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**New Information from the 2008 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*  
A Look at Well-Being and Opportunities for Michigan's Kids**

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A collaborative project of  
**MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR**  
**HUMAN SERVICES**  
and  
**MICHIGAN'S CHILDREN**

Michigan ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The 2008 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Michigan improved on six of the 10 measures affecting child well-being, experienced three setbacks and saw no change in one since 2000.

The 2008 Essay discusses issues facing youth who are involved in state juvenile justice systems and highlights new approaches to detention reform, such as the Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). The essay challenges local and state-level institutions to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate detention and incarceration. In addition, increased opportunities for positive youth development are encouraged.

**More than 2,700 Michigan youth are detained and committed in custody daily.**

In 2006, the estimated daily count of detained and committed youth in custody was 2,760 youth. That same year, the rate of detained and committed youth in custody was 137 per 100,000 youth ages 10-15, which was higher than the national rate of 125 per 100,000 youth.

**Michigan's high school dropout rate decreases by forty percent.**

The percentage of Michigan teens ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts, decreased by 40 percent, dropping from 10 percent in 2000 to 6 percent in 2006. Nationally, the teen dropout rate improved by 36 percent, from 11 percent to 7 percent during the same period.

**More children living in poverty.**

The percentage of Michigan children living in poverty rose by 29 percent— from 14 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2006. Michigan ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this indicator.

**Teen death rate improves.**

Michigan's teen death rate decreased by 11 percent, from 64 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15 to 19 in 2000 to 57 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2005. The state earned its best ranking on this measure—13<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states.

**Percentage of children in families without secure employment increases.**

The percentage of Michigan's children living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment increased by 13 percent, up from 31 percent in 2000 to 35 percent in 2006. Michigan ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this indicator.