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**32,000 DC Children (About One in Three)
Lived in Poverty in 2011;
47,000 Lived with Parents Who Lacked Secure Employment**

Too many children in the nation's capital are growing up in environments that limit their ability to reach their full potential, according to data from the national *2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. DC followed many national trends, which showed that children and youth continued to experience setbacks in their economic well-being even while experiencing gains in other areas, such as health.

The DC data show a high level of poverty and need among DC's children and youth, including:

- 32,000 DC children were living in poverty in 2011, about one in three (30 percent). While this represents a 6 percent decrease (between 2005 and 2011) in the number of the city's children living in poverty, it is still higher than the 23 percent of children nationally who are living in poverty.
- 47,000 DC children lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, up 7 percent between 2008 and 2011.
- The percentage of children living in households with a high housing cost burden increased by 7 percent (from 2005 to 2011).
- The percentage of teens, ages 16-19, not in school and not working increased 33 percent (from 2008 to 2011), a disturbing trend, given that the much lower national rate (8 percent) did not change.

"The KIDS COUNT report highlights what all of us who work as advocates for children and youth in the District know too well: that too many of our children are growing up in conditions that do not support their success in school and in life," said HyeSook Chung, executive director of DC Action for Children. "All of us – parents, educators, advocates,

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community leaders and elected and appointed government officials – need to work harder to ensure all of our children, youth and their families have what they need to thrive, regardless of their ZIP code.”

Noteworthy gains among DC children included:

- The child and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19) was down 31 percent from 2005 to 2010.
- The teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19) decreased by 29 percent between 2005 and 2010.
- Children living in families where the head of the household lacks a high school diploma decreased 32 percent.

Some of the improvements, in part, may reflect the DC area’s relatively healthy economy, despite the slow recovery from the national recession, as well as rapidly changing demographics. Because of disparities among DC neighborhoods, city-wide data do not tell the whole story of how children and youth are doing. More localized and nuanced DC KIDS COUNT data, analyzed at the neighborhood level, is available at <http://www.dactionforchildren.org/kids-count/dc-kids-count-data-tools>.

The *2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book* includes the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation. This information will be available June 24 at 12:01 a.m. EDT in the newly redesigned [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of other measures of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s *KIDS COUNT® Data Book (24th edition)* includes an index of 16 robust indicators that, together, offer a more detailed portrait of how U.S. children are faring. Because it is a city and not a state, DC is not ranked in the index.

Follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation and this issue on Twitter @aecfkidscount and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT>.

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Founded in 1992, DC Action for Children (www.dckids.org) is a nonprofit organization focused on improving conditions and outcomes for the District’s children, youth and families through public awareness, policy, research and partnerships. DC Action is the KIDS COUNT grantee for the District, tracking key indicators of child and youth well-being and neighborhood well-being for children and youth. Follow us on Twitter at @ActforDChildren and like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/daction>.