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**CONTACT:** Kim Varner  
202-842-3600, Ext. 254  
[kidscount@hagerssharp.com](mailto:kidscount@hagerssharp.com)

Baron A. Holmes  
803.734.2291  
[Baron.holmes@ors.sc.gov](mailto:Baron.holmes@ors.sc.gov)

**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book**  
**South Carolina'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. South Carolina ranks 45th 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 South Carolina improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for South Carolina'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 South Carolina go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/sc>.

**South Carolina ranks in the bottom 10 nationally on four of 10 indicators.**

Among the 50 states, South Carolina ranked 47th on three indicators: the percentage of low-birthweight babies; the infant mortality rate; and the percentage of children in single-parent families. The state also ranked 44th on the child death rate.

**Share of children in single-parent families increases.**

The percentage of South Carolina children living in single-parent families increased from 35 percent in 2000 to 39 percent in 2008. The state rate is well above the U.S. rate of 32 percent.

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

In 2008, 7 percent of South Carolina's teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates. This percentage is half of what it had been in 2000.

**Recent rise brings child death rate to 2000 level.**

Between 2006 and 2007, South Carolina's child death rate increased 14 percent to 25 deaths to 100,000 children ages 1-14, taking the state rate back to its level in 2000.

**Child poverty rate increases.**

The percentage of children in South Carolina living in poverty rose from 19 percent in 2000 to 22 percent in 2008—noticeably above the national rate of 18 percent. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)