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Child Well-Being in Mississippi at a Glance **2005 KIDS COUNT Mississippi Fact Sheet**

Mississippi ranks 50th in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The 2005 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Mississippi improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on five and saw no change on one since 2000. This year's report also calls attention to the increasing number of children nationwide living in families struggling with chronic unemployment.

Mississippi's share of children living without employed adult exceeds national rate.

In 2003, approximately 63,000 Mississippi children lived in low-income households where no adult worked in the past year, accounting for 8 percent of the total child population in Mississippi. Nationwide, 5 percent of America's children were living without an employed adult.

Mississippi has nation's highest rate of children without secure parental employment.

Between 2000 and 2003, the rate of children living in a family where no parent held year-round, full-time employment worsened by 14 percent in Mississippi. In 2003, 41 percent of Mississippi's children lived without securely employed parents, compared to 36 percent in 2000.

Mississippi improves teen birth rate.

Although Mississippi improved its teen birth rate by 7 percent from 2000 to 2002, the state ranked 50th in the nation on this measure. In 2002, 65 out of every 1,000 females ages 15-19 gave birth, down from 70 births per 1,000 teens in 2000.

Share of low-birthweight babies increases.

Mississippi experienced a 5-percent increase in the share of low-birthweight babies between 2000 and 2002. Mississippi's share of babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds increased from 10.7 percent in 2000 to 11.2 in 2002. The state continued to rank 50th in the nation on this indicator.