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Child Well-Being in the District of Columbia at a Glance
2007 KIDS COUNT District of Columbia Fact Sheet

The 2007 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that the District of Columbia improved on three of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on five 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 3,000 DC children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 3,054 children under age 18 in the District of Columbia lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 28 per 1,000 children – nearly three times the national rate. That year, 118 children in the district 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.

DC children economically disadvantaged.

Most of the District of Columbia's economic indicators related to poverty are well above the national average. In 2005: the median income of families with children was \$37,000, \$16,000 below the national average; the percentage of children in extreme poverty (income below 50 percent of the poverty level) was 20 percent, compared to 8 percent nationally; and 54 percent of children were in low-income families (income below 200% of poverty level), while the national average was 40 percent.

Overall, the factors indicate a rise in the percentage of children living in poverty since 2000, from 30 percent to 32 percent in 2005, while nationally these percentages were 17 percent and 19 percent for the same period.

DC teen death rate almost three times the national rate.

The death rate of teens in the District of Columbia rose by 74 percent, from 108 deaths per 100,000 of teens ages 15-19 in 2000 to 188 deaths per 100,000 in 2004. Nationally, the teen death rate had improved marginally from 67 deaths per 100,000 to 66 deaths per 100,000 during the same period.