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

Utah leads the nation on two indicators.

Utah ranked first nationally in the percentage of children in single-parent families in 2008. Moreover, the share of children in the state living in these arrangements has fallen from 2000 to 2008, from 21 percent to 18 percent. The state also tied for first in the share of children living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment. In 2008, just 19 percent of Utah children lacked secure parental employment, well below the U.S. rate of 27 percent.

Utah ranks in the top 10 on four other KIDS COUNT measures.

Besides placing first on the above two measures, Utah ranked third in the infant mortality rate; fourth in the percentage of children in poverty; eighth in the percentage of teens not enrolled in school and not working; and ninth in the percentage of low-birthweight babies.

After decline, teen birth rate rises in recent year.

Utah's teen birth rate in 2007 was 36 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19, down 5 percent from where it was in 2000. However, the state's rate also is 9 percent higher than it was in 2005, suggesting a possible reversal of the longer-term trend.

Child poverty rate rises above 2000 level.

Although it did not change from the previous year, Utah's child poverty rate in 2008, at 11 percent, was still higher than its 2000 rate of 10 percent. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)