

Highlights from the 2007 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book

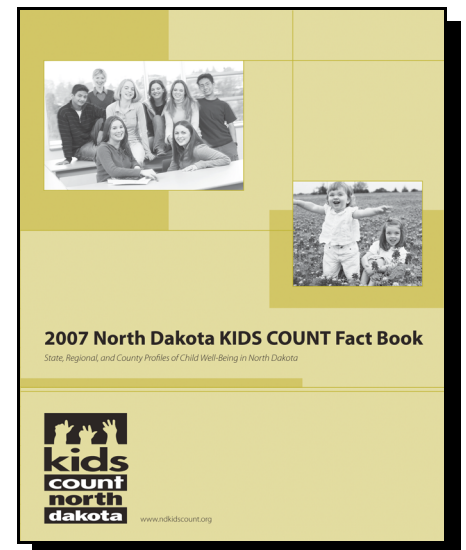


The 2007 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* marks the 13th annual publication produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program, part of a 50-state network founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to collect information about the status of children in communities across the United States. Data included in the annual *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* cover issues affecting children from birth through adolescence and are widely used by a variety of audiences in planning, needs assessments, and grant writing activities on behalf of North Dakota children. *Fact Book* data offer a road map to better understand the challenges facing North Dakota children in the communities where they live, and quantify the numbers of children affected by respective areas of concern.

The 2007 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* provides state, regional, and county profiles based on seven categories of data representing multiple indicators of child health and well-being. In addition to accessing this full publication online at www.ndkidscount.org, interactive access to North Dakota's indicators is available through the Casey Foundation's CLIKS (Community-Level Information on Kids) website, www.kidscount.org/cliks. CLIKS offers historical trends, profiles, graphs, maps and rankings for North Dakota, as well as data for other participating states.

North Dakota consistently ranks better than other state averages on many child health and well-being indicators. When compared to other states, North Dakota has the lowest percentage of teens who are not attending school and not working, the second lowest percentage of children in single-parent families, the fourth lowest percentage of teens who are high school dropouts, and the sixth lowest percentage of children living in families where no parent has full-time/year-round employment. The *Fact Book*, however, raises some important issues concerning the well-being of North Dakota's children. Some key findings include:

- Despite the fact that the majority of North Dakota children continue to live with both parents, the proportion of children living with a single parent rose from 14 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 2000 and 21 percent in 2005. This is cause for concern because, according to the 2005 American Community Survey, the poverty rate for North Dakota children living with a single mother (50 percent) was approximately 11 times the rate for children living with two parents (4 percent).
- In 2006, North Dakota reported 1,624 licensed child-care programs. Large centers and group child care facilities comprised 13.6 percent of these programs. A recent analysis conducted by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral concluded that North Dakota is among the top 10 states with the best child care center health, safety, and learning standards. However, North Dakota does not rank as well in terms of oversight, largely due to the fact that there are no educational or experience requirements for child care center teachers.
- Composite scores for 2006 North Dakota public high school graduates taking the ACT averaged 21.4 out of a possible 36, slightly higher than the national average of 21.1. Beyond the overall composite ACT score, ACT, Inc., has developed benchmarks to measure what it takes to be successful in standard first-year college courses in areas of English, math, reading, and science. Based on these benchmarks, 70 percent of the 2006 ACT-tested North Dakota high school graduates were ready for college English, 47 percent were ready for college math, 55 percent were ready for college reading, and 30 percent were ready for college science. Altogether, 23 percent were ready for all four courses, a proportion that has remained relatively unchanged over the past several years.



The 2007 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* is available in electronic format only, and can be accessed for viewing or printing at www.ndkidscount.org. For more information regarding North Dakota KIDS COUNT, please contact Richard Rathge, Executive Director, at (701) 231-8621 or richard.rathge@ndsu.edu - or Helen Danielson, Coordinator, at (701) 231-5931 or ndkidscount@yahoo.com - or visit the North Dakota KIDS COUNT website at www.ndkidscount.org.

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Table 1. Selected Indicators from the 2007 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book

Source: North Dakota KIDS COUNT, 2007 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book. For definitions and data sources, see www.ndkidscount.org/factbook.htm

Area	Total Children Ages 0 to 17: 2005		Children Living with Single Parent: 2000		Average ACT Composite Score: 2005-06 Academic Year	Licensed Child Care: February 2006		
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 in 2000		Number of Providers	Total Capacity	
							Number	Percent of Children Ages 0 to 13 in 2005
North Dakota	137,998	21.7	30,695	19.1	21.4	1,624	33,458	32.6
Adams	401	16.5	97	16.1	19.2	8	127	44.6
Barnes	2,146	19.4	477	18.2	21.5	21	434	28.1
Benson	2,244	32.1	860	34.2	17.1	9	97	5.6
Billings	140	17.2	11	5.0	--	0	0	0.0
Bottineau	1,228	18.2	191	12.0	21.8	17	206	24.5
Bowman	558	18.3	80	10.3	22.0	4	58	14.4
Burke	341	16.8	75	16.1	19.3	2	36	14.2
Burleigh	15,524	21.0	3,297	19.2	21.8	203	4,391	37.6
Cass	28,066	21.4	5,529	19.2	22.7	409	9,715	45.3
Cavalier	806	18.6	120	10.1	20.6	7	134	24.0
Dickey	1,211	22.1	198	14.5	21.3	20	311	34.3
Divide	327	15.2	59	12.8	23.2	4	84	37.0
Dunn	716	20.8	172	17.4	20.1	2	54	10.4
Eddy	489	18.6	90	13.8	20.2	8	110	29.6
Emmons	757	19.7	126	11.7	19.8	11	153	27.1
Foster	763	21.3	125	12.7	19.7	6	126	22.3
Golden Valley	383	22.0	78	14.3	19.9	5	79	29.9
Grand Forks	14,843	22.5	3,298	21.0	22.0	160	4,575	44.5
Grant	420	16.1	65	9.8	--	6	95	32.1
Griggs	429	17.2	58	9.3	21.3	6	104	33.2
Hettinger	412	16.6	71	11.2	21.3	4	66	23.2
Kidder	447	18.0	81	12.7	18.9	2	36	10.9
LaMoure	824	18.8	130	11.4	21.0	9	138	22.9
Logan	381	18.5	31	5.9	18.3	5	70	24.5
McHenry	1,040	18.9	209	14.6	20.8	14	225	29.5
McIntosh	465	15.4	86	13.1	20.4	6	82	24.4
McKenzie	1,329	23.8	394	22.4	20.1	7	100	10.4
McLean	1,578	18.3	340	15.4	21.1	9	120	10.5
Mercer	1,719	20.6	298	11.9	21.7	10	162	13.7
Morton	5,661	22.2	1,338	19.6	21.2	64	1,200	27.8
Mountrail	1,557	23.9	498	26.8	19.0	17	264	22.2
Nelson	543	15.9	104	12.7	21.0	8	119	31.1
Oliver	367	20.2	78	13.8	19.9	2	35	13.6
Pembina	1,516	18.9	283	13.2	20.9	12	306	27.8
Pierce	872	20.3	183	16.4	21.5	6	132	20.1
Ramsey	2,540	22.2	727	24.1	21.4	42	1,091	58.0
Ransom	1,183	20.4	197	13.4	21.2	8	127	14.0
Renville	441	18.2	89	14.6	21.5	7	152	46.8
Richland	3,939	22.7	693	15.6	20.9	60	1,110	40.2
Rolette	4,355	31.4	1,990	39.9	17.7	35	291	8.7
Sargent	904	21.8	158	13.7	21.4	10	136	20.1
Sheridan	218	15.2	42	11.5	22.3	2	30	20.1
Sioux	1,487	35.6	576	35.3	16.8	1	13	1.1
Slope	138	19.5	21	10.8	--	0	0	0.0
Stark	4,719	21.4	990	17.1	21.5	81	1,016	29.6
Steele	404	20.1	72	11.5	19.6	0	0	0.0
Stutsman	4,042	19.4	991	19.8	21.4	53	964	33.0
Towner	453	17.8	94	13.3	18.8	5	106	34.1
Traill	1,727	20.8	301	14.3	21.5	14	317	25.4
Walsh	2,384	20.5	563	18.2	20.6	25	404	22.4
Ward	13,622	24.4	2,816	18.3	21.8	152	3,108	29.2
Wells	800	17.5	151	13.1	19.9	6	116	20.4
Williams	4,139	21.5	1,094	21.2	21.5	40	533	17.5

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North Dakota continues to rank well nationally in child well-being, yet areas of concern exist

According to the national KIDS COUNT program, North Dakota ranks 8th best in the nation on child well-being indicators. This high ranking is largely due to low rates in the following areas: idle teens; children living in single-parent families; high school dropouts; children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment; and low-birthweight babies. "Every year since the KIDS COUNT program research began, North Dakota has ranked in the top 10 states. Despite the high national ranking, challenges do exist for children and families throughout the state," said Richard Rathge, Executive Director of North Dakota KIDS COUNT.

This month's edition of the "Population Bulletin," released from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, presents selected indicators from the 2007 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* (available at www.ndkidscount.org). The 2007 *Fact Book* marks the 13th annual publication produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program, part of a nationwide network founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to collect information about the status of children. Data included in the annual *Fact Book* cover issues affecting children from birth through adolescence and offer a road map to better understand the challenges facing North Dakota's children. Some key findings include:

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