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2010 National KIDS COUNT Data Book

Connecticut Children Doing Well Overall, But Urban Kids Not So Lucky

Hartford – The Annie E. Casey Foundation released its 2010 National KIDS COUNT Data Book today, showing Connecticut ranked 8th nationally for overall child well-being. The 21st *National KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Connecticut:

- Improved in four of the ten measures of child well-being: births to teens (females ages 15-19), child deaths, teen deaths, and teens not in school and not high school graduates;
- Experienced no change in infant mortality;
- Worsened in three: low-birthweight babies, children living in poverty, and children in single-parent families; and
- Ranks 8th on the percent of teens not attending school and not working and 14th on the percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment.

“The *2010 National KIDS COUNT Report* contains some good and bad news for our state,” said Jude Carroll, Director of the Connecticut KIDS COUNT Project of the Connecticut Association for Human Services. “Connecticut always improves on a number of indicators,” said Carroll. “But to slide from 4th to 8th place among the states indicates that Connecticut is not adequately addressing the needs of Connecticut’s children. And the fact that our child poverty rate rose between 2000 and 2008 is particularly troubling given the Connecticut Child Poverty and Prevention Council’s mandate to reduce child poverty by 50 percent by 2014. These data show that Connecticut children are being hit hard by the current recession.”

“Once again, Connecticut has scored among the top 10 states in the country on child well-being. But we know this ranking never tells the full story. Despite the great wealth that exists in our state, Connecticut kids in our poorest cities and inner-ring suburbs are paying the price of the economic downturn,” said Jim Horan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services. “It is very important that as our state leaders consider the long-term effects of poverty on young children when they attempt to balance the budget over the next few years,” Horan said.

“With declining local tax bases, P-12 education is suffering. Districts across the state are laying off teachers. A number of federal programs that serve the basic needs of families and children are experiencing record increases in intake,” Carroll said. “Connecticut policymakers must think about the long-term impact of budget decisions on children, families, and the state’s economy when they face budget decisions next session.”

(More)

Data from the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau illustrate the contrast between overall child well-being in Connecticut and that experienced by children in the state's largest and poorest cities.

- Infant mortality was 9.5 percent in Bridgeport, 13.1 percent in Hartford, and 8.4 percent in New Haven;
- The percent of children living in single parent families in Bridgeport was 51 percent, 74 percent in Hartford, and 60 percent in New Haven; and
- In measuring births to teens as a percent of all births (a different way of measuring than the indicator noted above), in Bridgeport, teen births as a percent of all births was 42 per 1,000 in 2007. In Hartford, the rate was 60 teen births per 1,000 births; and 50 teen births per 1,000 births.

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 Connecticut go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ct>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization, whose primary mission is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. For more information, visit www.aecf.org.

The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) works to end poverty and to engage, equip, and empower all families in Connecticut to build a secure future. CAHS envisions a Connecticut where all children and families thrive and, regardless of income, contribute to, and share in Connecticut's growth. CAHS' core strategy is to advocate for systems change in public and private policies and programs and in the administration of public resources, to reduce poverty and its impacts, and to strengthen families and communities.

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