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

Delaware ranks 35th 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 Delaware improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on four 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 1,400 Delaware children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 1,410 children under age 18 in Delaware lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 7 per 1,000 children. That year, 63 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.

Percentage of teens who are high school dropouts decreases.

The percentage of teens ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts improved 25 percent from 12 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2005. Nationally, the dropout percentage dropped 36 percent during the same period from 11 percent to 7 percent.

Child death rate increases in contrast to national trend.

Delaware ranked 44th in the nation for its rate of deaths among children ages 1-14, which increased by 7 percent between 2000 and 2004 from 27 per 100,000 to 29 per 100,000. During the same period of time, the national rate decreased by 9 percent, from 22 per 100,000 in 2000 to 20 per 100,000 in 2004.

Infant mortality rate comparatively high despite improvement.

The infant mortality rate in Delaware improved by 7 percent between 2000 and 2004, however the state ranked 43rd nationally. While there were 8.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2004 as opposed to 9.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000, the national rate dropped marginally from 6.9 deaths per 1,000 to 6.8 deaths per 1,000 during the same period.

