



**Pennsylvania  
Partnerships for Children**

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

**Pennsylvania ranks 21<sup>st</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 Pennsylvania improved on two of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced minor setbacks on six and saw no change on two since 2000.**

The 2007 national Kids Count 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 a permanent family.

**More than 31,000 PA children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 31,373 children under age 18 in Pennsylvania lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 11 per 1,000 children. In 2004, 1,025 children in PA 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.

**But, all news in Pennsylvania is not bad. PA places in the top 10 in two categories nationally.**

The state's "idle teen rate" (youth neither working nor enrolled in school) of 7 percent in 2005 was the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country. Furthermore, Pennsylvania's teen birth rate improved by 12 percent from 2000 to 2004 to 30 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2004 maintaining the rank of 10<sup>th</sup> from last year.

**The child death rate in Pennsylvania improved.**

Pennsylvania's child death rate decreased by 5% from 2000 to 2004 to 19 per 100,000 children.

**But, economic conditions worsen for Pennsylvania families.**

The share of children living in poverty increased by 13 percent in Pennsylvania between 2000 and 2005. Children living in poverty are more likely to have poor nutrition, chronic health problems, be less prepared for and have more difficulty in school.

**The number of immigrant families in Pennsylvania has grown.**

The number of children in immigrant families in the state increased by 22% from 192,000 in 2000 to 234,000 in 2005. Children living in homes where English is not the primary language spoken are more likely to enter school with lower math, reading and general knowledge assessments making investments in programs like pre-kindergarten a critical need.