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CONTACT:

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

Maria White
603-225-2264
mwhite@childrennh.org

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

New Hampshire ranks 2nd highest in the nation in a new state-by-state study of the well-being of America's children. While the 2007 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that New Hampshire dropped from its number one rank nationally from last year's book, the state has shown improvement across a number of teen health indicators and does well on other measures of child well-being. On measures of family economic security, however, the news continues to be mixed for Granite State children.

The increase in New Hampshire's child poverty rate continues to hold.

The state's child poverty rate increased 50 percent between 2000 and 2005, from 6 percent to 9 percent. That means roughly 28,000 New Hampshire children lived in poverty in 2005. Despite the significant increase, New Hampshire has the lowest child poverty rate in the nation.

State sees improvement on teen health indicators.

From 2000 to 2004, the state's teen birth rate fell from 23 percent to 18 percent. New Hampshire continues to have the lowest teen birth rate in the country. The state also saw improvement of its teen death rate by 16 percent. In 2004, 46 teens died per 100,000 youth aged 15 to 19 in New Hampshire, down from 55 deaths per 100,000 in 2000.

New Hampshire placed best in the nation on two categories, in top ten in six others.

In addition to having a top ranking for teen birth and child poverty rates, the state also has a top ten ranking for child deaths, teen deaths, high school dropouts, idle teens, securely employed parents, and single-parent families.

New Hampshire cuts high school dropout rate by one-third

The largest improvement among any of the indicators for New Hampshire was its high school dropout rate, which improved by 33 percent between 2000 and 2005. New Hampshire had the 9th lowest drop out rate in the nation. Still, the Granite State ranks near the bottom of the class for high school drop out rates for students with disabilities. Granite State students with disabilities drop out of school at nearly three times the rate of their non disabled peers, and only Indiana and Montana rank worse than the Granite State.

Over 1,600 New Hampshire children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 1,613 children under age 18 in New Hampshire lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 5 per 1,000 children. That year, 60 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.