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

Nevada ranks 33rd 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 Nevada improved on six of the ten measures reflecting child well-being and experienced setbacks on four since 2000. Some of these measures include:

Rate of idle teens in Nevada improves.

The percentage of teens not attending school and not working improved four times than it did nationally, falling dramatically by 44 percent compared to the national rate, which improved by 11 percent between 2000 and 2005. The state's rate dropped from 16 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2005, while the national rate diminished slightly from 9 percent to 8 percent in the same years.

High school dropout rate improves by double digits, still worst in the nation.

The teen high school dropout rate in Nevada saw significant improvement by 31 percent between 2000 and 2005, however the state's rate of 11 percent of its teen population was the worst in the nation in 2005. In comparison, the national rate in 2005 for teen high school dropouts was 7 percent.

Teen birth rate improves.

Nevada's rate of teen births decreased by 19 percent, down from 63 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2000 to 51 births per 1,000 in 2004. The national rate also recorded improvement from 48 births to 41 births per 1,000 over the same period.

Child poverty rate worsens.

Nevada's rate of children living in poverty increased by 15 percent between 2000 and 2005, accounting for 15 percent of the state's total child population in 2005.

Featured in this year's Data Book is the 2007 Essay which 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. In addition to the Essay, data on children in foster care are presented for each state.

Over 7,300 Nevada children need a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 7,368 children under age 18 in Nevada lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 12 per 1,000 children. That year, 103 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.