

Highlights from the 2011 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book



The 2011 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* marks the 17th 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 2011 *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.

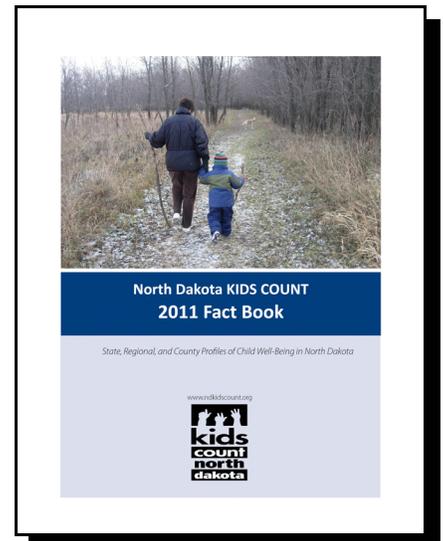
According to the national KIDS COUNT program, North Dakota regained its typical spot among the top 10 states with respect to child well-being, ranking 10th among all states in 2011. Specifically, North Dakota had the 3rd lowest percentage of children in single-parent families (even though the percentage did increase since 2000) and the lowest percentage of children without secure parental employment (21 percent in 2009).

The recently released 2011 *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 3, which includes the Turtle Mountain and Spirit Lake Indian reservations (i.e., Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, and Towner counties combined). Children in this part of the state face many challenges including the highest teen birth rate among the state's eight planning regions (by 6 percentage points); the highest proportion of children living in single parent families; the highest poverty rate (by at least 15 percentage points); the lowest median family income; the highest proportion of children receiving TANF, free or reduced price lunch, SNAP, and child care assistance; the lowest ACT scores (just 1 in 10 high school graduates are ready for college courses); the highest high school dropout rate (tied with Region 1); the highest proportion of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care (by 8 percentage points); the second highest rate of newborns who failed a hearing screening (second to Region 1); and the highest rate of teens who are not in school, not high school graduates, and not in the labor force (twice the rate from a decade ago).

While North Dakota's overall child poverty rate ranks well nationally (5th lowest in 2009 among states), poverty continues to be an issue for many 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, 1 in 2 children was impoverished in 2009 (53 percent). Eight counties in the state had poverty rates of more than 30 percent in 2009.

The 2011 *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>.



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Table 1. Selected Indicators from the 2011 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book

Notes: Definitions are included in the 2011 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book available online at <http://www.ndkidscount.org/publications.php>. “–” indicates that no data are available.

Source: North Dakota KIDS COUNT, 2011 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book.

| Area | Total Children Ages 0 to 17: 2009 | | Children Living in Single-Parent Families: 2009 | | % of High School Graduates Ready for College English, Math, Reading, and Science, 2010 | High School Dropouts: 2009-2010 | | Children Ages 0 to 17 Below Poverty: 2009 | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total Population | Number | % of Children Ages 0 to 17 | | Number | % of Grade 9-12 Enrollment | Number | % of Children Ages 0 to 17 |
| North Dakota | 143,971 | 22.3% | 30,058 | 21.0% | 24.0% | 701 | 2.2% | 19,933 | 14.2% |
| Adams | 405 | 18.1% | 64 | 15.2% | 25.9% | 1 | 1.0% | 53 | 12.8% |
| Barnes | 2,198 | 20.4% | 578 | 26.0% | 23.5% | 2 | 0.4% | 265 | 12.1% |
| Benson | 2,306 | 33.4% | 797 | 34.1% | 5.2% | 12 | 3.1% | 992 | 44.3% |
| Billings | 154 | 18.6% | 0 | 0.0% | -- | 0 | 0.0% | 26 | 13.9% |
| Bottineau | 1,241 | 19.5% | 171 | 14.6% | 22.0% | 1 | 0.3% | 211 | 18.2% |
| Bowman | 658 | 21.7% | 92 | 15.4% | 15.2% | 1 | 0.6% | 32 | 5.5% |
| Burke | 364 | 19.8% | 48 | 12.5% | 26.7% | 0 | 0.0% | 49 | 12.9% |
| Burleigh | 17,597 | 22.0% | 3,643 | 21.3% | 25.2% | 49 | 1.3% | 2,004 | 11.9% |
| Cass | 31,086 | 21.7% | 6,928 | 23.1% | 29.5% | 145 | 2.2% | 3,271 | 11.0% |
| Cavalier | 716 | 19.4% | 127 | 16.3% | 15.9% | 6 | 3.0% | 112 | 14.4% |
| Dickey | 1,152 | 22.1% | 103 | 8.2% | 15.8% | 1 | 0.4% | 91 | 7.4% |
| Divide | 343 | 17.5% | 78 | 25.0% | 30.4% | 0 | 0.0% | 115 | 37.5% |
| Dunn | 773 | 23.0% | 171 | 21.1% | 16.7% | 1 | 0.6% | 85 | 10.5% |
| Eddy | 465 | 20.3% | 117 | 18.9% | 12.5% | 1 | 0.9% | 119 | 19.5% |
| Emmons | 718 | 21.1% | 102 | 13.2% | 16.7% | 1 | 0.4% | 157 | 20.9% |
| Foster | 718 | 22.0% | 108 | 15.7% | 25.0% | 1 | 0.5% | 32 | 4.7% |
| Golden Valley | 397 | 24.5% | 77 | 22.4% | 22.2% | 1 | 0.7% | 61 | 18.1% |
| Grand Forks | 13,162 | 19.8% | 2,959 | 21.9% | 32.6% | 35 | 1.3% | 2,104 | 16.0% |
| Grant | 440 | 18.8% | 63 | 12.1% | -- | 0 | 0.0% | 48 | 13.7% |
| Griggs | 403 | 17.2% | 48 | 12.7% | 35.3% | 2 | 1.6% | 57 | 15.2% |
| Hettinger | 411 | 17.5% | 50 | 11.8% | 34.5% | 1 | 0.8% | 47 | 11.2% |
| Kidder | 464 | 21.1% | 133 | 29.1% | 26.7% | 2 | 1.4% | 159 | 35.6% |
| LaMoure | 817 | 20.9% | 71 | 8.4% | 21.2% | 1 | 0.5% | 32 | 3.8% |
| Logan | 372 | 19.7% | 67 | 16.9% | 20.0% | 1 | 0.9% | 16 | 4.0% |
| McHenry | 1,130 | 21.8% | 264 | 22.8% | 20.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 207 | 18.1% |
| McIntosh | 441 | 17.1% | 89 | 18.7% | 18.5% | 1 | 0.8% | 40 | 8.5% |
| McKenzie | 1,451 | 25.0% | 340 | 23.8% | 15.8% | 9 | 3.6% | 248 | 17.8% |
| McLean | 1,644 | 19.8% | 242 | 14.6% | 20.8% | 10 | 2.0% | 230 | 14.1% |
| Mercer | 1,690 | 21.5% | 180 | 10.1% | 27.8% | 7 | 1.5% | 232 | 13.0% |
| Morton | 6,443 | 24.3% | 1,145 | 18.2% | 26.9% | 72 | 5.2% | 739 | 12.0% |
| Mountrail | 1,871 | 27.6% | 492 | 28.1% | 5.9% | 8 | 1.9% | 526 | 30.2% |
| Nelson | 538 | 17.2% | 107 | 17.5% | 23.5% | 0 | 0.0% | 81 | 13.3% |
| Oliver | 347 | 21.1% | 35 | 10.2% | 23.5% | 0 | 0.0% | 55 | 16.9% |
| Pembina | 1,524 | 20.6% | 289 | 18.0% | 22.2% | 6 | 1.6% | 150 | 9.4% |
| Pierce | 858 | 21.5% | 96 | 10.7% | 27.5% | 0 | 0.0% | 89 | 9.9% |
| Ramsey | 2,555 | 22.7% | 667 | 25.5% | 16.4% | 6 | 0.9% | 296 | 12.1% |
| Ransom | 1,279 | 23.3% | 236 | 17.8% | 21.4% | 4 | 1.3% | 139 | 10.6% |
| Renville | 465 | 20.9% | 61 | 13.4% | 14.3% | 3 | 1.6% | 19 | 4.2% |
| Richland | 3,681 | 22.9% | 594 | 15.5% | 22.1% | 19 | 2.5% | 379 | 10.1% |
| Rolette | 4,675 | 33.9% | 1,808 | 38.9% | 7.9% | 82 | 8.3% | 1,716 | 38.7% |
| Sargent | 907 | 23.0% | 212 | 22.6% | 18.2% | 1 | 0.4% | 112 | 12.0% |
| Sheridan | 180 | 14.7% | 17 | 10.5% | 35.7% | 0 | 0.0% | 59 | 38.1% |
| Sioux | 1,527 | 36.3% | 478 | 31.5% | -- | 16 | 5.4% | 784 | 53.3% |
| Slope | 107 | 16.5% | 39 | 23.9% | -- | 0 | 0.0% | 20 | 12.3% |
| Stark | 4,956 | 21.7% | 888 | 18.4% | 22.0% | 16 | 1.3% | 547 | 11.6% |
| Steele | 373 | 21.4% | 64 | 14.0% | 18.5% | 1 | 0.7% | 8 | 1.8% |
| Stutsman | 4,132 | 20.2% | 851 | 20.0% | 25.3% | 32 | 3.4% | 571 | 13.6% |
| Towner | 412 | 18.7% | 114 | 28.3% | 13.0% | 1 | 1.0% | 54 | 13.4% |
| Traill | 1,757 | 22.3% | 200 | 11.1% | 23.0% | 3 | 0.7% | 173 | 9.8% |
| Walsh | 2,449 | 22.7% | 574 | 22.8% | 18.2% | 6 | 1.1% | 300 | 11.9% |
| Ward | 13,639 | 23.9% | 2,283 | 16.9% | 22.2% | 78 | 2.7% | 1,288 | 9.7% |
| Wells | 755 | 18.5% | 129 | 14.8% | 20.0% | 2 | 1.0% | 273 | 32.1% |
| Williams | 4,825 | 23.6% | 969 | 21.6% | 30.3% | 53 | 4.9% | 460 | 10.4% |

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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 tenth best in the nation on child well-being indicators. Areas in which North Dakota ranks well, according to the national KID COUNT program, include the third lowest percentage of children in single-parent families (even though the percentage did increase since 2000) and the lowest percentage of children without secure parental employment (21 percent in 2009).

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 2011 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* (available at <http://www.ndkidscount.org>). The 2011 edition marks the 17th year the publication has been produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program. The program is part of a nationwide network funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to collect information about the status of children.

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Of particular concern is Planning Region 3, which includes the Turtle Mountain and Spirit Lake Indian reservations (i.e., Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, and Towner counties combined). Children in this part of the state face many challenges including the highest teen birth rate among the state's eight planning regions (by 6 percentage points); the highest proportion of children living in single-parent families; the highest poverty rate (by at least 15 percentage points); the lowest median family income; the highest proportion of children receiving TANF, free or reduced price lunch, SNAP, and child care assistance; the lowest ACT scores (barely 1 in 10 high school graduates are ready for college courses); the highest high school dropout rate (tied with Region 1); the highest proportion of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care (by 8 percentage points); the second highest rate of newborns who failed a hearing screening (second to Region 1); and the highest rate of teens who are not in school, not high school graduates, and not in the labor force (twice the rate from a decade ago).

"An important contribution of the KIDS COUNT data is that it provides civic leaders and policy makers an objective tool to assess where the greatest needs are within the state. These data provide a compelling case that Region 3 is one of those areas," said Richard Rathge, Director of the North Dakota State Data Center and Policy Analyst for North Dakota KIDS COUNT.

While North Dakota's overall child poverty rate ranks well nationally (fifth lowest in 2009 among states), poverty continues to be an issue for many children in North Dakota. Native American Indian reservations were the most affected by high rates of child poverty. For example, in Sioux County, which includes part of the Standing Rock Reservation, 1 in 2 children was impoverished in 2009 (53 percent). Eight counties in the state had poverty rates of more than 30 percent in 2009.

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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