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***National Kids Count Report Shows Uneven Economic Recovery***  
*New Report Shows Continued Progress in Education and Health amongst Decline in Economic Well-Being*

**Lincoln, NE** – While much of the state has seen economic recovery since the end of the recession, the fortunes of Nebraska kids have not risen, according to new data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s *National KIDS COUNT® Data Book*. Despite this, Nebraska fares well in student performance and is seeing improvements in child health.

The new report outlines childhood well-being trends in Nebraska and nationwide through four issue areas: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family & Community.

In Nebraska, 18% of children live in poverty, up from 13% in 2008. Additionally, the number of children living in high-poverty neighborhoods increased from 6% in 2006-2010 to 8% in 2009-2013.

Carolyn Rooker, executive director of Voices for Children in Nebraska, said the new *KIDS COUNT Data Book* shows the need for a policies that support working families and address child poverty.

“It’s troubling that even though Nebraska has one of the strongest unemployment rates in the nation, nearly 1 in 5 children still grow up in poverty,” Rooker said. “These numbers are a sign that we must expand upon proven anti-poverty tools like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. With the well-known effects of poverty on children, if we fail to support working families, we risk leaving an entire generation of Nebraska children behind.”

While the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reinforces concerns about child poverty, it also shows progress being made in other areas. Nebraska ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation in education, with a dramatic decrease in the number of high school students not graduating on time, falling from 16% in 2007/2008 to 7% in 2011/2012.

In addition to good education numbers, there are promising signs in state health. These include a decrease in the percentage of babies born at a low weight, 6.4% in 2013, down from 7.0% in 2008. The state also saw a decrease in the number of children without health insurance, which fell to 5% in 2013 from 7% in 2008.

In many cases, Nebraska mirrors national trends, notably in the uneven recovery for low-income families, the growth in child poverty, and improved health indicators.

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* features the latest national data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation and will be available July 21 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). This information is available on the [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of measures of child well-being. Data Center users can create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and view real-time information on mobile devices.

*Voices for Children in Nebraska is the independent voice building pathways to opportunity for all children and families through research, policy and community engagement. Our policy priorities are guided by research, data and proven best practices that improve child wellbeing. We pay close attention to the impact of race, poverty and geography, and seek to address existing disparities within these issue areas.*

*For more information, call Voices for Children in Nebraska (402) 597-3100, or visit [www.voicesforchildren.com](http://www.voicesforchildren.com).*

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