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

Iowa ranks 7<sup>th</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 Iowa improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on four 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 10,000 Iowa children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 10,075 children under age 18 in Iowa lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 15 per 1,000 children. That year, 319 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.

**Iowa places in the top ten among six out of ten categories.**

Nationally, Iowa ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in families with secure parental employment, had the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest teen death rate, the 4<sup>th</sup> best teen dropout rate, the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest infant mortality rate, the 6<sup>th</sup> best idle teen rate, and the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of single-parent families.

**Teen death rate cut dramatically.**

While the national teen death rate remained virtually the same between 2000 and 2004, Iowa's rate plummeted by 42 percent from 77 deaths per 100,000 to 45 over the same period. The national rate only dropped from 67 deaths per 100,000 to 66 during this time.

**Infant mortality rate improves in Iowa while stagnant nationally.**

Iowa's infant mortality rate in 2000 of 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births was comparable to the national average of 6.9; however by 2004 the state recorded a 22 percent improvement to 5.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the national rate improved only slightly to 6.8.

**Percentage of low-birthweight babies up.**

The biggest setback for Iowa was the percentage of low-birthweight babies, which increased by 15 percent from 6.1 percent in 2000 to 7.0 percent in 2004. This is still much better than the national rate, which rose from 7.6 percent to 8.1 percent.