Highlights from the 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book*

The 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* marks the 16th annual publication produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program, part of a 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 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* provides state, regional, and county profiles based on six categories of data representing multiple indicators of child well-being. In addition to accessing the *Fact Book* publications online at http://www.ndkidscount.org, interactive access to North Dakota's *Fact Book* indicators is available through the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center at, http://datacenter/kidscount.org/. The KIDS COUNT Data Center offers historical trends, profiles, graphs, maps, and rankings for North Dakota, as well as data for other participating states.

According to the national KIDS COUNT program, North Dakota slipped from its typical spot among the top 10 states with respect to child well-being to a ranking of 12th among all states nationwide. Areas of concern include North Dakota's teen death rate (only six states reported higher rates in 2007), the infant death rate (17th highest rate in 2007), a rising high school dropout rate, and a child poverty rate which has not improved over the past several years.
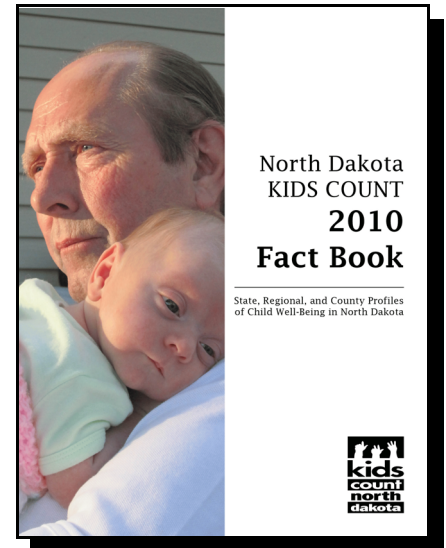
Areas in which North Dakota continues to rank well include the 3rd lowest percentage of children in single-parent families and the 3rd lowest percentage of children without secure parental employment. North Dakota has the 4th lowest percentage of low-birthweight babies and the 8th lowest share of teens who are not in school and not working.

The newly released 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* helps provide insight into where the greatest concerns are for children throughout North Dakota - through county level data as well as through data aggregated for the eight planning regions in the state.

Of particular concern is Planning Region I, which is located in the northwest part of North Dakota (i.e., Divide, McKenzie, and Williams counties combined). Children in this part of the state have the largest high school dropout rate (6 percent in 2008-09, which is up from 1 percent in 2000-01), the largest rate of youth being referred to juvenile court (12 percent in 2009, which is up from 8 percent in 2000), and the largest rate of children suspected of being abused and neglected (7 percent in 2009, which is up from 4 percent in 2000).

North Dakota KIDS COUNT 2010 Fact Book

State, Regional, and County Profiles of Child Well-Being in North Dakota

kids count north dakota

Poverty continues to be an issue for children in North Dakota. Native American Indian reservations are the most affected by high rates of child poverty. For example, in Sioux County, which includes part of the Standing Rock Reservation, one out of every two children was impoverished in 2008 (53 percent) – the 6th highest child poverty rate in the nation (when ranked among all counties nationwide).

The 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* is available in electronic format only, and can be accessed for viewing or printing at http://www.ndkidscount.org. For more information regarding North Dakota KIDS COUNT, please contact Polly Fassinger, Program Director, at (701) 231-5931 and fassinge@cord.edu - or Helen Danielson, Network Coordinator, at (701) 231-5931 and ndkidscount@yahoo.com - or visit the North Dakota KIDS COUNT website at http://www.ndkidscount.org.

Table 1. Selected Indicators from the 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book*

Note: Definitions are included in the 2010 Fact Book publication available online at http://www.ndkidscount.org/publications.php. *This indicator reflects dropout events during a given school year; it does not reflect the success rate for high school students, or the proportion of students who actually graduate four years after they begin high school. Source: North Dakota KIDS COUNT, 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book*.

Area	Total Children Ages 0 to 17: 2008 Number	% of Total Population	High School Dropouts*: 2007-08 Number	Percent of Grade 9-12 Enrollment	Juveniles Ages 10 to 17 Referred to Court: 2009 Number	Percent of Children Ages 10 to 17	Suspected Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect: 2009 Number	Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17	Children Ages 0 to 17 Below Poverty: 2008 Number	Percent of Children Ages 0 to17
North Dakota	143,048	22.3%	775	2.4%	5,784	9.0%	6,944	4.9%	20,023	14.2%
Adams	390	17.4%	0	0.0%	11	5.0%	8	2.1%	55	14.2%
Barnes	2,047	19.2%	2	0.4%	80	8.1%	77	3.8%	238	11.7%
Benson	2,313	33.3%	20	5.0%	9	0.9%	16	0.7%	866	38.7%
Billings	147	18.1%	0	0.0%	5	7.0%	1	0.7%	29	20.0%
Bottineau	1,127	17.8%	0	0.0%	59	10.3%	41	3.6%	154	13.8%
Bowman	576	19.1%	0	0.0%	25	9.4%	45	7.8%	66	11.5%
Burke	335	18.4%	0	0.0%	3	1.6%	12	3.6%	45	13.4%
Burleigh	17,111	21.7%	74	1.9%	912	12.1%	890	5.2%	1,852	11.0%
Cass	31,914	22.8%	173	2.7%	1,349	10.2%	1,573	4.9%	3,102	9.8%
Cavalier	670	17.4%	2	1.0%	21	5.6%	10	1.5%	108	16.2%
Dickey	1,154	22.0%	0	0.0%	29	5.6%	43	3.7%	179	15.7%
Divide	300	15.1%	0	0.0%	12	7.8%	34	11.3%	47	15.8%
Dunn	699	21.1%	0	0.0%	22	5.7%	13	1.9%	133	19.1%
Eddy	466	19.5%	0	0.0%	18	7.4%	22	4.7%	76	16.4%
Emmons	666	19.7%	1	0.4%	21	5.2%	30	4.5%	143	21.6%
Foster	717	20.8%	2	1.0%	22	6.0%	12	1.7%	71	10.0%
Golden Valley	392	23.9%	0	0.0%	15	5.8%	7	1.8%	71	22.2%
Grand Forks	14,308	21.5%	40	1.4%	549	8.9%	832	5.8%	2,121	15.0%
Grant	417	17.3%	0	0.0%	19	7.4%	21	5.0%	132	35.5%
Griggs	405	17.2%	0	0.0%	4	1.8%	10	2.5%	54	13.4%
Hettinger	364	15.3%	0	0.0%	6	2.9%	5	1.4%	59	16.2%
Kidder	416	18.2%	1	0.8%	14	6.9%	31	7.5%	97	23.4%
LaMoure	755	18.9%	2	1.0%	24	6.2%	21	2.8%	112	15.0%
Logan	349	18.0%	0	0.0%	15	7.7%	12	3.4%	69	19.8%
McHenry	1,008	19.5%	0	0.0%	16	3.3%	57	5.7%	195	19.5%
McIntosh	408	15.5%	1	0.8%	9	4.2%	16	3.9%	75	18.4%
McKenzie	1,303	23.0%	9	3.6%	36	5.4%	36	2.8%	272	21.1%
McLean	1,519	18.2%	21	4.2%	54	6.9%	11	0.7%	248	16.4%
Mercer	1,548	19.7%	2	0.4%	59	6.8%	18	1.2%	125	8.2%
Morton	6,164	23.5%	51	3.8%	319	11.0%	463	7.5%	795	13.2%
Mountrail	1,705	26.2%	10	2.5%	14	1.9%	39	2.3%	347	20.5%
Nelson	488	15.4%	1	0.6%	24	9.4%	20	4.1%	73	15.2%
Oliver	307	18.1%	1	1.3%	7	3.7%	7	2.3%	51	16.7%
Pembina	1,414	19.1%	12	3.0%	69	9.6%	38	2.7%	160	11.4%
Pierce	803	19.6%	1	0.4%	13	3.1%	15	1.9%	140	17.5%
Ramsey	2,575	22.9%	2	0.3%	195	16.3%	166	6.4%	462	18.2%
Ransom	1,223	21.7%	2	0.6%	29	4.9%	12	1.0%	149	12.3%
Renville	396	17.6%	0	0.0%	6	2.8%	22	5.6%	41	10.4%
Richland	3,604	22.1%	13	1.6%	113	6.6%	101	2.8%	352	9.9%
Rolette	4,584	33.6%	86	8.7%	97	5.0%	100	2.2%	1,552	34.5%
Sargent	861	21.3%	0	0.0%	24	5.2%	13	1.5%	64	7.5%
Sheridan	170	13.4%	2	3.5%	6	5.3%	3	1.8%	46	27.5%
Sioux	1,499	35.4%	12	4.2%	2	0.3%	7	0.5%	778	53.3%
Slope	118	17.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	12.7%
Stark	4,864	21.5%	22	1.7%	167	7.5%	322	6.6%	579	12.1%
Steele	344	19.2%	1	0.7%	15	6.8%	5	1.5%	40	11.9%
Stutsman	3,885	19.0%	30	3.2%	237	12.8%	204	5.3%	519	13.7%
Towner	351	15.9%	3	3.0%	11	4.8%	9	2.6%	49	14.2%
Traill	1,676	21.4%	6	1.2%	55	6.8%	46	2.7%	150	9.0%
Walsh	2,343	21.5%	13	2.3%	101	9.2%	168	7.2%	320	13.9%
Ward	14,802	26.4%	83	3.0%	533	8.6%	922	6.2%	1,902	13.1%
Wells	715	17.1%	3	1.4%	31	7.9%	25	3.5%	100	14.1%
Williams	4,333	21.8%	71	6.5%	298	15.0%	333	7.7%	548	12.8%

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Opportunities for Improving ND Child Well-Being Exist Amidst Strong Economy

According to the national KIDS COUNT program, North Dakota ranks twelfth best in the nation on child well-being indicators, slipping from its typical spot among the top 10 states nationwide. Areas of concern focus on North Dakota's teen death rate (only six states reported higher rates in 2007), the infant death rate (17th highest rate in 2007), a rising high school dropout rate, and a child poverty rate which has not improved over the past several years.

"These comparative rankings provide us an opportunity to compare our performance on child well-being indicators relative to other states. Dropping below the top 10 in the nation should motivate us to examine our priorities and reassess how we can improve the lives of our children," said Richard Rathge, Policy Analyst at North Dakota KIDS COUNT.

Areas in which North Dakota continues to rank well, according to the national KID COUNT program, include the third lowest percentage of children in single-parent families and the third lowest percentage of children without secure parental employment among all fifty states. North Dakota has the fourth lowest percentage of low-birthweight babies and the eighth lowest share of teens who are not in school and not working.

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 2010 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* (available at http://www.ndkidscount.org). The 2010 edition marks the 16th year the publication has been produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program. The program is part of a nationwide network founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to collect information about the status of children.

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Of particular concern is Planning Region I, which is located in the northwest part of the North Dakota (i.e., Divide, McKenzie, and Williams counties combined). Children in this part of the state have the largest high school dropout rate (6 percent in 2008-09, which is up from 1 percent in 2000-01), the largest rate of youth being referred to juvenile court (12 percent in 2009, which is up from 8 percent in 2000), and the largest rate of children suspected of being abused and neglected (7 percent in 2009, which is up from 4 percent in 2000).

Poverty continues to be an issue for children in North Dakota. Native American Indian reservations are the most affected by high rates of child poverty. For example, in Sioux County, which includes part of the Standing Rock Reservation, one out of every two children was impoverished in 2008 (53 percent) – the 6th highest child poverty rate in the nation (when ranked among all counties nationwide).

Data included in the annual publication cover issues affecting children from birth through adolescence and offer a road map to better understand the challenges facing North Dakota's children.

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