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**2011 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK REVEALS IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON
IDAHO'S CHILDREN**
Gains of the 1990s Lost in Recession

(Boise, ID, Aug. 17, 2011) According to data released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in its 2011 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Idaho ranks 22nd in key indicators of child health and well-being.

Idaho children suffered several setbacks in recent years that are likely linked to the recession:

- The percentage of children living in poverty rose to 18% in 2009, from 16% in 2008.
- The percentage children under 18 in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment rose to 29% in 2009, from 26% in 2008.
- The percentage of teens who are neither in school nor working increased to 9% in 2009 from 8% in 2008.

“We saw such growth in Idaho’s economy in the 1990s and the early part of this century. These data show substantial economic setbacks for Idaho families. The effects of the recession have been greatest for young adults, many of whom have young children. We know that poverty is the greatest risk factor for children and that the negative effects last two to three generations,” said Dr. Harriet Shaklee, Family Development Specialist at the University of Idaho Extension.

The 2011 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reports that between 2000 and 2009, the U.S. child poverty rate rose by 18%, effectively wiping out the gains made on this important measure in the late 1990s. Idaho faces an even more dramatic reversal, as the child poverty rate increased by 29% over the same period.

KIDS COUNT included two new indicators this year to track the impact of the recession -- children impacted by foreclosure and children with at least one unemployed parent. In Idaho, 28,000 or 3% of the state’s children were impacted by foreclosure since 2007. In 2010, an estimated 41,000 or 10% of children in this state lived in households where there was at least one unemployed parent.

Don Reading, Consulting Economist and Vice President of Ben Johnson Associates, remarked, “We tend to think of unemployment and foreclosure as adult problems, but the fact is that the people they affect most are children. And in Idaho, they affect more kids than in most states, because our families are larger. Add to that the cuts in social services for those in need, and you’ve got a double whammy. Add on top of that the cuts in education – an educated workforce is the state’s most powerful economic development tool – and you’ve got a triple whammy – and, I fear, a generation in trouble.”

The *Data Book* also reveals that Idaho's children have not seen the improvements in death rates that the nation has experienced:

- The teen death rate (ages 15-19) increased to 77 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2007, from 67 deaths per 100,000 in 2006. Since 2000, Idaho has seen a 22% increase in this rate. The national rate decreased by 7% during the same period.
- The child death rate (ages 1-14) improved to 22 deaths per 100,000 in 2007 from 29 per 100,000 in 2006. The 2007 rate is the same as it was in 2000, however. The national rate decreased by 14% over this period.

LeAnn Simmons, Executive Director of Idaho Voices for Children, noted, "These data demonstrate the need for a Child Death Review process in Idaho. Every child in Idaho is entitled to be safe and healthy. Recognizing that no single agency or person is solely responsible when a child death occurs, there needs to be a multidisciplinary, multiagency CDR team to identify trends, causes, factors and preventive measures. Idaho is the only state in the nation without a CDR process."

Idaho saw no change in the percent of low birth-weight babies, the infant mortality rate, the teen birth rate, and the high school dropout rate in the most recent years with available data.

In addition to the 10 key measures tracked in the *Data Book*, the KIDS COUNT Data Center provides online access to the latest child well-being data on hundreds of indicators. Users can download the complete *Data Book*, and create interactive maps and graphs.

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data launches at 12:01 a.m. EDT, August 17, 2011 at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>. For interactive Idaho KIDS COUNT data and reports, including the *Small Faces in a Big Recession* series, visit www.idahokidscount.org.

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Idaho KIDS COUNT is a nonprofit organization engaging citizens and policy makers in non-partisan, research-based discussions to improve outcomes for Idaho's children. Idaho KIDS COUNT is a member of the national KIDS COUNT Network, and receives funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Launched in 1994, Idaho KIDS COUNT is a program of Mountain States Group, Inc., a 501(c)3 community resource organization.