



## October 2001

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The Fall has brought with it mounting state fiscal pressures. Stay informed with the latest reports and analyses from KIDS COUNT members and others concerned with the well-being of kids and families during these difficult times.

### Published by KIDS COUNT

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**[Business and Child Care - Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth](#)** - *by Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth*

Part of a series on Critical Issues in Child Care, this paper provides an overview of best family friendly practices in Virginia businesses.

**[Quest for Excellence: The Future of Early Child Care in Kansas](#)** - *by Kansas Action for Children*

Many good things are happening in early child care in Kansas; nevertheless, problems remain. This report highlights ongoing developments in the early child care profession in Kansas and makes suggestions on how to bolster ongoing efforts to improve the quality of care children receive when away from their parents.

**[Action for Children Fall 2001 newsletter](#)** - *by Kansas Action for Children*

Guess who's coming to Kansas for Kansas Children's Advocacy Day next February? What does KAC have to say about early child care in Kansas? Read the fall 2001 newsletter to find out.

**[Facts on Kids in South Dakota-Census Information](#)** - *by South Dakota KIDS COUNT*

This is the seventh in a monograph series of Facts on Kids in South Dakota. Each issue takes a look at a specific indicator of child well-being.

### Resources and Reports

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**[How Welfare and Work Policies Affect Children: A Synthesis of Research](#)** - *by MDRC*

The Next Generation site includes several current working papers summarizing what is known about the impact of welfare reform on children.

**[Children in the States](#)** - *by Children's Defense Fund*

On September 26, 2001 the CDF released its new edition of the Annual Children in the States report.

**[The Local Television News Media's Picture of Children](#)** - *by Children Now*

This new, nationally representative study of children and children's issues in local television news coverage reveals that children of color are under-represented, crime is over-represented, and public policy issues are largely ignored in reporting on kids.

**[THE FRAGILE FAMILIES & CHILD WELLBEING STUDY, Update](#)** - *by CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON CHILD WELLBEING*

This report provides preliminary national estimates from the Fragile Families Study on unmarried parents

with children in sixteen cities. Results show that while the majority of unmarried parents are romantically involved at the time of their child's birth and aspire to stay together, many face severe challenges in supporting their young families.

**[A LOCAL LADDER FOR THE WORKING POOR:](#)** - by *Brookings Urban Center*

This survey provides the first look at how the EITC, and the working poor families it benefits, are distributed in the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas.

**[Who Speaks for America's Children? The Role of Child Advocates in Public Policy](#)** - by *Urban Institute*

This book looks at the number and types of nonprofit groups that advocate on behalf of children; the role of private philanthropy in articulating children's needs; the politics surrounding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); an analytical framework for understanding the spectrum of child advocacy activities; case studies of early childhood education and child care policy; structural factors that contribute to successful mobilization of parents as child advocates; and the shift from locally-organized membership groups to professional centralized organizations advocating for children.

**[Brown Center Report on American Education](#)** - by *Tom Loveless, Brown Center on Education Policy*

The first section of the 2001 Brown Center Report on American Education focuses on achievement gaps between the United States and other countries in mathematics and analyzes the gap between the nation's best and worst readers in fourth grade. A comparison of urban, rural and suburban districts in the same state is also included.

**[Families in Transition Report](#)** - by *Berkeley Policy Associates*

What does it take to help welfare-to-work families successfully overcome serious and multiple barriers to financial self-sufficiency? This evaluation of the Families in Transition program finds positive results for families in an intensive, individualized case management program that addresses housing and other barriers to stable employment and improved financial supports. According to the report, alcohol and substance abuse and domestic violence were the most difficult barriers for families to overcome.

**[The New World of Welfare: An Agenda for Reauthorization and Beyond](#)** - by *Brookings Institution*

A new book by the Brookings Institution includes perspectives from both conservatives and liberals, but offers a united message that Congress should consider the findings of social scientists when it addresses the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families by October 2002.

## State Fiscal Pressures

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**[Low WIC Funding Levels Would Cut Nutrition Help for Women and Children](#)** - by *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*

Under the House funding level, at least 345,000 people would be turned away from WIC in 2002, through denial of new applications or denial of re-certification. The funding level in the Senate bill would result in at least 160,000 people being turned away. (State-by-state estimates of the number of people affected by the shortfall are available on the Center's web site at <http://www.cbpp.org/10-4-01bud.htm>.)

**[House Stimulus Package Would Worsen State Fiscal Conditions](#)** - by *Center for Budget and Policy Priorities*

A provision in the stimulus package that the House Ways and Means Committee approved October 12 would reduce state revenues by approximately \$5 billion a year for the next three years.

**[State Resources Guide Online](#)** - by *Economic Policy Institute*

EPI's State Resources is designed to serve as a one-stop center for state-level economic data on a range of issues.

## Upcoming Events

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**Wilmington KIDS COUNT Release** - 10/31/2001

Location: Wilmington, Delaware

**FrameWorks Advanced Communications Training** - 12/10/2001

Location: Wye Conference Center, Queenstown, Maryland

Register now for an in-depth training on how to communicate children's issues more effectively. Registration materials are available for download [here](#).

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