



# MARYLAND KIDS COUNT PARTNERSHIP

## PARTNERS

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

Maryland ranks 24<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 Maryland improved on six of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on two 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 12,000 Maryland children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 12,459 children under age 18 in Maryland lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 9 per 1,000 children. That year, 361 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.

#### **Maryland places in top ten nationally in two categories, bottom ten in two others.**

Compared to the rest of the nation, Maryland ranked with the 2<sup>nd</sup> best child poverty rate and 6<sup>th</sup> for secure parental employment, but ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in low-birthweight babies and 41<sup>st</sup> in the infant mortality rate.

#### **High school dropout rate improves, on pace with national trend.**

Maryland's percentage of teen high school dropouts fell by 36 percent, matching the national trend. Both the state and national rates decreased from 11 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2005.

#### **Child poverty rate decreases in Maryland, increases nationally.**

The rate of Maryland children living in poverty was reduced by 15 percent between 2000 and 2005, while nationally the rate increased by 12 percent. In 2000, the state child poverty rate was 13 percent and improved by 2005 to 11 percent, while the national average grew from 17 percent to 19 percent over the same period of time.

#### **Infant mortality rate worsens.**

While the national infant mortality rate fell marginally from 6.9 deaths per 1,000 in 2000 to 6.8 deaths in 2004, in Maryland the rate increased by 11 percent from 7.6 deaths to 8.4 deaths over the same period.

