

Is Child Well-Being Improving in North Dakota?

A 2009 Analysis



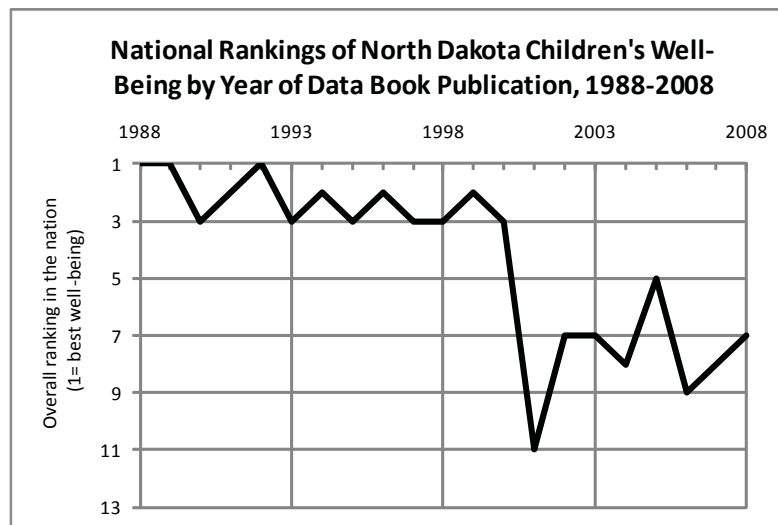
North Dakota Ranks 47th in Nation for Improvements in Child Well-Being

Every five years, the national Kids Count program publishes an assessment of how children's well-being has improved across time in the United States. In 2009, O'Hare and Lamb conducted this examination of trends in improvement from 1990-1995, 1995-2000, and 2000-2005. Their

2009 report indicates that, with respect to the 10 measures of child well-being investigated, North Dakota ranks near the bottom of the nation with respect to improvements in child well-being during each of these time periods.

The 10 measures of child well-being used to rank states consider a wide variety of factors, such as health, economic security, and educational attainment. They also reflect children's experiences across developmental stages, from birth to early adulthood. These 10 indicators are ones that permit Kids Count to make comparisons across states and over time.

Since 1988, annual analyses by the national Kids Count organization have almost always ranked North Dakota in the top 10 states with regard to children's well-being (see figure on this page). However, O'Hare and Lamb have noted that our state's rankings, and our children's well-being, have declined over the years.



From 2000-2005, child well-being improved by 5% across the nation, with the majority of states (N=32) showing improvement in child well-being. Connecticut and Maryland showed the greatest increases in child well-being (12% each). However, during this same time period, child well-being in North Dakota *declined* by 13%

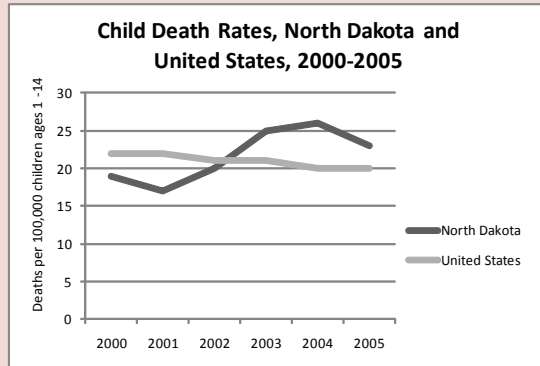
overall, including declines in 5 of the 10 indicators studied. As a result, we rank 47th in the nation with regard to improvement in child well-being since 2000.

The well-being of North Dakota children declined by 13% from 2000-2005.



North Dakota Children's Well-Being: Declining

Some declines in well-being

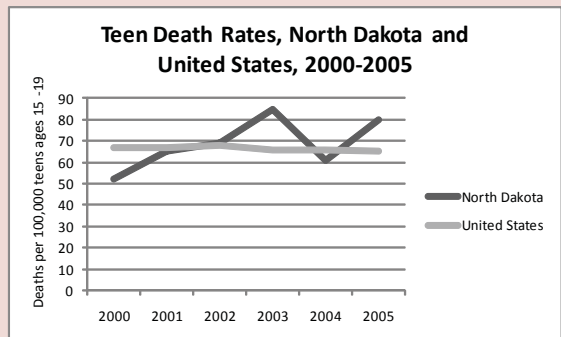


Child Death Rate

The child death rate in North Dakota increased from 19 deaths per every 100,000 children ages 1-14 in 2000 to 26 per 100,000 children in 2004. This rate declined to 23 per 100,000 in 2005. The change from 2000 to 2005 amounted to a 21% increase in the child death rate for our state. In the U.S., the child death rate actually improved by 9% over this time period.

Teen Death Rate

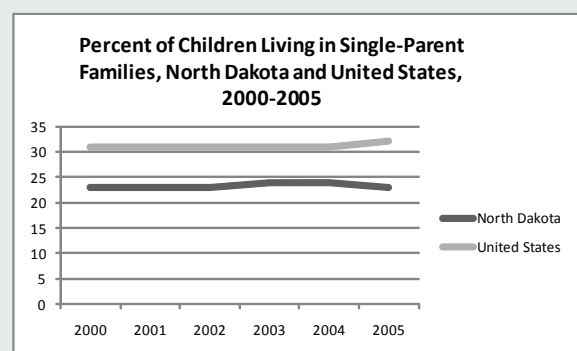
From 2000-2003, the North Dakota teen death rate rose from 52 teen deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19 to 85 deaths per 100,000 teens. This rate declined to 80 deaths per 100,000 in 2005. The North Dakota teen death rate was 54% higher in 2005 than it was in 2000. In the U.S., the teen death rate improved by 3% during this time period.



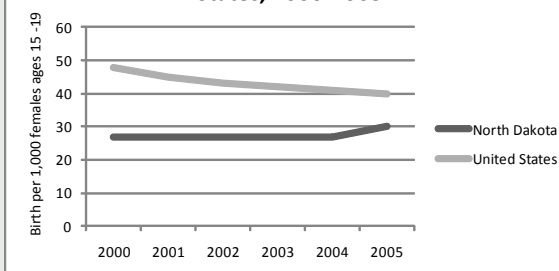
Some areas of little change in well-being

Percent of children in single-parent families

The percentage of North Dakota children who live in single-parent families hovered between 23-24% from 2000 through 2005. Living in a single-parent family is an important indicator of child well-being because single-parent families often have access to fewer resources, such as income and health care.



Teen Birth Rate, North Dakota and United States, 2000-2005



Teen Birth Rate

North Dakota's teen birth rate remained stable from 2000-2004, at 27 births per every 1,000 females ages 15-19. In 2005, this rate grew to 30 per 1,000 females ages 15-19. From 2000-2005, the teen birth rate declined by 17% in the U.S.