



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE**  
UNTIL 3:00 a.m. EDT July 25, 2007

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas C. Woods, IV  
President Lincoln

Michael Kulas  
Vice President Lincoln

Melissa Ruff, CPA  
Treasurer Lincoln

Nicole Theophilus, JD  
Secretary Omaha

Kristine Obrecht, CPA  
Immediate Past President

Keith D. Allen, Ph.D.  
Omaha

Liliana P. Bronner, MHSA  
Bellevue

Miguel A. Carranza, Ph.D.  
Lincoln

Beverly Curry, Ph.D., CFLE  
Central City

Philip Heckman, Ph.D. (Retired)  
Omaha

Angela Kelso  
Omaha

Luanne M. Nelson  
Omaha

Krishna Niemoth, MS, LMHP  
Grand Island

Nancy M. Oberst  
Omaha

Deborah Suttle  
Omaha

Thomas Tonniges, MD  
Omaha

Kathy Bigsby Moore  
Executive Director Omaha

Annemarie Bailey Fowler  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
402.597.3100  
abailey@voicesforchildren.com

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

Nebraska ranks 10<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 Nebraska improved on four of the 10 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. 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 8,200 Nebraska children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 8,278 children under age 18 in Nebraska lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 19 per 1,000 children. That year, 101 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.

**Nebraska placed best in the nation in two categories, among top ten in two others.**

Nebraska ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the U.S. with the lowest rate of idle teens and highest rate of securely employed parents in 2005. The percentage of teens not attending school and not working was 5 percent in the state in 2005, compared to the national rate of 8 percent. Nebraska recorded a rate of 26 percent for children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment in 2005, which nationally was 34 percent. The state also ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for its low high school dropout rate and 5<sup>th</sup> for the percentage of single-parent families.

**Child poverty rate increases by fifty percent in Nebraska.**

In 2005, the child poverty rate in Nebraska skyrocketed to 15 percent, a dramatic 50 percent deterioration from 10 percent in 2000. This is still lower than the national average, which rose from 17 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2005.

**Infant mortality rate improves in Nebraska, while stagnant nationally.**

The national infant mortality rate fell only marginally between 2000 and 2004 from 6.9 to 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, however over the same years, Nebraska's rate improved by 10 percent, from 7.3 to 6.6 deaths per 1,000.

