New Report Shows That Times Are Getting Tougher for WA Children

Local News

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Posted on : July 28, 2009 at 7:38 am

SEATTLE, Wash. - Washington ranks 14th in the nation in the new Kids Count report, slipping three places in a compa

By next year, another 60,000 children in Washington, whose families are now just barely making it, month to month, wi

Lori Pfingst, assistant director with Washington Kids Count, says that, for families of color, the numbers are much higher.

"American Indian children, for example; 57 percent of them live in families without stable employment. African-American children; almost half of them are living in families without stable employment. So the recession really is going to have a greater impact on children of color."

She says the situation is similar for Hispanic families.

'Stable' employment means one parent working at least 35 hours a week.

She says there are a few bright spots in the report, including the lowest infant mortality rate in the nation and, since 2000, fewer child deaths and fewer teen pregnancies.

"On all of those indicators, we are doing well. But I think it's important to mention that child well-being, in general, is so linked to their economic security that all of these indicators are under threat right now, because children are suffering during this recession."

Pfingst adds that the Kids Count staff had a hard time getting updated numbers this year, because the federal agencies doing the research have undergone budget cuts.

The data will be online this morning at datacenter.kidscount.org