

Highlights from the 2006 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book



The 2006 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* marks the 12th annual publication produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program, part of a 50-state network founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to collect information about the status of children in communities across the United States. Data included in the annual *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* cover issues affecting children from birth through adolescence and are widely used by a variety of audiences in planning, needs assessments, and grant writing activities on behalf of North Dakota children. *Fact Book* data offer a road map to better understand the challenges facing North Dakota children in the communities where they live, and quantify the numbers of children affected by respective areas of concern.

The 2006 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* provides state, regional, and county profiles based on seven categories of data representing multiple indicators of child health and well-being. In addition to accessing this full publication online at www.ndkidscount.org, interactive access of North Dakota's indicators are available through the Casey Foundation's CLIKS (Community-Level Information on Kids) website, www.aecf.org/kidscount/cliks. CLIKS offers historical trends, profiles, graphs, maps and rankings for North Dakota, as well as data for other participating states.

North Dakota consistently ranks better than other state averages on many child health and well-being indicators. When compared to other states, North Dakota has the lowest percentage of teens who are high school dropouts, the lowest percentage of teens not attending school and not working, the fourth lowest percentage of children living in single-parent households, the fifth lowest percentage of children living in families where no parent has full-time/year-round employment, and the sixth lowest percentage of low-birthweight babies. The *Fact Book*, however, raises some important issues concerning the well-being of North Dakota's children.

- Despite the fact that three-fourths of North Dakota children live with both parents (75.8 percent), the percentage of children living in single-parent families increased 23.3 percent between 1990 and 2000. This is cause for concern because the poverty rate for North Dakota children living with one parent (39.4 percent) is nearly six times the rate for children living with two parents (6.9 percent).
- In addition to an increase in single-parent families, the number of North Dakota children living with a grandparent rose 48.4 percent between 1990 and 2000 and the number of children in the foster care system rose 17.0 percent between 2000 and 2005. Parental involvement in methamphetamine-related issues is a major reason for the increase of children in foster care, according to the North Dakota Department of Human Services.
- While 4.9 percent of North Dakota children were suspected victims of child abuse or neglect in 2005, the number of children considered to be in high-risk situations, and thus requiring services for abuse or neglect, rose 30.0 percent between 1998 and 2005.

Bound copies of the 2006 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* are not available. Electronic copies are available at www.ndkidscount.org. For more information regarding North Dakota KIDS COUNT, please contact Richard Rathge, Executive Director, at (701) 231-8621 or richard.rathge@ndsu.edu - or Helen Danielson, Coordinator, at (701) 231-5931 or ndkidscount@yahoo.com - or visit the North Dakota KIDS COUNT website at www.ndkidscount.org.

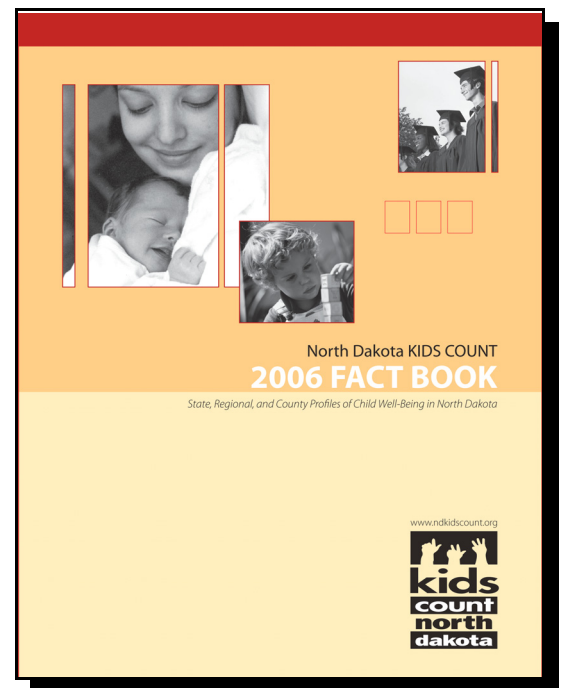


Table 1. Selected Indicators from the 2006 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book

Source: North Dakota KIDS COUNT, 2006 North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book. For definitions and data sources, see www.ndkidscount.org/factbook.htm

Area	Total Children Ages 0 to 17: 2004		Children in Foster Care: Fiscal Year 2005		Average Expenditures Per Student in Public School: 2004-05 Academic Year	Suspected Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect: Calendar Year 2005		
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	Percent of 2004 Children Ages 0 to 18		Number	Requiring Services	
							Number	Percent of Suspected Victims
North Dakota	140,638	22.17%	2,314	1.54%	\$6,726	6,876	1,462	21.26%
Adams	441	18.16%	3	0.63%	\$6,648	15	5	33.33%
Barnes	2,201	19.77%	38	1.61%	\$6,137	69	28	40.58%
Benson	2,271	32.59%	87	3.63%	\$10,539	15	3	20.00%
Billings	159	19.27%	0	0.00%	\$21,352	6	0	0.00%
Bottineau	1,302	19.02%	16	1.13%	\$6,811	25	2	8.00%
Bowman	605	19.51%	6	0.92%	\$7,601	12	7	58.33%
Burke	358	17.26%	1	0.26%	\$10,062	9	0	0.00%
Burleigh	15,448	21.28%	232	1.41%	\$6,283	815	155	19.02%
Cass	28,140	21.88%	558	1.87%	\$6,731	1,685	269	15.96%
Cavalier	884	20.20%	4	0.42%	\$7,108	28	10	35.71%
Dickey	1,223	22.42%	13	1.00%	\$5,117	37	15	40.54%
Divide	364	16.49%	7	1.79%	\$7,720	7	6	85.71%
Dunn	747	21.73%	6	0.75%	\$11,173	10	2	20.00%
Eddy	490	18.84%	0	0.00%	\$5,599	14	5	35.71%
Emmons	812	20.75%	1	0.12%	\$6,519	13	3	23.08%
Foster	758	21.71%	4	0.49%	\$5,211	28	8	28.57%
Golden Valley	406	22.94%	4	0.91%	\$8,923	22	2	9.09%
Grand Forks	14,872	22.91%	257	1.61%	\$6,619	926	219	23.65%
Grant	462	17.61%	7	1.40%	\$6,960	11	4	36.36%
Griggs	441	17.53%	3	0.63%	\$7,098	5	0	0.00%
Hettinger	450	17.71%	6	1.23%	\$6,805	8	1	12.50%
Kidder	467	18.22%	7	1.39%	\$7,751	9	1	11.11%
LaMoure	882	19.58%	12	1.27%	\$7,277	31	8	25.81%
Logan	418	19.91%	0	0.00%	\$7,177	0	0	0.00%
McHenry	1,089	19.34%	10	0.85%	\$6,556	56	18	32.14%
McIntosh	509	16.27%	5	0.91%	\$7,287	14	1	7.14%
McKenzie	1,366	24.84%	6	0.41%	\$11,938	34	6	17.65%
McLean	1,654	18.76%	7	0.39%	\$7,178	23	0	0.00%
Mercer	1,866	22.12%	10	0.49%	\$5,906	15	3	20.00%
Morton	5,757	22.72%	73	1.19%	\$5,981	319	43	13.48%
Mountrail	1,605	24.58%	15	0.88%	\$7,442	45	10	22.22%
Nelson	593	17.21%	4	0.63%	\$6,284	14	4	28.57%
Oliver	384	20.48%	2	0.48%	\$7,745	4	0	0.00%
Pembina	1,649	20.13%	20	1.13%	\$8,057	55	18	32.73%
Pierce	871	19.99%	0	0.00%	\$7,096	30	7	23.33%
Ramsey	2,585	22.58%	123	4.46%	\$6,140	177	73	41.24%
Ransom	1,237	21.23%	6	0.46%	\$5,512	28	14	50.00%
Renville	477	19.26%	0	0.00%	\$8,058	19	9	47.37%
Richland	4,064	23.06%	40	0.91%	\$5,605	168	24	14.29%
Rolette	4,409	31.90%	96	2.06%	\$8,925	114	24	21.05%
Sargent	938	22.82%	12	1.20%	\$5,861	13	0	0.00%
Sheridan	248	16.80%	1	0.37%	\$10,103	6	0	0.00%
Sioux	1,464	35.35%	31	2.01%	\$12,885	3	0	0.00%
Slope	158	21.29%	0	0.00%	\$15,176	6	2	33.33%
Stark	4,878	22.06%	123	2.35%	\$6,161	332	113	34.04%
Steele	440	21.34%	2	0.42%	\$6,753	2	0	0.00%
Stutsman	4,170	19.93%	52	1.16%	\$5,946	158	35	22.15%
Towner	490	19.03%	7	1.31%	\$8,019	27	2	7.41%
Trail	1,825	21.81%	15	0.77%	\$5,948	42	13	30.95%
Walsh	2,454	21.07%	52	1.99%	\$5,465	186	76	40.86%
Ward	13,799	24.54%	220	1.51%	\$6,465	900	146	16.22%
Wells	864	18.55%	7	0.75%	\$7,704	29	2	6.90%
Williams	4,194	21.76%	103	2.30%	\$6,671	257	66	25.68%

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North Dakota continues to rank well nationally in regard to child well-being, yet areas of concern exist

According to the national KIDS COUNT program, North Dakota ranks 9th best in the nation in regard to child well-being indicators. This high ranking is largely due to low rates in the following areas: low-birthweight babies, high school dropouts, idle teens, children living in single-parent families, and children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment. "Every year since the KIDS COUNT program research began, North Dakota has ranked in the top 10 states, a fact we should be very proud of - and we should thank those who care for our state's children," said Richard Rathge, Executive Director of the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program. However, the 2006 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book* indicates that, "despite the high national ranking, challenges do exist for children and families throughout the state," said Rathge.

This month's edition of the "Population Bulletin," released from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, presents select indicators from the 2006 *North Dakota KIDS COUNT Fact Book*. The 2006 *Fact Book* marks the 12th annual publication produced by the North Dakota KIDS COUNT program, part of a nationwide network founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to collect information about the status of children in communities across the United States. Data included in the annual *Fact Book* cover issues affecting children from birth through adolescence and are widely used by a variety of audiences in planning, needs assessments, and grant writing activities on behalf of North Dakota children. *Fact Book* data offer a road map to better understand the challenges facing North Dakota children in the communities where they live, and quantify the numbers of children affected by respective areas of concern. This year's *Fact Book* presents some important issues concerning the well-being of North Dakota's children.

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