



# news

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A Project of  
The Annie E. Casey  
Foundation

## *2011 KIDS COUNT National Fact Sheet*

Baltimore, Md. , Aug. 17, 2011 – The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2011 *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book* shows that since 2000, five of the 10 key indicators of child well-being improved, three indicators got worse, and two areas are not comparable based on the most recent year of data available. Overall improvements in child well-being that began in the late 1990s stalled in the first part of the current decade with family economic well being declining in the wake of the current recession.

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- **Five areas have improved:** the infant mortality rate, child death rate, teen death rate, and teen birth rate; and the percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates.
- **Three areas have worsened:** the percent of babies born low-birthweight, the child poverty rate, and the percent of children living in single-parent families.
- **Two areas are not comparable:** changes made to the American Community Survey’s (ACS) 2008 questionnaire regarding employment affected the ability to track trends for the percent of teens not in school and not working, and the percent of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment. Although comparisons cannot be made back to 2000, both indicators worsened between 2008 and 2009.

**Unemployment and foreclosure are two additional indicators connected to the 2011 *Data Book* message-** In 2010, 11 percent of children had at least one unemployed parent and 4 percent were affected by foreclosure since 2007.

### **The KIDS COUNT Data Center – One-Stop Source for Child Well-Being Data**

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

The 22<sup>nd</sup> *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is complemented by an online Data Center that is regularly updated with hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city information.

Users can access:

- **Popular topics** such as KIDS COUNT overall rankings, the number of children in poverty; and educational attainment.
- **Geographic Profiles** that include education, economic well-being, health, and more.
- **Customizable maps, trend lines, and rankings** for use in publications and presentations.
- **Data** covering large racial and ethnic groups and children in immigrant families.
- **NEW Mobile Site** that provides access to **ALL** Data Center indicators quickly and easily anytime, anywhere at [mobile.kidscount.org](http://mobile.kidscount.org).

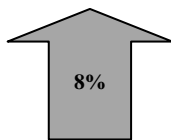
Users who download maps and information from the Data Center to place on their own websites benefit from having that information automatically updated through syndication.

Keep up to date on what’s new with KIDS COUNT by following us on Twitter  
<http://twitter.com/aecfkidscount> and Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/KIDS COUNT>

In the 2011 *Data Book* message, Casey Foundation President and CEO Patrick T. McCarthy emphasizes the importance of preparing America's children for the future by focusing on the economic prospects of families today and investing in early childhood strategies that can improve young children's health, development, and educational success. Six strategies that can help move low-income families onto the pathways of prosperity are: 1) strengthen and modernize unemployment insurance and promoting foreclosure prevention and remediation efforts; 2) preserve and strengthen existing programs that supplement poverty-level wages, offset the high cost of child care, or provide health insurance coverage for parents and children; 3) help families gain financial knowledge and skills; 4) promote responsible parenthood and ensure that mothers-to-be receive prenatal care; 5) ensure that children are developmentally ready to succeed in school; and 6) promote reading proficiency by the end of third grade.

### *10 Measures of Child Well-Being*

#### Percent Change Since 2000

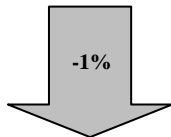


#### **Percent of low-birthweight babies leveled off in 2008.**

Between 2000 and 2008, the percentage of low-birthweight babies (less than 5.5 lbs.) increased from 7.6 percent to 8.2 percent, an increase of 8 percent. However, this is the same rate as 2007 signaling the upward trend may have halted.

***Best rate in 2008: Alaska (6.0 percent)***

***Worst rate in 2008: Mississippi (11.8 percent)***



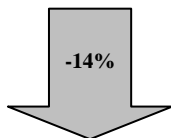
#### **Infant mortality rate has remained relatively stable, after five decades of decline.**

After several decades of constantly falling infant mortality rates, improvements have stalled. The infant mortality rate (6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births) in 2007 is slightly less than the rate of 6.9 seen in 2000. Since the start of the decade, 226,000 babies under the age of 1 have died.

***Best rate in 2007: Washington (4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births)***

***Worst rate in 2007: Mississippi (10 deaths per 1,000 live births)***

**Note: 2008 data were not available by the time this report was released.**



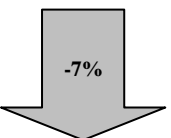
#### **Child death rate continues its downward trend.**

The child death rate continues to improve, with a drop from 22 out of every 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14 in 2000 to 19 deaths per 100,000 in 2007. In 2007, an average of 30 children ages 1 to 14 died each day in the United States.

***Best rate in 2007: Rhode Island (9 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)***

***Worst rate in 2007: Mississippi (34 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)***

**Note: 2008 data were not available by the time this report was released.**



#### **Teen death rate continues to decline.**

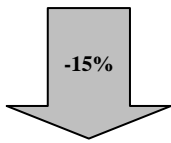
The death rate for youth ages 15 to 19 dropped from 67 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2000 to 62 deaths per 100,000 in 2007. In 2007, 13,229 adolescents ages 15 to 19 died.

***Best rate in 2007: Vermont (35 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)***

***Worst rate in 2007: Alaska (100 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)***

**Note: 2008 data were not available by the time this report was released.**

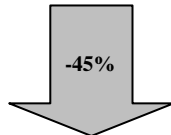
Percent Change  
Since 2000



**Teen birth rate continues to improve.**

After witnessing a two year increase in the teen birth rate, in 2008 the rate declined in line with the long-term trend. Nationally, the teen birth rate fell from 48 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 2000 to 41 births per 1,000 females in this age range in 2008. In 2008, approximately 1,191 births to teens occurred each day.

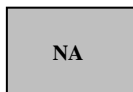
**Best rate in 2008: Massachusetts and New Hampshire (20 births per 1,000 females)**  
**Worst rate in 2008: Mississippi (66 births per 1,000 females)**



**Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates continues to improve.**

The rate of teens not in school and without a high school diploma has declined steadily between 2000 and 2009. The 2009 rate is slightly more than half the rate in 2000 (6 percent compared to 11 percent). In 2009, about 1.1 million teens were not in school and had not graduated from high school.

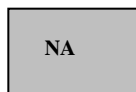
**Best rate in 2009: New Hampshire, New Jersey (3 percent)**  
**Worst rate in 2009: Nevada (11 percent)**



**Nearly one out of 10 teens not attending school and not working.**

In 2009, 9 percent of teens ages 16 to 19, or 1.6 million teens, were neither enrolled in school nor working. There was a 13 percent increase of teens not attending school and not working between 2008 and 2009. **Note:** The 2008 ACS made significant changes to its questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. Due to these changes in methodology, comparisons cannot be made back to 2000 and thus the comparisons were made only between 2008 and 2009.

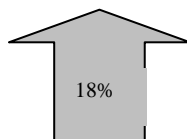
**Best rate in 2009: New Hampshire (5 percent)**  
**Worst rate in 2009: West Virginia (15 percent)**



**Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment increased since 2008.**

In 2009, 31 percent, or 23 million children, lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment. This is 2.9 million more children than in 2008. **Note:** The 2008 ACS made significant changes to its questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. Due to these changes in methodology, comparisons cannot be made back to 2000 and thus comparisons were made only between 2008 and 2009.

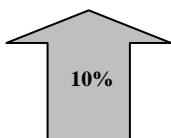
**Best rate in 2009: North Dakota (21 percent)**  
**Worst rate in 2009: Mississippi (39 percent)**



**Children living in poverty increases. In 2009, 14.7 million children lived in poverty.**

The percentage of children living in poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009) increased from 17 in 2000 to 20 percent in 2009. This represents about 2.4 million more children living in households with incomes below the poverty line in 2009 than 2000.

**Best rate in 2009: New Hampshire (11 percent)**  
**Worst rate in 2009: Mississippi (31 percent)**



**Percent of children living in single-parent families rose for the first time since 2005.**

The percent of children living in single-parent families increased from 31 percent in 2000 to 34 percent in 2009. About 23.8 million children lived in single-parent families in 2009; this represents 3.1 million more children than in 2000.

**Best rate in 2009: Utah (18 percent)**  
**Worst rate in 2009: Mississippi (48 percent)**

**Note on data sources:** The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* uses the most up-to-date state level estimates from Federal statistical agencies. The data on the percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates, the percent of teens not attending school and not working, the percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, the percent of children in poverty, and the number of children living in single-parent families come from the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS and reflect conditions in 2009. Data on births and deaths come from the National Center for Health Statistics All birth data reflect events in 2008 and all death data reflect events in 2007.

*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. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Casey Foundation. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).*

*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>. Through the KIDS COUNT Data Center, users can download the complete Data Book, access hundreds of other measures of child well-being, and view real-time information on portable devices.*

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