



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

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

Kentucky improved its rank to 40th 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 Kentucky improved on four of the ten measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on five and saw no change on one since 2000. The 2007 Essay discusses the need for all children in foster care to develop strong, lasting family connections and 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.

Infant mortality rate continues to improve.

Between 2000 and 2004, Kentucky's infant mortality rate improved by 6 percent from 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births to 6.8. Nationally, the rate fell only marginally from 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 6.8 in 2004 after decades of consistent improvement.

Kentucky placed among lowest ten states on four out of ten categories nationally.

Nationally, Kentucky ranked 45th for its percentage of teens not in school and not working, 44th for both teen death rate and securely-employed parents, and 41st for children living in poverty.

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Rate of Kentucky children living in poverty stagnant.

There was no progress in reducing the percentage of children who live in poverty between 2000 and 2005. While the national rate increased by 12 percent during this time, the national average of 19 percent in 2005 remains lower than Kentucky's rate, which held firm at 22 percent.

Over 11,000 Kentucky children lived in foster care during 2004.

In 2004, 11,049 children under age 18 in Kentucky lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 11 per 1,000 children. That year, 472 youth 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 in 2004, with 22,718 youth leaving the system at age 18 without a stable family environment.



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