



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE**  
UNTIL 3:00 a.m. EDT July 25, 2007

**CONTACT:**

Byron Johnson  
202-842-3600, Ext. 230  
kidscount@hagersharp.com

Susan Weitzel  
Center for the Study of Children's Futures  
813-974-7411  
cscf@fmhi.usf.edu

**Child Well-Being in Florida at a Glance**  
***2007 KIDS COUNT Florida Fact Sheet***

Florida ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 Florida improved on six of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on two 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 48,000 Florida children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 48,282 children under age 18 in Florida lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 12 per 1,000 children. That year, 1,332 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.

**Florida ranks in bottom ten nationally for children in single-parent families.**

Compared nationally, Florida ranked 45<sup>th</sup> for its percentage of children in single-parent families in 2005. While the Florida figure remained at 36 percent for both years, the national average increased slightly from 31 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2005.

**More teens staying in high school.**

The percentage of Florida teens ages 16-19 who were identified as high school dropouts decreased from 12 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2005. This figure also fell nationally, from 11 percent to 7 percent during the same period.

**Teen birth rate improves.**

The rate of births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 decreased in Florida from 51 births per 1,000 in 2000 to 42 births per 1,000 in 2004. This compared similarly to a national change from 48 births per 1,000 to 41 births per 1,000 young females during the same period.

**Over 713,000 Florida children continue to live in poverty.**

Of over 3.9 million Florida children, 18 percent live in families with incomes less than (\$19,806, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children in 2005).