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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
South Dakota'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 Dakota ranks 26th 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 Dakota improved on two of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on six other measures, conditions worsened for South Dakota'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 South Dakota go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/sd>.

**South Dakota ranks in top 10 on two indicators, but in bottom 10 on a third.**

Nationally, South Dakota ranked eighth in the percentage of teens ages 16-19 not enrolled in school and not working, and 10th in percentage of children without secure parental employment. However, it also ranked 45th in the child death rate.

**Teen birth rate increases.**

At 42 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2007, the teen birth rate in South Dakota is up 11 percent from where it was in 2000 and 5 percent from the 2006 rate. South Dakota is one of just five states that got worse on this measure since 2000.

**Child poverty rises since 2000.**

South Dakota's child poverty rate was 18 percent in 2008—higher than both its 14 percent rate in 2000 and its 17 percent rate in 2007. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)

**Share of teens not in school and not high school graduates declines.**

The percentage of South Dakota teens ages 16-19 who were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates has fallen from 8 percent in 2000 to 6 percent in 2008.