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Child Well-Being In Arkansas at a Glance **2007 KIDS COUNT Arkansas Fact Sheet**

Arkansas ranks 45th in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The 2007 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Arkansas improved on five of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on three and saw no change on two since 2000. The 2007 Essay discusses the need for all children in foster care to develop strong, lasting family connections. The Essay also sets an ambitious national goal to preserve, strengthen, rebuild, or find permanent families for every American child who is at risk of not having one.

Over 5,900 Arkansas children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 5,984 children under age 18 in Arkansas lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 9 per 1,000 children. That year, 199 children in the state aged out of the system without having a permanent family. Nationwide, 10 children per 1,000 under age 18 lived in foster care with 22,718 leaving the system at age 18 without a stable family environment.

Arkansas ranks in bottom ten in six out of ten categories.

Nationally, Arkansas ranked 47th in the child death rate, 46th in the teen birth rate, 44th in children in poverty, 43rd in low-birthweight babies, 42nd in the teen death rate, and 40th in the infant mortality rate.

Fewer high school dropouts.

The percentage of Arkansas teens ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts improved by 33 percent between 2000 and 2005, falling from 12 percent to 8 percent. Nationally, the percentage improved from 11 percent to 7 percent over the same period.

Decrease of idle teens in Arkansas more than twice the national trend.

The percentage of teens ages 16-19 not attending school and not working improved in Arkansas by 25 percent, dropping from 12 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2005.

Nationally, this percentage decreased by 11 percent from 9 percent to 8 percent over the same period of time.

Child death rate increases in Arkansas while decreasing nationally.

The rate of deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14 increased by 3 percent from 33 percent in 2000 to 34 percent in 2004, while nationally the rate dropped by nine percent from 22 percent to 20 percent over the same period of time.