



America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2001



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of Well-Being 2001



Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics



The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics was founded in 1994. Executive Order No. 13045 formally established it in April 1997 to foster coordination and collaboration in the collection and reporting of Federal data on children and families. Members of the Forum as of Spring 2001 are listed below.

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Foreword

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 is the fifth report in an annual series prepared by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. A collaborative effort by 20 Federal agencies, the report is required by Executive Order No. 13045. As in past years, readers will find here an accessible compendium of indicators—drawn from the most recent, most reliable official statistics—illustrative of both the promises and the difficulties confronting our Nation's young people.

This report updates the information presented last year, maintaining comparability with previous volumes while incorporating improvements. Most notably, regular data on student coursetaking in high school are now available. This addition closes an important data gap and raises the number of key indicators to 24. Two special features are also included in this year's report—one on the prevalence of asthma and one on youth employment during the school year and the following summer.

By recognizing the gaps in our information, *America's Children* challenges Federal statistical agencies to do better. Forum agencies are meeting that challenge by working to provide more comprehensive and consistent information on the condition and progress of our Nation's children. Forum agencies will continue their efforts to close critical data gaps, particularly in areas such as disability, the role of fathers in children's lives, and the measurement of positive behaviors associated with improved child development.

The value of the *America's Children* reports and the extraordinary cooperation they represent reflect the Forum's innovative, determined spirit to advance our understanding of where our children are today and what may be needed to bring them a better tomorrow. The Forum agencies should be congratulated once again this year for joining together to address their common goals: developing a truly comprehensive set of indicators on the well-being of America's children

and ensuring that this information is readily accessible in both content and format. Their accomplishments reflect the dedication of the Forum agency staff members who coordinate the assessment of data needs, evaluate strategies to make data presentations more consistent, and work together to produce important publications and provide these products on the Forum's website: <http://childstats.gov>. Last but not least, none of this work would be possible without the continued cooperation of millions of American citizens who willingly provide the data that are summarized and analyzed by staff in the Federal agencies.

We invite you to suggest ways we can enhance this annual portrait of the Nation's most valuable resource: its children. I applaud the Forum's collaborative efforts in producing this fifth annual report and hope that our compendium will continue to be useful in your work.

Katherine K. Wallman
Chief Statistician
Office of Management and Budget

Acknowledgments

This report reflects the commitment and involvement of the members of the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. It was prepared by the Writing Subcommittee of the Reporting Committee of the Forum. This year, the committee was chaired by Katherine Heck and Alisa Jenny, National Center for Health Statistics. Other committee members included Dawn Aldridge, Food and Nutrition Service; James Colliver, National Institute on Drug Abuse; David Johnson, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Laura Lippman, National Center for Education Statistics; Kristin Smith, Census Bureau; Janet Chiancone, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Tracey Woodruff, Environmental Protection Agency; and Kathy Nelson, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Reporting Committee of the Forum, chaired by Katherine Heck and Alisa Jenny, guided the development of the new indicators. Members of the Reporting Committee not represented on the Writing Subcommittee included Linda Gordon, Immigration and Naturalization Service; Laura Montgomery, Ken Schoendorf, Gloria Simpson, and Barbara Foley Wilson, National Center for Health Statistics; Patrick Rooney, National Center for Education Statistics; Bob Kominski, Census Bureau; Jeff Evans, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Meredith Kelsey, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services; Woodie Kessel, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; Cathy Gotschall, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Russ Scarato and Stella Yu, Maternal and Child Health Bureau; and Susan Schechter, Office of Management and Budget.

Other staff members of the Forum agencies provided data, developed indicators, or wrote parts of the report. They include Joseph Dalaker, Debbie Dove, Jason Fields, Mary Jane Slagle, and Greg Spencer, Census Bureau; Patsy Klaus and Michael Rand, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Robert McIntire, Howard Hayghe, Mike Horrigan, Donna Rothstein, and Julie Yates, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Wayne Stephens and Alan Bloch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Mark Lino and Peter Basiotis, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion; Gary Bickel, Food and Nutrition Service; Kathryn Chandler and Chris Chapman, National Center for Education Statistics; Lara Akinbami, Robin Cohen, Cathy Duran, Lois Fingerhut, Donna Hoyert, and Stephanie Ventura, National Center for Health Statistics; and Barbara Allen-Hagen, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Other individuals who assisted with the report included Yupin Bae, Pinkerton Computer Consultants, Inc.; and DeeAnn Brimhall and Linda Shafer, Education Statistics Services Institute.

Westat, in support of the National Center for Health Statistics, assisted the committee in producing the report. Janice Kociol coordinated and managed the production of the report and was the initial copy editor. She also prepared files for agency updates and assisted the Reporting Committee. Christine Winquist Nord provided technical guidance. Other Westat staff members who assisted in preparing the report included Laura Cardillo, Laura Flicker, Margaret Hunker, and Jennifer Williamson.

The following additional staff members made valuable contributions in their reviews of the report: Deborah Klein, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Steven Carlson, Food and Nutrition Service; Michael Kogan, Maternal and Child Health Bureau; Shelley Burns, Chris Chapman, Arnold Goldstein and Val Plisko, National Center for Education Statistics; Jennifer Madans, National Center for Health Statistics; and Richard Bavier, Office of Management and Budget.

Carole Benson of Westat edited the final version of the report. Design contributions came from Westat's Graphics Arts Department, who designed the cover and flag pages, produced and updated the report's tables and figures, and updated and laid out the text. The logo was developed by John Jeter of the National Center for Health Statistics. Patty Wilson, National Center for Health Statistics, coordinated the printing of the report. The National Maternal and Child Health Clearinghouse distributed the report for the Forum.

Highlights



America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 is the fifth annual report to the Nation on the condition of children in America. Eight contextual measures describe the changing population and family context in which children are living, and 24 indicators depict the well-being of children in the areas of economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education. This year, the report has two special features on asthma prevalence and youth employment.

Part I: Population and Family Characteristics

- In 2000, there were 70.4 million children under age 18 in the United States, or 26 percent of the population, down from a peak of 36 percent at the end of the baby boom. Children are projected to remain a stable percentage of the total population, comprising 24 percent of the population in 2020.
- The ethnic diversity of America's children continues to increase. In 2000, 64 percent of U.S. children were white, non-Hispanic; 15 percent were black, non-Hispanic; 4 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander; and 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native. The number of Hispanic children has increased faster than that of any other racial and ethnic group, growing from 9 percent of the child population in 1980 to 16 percent in 2000.
- The percentage of children living with one parent increased from 20 percent in 1980 to 26 percent in 2000. The rise in single father households has contributed to this increase. The proportion of children living with single fathers doubled from 2 percent in 1980 to 4 percent in 2000.
- The percentage of school-age children who speak a language other than English at home and have difficulty speaking English has nearly doubled over the last 20 years, increasing from 2.8 percent in 1979 to 5 percent in 1999.

Part II: Indicators of Children's Well-Being

Economic Security Indicators

- The poverty rate for children living with family members continued to decline from 18 percent in 1998 to 16 percent in 1999. The poverty rate for children has fluctuated since the early 1980s: it reached a high of 22 percent in 1993 and has since decreased to the lowest rate since 1979.
- The decrease in poverty is apparent for children living in female-headed families and is more pronounced for black children. Among black children in female-headed families, about two-thirds lived below the poverty line from 1980 to 1993, but by 1999 just over half were in poverty.
- The percentage of children who had at least one parent working full-time, all year continued to increase in 1999 to 79 percent from 77 percent in 1998.
- Children living below the poverty line have become increasingly likely to have one or two parents working full-time, all year. In 1980, 21 percent of children below poverty had at least one parent employed full-time. By 1999, this number was 31 percent.
- The percentage of children who had health insurance coverage increased from 85 percent in 1998 to 86 percent in 1999.

Health Indicators

- In 1999, 78 percent of children 19 to 35 months of age had completed the combined series of vaccinations (DTP, polio, measles, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b), up from 69 percent in 1994.
- Unintentional injuries continue to be the leading cause of death for children and youth ages 1 to 19, with motor vehicle crashes being the most common reason for those injuries. Overall, deaths to adolescents ages 15 to 19 have fallen significantly since 1991. One major reason for the decrease in deaths is a drop in mortality due to firearm injuries.
- In 1999, the adolescent birth rate was at a record low, at 29 births per 1,000 young women ages 15 to 17.

Behavior and Social Environment Indicators

- Cigarette use among adolescents shows indications of decline. Between 1999 and 2000, the rate of daily smoking in the past 30 days decreased from 23 percent to 21 percent among high school seniors and from 16 percent to 14 percent among 10th-graders. Seven percent of 8th-graders reported daily smoking in 2000. These rates for 2000 are significantly below recent peak levels of daily smoking, which occurred in 1997 for 12th-graders (25 percent) and in 1996 for 10th-graders (18 percent) and 8th-graders (10 percent).
- In 2000, rates of heavy drinking remained largely unchanged from 1999, with 30 percent of 12th-graders, 26 percent of 10th-graders, and 14 percent of 8th-graders reporting heavy drinking, i.e., having at least five drinks in a row at least once in the previous 2 weeks.
- In 2000, 12 percent of 8th-graders, 23 percent of 10th-graders, and 25 percent of 12th-graders reported illicit drug use in the past 30 days, not significantly different from the rates in 1999. Historically, illicit drug use in the past 30 days increased between 1992 and 1996 or 1997. For 12th-graders, it increased from 14 percent in 1992 to 26 percent in 1997. Between 1992 and 1996, rates of use increased from 11 to 23 percent among 10th-graders and from 7 to 15 percent among 8th-graders. Since these recent peaks, illicit drug use has remained stable or declined.
- Since 1993, there has been a fairly steady decline in serious violent crimes against youth ages 12 to 17, as well as in crimes where youth ages 12 to 17 were the offenders.

Education Indicators

- The percentage of high school graduates who had taken advanced courses increased dramatically between 1982 and 1998. Over 40 percent of 1998 high school graduates had taken at least one advanced mathematics course, 60 percent had taken at least one advanced science class, 20 percent took mostly honors-level English, and 13 percent took an advanced foreign language class.
- Long-term trend mathematics and reading assessment scores for 1999 show improvements in mathematics since 1982, but not reading. Scores did not improve significantly over the last assessment in 1996 in either subject or in any of the three age groups tested—ages 9, 13, and 17. Girls had higher reading scores than boys at all three ages, and girls performed similarly to boys in mathematics.
- The percentage of high school graduates who went on to earn a bachelor's degree or higher increased to an all-time high of 33 percent in 2000, up from 26 percent in 1980. Among black, non-Hispanic high school graduates, this percentage increased from 17 percent in 1999 to 21 percent in 2000.

Special Features

- Asthma is the most common chronic childhood illness in the United States, and the percentage of children diagnosed with asthma appears to be growing. In 1998, about 5 percent of children under age 18 had asthma. This was up from 3 percent in 1981 and 4 percent in 1988.
- Working while in school is prevalent among older high school students. Nearly 60 percent of students who were 16 years old when the 1997-98 school year began worked for an employer at some point during the academic year.

Summary List of Indicators

Indicator Name	Description of Indicator	Previous Year of Data Value (Year)	New Data Value (Year)	Change Between Years
Economic Security				
Child poverty and family income	Percentage of related children under age 18 in poverty	18 (1998)	16 (1999)	▼
Secure parental employment	Percentage of children under age 18 living with parents with at least one parent employed full time all year	77 (1998)	79 (1999)	▲
Housing problems	Percentage of households with children under age 18 that report housing problems	36 (1997)	35 (1999)	NS
Food security	Percentage of children under age 18 in households experiencing food insecurity with moderate or severe hunger	3.8 (1999)	—	
	Percentage of children ages 2 to 5 with a good diet	24 (1996)	—	
Access to health care	Percentage of children under age 18 covered by health insurance	85 (1998)	86 (1999)	▲
	Percentage of children under age 18 with no usual source of health care	7 (1997)	7 (1998)	NS
Health				
General health status	Percentage of children under age 18 in very good or excellent health	82 (1997)	83 (1998)	NS
Activity limitation	Percentage of children ages 5 to 17 with any limitation in activity resulting from chronic conditions	8 (1997)	7 (1998)	NS
Childhood immunization	Percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who received combined series immunization coverage	79 (1998)	78 (1999)	NS
Low birthweight	Percentage of infants weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth	7.6 (1998)	7.6 (1999)	NS
Infant mortality	Deaths before the first birthday per 1,000 live births	7.2 (1998)	—	
Child mortality	Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 4	35 (1998)	—	
	Deaths per 100,000 children ages 5 to 14	20 (1998)	—	
Adolescent mortality	Deaths per 100,000 adolescents ages 15 to 19	75 (1997)	71 (1998)	▼
Adolescent births	Births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 17	30 (1998)	29 (1999)	▼
Behavior and Social Environment				
Regular cigarette smoking	Percentage of 8th-grade students who reported smoking daily in the previous 30 days	8 (1999)	7 (2000)	NS
	Percentage of 10th-grade students who reported smoking daily in the previous 30 days	16 (1999)	14 (2000)	▼
	Percentage of 12th-grade students who reported smoking daily in the previous 30 days	23 (1999)	21 (2000)	▼
Alcohol use	Percentage of 8th-grade students who reported having five or more alcoholic beverages in a row in the last 2 weeks	15 (1999)	14 (2000)	NS
	Percentage of 10th-grade students who reported having five or more alcoholic beverages in a row in the last 2 weeks	26 (1999)	26 (2000)	NS

Legend: NS = No significant change ▲ = Significant increase ▼ = Significant decrease — = not applicable

Indicator Name	Description of Indicator	Previous Year of Data Value (Year)	New Data Value (Year)	Change Between Years
Alcohol use (cont.)	Percentage of 12th-grade students who reported having five or more alcoholic beverages in a row in the last 2 weeks	31 (1999)	30 (2000)	NS
Illicit drug use	Percentage of 8th-grade students who have used illicit drugs in the previous 30 days	12 (1999)	12 (2000)	NS
	Percentage of 10th-grade students who have used illicit drugs in the previous 30 days	22 (1999)	23 (2000)	NS
	Percentage of 12th-grade students who have used illicit drugs in the previous 30 days	26 (1999)	25 (2000)	NS
Youth victims and perpetrators of serious violent crimes	Rate of serious violent crime victimizations per 1,000 youth ages 12 to 17	25 (1998)	20 (1999)	NS
	Serious violent crime offending rate per 1,000 youth ages 12 to 17	27 (1998)	26 (1999)	NS
Education				
Family reading to young children	Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 who are read to every day by a family member	54 (1999)	—	
Early childhood care and education	Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 who are enrolled in early childhood centers	60 (1999)	—	
Mathematics and 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	38 (1994)	41 (1998)	NS
	science	54 (1994)	60 (1998)	▲
	English	18 (1994)	20 (1998)	NS
	foreign language	11 (1994)	13 (1998)	NS
High school completion	Percentage of young adults ages 18 to 24 who have completed high school	85 (1998)	86 (1999)	▲
Youth neither enrolled in school nor working	Percentage of youth ages 16 to 19 who are neither in school nor working	8 (1999)	8 (2000)	NS
Higher education	Percentage of high school graduates ages 25 to 29 who have completed a bachelor's degree or higher	32 (1999)	33 (2000)	NS
Special Features				
Asthma	Percentage of children under age 18 who have asthma	—	5 (1998)	
Youth employment while in school	Percent of youth age 16 enrolled in school and working in employee jobs	—	58 (1997-98)	

Legend: NS = No significant change ▲ = Significant increase ▼ = Significant decrease — = not applicable

About This Report



America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001, developed by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, is the fifth annual synthesis of information on the status of the Nation's most valuable resource, our children. This report presents 24 key indicators of the well-being of children. These indicators are monitored through official Federal statistics covering children's economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education. The report also presents data on eight key contextual measures and includes two indicators as special features: asthma prevalence and youth employment. The 20 agencies of the Forum have also introduced improvements in the measurement of several of the indicators presented last year.

Purpose of *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*

This report provides the Nation with a broad annual summary of national indicators of child well-being and monitors changes in these indicators over time. The Forum hopes that this report will stimulate discussions by policy-makers and the public, exchanges between the data and policy communities, and improvements in Federal data on children and families.

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

The Forum is a formal structure for collaboration among 20 Federal agencies that produce or use statistical data on children and families. The members of the Forum are listed on the back of the cover page. Building on earlier cooperative activities, the Forum was founded in 1994. It was formally established by Executive Order No. 13045 in 1997 to foster the coordination and integration of the collection and reporting of data on children and families. The two major publications produced by the Forum are *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* (produced annually since 1997) and *Nurturing Fatherhood: Improving Data and Research on Male Fertility, Family Formation and Fatherhood* (June 1998). The Forum's primary missions are to develop ways to improve consistency and enhance the collection of data on children, youth, and families, and to improve the reporting and dissemination of information on the status of children and families to the policy community and the general public.

Structure of the report

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 is intended to present information and data on the well-being of children in a nontechnical, user-

friendly format. It is designed to complement other more technical or comprehensive reports produced by the Forum agencies. The report is divided into two parts.

The first part of the report, *Population and Family Characteristics*, presents data that illustrate the changes that have taken place during the past few decades in eight measures depicting the context of children's lives. These background measures provide a foundation for understanding the key indicators and the child population. They provide basic information about children in the United States and the social and demographic changes occurring in the child population. These data answer questions such as: How many children are there in the United States? What proportion of the population is under age 18? How racially and ethnically diverse are our children? How many have difficulty speaking English? In what types of families do they live? What is the quality of their environment?

The second part, *Indicators of Children's Well-Being*, contains data on key indicators of how well we are doing in providing economic security, educational opportunity, and a healthy and safe environment in which children can play, learn, and grow. Unlike the data presented in Part I of the report, which simply describe the changing context in which children live, the data in Part II offer insight into how well children are faring by providing information in four key areas of child well-being: economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education.

For each background measure in *Part I: Population and Family Characteristics*, and each indicator in *Part II: Indicators of Children's Well-Being*, there are three components presented:

- *Statements* about why the measure or indicator is important to understanding the condition of children;
- *Figures* showing important facts about trends or population groups; and
- *Highlights* with information on the current status, recent trends, and important differences by population groups noted.

In addition, *Appendix A: Detailed Tables* contains tabulated data for each measure and additional detail not discussed in the main body of the report. *Appendix B: Data Source Descriptions* contains descriptions of the sources and surveys used to generate the indicators.

Aspects of child well-being depicted in this report

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 covers four domains of child well-being: economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education. The economic security indicators document poverty and income among children and the accessibility of basic necessities such as food, housing, and health care. The health indicators document the physical health and well-being of children by presenting information on their health status, immunization coverage, death rates, and teenage births. The behavioral and social environment indicators present information about young people's participation in illegal or high-risk behaviors, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, using illicit drugs, and engaging in serious violent crimes. Finally, the education indicators examine how well we are succeeding in educating our children, including preschoolers' exposure to reading and early education, measures of student achievement, rigorous course taking in high school, and indicators of how many young adults complete high school and college.

Special features

At the end of Part II, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001* presents data on two "special features." Special features are an annual component of *America's Children*, presenting measures that are not available with sufficient frequency to be considered as regular key indicators, but nevertheless provide important information on child well-being. This year's special features depict childhood asthma prevalence and youth employment.

Changes since last year

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 is similar to last year's report in both format and content. While most of the indicators presented last year are included and updated, the Forum has worked to improve the report in a number of important ways. Some changes reflect improvements in the availability of data for certain key indicators. Some changes clarify the concept being measured or expand the indicator substantively. This year, there is a new regular indicator on academic coursetaking in high school and two new special features describing asthma and youth employment. The changes reflect the many helpful comments and suggestions for improvements that were received from readers and users of the previous reports.

Children included in this report

In order to convey a comprehensive understanding of child well-being, the report looks at the status of all children under age 18 living in the United States. A few indicators provide data on older youth and young adults (persons ages 18 to 29 years). In most cases throughout the report, the word "children" refers to any person under age 18 living in a civilian or noninstitutionalized setting in the United States. In some other cases, such as vital statistics, all children are included. When data are being presented only for specific age groups, this is indicated in the text (e.g., children ages 1 to 4). As is also noted in the text, some indicators examine only particular groups of children (e.g., children living in family settings, children living with parents, children in certain age groups or grade levels). For most of the indicators, the relevant information has been reported by an adult in the household or family and not directly by the children.

In many cases, we have also presented the data on children by race and Hispanic origin. In most cases, Hispanics have been separated from the white and black categories and "non-Hispanic" follows the race designation, such as "white, non-Hispanic." In some cases, data for Hispanics were not available or could not be separated from data for race groups. In these cases, data for race groups (white, black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander) include Hispanics.

Selection of the key indicators

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 presents a selected set of key indicators of enduring interest that measure critical aspects of children's lives and are collected rigorously and regularly by Federal agencies. The Forum chose these indicators through careful examination of available data. In determining this list of key indicators, the Forum sought input from the Federal policymaking community, foundations, academic researchers, and State and local children's service providers. These indicators were chosen because they are:

- *Easy to understand* by broad audiences;
- *Objectively based* on substantial research connecting them to child well-being and using reliable data;
- *Balanced* so that no single area of children's lives dominates the report;
- *Measured regularly* so that they can be updated and show trends over time; and
- *Representative* of large segments of the population, rather than one particular group.

Data sources

Data for the key indicators are drawn primarily from national surveys and from vital records. Federal agencies regularly survey the population on many issues. Some national surveys use interviewers to gather information on children through a variety of methods, including speaking directly, by telephone or in person, with families selected through rigorous sampling methods. Other surveys use questionnaires distributed directly to youth to ask about their behavior. In addition, some national data collection efforts directly assess students by giving them tests or by asking them to perform certain tasks. Federal agencies collect information on births and deaths from State health departments. These nationally representative surveys, along with data collected through vital statistics, provide the best available measures of the condition of U.S. children. Administrative data from social service agencies were not used for measures in this report. The availability and quality of such data can be affected by policy differences among agencies in various local areas and by resource constraints. Further information on data sources for this report is provided in *Appendix B: Data Source Descriptions*.

In the text of this report, percentages and rates are rounded to the nearest whole number, unless rounding would mask significant differences. The text discusses changes over time or between-group differences only when differences are statistically significant.

Additional data needed

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001 identifies critical gaps in the data available on children and youth. It challenges the Nation as a whole—and the Federal statistical agencies in particular—to improve the monitoring of important areas of children's lives. It also challenges Federal agencies to improve the timeliness with which information on children is made available to policy-makers and the public.

At the end of *Part I: Population and Family Characteristics* and at the end of each section in *Part II: Indicators of Children's Well-Being*, the report presents a description of data and measures of child well-being in need of development. These lists include many important aspects of children's lives for which regular indicators are lacking or are in development, such as homelessness, long-term poverty, mental health, disability, neighborhood environment, and early childhood development. In some of these areas, the Forum is exploring ways to collect new measures and

improve existing ones. In others, Forum agencies have successfully fielded surveys incorporating some new measures but they are not yet available on a regular basis for monitoring purposes.

For further information

There are several good places to obtain additional information on each of the indicators found in this report. First, for many of the indicators, *Appendix A: Detailed Tables* contains additional detail not discussed in the main body of the report. For example, some tables show additional breakouts by gender, race and Hispanic origin, or another category. Second, *Appendix B: Data Source Descriptions* contains information and descriptions of the sources and surveys used to generate the indicators as well as information on how to contact the agency responsible for collecting the data or administering the relevant survey. Third, numerous publications of the Federal statistical agencies provide additional detail on each of the key indicators included in this report, as well as on scores of other indicators. These reports include *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth*, published annually by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; *The Condition of Education*, published annually by the National Center for Education Statistics; and *Health, United States*, published annually by the National Center for Health Statistics. Often these compendia contain additional details not reported in *America's Children*. *Appendix B: Data Source Descriptions* also contains a list of agency contacts who can provide further information on the relevant surveys and indicators. Finally, the Forum's website, <http://childstats.gov>, contains many links to Forum agency publications that often provide further detail about the indicators in this report.

America's Children on the Internet

The report can be found on the worldwide web at <http://childstats.gov>. The website version of the report contains data for years that are presented in the figures but not in the tables in this report. The Forum's website also contains information on the overall structure and organization of the Forum, as well as other reports, and news on current activities. Also found on the website are links to international comparative data and related reports of Forum agencies and other organizations providing more detailed data. The website addresses of the Forum agencies are found on the following page.

Websites

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics:

<http://childstats.gov>

Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov>

Department of Commerce

Census Bureau:

<http://www.census.gov>

Department of Defense

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Personnel Support, Families and Education):

<http://mfrc.calib.com>

Department of Education

National Center for Education Statistics:

<http://www.nces.ed.gov>

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families:

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov>

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality:

<http://www.ahrq.gov>

Maternal and Child Health Bureau:

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov>

National Center for Health Statistics:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development:

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov>

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation:

<http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov>

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Policy Development and Research:

<http://www.huduser.org>

Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

National Institute of Justice:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:

<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org>

Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics:

<http://www.bls.gov>

Women's Bureau:

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb>

Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Children's Health Protection:

<http://www.epa.gov/children>

National Science Foundation

Division of Science Resources Studies:

<http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs>

Office of Management and Budget

Statistical Policy Office:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb>

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