

Summary List of Measures and Indicators of Child Well-Being

	Previous Data Value (Year)	Most Recent Data Value (Year)	Change Between Years*
Population and family characteristics			
Child population			
Number of children (in millions) under age 18 in the United States	72.6 (2001)	72.9 (2002)	↑
Children as a proportion of the population			
Children under age 18 as a percentage of the U.S. population	26 (2001)	25 (2002)	↓
Racial & ethnic composition			
Percentage of children under age 18 by race and ethnic group			
White alone	76.7 (2001)	76.6 (2002)	↓
Black alone	15.6 (2001)	15.6 (2002)	NS
Asian alone	3.7 (2001)	3.8 (2002)	↑
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.2 (2001)	0.2 (2002)	NS
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.2 (2001)	1.2 (2002)	NS
Two or more races	2.6 (2001)	2.6 (2002)	NS
Hispanic (of any race)	17.6 (2001)	18.0 (2002)	↑
Non-Hispanic (of any race)	82.4 (2001)	82.0 (2002)	↓
White alone, non-Hispanic	60.7 (2001)	60.1 (2002)	↓
Children of at least one foreign-born parent			
Percentage of native children under age 18 with at least one foreign-born parent	16 (2002)	16 (2003)	NS
Percentage of foreign-born children under age 18 with at least one foreign-born parent	4 (2002)	4 (2003)	NS
Non-English speaking home & difficulty speaking English			
Percentage of children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home	14 (1995)	17 (1999)	NS
Percentage of children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home and have difficulty speaking English	5 (1995)	5 (1999)	NS
Family structure & children's living arrangements			
Percentage of children under age 18 living with two married parents	69 (2002)	68 (2003)	NS
Births to unmarried women			
Births per 1,000 unmarried women ages 15 to 44	44 (2001)	44 (2002)	NS
Percentage of all births that are to unmarried women	33.5 (2001)	34.0 (2002)	↑
Child care			
Percentage of children, birth through age 6, not yet in kindergarten, who received some form of nonparental child care on a regular basis	60 (1995)	61 (2001)	NS
Percentage of children under age 5, with employed mothers, who were cared for by a relative	48 (1997)	50 (1999)	NS
Percentage of children under age 5, with employed mothers, who were cared for by nonrelatives	44 (1997)	42 (1999)	NS

Legend

NS - No significant change

↑ - Significant increase

↓ - Significant decrease

*Refers to tests of statistical significance

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Population and family characteristics - continued			
Children's environments			
Percentage of children under age 18 living in areas that do not meet one or more of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards	19 (2001)	34 (2002)	↑
Percentage of children ages 4 to 11 with cotinine in their blood (a marker of recent exposure to secondhand smoke)	88 (1988-1994)	64 (1999-2000)	↓
Percentage of households with children under age 7 where someone smokes regularly	28 (1996)	19 (1999)	↓
Economic security indicators			
Child poverty & family income			
Percentage of related children under age 18 in poverty	15.8 (2001)	16.3 (2002)	↑
Secure parental employment			
Percentage of children under age 18 living with parents, with at least one parent employed year round, full time	79 (2001)	78 (2002)	NS
Housing problems			
Percentage of households with children under age 18 reporting high shelter cost burden, crowding, and/or physically inadequate housing	35 (1999)	36 (2001)	NS
Food security & diet quality			
Percentage of children under age 18 in households classified by USDA as "food insecure with child hunger"	0.6 (2001)	0.8 (2002)	NS
Percentage of children ages 2 to 6 with a good diet	20 (1994-1996)	20 (1999-2000)	NS
Access to health care			
Percentage of children under age 18 covered by health insurance	88 (2001)	88 (2002)	NS
Percentage of children under age 18 with no usual source of health care	6 (2001)	6 (2002)	NS
Health indicators			
General health status			
Percentage of children under age 18 in very good or excellent health	83 (2001)	83 (2002)	NS
Activity limitation			
Percentage of children ages 5 to 17 with any limitation in activity resulting from chronic conditions	8 (2001)	9 (2002)	NS
Overweight			
Percentage of children ages 6 to 18 who are overweight	11 (1988-1994)	16 (1999-2002)	↑

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Health indicators - continued			
Childhood immunization			
Percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who received combined series immunization coverage	77 (2001)	78 (2002)	NS
Low birthweight			
Percentage of infants weighing less than 5 lbs. 8 oz. at birth	7.7 (2001)	7.8 (2002)	↑
Infant mortality			
Deaths before the first birthday per 1,000 live births	6.8 (2001)	7.0 (2002)	↑
Child mortality			
Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 4	32 (2000)	33 (2001)	NS
Deaths per 100,000 children ages 5 to 14	18 (2000)	17 (2001)	↓
Adolescent mortality			
Deaths per 100,000 adolescents ages 15 to 19	67 (2000)	67 (2001)	NS
Adolescent births			
Births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 17	25 (2001)	23 (2002)	↓
Behavior and social environment indicators			
Regular cigarette smoking			
Percentage of students who reported smoking daily in the previous 30 days			
8th-graders	5.1 (2002)	4.5 (2003)	NS
10th-graders	10.1 (2002)	8.9 (2003)	NS
12th-graders	16.9 (2002)	15.8 (2003)	NS
Alcohol use			
Percentage of students who reported having five or more alcoholic beverages in a row in the last 2 weeks			
8th-graders	12.4 (2002)	11.9 (2003)	NS
10th-graders	22.4 (2002)	22.2 (2003)	NS
12th-graders	28.6 (2002)	27.9 (2003)	NS
Illicit drug use			
Percentage of students who have used illicit drugs in the previous 30 days			
8th-graders	10.4 (2002)	9.7 (2003)	NS
10th-graders	20.8 (2002)	19.5 (2003)	NS
12th-graders	25.4 (2002)	24.1 (2003)	NS

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Behavior and social environment indicators - continued			
Youth victims & perpetrators of serious violent crimes			
Serious violent crime victimization rate per 1,000 youth ages 12 to 17	15 (2001)	11 (2002)	↓
Serious violent crime offending rate per 1,000 youth ages 12 to 17	19 (2001)	11 (2002)	↓
Education indicators			
Family reading to young children			
Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 who are read to every day by a family member	54 (1999)	58 (2001)	↑
Early childhood care & education			
Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 who are enrolled in early childhood centers	60 (1999)	56 (2001)	↓
Mathematics & reading achievement (0-500 scale)			
Average mathematics scale score of			
9-year olds	231 (1996)	232 (1999)	NS
13-year olds	274 (1996)	276 (1999)	NS
17-year olds	307 (1996)	308 (1999)	NS
Average reading scale score of			
9-year olds	213 (1996)	212 (1999)	NS
13-year olds	258 (1996)	259 (1999)	NS
17-year olds	288 (1996)	288 (1999)	NS
High school academic coursetaking			
Percentage of high school graduates who completed high-level coursework in			
Mathematics	41 (1998)	45 (2000)	NS
Science	61 (1998)	63 (2000)	NS
English	29 (1998)	34 (2000)	↑
Foreign language	30 (1998)	30 (2000)	NS
High school completion			
Percentage of young adults ages 18 to 24 who have completed high school	87 (2000)	87 (2001)	NS
Youth neither enrolled in school nor working			
Percentage of youth ages 16 to 19 who are neither in school nor working	9 (2002)	8 (2003)	NS
Higher education			
Percentage of high school graduates ages 25 to 29 who have completed a bachelor's degree or higher	29 (2002)	28 (2003)	NS

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