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Cheyenne--A report released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranks Wyoming 28th in the nation on ten key child well-being indicators, including indicators of economic security, health, and education. Wyoming saw an improvement in the rankings this year, from a rank of 32nd in 2009. Data indicators reported in the 2010 report are for years that most recent data is available at both the national and state level, 2007 and 2008.

This year's report provides a higher resolution image of a decade characterized by economic boom in Wyoming. The ten indicators reveal that child well-being outcomes, counter-intuitively to expectations that economic prosperity necessarily improves results for children, are in fact getting worse in Wyoming.

Nationally, there has been a six percent increase in the percent of **children living in poverty** from 2000 to 2008. Given the robust economy, Wyoming has shown a twenty percent decrease for this indicator and was ranked 7th of all states in 2008, having a relatively lower rate of child poverty than the nation, twelve percent in 2008.

Wyoming ranked 10th in the Nation in 2008 for having a low percent of **children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment**, twenty-three percent compared to a national average of twenty-seven percent.

The other child well-being indicators in this year's report, the remaining six for which longitudinal data is available, show two positive trends and four negative trends that have been developing over the last nine years.

On the positive side, Wyoming, in alignment with a national trend, saw a decrease in the percentage of **teens not in school and not high school graduates** (ages 16-19), with a forty percent decrease from 2000 to 2008, compared to a decrease of forty-five percent nationally. Meaning more Wyoming teens are in school or employed than nine years ago.

A second positive development is that the **child death rate** in Wyoming saw a twenty-two percent decline from twenty-seven (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14) in 2000, falling to twenty-one in 2007. The national rate dipped fourteen percent from twenty-two deaths in 2000 to nineteen in 2007.

On opposite ends of the developmental spectrum, Wyoming has shown decadal trends indicating that, while a high tide may raise all boats, personal and policy decisions are not necessarily putting women and children first in our state.

In alignment with a worsening national trend, Wyoming saw a ten percent increase in the percent of **low-birthweight babies**, increasing ten percent from 8.3 in 2000 to 9.1 in 2007. Nationally there was an eight percent increase from 7.6 percent in 2000 to 8.2 in 2007. Wyoming ranks 38th for this indicator.

Counter to an improving national trend showing a three percent decrease in the **infant mortality rate** from 6.9 in 2000 (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14) to 6.7 in 2007, Wyoming's rate increased from 6.7 to 7.3 over the eight-year period. Wyoming ranks 20th for this indicator.

Wyoming also did not keep pace with the nation by failing to reduce the **teen death rate** (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19). The rate increased six percent from 81 to 86 from 2000 to 2007. The national rate fell seven percent from 67 to 62 during the same period. Wyoming ranks 43rd for this indicator.

The **teen birth rate** climbed alarmingly upward, bucking a national trend of fewer births to teenage girls. Wyoming's rate increased twenty-one percent from 42 in 2000 to 51 in 2007, compared to a national decrease of ten percent from 48 in 2000 to 43 in 2007 (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19). Wyoming ranks 37th for this indicator.

The **percent of children in single-parent families** in Wyoming increased at a higher rate than the national average from twenty-five percent in 2000 to twenty-nine percent in 2008, a sixteen percent increase. Nationally, the rate climbed just three percent from thirty-one percent to thirty-two percent over the same nine-year period. Despite this increase, Wyoming's rate is relatively lower than a large majority of states and ranks 12th in the Nation for this indicator in the 2010 National Kids Count Report.