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### **Child Well-Being in Wisconsin at a Glance *2006 KIDS COUNT Wisconsin Fact Sheet***

Wisconsin ranks 13th among all states in a new state-by-state study that reports the well-being of America's children. The 2006 KIDS COUNT *Data Book* shows that Wisconsin improved in two out of 10 measures that reflect child well-being, experienced setbacks in six indicators and saw no change in two measures since 2000. This year's report highlights the early childhood experiences of young children, including a special focus on children under age six who are in family based child care.

#### **Number of Wisconsin children living in extreme poverty nearly doubled**

In 2000, 44,000 of the state's children lived in families earning below 50 percent of the federal poverty limit (\$9,579 for a family of four). By 2004 that number had increased to 84,000.

#### **Wisconsin above national average for children under age 6 with all parents in the workforce.**

In 2004, 66 percent (approximately 267 thousand) of all children under the age of six in Wisconsin had all parents in the labor force. Nationally, 59 percent of children under 6 have all parents working.

#### **Teen birth rate decreases 11 percent.**

Between 2000 and 2003, the number of teen births in Wisconsin decreased by 11 percent, marking the indicator in which Wisconsin was most improved. The state ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2003, up from 13<sup>th</sup> in 2000. There were 31 births per 1,000 teen girls ages 15-19 in 2003, much better than the national rate – 42 births per 1,000.

#### **Percent of high school dropouts on the rise.**

While the nation saw a 27 percent decrease in the high school dropout rate between 2000 and 2004, Wisconsin saw a 17 percent increase. In 2004, seven percent of teens were high school dropouts, compared to six percent in 2000. The state ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation, one of its worst ranking among the 10 indicators.

#### **State fares well on percent of idle teens, despite increase.**

Wisconsin ranked 12<sup>th</sup> overall for its low percentage of idle teens, despite a 17-percent increase in the percent of teens ages 16-19 not attending school and not working. In 2004, 7 percent of teens were not in school and not working, compared to 9 percent nationwide.