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### *2006 KIDS COUNT National Fact Sheet*

The latest available child well-being indicators signal that progress has slowed for America's kids and is no longer improving in the steady way it did in the late 1990s. The 2006 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* shows that child well-being has only slightly improved from last year's report, with four out of 10 indicators getting better.

- **Four areas of improvement:** child death rate, teen death rate, teen birth rate, and the percent of teens who are high school dropouts;
- **Three areas of decline:** low-birthweight babies, child poverty, and kids living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment; and
- **Three areas with no change:** infant mortality rate, percent of teens not attending school and not working, and the percent of children in single-parent families.

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, also looks at the critical role that early childhood development plays in preparing millions of American children for success in school and life. One particular form of child care known as family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care is discussed in-depth, as 6.5 million children under age six spend all or part of their time in a home-based or family-based setting. The Casey Foundation defines FFN as a form of child care offered in a home-based or family-based setting outside of the child's own home. The definition of home-based and family-based care differs among states, organizations, and advocates, which shows the need for greater attention and clarity in the field.

#### *Children Under the Age Six in Family-Based Child Care*

- **6.5 million children under age six were in family-based child care in 2003, which was 27 percent of all children in this age range.**
- **Use of family based care ranges from a high of 47 percent in South Dakota, to a low of 18 percent in Utah.**

### *10 Measures of Child Well-Being*

#### **Percent of low-birthweight babies continues to rise.**

Between 2000 and 2003, 47 states experienced an increase in the percentage of babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds. The national rate increased from 7.6 percent in 2000 to 7.9 percent in 2003.

***Best rate in 2003: Alaska, Washington (6.0 percent)***

***Worst rate in 2003: Mississippi (11.4 percent)***

#### **Infant mortality rate remains constant.**

The infant mortality rate in 2003 has stayed at the same level as year 2000, with 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. This rate is slightly higher than the all-time low in 2002 of 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. Among the states, South Dakota experienced the greatest increase, with an infant mortality rate worsening by 22 percent since 2000.

***Best rate in 2003: New Hampshire (4.0 deaths per 1,000 live births)***

***Worst rate in 2003: Mississippi (10.7 deaths per 1,000 live births)***

### **Child death rate continues to fall.**

In 2003, 21 out of every 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died, down from 22 deaths per 100,000 in 2000. This progress is limited, however, as 14 states experienced increased child death rates since 2000.

**Best rate in 2003: New Hampshire (12 deaths per 100,000 children)**

**Worst rate in 2003: Alaska (38 deaths per 100,000 children)**

### **National teen death rate improves slightly.**

Between 2000 and 2003, 26 states saw an improvement in the teen death rate. Nationally, the rate dropped from 67 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19 in 2000 to 66 per 100,000 in 2003.

**Best rate in 2003: Connecticut (40 deaths per 100,000 teens)**

**Worst rate in 2002: Alaska (105 deaths per 100,000 teens)**

### **Teen birth rate continues to drop.**

The teen birth rate for girls ages 15-19 dropped by 13 percent. This improvement represents a decline from 48 births per 1,000 females in 2000 to 42 births per 1,000 females in 2003. Forty-nine states experienced a drop in the birth rate and one state, North Dakota, remained the same.

**Best rate in 2003: New Hampshire (18 births per 1,000 females)**

**Worst rate in 2003: Mississippi, New Mexico, Texas (63 births per 1,000 females)**

### **High school dropout rate improves dramatically.**

Nationally, the percentage of teens ages 16-19 who were high school dropouts declined from 11 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2004, a 27-percent improvement. Overall, 41 states improved, two states worsened, and seven states saw no change in the high school dropout rate.

**Best rate in 2004: Iowa, North Dakota (3 percent)      Worst rate in 2004: Indiana (13 percent)**

### **The share of idle teens remains stagnant.**

In 2000 and 2004, the percent of teens ages 16-19 not attending school and not working remained at 9 percent. The number of idle teens is estimated to be nearly 1.3 million with the highest rates being among African-American, American-Indian, and Latino youth.

**Best rate in 2004: New Hampshire, North Dakota (4 percent)**

**Worst rate in 2004: Louisiana (13 percent)**

### **The rate of children who live with a parent who lacks secure year-round job increases.**

Since 2000, the share of children living in families where no parent has a full-time, year-round job worsened slightly. In 2000, 32 percent of children lived with a parent who lacked a secure year-round job, compared to 33 percent in 2004.

**Best rate in 2004: Nebraska (24 percent)      Worst rates in 2004: Alaska, Louisiana (40 percent)**

### **Child poverty rate increases between 2000 and 2004.**

In 2004, over 13 million children in the United States—or 18 percent—were living in poverty. In 2000, the child poverty rate was at 17 percent. Racial disparities persist: Black, American-Indian, and Latino children are approximately three times as likely to live in poverty as compared to Non-Hispanic Whites.

**Best rate in 2004: Connecticut, New Hampshire (10 percent)**

**Worst rate in 2004: Mississippi (31 percent)**

### **Halting a trend, share of kids living in single-parent households remains stable.**

Nationally, the percentage of children living in single-parent households remained at 31 percent between 2000 and 2004, reflecting a halt in a long-term trend. Prior to the mid-1990s, the single-parent family rate had been consistently increasing over three decades.

**Best rate in 2004: Utah (17 percent)**

**Worst rate in 2004: Louisiana (44 percent)**

**Note on data sources:** The KIDS COUNT Data Book uses the most up-to-date state level estimates from Federal statistical agencies. The data on the high school dropout rate, the number of idle teens, the number of children who live with a parent who lacks a secure year-round job, the child poverty rate, and the number of children living in single-parent households come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and reflect conditions in 2004. Data on births and deaths come from the National Center for Health Statistics and reflect events in 2003.