

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

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Forum's history

- | Comprised of 22 federal agencies that produce or use statistical data on children and families
- | Founded in 1994 with six Federal member agencies and OMB
- | Formally established in April 1997 through Executive Order 13045

Forum Member Agencies

Agriculture - Economic Research Service

Commerce - U.S. Census Bureau

Defense - Office of Military Community and Family Policy

Education

National Center for Education Statistics

Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families
Agency for Health Care Research and Quality

Maternal and Child Health Bureau
National Center for Health Statistics
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

National Institute of Mental Health
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Health and Human Services (cont)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Housing and Urban Development

Office of Policy Development and Research

Justice - Bureau of Justice Statistics

National Institute of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics

Women's Bureau

Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Environmental Protection Agency

National Science Foundation

Office of Management and Budget,
Executive Office of the President

Forum mission

- | To foster coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among agencies
- | To enhance and improve consistency in the collection, reporting, and dissemination of Federal data on children and families

Forum activities

- | Produce annual report – *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-being*
- | Engage in conferences, workshops and policy seminars
- | Collaborate with other partners on research for children
- | Obtain feedback from end users of the report

Purpose of *America's Children* report

- | Provide a compendium of national indicators of child well-being
 - ∅ monitor trends over time
 - ∅ highlight recent changes
- | Provide data in an easy-to-use, non-technical format
- | Highlights data gaps
- | Improve Federal data on children and families

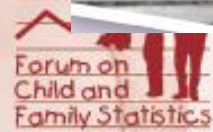
Indicator criteria

- | Easily understood by broad audiences
- | Objectively based on substantial research
- | Balanced so that no single area of children's lives dominates the report
- | Measured regularly so that they can be updated to show trends over time
- | Representative of large segments of the population rather than one particular group

America's Children indicators

- | 3 Demographic Background measures
- | 40 indicators across 7 domains
 - ∅ Family and Social Environment
 - ∅ Economic Circumstances
 - ∅ Health Care
 - ∅ Physical Environment and Safety
 - ∅ Behavior
 - ∅ Education
 - ∅ Health

America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2008



America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2009



<http://childstats.gov>

Family and Social Environment

- | Family structure and children's living arrangements
- | Births to unmarried women
- | Child care
- | Children of at least one foreign-born parent
- | Language spoken at home and difficulty speaking English
- | Adolescent births
- | Child maltreatment



Economic Circumstances

- | Child poverty and family income
- | Secure parental employment
- | Food security



Health Care

- | Health insurance coverage
- | Usual source of healthcare
- | Childhood immunization
- | Oral health

In 2007, **77%**
of children ages
19-35 months
had received the
recommended
six-vaccine series



Physical Environment and Safety

- | Outdoor and indoor air quality
- | Drinking water quality
- | Lead in the blood of children
- | Housing problems
- | Youth victims of serious violent crimes
- | Child injury and mortality
- | Adolescent injury and mortality



Behavior

- | Regular cigarette smoking
- | Alcohol use
- | Illicit drug use
- | Sexual activity
- | Youth perpetrators of serious violent crimes

The percentage of children ages 0-6 living in homes where someone smoked regularly dropped from

27% in 1994 to
8% in 2005



Education

- | Family reading to young children
- | Mathematics and reading achievement
- | High school academic coursetaking
- | High school completion
- | Youth neither enrolled in school nor working
- | College enrollment



Health



- | Low birthweight and **preterm birth**
- | Infant mortality
- | Emotional and behavioral difficulties
- | **Adolescent depression**
- | Activity limitation
- | Diet quality
- | Overweight
- | Asthma

Indicators in **black** are new in 2009

Current data sources for indicators

Air Quality System
American Community Survey
American Housing Survey
Current Population Survey
Decennial Census Data
High School Transcripts Studies
Monitoring the Future
National Assessment of Educational
Progress
National Child Abuse and Neglect
Data System
National Crime Victimization Survey
National Health and Nutrition
Examination Survey

National Health Interview Survey
National Hospital Ambulatory Medical
Care Survey
National Household Education Survey
National Immunization Survey
National Survey on Drug Use and Health
National Vital Statistics System
Safe Drinking Water Information System
Survey of Income and Program
Participation
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance
System

Indicators needed by domain

- I Family and Social Environment
 - ø Family structure
 - ø Time use
 - ø Social connections and engagement
- I Economic Circumstances
 - ø Long-term poverty
 - ø Homelessness
 - ø Economic security/well being
- I Health Care
 - ø Adequacy of health care coverage
 - ø Health care quality/content

Indicators needed by domain

- | Physical Environment and Safety
 - ∅ Body burden measurements
 - ∅ Environmental quality
 - ∅ Exposure to violence
- | Behavior
 - ∅ Activities promoting health and development
 - ∅ Youth in the justice system
- | Education
 - ∅ Early childhood development
- | Health
 - ∅ Disability

Addressing data gaps - Special Feature

- | Provide information on key topics when data not collected regularly
- | Example special features
 - ∅ Children who have difficulty performing everyday activities (disability)
 - ∅ Kindergartners' knowledge and skills
 - ∅ Child care
 - ∅ Usual source of health care
 - ∅ Children with special health care needs

Addressing data gaps – Develop a workgroup

- | Mental Health Work Group
 - ø National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
 - ø Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 - ø Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - ø National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- | Goal to develop broad indicator of mental health
- | Timeframe
 - ø Group formed in 1999
 - ø 2005 Special Feature
 - ø 2006 Regular indicator

Addressing data gaps – Create a Committee

Research and Innovation Committee

“...identify, inform and advise the FORUM on gaps that exist in current data collection, harmonization, analysis and reporting and dissemination activities **and innovative ways to address filling these gaps**, including innovative research and testing approaches and other research issues relevant to the FORUM’s mission and overall purpose.”

Research and Innovation Committee

- | Focus on one content area at a time
- | Current focus on early childhood development (ages 0-5)
 - ∅ Identified as indicator needed since first *America's Children* report (1997)
 - ∅ Recognized as data gap by child well-being research and advocacy organizations
- | Specific focus on socio-emotional development

Approach to addressing the gap

- | Reviewed existing measures of early childhood **socio-emotional development** in national surveys
- | Consulted with Federal experts in early childhood assessment/measurement and survey design
- | Currently reviewing existing data in more depth
- | Ongoing conversations with potential non-Federal partners, including those working with state data systems

Conclusion

- | Forum has worked to improve the quality of Federal data available on child well-being
- | Successful in filling some data gaps but data needs in other areas remain challenging
- | As per it's mission, and with the formation of the Research and Innovation Committee, the Forum continues to look for ways to address persistent data gaps

Thank you!



For more information

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