%. The poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$21,834 in 2008.

**Rhode Island's infant mortality rate increases and surpasses U.S. rate**

The infant mortality rate in Rhode Island rose from 6.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 7.4 deaths per 1,000 births in 2007, a 17% increase. Rhode Island's infant mortality rate is now higher than the U.S. rate of 6.7 deaths per 1,000 live births.

**Percentage of teens who are not in school and not high school graduates continues to decline**

Similar to the nation as a whole, the percentage of Rhode Island teens ages 16 to 19 who were not enrolled in school and who also did not have a high school diploma fell by 40%, from 10% in 2000 to 6% in 2008.