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Release of the 2010 National *KIDS COUNT* Data Book: State Rankings on Child Well-Being

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) releases its *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book* on July 27, 2010, which includes comparative data for Nevada and the nation for 2000 and 2007/2008. Information for this annual *Data Book* is collected from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The broad array of data presented is intended to illuminate the status of America's children and to assess trends in their well-being. By updating the assessment every year, KIDS COUNT provides benchmarks by which states can see how they have advanced or regressed, and they can compare the status of their children to those in other states across several dimensions of well-being.

Nevada holds a National Composite Rank of 36 based on the following 10 measures: percent low-birthweight babies; infant mortality rate; child death rate; teen death rate; teen birth rate; percent of teens who are not in school and are not high school graduates; percent of teens not attending school and not working; percent of children without secure parental employment; percent of children in poverty; and percent of children in single-parent families. Compared to 2000, Nevada improved on five of these areas, but experienced a setback on two of the measures: percent low-birthweight babies and percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,834 for a family of two adults and two children in 2008). One indicator, percent of children in single-parent families remained unchanged. Two indicators are not comparable to previous years.

Compared to other states, Nevada performed poorly on the percent of teens who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates, percent of teens not attending school and not working, and the teen birth rate. Nevada is ranked 47th, 45th, and 40th, respectively, on the three measures.

Dr. Rennae Daneshvary, Nevada KIDS COUNT Coordinator, expressed concern that the percent of children in poverty increased from 13 in 2000 to 15 in 2008. With an unemployment rate at about 14 percent, the highest in the nation, Nevada's performance on this indicator may worsen. As a result, strapped social services may find it difficult to serve an increase in needy families.

The *2010 Data Book* will be posted on the AECF Web site at <http://www.aecf.org>.

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