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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Tennessee's Kids – Opportunities and Well-Being Status**

Tennessee's future prosperity depends on providing opportunities for all children to succeed. Tennessee ranks 41st 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 Tennessee improved on five of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Tennessee's children. 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 Tennessee go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/tn>.

Tennessee's overall ranking of 41st is its best ever.

Tennessee ranked 46th overall in the 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book; 42nd was its previous best ranking. Tennessee still ranked in the bottom 10 nationally on five of 10 indicators: low-birthweight babies, infant mortality rate, teen birth rate, teen death rate and children in single-parent families.

Mortality indicators show improvement since 2000.

Tennessee's infant mortality, child death and teen death rates all improved from 2000 to 2007. Tennessee's best ranking was 24th for child deaths. Improvements in infant mortality and child deaths were in actual numbers of deaths, percent/rates of deaths and rankings among the states. The teen death rate and ranking also improved.

Percent of Tennessee youth in high school or high school graduates improves.

In 2008, 7 percent of Tennessee's youth ages 16-19 were neither enrolled in school nor were high school graduates, better than 11 percent in 2000.