



February 2002 Newsletter

KIDS COUNT network members have provided us with a variety of resources this month. Take a look, share with your colleagues and let us know via the website if we have missed something.

Published by KIDS COUNT

2001 North Carolina Child Health Report Card - by *North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute*

North Carolina brings home improved grades in child health, but is nowhere near making the Honor Roll. Wonderful improvements in some categories are offset by clear failures in others. We are failing too many of our children. That is one of the basic messages reflected in the 2001 Child Health Report Card issued jointly today by the NC Institute of Medicine and the NC Child Advocacy Institute. The seventh annual Report Card was released in conjunction with an important one-year review session of the state's Comprehensive Child Health Plan.

Diversity and Opportunity: Children Leading the Way - by *Iowa KIDS COUNT*

Diversity and Opportunity : Children Leading the Way marks the eighth Iowa Kids Count data book. This year's report is the first to contain initially released data available from the 2000 Census - on population trends by race and ethnicity and on family composition.

A Rural Road: Exploring Economic Opportunity, Social Networks, Services and Supports that Affect Rural Families - by *Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota KIDS COUNT Projects*

The Great Plains Rural Collaborative was born out of a shared concern among the KIDS COUNT Projects in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota about the issues affecting rural children and their families. Nearly a dozen focus groups were held in the three states to talk directly to parents with limited incomes trying to raise families in rural communities. Other conversations were held with community leaders and people providing services and assistance to those families.

Children's Legislative Report Card - New Hampshire - by *The Children's Alliance of New Hampshire*

The annual Children's Legislative Report Card informs New Hampshire citizens about how their state representatives voted on selected bills that are important to the health and well-being of children. This will become an annual piece of the Children's Alliance's advocacy efforts. Contact Steve Varnum at The Children's Alliance of New Hampshire for more information.

2002 Priority Children's Agenda - New Hampshire - by *Children's Alliance of New Hampshire*

The Agenda identifies the five most pressing issues facing children in the state: (1) improve access to mental health and substance abuse services; (2) expansion and funding of early intervention and prevention programs; (3) increase compensation and health insurance benefit for early childhood educators; (4) identify and eliminate barriers to affordable housing, and (5) ensure the constitutional right of all students to an adequate education. The Agenda provides background information and data on each of these issues, as well as the action steps necessary to "make it happen."

All Kids Count! Assessing the Well-being of African-American, American Indian, Asian and Latino Children - by *Minnesota KIDS COUNT*

This report examines the well-being of children of color in Minnesota in the areas of economics and

housing, education, health, safety and social climate. It includes demographics, a list of key resources, stories of projects that offer hope, and an overview of data that we still need to know.

Facts on KIDS in South Dakota-Juvenile Justice - by *South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project*

The Facts on KIDS in South Dakota is a quarterly monograph series that takes an in-depth look at an indicator of child well-being

Resources and Reports

Hunger and Food Insecurity: State by State - by *Food Research and Action Center*

This report presents FRAC's state by state analysis of the most recent available hunger and food insecurity data collected by the Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Shared Work, Valued Care: New Norms for Organizing Market Work and Unpaid Care Work - by *Eileen Appelbaum, Economic Policy Institute*

This report describes successful programs that allow workers greater work-time flexibility and better child and elder care benefits. The authors propose policies for making work more family friendly.

Welfare Reform

Welfare-to-Work Transitions for Parents of Infants In-Depth Study of Eight Communities - by *Gretchen Kirby, Christine Ross, and Loren Puffer, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc*

This report examines the state and local policies and practices that encourage and support the activities of welfare-reliant parents of infants who are required to engage in work and school activities. It presents the findings from the general information-gathering and the in-depth study phases of the study, with an emphasis on the in-depth study phase. It ends with a summary of research directions, which will be expanded upon in a forthcoming report. The study finds that overall, parents of infants in the study sites appeared to be managing the dual responsibilities of work and parenting, but the level of difficulty they faced varied across sites and across individual circumstances. It recommends that further research should examine the diversity of parents' experiences more systematically than was possible under this study and evaluate the impact of policies and programs that might help parents balance the need to work and participate in work activities with the need to care for and support the development of their infants.

Welfare Reform and Household Saving - by *Erik Hurst and James P. Ziliak, Joint Center for Poverty Research*

The authors of this paper use micro-level data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to examine the impact of new saving incentives that were implemented as part of the overhaul of U.S. welfare policy during the mid-1990s on the saving of households at risk of entering welfare. Among those households with a high risk of entering welfare the authors find that increasing asset limits had a modest positive effect on liquid saving, and no effect on broader measures of saving; that liquid saving fell in states that removed their vehicle equity limits; and that Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) had a positive, but small, impact on liquid saving. In general, though, there has been no near-term impact of welfare policy changes on the saving of those with only a moderate risk of entering welfare.

Trends in Employment Outcomes of Young Black Men - by *Harry J. Holzer and Paul Offner, Joint Center for Poverty Research*

This paper presents evidence that the employment and labor force participation rates of less-educated young black men declined in the 1980's as well as the 1990's, despite the very strong economic conditions of the latter period. The secular decline among young black men is much stronger than among other less-educated young men, and stands in sharp contrast to the improving employment rates of young black women during the 1990's. While several factors (such as rising school enrollment rates and the shrinkage of blue-collar jobs in the labor market) appear to have contributed to the declining employment of young black men, much of it remains unexplained at this time.

The National Evaluation of Welfare-to-Work Strategies: How Effective Are

Different Welfare-to-Work Approaches? Five-Year Adult and Child Impacts for Eleven Programs - by *Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation and Child Trends*

For the past 30 years, federal and state policymakers have been legislating various types of programs to increase employment among welfare recipients. How people can best move from welfare to work, however, has been the subject of long-standing debate. This report, summarizing the long-term effects of 11 mandatory welfare-to-work programs on welfare recipients and their children, represents a major advance in resolving this debate. The findings are the final ones from the National Evaluation of Welfare-to-Work Strategies (NEWWS), a multi-year study of alternative approaches to helping welfare recipients find jobs, advance in employment, and leave public assistance.

Social Policy Report: The Effects of Welfare Reform Policies on Children - by *Society for Research in Child Development - Pamela A. Morris*

Over the past 30 years, welfare and other public policies for families living in poverty have developed a primary objective of increasing parents' self sufficiency by requiring and supporting employment, culminating in the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). This policy report summarizes the results on children from a synthesis of nearly a dozen welfare experiments aimed at increasing self-sufficiency of low-income parents.

Upcoming Events

Children at Risk : State Trends 1990 - 2000 - 03/07/2002

Report - release: A first look at the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey Data

Avenue for Action: Advancing Advocacy - 03/20/2002

Location: Dover, DE

Second annual one day conference featuring nationally know speakers, practical workshops and the KIDS COUNT Awards luncheon.

Denver Regional Census Workshop - 03/13/2002

Location: Denver, CO

[Member Home](#)

Copyright 2000 by KIDS COUNT | Photos (c) Susie Fitzhugh, all rights reserved | An [iapps](#) site