



## May 2002 Newsletter

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This issue of the KIDSCOUNT Network Newsletter features several recent publications from Network members and from the Casey Foundation.

### Published by KIDS COUNT

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#### **Policy Agenda for Children and Youth, 2001-2002** - by *Vermont Children's Forum*

The Policy Agenda for Children and Youth focuses on one or more issues within five topic areas: Economic Well-Being, Child and Family Support, Education, Health and Safety, and Youth. For example, under Child and Family Support, the current Policy Agenda includes child care, parental leave compensation, post-adoption services, and civil unions. Each section presents relevant facts and information, as well as recommended strategies for citizens and policy makers.

#### **Families & Fathers-Facts on KIDS in South Dakota** - by *South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project*

To grow up safe and healthy, children today need support from the schools, the community, and most importantly from the family. Families provide the core ingredients for healthy development both physically and emotionally. Both mothers and fathers have important roles to play in children's lives. Parents provide economic, emotional, and intellectual support to their children as well as moral guidance. This is the ninth in a series of Facts on KIDS in South Dakota.

### Resources and Reports

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#### **Reminder: Network Mentoring and Cross Site Visit Programs** - by *Cory Anderson*

Just a reminder, the KIDSCOUNT Network sponsors a mentoring program for new KIDSCOUNT staff and a Cross-Site visit program to encourage information exchange among network members. Visit the Network website for more information. Search the library for "mentor programs" or "cross site" visits.

#### **Health Care Coverage Among Child Support-Eligible Children** - by *Urban InSTITUTE*

This paper draws on data from the 1999 National Survey of America's Families to explore the extent to which children who are eligible for child support can and do secure private health insurance coverage through their custodial (or resident) mother, and what shares of those without private insurance might be eligible for publicly-funded health insurance. It also explores what opportunities and barriers exist to state Child Support Enforcement agencies coordinating with SCHIP and Medicaid program staff to enroll uninsured children in those public programs when parents are unable to provide their children with appropriate private coverage.

#### **Ten Things Everyone Should Know about Welfare Reform** - by *Urban InSTITUTE*

This primer on welfare reform draws primarily upon ANF research, including analysis of the National Survey of America's Families, the Welfare Rules Database, and site visit findings. The brief presents summary information on the welfare caseload, work and earnings, work support programs, poverty and child well-being, family structure, and population subgroups.

#### **TANF'S "Uncounted" Cases: More than One Million Working Families**

### **Receiving TANF-funded Services Not Counted in TANF Caseload - by Center for Budget and Policy Priorities**

An often-cited but misunderstood statistic is that welfare caseloads have fallen by more than 50 percent over the past five years. While it is true that fewer families are receiving cash assistance, it is not the case that the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is helping 50 percent fewer families now than it did five years ago. States have used TANF funds to provide work supports and other services to an increasing number of families who are not counted in TANF caseload statistics because they do not receive welfare checks.

### **"Superwaiver" Would Grant Executive Branch and Governors Sweeping Authority to Override Federal Laws - by Center for Budget and Policy Priorities**

The welfare reauthorization bill the House leadership plans to bring to the House floor on May 15 contains a proposal to grant sweeping authority to the Executive Branch to waive, at a governor's request, most provisions of authorization and appropriations laws related to a range of low-income and other domestic programs. Under this "superwaiver" proposal, Executive Branch officials could override nearly all provisions of law governing how these programs operate.

### **Recent TANF Proposals Would Hinder Successful State Efforts to Help Families Overcome Barriers to Employment and Find Better-Paying Jobs - by Center for Budget and Policy Priorities**

This analysis provides examples of state welfare-to-work initiatives currently in place that would not meet the new TANF work requirements in the House TANF reauthorization bill scheduled for a House vote the week of May 13th and are at risk for being cut as a result.

## **Casey Connections**

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### **May is National Foster Care Month Toolkit - by National Resource Center for Family Support**

Whether you are thinking about foster care for the first time or have been involved for a long time, you can use these tools and ideas to maximize your involvement in National Foster Care Month. They include ways you can make a difference and ways you can show recognition for other people who make a difference, materials for reaching out to reporters, materials for reaching out to others and general items like fact sheets. The official National Foster Care Month messages for 2002 are included in "Reaching Out to the Media."

### **Strengthening Families and Communities: A White Paper on Post-Adoption Services - by Casey Family Services**

The complete text of this thoughtful examination of the issues, needs and recommended policies and practice solutions for the often-complex problems experienced by adoptive families of children with special needs.

Order your free copy - [sgreenblatt@caseyfamilyservices.org](mailto:sgreenblatt@caseyfamilyservices.org).

### **Pathways # 8 Released: Reducing Racial Disparities in Juvenile Detention - by Annie E. Casey Foundation**

This most recent addition to the Casey Foundation's series on juvenile detention reform describes the disproportionate detention of youth of color and provides analyses regarding the origins of these disparities. Perhaps most importantly, the monograph details the efforts by several sites to reduce disproportionate minority confinement. In three of these jurisdictions, the number of minority youth in secure detention decreased substantially. In one site, Multnomah County, Oregon, reform strategies eliminated racial and ethnic disparities in the likelihood of detention for arrested youth. These successes are among the first documented instances of genuine progress in reducing the disproportionate confinement of youth of color.

### **REPEALING THE HIDDEN TAX - by ADVOCACY**

The story documents the efforts of a community organization in Tulsa, Oklahoma to provide free tax preparation assistance to low-income working families. The story reveals that needy families nationwide spent a billion dollars for tax services in 2001, because rules governing lucrative earned-income tax credits are complex, and free tax assistance is scarce throughout most of the country.

## 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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