

North Dakota Kids: A National Comparison

Highlights from the
National 2010 "KIDS COUNT Data Book"



Opportunities for Improvements in Child Well-Being

Each year, the national KIDS COUNT program publishes an assessment of children's well-being in the United States. Since 1988 the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book has indicated that, with respect to the 10 measures of child well-being investigated, children often do well in the state of North Dakota in comparison with other states.

The 10 measures 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. These 10 indicators permit KIDS COUNT to make comparisons across states and over time.

According to the 2010 Data Book, North Dakota ranks in the top 10 in the nation with respect to 5 of the 10

measures of well-being: low percent of single-parent families, low percent of low birthweight babies, low percent of teens not in school and not working, low percent of children whose parents do not have secure employment, and our low teen birth rate.

However, North Dakota ranks in the bottom half of all states with respect to our infant mortality rate and teen death rate. While the North Dakota infant mortality rate has declined since 2000, our rate remains above the national average. North Dakota went from 14th in the nation to 31st in the nation in infant mortality, according to the 2010 Data Book. Also, we slipped from 11th in the nation to 18th in the nation with respect to our child poverty rates. Clearly these are areas for improvement in child well-being in North Dakota.

While North Dakota has historically ranked well in children's well-being, we recently ranked 47th in the nation for making improvements in children's well-being...



Poverty Rate Rises

Fifteen percent of North Dakota children live in households with incomes below the poverty level. More than 21,000 children live in poverty in North Dakota, which is larger than the combined populations of Valley City and Jamestown.



North Dakota KIDS COUNT

*This report available at:
www.ndkidscount.org*

North Dakota Kids: A National Comparison, cont.

On several of the Kids Count indicators, North Dakota ranks among the top ten states in the nation. The following indicators highlight the current strengths of child well-being in North Dakota.

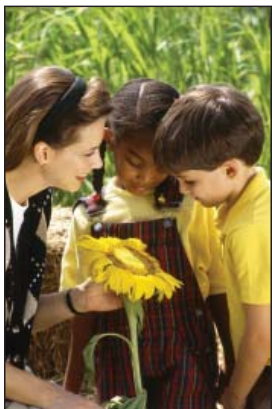
Strengths in Child Well-Being in Our State

Low Birthweight Babies

North Dakota ranks 4th in the nation due to our small percentage of low birthweight babies. In 2007, 6.3% of babies born in our state had low birthweights, while 8.2% of babies in the U.S. had low birthweights.

Secure Parental Employment

North Dakota ranks 3rd in the nation with respect to the small percentage of our children whose parents lack secure employment. In 2008, 20% of North Dakota children lived in families where no parent had full-time year-round employment, in comparison with 27% of children in the United States.



Single-Parent Families

In 2008, 24% of North Dakota children lived in single-parent homes. In the nation, 32% of children lived in single-parent homes. North Dakota ranks 3rd in the nation with respect to our low rate of children living in single-parent homes.

While many children are doing well in North Dakota, we need to keep in mind the ways in which we can assist all children in developing into productive, healthy citizens of our state.

Teen Death Rate

North Dakota ranks 44th in the nation with respect to our teen death rate. From 2000-2007, North Dakota's teen death rate worsened by 71%. The leading cause of teen deaths in North Dakota is traffic accidents, accounting for 41% of teens deaths in 2007.

Areas for Improvement in Child Well-Being

Child Death Rate

North Dakota ranks 19th in the nation with respect to our child death rate. Our state's 2007 child death rate is identical to the state's rate in 2000. During the same time period, the U.S. child death rate declined by 14%.

Infant Mortality Rate

Babies who die in their first year of life are recorded as infant deaths. While there were 50 infant deaths in North Dakota in both 2005 and 2006, 66 infants died in 2007. In comparison with other states, our rank has slipped to 31st in the nation.



HISTORICAL CHANGES IN RANK

When KIDS COUNT started ranking states in 1988, North Dakota ranked 1st in overall child well-being. The last time we were first in the nation was 1992.