

***INDICATORS OF CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY WELL-BEING:***

***A SELECTED INVENTORY OF EXISTING PROJECTS***

Prepared with funding from The Annie E. Casey Foundation by

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## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Foreword</b> .....  | 1  |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....  | 2  |
| <b>Project Listings</b>  |    |
| <b>A. Projects with a National Focus: Federal</b>  |    |
| Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics .....   | 3  |
| Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth .....   | 4  |
| Youth Indicators: Trends in the Well-Being of American Youth .....   | 6  |
| Indicators of Welfare Dependence: Annual Report to Congress .....  | 8  |
| The Monitoring the Future Study .....  | 10 |
| National Education Goals Panel .....   | 12 |
| Healthy People 2000 and 2010 .....   | 14 |
| <b>B. Projects with a National Focus: Non-Federal</b>  |    |
| Annual Reports on Poor U.S. Children Under Age 6 .....   | 16 |
| "Child Indicators", a regular essay in the journal <i>The Future of Children</i> .....   | 18 |
| Index of Leading Cultural Indicators .....   | 20 |
| Annual Index of the Social Health of America .....   | 21 |
| Ford Working Group on Social Indicators .....  | 22 |
| Rockefeller Working Group on Arts and Humanities Indicators : .....  | 23 |
| Survey of Parents and Youth .....  | 24 |
| <b>C. Projects with a State Focus</b>  |    |
| State Needs Assessment Profiles (SNAP) Database .....  | 26 |
| Project on State-Level Child Outcomes: Measurement of the Impacts on Children in<br>Evaluations of State Welfare Reforms ..... | 27 |
| National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) .....  | 29 |
| Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) .....  | 30 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution . . . . .           | 32 |
| National Assessment of Educational Progress . . . . .   | 34 |
| Council of Chief State School Officers . . . . .  | 36 |
| Measuring Progress . . . . .  | 38 |
| Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) . . . . .                                     | 39 |
| State of America's Children . . . . .   | 41 |
| Best States To Raise a Child . . . . .  | 42 |
| Map and Track . . . . .   | 43 |
| New Standards . . . . .   | 44 |
| Quality Counts: A Report Card on the Condition of Public Education in the 50 States . . . . . | 46 |
| National Center on Educational Outcomes . . . . .   | 47 |
| National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research . . . . .                                  | 49 |
| Healthy Communities - Healthy Youth . . . . .   | 51 |
| Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA . . . . .                                 | 53 |
| Assessing the New Federalism . . . . .  | 54 |
| Results-Based Accountability Project . . . . .  | 55 |
| Advancing States' Child Indicator Initiatives . . . . .                                       | 57 |
| KIDS COUNT Project National Initiative . . . . .  | 58 |
| KIDS COUNT Project State Initiatives . . . . .  | 61 |
| Alaska: Advancing States' Childhood Indicator Initiatives in Alaska . . . . .                 | 66 |
| California: California Child Indicator Initiative (CII) . . . . .                             | 68 |
| Connecticut: Social State of Connecticut Report . . . . .                                     | 69 |
| Delaware: Results for Children . . . . .  | 70 |
| Florida: Florida Benchmarks Report . . . . .  | 71 |
| Florida: Statewide Task Force . . . . .   | 73 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Georgia: Georgia Child Indicator Project .....                                     | 75  |
| Georgia: Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families/Family Connection .....  | 77  |
| Hawaii: Partnering to Improve Children’s Outcomes .....                            | 78  |
| Maine: Child Indicators in Policymaking Partnership (CIPP) .....                   | 80  |
| Maryland: Results and Indicators .....   | 82  |
| Massachusetts: Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP) ..... | 84  |
| Minnesota: Minnesota KIDS Initiative .....   | 86  |
| Minnesota: Minnesota Milestones and the Children’s Report Card .....               | 88  |
| New York: New York Touchstones/ KIDS COUNT Initiative .....                        | 90  |
| Oregon: Oregon Benchmarks .....  | 91  |
| Rhode Island: Rhode Island Child Indicators Project .....                          | 93  |
| Utah: Utah Child Indicators Project .....  | 94  |
| Vermont: Community Profiles: Focus on Outcomes .....                               | 95  |
| Vermont: Vermont’s Framework for Collaboration .....                               | 97  |
| West Virginia: Indicators of Child/Family Well-Being .....                         | 99  |
| <br><b>D. Projects with Local Focus</b>  |     |
| Improved Outcomes for Children Project .....                                       | 101 |
| The National Outcome Work Groups .....   | 102 |
| National Neighborhood Indicators Project .....                                     | 104 |
| Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives for Children and Families .....  | 106 |
| Children’s Environmental Index .....   | 108 |
| Development of a Community Information Infrastructure .....                        | 109 |
| The Social and Health Landscape of Urban and Suburban America .....                | 110 |
| CityMatCH .....  | 112 |
| Outcome Measurement Resource Network .....   | 114 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Urban Quality Indicators .....   | 116 |
| Community Youth Mapping .....  | 117 |
| Youth Development Mobilization (YDM) Initiative .....  | 119 |
| California: The USC Data Unit .....  | 120 |
| District of Columbia: Neighborhood Information Service (NIS) .....   | 121 |
| Colorado: Neighborhood Facts .....   | 122 |
| Florida: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) .....  | 124 |
| Florida: The Quality of Life Indicators Project and the Community<br>Project .....   | 125 |
| Georgia: Data and Analysis Policy Group (DAPA) .....   | 127 |
| Indiana: Social Assets and Vulnerability Indicators (SAVI) Project .....   | 128 |
| Massachusetts: Boston Community Building Network .....   | 129 |
| Ohio: Cleveland Area Network for Data Organizing (CAN DO) .....  | 131 |
| Oregon: Multnomah County Benchmarks .....  | 133 |
| Rhode Island: The Providence Demography Initiative .....   | 134 |
| Vermont: Champlain Initiative .....  | 135 |
| Wisconsin: Neighborhood Data Center .....  | 137 |
| <b>E. Relevant Conferences</b>   |     |
| Indicators of Children's Well-Being: A Conference held at the Hughes Conference Center<br>of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, November 17-18, 1994 ..... | 138 |
| Workshop on Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution:<br>Defining Next Steps .....  | 139 |
| Roundtable on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare Services .....   | 140 |
| <b>F. Data Guides, Newsletters, and Internet Resources</b>   |     |
| The University of Michigan Documents Center Web Site .....   | 142 |
| A Guide to State and Local-Level Indicators of Child Well-Being Available Through the<br>Federal Statistical System .....  | 143 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Social Indicators Network News (SINET) ..... | 145 |
| The White House Briefing Room .....          | 146 |
| FEDSTATS .....                               | 147 |
| The Child Indicator Newsletter .....         | 148 |

## **Foreword**

Over the last decade, there has been a marked shift in the content of public discussions about children and families. Discussions are now much more likely to be based on research and statistical facts rather than ideology and rhetoric. News stories are more likely to rely on objective facts regarding the status of children. Policy discussions are now more likely to be laced with objective information on various dimensions of child and family well-being.

Much of this change can be linked to a host of projects which have made statistical information about children and families more widely available. While most of these projects have emerged independent from one another, it is our belief that there is something to be gained by increased sharing of information among these projects. Moreover, this arena is ripe for such enhanced collaboration.

This second edition of the inventory, produced by Child Trends, is a step in that direction. A third edition is planned for the coming year incorporating additional projects. We hope that production and dissemination of this inventory is only the first step in a set of activities which will promote more and better reporting on the well-being of children and families through sharing and collaboration across levels of political geography and public/private cooperation.

Sincerely,

William P. O'Hare  
KIDS COUNT Coordinator  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

## **Introduction**

The use of indicators of child and family well-being has expanded rapidly during the 1990s. Governments and nonprofit organizations at all levels from the neighborhood to the nation have increasingly employed social indicators as tools for planning, informing, accountability and advocacy. At the national level, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13045 which requires that the Federal government produce an annual report on the condition of America's children. The third edition of this report was issued in July, 1999.<sup>1</sup>

At the state level, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has been publishing yearly KIDS COUNT reports since 1990, and has funded organizations in each state to produce state-specific reports as well. A number of state governments are now formally tracking the well-being of children and families, and using this information to guide planning and resource allocation. At the local level, many communities are using indicators of child and family well-being to guide comprehensive community initiatives intended to improve the quality of life for all members of the community.

Organizers of these initiatives often look to each other to share the knowledge they have accumulated, identify best practices, and work together on issues of common interest. To date, however, these efforts have tended to be haphazard. Recognizing the potential benefits for increased sharing of information among the larger community of groups working in this area, the Annie E. Casey Foundation commissioned Child Trends to produce an inventory of projects that focus on the development or use of indicators of child, youth, and family well-being.

The inventory presented in this report contains descriptions of over 80 projects. Each entry includes the names of the initiative and the organization, the type of organization (government, advocacy, etc.), a brief description of the project itself, a list of relevant publications and web sites, and contact information. The inventory focuses on projects which use population-based indicator data, and which examine multiple areas of well-being. Exceptions were made for major efforts focusing on a single area such as health or education. Most of the entries represent ongoing projects, though one-time efforts such as conferences were also included when they provided information that would be valuable for organizers of existing efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. 1999. *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 1999.*



**Project/Initiative** Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

**Organization** (Same as above)

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, started in 1994 and formally established through a Presidential Executive Order in 1997, includes eighteen major federal statistical agencies that collect data on children and their families. The heads of these agencies meet every four months to plan and coordinate their activities to improve the efficiency and the utility of the federal statistical system in collecting data on children, youth, and their families, and to better serve the evolving needs of its customers. The initial focus of the Forum has been on the production and dissemination of social indicators, culminating in the production of an annual report titled "America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-being", with editions published in 1997, 1998, and 1999.

In addition, the Forum has identified fatherhood as an important and under-measured dimension of the social context of children, and has developed a number of activities around the issue. A subcommittee on fatherhood has been formed within the Forum, and will work with Child Trends to design and produce a report featuring indicators of fatherhood including information on male fertility, family formation, and fathering.

**Publications** Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. 1999. *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being: 1999.*

Note: This is an annual report. Reports from 1997 and 1998 are also available.

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**Project/Initiative** Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth

**Organization** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (DHHS/ASPE)

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This annual report presents the most recent and reliable trend data on over 90 indicators of child and youth well-being. It is designed to provide a broad and accessible national overview of child well-being for the policy community, the media, and interested citizens. Each indicator includes one or more tables, a figure, and a page of text describing the importance of the measure, trends, and key population subgroup differences.

The report has been published annually since 1996. It is available through the United States Government Printing Office, and over the Internet at the address listed below. The first four editions of the report have been produced for DHHS/ASPE by Child Trends, a non-partisan, non-profit research firm dedicated to studying children, youth and their families through research, data collection, and data analyses.

**Publications** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 1996. *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth: 1996*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 1997. *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth: 1997*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 1998. *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth: 1998*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth: 1999*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (Forthcoming)

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**Internet**     <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/98trends/trends98.htm>     1998 Trends Report

**Project/Initiative** Youth Indicators: Trends in the Well-Being of American Youth

**Organization** National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The National Center for Education Statistics regularly publishes a report providing national data on the well-being of youth in the areas of family, education, work, health, behavior and attitudes. The 1996 edition focuses on high-school graduates and dropouts as they transition into the labor force and form families. It includes information on home environment, school environment, educational outcomes, out of school experiences, health, citizenship and values, and futures. The report was first published in 1988; it is updated every two to three years. Editions for 1998 and 2000 will be released in 2000.

For each indicator there is a table comprised of national level data, including historical data when available, a chart, and a short description of the most salient themes from each indicator. The indicators are grouped according to different areas that are intended to illustrate the youth experience.

The report was created to be a source for policy makers, agency officials, and those who place importance upon the integration of human services for youth and their families. It is available in hard copy, and online at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/yi/>

**Publications** Snyder, T. And Shafer, L. 1996. *Youth Indicators 1996: Trends in the Well-Being of American Youth*. NCES 96-027. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Washington, D.C.: US-GPO.

Note: Previous editions of this report include the following years: 1988, 1991, 1993, 1996. A new edition is forthcoming in 2000.

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**Project/Initiative** Indicators of Welfare Dependence: Annual Report to Congress

**Organization** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Welfare Indicators Act of 1994 (part of Public Law 103-432) mandates the study of statistics to track and predict dependence on means-tested programs AFDC (now TANF), Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income, and the production of annual reports on key indicators and predictors of welfare dependence. The Welfare Indicators Act created the bipartisan Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators that recommended the inclusion of data on indicators of well-being as well as dependence in the 1996 *Interim Report*. The 1996 report recommends and outlines two types of indicators: (1) dependence, self-sufficiency, and family conditions; and (2) indicators of child achievement, health, and well-being. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) reformed the nation's welfare system and led to significant changes in the format and content between the *Interim* and first annual reports in this series.

The 1997 first annual report provides an operational definition of welfare dependence and highlights a few measures of dependence recommended for consideration by the Advisory Board, while reducing by 20 percent the numbers of predictors and risk factors that were included in the *Interim Report*. The first chapter presents and discusses specific summary measures of welfare dependence proposed by the Advisory Board. The second chapter presents a wider group of indicators of welfare reciprocity and dependence, and data on movements onto and off of welfare programs. The third chapter focuses on risk factors believed to be related to welfare dependence. The fourth chapter discusses additional data that might be needed to construct better indicators and predictors, including a general discussion of issues with administrative data.

Largely an update, the 1998 annual report again provides a proposed definition of dependency and highlights a small number of indicators of dependence in Chapter I. Chapters II and III include a broader set of indicators of welfare reciprocity, dependence, and labor force attachment as well as an extensive collection of predictors or risk factors associated with welfare receipt. Finally, the report includes basic program data on the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamp, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs in Appendix A. The next edition of the report is expected to be released in March of 2000.

**Publications** Department of Health and Human Services. *Indicators of Welfare Dependence: Annual Report to Congress*. October, 1998. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Department of Health and Human Services. *Indicators of Welfare Dependence: Annual Report to Congress*. October, 1997. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Department of Health and Human Services. *Indicators of Welfare Dependence and Well-Being, Interim Report to Congress*. October, 1996. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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**Internet** The 1998 report is available on-line at:  
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/indicators98/indicators98.htm>

**Project/Initiative** The Monitoring the Future Study

**Organization** The University of Michigan Survey Research Center

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Monitoring the Future project explores changes in beliefs, attitudes, and behavior of young people in the United States. This survey provides a systematic description of the lives of American young people each year and over time, and is used to track national progress toward selected policy goals including the Goals 2000 National Education Goals and the White House Strategy on Drug Abuse. Questions are asked of students in a range of important content areas, including: drug use and attitudes; educational experiences and attitudes; meaning of work and leisure and attitudes toward work; values, attitudes, and expectations about marriage and family; religious beliefs and practices; values and attitudes about social change; concerns about social problems; feelings about major social institutions; views about military service; attitudes about race relations; voluntary and charitable activities; happiness and life satisfaction; and other opinions and activities including reports of delinquent behaviors and victimization experiences.

The Survey has been carried out annually since 1975 by the University of Michigan Survey Research Center, under a series of research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Lloyd D. Johnston, Principal Investigator. The survey has been administered to 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in public and private schools, who are presented with the same set of questions over a period of years to see how answers change over time. The survey began with senior classes in 1975 (about 16,000 students annually). Beginning in 1991, similar surveys of nationally representative samples of 8th and 10th graders (about 18,000 and 17,000 students annually, respectively) have been conducted. By following-up a subsample of each 12th grade class, the study also contains good national samples of college students since 1980 (about 1500 per year) and young adult high school graduates ages 19-28 (about 7800 per year).

The project web site provides access to the most current press releases, selected data tables from recent years, and links to related project and organizational sites in the areas of alcohol and drug, health, and educational research.

**Publications** Johnson, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., and Bachman, J.G. 1999. *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998 Volume I: Secondary School Students* (NIH Publication No. 99-4660). Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, c. 420 pp.

Johnson, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., and Bachman, J.G. 1999. *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998 Volume II:*



*College Students and Young Adults* (NIH Publication No. 99-4661). Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, c. 218 pp.

Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., and Bachman, J.G. 1998. *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997. Volume I: Secondary school students*. (NIH Pub. No. 98-4345). Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., and O'Malley, P.M. 1997. *Monitoring the Future: Questionnaire Responses from the Nation's High School Seniors 1995*. Ann Arbor, MI: Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

Bachman, J.G., Wadsworth, K.N., O'Malley, P.M., Johnston, L.D., and Schulenberg, J. 1997. *Smoking, Drinking, and Drug Use in Young Adulthood: The Impacts of New Freedoms and New Responsibilities*. Mahway, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Johnson, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., and Bachman, J.G. 1997. "Drug Use among American Teens Shows Some Signs of Leveling after a Long Rise." (National Press Release). University of Michigan News and Information Services, Ann Arbor, MI (December 18, 1997).

Note: The National Survey Results publication appears annually. In addition, drug and cigarette use data are released early in the form of press releases in December of each year.

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**Project/Initiative** National Education Goals Panel

**Organization** (Same as above)

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The National Education Goals Panel (NEGP), comprised of a bipartisan group of state and federal officials, was created in 1990 to monitor, assess and report on state and national progress toward achieving eight National Education Goals by the year 2000.

The NEGP publishes a variety of reports, papers, and guidebooks that are available by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, or through the NEGP web site; all publications are free of charge. The annual reports summarize performance on 26 national-level indicators and 33 state-level indicators for all U.S. localities, including the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. In addition, the NEGP publishes several periodicals throughout the year: The *Daily Report Card* is available through e-mail subscription; the *NEAP Weekly* summarizes news reports from around the country related to several of the eight National Education Goals, along with a "spotlight" feature item; and the *NEAP Monthly* provides a review of a particular topic, case studies, and a bibliography and resource list.

In addition to disseminating information about state and national progress toward the National Education Goals, the NEAP also provides assistance by helping states develop and implement high academic standards, and by helping states and communities create their own progress reports. The NEAP also seeks to identify effective teaching and evaluation practices, and seeks to build bipartisan support and consensus for education reform.

**Publications** *The National Education Goals Report: Building a Nation of Learners: 1999.* (Published annually since 1991.)

*Goals Report Data Volume: 1999.*

*Goals Report Summary: 1999.* (Published annually since 1991.)

*Special Early Childhood Report: 1997.*

Daily Report Card (Available through e-mail subscription.)

NEAP Weekly (Available on the NEAP website as well as by mail.)

NEGP Monthly (Available on the NEGP website as well as by mail.)

Note: The 1991 and 1992 editions of The National Education Goals Report and Summary are no longer available for distribution. The Goals Report Summary was not published in 1994.

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National Educational Goals Panel

**Project/Initiative** Healthy People 2000 and 2010

**Organization** Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (Coordinator)  
National Center for Health Statistics (Statistical Advisor)

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Healthy People is the nation's prevention agenda. The initiative began in 1979 as a Surgeon General's report. It moved this nation from simply assessing health status to projecting what is possible to achieve in a ten-year period through preventive interventions and proven clinical preventive services. It is based on the best scientific knowledge about how to promote health and prevent disease.

Healthy People 2000 is the current national effort guided by three goals: increase years of healthy life, reduce health disparities among population groups and provide access to clinical preventative services. Healthy People 2000 sets 319 specific and measurable health-related objectives organized into 22 priority areas, including Physical Activity and Fitness; Family Planning; Immunization and Infectious Diseases and Maternal and Infant Health. Many objectives are specific to children and youth.

The initiative was developed with the input and comments of more than 10,000 individuals and organizations. Progress will continue to be monitored by the Healthy People Consortium, a collection of 350 national membership organizations and 300 State health, mental health, substance abuse, and environmental agencies.

The U.S. Public Health Service, drawing on a wide variety of data from surveys, vitals statistics and administrative sources, regularly reviews the initiative's progress. These findings are published in the *Healthy People 2000 Review* series and in monthly progress review reports.

Efforts to develop objectives for Healthy People 2010 began in 1996. Members of the Healthy People Consortium were asked to review what should be preserved from Healthy People 2000 and what should be recast. During three Healthy People Consortium meetings and in five regional hearings, the focus was on 2010 development.

Healthy People 2010 has evolved. The goals of Healthy People 2010 encompass the elimination of health disparities and improving the quality and years of healthy life. New focus areas address public health infrastructure and health communication. Other new chapters recognize the increasing burden of diseases or conditions, such as vision and hearing impairment. Healthy People 2010 was released on January 25, 2000.

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**Publications** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. September, 1997. *Developing Objectives for Healthy People 2010*.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. September 15, 1998. *Healthy People 2010 Objectives Draft for Public Comment*.

National Center for Health Statistics. 1999. *Healthy People 2000 Review, 1998-9*. Hyattsville, MD: Public Health Service.

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**Internet** <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/hp2000/> (Healthy People 2000 report)  
<http://web.health.gov/healthypeople> (Healthy People 2010)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/releases/99news/99news/99hp2000.htm> (Healthy People Review)

**Project/Initiative** Annual Reports on Poor U.S. Children Under Age 6

**Organization** National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) has issued periodic reports on young children in poverty since 1990. This series of reports illustrates the lives of poor children under the age of six. They attempt to answer determine who are America's youngest poor persons by looking at where they live, the type of family structure they live in, and the educational status and employment status of their parents. Each report highlights a different issue that surrounds poor children.

The most recent report, *Young Children in Poverty: A Statistical Update June 1999 Edition*, provides profiles of the extremely poor, poor, and near poor young children in the United States. This report uses both the federal government's official poverty measure and an alternative measure which provides insight into the impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit on young child poverty. The report also provides a brief explanation of the changing association between parental educational attainment and the economic well-being of young children.

**Publications** Bennett, N., Li, J., Song, Y., and Yang, K. 1999. *Young Children in Poverty: A Statistical Update*, National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia School of Public Health. June 1999 Edition. Note: Previous editions of this update have been published.

Bennett, N. and Li, J. 1998. *Young Child Poverty in the States—Wide Variation and Significant Change*. Early Childhood Poverty Research Brief 1. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia School of Public Health.

National Center for Children in Poverty, 1996. *One in Four: America's Youngest Poor*. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia School of Public Health.



**Project/Initiative** "Child Indicators", a regular essay in the journal *The Future of Children*

**Organization** The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** *The Future of Children*, published three times a year by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, is designed to disseminate information on major issues related to children's well-being to decision-makers and other interested persons. The journal emphasizes analysis and evaluation, often utilizes expert editorial advisors, and incorporates articles by authorities on the specific topics addressed in each issue.

Since Volume 2 Number 1 of the series (Spring 1992), each issue of the journal has included an essay analyzing the implications and limitations of a key social indicator of the well-being of children. These essays have focused on key indicators of child health (immunization of young children, unintentional injuries, children as victims of violence, teenage childbearing), income-related issues (childhood hunger, children in poverty), social services (children in foster care), education (children in special education, school readiness, dropout rates for high school students), and other issues. Each indicator essay may address definitions and measurement, geographic variations, trends, and other dimensions of measuring and evaluating the focal indicator for that issue.

**Publications** *The Future of Children*. Los Altos, CA: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

The following list provides topics of several recent issues of this journal, and in parentheses the "child indicators" focus for that issue.

When School is Out, 9(2) Fall 1999 (Children in Self-Care)  
Children and Managed Health Care, 8(2) Summer/Fall 1998 (Missing Children)  
Financing Schools, 7(3), Winter 1997 (Class Size)  
Children and Poverty, 7(2), Summer/Fall 1997 (Population-Based Growth Stunting)  
Welfare to Work, 7(1), Spring 1997 (Childhood Hunger)  
The Juvenile Court, 6(3), Winter 1996 (Children as Victims of Violence)



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**Internet** <http://www.futureofchildren.org> The Future of Children

**Project/Initiative**      Index of Leading Cultural Indicators

**Organization**                      Empower America

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination       Survey/Measurement       Governance       Technical Assistance       Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government       Research       Advocacy       Association       Foundation       Other

**Project Description**    The Index illustrates statistical social trends in the United States over the last 30 years. Each indicator is illustrated by a table, chart or figure, and a brief analysis of the data. Indicators related to children are included for poverty, crime, natality, education, drug use, family composition, child abuse and suicide. A newly updated and expanded edition of the index was published in the Fall of 1999.

**Publications**    William J. Bennett. 1999. *The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators: American Society at the End of the 20th Century*. Broadway Books.

William J. Bennett. 1994. *The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators; Facts and Figures on the State of American Society. 1994*. New York. Simon and Schuster .

William J. Bennett. *Index of Leading Cultural Indicators*. 1993. Empower America, The Heritage Foundation, Free Congress Foundation.

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**Internet**              <http://www.empower.org>              Empower America

**Project/Initiative** Annual Index of the Social Health of America

**Organization** Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Each fall for the past 13 years the Institute has produced and released a report entitled the *Annual Index of the Social Health of America*. The report features a single, general index of social health developed by the Institute based on 16 measures of well-being for children, youth, families, the aged, and for the population in general. Component measures include infant mortality, teen suicide, child abuse, child and elderly poverty, drug abuse, high school dropout, average weekly earnings, unemployment, health insurance coverage, highway deaths from alcoholism, homicides, food stamp coverage, housing, and the gap between rich and poor.

**Publications** Miringoff, Marc. 1999. *Annual Index of the Social Health of America*. Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy. Tarrytown, NY: Fordham University.

This report has been released each fall since 1987.

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**Internet** No web site.

**Project/Initiative** Ford Working Group on Social Indicators

**Organization** Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Ford Foundation has sponsored a two-year project on social indicators based at the Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy. This project will have two products. The first is a model report on the social health of the nation, which was released in 1999. Most industrialized nations produce a general report on the social health of the nation on a regular basis. This report is being constructed as a model for the U.S., which the producers hope will be picked up by the federal government in future years.

The second product will be a report which addresses a variety of issues in the field of social indicators including: areas where theoretical advances are needed; new measures that should be developed; improving the accessibility of government-collected social indicator data; improving media reporting of social indicator data; and the use of indicators by communities.

The project will field a national survey of its own design in the Spring of 2000.

**Publications** Miringoff, Marc. 1999. *Social Health of the Nation: How America is Really Doing*. London: Oxford University Press.

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**Internet** No web site.

**Project/Initiative**     Rockefeller Working Group on Arts and Humanities Indicators

**Organization**                     Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy

**Project Activities**

Dissemination      Survey/Measurement      Governance      Technical Assistance      Communication

**Organization Type**

Government      Research      Advocacy      Association      Foundation      Other

**Project Description**     This project, sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, seeks to design a national survey of social health from the perspective of the arts and humanities. The working group includes professionals from a wide variety of disciplines including the arts, sociology, philosophy, and the humanities. A national survey that includes some of these measures is being fielded in the Spring of 2000.

**Publications**     None to date.

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**Internet -**             No web site.

**Project/Initiative** Survey of Parents and Youth

**Organization** The Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (CRCW)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Survey of Parents and Youth is a telephone survey that monitors trends in child and youth access to parental and community resources. The survey interviews approximately 10,000 adults (mostly parents) and 7500 youth (between 11 and 18); it includes a special module focusing on the after-school hours. The adult survey provides information on the salience of youth issues, trust in local government, and civic involvement. The youth survey generates information on parent-child relationships, involvement in supervised activities, and outcomes such as health status, educational expectations, and school achievement. The parent survey asks about conflicts between work and family commitments and is a valuable point of comparison to the youth survey, shedding light on the ways that youth and parent perspectives and experiences both converge and diverge. Questions are taken from the National Commission on Children's *Speaking for Kids* (1990), the *National Survey of Children* (1980), and several other major national surveys that can be used as a baseline for monitoring youth experiences.

SPY is unique in several respects. First, SPY focuses on context and processes as well as outcomes. Second, its cross-sectional design allows researchers to monitor trends in experiences of youth and parents. Third, SPY is easy to administer and relatively inexpensive. Thus, states, cities, and municipalities who want to monitor local trends can easily adapt SPY to their needs and can use the national data as a benchmark against which to measure progress in their locality.

The Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (CRCW) at Princeton University is an interdisciplinary research center within the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Office of Population Research. The Center is concerned with a broad range of Children's issues, including education, healthcare, income sufficiency, and family/community support. Faculty and research associates include economists, political scientists, sociologists, and demographers.

**Publications** None to date.

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Center for Research on Child Well-being

**Project/Initiative** State Needs Assessment Profiles (SNAP) Database

**Organization** Centers for Substance Abuse and Prevention, SAMHSA

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The State Needs Assessment Profiles (SNAP) database was developed by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). This online database categorizes information from CSAP's State Needs Assessment contracts; summarizes studies; and organizes the information according to state, study method, and study populations. Many of the studies have collected health related social indicator data, including data on children and youth. The database was developed by CSAP as a way to provide states with technical assistance so that they could either use the information to incorporate it into their current state efforts or aid them as they begin new efforts.

In addition to the database, many of states disseminate the data they have collected on health related social indicator data, including data on children and youth.

**Publications** Not applicable

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**Internet** <http://www.health.org/factoids/index.htm> State Needs Assessment Profiles



**Project/Initiative** Project on State-Level Child Outcomes: Measurement of the Impacts on Children in Evaluations of State Welfare Reforms

**Organization** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation at the Administration for Children and Families, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Project on State-Level Outcomes works with states and other groups to improve the measurement of child outcomes in state welfare evaluations and in other state data systems. Twelve states have participated in the Project's planning phase: California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont and Virginia. In this phase, the Project developed plans to use a common core of measures to assess the implications for children of state welfare reforms begun under waivers and continued under TANF.

Five states are participating in the operational phase of the Project, which began in the Fall of 1997: Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. These states are adding the common core measures to their evaluations and continue to explore the use of child indicators as a monitoring strategy. These states receive technical support from leading researchers who are members of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Research Network on Family and Child Well-Being. The research technical support effort is led by Child Trends. In addition, a Technical Issues Working Group, comprised of staff from the three evaluation firms conducting the evaluations (Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, Mathematica Policy Research, and Abt Associates) and Child Trends' staff is working collaboratively to develop comparable analytic strategies across the five evaluations. Support for the Project is being provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Centers for Disease Control, National Institute for Child Health and Child Development (NICHD), and private foundations.

**Publications** Child Trends. *Children and Welfare Reform: A Guide to Evaluating the Effects of State Welfare Reform Policies on Children*. Washington, DC: Child Trends, 1999.

Child Trends. *Rationales for the Common Core of Constructs: Prepared for the Second National Level Meeting of the Planning Phase (February 27-28, 1997)*. Washington, DC: Child Trends, 1997.

Child Trends. *From Constructs to Measures: Finalizing the Common Core. The Second National Level Meeting of the Planning Phase (February 27-28, 1997).* Washington, DC: Child Trends, 1997

Child Trends. *Measures for the Final Common Core of Constructs.* Washington, DC: Child Trends, 1997

Child Trends. *Indicators of Children's Well-Being: From Construct to Application. The Third National Level Meeting of the Planning Phase (April 28, 1997).* Washington, DC: Child Trends, 1997.

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**Project/Initiative** National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

**Organization** Children's Bureau  
Administration on Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** NCANDS is the federal government's compilation of national and state information on abused and neglected children known to child protective services agencies. Since 1990, NCANDS has produced an annual report presenting national findings in a narrative and state-specific data in a tabular format. Measures presented include: (1) reports of maltreatment (number and source); (2) investigations and dispositions; (3) victims (types of maltreatment, sex, age, race/ethnicity, age, home removal status, and fatalities); and (4) perpetrators (relationship to child).

NCANDS also provides technical assistance to the States to help them improve their child protective services information systems, improve their system for submitting data to NCANDS, and improve their analytical capabilities.

**Publications** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect. 1999. *Child Maltreatment 1997: Reports from the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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**Internet** <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/stats/ncands97/cm97.htm>

**Project/Initiative** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

**Organization** Children's Bureau  
Administration on Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** AFCARS is the federal government's compilation of national and state information on children in foster care and adopted children placed by a state child welfare agency or one of its contractors. They are based on case-level data for every child covered by the system. Tabulations of these data are distributed from an Internet website (see below) by the Children's Bureau twice a year. Beginning in 1999, there will be an annual report reporting on outcome measures for each state.

The most recent reporting period for which foster state by state care tabulations are available is April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997. Although a total of 41 states submitted foster care data for this period, depending on the table, data from up to 16 states were excluded because of data quality issues or specific requests from states not to have their data included. The data are estimated to represent 75 percent of the children in the foster care system during fiscal year 1997. Of 39 states submitting adoption data, depending on the table, data from up to 9 states were excluded for the same reasons.

It is expected that nearly complete coverage of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will be available for the fiscal year 1999 reporting periods.

Specific tabulations available for foster children include entries to care, exits from care, and children in care by age, gender, most recent case plan goal, current placement setting, and race/ethnicity. In addition, tabulations are available for exits from care and children in care by length of stay; and exits from care by reason for discharge. Specific tabulation available for adopted children include gender, race/ethnicity, and subsidy summary.

**Publications** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. 1998.  
*Foster Care and Adoption Statistics.*  
<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/stats/afcars/index.htm>.

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**Internet**     <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/>     The AFCARS Report

**Project/Initiative** Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution.

**Organization** Child Trends

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement    Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** In 1995 Child Trends received a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to examine the growing importance of child and family well-being indicators as tools of governance in the age of devolution. Particular attention was given to state and local uses of social indicator data. Products include papers on the following topics: basic issues related to the uses of social indicator data (Brown and Corbett); a review of programs that use child indicator data and available data in six states (Brown, Kirby and Botsko); social indicators and their relation to measures of program output and capacity (Koshel); and a project summary paper that integrates the work of the other papers (Brown).

In the Spring of 1997 the project held a workshop entitled "Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution: Defining Next Steps." This conference, co-organized by Child Trends and the State and Local Data Committee of the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, included the following persons: representatives from states who are most active in the use of social indicators; staff from many federal statistical agencies that produce data on children and families; representatives of national professional associations and academic research centers interested in social indicators as tools of governance; and several foundations. The ideas and recommendations that were produced over the course of the conference are reviewed in detail in a written conference summary (Kirby).

**Publications** Brown, B. 1997. *Social indicators of child and family well-being as tools of governance at the state and local levels: Emerging needs, new opportunities*. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.

Brown, B., and Corbett, T. 1997. *Social indicators and public policy in the age of devolution* (IRP Special Report No. 71). Madison: University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty.

Brown, B., Kirby, G., and Botsko, C. 1997. *Social indicators of child and family well-being: A profile of six state systems* (IRP Special Report No. 72). Madison: University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research and Poverty.

Kirby, G. 1997. *Summary of the workshop on social indicators of child and family well-being in the age of devolution: Defining next steps*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Koshel, J. 1997. *Indicators as tools for monitoring and evaluating programs at the national, state and local levels of government - practical and theoretical issues*. (IRP Special Report Series No. 73). Madison: University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty.

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<http://www.childtrends.org> Child Trends  
<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/srlist.htm>  
(Three of the papers can be downloaded from this web site)

**Project/Initiative** National Assessment of Educational Progress

**Organization** National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Since 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been measuring both public and nonpublic school students' educational progress in a variety of subject areas, including science, mathematics, reading, writing, U.S. history, geography, social studies, citizenship, art, music, literature, computer competence, and career and occupational development. Assessments in each of the subject areas are collected on a regular basis. Some assessments use the same assessment materials and procedures each time; in this way, long-term trends in students' academic performance can be monitored in each subject area. Other assessments, known as the main assessments or "Report Cards," use questions and tasks that may be redesigned to keep them up-to-date with current educational priorities. Long-term trends are measured at the national and regional levels. Main assessments are reported at the national, regional, and, since 1990, at state levels on a developmental basis where funds allow. Academic performance data are also reported by gender, race/ethnicity, parental education level, type of school, and type and size of community.

NAEP has been conducted every other year in even-numbered years, and every year starting in 1996. However, not all subjects are assessed each time NAEP is fielded. Beginning in 1996, reading, writing, mathematics and science will be assessed every 4 years in even-numbered years (e.g., reading and writing in 1998, 2002, 2006; mathematics and science in 1996, 2000, 2004). History and geography data will be collected every 4 years in odd-numbered years. Age level data are collected from students aged 9, 13, and 17; grade level data are collected from students in grades 4, 8, and 12.

**Publications** Jay R. Campbell, Kristin E. Voelkl, and Patricia L. Donahue. 1997. *NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics. NCES 97-985.

Campbell, J. R., Voelkl, K. E., and Donahue, P. L. 1997. *Report in brief: NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics. NCES 97-986.

**Note:** Both publications are published at regular intervals for data collected in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1999, and every 4 years thereafter.



Note: NAEP produces numerous summary and technical reports which are available online as well as through the publications department of the National Center for Education Statistics.

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For Publication and Statistical Information:  
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**Internet**      <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

The Nation's Report Card

**Project/Initiative** Council of Chief State School Officers

**Organization** (Same as above)

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Since 1988, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) has compiled state level and national level indicators of the condition of education for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The CCSSO publishes 139 reports; many are related to standards (e.g., states' academic standards, professional licensing standards, and skill standards), assessments, and accountability. CCSSO publications may be downloaded or hard copies ordered through their web site. Several of these publications are highlighted below.

The Council has published an annual report on state indicators since 1988. The 1998 edition of the report, *State Education Indicators With a Focus on Title I*, provides a two-page "state profile" for each state, and links Title I performance data to state assessment programs and state standards. This report provides educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with statistics and information on the condition of education in elementary and secondary schools in all 50 states. *State Education Indicators With a Focus on Title I* was designed through consultation with states, education researchers, data managers and educators.

*State Indicators of Science and Mathematics* has been published biennially since 1991. The latest Science and Mathematics report, published in 1999, summarizes trends since 1990 and presents state-by-state trends in the following areas: student achievement, curriculum, course enrollment, teacher preparation and supply, and school conditions. State profiles and reports are available through the Council's website ([www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org)).

The *State Education Accountability Reports and Indicator Reports: Status of Reports Across the States* has been published annually since 1994. The report provides state-by-state listings of the types of accountability reports published by the states, when the reports were produced, level of statistics reported (e.g., state, district, school), and contact persons for each report.

**Publications** *State Indicators of Science and Mathematics Education: State-by-State Trends, 1999.*

*State Education Indicators With a Focus on Title I, 1998.*

*State Education Accountability Reports and Indicator Reports: Status of Reports Across the States, 1999.*

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Council of Chief State School  
Officers

**Project/Initiative**      Measuring Progress

**Organization**                      National Governors' Association

**Project Activities**

Dissemination       Survey/Measurement       Governance       Technical Assistance       Communication

**Organization Type**

Government       Research       Advocacy       Association       Foundation       Other

**Project Description** In 1998 the National Governor's Association (NGA) disseminated a brochure encouraging states to adopt goals for improving the well-being of young children, recommending indicators that will allow states to measure progress towards those goals. The brochure, which was distributed to all governors, was part of the chairperson's early childhood development initiative. The NGA has produced several brochures and issue briefs that focus on the use of social indicators by state governments.

**Publications** National Governors' Association. 1998. *Investing in America's Future: Indicators of Family and Child Well-Being, 1998*. Washington, D.C.: National Governors' Association.

Kagan, S.L. 1995. *By the Bucket: Achieving Results for Young Children*. Washington, D.C. National Governors' Association.

National Governors' Association. 1995. *Benchmarking Results for Children and Families*. Washington, D.C. National Governors' Association.

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**Internet**      <http://www.nga.org/CBP/Activities/ChildrenNFamilies.asp>      NGA Center  
for Best  
Practices -  
Children and  
Families

**Project/Initiative** Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

**Organization** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The system was initiated in 1990. It monitors six categories of health risk behaviors among youth and young adults, including behaviors that contribute to intentional and unintentional injuries, tobacco use, sexual behavior, physical activity, alcohol and other drug use, and unhealthy dietary behaviors.

The YRBSS consists of national, state, and metropolitan school-based surveys which are anonymous and self administered to 9th through 12th grade students. The surveys were first conducted in 1990 and have been administered biennially since 1991. States and cities who field the surveys are given technical assistance from CDC. Participation in 1997 included 39 states, 16 cities, and 4 U.S. territories. Additional components of the YRBSS include a national household based survey, and a national college based survey. The CDC publishes selected results from these surveys in a summary volume every other year.

**Publications** *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1997.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Surveillance Summaries, MMWR.

*Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1995.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Surveillance Summaries, MMWR.

*Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1993.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Surveillance Summaries, MMWR.

*1990-1991 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chronic Disease and Health Promotion, Reprints from the MMWR.

Note: Many states publish their state level YRBS results separately.

*Youth Risk Behavior Survey 97.* This is a CD-ROM containing data from national, state, and local YRBSS surveys.

*Youth Risk Behavior Survey 95.* This is a CD-ROM containing data from national, state, and local YRBSS surveys.

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**Internet**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/ov.htm> Youth Risk Behavior  
Surveillance System

**Project/Initiative** State of America's Children

**Organization** Children's Defense Fund

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** *The State of America's Children* is a comprehensive guide on the well-being of children produced by the Children's Defense Fund. The report has been published under several different titles since 1980 and has been produced every year since, except for 1993. This annual report contains analyses of issues relevant to the well-being of children and their families. It includes tables and charts that present both *national trends and state level data* on children and their families. Data at the national level include indicators on child poverty, infant mortality, prenatal care, births to teens, married mothers in the workforce, and youth employment. State level indicators include data on issues such as child poverty, TANF and food stamp benefits, and teenage child bearing. The 1999 report includes information on advocacy and program strategies that states and communities are using to safeguard children, as the federal government gives more responsibility to the states.

**Publications** *The State of America's Children Yearbook: 1999*. Children's Defense Fund.

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**Internet** <http://www.childrensdefensefund.org>

Children's Defense Fund

**Project/Initiative** Best States To Raise a Child

**Organization** Children's Rights Council

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Children's Rights Council (CRC) was founded in 1985 as non-profit organization dedicated to assuring children meaningful and continuing contact with parents and extended family, regardless of parents' marital status. The CRC is headquartered in Washington, DC and has chapters in 34 states, the District of Columbia and Japan. Since 1995, the CRC has published an annual report. The *Best States to Raise a Child* categorizes the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of their rankings on 10 indicators: high school graduation rate, child poverty rate, crime rate, infant mortality rate, birth weight, number of births to unwed mothers, teenage pregnancy rate, number of single parents, divorce rate, the largest amount of shared parenting, and mediation. All information is gathered from federal government data bases, state laws and regulations, foundation publications, and CRC evaluations of data.

**Publications** Children's Rights Council. *Best States to Raise a Child*. Washington, D.C.: Children's Rights Council. (published in July annually since 1995)

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**Internet** <http://www.vix.com/crc/> Children's Rights Council



**Project/Initiative** Map and Track

**Organization** National Center for Children in Poverty

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Map and Track is a publication series produced by the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP). The reports describe and analyze state-supported programs, initiatives, and other efforts that seek to promote the well-being of young children and families. Each report includes information on all 50 states. The main report, *State Initiatives for Young Children and Families*, profiles state-funded programs and initiatives that target children ages 0-6 and their families; it also includes information on state efforts to provide basic supports (e.g., child care and health insurance) to low-income families. Another volume, *State Initiatives to Encourage Responsible Fatherhood*, focuses on state efforts to support fathers as both economic providers and nurturers of their children. Both publications include selected indicators of child and family well-being by state and for the nation.

**Publications** *Map and Track: State Initiatives for Young Children and Families*. National Center for Children in Poverty. (1998 and 1996 editions; next edition, 2000).

*Map and Track: State Initiatives to Encourage Responsible Fatherhood*. National Center for Children in Poverty. 1999. (A 1997 edition is also available.)

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**Internet** <http://www.nccp.org> National Center for Children in Poverty

**Project/Initiative**      New Standards

**Organization**                      (Same as above)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination       Survey/Measurement       Governance       Technical Assistance       Communication

**Organization Type**

Government       Research       Advocacy       Association       Foundation       Other

**Project Description** The New Standards Project was established in 1991 as a collaborative effort of the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) at the University of Pittsburgh and the National Center on Education and the Economy, in partnership with states and urban school districts. Support for the development work of New Standards is provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundations, and the New Standards partners.

The New Standards Project has created a system of standards for student performance in four academic areas: English language arts, mathematics, science and applied learning. The standards are published in three volumes, one each for the elementary, middle and high school levels. These performance standards build directly upon the consensus content standards developed by the national professional association of each discipline (i.e., National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Research Council, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Project 2061) and are internationally benchmarked. The standards provide clear expectations for student achievement with descriptions of what students should know, as well as examples of student work that demonstrate academic performance at a level of standards quality.

New Standards also developed on-demand examinations, called Reference Exams, which provide a point of reference to national standards. The exams determine how well the students have learned the tasks, concepts, and skills described by the standards. The Reference Exams are currently available in English language arts and mathematics (in both English and Spanish) at grades 4, 8, and 10, and are distributed by Harcourt Educational Measurement.

Achievement of the performance standards often requires extended pieces of work, including revision or collection of data over time. New Standards developed a portfolio system to provide evidence toward these standards. The portfolio system includes instructions for students, teachers, and administrators as well as examples of portfolio work and scoring guides for analysis of student work. The New Standards Portfolio System is available in English language arts, mathematics, science, and applied learning at all three school levels.

Most recently, New Standards released the Primary Literacy Standards—*Reading and Writing grade by grade*. The New Standards Primary Literacy Standards give teachers and parents examples of the kind of reading and writing skills that children should possess between kindergarten and third grade. These standards challenge traditional classroom practice by giving equal weight to the teaching of reading and writing, linking the skills together. New Standards

assembled many of the nation's leading literacy experts to seek consensus on the component skills of full literacy. These people included some of the best-known advocates of the phonics approach as well as the whole-language approach. Together, they have agreed on a powerful set of standards which are illustrated with a wealth of student work both in print and on video as clear examples of what students need to do to meet the standards.

**Publications** *Performance Standards Volume 1: Elementary School* (1997)  
*Performance Standards Volume 2: Middle School* (1997)  
*Performance Standards Volume 3: High School* (1997)  
*Performance Standards Reference Examinations, Third Edition* (1998)  
*Reading and Writing grade by grade: Primary literacy standards for kindergarten through third grade.* (1999)

Note: *Performance Standards Reference Examinations* may be ordered from Harcourt Educational Measurement Corporation, 1-800-211-8378.

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Performance  
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**Project/Initiative** Quality Counts: A Report Card on the Condition of Public Education in the 50 States

**Organization** Education Week

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Following the National Education Summit in 1996, editors at *Education Week* decided to compile statistics on the condition of public education in the 50 states. The first issue of *Quality Counts* came out in January of 1997 and included more than 75 indicators of educational conditions and outcomes, and graded the 50 states on their policies and performance in four categories: standards and assessments; raising teacher quality; school climate; and resources allocated to schools. The publication also ranked the states with regard to students' performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments. *Quality Counts* has since been published annually, featuring a different topic or theme each year. For instance, in 1999, the *Quality Counts* edition of *Education Week* focused on school accountability. The 2000 edition focuses on the question *Who should Teach?* Each *Quality Counts* publication is produced in January of a given year, and includes ratings of the states according to the four quality criteria (standards and assessments, quality teaching, climate, and resources) as well as rankings of the states according to their students' NAEP scores. *Education Week* employs librarians and other staff who can assist individuals interested in gathering further data on states' public education systems.

**Publications** Quality Counts: A Report Card on the Condition of Public Education in the 50 States. *Education Week*. January, 2000.

(Published annually, starting in 1997) Cost is \$10.00.  
Also available online at [www.edweek.org/sreports](http://www.edweek.org/sreports)

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Education Week

**Project/Initiative** National Center on Educational Outcomes

**Organization** (Same as above)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Established in 1990, the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) aims to support the development and use of indicators of educational outcomes for students with disabilities. Since 1993, the Center has published a series of booklets that presents a conceptual model of educational outcomes for *all* children of different ages and educational stages -- not just those with disabilities. The booklets identify indicators linked to educational outcomes; some booklets identify possible sources of data for the indicators. The series is written for an audience of educators and state and school district personnel to facilitate data-based decisions about achievement and accountability within an inclusive educational system. The NCEO believes that such endeavors benefit the educational outcomes for all students, including those with disabilities.

The NCEO produces multiple document series: assessment series documents, brief reports, outcomes series documents, policy directions, self-study guides, state reports, synthesis reports, and technical reports. The Center disseminates information not only through their publications, but also through presentations and web site linkages.

In addition to producing an extensive list of publications, the Center works directly with national policy-making groups, state departments of education and school districts in a number of ways. For instance, the NCEO provides technical assistance to states implementing assessment and accountability systems that include students with disabilities.

The NCEO is operated as a joint effort of the University of Minnesota, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

**Publications** Ysseldyke, J.E., Krentz, J., Elliott, J., Thurlow, M.L., Erickson, R., and Moore, M. 1998. *National Center on Educational Outcomes Framework for Educational Accountability*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Krentz, J., Elliott, J., Thurlow, M.L., Thompson, S., and Moore, M. 1998. *National Center on Educational Outcomes Framework for Educational Accountability: Post-School Outcomes*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Thurlow, M.L., & Erickson, R.N. 1994. *Possible Sources of Data for Early Childhood (Age 3) Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Thurlow, M.L., & Erickson, R.N. 1994. *Possible Sources of Data for Early Childhood (Age 6) Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Thurlow, M.L., & Erickson, R. N. 1995. *Possible Sources of Data for Grade 4 Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Thurlow, M.L., & Erickson, R. N. 1995. *Possible Sources of Data for Grade 8 Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Thurlow, M.L., & Erickson, R. N. 1994. *Possible Sources of Data for School Completion Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Ysseldyke, J.E., Thurlow, M.L., & Erickson, R. N. 1994. *Possible Sources of Data for Post-School Level Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

Vanderwood, M.L., & Ysseldyke, J. E. 1993. *Consensus Building: A Process for Selecting Educational Outcomes and Indicators*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes.

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National Center on Educational Outcomes - Publications

**Project/Initiative** National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research

**Organization** Prevent Child Abuse America

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Since 1986, the National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research has collected detailed information on the number and characteristics of child abuse reports, the number of child abuse fatalities, and the funding and scope of child welfare services from the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Its annual report, *Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting and Fatalities* presents a state-level, descriptive analysis of the number and rate of child maltreatment reports, substantiation rates, a breakdown by type of abuse, primary presenting problems contributing to maltreatment, services provided (if any), fatalities, and legislative trends.

Over this same time period, the National Center has also commissioned an annual national public opinion poll on the attitudes of the public towards child abuse prevention. The focus is on shifts in public opinion in four areas: (1) attitudes toward specific parenting behaviors; (2) frequency of various discipline practices; (3) incidence of home visitation and other services around the birth of their own children; and (4) optimism toward and involvement in child abuse prevention.

Other programs of Prevent Child Abuse America include: (1) sponsorship of child abuse prevention research and its dissemination; (2) child abuse prevention programs including the Healthy Families America initiative; (3) prevention education programs through broadcast and print media; and (4) prevention advocacy.

**Publications** Wang, C., and Daro, D. 1998. *Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting and Fatalities: The Results of the 1997 Annual 50 State Survey*. Chicago: National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research.

Daro, D. 1999. *Public Opinion and Behaviors Regarding Child Abuse Prevention: 1999 Survey*. Working Paper No. 840. Chicago: National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research.

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**Internet**      <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/50data97.html>      Current Trends in  
Child Abuse  
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<http://www.preventchildabuse.org/poll98.html>      Public Opinion and  
Behaviors Regarding Child  
Abuse Prevention



**Project/Initiative** Healthy Communities - Healthy Youth

**Organization** Search Institute

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Search Institute launched Healthy Communities - Healthy Youth in 1995 to mobilize communities to pursue long-term, multi-sector focus on promoting healthy development for children and adolescents. As part of these initiatives, communities often conduct a survey-based study of 6th - 12th grade students utilizing Search Institute's Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors. This 156-item revised survey instrument measures each of the 40 developmental assets as well as a number of other constructs, including developmental deficits (e.g., whether youth watch too much television or are the victims of violence), thriving indicators (e.g., school success, maintenance of physical health behaviors), and high-risk behaviors. The high-risk behaviors include substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs), sexual intercourse, antisocial behavior, violence, school problems, depression and attempted suicide, and gambling.

The framework of 40 assets are divided into internal and external assets. Internal assets include commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity. External assets include support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time. The instrument has been used in hundreds of cities across the U.S.

**Publications** Benson, P.L. 1997. *All Kids are Our Kids: What Communities Must do to Raise Caring and Responsible Children and Adolescents*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.

Benson, P.L., Scales, P., Leffert, N., and Roehlkepartain, J. 1999. *A Fragile Foundation: The State of Developmental Assets among American Youth*. Minneapolis: Search Institute.

Leffert, N., Benson, P.L., and Roehlkepartain, J. 1996. *Starting Out Right: Developmental Assets for Children*. Minneapolis: Search Institute.

Leffert, N., Benson, P.L., Scales, P., Sharma, A., Drake, D., and Blyth, D. 1998. Developmental assets: Measurement and prediction of risk behaviors among adolescents. *Applied Developmental Science*, 2(4), 209-230.

Scales, P. 1998, December. Asset building and risk reduction: Complementary strategies for youth development. *Pregnancy Prevention for Youth: An Interdisciplinary Newsletter* 1 (2).

Scales, P. 1999. Reducing risks and building developmental assets: Essential actions for promoting adolescent health. *Journal of School Health*, 69(3), 113-119.

Scales, P.C., Benson, P., and Leffert, N. (In Press). The contribution of developmental assets to the prediction of thriving outcomes among adolescents. *Applied Developmental Science*.

Scales, P.C., and Leffert, N. 1998. *Developmental Assets: A Synthesis of the Scientific Research on Adolescent Development*. Minneapolis: Search Institute.

*Assets: The Magazine of Ideas for Healthy Communities - Healthy Youth*. Minneapolis: Search Institute.

Note: A catalogue of publications and resources for positive youth development, including items directly related to the youth assets covered in the survey, is available online at <http://www.search-institute.org/catalog/index.htm>.

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**Internet** <http://www.search-institute.org/assets/index.htm> Developmental Assets: An  
Investment in Youth  
<http://www.search-institute.org/catalog/index.htm> Search Institute -  
Publications

**Project/Initiative** Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA

**Organization** Simon and Schuster Macmillian

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** *Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA* is a comprehensive guide aimed at illustrating the experience of children in the United States. It covers the demographics of the youth population, poverty, health, criminal justice, and education. The atlas provides tables of national, state, and metropolitan level data; displays maps, both national and international, of statistics related to children; graphs; and highlights descriptive facts relevant to the issues that it discusses.

**Publications** Rickie Sanders and Mark T. Mattson. 1998. *Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA*. New York: Simon and Schuster Macmillian.

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**Internet** No web site.

**Project/Initiative** Assessing the New Federalism

**Organization** The Urban Institute and Child Trends

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This large, multi-year project monitors policy and program changes resulting from the devolution of responsibility for social policy from the federal level to the states. Trends in the well-being of children and their families are also monitored at the state level. The project has produced a State Database which includes state program and sociodemographic data culled from a variety of sources and organized into a searchable database which can be used on-line or downloaded from the Urban Institute's web site.

The project is studying state policy choices, collecting information on all states in selected areas but focusing intensively on 13 states: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

In addition, the project is conducting the National Survey of America's Families, a large and comprehensive national survey that also includes representative samples of families in the 13 states listed above. National and state-level descriptive data from the first wave of the survey became available beginning in January, 1999, and microdata are currently available for public use. A second wave of the NSAF was fielded in the spring and summer of 1999.

**Publications** Project publications, which include policy briefs, occasional papers, snapshots, and state reports, can be downloaded from the project's web site.

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**Internet** <http://newfederalism.urban.org> Assessing the New Federalism  
<http://newfederalism.urban.org/NFDB> Location of state database  
<http://newfederalism.urban.org/NSAF/cpuf/index.htm> NSAF Survey Data

**Project/Initiative** Results-Based Accountability Project

**Organization** Harvard Family Research Project

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Results Based Accountability (RBA) project, at the Harvard Family Research Project, supports and facilitates state and local level efforts to develop accountability systems that focus on children and families. In order to accomplish this goal the RBA project aims to develop and analyze results based accountability issues; make available information about lessons learned by states who have implemented RBA systems; encourage communication among those involved in RBA; and then disseminate RBA information.

For those charged with designing and implementing RBA efforts, lessons learned from states could prove useful. The RBA project has developed case studies of eight states and has summarized the important lessons from these states. In addition, the project has developed a series of briefs describing steps in the design and implementation of RBA systems. The briefs include an overview of RBA, a description of strategic planning for RBA efforts, and a review of indicators. These briefs include descriptions, examples and additional resources including contact information. The project has also developed resource guides and an annotated bibliography.

**Publications** Harvard Family Research Project. 1997. *The Guide to Results-Based Accountability: An Annotated Bibliography of Publications, Web Sites and Other Resources*. Second Edition. Harvard Family Research Project. Cambridge, MA.

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Horsch, K. 1998. *Aiming for Accountability: Florida*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Family Research Project.

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**Project/Initiative** Advancing States' Child Indicator Initiatives

**Organization** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and The Chapin Hall Center For Children

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This project, funded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is providing funding and technical assistance to states interested in improving their capacities to use child indicators as tools for effective governance. Thirteen states have received grants of up to \$50,000 per year for two years to carry out indicators projects of their own design. A fourteenth state is funded by the Packard Foundation. The states are: Alaska, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia. Each project involves the cooperative efforts of multiple state partner agencies with responsibility for children's programs. In addition, representatives from local governments, state universities, and state Kids Count organizations are involved in many states.

The Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, a nonprofit research center with a history of work in the social indicators arena, is providing technical assistance to the states. Chapin Hall has convened a number of meetings for grantees to encourage states to discuss the barriers they faced and to identify progress in particular areas, allowing these states to serve in a leadership/resource role for the other states.

**Publications** A description of the state projects and contact information are available on the DHHS/ASPE web site at: <http://aspe.dhhs.gov/hsp/cyp/cindicators.htm>

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**Project/Initiative** KIDS COUNT Project National Initiative

**Organization** The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States. At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, that includes measures of child and family well-being comparable across the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The national project, formally initiated in 1989, is intended to provide an accurate portrait of child well-being with comparable data at the state level, and to provide background data for all states. The goal of the KIDS COUNT project is to raise public awareness and to promote accountability.

The first 60-page data book, entitled *KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, was released in 1990, with 52 one-page profiles, for the nation, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia, covering ten key areas of child and family well-being (prenatal care, infant mortality, low birth weight, welfare benefits, poverty ratio, children in poverty, high school graduation, education expenditures, unemployment, teen births, juvenile incarceration) and several demographic descriptors (total, child, minority, and metropolitan populations, and per capita income). The tenth annual national KIDS COUNT Data Book, released in 1999, contains 184 pages and includes 52 two-page profiles (for the nation, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia), covering ten main areas of child well-being (low birth weight; infant mortality; child deaths; teen deaths due to accidents, homicides, and suicides; teen births; secure parental employment; teen dropouts; teens not in school and not working; children in poverty; and families headed by a single parent). The 1999 Data Book includes expanded background data covering demographics, social and economic characteristics, child health, juvenile justice, and summary tables, introductory text, and additional materials. A databook "theme" was introduced with the 1993 edition, and has introduced the national and state profiles of the data books every year since: reorienting social service delivery systems toward prevention (1993), distressed neighborhoods (1994), father involvement in families (1995), child poverty and the working poor (1996), children in poor communities (1997), child care (1998), and high risk kids (1999).

Patterned after the National KIDS COUNT Data Book, the Annie E. Casey Foundation also publishes an annual KIDS COUNT Special Report. The first report entitled *WHEN TEENS HAVE SEX: Issues and Trends*, published in 1998, provides key indicators of adolescent health and sexual behavior state by state, discusses the issues, and describes some promising programs that are helping young people make responsible decisions. A second special report on the characteristics of infants in large U.S. cities, based on birth certificate data, was released in December, 1999.



Additional data publications have been produced by the project, providing state-level profiles of minority populations, based on data from the 1990 census, and city-level profiles for primary child well-being indicators.

**Publications** The Annie E. Casey Foundation. *The Right Start: Conditions of Babies and their Families in America's Largest Cities*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1999

William P. O'Hare. *KIDS COUNT Working Paper, Teen Childbearing in America's Largest Cities*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1999.

William P. O'Hare. *The Overlooked Undercount: Children Missed in The Decennial Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1999.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation. *KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being 1999*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1999.

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                  <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/kc1999>     (1999 data on-line)

**Project/Initiative** KIDS COUNT Project State Initiatives

**Organization** (See list below)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States. The Foundation funds a network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide detailed state, regional, and community-level views of the condition of children and families. The first seven KIDS COUNT state projects were funded in 1991. There are currently 50 local projects, in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

Each state project publishes a data book annually presenting child and family well-being indicators. While each state project decides which indicators to include, and the format in which to present the information, many states base their data books quite closely on the national annual report, presenting the same indicators for the counties of the state. These data books often contain data that are valid and useful within individual states but are not available at the national level or are not comparable among states. Some states assemble data for their largest cities, state regions, and other geographic areas. In addition, many of the state-level projects have communications campaigns to disseminate information on the status of children through newsletters, fact sheets, web sites, action alerts, and other vehicles.

**Publications** Each state grantee publishes an annual data book on the condition of children as a condition of Foundation KIDS COUNT funding.

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**Internet** <http://www.aecf.org/kc1999/contacts.htm> KIDS COUNT Contacts

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**Project/Initiative** Alaska: Advancing States' Childhood Indicator Initiatives in Alaska

**Organization** Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs of the Division of Community and Rural Development, the Children's Cabinet, and Alaska Kids Count

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The purpose of this project is to establish health and well-being indicators for children ages 0-8 in order to monitor the impacts of welfare reform and other policy changes in Alaska. The goals of this project include:

- (1) establishing a database to allow for the collection, analysis, monitoring and sharing of indicator data;
- (2) developing a framework for involving communities in the development of their own indicators and in the collection and use of indicator data;
- (3) establishing a marketing strategy to inform the public of indicator results; and
- (4) integrating the use of indicator data in policy making at the state and local levels.

Alaska has compiled a list of 105 possible indicators in four domains: healthy children; children in strong and stable families; children ready for schools/schools ready for children; and children succeeding in school. Alaska hopes to develop a more refined list of indicators that are approved by community groups, the Children's Cabinet, and the governor. In addition, Alaska strives to engage policy makers and the public in developing and using indicators.

The project is led by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Division of Early Development, in partnership with the Children's Cabinet, an executive-level interagency council comprised of the commissioners of five state agencies (Departments of Education and Early Development, Health and Social Services, Law, Public Safety, and Corrections), the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General and the Budget Director. Responsibility for the completion of project tasks lies with a work group, comprised of representatives of most of the member agencies of the Children's Cabinet.

**Publications** None to date.

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Alaska Department of Education and  
Early Development

**Project/Initiative** California: California Child Indicator Initiative (CII)

**Organization** California Health and Human Services Agency and other state agencies

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The purpose of the Child Indicator Initiative (CII) is to build upon work already underway in California to enhance the health and well-being of children and families. A number of efforts have already been initiated to identify and track indicators of child and community well-being. Through this project, California intends to increase the consistency and improve the usefulness of these indicators on the state, county, and neighborhood level. In addition, California is working to ensure that state policymakers use these indicators to inform their evaluation of current and future programs.

The project is led by the California Health and Human Services Agency in partnership various state departments responsible for delivering health and human services to children and families as well as the California Department of Education and the University of California.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Internet** No website.

**Project/Initiative** Connecticut: Social State of Connecticut Report

**Organization** Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This is an annual report on the social health of the citizens of Connecticut. The report features a version of the Index of Social Health, developed by Dr. Marc Miringoff, and also reports separately on the 11 indicators that comprise the index. These include measures of child abuse, infant mortality, unemployment, average weekly wages, health care costs, youth suicide, high school completion, teen birth, violent crime, affordable housing, and income variation. The state of Connecticut recently passed a law mandating that the index and the report be produced each year.

**Publications** Miringoff, M, Miringoff, L, and Opdycke, S. 1999. *The Social State of Connecticut*. Fordham Institute For Innovation in Social Policy. Tarrytown, NY: Fordham University.

This report has been produced annually since 1994.

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**Internet** <http://www.state.ct.us/coc>

**Project/Initiative** Delaware: Results for Children

**Organization** Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families,  
University of Delaware, and other state agencies and organizations

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Results for Children project intends to build upon current efforts by the state to institutionalize and promote the use of a series of benchmark indicators called *Families Count*. In addition, activities under this project include:

- (1) reviewing existing indicators, policy goals, strategic plans, and performance measures;
- (2) taking an inventory of data sources and identify data gaps;
- (3) holding public forums to seek input on policy goals and indicators; and
- (4) linking strategic performance measurement and evaluation efforts in partner state agencies with the *Families Count* indicators.

The ultimate goal of the project is to ensure that *Families Count* indicators become an integral part of the way health and well-being of Delaware's children are measured.

A steering committee is in the process of developing a plan for public engagement to increase awareness on the issues of children's health and well-being. The steering committee plans to develop materials for dissemination to civic organizations, churches, and other groups in order to facilitate discussions of the *Families Count* data.

This project is led by the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families in partnership with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Social Services, Delaware KIDS COUNT, the University of Delaware, and the Family Services Cabinet Council (FSCC), an interagency council chaired by the Governor.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Internet** No website.

**Project/Initiative** Florida: Florida Benchmarks Report

**Organization** Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People  
(GAP) State of Florida

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Florida Benchmarks Report has been published twice, in 1996 and in 1998, accompanied by the Critical Benchmark Goals in 1997. The Benchmarks Report measures quality of life in the state across seven general areas including families and communities, safety, learning, health, economy, environment and government. With the exception of the areas of environment and government, each includes direct measures of child well-being. The 1996 Report established baseline measures for approximately 260 quantitative indicators reporting data back to 1980 where possible. In 1997, goals were set for 57 critical indicators for the years 2000 and 2010. The 1998 Florida Benchmarks includes the critical goals, updated historical trends on the original indicators, and information on local efforts to measure quality of life. The 1998 edition also includes new measures on family stress.

The Florida Benchmarks Report is the work of the Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People (GAP). The Commission was created by executive order in 1992 and solidified through state legislation in 1994 to track the impact of state agency activities on the well being of Florida's citizens. The Commission's reporting on state agency impacts was controversial. As of June 30, 1998, the Commission closed its doors because the Florida Legislative terminated its funding. Efforts are being made to find other resources to support its activities, however, the Commission's documents are on-line and can be obtained at the Internet address below. The Commission's history and supporting documentation are also archived with the Florida Department of State in the State Archives, (850) 487 2073.

**Publications** The Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People (GAP). Department of Management Services. 1998. *1998 Florida Benchmarks*. Tallahassee, FL. [Note: The Benchmarks report is also available from 1996 and an annual progress report is available from 1996-1997.]

The Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People (GAP). Department of Management Services. 1997. *The Critical Benchmarks Report*. Tallahassee, FL.

**Contacts**      Go to Florida's Executive Office of the Governor website or call the Governor's Citizens Services Office at (850) 488-7146 for any new information regarding the Commission's operations.

**Internet**      <http://fcn.state.fl.us/eog/govdocs/gapcomm/gaphome.html>  
The Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People

**Project/Initiative** Florida: Statewide Task Force

**Organization** Florida Department of Children and Families, and other organizations

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The purpose of this project is to synthesize information from a variety of sources in order for policy makers, to the greatest extent possible, to get a clear and complete picture of the impacts of welfare reform on children in Florida. It is designed to build upon work currently in place, ranging from *experimental research studies and local monitoring projects* to performance-based program budgeting and statewide benchmarks. Goals for the project include:

- (1) identifying key issues and policies that need to be addressed in Florida over the next two years;
- (2) selecting indicators that address these issues;
- (3) identifying new data sources where gaps have been identified; and
- (3) developing a plan for using indicators in critical policy decisions.

A statewide task force of approximately 40 people representing government, business, non-profit organizations, universities and seven key local communities provide conceptual guidance for the selection of indicators. Most importantly, the task force is developing a plan for implementing the use of these indicators of child well-being by policy and decision makers. This plan is designed to address the information needs of target audiences, ranging from the Governor and Legislature to the general public, and to identify effective ways to communicate that information so that it will be accurately interpreted, easily understood and readily used in decisions affecting policy, budget and program implementation. In addition, project staff are currently developing a framework of impacts, contributing factors and related policies. The purpose of this framework is to drive the recommendations of measures for continued work under this project.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Internet**      No website.



**Project/Initiative** Georgia: Georgia Child Indicator Project

**Organization** Partnership of Georgia Policy Council for Children & Families; Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Public Health & Division of Family and Children's Services; and Georgia Department of Community Health.

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** In 1995 the Georgia Policy Council adopted 26 benchmarks to measure child and family well-being. Independent of this project, Georgia tracks these indicators at the state and county levels, and makes the data available on the GPC-FC website. The purpose of this project is to develop indicators where there are gaps, promote uniform definitions where there is inconsistency, and increase the capacity of state and community partners to use indicator data. Current and future products include: (1) a metadatabase of indicators in use in Georgia which can be queried on the web; (2) recommendations for new indicators and standard definitions of existing indicators, and (3) training tools to assist users of indicator data.

This project is a partnership of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Public Health & Division of Family and Children's Services, the Georgia Department of Community Health, and the Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families, which includes senior representation from the Department of Human Resources, Department of Community Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, the Office of School Readiness, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, as well as community, business and elected leaders.

**Publications** None to date.

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GA Policy Council/Family Connection  
GA Division of Public Health

**Project/Initiative** Georgia: Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families/Family Connection

**Organization** State of Georgia, Department of Human Resources

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** In an attempt to measure Georgia's progress toward the goals of achieving healthy children, children who are ready for school, children who succeed in school, strong families, and self-sufficient families the Georgia Policy Council has adopted 26 benchmarks. The Policy Council and Family Connection collaboratives work in concert, allowing each of the 148 Family Connection sites across Georgia to tailor programs to their individual needs. Data, collected from the census and other sources including state agencies, on the benchmarks is available in a customized database on the Council's website.

The Family Connection consists of local public and private leaders and citizens joining with state agency representatives to encourage local decision-making and create strategies that focus on improving results for children and families. The mission of these programs is to prevent the harmful consequences of poverty, poor health, and inadequate schooling among all Georgia children, and to improve family functioning and economic status.

These individual collaboratives focus on the common goals of the communities in which they are situated to ensure effective public/private collaboration and take full advantage of the array of resources that each community possesses.

**Publications** Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families, Family Connection, & Metis Associates, Inc. (1998). *Pathways for Assessing Change: Strategies for Community Partners*. Atlanta, GA  
Family Connection and Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families. (1998). *Resource Notebook: Effective Services, Supports and Strategies*. Atlanta, GA.

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**Internet** <http://www.gpc-fc.org> Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families/Family Connection

**Project/Initiative** Hawaii: Partnering to Improve Children's Outcomes

**Organization** Hawaii Department of Health and other agencies

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Recent state legislation in Hawaii endorsed the development of a result-based accountability system using benchmarks and indicators to track child outcomes and to coordinate efforts across public and private agencies that serve children and families. On this basis, the Hawaii Department of Health is leading a partnership in pursuit of three goals:

- (1) to identify a common set of indicators on the health and early childhood education and care of children from birth to five years of age, with special focus on those who receive or have recently left welfare or are homeless;
- (2) to establish a data collection and reporting system on the indicators that has long-term sustainability; and
- (3) to develop a mechanism for affecting social policy for young children through the use of indicator data.

The partnership has identified a core set of indicators to be tracked to assess progress toward assuring the safety, health, and school readiness of Hawaii's children. Through this core set of indicators, the partnership has developed a nutrition program to increase the number of children enrolled in group early childhood education and child care settings who eat nutritious breakfasts.

Regular meetings of the partnership have allowed for collaboration and modification regarding data collection of child well-being indicators. Eventually, these data can be used to assess the impact of welfare reform and the need for and satisfaction with early childhood education and child care.

The partnership includes the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Education, Good Beginnings Alliance, Hawaii KIDS COUNT, and the University of Hawaii Center on the Family. In addition, the Governor's Policy Advisor on Children and Families plays a key role. Each of the partners is represented on the Partners Council and contributed staff to the Council's four work teams that focus on community outreach, data collection and systems, media relations, and policy development and analysis.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Internet**      No website.

**Project/Initiative** Maine: Child Indicators in Policymaking Partnership (CIPP)

**Organization** Maine Department of Human Services and other agencies

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The purpose of this project is to develop a broad partnership in order to facilitate the use of indicators of child well-being in policymaking. The project has four main objectives:

- (1) to establish a common vision for children's health and well-being;
- (2) to select a comprehensive set of indicators to measure progress towards the vision;
- (3) to present the data in a simple and easily understandable format in order to benchmark Maine's performance against other states; and
- (4) to implement training and dissemination strategies to promote the use of child indicators in policymaking

Four indicator workgroups have been identified and include: health; education; family, community and safety; and government, environment and economy. Maine anticipates that the set of indicators developed out of these workgroups will provide a framework for tracking the effects of welfare reform.

The Maine Department of Human Services serves as the lead agency for the project. The Children's Cabinet, an executive-level interagency council, serves as the cornerstone of the partnership. Cabinet membership includes the Commissioners of five state agencies including the Departments of Human Services, Education, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections. Other members of the partnership include the Maine Children's Alliance (KIDS COUNT), State Planning Office, Maine Development Foundation, Dirigo Coalition, Educational Policy Center, Margaret Chase Smith Center at the University of Maine, and the Institute for Public Sector Innovation at the University of Southern Maine.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Project/Initiative** Maryland: Results and Indicators

**Organization** Maryland Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Maryland is in the process of developing a results-based accountability system for children and family services in which strategic planning, management, and budgeting are tied to indicators of child well-being. At the state level, a preliminary set of core child and family well-being indicators were developed. At the local level, local management boards were created throughout the state to manage the delivery of children and family services and to set and achieve performance goals based on the indicators. The goals for this project are:

- (1) to finalize the indicators based on additional state and local stakeholder input;
- (2) to validate and refine the methodology for collecting and organizing the indicators data with the assistance of a research institution;
- (3) to post the indicators data on a searchable web database;
- (4) to refine the state's strategic plan for children and family services; and
- (5) to provide technical assistance to local management boards as they develop their own service delivery goals and plans.

The project is led by the Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families, an executive interagency council charged with monitoring the local management boards, and the Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, a public/private and state/local commission which includes representation from the United Way of Central Maryland, Association of Local Management Board Directors, and several jurisdictions. Maryland's KIDS COUNT Partnership provides technical assistance.

**Publications** Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth, & Families. (1999). *Final Recommendations to the Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families on the Child and Family Well-Being Results and Indicators.*

Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth, & Families. (1998). *Recommended Results Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being.*

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Governor's Office for Children,  
Youth, and Families

**Project/Initiative** Massachusetts: Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile (MassCHIP)

**Organization** Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** MassCHIP is an integrated interactive data system that provides access to 24 data sets that cover vital statistics, communicable disease, sociodemographics, selected MDPH and other human service agency program utilization data. Many of the data sets are specific to children including births, infant deaths, childhood immunization, childhood lead screening, Early Intervention programs, WIC, child care slots, reports of children abused and neglected, as well as those in foster care, and public and private school enrollment. Other data sets also encompass data on children and adolescents, such as rates of STDs among adolescents.

The system, first released in March 1997, makes state and community-level data available through both standard and customized report formats. Newly proposed Standard Reports will include an Adolescent Report and one on Breast Cancer.

**Publications** A series of Standard Reports are available through MassCHIP including:

- Community Health Network Area (CHNA) Health Status indicators.
- Perinatal report, containing data on low birth weight, first trimester registration for prenatal care, adequacy of prenatal care (Kessner Index), publicly financed prenatal care, all stratified by race/ethnicity and repeated for births to women under 20, and infant mortality rates.
- KIDS COUNT report, containing data on the health and sociodemographic status of women and children in Massachusetts.
- Smoking (including smoking during pregnancy).

Custom reports are also available to the user who specifies the data set of interest, the geographic region, and specific data elements.

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**Internet**

**<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/ose/mchphome.htm>**

There is no charge for the use of MassCHIP; however, a user agreement must be completed and a password assigned in order to access the system. Access information is available from the web address shown.

**Project/Initiative** Minnesota: Minnesota KIDS Initiative

**Organization** The Minnesota Department of Health and other agencies

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The purpose of the Minnesota Child Health and Well Being Indicators Data Set (KIDS) Initiative is to improve the accessibility of existing children's health, educational, and social well-being indicators at the state and local levels and to provide training in use of KIDS data to influence public policy and track the effects of welfare reform.

This will be accomplished by achieving the following tasks:

- (1) develop and maintain a web gateway to increase access by policy makers, program staff, and the public to local child indicators data;
- (2) train personnel from public and private agencies on how to access, interpret, and use child indicators to influence public policy and track the effects of welfare reform; and
- (3) identify and seek solutions to barriers that currently limit the partner agencies' capacity to share, compare, and combine their data.

This project is led by the Minnesota Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division, in partnership with the Department of Children, Families and Learning, Department of Human Services, Minnesota Planning, the Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota, and University of Minnesota researchers.

**Publications** Minnesota Planning. (1999). *1999 Children's Report Card*.  
Minnesota Planning. (1998). *Minnesota Milestones 1998: Measures that Matter*.

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Minnesota Milestones

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <a href="http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/dnet/datanet.htm">www.lmic.state.mn.us/dnet/datanet.htm</a> | Minnesota Children's Report Card |
| <a href="http://children.state.mn.us">children.state.mn.us</a>                                   | School data                      |
| <a href="http://cfl.state.mn.us/ecfi/">cfl.state.mn.us/ecfi/</a>                                 | Early childhood info and data    |

**Project/Initiative** Minnesota: Minnesota Milestones and the Children's Report Card

**Organization** Minnesota Planning  
State of Minnesota

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Minnesota Milestones, initiated in 1991, measures the state's standing in nineteen statewide goals across four areas including increasing the health and well-being of Minnesotans, enhancing community and democracy in the state, protecting the environment, and improving government. Of the nineteen goals, three are specific to children: 1) children will not live in poverty, 2) families will provide a stable, supportive environment for their children, and 3) all children will be healthy and start school ready to learn. Each goal is measured by a series of indicators, many of which are specific to children (16 indicators of the total 70). Milestones are meant to improve the public accountability of government by helping to establish priorities and focusing attention on outcomes. Government agencies are encouraged to further incorporate outcomes into program planning and performance measurement.

The Children's Report Card was developed in 1993 as a means of tracking progress toward the Minnesota Milestones that relate to the social and educational goals for children in the state. The Report Card includes 26 indicators of child well-being from birth through age 18. The Report Card takes a step farther than the Milestones report in that data are available by county as well as for the state. Eleven of the indicators are provided through the Minnesota Student Survey which is administered every three years by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The first Report Card was available in 1994 and updated in 1996 and 1999.

**Publications** Minnesota Planning, 1998. *Minnesota Milestones 1998: Measures that Matter*. St. Paul, MN. [download at [http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/pubs/pub\\_child.htm](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/pubs/pub_child.htm)]

Minnesota Planning, 1992. *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future*. St. Paul, MN. [The initial Milestones publication.]

Minnesota Planning, 1999. *1999 Children's Report Card*. St. Paul, MN. [Note: Report cards are also available from 1994 and 1996.]

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**Internet**      <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/>      Minnesota Planning

**Project/Initiative** New York: New York Touchstones/ KIDS COUNT Initiative

**Organization** New York State Council on Children and Families

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This initiative is a cooperative effort between the New York State Council on Children and Families and the state's thirteen education and human services agencies which make up its membership. The Council has established a broad set of common goals, objectives, and corresponding indicators that will be used to reorient agency planning and accountability away from process and toward outcomes.

Outcome measures to be used by the Council focus on the well-being of children, and are to be population-based (rather than program-based), reliable, available on an annual basis, and available at the county level. Counties will also be given these data, and technical assistance will be provided to aid them in local data collection and policy evaluation strategies. Similarly, efforts will be made to help counties use the Touchstones data as a tool for local planning.

An extension of the New York State Touchstones/Kids Count Initiative, the Kids' Well-being Clearinghouse (KWIC) Project aims to expand on the extensive indicator work already conducted by Touchstones while overcoming the traditional limitations of paper based data sources. To this end, the KWIC Project is attempting to make indicator data and resources more accessible and useful by developing a web site based repository. The project is overseen by the New York State Council on Children and Families, the Center for Technology and Government, and Cornell University's College of Human Ecology; it is funded by a Health and Human Services grant to advance child indicator initiatives.

**Publications** New York State Council on Children and Families. 1998. *New York State Touchstones/Kids Count*. New York: (author).

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State of New York Council on  
Children and Families

**Project/Initiative** Oregon: Oregon Benchmarks



**Organization** Oregon Progress Board  
State of Oregon

**Project Activities**

● Dissemination ● Survey/Measurement ● Governance ● Technical Assistance ● Communication

**Organization Type**

● Government ○ Research ○ Advocacy ○ Association ○ Foundation ○ Other

**Project Description** Oregon Benchmarks was the first effort by a state to adopt measurable indicators that would serve to monitor and guide the state's progress toward specific economic, social and quality-of-life goals. Originally over 250 indicators were selected to gauge progress in implementing the state's 20-year strategic plan that was developed in 1989 and entitled Oregon Shines. In recent years, the list of indicators has narrowed to 92. Twenty of these indicators encompass concepts of child well-being through measures of stable home life, healthy babies and toddlers, early childhood development, academic achievement, and health practices and fitness. The Oregon Progress Board, which oversees the development and dissemination of the benchmarks, is committed to biennial Benchmarks reports. A new report was released in March of 1999; the next report is due for release in the winter of 2001.

Through Oregon Benchmarks the Progress Board encourages a focus on outcomes and accountability within state government. The Oregon Commission on Children and Families carries the concept beyond the state level, fostering local level planning of child and family focused programs. The OCCF has established a series of core indicators of child well-being for tracking goals at the local level. A searchable online database called the OCCF Fiscal Monitoring and Outcomes Reporting System will become available on their web site sometime in February of 2000.

**Publications** The Progress Board produces many publications on the development of benchmarks, survey reports, implementation guides, and evaluation reports. The following are a few selected publications on the Benchmarks initiative and one from the Commission on Children and Families.

Oregon Progress Board. 1997. *Oregon Shines II: Updating Oregon's Strategic Plan. A Report to the People of Oregon.* Salem, OR. [Note: The original Oregon Shines plan from 1989 is also available.]

Oregon Progress Board. 1999. *Oregon's Benchmark Performance Report.* Salem, OR.

Oregon Progress Board. 1999. *Oregon Benchmarks County Data Book.* Salem, OR.

Oregon Progress Board. 1996. *Oregon's Benchmark Performance Report.* Salem, OR.

Oregon Progress Board. 1994. *Oregon Benchmarks, Standards for Measuring Statewide Progress and Institutional Performance: A report to the 1995 Legislature*. Salem, OR.

Oregon Commission on Children and Families. 1995–1997. *Outcome Measure Notebook*. (Rev. 11/95). Salem, OR.

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**Internet**

<http://www.econ.state.or.us/opb> Oregon Progress Board  
<http://www.ccf.state.or.us/> Oregon Commission on Children &  
Families

**Project/Initiative** Rhode Island: Rhode Island Child Indicators Project

**Organization** Multi-Agency Partnership

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Rhode Island has developed an initial set of child indicators in the areas of health, education, economic well being and safety. The purpose of this project is to facilitate the explicit linking of indicators of child well-being with policy goals. The project has several goals:

- (1) to define a core group of indicators that can be used to track the impact of welfare reform, health care reform, child care expansion, and education reform;
- (2) to develop new indicators to measure the well-being and school readiness of young children, from birth through age 10;
- (3) to examine the ability of using state agency administrative data, state surveys and state supplements of national surveys as data sources for producing indicators; and
- (4) to institutionalize the use of indicators in policy work.

The partnership consists of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, and the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet, an interagency council which represents the Department of Human Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Health, and Department of Children, Youth and Families. Senior policy and data staff from the Cabinet agencies comprise the Interagency Child Indicators Team, which has primary responsibility for completion of project tasks.

**Publications** None to date.

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Information Works!  
Rhode Island Kids Count

**Project/Initiative** Utah: Utah Child Indicators Project

**Organization** Utah Families, Agencies, and Communities Together (FACT), and Utah Children

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The purpose of this project is to:

- (1) review, revise and adopt standard indicators of child health and well-being in Utah;
- (2) identify and develop new data sources for the indicators;
- (3) develop systems for analysis of the data at the state, health district, county and community levels;
- (4) develop a system for the meaningful reporting of the indicators; and
- (5) develop systems that provide broad access to the indicators and institutionalize their use for policy purposes.

Utah is specifically interested in focusing on neighborhoods in urban counties which are highly impacted by systems change initiatives. Utah intends to develop strategies for improving small area analysis on indicators that direct and support system changes.

Work on this project comes out of a partnership built on five years of collaboration between Utah Children, a community-based organization which publishes KIDS COUNT indicators, and member agencies of Families, Agencies and Community Together (FACT), an interagency effort involving state agencies, private and community organizations, and parents in interdisciplinary teams to coordinate children's and families' services.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Internet** No website.

**Project/Initiative** Vermont: Community Profiles: Focus on Outcomes

**Organization** Vermont Agency for Human Services, and other agencies

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Building on several years of experience in publishing child indicators at the state and local levels, this project focuses on making investments in a few specific areas. First, several new indicators have been incorporated into two already existing Vermont indicator publications. New indicators include developmental assets of youth (parent involvement, positive relationships, and community involvement), welfare receipt, reading standards, out-of-wedlock child support, continuing education of graduating seniors, smoking during pregnancy, school meal programs, abuse and neglect, school violence, and repeat teen births. Second, Vermont has developed a web-based mapping application (see address below) to allow users to convey information for certain human services and education indicators in ways that are not currently available. In addition, Community Profiles and the associated data sets are accessible through the website. Third, Vermont has used the child well-being indicators from the Community Profiles to develop case studies of two communities where outcomes have recently been improving. Fourth, Vermont has begun development of a new set of measures for children's readiness for school.

This project is led by the Vermont Agency for Human Services in partnership with the Department of Education, the University of Vermont, and the State Team for Children, Families and Individuals, an executive collaborative council comprised of state agency and community representatives.

**Publications** Vermont Agency of Human Services. (1999). *The Social Well-Being of Vermonters - 1999: A Report on Outcomes for Vermont Citizens.*

Vermont Agency of Human Services. (1998). *Community Profiles, November 1998.*

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**Vermont Agency of Human Service**

**Project/Initiative** Vermont: Vermont's Framework for Collaboration

**Organization** Agency of Human Services and the Department of Education  
State of Vermont

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** In 1994, the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Education launched the Framework for Collaboration as a means of coordinating efforts to improve service delivery to children and families. Central to this mission are indicators of child and family well-being that are used to inform program planning and service system performance. At the state level the framework is implemented by the State Team for Children and Families. There are also twelve regional teams that coordinate planning for children's and family's services at the local level. Community profiles were developed in 1995 that present data on 40 indicators of child and family well-being for each of the 60 supervisory unions (school districts) in the state. These annual profiles are used by the regional teams to track progress and inform future planning.

The state has also produced an annual data book, *The Social Well-Being of Vermonters*, since 1992. This publication serves as a gauge for Vermont and includes national and international comparisons of data elements, where possible. The report does not, however, set targets for the indicators presented and is not officially a benchmarking tool.

A new project, "Vermont Children's Well-Being Online," consists of an interactive mapping application for a common-stake set of child indicators. This is located at [http://geo-vt.uvm.edu/ahsdoc](http://geo-<u>vt.uvm.edu/ahsdoc</u>).

**Publications** The Agency of Human Services-Department of Education Partnership. 1996. *Vermont's Framework for Collaboration: Developing Community Resources and Supports for Children and Families*. Waterbury, VT.

Vermont Agency of Human Services 2000. *Community Profile 1999*. Waterbury, VT. (Note: Community profiles are available for all 60 school supervisory unions in the state.) (Available online)

Vermont Agency of Human Services. 1999. *The Social Well-Being of Vermonters, 1999: A Report on Outcomes for Vermont's Citizens*. Waterbury, VT. (Note: Published annually since 1992.) (Available online)

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<http://geo-vt.uvm.edu/ahsdoe>      Vermont Children's Well-Being  
Online



**Project/Initiative** West Virginia: Indicators of Child/Family Well-Being

**Organization** Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families and other State Agencies (West Virginia)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** West Virginia recently developed a set of six overarching outcome statements and identified a list of child and family indicators. The purpose of this project is to build on these efforts by collecting baseline information and monitoring changes in indicator data at the county level and by providing indicator data to state and local policy makers, the business community and the public. Project tasks include:

- (1) the development of promotional indicators which communicate positive outcomes;
- (2) adoption of key child and family indicators by the Cabinet;
- (3) collection and analysis of data from the relevant agencies;
- (4) working with legislators and local communities to increase awareness and use of indicator data in state and local policy making;
- (5) design of a web site for publication of indicator data; and
- (6) preparation of annual and other periodic indicator reports.

Thirty-nine indicators have been selected relating to six outcome domains for children and families: achievement and maintenance of physical and mental health, school readiness, marketable skills and favorable employment, parental resources for protecting, nurturing, educating, and supporting children, stability and permanence for children, and home and community safety.

West Virginia intends to work closely with local community organizations to assist them in using indicator data in priority setting. In addition, the indicators are intended to guide research to examine changes in child well being, family stability, and in the status of specific populations.

The Governor's Cabinet functions as the lead state agency, with responsibility for completion of major project tasks lying with the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center, an independent organization located within Marshall University Graduate School and created from a partnership between the Governor's Cabinet, the Department of Health and Human Resources, Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety, Department of Education, and the Department of Education & the Arts.

**Publications** None to date.

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**Internet**     [www.citynet.net/wvfamilies](http://www.citynet.net/wvfamilies)     Governor's Cabinet on Children & Families

**Project/Initiative** Improved Outcomes for Children Project

**Organization** Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Harvard Project on Effective Services  
National Center on Education and the Economy  
National Alliance for Restructuring Education

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Improved Outcomes for Children Project (IOCP) helps communities collect information to make outcome assessments. They aid communities in identifying the measures needed to make assessments and in finding agencies that can collect the necessary data and make reasonable interpretations of the results. IOCP has created a list of indicators that shows each indicator's name, definition, the importance of using the indicator, and resulting data that has been compiled using the indicator. This list also contains the data source, related measures, and other additional information on each indicator.

**Publications** Schorr, L., Farrow, F., Hornbeck, D. and Watson, S. 1995. *The Case for Shifting to Results-Based Accountability*. Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C.

Watson, S., Brown, B., and Weitz, J. 1994. *A Start-Up list of Outcome Measures with Annotations*. Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C.

Center for the Study of Social Policy. 1993. *Services and Supports to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families*. Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C.

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**Project/Initiative**     The National Outcome Work Groups

**Organization**         (Same as above)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination      Survey/Measurement      Governance      Technical Assistance      Communication

**Organization Type**

Government      Research      Advocacy      Association      Foundation      Other

**Project Description** The National Outcome Work Groups (NOWG) rely on the expertise of their members to identify critical child, youth, parents/families, and community level indicators to be used in evaluating community-based programs. Members include Cooperative Extension professionals from multiple Land-Grant Universities and community-based projects. The evaluation resources developed by the NOWG include the following information for each identified indicator: introduction and definition of the characteristic, literature review, references, annotated bibliography, suggested measures or instruments (abstracts), analysis suggestions, psychometrics, and links to additional sources of information.

The National Outcomes Work Groups are part of USDA's Children, Youth, and Families At Risk (CYFAR) Initiative and Evaluation Collaboration Project. Cornell University, North Carolina State University, University of Nevada-Reno and the University of Arizona provide leadership to the NOWG.

The Individual Workgroups:

*The Children National Outcome Work Group* focuses on indicators for children from birth to age 11. The Children's Work Group chose to adapt a model developed by the National Center of Educational Outcomes (NCEO) to identify primary outcome domains for children's programming including a variety of personal and social indicators. Some of the information available for each outcome domain site includes relevant literature, a list of outcome components, a list of suggested indicators, and an annotated bibliography.

*The Youth National Outcome Work Group* focuses on indicators for youth from ages 12 to 19. The Youth Work Group concentrates its efforts on two areas of youth outcomes: the enhancement of social competencies and reduction of risk behaviors.

*The Parents/Families National Outcome Work Group* develops resources to be used to improve and strengthen the evaluation of parent education and family resiliency programs. The evaluation tools, instruments, and resources presented are based on two outcome models. The parent outcome area includes six indicators; the family outcome area includes nine.

*The Community National Outcome Work Group* focuses on developing evaluation resources that may be helpful for community programs seeking to develop the capacity of the community system at a broader level than the individual or family. To help such programs document community change, the Community Work Group provides information on types of community linkages and models of community change. The group advances indicators in four main impact areas including policy development, process development, citizen development, and resources development.

**Publications** NOWG resources can be accessed from the groups' website.

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Evaluating the  
National Outcomes

**Project/Initiative** National Neighborhood Indicators Project

**Organization** Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center  
(formerly the Center for Public Finance and Housing)  
The Urban Institute

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The National Neighborhood Indicators Project (NNIP) is working with local institutions in selected American cities to develop neighborhood-level information systems containing social indicator data that can be used to support comprehensive community building. The NNIP has partners in a dozen U.S. cities including: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Indianapolis, Miami, Milwaukee, Oakland, Philadelphia, Providence, and Washington, DC.

Partner cities use their neighborhood data systems to aid in community building and local policy development. Information at the neighborhood level helps groups identify different problems and strengths among particular localities within the city.

A listserv, NNIP News, has been established. A moderator monitors relevant online information sources and posts updates including information on the U.S. Census, social indicators, community building, welfare reform, and housing policy. Subscribers can also post comments and questions. To subscribe, check [http://www.urban.org/nnip/nnip\\_news.html](http://www.urban.org/nnip/nnip_news.html) or E-mail [nnip@ui.urban.org](mailto:nnip@ui.urban.org). In addition, the project is currently developing a National Neighborhood Data System, which will provide easily accessible data at the census tract or zip code level for major metropolitan areas, and a series of handbooks and other tools on the use of information in community capacity building.

**Publications** Kingsley, G. T., ed. 1999. *Building and Operating Neighborhood Indicators Systems*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Kingsley, G.T., Coulton, C.J., and Barndt, M. 1997. *Mapping Your Community*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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**Internet**

**<http://www.urban.org/nnip/>**

**National Neighborhood Indicators  
Project**

**Project/Initiative** Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives for Children and Families

**Organization** The Aspen Institute

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Roundtable is comprised of 33 experts in the field, policy officials, and program heads who examine and discuss issues surrounding the continuance and strengthening of Comprehensive Community Initiatives (CCIs). The Roundtable meets up to twice a year, sharing new initiatives and developments, and also shares more formal presentations on issues such as how to govern CCIs, how to operationalize concepts common to CCI programs, and financial issues. The Roundtable began under the guidance of the National Academy of Sciences in 1992. It is funded by foundations and federal agencies.

The Roundtable has developed two Internet-based resources for CCIs. The first, Community Building Resources Exchange ([www.commbuild.org](http://www.commbuild.org)), provides a forum for exchanging resources and information by listing links to a wide range of materials covering the theoretical bases and practical applications of comprehensive, community building approaches to neighborhood revitalization. The Roundtable's own website ([www.aspenroundtable.org](http://www.aspenroundtable.org)) is designed to provide information about our current projects through on-line publications and working papers, as well as our catalogue of measurement instruments related to community research. This feature of the Roundtable site, called Measures for Community Research, is one of the first resources of its kind, and will serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of instruments and other tools related to key community-level outcomes.

**Publications** Connell, J.P., Kubisch, A.C., Schorr, L.B., and Weiss, C.H. 1995. *New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives Volume I: Concepts, Methods, and Contexts*. Washington, D.C.: The Aspen Institute. (Available online at web site)

Fulbright-Anderson, K. Kubisch, A.C., and Connell, J.P. (1999). *New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives, Volume II: Theory, Measurement and Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: The Aspen Institute. (Available online at web site)

Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives. 1995. *Voices from the Field: Learning from Comprehensive Community Initiatives*. (Available online at web site)





**Project/Initiative** Children's Environmental Index

**Organization** Zero Population Growth (ZPG)

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Zero Population Growth's 1999 Children's Environmental Index: The Kid-Friendly Cities Report Card measures the quality of children's lives in 229 American cities. ZPG presents 14 indicators of child well-being, including education, health and economic security. In addition, the report highlights four demographic measures that provide an important context for understanding the U.S. child population and their social and physical environment.

To this end, ZPG assigns letter grades to the featured cities, thus making the study a user-friendly tool in evaluating the quality of children's lives in cities and communities throughout the nation.

ZPG is committed to achieving zero population growth by guaranteeing access to quality family planning and reproductive health services, by educating and empowering women, and by reducing unplanned and teenage pregnancies.

**Publications** Zero Population Growth. *The ZPG Reporter*. Bi-monthly.

Zero Population Growth. *1999 Children's Environmental Index*. ZPG, 1999.  
Available in print, on the ZPG web site, and on CD-ROM.

Note: *The Children's Environmental Index* was also published in 1997, 1995, 1993, 1991, and 1989.

Zero Population Growth. *Earth Matters: Studies for Our Global Future*. ZPG, 1998. (Also published in 1991.)

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**Internet** <http://www.zpg.org> Zero Population Growth, Inc.

**Project/Initiative** Development of a Community Information Infrastructure

**Organization**

Chapin Hall Center for Children

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The project aims to develop ways to identify and capture the full range of data and information necessary to give a complete picture of a community and to serve community-change efforts. It seeks to integrate these various sources of information ( both quantitative and qualitative) to illuminate the dynamic nature of communities, creating new methods of data and information development to meet community-identified needs and to depict aspects of communities that are not now fully accessible. Finally, it is developing ways to help communities use data and information to support and sustain community change. Chapin Hall has partnered with two community-based collaborative organizations in the City of Chicago to develop these capacities.

Chapin Hall Center for Children, an independent policy and research center located at the University of Chicago, focuses on issues and policies that affect the well-being of children. The Center is staffed by over 100 persons from a wide variety of academic disciplines.

**Publications** Sommer, T.E., Brown, P., Chaskin, R., Goerge, R., Richman, H., Slavitt, L., Venkatesh, S. 1996. *Creation of a Community Information Infrastructure: Capturing the Breadth and Depth of Information Necessary for the Effective Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation of Comprehensive Community Initiatives*. Chicago: Chapin Hall.

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Chapin Hall Center for Children

**Project/Initiative**    The Social and Health Landscape of Urban and Suburban America

**Organization**                      National Public Health and Hospital Institute

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Social and Health Landscape of Urban and Suburban America brings together information from the Census, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FBI, American Hospital Association, Community Health Centers, and local health departments to profile urban centers and their safety net services. The first report, published in December, 1996, examined the 100 largest U.S. cities. In 1999 a second phase was published which profiles the cities as well as the counties and metropolitan statistical areas that contain them. The report provides data for individual cities as well as data aggregated by region and city size. It includes a breadth of socioeconomic measures affecting children as well as child health indicators such as infant mortality, low birth weight, and teen birth. The profile of safety net providers includes, among other indicators, provision of selected maternal/child health services by local health departments, the quantity of care provided to children by community health centers, and changes in the amount of uncompensated care provided by hospitals.

The National Public Health and Hospital Institute is an independent, private, non-profit organization engaged in applied research on health policies that pertain to hospitals. They are loosely associated with the National Association of Public Hospitals. The Urban Social Health Project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**Publications** Andrulis, D. and Goodman, N. 1999. *Health and Social Well-Being in Urban America: A Chart Book Profiling the Nation's One Hundred Largest Cities and their Metropolitan Areas*. Chicago: American Hospital Publishing.

National Public Health and Hospital Institute. 1996. *Urban Social Health: A Chart Book Profiling the Nation's One Hundred Largest Cities*. Washington, D.C.: National Public Health and Hospital Institute.

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**Internet  
Hospitals**

<http://www.naph.org>

National Association of Public

**Project/Initiative** CityMatCH

**Organization** University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** CityMatCH provides products and services to help urban health departments and other local, state and national partners in urban maternal and child health (MCH) assessment and surveillance, program planning, implementation, evaluation, and policy development. Their work is practice-driven: their emphasis is on how to use indicators in an applied setting and in creating data that they know will be useful for urban communities. CityMatCH's partnership with urban health departments improves data quality and utility by involving cities in data collection and review before city-specific indicator reports are issued.

CityMatCH primarily uses indicator data from local, state and national sources in urban MCH applied research. In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CityMatCH has convened the national Working Group on MCH Assessment (GUMCHA) to develop and enhance indicators and methods for surveillance and assessment of women, children, adolescents and families in urban communities. GUMCHA is a collaborative of academics, CDC epidemiologists, policy makers, local health officials, urban MCH leaders, and other indicator-creating organizations. Indicators and methods that are or will be addressed through GUMCHA include infant mortality, urban asthma, immunization, teen pregnancy, and violence. Pilot studies in Seattle, Boston, and Honolulu using the WHO Periods of Risk approach to feto-infant mortality are being done through GUMCHA.

CityMatCH is a national public health organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children and families in America's cities through improved maternal and child health (MCH) policy and practice. Its members include over 155 of the 175 public health departments whose jurisdictions include cities over 100,000 population. It serves as a national resource center for urban maternal and child health information.

**Publications** CityMatCH Newsletters, e.g.:

*CityLights Special CDC Edition: Focus: Under-Immunization of Urban Children.* Spring 1998. CityMatCH at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

*City Lights Special Pullout Report: Low-Birthweight for Selected U.S. Cities 1993-1995.* Summer/Fall 1997. Vol. 6, No.3-4, CityMatCH at University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

*CityLights Special CDC Edition: Finding Urban MCH at the CDC.* Summer 1997, CityMatCH at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

Fitzgerald, M. and Rostermundt, J. eds. 1999. *Lessons Learned: 1998 Profiles of Leading Urban Health Department Initiatives in Urban Maternal and Child Health*. CityMatCH at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

Peck, M.G. and Fitzgerald, M. eds. 1998 *Lessons Learned: 1997 Profiles of Leading Urban Health Department Initiatives in Urban Maternal and Child Health*. CityMatCH at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

*Lessons Learned: 1996 Successful Urban Health Department MCH Efforts*.  
CityMatCH at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

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**Internet**

<http://www.citymatch.org>

CityMatCH

**Project/Initiative** Outcome Measurement Resource Network

**Organization** United Way of America

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Outcome Measurement Resource Network, located in United Way of America's (UWA) public website, makes outcome measurement resources available to health and human service programs and communities. The Resource Network was renovated and significantly expanded in 1999.

The Resource Network contains excerpts from and ordering information for the agency outcome measurement manual, *Measuring Program Outcomes: A Practical Approach*. Visitors also will find the full text of all back issues of UWA's outcome measurement newsletter and several articles relating to outcome measurement in the United Way movement and elsewhere in the nonprofit sector. Many of UWA's outcome measurement publications can be downloaded at no cost directly from the Resource Network. Descriptions, pricing, and ordering information are available for those resources not available online.

United Way of America is reviewing research findings on (1) links between initial youth outcomes (e.g., academic competencies, prosocial involvement, belief in one's future) and longer-term outcomes (e.g., graduating from high school, delaying onset of sexual activity, avoiding violent behavior); and (2) links between initial youth outcomes and youth development program practices, characteristics, or content. Major conceptual frameworks for positive youth development guide the investigation, which will shed light on which parts of the various frameworks appear to be supported by existing research. Resources resulting from the project are expected to be available on the Resource Network by the end of 1999.

While the Resource Network focuses on providing outcome measurement-related content, the Current Projects section contains annotated links to the websites of national health and human services organizations involved in outcome measurement, United Ways that are part of the National Learning Project on Using Program Outcome Data to Create Measurable Change, and selected other public and nonprofit sector outcome and performance measurement initiatives. The Online Resource Library organizes many annotated links to other useful websites, including general evaluation-, nonprofit-, and youth-related resources, as well as accreditation initiatives. The Mind-It feature in the "What's New?" section enables visitors to be notified automatically of additions to the Resource Network.

**Publications** *Achieving and Measuring Community Outcomes: Challenges, Issues, Some Approaches*. Alexandria, Va: United Way of America, 1999.



*Community Status Reports and Targeted Community Interventions: Drawing a Distinction.* Alexandria, Va: United Way of America, 1999.

*Introducing Outcomes: Basic Definitions and Concepts in Program Outcome Measurement* [video]. Alexandria, Va: United Way of America, 1996.

*Measuring Program Outcomes Training Kit.* Alexandria, Va: United Way of America, 1996. (second edition available later in 1999)

*Measuring Program Outcomes: A Practical Approach.* Alexandria, Va: United Way of America, 1996. (second edition available later in 1999)

*Update: Outcome Measurement Activities of National Health and Human Service Organizations.* Alexandria, Va: United Way of America, 1998.

**Contacts**

Technical assistance is provided only for United Way member organizations. Others will find the *Measuring Program Outcomes* manual and training materials well-written and useful; ordering information is contained on the website.

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**Internet**

<http://www.unitedway.org/outcomes> Resource Network

<http://www.unitedway.org/outcomes/whatsnew.htm> What's New? Page and Mind-It feature for automatic notification of additions to the Resource Network

[http://www.unitedway.org/outcomes/to\\_order.htm](http://www.unitedway.org/outcomes/to_order.htm) Ordering information for UWA publications

**Project/Initiative** Urban Quality Indicators

**Organization** Urban Quality Communications

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Publishing a quarterly newsletter with information on various urban quality issues is the goal at the Urban Quality Indicators project. The newsletter contains information on various indexes that are being created for measuring concepts such as health in downtown areas or retail availability in inner cities. The newsletter also contains demographic information pertinent to cities such as rankings of cities with highest population densities, highest ranked cities in newly published quality-of-life studies, and national information such as the U.S. infant mortality and unemployment rates.

The newsletter contains minimal information on child indicators; however, there may be occasional excerpts from other publications on work that has been done using child indicators. For example, in a recent issue, the newsletter contained information about the quality of child health care in various cities.

**Publications** Urban Quality Communications, Spring 1998. *Urban Quality Indicators Newsletter, Issue 9*. Ann Arbor, MI: Urban Quality Communications.

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**Internet** <http://people.mw.mediaone.net/cyoakam> Urban Quality Indicators

**Project/Initiative**     Community Youth Mapping

**Organization**                     Center for Youth Development and Policy Research

**Project Activities**

Dissemination      Survey/Measurement      Governance      Technical Assistance      Communication

**Organization Type**

Government      Research      Advocacy      Association      Foundation      Other

**Project Description** Most communities have not collected information on youth resources. The Community Youth Mapping strategy records the resources that are available to youth by having youth survey their neighborhoods and communities for services, programs, and people who are available to assist them with their growth and development. In this way, the participating youth are able to learn about their community as the information is being collected.

In addition, people at the Community Youth Mapping project go through painstaking means to disseminate information that the youth collect using a Geographic Information System (GIS). There are three innovative techniques currently being used in the project. One is YouthStation, an ATM-type computer station that is available through the community that youth can access to find information on recreation centers, substance abuse centers, counseling centers, and many more resources. The second dissemination system is YouthLink. Youth can visit a Community Youth Mapping web page and a Geographic Information System (GIS) database which contains information on services in their area. The third dissemination method is Local YouthLines, a telephone system that youth can access to find information on local resources or talk to peer counselors from support services. This service is confidential and toll free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Publications** Newman, R.P., Smith, S., and Murphy, R. 1999. *A Matter of Money: The Cost and Financing of Youth Development*. Academy for Educational Development-Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

Murphy, R. 1998. *Information in the World of Youth Development*. Academy for Educational Development-Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

Camino, L.A. 1998. *Building Local Infrastructure for Youth Development: The Added Value of Capacity-Building Intermediary Organizations*. Academy for Educational Development-Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

Politz, B., and Markovitz, C. 1997. *Youth Development and ...Series: A Series of Annotated Quotes and Excerpts from Selected Research on Youth*. Academy for Educational Development-Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

Newman, R.P., Politz, B., and Steinfield, E. 1998. *YouthSpace: A Concept Paper*. Academy for Educational Development-Center for Youth Development and Policy Research.

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**Internet**      <http://www.aed.org>                      Academy for Educational Development

**Project/Initiative** Youth Development Mobilization (YDM) Initiative

**Organization** Academy for Educational Development/ Center for Youth  
Development and Policy Research

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research (policy)     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The goal of the Youth Development Mobilization (YDM) initiative is to ensure long-term institutional support for youth development by creating a network of communication between policy makers and practitioners at the local level. By engaging a diverse group of associates and partners sited in specific communities the Center intends to implement practical strategies to encourage collaboration and communication between youth and adults and between different municipalities.

The YDM intends to increase the number of data/indicators that it measures so that it can track the growth, development, and commitment to youth throughout communities, and move beyond current deficit-driven indicators that are now used to define young people's condition in society. A recent proposal, "Youth Development/ Community Indicators: On the Plus Side," is aimed at allowing the Center to convene and work together with an advisory board, a defined set of locales (including their current partners in Albuquerque, Hampton, and Milwaukee), representatives from the federal government, national research and advisory groups, and national foundations, to make a strategic case for expanded data collection that tracks community inputs to support youth development.

**Publications** Pittman, K. J., Cahill, M., & Zeldin, R. S. (1994). *Youth Employment Preparation Through a Youth Development Lens: Broad Recommendations for Sustaining Change*. Center for Youth Development and Policy Research: Washington, DC.

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**Internet** <http://www.aed.org.us.youth.html>    The Academy for Educational  
Development

**Project/Initiative** California: The USC Data Unit

**Organization** The Urban Strategies Council

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The mission of the Urban Strategies Council, a non-profit policy, advocacy and community building organization based in Oakland, California, is to reduce the risk of persistent poverty and help transform low income neighborhoods into vibrant, healthy communities.

The Urban Strategies Council provides customized data, data analysis, and maps on a fee-for-service, sliding-scale basis to non-profit and government agencies that work on initiatives targeted at alleviating persistent urban poverty in Oakland. The Council also works with other groups in the community to ensure that sound concepts and policies are implemented effectively. The Data Unit collects information on poverty, income, TANF, birth outcomes, demographics, student achievement, housing and crime, in an effort to promote the use of data to inform public policy.

**Publications** Urban Strategies Council.(1995). *A Chance for Every Child*.

Urban Strategies Council.(1995). *Chance 2: Prospects for Oakland's Infants, Children, and Youth in the 1990s and Beyond*.

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**Internet** <http://www.urbanstrategies.org/> The Urban Strategies Council

**Project/Initiative** District of Columbia: Neighborhood Information Service (NIS)

**Organization** DC Agenda Support Corporation

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Neighborhood Information Service (NIS) was developed to provide reliable, current, neighborhood level data and data analysis to support community-based organizations and initiatives in the District of Columbia. By taking advantage of the technology currently available, NIS is able to expand and simplify access to neighborhood-level data.

The NIS has been pursuing three primary objectives: 1) developing and maintaining a Neighborhood Information Archive, 2) creating and supporting an information and research sharing network, and 3) supporting local needs assessments, program planning, and program evaluation. The Neighborhood Information Archive draws data from a variety of sources including the Census, DC Vital Statistics, and Dun and Broadstreet. In addition, DC Agenda has developed a Youth Mapping Project whereby young people in the community search out and explore programs, services, and opportunities available in their neighborhoods. Data analysis and support have been provided to a number of organizations in the DC area, resulting in an expansion of child care services in several downtown workplaces. The NIS is also working with 8 neighborhood collaboratives to help determine the development plans for a number of scattered site housing units across the city.

**Publications** DC Agenda and the Urban Institute. (1999). *District of Columbia Parents Receiving Subsidized Child Care: Where Do They Live and Work?*

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**Internet** <http://www.dcagenda.org>

DC Agenda

**Project/Initiative** Colorado: Neighborhood Facts

**Organization** The Piton Foundation

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** In 1991, the Piton Foundation created Neighborhood Facts to reinforce their philanthropic and community-building efforts through the propagation of reliable and objective information. Neighborhood Facts serves the Foundation by gathering and organizing baseline information, conducting public information campaigns, training neighborhood residents in the use of information for social action, and providing technical assistance and support to community-based efforts.

Through Neighborhood Facts, The Piton Foundation has published a website which provides detailed descriptions and the most current information about Denver's 79 neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Facts website, a joint project of both the Piton Foundation and the Community Planning and Development Agency of the City and County of Denver, is designed to be used by neighborhood residents, policy makers, and other organizations, providing them with critical data, maps and graphs about each neighborhood's population, housing, economic and education characteristics, and the health and safety of its residents. These data can be accessed online at the Piton Foundation's website (address below).

The Piton Foundation was created with the intention of improving the lives of children and families in poverty and assisting them in becoming financially independent. To further this mission they have developed and currently manage a variety of programs addressing five interrelated areas affecting Denver's low-income families and neighborhoods: 1) improving public education; 2) strengthening neighborhoods; 3) promoting economic opportunity; 4) supporting youth development; and 5) providing public information and technical support.

**Publications** The Piton Foundation (1999). *Neighborhood Facts 1999. The Status of Denver Neighborhoods.*

The Piton Foundation (1999). *Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Research. A Study of Youth Detention in Denver.*

The Piton Foundation (1998). *The Piton Foundation 20th Anniversary Report.*  
(Note: Each of these reports can be accessed via the website).

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**Internet**

**<http://www.piton.org>**

The Piton Foundation

**<http://www.piton.org/facts.html>** Neighborhood Facts

**Project/Initiative** Florida: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

**Organization** Community Services Planning Center

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Originally developed in 1993 as a recovery project for victims of Hurricane Andrew, the Community Services Planning Center is now a full-fledged planning office in the Florida Department of Children and Families. A primary feature of their operation is the practical application of their information technology projects, particularly their geographic information systems (GIS), in an effort to assist their department and the community in making informed, data-driven decisions about human services in their region. The Center collects data on a number of variables, including: birth rates to teenage mothers, juvenile arrest rates, child abuse data, and foster children rates, all of which are available in *Life Zone Planning* posters.

The Community Services Planning Center uses its affiliation with the District Administrators Office to access state administrative records and aggregate them for public use. In addition, their connection to the Florida State government allows them to conduct research initiatives while maintaining the confidentiality of the state's databases. As the Center expands its staff and resources into the future it intends to become an information clearinghouse for all the research and planning needs of community organizations throughout Florida.

**Publications** Community Services Planning Center. (1999). *Life Zone Planning Posters - Information on community indicators in Florida.*

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**Project/Initiative** Florida: The Quality of Life Indicators Project and the Community Agenda Indicators Project

**Organization** Jacksonville Community Council Inc.

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Quality of Life Indicators Project and the Community Agenda Indicators Project are aimed at improving the community of Jacksonville through supporting the direct involvement of citizens in studying community issues, using feedback to advocate for positive community change, and tracking community progress through indicators.

These projects track two sets of community indicators. They track not only a quality of life indicator set for Jacksonville/Duval County, but also a health and human-service indicator set for five Northeast Florida counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns). The quality of life indicators have been tracked since 1985 and are currently in the process of being revised in order that they may continue to be both maximally useful and their interconnections fully understood.

The Quality of Life Project uses data from publically available data sources and a random telephone interview survey to track trends in the local quality of life through 72 measurable indicators. Most of the indicator data has been tracked since 1983, and all indicators are updated annually.

In 1995 JCCI released its first annual Community Agenda report. Supported by funding from the United Way of Northeast Florida, this report provides a vision for the local investment of community resources in health and human services. Modeled after JCCI's Quality of Life project, the Community Agenda report identifies unmet health and human services needs and displays indicators that track the community's progress toward meeting those needs.

**Publications** Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (December, 1999). *Creating a Community Agenda: Indicators for Health and Human Services*. Jacksonville, FL.  
Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (November, 1999). *Quality of Life in Jacksonville: Indicators for Progress*.

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Jacksonville Community Council Inc.

**Project/Initiative** Georgia: Data and Analysis Policy Group (DAPA)

**Organization** The Atlanta Project

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Atlanta Project (TAP) was developed in 1991, by the Carter Center, to provide Atlanta's neediest communities with access to the resources that they require to deal with the problems that affect them. TAP is concerned with a number of issues that afflict these communities, such as: teenage pregnancy, school drop-outs, juvenile delinquency, crime and violence, homelessness, and unemployment. TAP is a program of Georgia State University supported by foundations, corporations and the people of Atlanta, aimed at involving the citizens of the city in improving the communities in which they live.

The Atlanta Project (TAP) established the Data and Policy Analysis (DAPA) group, directed by David Sawicki at Georgia Tech University, to provide policy relevant information to support work in TAP clusters. The four primary functions of DAPA are: 1) support for operations, which includes preparing data (tables and maps) to respond to specific well-defined information requests from users; 2) support for planning and community building (turning over electronic databases attached to digitized parcel maps directly to cluster coordinators and community groups so they can perform a variety of types of analysis themselves); 3) conducting policy analysis regarding a proposed project or piece of legislation; and 4) conducting broader research on issues related to poverty, community change, and urban policy that have a geographic component.

**Publications** On-line with TAP; available at <http://www.cartercenter.org/ONLINE/online.html>.

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**Internet** <http://www.cartercenter.org/atlanta.html> The Atlanta Project

**Project/Initiative** Indiana: Social Assets and Vulnerability Indicators (SAVI) Project

**Organization** United Way of Central Indiana

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The United Way of Central Indiana is one of the project management partners of the Social Assets and Vulnerability Indicators (SAVI) Project, a comprehensive electronic database of mapped and tabular data from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Statistical Area. The project draws from demographic, health, education, criminal justice, welfare, and other statistical information, as well as information on social service agencies, religious organizations, libraries, health care facilities, and other community organizations, in order to collect and present information on community assets and vulnerabilities.

The SAVI database is intended for use by human service agencies, governments, community organizations, and individuals in need of a tool for planning, research, and program evaluation for small areas of geography. As a single, standardized source of information which has been drawn from a number of different sources, the SAVI Project serves as an efficient way for users to get the data they need in an accurate and understandable form. Additionally, by employing a geographic information systems (GIS) technology, SAVI users can view the statistical output of the database in a series of maps, providing a geographic context for the data.

**Publications** United Way of Central Indiana and the Polis Center. (1999). *SAVI Information for Communities*.

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**Internet** <http://www.savi.org> Social Assets and Vulnerability Indicators Project

<http://www.uwci.org> United Way of Central Indiana

**Project/Initiative** Massachusetts: Boston Community Building Network

**Organization** Boston Foundation

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Boston Community Building Network (BCBN) is an outgrowth of the Boston Persistent Poverty Project (1989-1997), originally funded by the Rockefeller Foundation as part of a national initiative. Now part of the Boston Foundation's Program Department, BCBN serves a convening function for the foundation as well as coordinating major projects that advance a collaborative community building approach to the reduction of urban poverty and other key issues in Greater Boston. With these projects, the Boston Community Building Network is transforming concepts that emerged from the community during the Persistent Poverty Project into community building tools.

*The Boston Community Building Curriculum*

The curriculum offers accessible, affordable, high quality training to grassroots leaders in community building skills such as: organizing and running a meeting; leveraging inclusion and diversity; identifying community assets, needs and priorities; developing a vision and plan for neighborhood improvements; supporting children and families; and mobilizing a community and its partners around a shared plan of action. It strengthens the impact of grassroots leaders' work in their own communities and creates links and partnerships among grassroots leaders across geography, age, income and race/ethnicity.

**Key Partners:** Community residents, neighborhood groups and organizations, and educational institutions

*The Boston Children and Families Database (BCFD)*

The BCFD puts information into the hands of community organizations and residents for community-driven planning, assessment, and evaluation. Developed in collaboration with many area universities, public agencies and community-based groups, it is coordinated by a 40-member Advisory Group of data providers, foundation staff, academic experts and community-based organizations. The Database is housed at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Northeastern University coordinates its technical development and expansion.

**Key Partners:** Metropolitan Area Planning Council, City of Boston, Northeastern University, Lotus Development Corporation, Community Action Information Network, United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and community groups

*The Boston Indicators of Change, Progress and Sustainability Project*

This project expresses shared goals and values as indicators to inform, monitor, evaluate and drive change at the neighborhood, city and regional levels. Developed with more than 300 cross-sectoral participants, the Indicators are organized in ten areas: Civic Health, Economy, Education, Environment, Arts, Culture and Leisure, Housing, Technology, Public Health, Public Safety and Transportation.

A draft report was released in June and a final report will be released in February 2000 at an event to build community capacity in the use of data and information. Boston College has committed to host a special Boston Citizens Seminar every two years through the year 2030, Boston 400th anniversary, for reports on the status of Boston's indicators.

**Key Partners:** City of Boston's Sustainable Boston Initiative, city, state and federal agencies, and community groups

**Publications** The Boston Foundation. *To Make Our City Whole: A Report on the Work of the Strategy Development*. Boston, MA.

The Boston Foundation. *Boston Indicators of Progress, Change, and Sustainability*. Boston, MA.

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**Internet** <http://www.tbf.org> The Boston Foundation  
<http://www.tbf.org/publications/database.htm> Description of database



**Project/Initiative** Ohio: Cleveland Area Network for Data Organizing (CAN DO)

**Organization** Center on Urban Poverty and Social Change, Case Western Reserve University

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The mission of the Center on Urban Poverty and Social Change is to address the problems of persistent and concentrated poverty in the Cleveland area by developing and linking social policy and social welfare-related research, analysis, and data management with community-based organizations and groups addressing aspects of urban poverty. The creation of Cleveland Area Network on Data and Organizing (CAN DO) is one product of these collaborations.

Data describing both Cleveland's neighborhoods and suburban municipalities in Cuyahoga County are available to nonprofit, community-based organizations, government entities universities, scholars, and students, and others concerned with poverty and neighborhood conditions, through the CAN DO network. Selected data are also available for Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties. Statistics regarding neighborhood characteristics from as far back as the late 1980s are available including: 1) Population and housing census data, 2) Economic data such as welfare dependency, mortgage lending, and new housing construction, 3) Vital statistics such as birth, death, infant mortality rates, and low birth weight statistics, 4) Housing information such as tax delinquent rates; and properties, vacant land, and subsidized housing, 5) Crime data from the Cleveland Police Department, Cuyahoga County coroners and juvenile court, and 6) Child maltreatment. The online database allows users to probe variables within any of the above categories by different geographic levels (e.g. neighborhood, city, county, etc.) and display the data in tables, as comma-delimited numbers, or in maps.

**Publications** Milligan, S. E., Nario-Redmond, M. & Norton, J. (1999, August). *The 1997-98 Cleveland Community Building Initiative Baseline Report on Collaborative Relationships.*

Chow, J., Coulton, C. (1996). Strategic use of a community database for planning and practice. *Computers in Human Services*, 13(3), 57-72.

Chow, J., & Coulton, C. (1994). *Cleveland Area Network for Data and Organizing (Can Do) Project Summary.*

Coulton, C., & Pandey, S. (1992). Geographic concentration of poverty and risk to children in urban neighborhoods. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 35(3), 238-257.

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**Internet** <http://povertycenter.cwru.edu/cupsc.htm> Center on Urban Poverty and  
Social Change  
<http://povertycenter.cwru.edu/cando.htm> CAN DO Database On-line

**Project/Initiative** Oregon: Multnomah County Benchmarks

**Organization** Portland-Multnomah Progress Board

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** With the mission of improving their communities quality of life, the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board implemented the Multnomah County Benchmarks. These twelve urgent Benchmarks track progress indicators in four essential areas: children and families, public safety, access to services, and good government. Within each of these categories are broad initiatives which are aimed at ensuring long-term goals. Each of the Benchmarks represent a specific initiative within the broader area. For instance, the Benchmarks that constitute the children and families area are: reduce teen pregnancy, increase the percentage of drug-free babies, reduce domestic abuse, and reduce student drug and alcohol abuse.

The Benchmark system was developed in the late 1980s by a panel of statewide leaders with the intention of tracking the progress of goals established by Oregon Shines, a citizen-based effort. The larger Benchmark system was adapted and brought to Portland and Multnomah County in 1993 by Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein and Portland Mayor Vera Katz. The Portland-Multnomah County Progress Board was then created to monitor the progress of the Benchmarks. The Progress Board, which consists of community leaders from a broad spectrum of public and private organizations, encourages collaboration between an array of groups in the community to meet the Benchmarks, and alerts the community when Benchmark targets are not being achieved.

**Publications** Portland Multnomah Progress Board. (1999). *Are We Making Progress? - A summary of the Benchmarks.*

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**Internet** <http://www.p-m-benchmarks.org/> Portland-Multnomah County  
Benchmarks

**Project/Initiative** Rhode Island: The Providence Demography Initiative

**Organization** The Providence Plan

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** A joint venture among government, the university community, and the private sector, the Providence Plan is directed at the revitalization of Rhode Island's capital city. The mission of the Plan is to restore hope and create new opportunity for the people of Providence by implementing a comprehensive initiative which addresses the fundamental causes of poverty and urban decline.

The six principal goals of the Providence Plan are: 1) put people to work, 2) retain the city's middle class, 3) make local neighborhoods safe and livable, 4) improve the quality of the public schools, 5) provide decent and affordable housing, and 6) revitalize the downtown. The Providence Plan seeks to achieve these goals and others by building a series of partnerships among city, state, and federal agencies, business, labor, civic and religious groups, community-based organizations, academic institutions, and concerned residents.

One of the ways in which the Plan has attempted to further their education efforts is through the introduction of the Providence Neighborhood Fact Book. The Fact Book was developed to fulfill the need for a convenient reference source on a variety of characteristics, including education and fertility data from the 1990 census, pertaining to the City of Providence and its neighborhoods. The Fact Book can be viewed online (address below) and provides information on the city as a whole and for twenty-five individual neighborhood areas within Providence.

**Publications** The Providence Plan (1994, March). *The Providence Neighborhood Fact Book*.

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**Internet** <http://www.providenceplan.org/>  
<http://www.providenceplan.org/nhfactbk/fbhome.htm>

The Providence Plan  
Neighborhood Fact  
Book

**Project/Initiative** Vermont: Champlain Initiative

**Organization** United Way of Chittenden County, Vermont

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** One of 12 regional partnerships recognized by the State of Vermont's Agency of Human Services, the Champlain Initiative works closely with the State Team for Children, Families, and Individuals to support new ways of improving the well-being of Vermonters. By engaging community and state partners and acquiring foundation support, the Initiative is able to use its resources to enhance local support services and systems. Their Champlain Counts team tracks the progress of 37 indicators in seven categories: 1) environment (e.g., neighborhood safety, recycling), 2) lifelong learning (e.g., dropout rate, adult literacy), 3) healthy body, mind, spirit (e.g., smoking, faith in others), 4) civic (e.g., voting rate), 5) social (e.g., child abuse & neglect, diversity), 6) culture, recreation, fun (e.g., cultural activity), and 7) economic (e.g., wages, unemployment), in an effort to promote a healthier Champlain Valley by the year 2016.

The Initiative's "Our Children, Our Future" project attempts to provide community youth with the 40 developmental assets defined by the Search Institute in order to promote positive attitudes, behaviors and decision making throughout Champlain Valley middle and high schools.

For over 50 years the United Way of Chittenden County has striven to make their community a better place to live by devising grassroots strategies to unite people toward this common goal. Through enlisting the partnerships of businesses, schools, government, non-profit agencies, religious organizations, volunteers and donors the United Way has been able to meet the human care needs of their friends and neighbors.

**Publications** The Champlain Initiative. (1999). *Youth and Developmental Assets: A Framework for Success*.  
The Champlain Initiative. (1998). *Champlain Counts: Measuring our Progress Toward a Healthier Community*.

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United Way of Chittenden County

**Project/Initiative** Wisconsin: Neighborhood Data Center

**Organization** Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee, Inc.

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The mission of the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee (NPC) is to foster the growth of local nonprofit organizations by providing them with leadership development, effective management, and resource sharing opportunities.

Through the provision of data, maps, reports and analysis the Neighborhood Data Center hopes to allow organizations to better plan and develop programs that address the problems of Milwaukee neighborhoods. The Center has the capacity to use geographic information systems (GIS) technology to provide data on specific neighborhoods and tailor data to the needs of particular community-based programs. By assisting local nonprofit and community-based organizations with the accession of information, interpretation its importance to the neighborhood, and development of the local capacity to use such information, the Center furthers the ability of these groups to identify the needs of their clients and the resources available to them.

The Center collects data on housing development, health care, services to the elderly, youth programs, block club development, and crime prevention programs, and has created focus groups in these areas to assess priorities for data development and direct future data acquisition and research.

**Publications** Barndt, M. (1998). *A model for evaluating public participation GIS programs. The Nonprofit Center: Milwaukee, WI.*

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**Internet** <http://www.execpc.com/~npcm/> The Nonprofit Center

**Project/Initiative** Indicators of Children's Well-Being: A Conference held at the Hughes Conference Center of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, November 17-18, 1994

**Organization(s)** Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Child Trends; the Office of the Assistance Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This 1994 conference was organized to assemble the current state of knowledge and practice in measuring indicators of child well-being, and to argue for improvements in these indicators. Conference participants were asked to address the state of child indicators in their fields of expertise (e.g. child health, education, and economic security), and in several areas of "cross-cutting" and general issues (e.g. issues in the use of administrative data, community-level indicators, demographic change and family structure, neighborhood influences on child development, and various social development and problem behaviors). Conference participants were also asked to assess the short-term and long-term prospects for indicator improvement, and the resources and methods required to develop a more comprehensive set of indicators.

The Conference laid the foundation for the annual publication *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth*, produced by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services since 1996. The papers developed and presented at this Conference were published as a book by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1997.

**Publications** Hauser, R.M., Brown, B.V., and Prosser, W. eds. 1997. *Indicators of Children's Well-Being*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

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**Internet** No web site.



**Project/Initiative** Workshop on Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution: Defining Next Steps

**Organization** Child Trends, and the State and Local Data Committee of the Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** This Workshop entitled "Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution: Defining Next Steps," was sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts, and convened by Child Trends and the State and Local Data Committee of the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, to gain an understanding of selected current state practices involving indicators of child well-being and to identify the necessary next steps that will support and advance these efforts. Indicator-based activities in six states (Oregon, Vermont, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota, and California) were specifically highlighted. Through this two-day meeting, participants gained an understanding of the issues states face in developing and using indicators of child well-being. These issues include: 1) developing a common understanding of the language of indicators and of their use as tools of governance; 2) surveying the policy and data infrastructures that exist or that are possible to support indicator initiatives in the states; and 3) establishing intra- and inter-state communication to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices. The summary of the workshop proceedings and discussion of "next steps" is meant to facilitate collaborative work between states, and to inform the federal statistical system and the research and foundation communities.

**Publications** Kirby, G., and Brown, B. 1997. *Summary of the Workshop on Social Indicators of Child and Family Well-being in the Age of Devolution: Defining Next Steps. May 29-30, 1997.* Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.

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**Project/Initiative** Roundtable on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare Services

**Organization** American Humane Association (AHA) and National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA)

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The American Humane Association (AHA) has convened an annual National Roundtable on outcomes measures in child welfare services since 1993 (the seventh was held in March, 1999). These meetings bring together child welfare professionals and administrators, policy makers, and researchers to assess their interventions and services for children and families at risk, and the outcomes of these efforts. The *Framework for Child Welfare Outcomes* developed for the second Roundtable and refined in subsequent meetings organizes the array of child welfare service outcomes by service goals and service focal points (or intervention foci). The comprehensive framework includes four categories of goals (child safety, child functioning, family functioning, and family continuity and preservation), and three types of service focal points (children, parents and family, and community). The resulting twelve outcome domains provide a general framework with which to organize and articulate the range and complexity of outcomes in child welfare services. The Outcome Roundtables focus on key issues and emerging trends in child welfare outcome measurement. The attendees at the Roundtables and users of the project reports apply the framework and lessons learned to their own local child welfare systems.

Proceedings from each Roundtable are compiled and disseminated. The most recently published materials cover the Seventh Roundtable, held in San Antonio, Texas, in April March 1999. This meeting focused on emerging trends in child welfare and the impact on outcome measurement. A variety of presentations and discussions covered a range of topics, including: thinking beyond current models of child welfare outcome measurement, results of outcome-focused research and evaluation, developing a training curriculum regarding outcome measurement, outcome measurement in juvenile justice, outcomes for CPS, and defining outcomes across the community and service systems. The Eighth Roundtable will be held in April 2000.

**Publications** McDaniel, Nancy C. and Robyn Alsop, eds. 1998. *Sixth National Roundtable on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare Services: Summary of Proceedings*. Englewood, CO: American Humane Association

Orthner, Dennis. and McDaniel, Nancy. 1994. *A Framework for Child Welfare Outcomes*. Paper presented at the Second Annual Roundtable on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare Services of the American Humane Association, San Antonio, Texas.

Walsh, Wendy. *Selected Annotated Readings on Outcome Measures in Child Welfare*. Englewood, CO: American Humane Association, 1993.

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**Internet** <http://www.americanhumane.org/> Outcome Measures in Child Welfare Services

**Project/Initiative** The University of Michigan Documents Center Web Site

**Organization** University of Michigan

**Project Activities**

Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Documents Center is a World Wide Web-based central reference and referral point for local, state, federal, foreign, and international government information, including social indicator data on children and their families. Component pages of this web site are clustered by broad subject areas in order to facilitate research. The site provides direct access to data, as well as relevant government, academic, and non-profit organizations.

The "Statistics" resource page provides information on different aspects of the U.S. government and its agencies, from agriculture to foreign trade. Of particular interest to those involved in indicators of child and family well-being are links on this page to information on the nation's demographics (population, social and economic characteristics, poverty), housing, health (natality, morbidity, and mortality), education, and sources grouped as "sociology" (children, crime, the elderly, immigration, and refugees). The "Federal" resource page includes selected bibliographies with links to other sites, as well as links grouped by branch of government (judicial, legislative, executive), legal resources (laws), historical documents, and other items.

**Publications** All assembled materials provided through the World Wide Web.

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**Project/Initiative** A Guide to State and Local-Level Indicators of Child Well-Being Available Through the Federal Statistical System

**Organization** Child Trends

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Child Trends authored a 1996 report on federal data sources that provide state and local indicator data on children and their families. The report provides reviews of fifteen federal data sources (including surveys, the decennial Census, Vital Statistics system reports, and administrative data) from which child indicators can be produced and tracked over time for at least some states and localities. The report focuses on measures of child well-being rather than service delivery and program data. Each federal data source review contains the following sections: a basic description of the data source; the periodicity of the data collection and publications; a listing of states and localities covered for each year of the data collection, if available; significant limitations of the data; a listing of child well-being indicators that are produced or that can be produced from the data; major publications from the data source that report state and local child indicator data; a description of publicly available databases from which indicators can be produced through original analyses; a listing of offices that produce custom analyses of the data for free or under contract; and a listing of contact persons for publications, data purchases, and further information.

Quick reference tables list individual indicators (e.g. "children as a percent of the total population") organized according to five general categories of data (demographics and family structure; economic security; education; health and health-related behaviors; and crime, violence, and delinquency). All data sources that address each indicator are analyzed for their geographic coverage, periodicity, years available since 1985, and the approximate age group addressed. A final cell of the table includes additional notes about the data source or indicator. Additional Appendices provide state-level contacts (where available) and some descriptions for major data sources.

**Publications** Brown, Brett and Chris Botsko. 1996. *A Guide to State and Local-Level Indicators of Child Well-Being Available Through the Federal Statistical System*. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.

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Child Trends

**Project/Initiative** Social Indicators Network News (SINET)

**Organization** Published by Duke University

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The Social Indicators Network News is a newsletter that provides information on social reports, and research on social trends, social indicators and quality of life. The newsletter has been published quarterly since 1984. Newsletters contain information on children and youth in areas such as education, fertility, drug and alcohol use. SINET is disseminated to members of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies and to other social indicators researchers around the world.

**Publications** Social Indicators Network News (SINET)

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Social Indicators  
Network News

**Project/Initiative** The White House Briefing Room

**Organization** The White House

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** The White House Briefing Room is an online resource that provides statistical data from the federal government. The information presented on the website is a compilation of both economic and social statistics. Also provided, is a link to FEDSTATS (The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy) which provides statistics and information produced by federal agencies for public use. Both the economic and social statistics briefing rooms contain current and, in some cases, historical data on indicators. For each indicator there is a chart, and relevant source information. Examples of indicators include: the mortality rate, birth rate, average science and mathematics proficiency scores, the dropout rate, the current U.S. population, the number of people in poverty, homicide rates by age, and unemployment rates.

Also included in this web resource are press releases, and information on current issues and events at the White House.

**Publications** Not Applicable

**Contacts** None

**Internet**    <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/html/briefroom.html>    White House Briefing Room



**Project/Initiative** FEDSTATS

**Organization** Sponsored by federal agencies, and maintained by the Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** FEDSTATS provides online access to federal data collections, and studies that produce statistics or information about specific population groups. This online resource includes data on children in several different areas, such as children and youth, child care, food stamps, Head Start, foster care, as well as health and socioeconomic characteristics. FEDSTATS also provides information on budget documents, working papers, and federal register notices. All statistical information made available through FEDSTATS is provided by government agencies who are responsible for maintaining and updating the data .

**Publications** Not Applicable

**Contacts** Many of the participating agencies provide web links that include contacts with telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses for the different content areas.

**Internet** <http://www.fedstats.gov/> FEDSTATS

**Project/Initiative** The Child Indicator Newsletter

**Organization** Child Trends

**Project Activities**

- Dissemination     Survey/Measurement     Governance     Technical Assistance     Communication

**Organization Type**

- Government     Research     Advocacy     Association     Foundation     Other

**Project Description** In the last five years there has been an explosion of activity in the use of indicators to track the well-being of children, youth, and their families. During this period of effervescence and growth, communication between and among users, researchers, and data developers has been sporadic at best. This has resulted in a lot of duplicated effort and missed opportunities and is holding the field back from making needed advances at a crucial time in its development.

The goal of this newsletter, *The Child Indicator*, is to communicate the major developments within each sector of the child and youth indicators field to the larger community of interested users, researchers, and data developers on a regular basis. Each issue includes articles on projects and programs using child and youth indicators at the national, state, and community levels, with occasional reports on international projects. In addition, new developments in scientific research and data development are featured, with an emphasis on what it means for users. Useful resources including publications, web sites, and listservs are described and contact information provided. By promoting the efficient sharing of knowledge, ideas, and resources, *The Child Indicator* seeks to advance understanding within the child and youth indicators community and to make all its members more effective in their work.

**Publications** The Child Indicator is published four times each year. The first issue was published in December, 1999.

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*The Child Indicator online*