



RECESSION TAKES A TOLL ON CHILDREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Adam Hyla, Communications Director, Children's Alliance, 206-326-9964 (cell)
Lori Pflingst, Senior Policy Analyst, Washington State Budget & Policy Center, 206-650-3471 (cell)

FRIDAY, Dec. 2, 2011 – As children and their advocates [gather in Olympia](#) at Have a Heart for Kids Day, calling on lawmakers to protect kids, a new report offers a broad look at how children are faring in tough economic times.

[The State of Washington's Children](#) reveals that the long recession has taken a heavy toll on children in our state. State and federal data reveal that:

- Nearly 4 in 10 children are living in families that struggle to afford food, health care, housing and child care;
- Children of color are more likely to be growing up in families that can't afford the basics;
- The number of children living in low-income families has risen for two consecutive years;
- Between 2007 and 2010, the unemployment rate among parents more than doubled.

"Kids feel the effects of these hard times," says Paola Maranan, executive director of the Children's Alliance. "Even short term poverty can cause long term damage to kids."

"Rising child poverty is affecting children of color more than others," she continues. "As lawmakers look for ways to balance the state budget, we call upon them to protect vital services that work for kids."

[The State of Washington's Children](#) compiles more than 30 indicators of child well-being in the areas of health, safety, education, economic security and risk behavior. The result is a broad view of how our state's 1.5 million children are faring in these times.

"Data is a powerful tool that can be utilized to make better public decisions for children and families," says Remy Trupin, executive director of the Washington State Budget & Policy Center. "This report gives policymakers and the public the information they need to create brighter futures for our children."

The report is the product of KIDS COUNT in Washington, a new partnership between Children's Alliance and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center to help improve young lives.

Together, the two organizations gather and analyze the best emerging data on how kids are doing in our state, and then turn that information into action on issues like poverty, hunger, health care, education and racial equity.

This partnership combines the Children's Alliance's 30-year record of policy advocacy and the Budget & Policy Center's reputation for independent analysis of matters that affect the lives of people across the state.

To download a copy of [The State of Washington's Children](#), [click here](#).

###