

Sun  
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## Oregon gains in Kids Count report

<sup>5036</sup> PORTLAND (AP) -- Oregon showed definite improvement on some child welfare issues in the 1990s but slipped backward on others, according to the results of a new national assessment.

The state continues to have one of the lowest rates of underweight newborns in the nation but also posted one of the nation's highest rates of children living in families with parents who have no full-time, year-round employ-

ment, according to data from the Kids Count report.

The survey was released by the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation, which studies children's issues and is based on government data and covers information from 1990-2000.

"We can see some direct links between child well-being outcomes and economic health," said Marie Hoeven, executive director of Children First for Oregon, a children's advocacy group

based in Portland.

According to the survey's results, Oregon fares relatively well when it comes to issues involving infants and young children. The state's infant mortality rate in 2000, 5.6 for every 1,000 births, was lower than the national average of 6.9. And Oregon's rate of 6 percent of children living far below the poverty level in 2000 compares favorably with the national average of 7 percent.