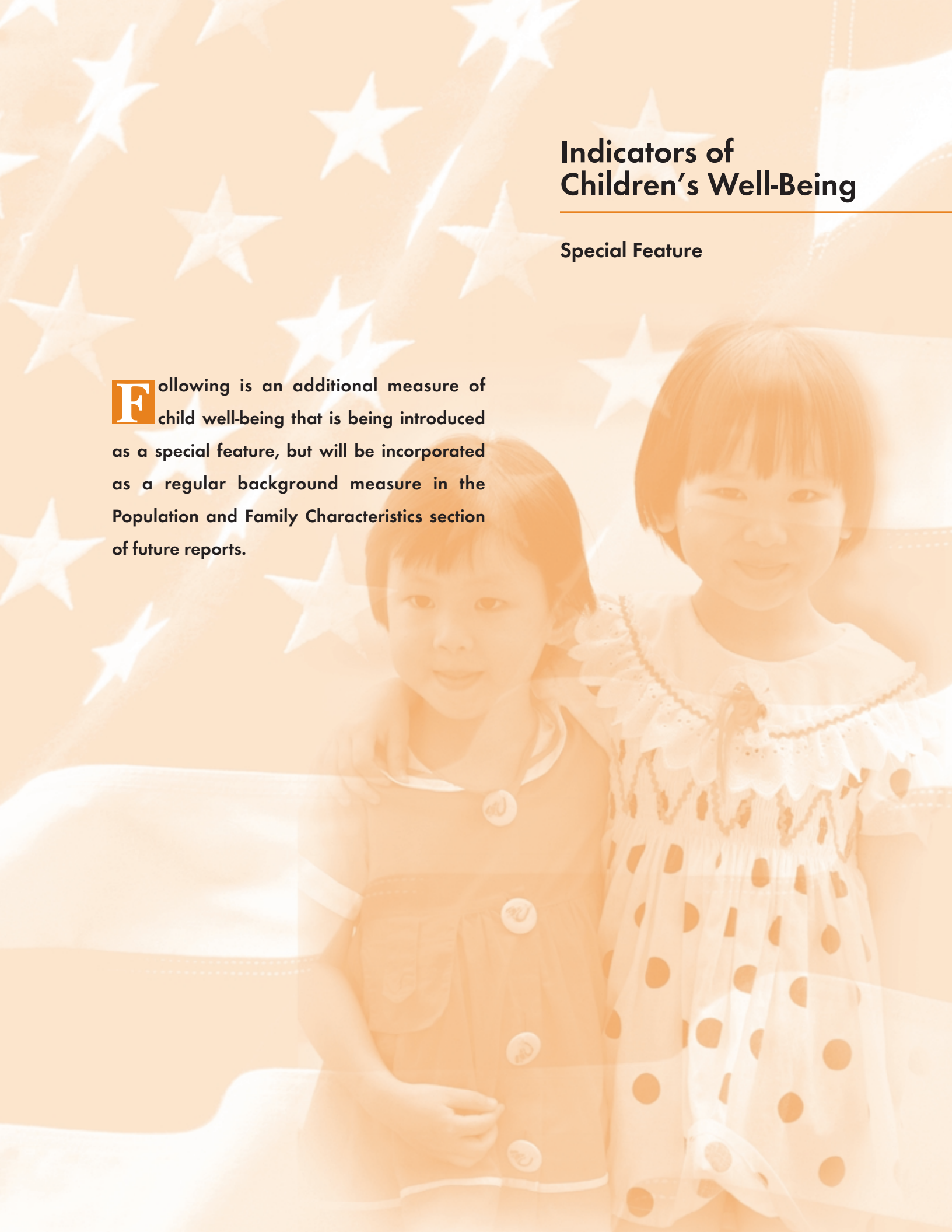


# Indicators of Children's Well-Being

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## Special Feature

**F**ollowing is an additional measure of child well-being that is being introduced as a special feature, but will be incorporated as a regular background measure in the Population and Family Characteristics section of future reports.

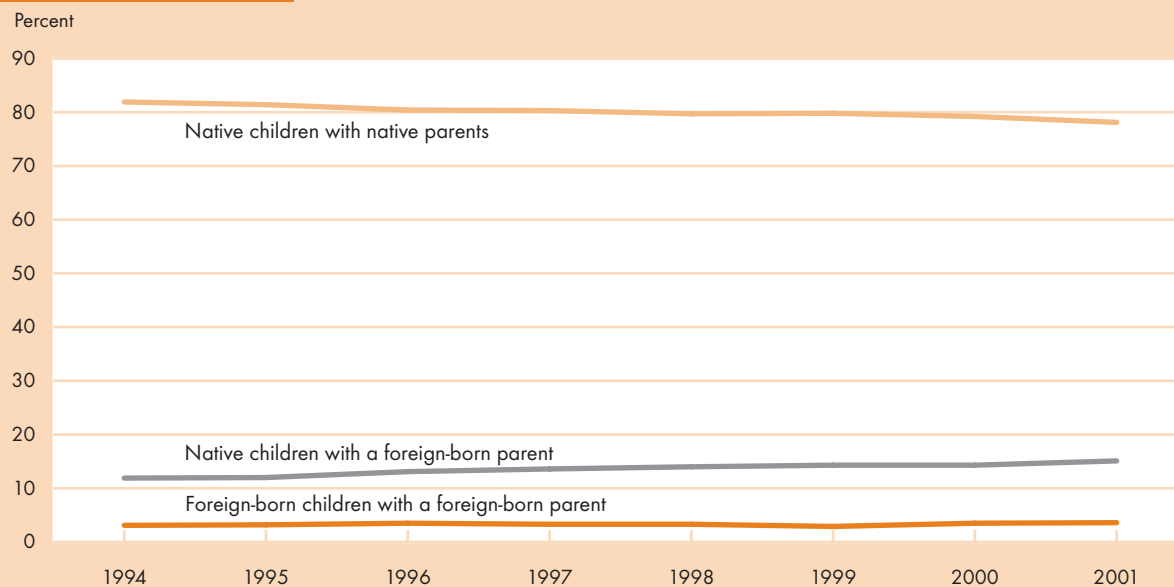


## Children of at Least One Foreign-Born Parent

The foreign-born population of the United States has risen dramatically since 1970.<sup>74</sup> This increase in the past generation has largely been from Latin American and Asian areas, and represents an increase in the diversity of language and cultural backgrounds of children growing up in the United States.<sup>75</sup> As a result of language and cultural barriers confronting children and their parents, children with foreign-born parents may need additional resources both at school and at home to successfully progress in school and transition to adulthood. Data on the nativity of the population have been available from the Current Population Survey since 1994 and from the Decennial Census since 1850.<sup>76</sup>

### Indicator SPECIAL

### Percentage of children under age 18 by nativity of child and parents, 1994-2001



NOTE: Native parents means that all of the parents that the child lives with are native born, while foreign-born means that one or both of the child's parents are foreign-born. Anyone with United States citizenship at birth is considered native, which includes persons born in the U.S., in U.S. outlying areas, and persons born abroad with at least one American parent. Includes all children under age 18 except children in group quarters. Children living in households with no parents present are not shown in this figure, but are included in the bases for the percentages.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, March Current Population Survey.

- In 1994, 15 percent of children living in the U.S. lived with at least one parent who was foreign-born. In 2001, this percentage had increased to 19 percent.
- In 2001, 15 percent of children were native children with at least one foreign-born parent, and 4 percent were foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent.
- The percentage of children whose parents have less than a high school diploma is much higher among children with at least one foreign-born parent than among children with native parents. In 2001, 42 percent of foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent had a parent with less than a high school degree, compared with 35 percent of native children with at least one foreign-born parent and 11 percent of native children with native parents.
- In 2001, foreign-born children with foreign-born parents were more likely than native children with foreign-born parents to live below the poverty level, 28 and 20 percent, respectively.
- Children with a foreign-born parent more often live in central cities than children with native parents. In 2001, 47 percent of foreign-born children with a foreign-born parent lived in central cities, 41 percent of native children with at least one foreign-born parent lived in central cities, and only 25 percent of native children of native parents lived in central cities.
- Children with at least one foreign-born parent, regardless of their own nativity status, more often lived in households that included relatives who were not their parents. In 2001, about 32 percent of children with at least one foreign-born parent lived with any other adult relatives, compared with only 18 percent of children with native parents.

*Bullets contain references to data that can be found in Table SPECIAL on page 114-115. Endnotes begin on page 59.*

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a striped shirt, is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is positioned in the lower right foreground. The background is a close-up of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The entire image has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

## Notes to Indicators

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<sup>1</sup> Adult respondents were asked if the children in the household spoke a language other than English at home and how well they could speak English. Categories used for reporting were “Very well,” “Well,” “Not well,” and “Not at all.” All those who were reported to speak English less than “Very well” were considered to have difficulty speaking English based on an evaluation of the English-speaking ability of sample children in the 1980s.

<sup>2</sup> The majority of children who live with neither of their parents are living with grandparents or other relatives. Some live with foster parents or other nonrelatives.

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Health Statistics. (1995). *Report to Congress on out-of-wedlock childbearing*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>4</sup> McLanahan, S. (1995). The consequences of nonmarital childbearing for women, children, and society. In National Center for Health Statistics, *Report to Congress on out-of-wedlock childbearing*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>5</sup> Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Ventura, S.J., Menacker, F., and Park, M.M. (2002). Births: Final data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50 (5). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>6</sup> Ventura, S.J. (1995). Births to unmarried mothers: United States, 1980-92. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 53 (Series 21). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>7</sup> Ventura, S.J. and Bachrach, C.A. (2000). Nonmarital childbearing in the United States, 1940-99. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48 (16). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>8</sup> Mathews, T.J., MacDorman, M.F., and Menacker, F.E. (2002). Infant mortality statistics from the 1999 period linked birth/infant death data set. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50 (4) Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>9</sup> Fields, J., and Casper, L.M. (2001). America’s families and living arrangements: March 2000. *Current Population Reports*, P20-537. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>10</sup> Bachu, A. (1999). Trends in premarital childbearing: 1930 to 1994. *Current Population Reports*, P23-197. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>11</sup> The *birth rate for unmarried women* is the number of births per 1,000 unmarried women in a given age group, for example, 20 to 24 years. The percentage of all births that are to unmarried women is the number of births occurring to unmarried women, divided by the total number of births. The *percentage of all births that are to unmarried women* is affected by the birth rate for married women, the birth rate for unmarried women (who account for nearly one-third of all births), and the proportion of women of childbearing age who are unmarried. The percentage of births to unmarried women increased very slightly in recent years, because increases in the birth rate for unmarried women were offset by increases in births for married women.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (various years). Marital status and living arrangements (annual reports). *Current Population Reports* (Series P-20). (Beginning in 1995, reports are available on the U.S. Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/ms-la.html>.)

<sup>13</sup> National Center for Health Statistics. (2002). Unpublished tabulations.

<sup>14</sup> To provide a comprehensive picture of the child care arrangements parents use to care for their preschoolers, this indicator draws on the strengths of two different Federal data sets—the National Household Education Survey (NHES) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). Using NHES (POP7.A) data, the percentage of children in each type of arrangement is shown to provide total usage rates. Because some children are cared for by more than one type of provider, the numerator is the number of children in the particular arrangement and the denominator is all children. Using SIPP (POP7.B) data, the historical trend of the primary child care provider is

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shown because there is an interest in the care arrangement that is used by employed mothers for the greatest number of hours each week. In this case, the numerator is the number of children of employed mothers who spend the greatest number of hours in the particular arrangement each week and the denominator is all children of employed mothers.

<sup>15</sup> Center-based care includes day care centers, nursery schools, and preschools. Other nonrelative care includes family day care providers, in-home babysitters, and other nonrelatives providing care in either the child or provider's home. Other relatives include aunts, uncles, and cousins. Mother care includes care by the mother while she worked.

<sup>16</sup> Since grade-school-age children differ from preschoolers in their development and have a greater need for structured activities and educational programs, the child care arrangements and enrichment activities for grade-school-age children are presented in a separate indicator.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1994). *Supplement to the Second Addendum (1986) to Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter and Sulfur Oxides (1982): Assessment of new findings on sulfur dioxide acute exposure health effects in asthmatic individuals* (EPA/600/FP-93/002). Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1995). *Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Oxides: Assessment of scientific and technical information* (EPA-452/R-95-005). Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1996). *Air quality criteria for ozone and related photochemical oxidants* (EPA/600/P-93/004aF). Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1996). *Air quality criteria for particulate matter* (EPA/600/P-95/001aF). Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1986). *Air quality criteria for lead: Volume III* (EPA-600/8-83/028cF). Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>22</sup> Duncan, G. and Brooks-Gunn, J. (Eds.). (1997). *Consequences of growing up poor*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Press.

<sup>23</sup> An, C., Haveman, R., and Wolfe, B. (1993). Teen out-of-wedlock births and welfare receipt: The role of childhood events and economic circumstances. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 75 (2), 195-208.

<sup>24</sup> To learn more about the U.S. Census Bureau's experimental measures, see Short, K. (2001). Experimental Poverty Measures: 1999. *Current Population Reports*, Series P60-216. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>25</sup> These income categories are similar to those used in the Economic Report of the President (1998). A similar approach is found in Hernandez, D.J. (1993). *America's children: Resources from family, government, and the economy*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation for the National Committee for Research on the 1990 Census, except that Hernandez uses the relationship to median income to define his categories. For either method, the medium and high income categories are at similar levels of median family income.

<sup>26</sup> Mayer, S.E. (1997). Income, employment and the support of children. In Hauser, R.M., Brown, B.V., and Prosser, W. (Eds.), *Indicators of children's well-being*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Press.

<sup>27</sup> Smith, J.R., Brooks-Gunn, J., and Jackson, A.P. (1997). Parental employment and children. In Hauser, R.M., Brown, B.V., and Prosser, W. (Eds.), *Indicators of children's well-being*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Press.

<sup>28</sup> Kaufman, T. (1996). *Housing America's future: Children at risk*. Washington, DC: National Low Income Housing Coalition.

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<sup>29</sup> The definition includes households lacking complete plumbing for exclusive use, having unvented room heaters as the primary heating equipment, and having multiple upkeep problems such as water leakage, open cracks or holes, broken plaster, or signs of rats.

<sup>30</sup> Paying 30 percent or more of income for housing may leave insufficient resources for other basic needs. National Academy of Sciences. (1995). *Measuring poverty: A new approach*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>31</sup> Income-eligible families who report either severe housing cost burdens or severe physical problems with their housing and do not receive rental assistance are considered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to have “priority” housing problems. Because of questionnaire changes, 1997 and 1999 data on assisted families, priority problems, and severe physical problems are not comparable to earlier data.

<sup>32</sup> “Very-low-income renters” are renter households with incomes at or below half the median family income, adjusted for household size, in their geographic area.

<sup>33</sup> Life Sciences Research Office and American Institute of Nutrition. (1990). *Core indicators of nutritional state for difficult to sample populations*. Bethesda, MD: Life Sciences Research Office and American Institute of Nutrition.

<sup>34</sup> Nord, M., et al. (2002). Household Food Security in the United States, 2000. Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, *Food and Nutrition Assistance Research Report No. 21*. Washington, DC: USDA.

<sup>35</sup> For additional results and more details on the Healthy Eating Index and how it is computed, see Bowman, S.A., Lino, M., Gerrior, S.A., and Basiotis, P.P. (1998). *The Healthy Eating Index: 1994-96 (CNPP-5)*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Available at <http://www.usda.gov/cnpp>.

<sup>36</sup> The percentages of children covered by government and private insurance in 1999 do not add up to 86 percent (the percentage of all children covered by health insurance), because some children have both government and private insurance.

<sup>37</sup> Green, M. (Ed.). (1994). *Bright futures: Guidelines for health supervision of infants, children, and adolescents*. Arlington, VA: National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health.

<sup>38</sup> Simpson, G., Bloom, B., Cohen, R.A., and Parsons, P.E. (1997). Access to health care. Part 1: Children. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 10 (Series 196). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>39</sup> Bartman, B.A., Moy, E., and D’Angelo, L.J. (1997). Access to ambulatory care for adolescents: The role of a usual source of care. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 8, 214-226.

<sup>40</sup> Folton, G.L. (1995). Critical issues in urban emergency medical services for children. *Pediatrics*, 96 (2), 174-179.

<sup>41</sup> Newacheck, P.W. and Starfield, B. (1988). Morbidity and use of ambulatory care services among poor and nonpoor children. *American Journal of Public Health*, 78 (8), 927-933.

<sup>42</sup> Newacheck, P.W., Halfon, N., and Budetti, P.P. (1986). Prevalence of activity-limiting chronic conditions among children based on household interviews. *Journal of Chronic Disease*, 39 (2), 63-71.

<sup>43</sup> Kiely, J.L., Brett, K.M., Yu, S., and Rowley, D.L. (1994). Low birthweight and intrauterine growth retardation. In Wilcox, L.S. and Marks, J.S. (Eds.), *From data to action: CDC’s public health surveillance for women, infants, and children* (pp. 185-202). Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>44</sup> Martin, J.A. and Park, M.M. (1999). Trends in twin and triplet births: 1980-97. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47 (24). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

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- <sup>45</sup> Martin, J.A. and Taffel, S.M. (1995). Current and future impact of rising multiple birth ratios on low birthweight. *Statistical Bulletin*, 76 (2). New York, NY: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.
- <sup>46</sup> Kleinman, J.C. and Kiely, J.L. (1991). Infant mortality. *Healthy People 2000 Statistical Notes*, 1 (2). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.
- <sup>47</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1995). Poverty and infant mortality, United States, 1988. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 44 (49), 922-927.
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