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

Wisconsin ranks 12<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 Wisconsin improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on five 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 12,000 Wisconsin children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 12,718 children under age 18 in Wisconsin lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 10 per 1,000 children. That year, 475 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.

**Wisconsin placed in top ten among four out of ten categories.**

Compared to the rest of the country, Wisconsin ranked 9<sup>th</sup> for the lowest child death, high school dropout, and idle teen rates, and had the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest teen birth rate in the nation.

**More children live in families without a full-time, year-round job.**

From 2000 to 2005, the percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment increased by 11 percent from 27 percent to 30 percent. The national rate increased from 32 to 34 percent.

**Child Poverty still up over 2000 level.**

While still lower than the national average, Wisconsin's child poverty rate increased between 2000 and 2005, from 12 percent to 14 percent of all children. The national rate increased from 17 percent to 19 percent during the same years. Poverty for a family of two adults and two children in 2005 was \$19,806.

**Families Struggling to Afford Housing.**

Housing is considered to be unaffordable when it consumes 30 percent or more of a family's income. In Wisconsin, 64 percent of children in low-income families live in families that spend more than one third of their income on housing.

