



## April 2002 Newsletter

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Take a look at what your fellow Network members are up to and peruse the extensive list of resources available on the KIDS COUNT Network website. Don't see your state book listed? Ran across a useful report that you would like to share? Visit the website for instructions on how to post new information.

## Published by KIDS COUNT

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### **2002 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook** - by *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*

Released on April 2, 2002, the 2002 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook is the eighth annual profile of the well-being of children in Rhode Island. The annual Factbook tracks progress across five areas of child well being: family and community, economic security, health, safety and education. New indicators this year include: Children with Special Needs, Breastfeeding, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Student Mobility and High Performing Schools.

### **Homeownership Rates Vary Significantly Across Rhode Island Communities**

- by *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*

Census Brief Series - Number 5. Released in January, 2002, this brief analyzes the variation in homeownership rates and includes a summary of data on how homeownership impacts families, communities and children.

### **Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look, 2002 Data Book** - by *Minnesota KIDS COUNT*

The annual databook from Minnesota KIDS COUNT at Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota examines the well-being of children using 12 indicators: children in poverty, children receiving food stamps, children receiving free/reduced price school lunch, children born to teen mothers, children born at low birth weight, children with school readiness problems, children transferring schools, children dropping out of school, children arrested for serious crime, children abused and neglected, children in out of home placements, and children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries.

### **2002 KidsCount in Colorado!** - by *Colorado Children's Campaign*

Released on March 5, 2002, the 9th edition of KidsCount in Colorado! details the well-being of Colorado's children. For the first time, city level data was presented for Colorado's 15 largest cities. The following indicators were used: births to single women, births to single teens, repeat teen births, births to moms with no high school diploma, three risk factor births, low birth weight births, late or no prenatal care, smoking during pregnancy, infant mortality rate, paternal age, median household income, children in poverty, teen birth rate, child deaths, teen deaths due to injuries, child abuse and neglect, out-of-home placement rate, TANF enrollment, WIC, Child Health Plan, Medicaid, Free lunch, Graduation rate, and dropout rate.

### **The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Utah** - by *Diana Pearce*

A new economic study that examines the real cost of living, working, and paying taxes in Utah. The Standard presents a practical alternative to the national poverty standard and creates a framework for considering those interventions that have the greatest impact on a family's ability to support itself.

### **Measures of Child Well-Being in Utah, 2002** - by *Utah Children KIDS COUNT*

This annual KIDS COUNT data book provides information on 30 indicators of child well-being down to the county level. For some indicators, information is provided at the zip code level to aid communities in ascertaining where the needs are in their area.

## Resources and Reports

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### **The Rise and Fall of American Youth Violence:** - by *Urban Institute*

Youth accounted for 32 percent of the increase in violent crime arrests between 1980 and 1994, but they generated 58 percent of the decline between 1994 and 2000, according to this new report by the Urban Institute.

### **Advocating for After-School Programs** - by *Open Society Institute*

The Spring 2002 issue of *Ideas*, published by the Open Society Institute talks about why after-school programs are educationally valuable, socially responsible and economically sound and about how sacrificing them for the sake of cost cutting would harm communities, children and the workforce.

### **The National Economic Recession and Its Impact on Employment Among the Nation's Young Adults** - by *National Center on Education and the Economy*

This research brief illustrates that the bulk of employment losses over the past 15 months primarily have been by the nation's young adults under the age of 25, with teenagers being the most adversely affected by the labor market downturn.

### **Unfinished Agenda: Child Care for Low Income Families Since 1996 - Implications for Federal and State Policy** - by *Center for Law and Social Policy*

Despite significant increases in child care funding and the number of children served since 1996, much unmet need remains for child care assistance and early learning opportunities. In addition, deteriorating economic conditions and budget crises in many states are jeopardizing recent child care gains. This report represents the results of a project that the Center for Law and Social Policy ( CLASP ) conducted with organizations in Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Texas, and Washington State to examine the experiences of low-income parents, child care providers, and state child care systems. It synthesizes findings from five separately published reports and puts them into a national context.

### **Early Childhood Poverty: A Statistical Profile** - by *National Center for Children in Poverty*

Inadequate nutrition, environmental toxins, diminished interaction due to maternal depression, trauma and abuse, lower quality child care, and parental substance abuse. These are some of the risk factors associated with poverty in early childhood. This reports details why the first years of life are more important than had been thought for children's emotional and intellectual development, and why millions of children in the United States are at developmental risk.

### **Tax Facts** - by *Tax Policy Center*

A new online resource puts comprehensive information on historical trends and current projections in taxation at the fingertips of journalists, policymakers, and the general public. The resource, "Tax Facts," is a key feature of the Tax Policy Center, a new joint venture between the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution.

## Welfare Reauthorization Resources

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### **Welfare Reform: The Next Act** - by *Urban Institute*

As reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) moves through Congress, *Welfare Reform: The Next Act*, offers the most comprehensive synthesis of research on post-1996 welfare policy.

### **Readying Welfare Recipients for Work: Lessons from Four Big Cities as they Implement Welfare Reform** - by *Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation*

In this report, the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) takes an in-depth look at four urban counties — Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Los Angeles, Miami-Dade, and Philadelphia — to see whether and how circumstances have changed since welfare reform was passed.

### **Welfare Policies Matter for Children and Youth: Lessons for TANF Reauthorization** - by *Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation*

This policy brief deepens our understanding of how changes in welfare policies affect the well-being of elementary school-age and adolescent children by showing how reforms targeted at parents can have

important consequences for their children.

## Upcoming Events

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### **2002 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK** - 05/23/2002

Location: Washington, D.C.

Planned release date for 2002 Data Book

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