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

Hawaii ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children, an improvement from its ranking of 21<sup>st</sup> last year. The 2007 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Hawaii improved on six of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on three and saw no change on one since 2000. The 2007 *KIDS COUNT 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.

**Almost 5,000 Hawaii children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 4,954 children under age 18 in Hawaii lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 17 per 1,000 children. That year, 147 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.

**Hawaii ranks best nationally for lowest teen death rate and lowest percentage of high school dropouts.**

Hawaii ranks 1<sup>st</sup> nationally with the lowest teen death rate. The rate of death for Hawaii teens ages 15-19 improved marginally from 41 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2000 to 40 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2004, while nationally the rate fell from 67 deaths to 66 deaths per 100,000 teens over the same period.

Hawaii also ranks 1<sup>st</sup> nationally for its dropout rate. The percentage of Hawaii teens ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts improved by 40 percent from 2000 to 2005, dropping from 5 percent to 3 percent. Nationally the drop out rate also improved from 2000 to 2005, falling from 11 percent to 7 percent.

**Hawaii ranks in the top ten on two other indicators.**

Hawaii also ranks 8<sup>th</sup> nationally in both the percentage of children in poverty and the percentage of children in single-parent families. The percentage of children in poverty was 13 percent in 2000 and saw no change by 2005, whereas this percentage increased nationally from 17 percent to 19 percent. The percentage of Hawaii children in single-parent families increased from 24 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in

2005; however this is still well below the national average, which rose from 31 percent to 32 percent in the same period.

**Hawaii's child death rate increases significantly.**

The rate of death for Hawaii's children ages 1-14 rose by 40 percent from 2000 to 2004, from 15 deaths per 100,000 children to 21 deaths per 100,000 children .

Nationally, this rate showed a trend of improvement from 22 deaths per 100,000 children to 20 deaths per 100,000 children over the same time period.