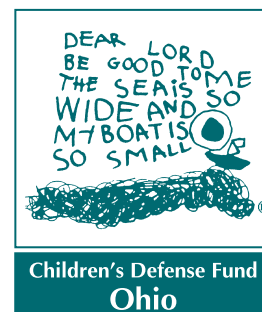


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Child Well-Being In Ohio at a Glance **2007 KIDS COUNT Ohio Fact Sheet**

Ohio ranks 28th 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 Ohio improved on three of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being and experienced setbacks on seven since 2000.

The 18th annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, also discusses the special needs of the thousands of children who annually are at risk of being removed from their homes and, in particular, the 726,062 who spend time in foster care. The 2007 essay topic covers the Casey Foundation's point of view that our child welfare systems should keep children safe and sustain lasting family connections for every young person they serve. In addition, the essay challenges policymakers to do more to enact legislation that helps to build and strengthen the family relationships these young people need now and in the future.

Over 28,000 Ohio children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 28,976 children under age 18 in Ohio lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 10 per 1,000 children. That year, 1,293 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.

Improvement of high school dropout rate out paces national trend.

Ohio's rate of teens who were high school dropouts plummeted to 6 percent in 2005, a dramatic improvement by 40 percent from 10 percent in 2000. The state's improvement was greater than the national trend, which improved by 36 percent in the same period and earned Ohio the 9th best high school dropout rate in the country.

Ohio's idle teen rate rises while falling nationally.

The state's rate of teens not attending school and not working had been lower than the national average in 2000. Nationally the rate fell from 9 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2005, while Ohio's rose from 7 percent to 8 percent in the same period of time.

Economic indicators worsen for Ohio.

The percentages of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment and the share of children living in poverty both increased in Ohio between 2000 and 2005. The rate of securely employed parents rose by 13 percent, while the child poverty rate increased by 19 percent.

Teen birth rate on the decline.

The rate of births for females ages 15-19 in Ohio fell by 17 percent between 2000 and 2004, from 46 births per 1,000 to 38 births.

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