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

Colorado ranks 23rd 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 Colorado improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, while experiencing setbacks on six 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 13,000 Colorado children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 13,806 children under age 18 in Colorado lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 12 per 1,000 children. That year, 399 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.

Colorado ranked in the top ten nationally in three indicators.

When compared to other states, Colorado ranked 8th in the lowest percentage of children in single-parent families, 9th in the lowest child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14) and 9th in the lowest percentage of teens, ages 16-19, not attending school and not working. Furthermore, the child death rate improved from 22 children per 100,000 in 2000 to 17 per 100,000 in 2004, a change of 23 percent. The percentages of children in single-parent families and idle teens both rose slightly between 2000 and 2005 however these numbers are still better than the national average.

Percentage of children in poverty increases.

The percentage of Colorado children living in poverty rose by 40 percent between 2000 and 2005, from 10 percent to 14 percent. Nationally, this percentage rose only 12 percent in the same period.

Teen death rate rose in Colorado, while dropping nationally.

While the death rate of children ages 1-14 improved significantly, the death rate of teens ages 15-19 rose by 27 percent from 60 per 100,000 in 2000 to 76 per 100,000 in 2004. This rate had improved slightly nationally by 1 percent and the state's rate is higher than the national average of 66 teen deaths per 100,000.

14 percent of children in Colorado do not have health insurance coverage.

In 2004, 14 percent of children in Colorado lacked health insurance. Nationally, 11 percent of children are uninsured.

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The Colorado Children's Campaign works to create hope and opportunity in Colorado – more than one million children at a time. The Campaign is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focusing on expanding access to quality health care, P-16 education and early childhood experiences. For more information, please visit www.coloradokids.org.