



Making a difference for Kansas children.

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CONTACT:

Byron Johnson
202-842-3600, Ext. 230
kidscount@hagerssharp.com

Gary Brunk
785-232-0550
brunk@kac.org

Kansas Action for Children Inc.
720 SW Jackson | Suite 201
Topeka, KS 66603

P 785-232-0550 | **F** 785-232-0699
kac@kac.org | www.kac.org

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Child Well-Being in Kansas at a Glance
2007 KIDS COUNT Kansas Fact Sheet

Kansas ranks 16th 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 Kansas improved on three of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on six and saw no change on one since 2000.

Kansas placed within the top ten nationally in four out of ten categories.

Nationally, Kansas ranked 6th in secure parental employment, had the 8th lowest single-parent family rate, and was 9th in both percentage of teen high school dropouts and idle teens.

Infant mortality rate worsens despite modest national improvements.

The infant mortality rate in Kansas increased from 6.8 per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 7.2 per 1,000 live births in 2004. Over the same period of time, the nation experienced a modest reduction in infant mortalities. Nationally, Kansas ranked 22nd in last year's Data Book on this indicator, which fell to 29th this year.

High school dropout rate improves more than national average.

The percentage of teens who are high school dropouts in Kansas plunged by 40 percent from 10 percent in 2000 to 6 percent in 2005. The nation also experienced a significant reduction in high school dropouts, improving by 36 percent, from a rate of 11 percent to 7 percent over the same period of time.

Teen death rate improves in Kansas while stagnant nationally.

The teen death rate for Kansas in 2000 of 78 teen deaths per 100,000 was well above the national average of 67; however by 2004 the state recorded a 27 percent improvement to 57 deaths per 100,000. Not only did the national rate only improve by 1 percent during that same period, Kansas' 2004 rate was lower than the national rate of 66 deaths per 100,000.

Higher share of children lack securely-employed parents.

Between 2000 and 2005, the rate of Kansas children living in a family where no parent held year-round, full-time employment worsened by 27 percent. The state's secure parental employment rate increased from 22 percent in 2000 to 28 percent in 2005.

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