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

Rhode Island ranks 20<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 Rhode Island improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being and experienced setbacks on six indicators since 2000. The 2007 Essay discusses the need for all children in foster care to develop strong, lasting family connections and sets an ambitious national goal to preserve, strengthen, rebuild, or find permanent families for every American child.

**Infant mortality rate improves, among best nationally.**

Rhode Island's infant mortality rate improved by 16% to 5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2004, down from 6.3 deaths in 2000. At the national level, the rate changed marginally from 6.9 deaths per 100,000 to 6.8 deaths between 2000 and 2004.

**Rhode Island's child death rate lowest in the country.**

The state's child death rate dropped to 11 deaths per 100,000 in 2004 from 17 deaths in 2000; a significant improvement of 35%. Rhode Island is ranked best in the nation for this indicator. Nationally, the child death rate fell by 9% from 22 deaths per 100,000 to 20 deaths between 2000 and 2004.

**Teens not in school and not working rate worsens.**

Between 2000 and 2005 in Rhode Island, the percentage of teens not in school and not working increased from 7% to 8%. Nationally, the rate decreased from 9% to 8% in the same time period.

**Higher share of Rhode Island children living in poverty.**

The rate of children living in poverty in Rhode Island increased from 16% in 2000 to 19% in 2005. Nationally, 19% of children lived in poverty in 2005.

**Over 3,300 Rhode Island children are in need of a permanent family connection.**

In 2004, 3,332 children under age 18 in Rhode Island lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 14 per 1,000 children. That year, 82 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.

