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**News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book  
Idaho 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. Idaho ranks 21<sup>st</sup> nationally in the *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. This overall rank is improved from the ranking of 25<sup>th</sup> nationally in 2009. The *Data Book* reveals that Idaho improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Idaho's kids. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure, and two others were not comparable to previous years.

The 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Idaho go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/id>.

Key findings in this report include:

**Percentage of children in single-parent families is second lowest in the country.** Idaho ranked second nationally in the share of children in single-parent families. In 2008, 23 percent of the state's children lived in such arrangements-up slightly from 22 percent in 2000 and up from 22 percent in 2007.

**Low-birthweight babies fall below 2000 level.** The share of low-birthweight babies in Idaho fell from 6.0 percent in 2006 to 6.5 percent in 2007. The state's 2007 level on this measure has fallen below its 2000 rate of 6.7 percent- making Idaho one of only two states to have shown such a decline. Nationally, Idaho ranked eighth on this indicator.

**Child poverty rate rises since 2000.** The percent of Idaho children living in poverty has increased from 14 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2008. This is the same rate as 2007. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834). About 64,000 children in the state were poor in 2008. Idaho's child poverty rate ranges from a low of 14 percent in 2000 to a high of 20 percent in 2004.

**Rate of teens not working and not in school improves.** Idaho jumped to a national rank of 15<sup>th</sup> compared to 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2007. In 2008, approximately 5,767 or 6 percent of teens ages 16-19 were not attending school and not working. This constitutes a 40 percent improvement from the 11 percent rate in 2000.

Linda Jensen, state director of Idaho KIDS COUNT commented, "I am pleased to see that the status of child well-being in Idaho is fairly stable. I hope that our policy makers recognize that Idaho's economic recovery depends to a significant degree on investments we make now in our children."