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UNTIL 3:00 a.m. EDT July 25, 2007

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

Idaho ranks 22nd 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 Idaho improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being and experienced 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 2,700 Idaho children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 2,786 children under age 18 in Idaho lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 7 per 1,000 children. That year, 77 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.

Idaho ranks in the top ten nationally in three categories.

Idaho ranked 2nd nationally in the percentage of single-parent families, 9th in the percentage of teens not in school and not working, and 10th in the percentage of low-birthweight babies.

Despite the percentage of children living in single-parent families increasing slightly from 22 percent in 2000 to 23 percent in 2005, these figures were lower than the national average, which rose from 31 percent to 32 percent over the same period.

The percentage of idle teens improved significantly by 36 percent between 2000 and 2005, dropping from 11 percent to 7 percent. Nationally the percentage dropped from 9 percent to 8 percent.

There was a marginal increase in the percentage of low-birthweight babies from 6.7 percent in 2000 to 6.8 percent in 2004, however nationally these numbers rose from 7.6 to 8.1 over the same time.

Percentage of children living in poverty increases

The percentage of Idaho children living in poverty rose by 29 percent between 2000 and 2005, from 14 percent to 18 percent. The national figures also rose during this time from 17 percent to 19 percent, a 12 percent change.