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News from the 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book
A look at the Well-Being of Kansas Kids

Kansas ranks 13th in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The 2009 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that since 2000, Kansas improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being, experienced four setbacks, and saw no change on two indicators. The 20th annual *Data Book* also contains the Annie E. Casey Foundation's essay that takes stock of the country's progress in keeping track of children's well-being.

This year's *Data Book* is complemented by the expanded KIDS COUNT Data Center that contains hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city information. To access information for Kansas go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ks>.

Kansas continues to see improvement in child and teen death rates.

Since 2000, the child death rate (ages 1-14) in Kansas has improved by 16% and the teen death rate (ages 15-19) has seen a 19% improvement. In 2000, the child death rate in Kansas was 25 deaths per 100,000 children and the teen death rate was 78 deaths per 100,000 teens. These indicators improved in 2006 to a rate of 21 per 100,000 and 63 per 100,000, respectively.

Kansas childhood poverty rate has increased 25% since 2000.

In 2000, 12% of Kansas children were growing up in poverty. In 2007 the rate of Kansas children living in poverty was 15%, totaling nearly 100,000 children.

Infant mortality rate improves slightly, but remains above national average.

In 2006, the state's infant mortality rate was 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, a slight improvement from the 2005 rate of 7.4. However, the infant mortality rate in Kansas has worsened since 2000 when the state had a rate of 6.8. Furthermore, the current infant mortality rate is above the national rate of 6.7.

Kansas ranks within top ten in four categories nationally.

Nationally, Kansas ranks 3rd lowest in its percentage of high school dropouts, 4th in percentage of secure parental employment, and 7th in percentage of idle teens, and 7th in percentage of children living in single-parent families.