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

Illinois ranks 26th in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children, down from 24th last year. The 2007 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Illinois improved on seven of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being and experienced setbacks on three 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 22,000 Illinois children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 22,229 children under age 18 in Illinois lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 7 per 1,000 children. That year, 1,020 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 high school dropouts decreases.

The percentage of Illinois teens ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts fell by 22 percent from 9 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2005. The national percentage in 2004 was also 7 percent, down from 11 percent in 2000.

Higher share of children lack securely-employed parents.

The rate of Illinois children living in a family where no parent held year-round, full-time employment worsened by 10 percent between 2000 and 2005. The percentage increased from 29 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2005. This is still below the national average, which was 34 percent in 2005.

Teen birth rate improves.

The rate of births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 decreased by 17 percent between 2000 and 2004 from 48 births per 1,000 to 40 births per 1,000. This is slightly better than the national trend, which dropped from 48 percent to 41 percent in the same period of time.

Infant mortality rate decreases in Illinois.

Between 2000 and 2004, the rate of infant deaths in Illinois improved by 12 percent from 8.5 to 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. The national rate fell slightly in the same period from 6.9 to 6.8 per 1,000 live births.

