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

Indiana ranks 31st 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 Indiana improved on five of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being and experienced setbacks on five 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 14,000 Indiana children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 14,383 children under age 18 in Indiana lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 9 per 1,000 children. That year, 312 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.

High school dropout rate cut by almost a third.

In 2005, the high school dropout rate in Indiana fell to 9 percent, a 31 percent improvement from 13 percent in 2000, and the largest improvement of any indicator. Nationally the percentage of teens ages 16-19 who were dropouts improved as well, from 11 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2005.

Child poverty rate increases.

The percentage of children living in poverty in Indiana has increased by 21 percent since the beginning of the decade, rising from 14 percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2005. Even though both years are lower than the national average (17 and 19 percent respectively), the rate for Indiana children living in immigrant families was 21 percent in 2005.

The national rate for children in immigrant families below poverty level was 22%

Higher share of children live in families without reliable employment.

Between 2000 and 2005, the percentage of children living in a family where no parent held year-round, full-time employment worsened by 19 percent, rising from 27 percent to 32 percent. Indiana's rate is still lower than the national average, which rose from 32 percent in 2000 to 34 percent in 2005.

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Teen death rate improves in Indiana.

While the national teen death rate remained relatively unchanged from 2000 to 2004, Indiana's death rate for teens ages 15-19 improved by 11 percent, from 76 to 68 deaths per 100,000. The three leading causes of teen deaths are unintentional injury, suicide, and homicide, with suicide being the second leading cause of Indiana teen deaths in three of the four years. The national rate went from 67 deaths per 100,000 in 2000 to 66 in 2004.