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CONTACT:

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

Beth Burgess
802-229-6377
bburgess@voicesforvtkids.org

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

Vermont ranks 6th 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 Vermont improved on five of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on four, 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 1,900 Vermont children in foster care.

In 2004, 1,988 children under age 18 in Vermont were living in foster care at some point during the year. Vermont's child welfare department oversees not only children in foster care due to abuse and neglect, but also those in care due to delinquency, or because the youth are without or beyond the control of their parents. (As a result, Vermont's foster care rate appears higher but actually includes a broader range of children and youth in care.) In 2004, 108 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, compared to 15 children per 1,000 in Vermont.

Nearly 1/3 of children without securely employed parents; Almost 1/6 live in poverty.

The percentages of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment worsened between 2000 and 2005 by 11 percent—to 31%. The share of Vermont children living in poverty also increased during that period, by 15 percent—to 15% of children under age 18.

Infant mortality rate lowest in the country.

Vermont's infant mortality rate improved dramatically to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 in 2004, a significant 25 percent change from 6.0 deaths in 2000. Nationally, the infant mortality rate remained relatively stagnant, improving from 6.9 deaths per 1,000 in 2000 to 6.8 deaths in 2004.

Vermont ranks in the top ten in six other categories.

The state also had the 2nd lowest child death and teen birth rates in the country, ranked 4th for low-birthweight babies and high school dropouts, had the 8th lowest teen death rate, and the 9th lowest idle teen rate.

A higher rate of children living in single-parent families.

Vermont has nearly the same rate of children living in single-parent families as the national rate. The rate showed a 24 percent increase in single-parent families, which rose from 25 percent in 2000 to 31 percent in 2005. Nationally, this rate increased marginally, from 31 to 32 percent.