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

Oregon ranks 17<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 Oregon improved on seven of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on two 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 13,000 Oregon children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 13,766 children under age 18 in Oregon lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 16 per 1,000 children. That year, 183 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.

**Oregon has lowest low-birthweight rate in the nation.**

Compared to the national low-birthweight rate of 8.1 percent in 2004, Oregon's ranked best in the nation at 6.0 percent. This rate rose both nationally and in the state since 2000 by 7 percent.

**Infant mortality rate one of the best in the country.**

Oregon's infant mortality rate ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation, improving slightly between 2000 and 2004 to 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, down from 5.6. Nationally, the rate also improved marginally between 2000 and 2004 from 6.9 deaths per 1,000 to 6.8 deaths.

**All indicators for teens improve in Oregon.**

All of the indicators related to teens saw double-digit improvements since 2000 in Oregon, with the teen dropout rate falling by 36 percent, the teen birth rate improving by 23 percent, and both the teen death rate and percentage of idle teens decreasing by 20 percent.

The teen death rate departed the most from the national trends as nationally the rate only improved by 1 percent; Oregon's rate of 66 deaths per 100,000 was comparable to the national rate of 67 deaths in 2000, but 53 deaths in 2004 is well below the national rate of 66 deaths per 100,000.