



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kids Count Data Shows Effects on Children from Lack of Job Security  
*School-Based and Linked Health Centers Critical to Bridging the Gap in Services***

*Lansing, Michigan* - Today, the Anne E. Casey Foundation released its annual *Kids Count Data Book* demonstrating the effects of the economic recession on children in the United States. Michigan's struggle with high unemployment rate showed as the state was ranked number 47 (number 1 is best) for secure parental employment, which has obvious effects on a child's health and education.

The *Data Book* includes information from all 50 states and covers 10 key areas critical to child well-being, including this year parental unemployment and foreclosure data to focus on the recession.

According to the *Data Book*, over one third (36%) of children are living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment—845,000 children—and 281,000 children have families where at least one parent is unemployed looking for a job, but unable to find one. And, while Michigan does a fairly good job at insuring its children, the number of uninsured children has gradually increased as the recession has worsened leaving many parents without jobs and without employer-based health coverage. Historically, the number of children insured by their parent's insurance from work has been high, however, in this economy the number of children enrolled in public insurance programs like Medicaid and MICHild (Michigan's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)) has risen dramatically—65 percent over 1999 to 2009 for Medicaid enrollment.

The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan's (SCHA-MI) membership of school-based and school-linked health centers (SB/SLHCs) are a critical point of access to high quality, affordable, and cost-effective health care services for students regardless of a family's economic situation. Additionally, in 2009, 71 state-funded SB/SLHCs enrolled 2,185 children in Medicaid and provided over 716,659 Medicaid outreach and public awareness activities to eligible families in Michigan.

"We know that families are struggling in this economic recession to meet their needs. Our school-based and linked health centers can help," says Michele Strasz, Executive Director of SCHA-MI. "These health centers provide physical, mental, and oral health services bringing health care to schools for student success."

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The *Data Book* does point to some good news for children in Michigan, such as ranking number 13 for the teen birth rate of 33 births for every 1,000 teens ages 15-19 compared to 41 births for every 1,000 teens nationally. The child and teen death rate also revealed major improvements for Michigan. Health education and information for students is another key role SB/SLHCs have in improving child and adolescent health and education.

The *2011 Data Book* is available online at [www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org).

**The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI)** is a non-profit organization supporting a network of over 100 school-based and school-linked health centers and health education programs across Michigan. A SB/SLHC is like a doctor's office in school. They provide students with quality primary and mental health services in a safe, easily accessible location on or near a school campus. Annually the centers serve over 200,000 children providing over 300,000 health encounters/services. The centers are located in communities where the majority of children lack access to consistent, primary health care and as a result are at-risk of chronic health conditions and school failure. Learn more about school-based and linked health centers at [www.scha-mi.org](http://www.scha-mi.org).

**The Kids Count in Michigan** is a collaboration of the Michigan League for Human services, a nonprofit, nonpartisan statewide advocacy group for low-income families, and Michigan's Children, a nonprofit voice for children and families in Michigan. It is part of a national effort to measure the well-being of children at state and local levels. The state project is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, The Skillman Foundation of Detroit, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, and the Michigan Association of United Ways. The annual data book is available from the Michigan League for Human Services and on the web at [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org).

**The Annie E. Casey Foundation** is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. More Michigan data can be found at the Kids Count Data Center, [www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org).

For more information about Michigan's school-based and school-linked health programs, please contact Michele Strasz at 517.908.0847, ext. 229 or [mstrasz@scha-mi.org](mailto:mstrasz@scha-mi.org) or Alicia Guevara at 517.908.0847, ext. 232 or [aguevara@scha-mi.org](mailto:aguevara@scha-mi.org).

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