

EVERY KID COUNTS

in the District of Columbia

8th ANNUAL FACT BOOK 2001



The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative for Children and Families is a unique alliance of public and private organizations using research to support advocacy for change in human, social, and economic policies and practices of government, the private sector, individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. Its mission is to advocate for the interests and well-being of children and families and to ensure their healthy development and future in the District of Columbia. An organizing goal of the Collaborative is to build a strong and serious child and family support movement in the Nation's Capital.

Since the formation in 1990 of the Collaborative's predecessor organization, the Coalition for Children and Families, over 80 individuals and organizations representing a broad and diverse group of advocates, service providers, government policy makers, universities, fraternal and volunteer organizations, and local citizens have been a part of the group.

The Collaborative supports a comprehensive approach to community building, but focuses its research and advocacy efforts on economic security, family attachment and community support, health, safety and personal security, and education.

D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative consists of:

D.C. Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Overall fiscal and management responsibility
Data collection, analysis and evaluation
Production of publications

Partner Agencies

Child and Family Services Agency
Children's National Medical Center
Council of Latino Agencies
DC Action for Children
DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation
D.C. Public Library
Prevent Child Abuse of Metropolitan Washington

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D.C. CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

A Resource for Strengthening Families and Protecting Children

November 15, 2001

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to enclose *Every KIDS COUNTS in the District of Columbia: 8th Annual Fact Book, 2001*. The Fact Book provides up-to-date accurate data regarding the well-being of the District's children in the areas of general population trends, economic security, family attachment and community support, homeless children and families, child health, safety and personal security, education, and children with special needs. This publication reflects the input of an expanded number of partners and contributors, including the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. I am also pleased that Mayor Anthony Williams agreed to write a letter for inclusion in the Book. Many thanks to our new partners and contributors for their hard work.

This publication includes expanded information on domestic violence and the second printing of a District of Columbia Report Card. Based on the Report Card, the District showed overall improvement in the areas of "Family Attachment and Community Support" and "Safety and Personal Security." We are also pleased to offer more specific recommendations that are measurable and can be tracked from year to year. While the Collaborative has continued to provide ward level data, due to technical problems, a breakdown of information by neighborhood had to be deferred until next year. We hope to be able to begin this effort next year as well as provide information on foster care and adoptions.

Readers are reminded that, due to more numerous local resources, the data contained in this Fact Book is more comprehensive than the data presented in the 2001 (national) KIDS COUNT Data Book, released in May by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and therefore shows improvements in some of the indicators of child well-being that were not captured in the national book. We urge you to examine the data and recommendations, and use them to support and guide your efforts to improve conditions for children in the District of Columbia.

The Collaborative continues to strive to include expanded data in the Fact Book to meet the data needs of a wider, more inclusive audience of service providers, policy makers, scholars, and DC residents. We ask that you share with us ways in which you use or have used the Fact Book to enhance your work on behalf of children and families. This will assist us in our efforts to provide you with a high quality fact book year after year which meets your needs for information on the status of D.C.'s children. Please take a couple of minutes to complete and return the enclosed user survey. In addition, feel free to contact Ms. Sonali Patel, Director of Public Policy, at (202) 624-5555 with additional comments or to order additional copies of the Fact Book. If you are interested in joining the Collaborative, please contact Ms. Patel.

Visit D.C. KIDS COUNT on the Internet at www.dckidscount.org. The Fact Book is available in its entirety on our web site.

Sincerely,

Kinaya C. Sokoya, Executive Director
D.C. Children's Trust Fund



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ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS
MAYOR

October 24, 2001

Greetings:

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, I would like to commend the D.C. Children's Trust Fund on the publication of its 8th Annual Kids Count Book. The publication, more specifically, the statistical information contained within it, provides a gauge for decision-makers to assess the District's progress in strengthening families and protecting children. As such, the information found in Kids Count is vitally important in that it enables us to make informed budget and programmatic decisions concerning the well being of children.

My Administration has actively been exploring ways in which to improve the manner in which human services are provided in our communities. Our reform efforts are aimed at changing the way in which the city provides public benefits (e.g., Medicaid, food stamps, TANF, etc.), as well as the way services such as child care, early intervention, mental health, foster care, juvenile justice and vocational rehabilitation services are accessed. Structured properly, these changes will move us from a fragmented system to a system focused on results, guided by families themselves, and fully accountable to those families.

We envision the creation of a system of "Neighborhood Places," centers in neighborhoods where public services will be available and integrated across agency lines. The Neighborhood Places Initiative will be closely linked to existing public, private and faith-based networks, ensuring that families benefit from the range of community partners that are already there to help. The first phase of this plan will be rolled out in the Transforming Schools/ Neighborhood Places Initiative.

The Transforming Schools/Neighborhood Places Initiative will entail an infusion of human service resources into nine low performing schools within the District of Columbia. These services will "wrap-around" families so that we might improve their health, safety, and educational well being. The program will be expanded in its second year to include ten additional public schools.

I am delighted to have this first opportunity to lend my voice to the worthwhile work of The DC Children's Trust Fund and the publication of Kids Count data, which will be used in our overall strategy to make services more accessible to children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony A. Williams".

Anthony A. Williams

PURPOSE OF THE FACT BOOK

This fact book is the eighth annual report produced by the D.C. KIDS COUNT

Collaborative on the lives of children and their families in the District. The purpose of the annual fact book is to provide data about the well being of children in the District of Columbia and to place statistics within a meaningful context. Some of the indicators reported herein were selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to mirror those reported in the National KIDS COUNT Data book that Casey produces annually. D.C. KIDS COUNT has continued to expand the original list to include additional indicators that are relevant to the District of Columbia. We have included new indicators, which we feel you will find useful, and we encourage suggestions for additions from our readers.

The publication provides a broad perspective of the status of children and youth in the District. We seek to inform and educate our readers about the issues affecting children and their families in the District. We encourage community residents, policy makers, professionals, and others who work with and on behalf of children and families to create conditions that foster the optimal health and development of our children.

As usual, we stress the importance of family and community in the lives of our children. We at KIDS COUNT believe that an approach based on systems theory is needed to affect real change in the District. Accordingly, children, families, communities, and

government institutions are viewed as an interconnected whole. Thus, when family support systems are dysfunctional in one area, the entire system may be impacted. In devising solutions to the problems facing children in the District, the interactions and relationships among and between the components of the system must be understood and the systemic impact of any changes considered.

We urge community leaders to use this report, in conjunction with previous reports, for formulating strategic plans and enacting policies that support children and families in the District. We also hope that the fact book will serve as a catalyst for service providers, business leaders, local government, funders, and community members to continue efforts to collectively address the issues presented in this report so that, ultimately, all families in this great city can function optimally.



I.

INTRODUCTION

This is the eighth edition of the KIDS COUNT Annual Fact Book for the District of Columbia. As before, it brings together in one place a wide variety of indicators of the well-being of the District's children and their families.

The Fact Book begins with an Executive Summary that digests the major points for quick perusal by those who do not have time to read the full report in detail.

So that readers can view the indices in the context of the environment in which they occur, we begin the main body of the report with an overview of the changing population and economic situation of the District. This section uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the D.C. Department of Employment Services. This section is titled (A) General Population and Economic Trends.

Our indices of children's well-being are organized into six more sections presenting data for the District as a whole. They are: (B) Economic Security; (C) Family Attachment and Community Support; (D) Homeless Children and Families; (E) Child Health; (F) Safety and Personal Security; and (G) Education. In a final section (H) we compare selected indicators by ward.

As always, we provide charts throughout the report that show, for almost all indicators, not only how the District compares with last year, or with some other single previous year — but the numbers for all years in the previous ten, and sometimes more. In this way, readers can see for themselves whether this year fits into the overall trend, and whether a clear trend exists.

With each of these charts, we also include a concise textual analysis of the current year's status and previous trend of that indicator. The actual figures are shown in the charts so that readers who wish may easily make their own analysis.

In compiling them, we have used data from a variety of reliable sources. They include the D.C. Department of Health, the D.C. Administration for HIV/AIDS, the D.C. Bureau of STD Control, the D.C. Income Maintenance Administration, the District of Columbia Courts, the Community Partnership for Prevention of Homelessness, and Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools.

In this issue, we present for the second year our "Report Card" for the District of Columbia. It provides a comprehensive yet easy to understand view of how the District stands relative to last year on most of our indices of children's well-being. For each one,

the "Report Card" shows whether it has changed for the better, become worse, or remained the same.

For some of our statistics, we also indicate in the text how the District stands relative to the nation.

For the first time, we include statistics on domestic violence — in which children are not always the direct victims, but are often harmed nonetheless.

The figures we report here will not always match those shown for the District of Columbia in the national KIDS COUNT Data Book, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In addition to the District of Columbia, Casey provides funding to most of the 50 states to help them prepare their own KIDS COUNT reports in order to provide more depth and detail than is possible in a national-level report.

In our case, it also enables us to provide more recent data. We present,



herewith, the data for the latest year for which reliable figures were available when it was prepared - 1999, 2000, and in some cases 2001. We also report on many more indicators than does the national data book.

Sometimes our data will disagree slightly with the items for the same year in the national report. That is because the primary source of our data is the District of Columbia government. The national book employs data supplied by federal agencies. The two sources sometimes use slightly different methods for collecting and compiling the data. Neither is necessarily better than the other.

THE DISTRICT'S REPORT CARD FOR 2001

The District's Report Card, inaugurated in 2000, is meant only to provide a quick snapshot of the changes shown by this year's indicators, rather than a complete summary of the situation. Before reaching any conclusions based upon it, the reader is advised to consult the full text.

This year's Report Card is different from last year's. In addition to indicating whether each of the indicators has changed for the better, for the worse, or has remained the same, it carries a new column. That column shows the direction of the change in the indicator, whether it has increased, decreased, or remained the same.

On some indicators, like scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, an increase will generally be a change for the better. In other cases, such as juvenile crimes, it will be a change for the worse. On a few, such as cases filed for paternity, an increase will usually indicate a worsening situation, with more fathers refusing to meet their parental responsibility. But under some circumstances, it might mean that more mothers are asserting their rights.



This year's Report Card is different from the last in another way. Last year, almost all of our indices of children's well-being showed improvement over the year before. It was by far the District's best showing in all the years we have been producing these reports.

This time, however, about a third of the numbers are worse than last year's. The declines are spread through all of the major areas, including child health - with a disturbing decline in the percent of mothers receiving adequate prenatal care, together with an increase in the number of low birth-weight infants and in the infant mortality rate. These changes may well be related.

There was also a sharp rise in homelessness for the first time in four years, and a small reduction in immunization rates (which also occurred nationally). The number of District teens murdered also increased following a three-year decline.

Some indicators of the condition of the local economy (not covered by the Report Card) had begun to deteriorate during the period covered by some of

our indicators — most of which are for 1999 and 2000. The decline was not yet great, but those who are most vulnerable could have been affected earliest.

Data from a special Census Bureau survey taken at the same time as the 2000 Census indicate that the District's poverty rate was little changed between 1990 and 2000. It is possible that poverty did decrease for a while during the late 1990s, but that it had returned to about its former level by early 2000. However, the available statistics are not in agreement on this point.

In any event, the economy had already deteriorated markedly before the September 2001 tragedy, and the aftermath of that event has doubtless made matters far worse for many residents of the District.

The District of Columbia's "Report Card" for 2001

Changes Since Last Year's Report on Indices of Children's Well-Being

	Increased (+) Decreased (-) or Same (=)	Changed for the Better	Changed for the Worse	No Change
Family Attachment and Community Support				
Percent of Births to Single Mothers	-	X		
Percent of Births to Teenage Mothers	-	X		
Cases Filed for Paternity	+		X	
Cases Filed for Child Support	-	X		
Homeless Children and Families				
	+		X	
Child Health				
Percent of Mothers with Adequate Prenatal Care	-		X*	
Infant Mortality Rate	+		X	
Percent of Low Birthweight Infants	+		X	
New AIDS Cases Diagnosed in Children and Teens:				
Ages 0-12	-	X		
Ages 13-19	-	X		
Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Persons	-	X		
Chlamydia	+		X	
Gonorrhea	-	X		
Syphilis	+		X*	
Immunization Rates	-		X*	
Safety and Personal Security				
Deaths to Children and Teens	+		X	
Violent Deaths to Teens	-	X		
Teens Killed by Homicide/Assault	+		X	
Cases Brought Against Parents in Superior Court:				
For Child Abuse	-	X		
For Child Neglect	-	X		
Juvenile Cases Referred to Superior Court:				
For All Causes	-	X		
For Alleged Acts Against Public Order	-	X		
For Alleged Offenses Against Persons	-	X		
For Alleged Property Crimes	-	X		
Education				
Combined Math/Verbal Scores on SAT	-		X	
Stanford 9 Tests in Reading				
First Grade	+	X*		
Sixth Grade	-		X	
Eleventh Grade	+	X*		
Stanford 9 Tests in Mathematics				
First Grade	=			X
Sixth Grade	-		X	
Eleventh Grade	+	X*		
Graduation Rate	+	X		

* See text for caveats

II.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Population

- ◆ The 2000 Census showed the District of Columbia with a population of 572,059, of which 114,992 or exactly 20 percent were children. A serious undercount in the 1990 Census made it impossible to determine with any accuracy what changes have occurred in either the total population or the child population over the past decade.
- ◆ Births to District residents declined throughout the last decade, with a 36 percent decrease from nearly 12,000 in 1990 to about 7,500 in 1999. However, the downward birth trend has been slowing and could soon turn around.
- ◆ Seventy-five percent of children in the District were recorded as African American in the latest Census, down from nearly 81 percent as measured by the 1990 Census. A part of the difference appears to result from changes in the way racial origin was asked in the Census questionnaire.
- ◆ The proportions of whites, Asians and Native Americans among children have increased only slightly. Children classified as members of "some other race" are 5.4 percent of the total, and those of two or more races are 2.7 percent. Neither of these categories was available in previous Censuses. Hispanics, who may be of any race, have nearly doubled from 5.7 to 9.9 percent.

The Economy

- ◆ Jobs in the District decreased in number for most of the 1990s, but turned up slightly in 1999 and then rocketed upward in 2000, gaining by 31,000 in a single year. Unfortunately, a sharp economic downturn in the nation and the world, coupled with the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, now threatens the continuation of this impressive economic growth.
- ◆ For many years, more than half the city's jobs have gone to suburbanites. That remains true today. However, the number of D.C. residents holding jobs, which had been declining, turned up in 1998 and 1999 for a gain of 11 percent in two years. In 2000, however, the number of employed residents turned down slightly, yet still remained above the level in 1995.

- ◆ The unemployment rate in the District had exceeded eight percent during most of the 1990s. It declined in 1999 and 2000, and in the latter year dropped to 5.8 percent. In June of 2001, however, it rose again to 6.1 percent. The national rate in the same month was 4.5 percent.

Economic Security

- ◆ While no data have yet become available from the 2000 Census on poverty in the District, a special survey by the Census Bureau in the same year found 17.7 percent of the city's population to be in poverty. This is higher by less than one percentage point than the rate shown by the 1990 Census. Studies in the mid-1990s had shown that the rate had changed little in the interim.
- ◆ A much higher percentage of the District's children than of all D.C.



residents - 30.2 percent - are reported by the special Census Bureau survey to be poor. This is about 33,850 children.

- ◆ A poverty-level income is very low. A single mother with only one child is counted in poverty under federal standards if her household income is no more than \$11,646 or \$971 per month - only about one-fifth the income of the average U.S. household. Because the federal limits are so meager and living costs in the District are so high, many families who are not technically in poverty are in severe need nonetheless.
- ◆ The number of children receiving benefits from TANF (the new name for welfare) averaged 31,530 through June of Fiscal Year 2001. This was down by 38 percent from the peak in Fiscal Year 1995.
- ◆ Families who have left welfare because they are working are usually better off as a result, since welfare benefits are very low. Parents who have not tried to find work lose welfare payments for themselves as a result, but the District continues to provide benefits for the children.
- ◆ The number of children participating in the food stamp program was 37,322 as of June 2001 - a reduction of 26 percent from 1996, the earliest year for which D.C. Kids Count has food stamp data.

Family Attachment and Community Support

- ◆ Of 114,992 children under 18 found by the 2000 Census to reside in the District, only 37,532 - 33 percent - were living with both parents in their own households.
- ◆ A much larger 40 percent were living with single mothers, and five percent lived with single fathers. Nearly 15 percent resided with grandparents, and nearly five per-

cent with other relatives. Most of the rest, roughly three percent, lived in households with which they were not related, or in institutions or group homes.

- ◆ The percent of all births that are to single mothers has fallen for the third year in a row. At 62 percent, it is lower than in any year since 1988. Yet it is nearly twice the rate for the U.S. as a whole, where 33 percent of mothers are now unmarried.
- ◆ The percent of all D.C. births that are to mothers not yet 20 years old has also declined for a third consecutive year. In 1999 they dropped below 15 percent for the first time since at least 1982. At 14.8 percent, the rate is still higher than the 12.3 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- ◆ Paternity cases filed with the D.C. Courts increased by 16 percent in 2000, to 1,658. However, these cases have a history of rapid up-and-down fluctuations. The latest rate is higher than in three of the past four years, but lower than any in the first half of the 1990s.
- ◆ Child support cases in the Courts have declined for the sixth year in a row. At 746 in 2000, they are now well under one-third of their 1994 peak of 2,562



Homeless Children and Families

- ◆ In 2000, the number of families applying for emergency shelter in the District rose for the first time in four years. The 32.6 percent increase brought the number to 1,276. These families included 2,817 children, more than half of whom were under five years.

Child Health

- ◆ The percent of D.C. mothers who received adequate prenatal care broke a six-year trend of improvement in 1999, declining from 60.7 percent to 59.0 percent.
- ◆ One favorable trend accelerated: the number of mothers who had inadequate care or no care at all declined from 17.3 to 16.6 percent. The middle or "intermediate" category - neither totally inadequate nor wholly adequate - had been declining, but rose again from 22.0 to 24.4 percent.
- ◆ The infant mortality rate suddenly jumped from 12.5 deaths per 1,000 live births to 15.0. The increase wiped out nearly half of the previous four years' improvement. The local infant death rate is now more than twice the national rate.
- ◆ The percent of babies born at abnormally low weights, below 5 1/2 pounds, grew from 13.1 to 13.3 percent. That increase also broke an improving trend. Even this small rise places a larger share of children at risk of the health and developmental problems that beset many who are born too small.
- ◆ By the end of 2000, 172 D.C. children twelve years of age or younger had ever been diagnosed with AIDS. This figure is cumulative and includes those who are already deceased. From 168 cases at the last count at the end of 1968, it increased by only four.

- ◆ In the previous two-year period, AIDS cases in children 12 years and under had increased by 24. Most of these young victims caught the disease from their mothers at or before birth.
- ◆ Among teens ages 13 to 19, a total of 56 had ever been diagnosed with AIDS by the end of 2000 — an increase of nine cases, versus 12 in the previous two-year period.
- ◆ Of all AIDS victims 12 years and under, 53 percent were still living with the disease at the end of 2000. Among those ages 13 through 19, 75 percent remained alive.
- ◆ The combined number of cases of the three most common sexually-transmitted diseases or STDs - chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis - decreased among D.C. children and youth in 2000 for the third straight year. The decline was from 2,831 in 1997 to 2,082 in 2000, or 26 percent.
- ◆ Still, 1.5 percent of children and youth under 20 were diagnosed with one of these diseases - about one in 65. Worse, nearly one-third of all cases of the three STDs among D.C. residents were found in people this young.
- ◆ Chlamydia was virtually unheard of until a few years ago, partly because it was often confused with or masked by gonorrhea, which causes similar symptoms. Today it is the most common of the three in both the District and the nation.
- ◆ With 1,297 cases among D.C. children and youth, chlamydia dwarfed both gonorrhea (758 cases) and syphilis (27 cases). The under-20 group suffered 40 percent of all cases of chlamydia that were diagnosed in 2000, and 28 percent of gonorrhea cases, but only five percent of cases of syphilis.
- ◆ Vaccinations now protect children against a number of diseases that once were feared. They include

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough), Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German measles), Polio, Hepatitis B, Varicella (chicken pox), and a common type of Influenza. The national goal is to achieve 90 percent coverage for all these diseases by 2010 in every state and the District of Columbia.



- ◆ Immunization rates among D.C. two-year-olds decreased slightly in 2000, but so did those for the nation as a whole. For most diseases, the national rate fell back by about one percentage point or less, while remaining generally at or above the 90 percent mark.
- ◆ The District's immunization rates dropped somewhat more sharply than those for the nation. They are now below those of many states. However, most remain at or no more than a few percent below the 90 percent target level, and are roughly on a par with some other major cities.
- ◆ Child abuse cases filed with the D.C. Courts decreased in 2000 for a second year. The two-year decline of 49 percent brought the number to 156 - lower than any seen for more than a decade.
- ◆ Child neglect cases decreased far less. The total of 1,261 in 2000 was less than five percent under the level of 1995.
- ◆ Infants under one year of age are more than twice as likely to be victims of neglect than children of older ages, as shown by court cases. But abuse cases are now somewhat more likely to be filed for victims age four and older than for infants — the reverse of the situation in earlier years.
- ◆ Domestic violence contributes to homelessness. The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, the District's official coordinating agency for homeless programs, reports that two emergency programs for victims of domestic violence served 74 families with 226 members in 2000.
- ◆ In 2000, court cases of all kinds involving juvenile defendants continued a decline that had been underway for over a decade. Since 1988, the number of juvenile cases filed with the courts has been cut by more than half, and now stands at 2,495.

Safety and Personal Security

- ◆ Deaths to D.C. children and teens broke a three-year decline in 1999, increasing by five percent to 194. Infant deaths grew most sharply, by 18 percent. Teen deaths rose by eight percent.
- ◆ Violent deaths to teens decreased slightly nonetheless, but the reduction was less than in most previous years.
- ◆ Murders of teens increased by 18 percent in 1999, to 39. Still this number was fewer than any seen since 1987. But other kinds of violent deaths, accidents and suicides, declined. Teen deaths from diseases and other non-violent causes increased, however.

- ◆ “Public order” cases against juveniles, mostly involving drugs and weapons, have also decreased by more than half over the past decade and numbered 940 in 2000.
- ◆ Crimes against persons, chiefly assaults and robberies, stood at 676 in 2000, a level below any seen in the past two decades. Property crimes, most of which involve auto theft or vandalism, have also reached a new low of 766.

Education

- ◆ In 2001, SAT scores in the D.C. Public Schools fell below any seen since 1992. The combined verbal and math score dropped by three percent to 798, while the national average rose slightly to 1,020.
- ◆ The District’s decline occurred mainly in the verbal component, which decreased by four percent from 414 to 396. The math component was down also, but by less—from 408 to 402, or 1.5 percent.
- ◆ In the Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for reading, the D.C. Public Schools showed no overall improvement in 2001 compared to 2000. The percentage reading at the “basic and above” level in 2001 improved over last year in only four of the 11 grades in which the test is given. Performance deteriorated in the same number of grades, while three grades remained unchanged.
- ◆ Reading progress over the four years since 1998 has not been much more impressive. Only two grades of the 11 tested have shown consistent year-to-year gains. Six have either shown no improvement, or have gained by no more than two percentage points. Most of the improving grades are below the high school level.
- ◆ Yet the “basic” level of performance, while it is the standard for promotion to the next grade, denotes only partial mastery of requirements for the present grade. The percentages reading at the “proficient” or “advanced” levels - meaning that they read at grade level or above - were nowhere near as high.
- ◆ In 10th and 11th grades, where 53 percent scored “basic or above,” only 15 percent were either proficient or advanced.
- ◆ Despite their failure to show continuing gains, elementary and middle level D.C.P.S. students read at or close to the national average if basic or above is taken as the standard. Several of the lower grades score better than the national averages, but in the high school grades performance falls far below the nation.
- ◆ In math, the percent of D.C.P.S. students scoring at basic or above rose slightly in five of 11 grades between 2000 and 2001, but dipped slightly or remained the same in the rest. Still, in almost all grades, performance has improved substantially since 1998 or 1999.
- ◆ As with reading, however, achievement fell off substantially after first grade. Moreover, the decline continued at successively higher grades. In none of the upper grades did as many as half of D.C. students do math at basic or above.
- ◆ While D.C. students exceeded national averages for math throughout the elementary levels, they fell behind the nation in most of the higher grades. The exception was 11th grade, where the national norm fell abruptly and the District came out slightly ahead.
- ◆ Only in first grade, however, did as many as 50 percent of D.C.P.S. students achieve either “proficient” or “advanced” performance - i.e., at or above grade level - a fact which is confirmed by their scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.
- ◆ The graduation rate in the public schools, as calculated by Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools, improved from 51 percent in 1999 to 54 percent in 2000. However, this latest rate is still lower than the schools had achieved in seven of the ten previous years for which data are available. (In one year, 1991, the school system could not provide the needed information).
- ◆ The official enrollment rate in the public schools fell throughout most of the 1990s, but turned around and increased somewhat in 1999 and 2000. However, all of the increase was due to the rapid growth of the public charter schools, which opened in 1997. The traditional system continued its enrollment decline.
- ◆ Enrollments in the D.C. Public Schools’ Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten, and Pre-School classes have all declined in the 2000-2001 school year. The decreases in Pre-Kindergarten and Pre-School were less than in Kindergarten, which has seen a 31 percent drop in enrollments since 1995-96.



III.

D.C. KIDS COUNT RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative has made an effort to couple this year's recommendations and strategies more closely to the indicators reported in the Fact Book. We have also cast a wider net for input, (both the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect as well as the partners from the expanded DC KIDS COUNT Collaborative contributed), in order to provide more tangible and specific recommendations that relate to the data reported. We strongly believe that concerted efforts on behalf of all segments of the community can make these recommendations a reality for the betterment of the lives of the District's children and families.



I. Family Attachment and Community Support

A. More supportive services for communities and families, especially for single heads of household, are needed:

- ◆ Provide respite care for the general population. Parents who are admitted into the hospital or other short-term treatment facility are particularly in need of these services;
- ◆ Provide free and/or affordable child care;
- ◆ Expand the number of parent mutual support groups;
- ◆ Expand the number and types of youth services, especially out-of-school time programs, rites of passage programs, tutorial programs and mentoring programs;
- ◆ Provide more programs to encourage the involvement of fathers as well as increasing support services for those fathers who are already involved;
- ◆ Provide services for families in a variety of languages;
- ◆ Use alternate outreach strategies (i.e. provide information in beauty parlors, liquor stores, night clubs, etc.) to engage more community members in programs.

II. Homeless Children and Families

A. More supportive services for the homeless population are needed:

- ◆ Build more affordable housing for low and middle income residents;
- ◆ Increase housing options, including section 8 housing and transitional housing;
- ◆ Provide better linkages between job training and real employment opportunities;
- ◆ Provide free and/or affordable mental health and health care services;
- ◆ Provide enhanced educational opportunities, especially literacy services.

III. Child Health

A. More supportive services for prenatal care and pregnancy are needed:

- ◆ Targeted prenatal care services must be provided for vulnerable mothers, including women who abuse substances, teens, women with HIV/AIDS and single mothers;
- ◆ Enhanced promotion of existing prenatal care programs is needed. Support programs such as early intervention home visitation programs and health education in schools;
- ◆ Focus should be placed on increasing the number of DC mothers who receive "adequate" prenatal care — "intermediate" prenatal care is not sufficient;

- ◆ The Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplementary food program must be expanded to provide food for more families that are in need.

B. More STD prevention programs are needed:

- ◆ Provide more public education on STDs, particularly Chlamydia;
- ◆ Provide more HIV/AIDS education;
- ◆ Promote abstinence before marriage;
- ◆ Make information on birth control methods readily accessible to youth.

C. The number of children who are immunized must be increased:

- ◆ Increase educational efforts and outreach to parents/general public on the importance of immunizations;
- ◆ Conduct more aggressive outreach activities and become involved in promoting existing activities such as the "It's Wise to Immunize" campaign by the Children's National Medical Center.



IV. Safety and Personal Security

A. Efforts to combat violence should be continued and expanded:

- ◆ Expand non-violent conflict resolution education for youth;
- ◆ Continue campaigns to reduce the availability of guns, especially to youth;
- ◆ Provide education for youth on how to respond to bullying;
- ◆ Develop partnerships with youth to help them teach their peer how to combat violence.

B. Substance abuse prevention and treatment services must be enhanced:

- ◆ Increase treatment services for adults;
- ◆ Establish treatment centers and/or services for adolescents;
- ◆ Provide residential services for children of addicted parents while they are in treatment to prevent having to place the children in foster care.

C. Efforts to prevent and/or reduce child abuse and neglect must be expanded:

- ◆ Support universal parenting education;
- ◆ Continue to provide education on positive parenting as well as the District's child abuse/neglect laws;
- ◆ Provide more funding to support the Children's Advocacy Center;
- ◆ Appropriate agencies should develop an Inter-Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance the response to child physical abuse and neglect which is similar to the MOU cur-

rently in existence for responding to sexual abuse;

- ◆ Further clarify and codify current DC child abuse and neglect laws;
- ◆ Develop strategies and procedures for addressing the intersection between domestic violence and child abuse/neglect;
- ◆ Expand family conferencing to address and resolve cases of abuse/neglect;
- ◆ Research the frequency and types of neglect, and develop strategies to address each type;
- ◆ Introduce/teach infant massage to parents;
- ◆ Provide post-adoption services and supports to families;
- ◆ Expand the emergency assessment capabilities of the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives;
- ◆ Increase awareness of programs that support children and families affected by abuse/neglect.

V. Education

A. Educational achievement levels of students must be improved:

- ◆ Complete and release a comparison study on the achievement of children in regular public schools with those in public charter schools;
- ◆ Increase the number of tutorial centers;
- ◆ Increase mentoring and tutorial services for high school youth;
- ◆ Enhance training of teachers and other school personnel;
- ◆ Provide more accessible mental health services, particularly in the public schools.

IV.

SELECTED INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Kids in the District of Columbia are shaped to a considerable degree by their environment, both demographic and economic. At the moment, both seem to be in flux. The economy of the District, which was showing some improvement at the end of the 1990s, has deteriorated since.

In part, the decline has been due to a growing worldwide recession. The terrorist attacks that began on September 11, 2001 and their aftermath, particularly in reduced tourism, have caused the situation to worsen markedly — especially for the many low-paid hourly workers who reside in the District.

Many of these people are not covered by unemployment insurance. The welfare system, which was extensively revamped in 1996, no longer protects them either. The District is trying to ensure that welfare reform does not cause severe hardship for the most vulnerable, including children. However, its resources may be seriously strained by the unfortunate turn of events.

Some of our indicators of child well-being that had been improving had turned negative as early as 1999 - the latest year for which some of our indicators were available as we went to press. Next year's report will tell if the situation has grown even worse since.

Most of the indicators we have been able to obtain for this year's edition are for 2000 or, in a few cases, for 2001. Vital statistics and some data on children's health are for 1999.

A. GENERAL TRENDS IN THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION AND ECONOMY

1. The 2000 Census shows children to be one-fifth of the District's population.

The 2000 Census data show the District with a total population of 572,059. Of this number, 114,992 or exactly 20 percent are children under 18. The under-five population is 32,536, while those aged five to 17 number 82,456.

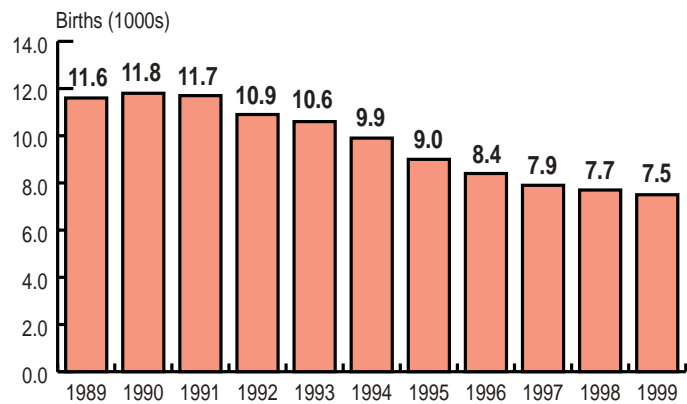
At this point it would normally be appropriate for us to discuss the changes that have occurred in the child population since 1990. Unfortunately, it is now evident that the 1990 population of the District was seriously undercounted by the Census. Thus, any attempt to compare the latest numbers with those from the previous Census would not be valid and could easily be misleading.

In addition, because the Census Bureau's annual estimates of the District's population during the 1990s were based on this flawed 1990 population count, all those estimates have been rendered invalid as well.

Throughout the 1990s, vital statistics and youth crimes have sometimes been compared to population statistics to derive rates. For example, the number of births to teens has been divided by the Census Bureau's annual estimates of the number of teenage girls to yield a "teen pregnancy rate".

From its inception, D.C. Kids Count has been unwilling to publish rates that were based on the Census Bureau's population estimates. Our concern has been that while data on such matters as vital statistics, health conditions, and youth crimes were quite reliable, the accuracy of the population estimates produced by the Bureau was much less certain.

Figure 1 BIRTHS TO D.C. RESIDENTS
1989-1999



Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

By publishing rates based on these estimates, we believed that we could easily lead readers to the wrong conclusions. We have also advised others against using them.

Discrepancies revealed by the new Census, together with the publication of undercount estimates for 1990 by the Census Bureau itself, would appear to confirm that judgment.

The Census Bureau estimates the 1990 population, adjusted for their estimate of the undercount, to have been 628,309. Our own analysis of data produced by other federal agencies suggests that it may have been considerably larger - perhaps as large as 660,000. The annual estimates from 1991 through 1999, however, were based on the official number, which was 606,900.

Readers interested in learning more about the Census Bureau figures, as discussed in this report, can contact D.C. Kids Count at 202-624-5555 or info@dckidscount.org for a special report. (*Fig. 1, p.15*)

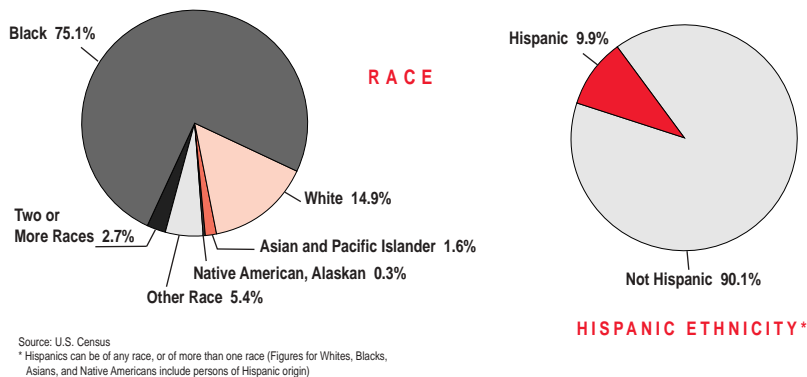
2. Births to District residents declined once more in 1999, continuing a trend that began in 1991.

Births to persons residing in the District peaked in 1990 at 11,806. Since then they have declined steadily. Over the entire decade there was a 36 percent drop in births, reducing the total number from 11,806 in 1990 to 7,513 in 1999. The downward trend has been slowing, however, especially since 1997.

The largest one-year decrease of the decade came between 1994 and 1995, when births dropped by 918. The latest year's decline was only 165 or two percent, from 7,678 to 7,513. It is not inconceivable that soon - perhaps next year or the one after that - the birth numbers may level out or even begin to turn upward. That, in turn, could herald a turnaround in the District's population.

Figure 2

THE DISTRICT'S CHILDREN BY RACE AND HISPANIC ETHNICITY, 2000



Whether births will increase will depend on what is done to attract and keep young families. And that will depend in part on the city's ability to maintain a healthy and growing economy.

It will also depend on whether young families feel that they and their children can live in a safe, healthy and attractive environment, and can have ready access to good schools. Most of the exodus to the suburbs in the 1990s consisted of families with children, a majority of them African American.

3. Three out of four children in the District are recorded as Black or African American by the 2000 Census. The proportion of whites and other races has increased only slightly. The percentage of Hispanic origin has grown substantially.

In the 2000 Census, 86,300 or just over 75 percent of children in the District are reported to be Black or African American. This figure is down from nearly 81 percent as measured by the 1990 Census.

Whites are 17,200 or 14.9 percent of the total, a figure that has increased by only two-tenths of a percentage point since 1990. Asians or Pacific Islanders

are 1,800 or 1.6 percent, up only slightly from 1.3 percent in 1990.

A part of the difference in racial composition between the two Censuses appears to result from persons identifying themselves or family members either as belonging to two or more races, or as members of "some other race."

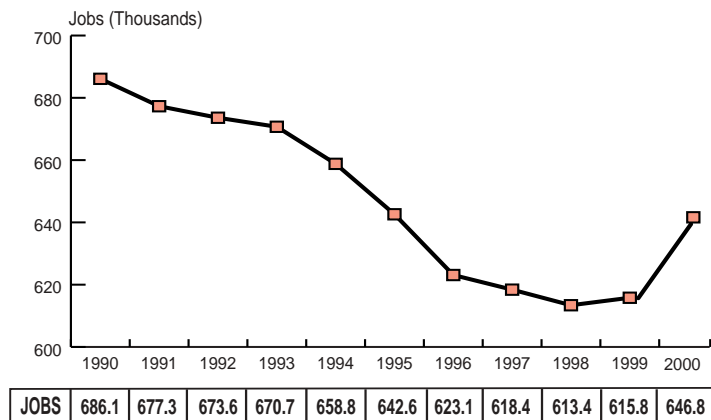
Both of these options were offered to respondents for the first time in the 2000 Census. The results show 6,200 children or 5.4 percent to be of "some other race," and 3,200 or 2.7 percent to be of two or more races.

Hispanics, who may be of any race, are 11,400 or 9.9 percent of the District's children in the 2000 Census, up from 5.7 percent in 1990.

4. A primary key to economic stability and growth is the number of jobs the District can provide. Jobs have recently turned up sharply after a long downward trend, but at present the District's ability to continue the expansion is placed in jeopardy by national and worldwide economic forces.

Historically, the District has long had more jobs than people. That is still true by the latest statistics available at this writing. In 1990, with a popula-

Figure 3 CHANGE IN NUMBER OF JOBS
District of Columbia, 1990 - 2000
(Wage & Salary Employment, Annual Averages)



Source: D.C. Dept. of Employment Services, Labor Market Information & Research

tion of 606,900 by the official Census count — and perhaps as many as 660,000 in real numbers — the city had 686,100 jobs. (Jobs are defined here as the annual average of wage and salary employment.)

In 2000, with an official population of 572,059, the District had 646,800 jobs. This number represented the result of two years of increase since 1998, following a downward slide that had reduced the job supply to only 613,400 in eight years.

That was a decrease of 72,000 or almost 11 percent. Still, jobs in the city had remained more numerous than its residents. Meanwhile, the number of jobs in the Washington metropolitan area as a whole had continued to increase.

The city's losses included 36,000 jobs in the federal government, many of which migrated to the suburbs, and another 18,000 in the District government, most of which ceased to exist. The rest of the job loss was in the private sector.

There was a small upturn of 2,400 jobs in 1999. Then 2000 saw an amazing spurt, adding 31,000 jobs in a single year and more than canceling all of the decline that had occurred since 1995.

Time will tell whether this growth can be sustained. As this is written, however, a sharp economic downturn in the nation and much of the world is presenting obstacles to expansion of employment in either the public or private sectors.

The District has been hit especially hard by the post-September 11 losses in tourism, airport, and service jobs.

A recent economic forecast indicates that as many as 79,000 jobs may be added over the coming year in the Washington metropolitan area through federal actions against terrorism. Most of this increase, however, will probably go to defense firms that are concentrated in the Northern Virginia suburbs.

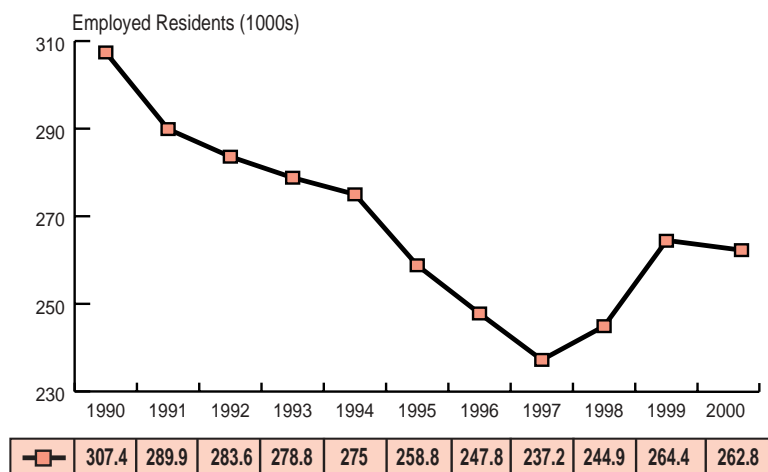
5. The number of D.C. residents who are employed is smaller than half the number of jobs in the city. It has begun to decline again after two years of increase.

For years, more than half the District's jobs have gone to suburbanites. That remains true by the latest statistics. And like the job supply, the number of D.C. residents who are employed was declining throughout much of the 1990s. (The figures on employment among D.C. residents include those who are employed outside the city as well as within it.)

From 307,400 employed residents in 1990, the number had slid to 237,200 by 1997. That was 70,200 fewer people employed, a 23 percent drop in

Figure 4

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYED RESIDENTS
District of Columbia, 1990 - 2000
(Annual Averages)



Source: D.C. Dept. of Employment Services, Labor Market Information & Research

seven years. This decrease closely paralleled the decline of 72,000 in the total number of jobs.

Then in 1998, while the job supply continued to decrease slowly, employment among D.C. residents began to turn up. The number of persons holding jobs increased by 7,700, from 237,200 to 244,900. That was a three percent gain. Then 1999 brought a still more impressive increase of 19,500 or eight percent.

It was not to last for long. The year 2000 saw the number of residents holding jobs decrease slightly once more, falling from 264,400 to 262,800. Nonetheless, the city still had more people holding down jobs than it had as recently as 1995.

6. The unemployment rate in the District, which exceeded eight percent in most years of the 1990s, declined in 2000 to under six percent. However, the latest figure shows it returning to slightly above that level in June of 2001.

Like most major cities in the U.S., the District has historically had a jobless rate considerably above that of its suburbs. At times during the prosperous 1990s it approached nine percent, and

was above the eight percent mark for six of the ten years.

In 1999, as both jobs and employed residents increased, the unemployment rate dropped to 6.3 — a rate below any other in the decade. In 2000, it even dipped further and fell below the six percent mark to 5.8. However, the latest figure, for June of 2001, saw it rise again to 6.1 percent. This was still the District's second lowest rate for any June since 1990. The national rate in the same month was 4.5 percent.

B. ECONOMIC SECURITY

- 1. No data are yet available from the 2000 Census on poverty in the District of Columbia. However, a special survey by the Census Bureau, the "Census 2000 Supplementary Survey," has estimated the share of the District's population that is in poverty to be 17.7 percent.**

The Census 2000 Supplementary Survey was a special large-sample survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census in 2000 with about 700,000 U.S. households. Estimates from this survey are now available for each of

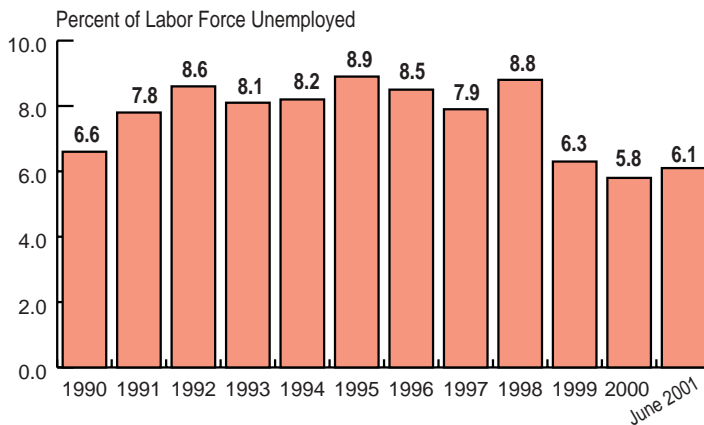
the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

These estimates cover many data items that were asked in the Census, but that are not expected to become available until 2002 or 2003. That long delay results from the fact that a huge number of the "long form" Census questionnaires that collected these data from a random sample of many millions of households must still be tabulated and analyzed.

One of those still-missing census items is the percent of the population below the poverty level. However, the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey also collected income data, and estimates the poverty percentage to be 17.7 — about one District resident in seven.

The 1990 Census estimated the poverty rate for the District's population at 16.9 percent. And in the mid-1990s, a local census updating survey of 8,500 D.C. households by the Greater Washington Research Center estimated that the rate had changed little in the interim. A separate study, conducted for the D.C. Tax Revision Commission and using income tax data, reached the same conclusion. Some experts believe that during the boom period of the late 1990s, the

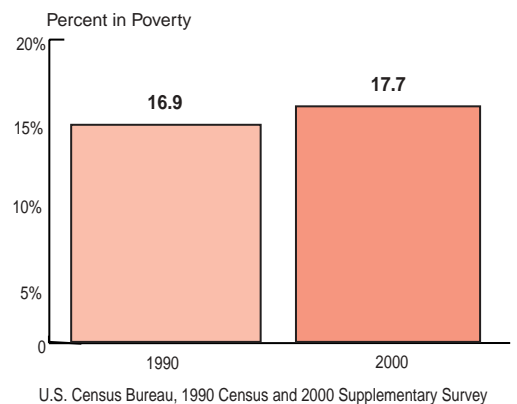
Figure 5 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Percent of Labor Force) Washington, D.C., 1990 - June 2001



Source: D.C. Dept. of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research

Figure 6

CHANGE IN POVERTY RATE FROM 1990 TO 2000 TOTAL POPULATION, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census and 2000 Supplementary Survey

poverty rate declined somewhat in D.C. It may be that the local economy had already deteriorated enough by early 2000 to return poverty to its earlier level. In any event, the 17.7 percent estimate of the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey is slightly higher than that of the 1990 Census, by eight-tenths of a percentage point.

2. A much higher share of the District's children are poor than among the city's residents of all ages.

The Census 2000 Supplementary Survey has estimated that 30.2 percent of all children under 18 who live in the District's households and are related to the householder are now in poverty - nearly one child in three.

(Almost all children living in households are related to the householder either by birth, marriage or adoption. Their number includes grandchildren, nephews, and cousins, but excludes roomers, boarders, employees or foster children.)

In numerical terms, the survey estimates that about 33,850 related children under 18 reside in District households that are below the poverty line today.

About 24,600 of these poor related children are between five and 17, and another 9,250 are under five years of age. These numbers are considerably higher than the Census Bureau found a decade earlier.

The 1990 Census had counted a total of 28,610 related children under 18 in poverty, over 5,200 fewer than it found in 2000. The poverty rate for all those under 18 in 1990 was 25.5 percent in 1990, compared to 30.2 percent today.

The poverty rate in 1990 was 27 percent for children below age five, versus 28.5 percent today. Among children aged five through 17, 23.9 percent were in poverty in 1990. Today, according to the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, their rate is 30.9 percent.

An income that is below the federal poverty limits is very low. A family consisting of a single mother with only one child was counted in poverty by the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey if they had an income of no more than \$11,646 annually - amounting to only \$971 per month or \$224 per week. For a single mother with two children, the annual income limit was higher by only about

\$2,000. For comparison, the average income of all U.S. households is now over \$55,000.

Because the federal poverty limits are so low and living costs in the District are so high, many District residents who are not officially poor still face severe hardships.

3. The number of children receiving financial assistance from the D.C. Government has shrunk by 38 percent since 1995, the year before welfare reform began. (Fig. 8, p.20)

Children receiving benefits from TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the new name for welfare under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996) averaged 31,530 through June of Fiscal Year 2001. This number was down by 38 percent from an average of 50,734 in Fiscal Year 1995.

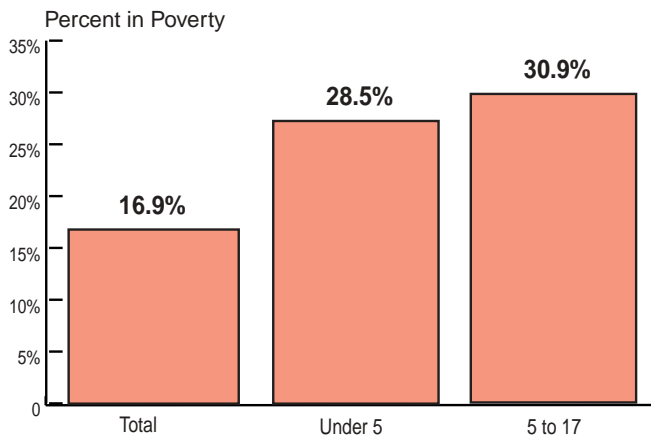
TANF benefits are much lower than the poverty limits. A single mother with two children receives only \$379 a month. As a result, when such families are removed from the TANF rolls because the parents have found minimum-wage jobs, their incomes are much higher than before.

4. The number of children receiving food stamps is also down sharply, but not as much as TANF benefits.

The average number of children participating in the food stamp program was 37,322 as of June 2001. This was a reduction of 26 percent from the average of 50,295 in Fiscal Year 1996, the earliest for which we have food stamp data.

Based on the latest poverty data from the Census Bureau, it would appear that essentially all District children in poverty receive food stamps. According to federal reports, the District has the third highest food stamp participation rate in the nation.

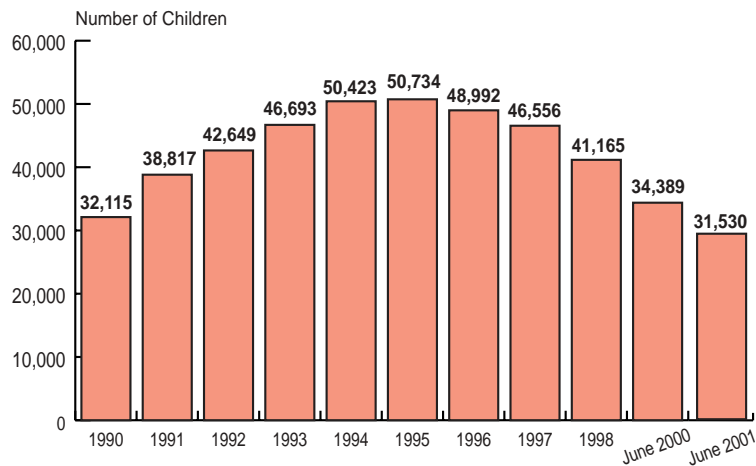
Figure 7 POVERTY RATE FOR TOTAL POPULATION, CHILDREN UNDER 5, AND 5 TO 17 District of Columbia, 2000



U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey

Figure 8

CHILDREN RECEIVING WELFARE ASSISTANCE
Washington, D.C., 1990 - June 2001



Source: D.C. Income Maintenance Administration

5. The District's experience with "welfare to work" has been similar to that of a number of states.

A study by the Urban Institute found that three-fifths of those who had left welfare for work in the District were still employed a year later, and an additional fifth had worked at some time in the year. The experience of welfare "leavers" in D.C. had been roughly the same as that of a number of states, and better than in some. Nonetheless, a substantial fraction of welfare families face serious employment barriers, including physical and mental handicaps, substance abuse problems, and low literacy. The District is implementing special outreach programs to help these families.

6. In implementing welfare reform, the District has adopted policies to help ensure that time limits on financial assistance do not result in severe hardship for the most vulnerable, including children, and to maintain a safety net for the very neediest. Only 12 of the states enforce some of these policies.

An analysis of the status of welfare reform in the District by the D.C.

Fiscal Policy Institute, a project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, concluded that the District had decided to use the flexibility provided in the federal welfare law to continue providing some assistance to families that reach the five year time limit but do not earn enough to be self-sufficient.

Local funds help support families whose earners are temporarily incapacitated. And in common with only 12 of the states, the District does not terminate TANF benefits to the children when the adults fail to comply with work requirements. The payment to a non-complying single-parent family with two children is reduced by \$81 per month, but the children's benefits continue.

The District has also begun implementing new program initiatives to assist long-term recipients who are approaching the time limit. They include intensive job services, subsidized transitional jobs, adult basic education grants, and an enhanced home visiting program to help identify problems requiring special help. Families will also continue to receive some assistance as long as their incomes remain below the poverty line.

The current economic downturn, which began in the District well before the terrorist attacks, has been exacerbated by the resulting decline in tourism and discretionary consumer spending. Large numbers of hourly-wage workers have been laid off, and many of these are not eligible for unemployment insurance. The welfare reform program, initiated in 1996, is now beginning to be tested by its first recession. How will the District's poor fare under these circumstances? Will the city's own resources be sufficient to compensate for the reduction in federal funds at a time of crisis? Time will tell.

C. FAMILY ATTACHMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. About two-thirds of the District's children do not live with both parents in those parents' own households.

Of the 114,992 children under 18 who were found by the 2000 Census to reside in the District, only 37,532 lived in married-couple families. That is 33 percent of all D.C. children.

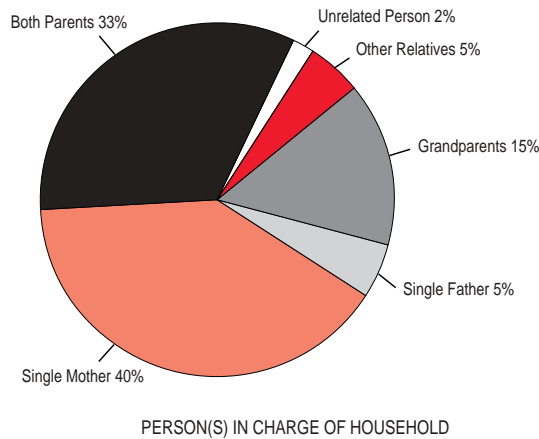
A much larger 45,455 children, 40 percent of the total, were listed in Census jargon as "Child of householder: With female householder, no husband present" — in other words, with a single mother. Another 5,912, five percent, lived with a single father.

The Census also found 16,723 children — nearly 15 percent — living in their grandparents' households. In most cases, this was probably because their parents could not or would not take care of them on their own. (In some cases, one or even both parents also lived with those grandparents.)

There were also 5,374 children or nearly five percent living with other relatives — aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Another 2,669 children lived in households with adults with whom they were not related. There were 183 persons under 18 heading their own households. Most of the remaining

Figure 9

CHILDREN IN D.C. BY PERSON(S) IN CHARGE OF THEIR HOUSEHOLDS
District of Columbia, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

1,144 lived in institutions and group homes.

In summary, these figures mean that two-thirds of all D.C. children were not living with both parents in those parents' own households when the Census was taken.

2. The percentage of all births that are to single mothers has fallen for the third year in a row, and is now at a lower level than in any year since 1988. Yet more than six District babies in ten are still being born to mothers who are not married.

In 1999, 62 percent of all births in the District were to unmarried mothers. This indicator had peaked in 1993 at 73 percent. In the next year that rate had begun a rapid drop that was interrupted only once, in 1996, when it remained level for a single year at 66 percent.

In 1998, the percent of births to single mothers reached 63 percent, and in 1999 it decreased further to 62 percent. The last year the percentage was that low was 1988. Still, the District's rate is now nearly twice that for the U.S. as a whole, where 33 percent of mothers are now unmarried.

3. The share of all D.C. births that are to mothers still in their teens has also declined for the third consecutive year.

The percentage of births that are to D.C. mothers under age 20 has shown a generally declining trend since 1989 — when it was 18.1 percent or more than one birth in six. That decrease was interrupted briefly in two years, 1993 and 1996. (Fig.11, p.22)

In each of those years, the rate increased sharply but then immediately resumed its downward course. In 1999, births to teens dropped below 15 percent for the first time since at least 1982, reaching 14.8 percent.

While the continued decline is very welcome, it remains quite possible that births to teenage mothers could increase again in the future, if only temporarily. They could also stabilize at or around this level. The percentage is still quite a bit higher than the U.S. rate, which now stands at 12.3 percent.

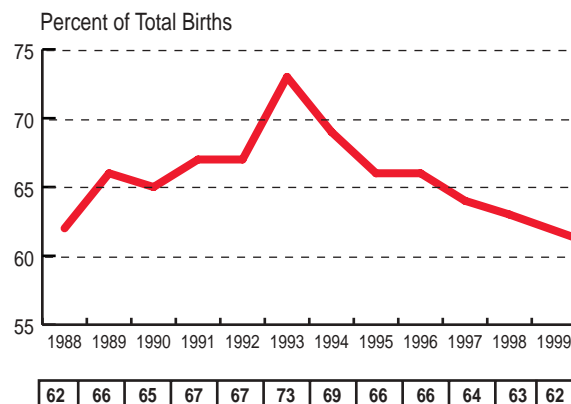
Babies born to mothers who are still children themselves face a future that is uncertain at best, and is very likely to be bleak.

4. Paternity cases filed with the D.C. Courts increased sharply in 2000, continuing a long pattern of rapid up-and-down fluctuation. Nonetheless, after peaking in 1992, the trend has been generally downward.

A total of 1,658 cases alleging paternity were filed with the D.C. Courts in 2000. This was 231 cases or 16 percent more than in 1999, when the number reached 1,427 - the lowest seen since 1984. (Fig.12, p.22)

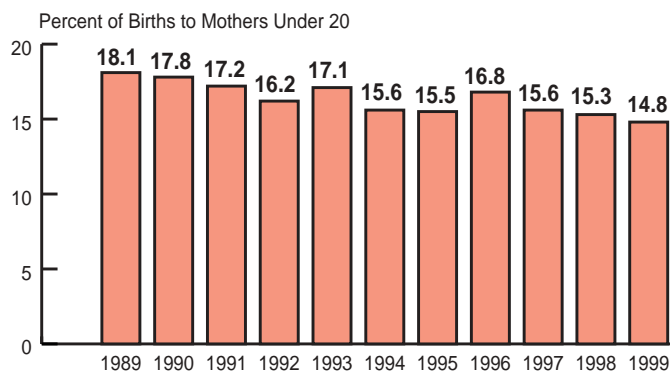
Figure 10

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO SINGLE MOTHERS
District of Columbia, 1988-1999



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 11 PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS
District of Columbia, 1989-1999



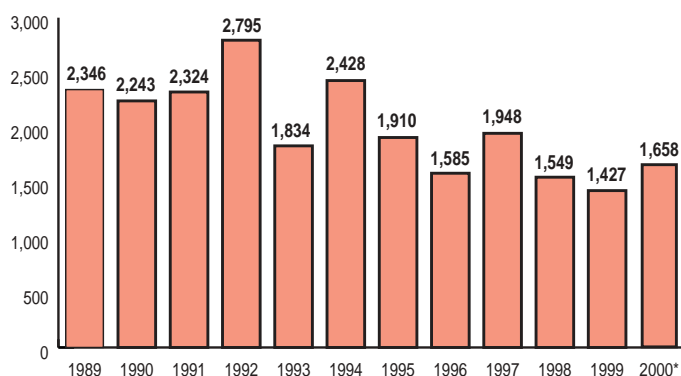
Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

At the latest level, there are more such cases than in three of the previous four years. Yet there are still many fewer than at any time in the first half of the 1990s.

Paternity cases peaked in 1992 at 2,795, but despite sharp year-to-year fluctuations the number has been generally downward since then. Hopefully this trend will resume, but there are no guarantees.

5. Child support cases have declined for the sixth year in a row, and for the second time are below any level seen since 1990.

Figure 12 CASES FILED FOR PATERNITY
D.C. Superior Court, 1989 - 2000*



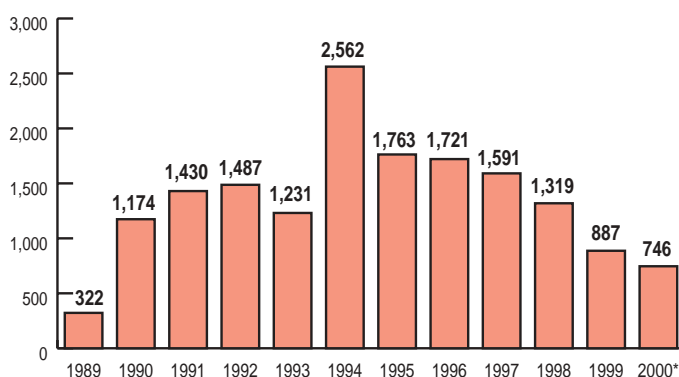
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

In 2000, 746 parents filed new child support cases with the D.C. Courts. This was a decrease from 887 cases in 1999. While the reduction in 2000 was much smaller than in the year before, it brought the number of support cases to well under one-third of its peak level in 1994. In that year, 2,562 child support cases were filed. Still, the level remains above that of the 1980s, when it was generally in the low-to-middle hundreds.

D. HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

1. The number of homeless families applying for emergency shelter in the District increased in 2000 for the first time in four years.

Figure 13 CASES FILED FOR CHILD SUPPORT
D.C. Superior Court, 1989-2000*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

In 2000, the number of families applying for emergency shelter at the District's central intake for families rose by 314 to 1,276. This was a 32.6 percent increase over the 962 cases in 1999. It was the first year since 1996 that showed a growth in the demand for emergency shelter for families. Furthermore, it was the highest number of new applicants since 1996.

These new applicant families in 2000 included 2,817 children. Just over half or 55.3 percent of these children were 5 years of age or younger, a

decrease from 60 percent in 1999.

Six hundred and fifty three (653) families, including 2,027 people, were served in emergency shelter apartments or alternative services accessed through central intake.

Two emergency programs for victims of domestic violence served an additional 74 families with 226 members in 2000.

2. Emergency shelter is only one of a wide variety of services available to the District's homeless families and children.

The above statistics represent only a portion of the services and housing programs available through the public homeless continuum of care administered by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. They also exclude homeless families living with relatives, for whom reliable statistics do not exist.

The continuum includes homelessness prevention, day care, job training, emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing programs. Altogether, these programs served 1,706 families including 5,582 persons. Housing programs alone served 1,039 families with a total of 3,166 persons.

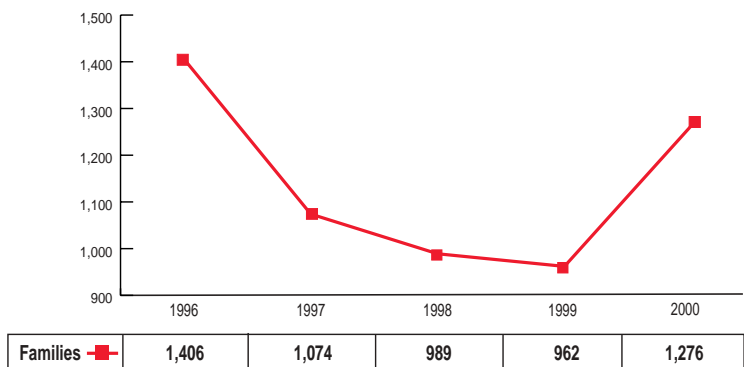
E. CHILD HEALTH

As we go to press with this year's Kids Count Data Book, the latest data that are available for most indicators of children's health are for 1999. A few items, including those for AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, are for 2000.

The chronic long delays in the availability of vital statistics and most health data are not within the control of the D.C. Department of Health, which supplies them to D.C. Kids Count. These indicators are collected through an interstate program coordinated by the U. S. National Center for

Figure 14

NEW HOMELESS FAMILIES APPLYING FOR SHELTER AT CENTRAL INTAKE
District of Columbia 1996-2000



Source: The Community Partnership for Prevention of Homelessness

Health Statistics.

The 1999 data reveal a disturbing reversal in the trends of three major indicators — adequacy of prenatal care, infant mortality, and low birth weights. All had been improving, but are not any longer.

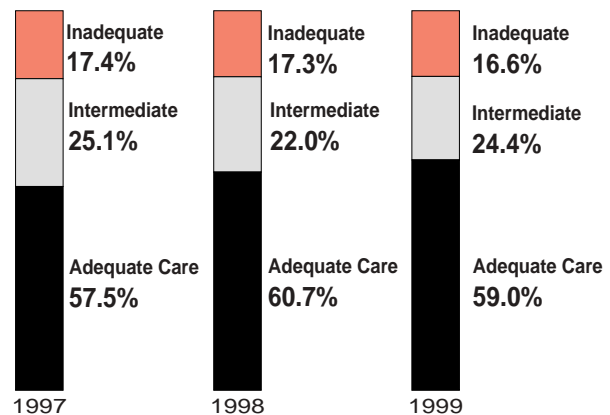
These trend shifts appear to be related. They warrant the urgent attention of all those who are concerned with the health of the District's children.

- 1. The percentage of D.C. mothers who received adequate prenatal care declined slightly in 1999. However, the percent of mothers who received inadequate care also continued to decrease. The only increase occurred in the category whose care was defined as "intermediate" - not totally lacking or seriously inadequate, but not wholly adequate either.**

This year's change broke a six-year trend of improvement in the share of

Figure 15

ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE FOR D.C. MOTHERS
(PERCENT OF MOTHERS)
1997, 1998, and 1999



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

mothers whose care during pregnancy was deemed “adequate.” This trend had brought the percentage from 51 in 1995 — the first year it exceeded half of all mothers — to 60.7 percent in 1998. In 1999 it dropped back to 59.0 percent

The adequacy of prenatal care is one of the main factors affecting the rates of infant mortality and low birth weights. Adequacy is measured by a somewhat complex method that takes into account how soon after conception prenatal visits were initiated, as well as the number of visits in relation to the length of the pregnancy.

Generally, care is considered adequate if the mother began receiving it in the first trimester, and had at least nine visits if the pregnancy lasted the full nine months. For full details, see Section V, “A Word About the Data”.

At the other end of the scale, the percent of mothers receiving inadequate care, or no care at all, dropped from 17.3 in 1998 to 16.6 percent in 1999. In this respect the trend, which had been improving slowly, actually accelerated.

The percentage of mothers whose care is defined as “intermediate” had also been declining as the “adequate” percentage grew. In 1999, however, it rose again from 22.0 to 24.4 percent.

2. The city’s infant mortality rate, which had been decreasing steadily for four years, also broke that trend and rose sharply in 1999.

In 1998, the number of D.C. infants who died before reaching their first birthday was 12.5 per 1,000 born alive. That rate had dropped rapidly from 18.2 in 1995, and at that point was only slightly more than half the level of 1989.

In 1999, however, infant mortality increased suddenly to 15.0 per thousand. That was a higher rate than any since 1996. It wiped out nearly half of

the previous four years’ improvement. Even at 12.5 per thousand, the city’s infant death rate had been nearly twice the national level. Now it is more than twice the national rate of 7.1.

3. The percent of babies born at abnormally low weights (below 5 1/2 pounds) increased slightly in 1999, also breaking an improving trend.

In 1999, 13.3 percent of all babies born in the District weighed less than 5 1/2 pounds at birth. From 1996 to 1998, the rate had decreased more than a full percentage point, dropping from 14.2 to 13.1.

The recent reversal, small as it is at two-tenths of a percentage point, means that a larger share of babies are now at risk of the health and developmental problems that beset many children who are born too small.

Nonetheless, the rate remains below any seen in the ten years prior to 1998. This indicator has reversed direction before, and could do so again. But, along with the rise in infant mortality, it is cause for concern. Furthermore, it remains nearly double the national rate of 7.6 percent.

Figure 16

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (UNDER ONE YEAR)
District of Columbia, 1989-1999

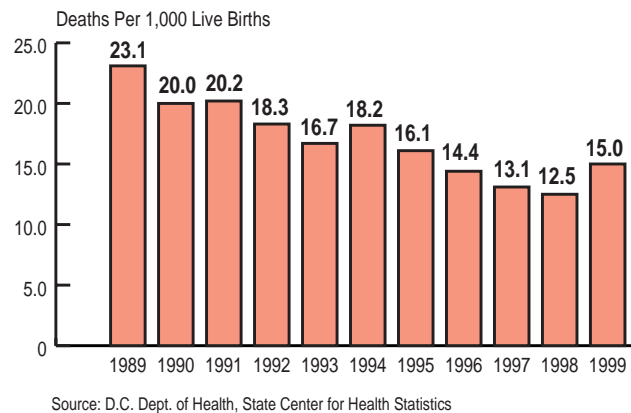
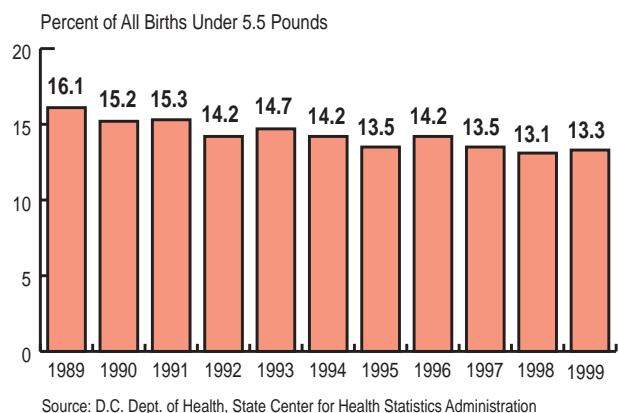


Figure 17

PERCENT OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS
District of Columbia, 1989 -1999



4. The number of AIDS cases that have been diagnosed to date among the District's children and teens continues to increase in number, but at a declining rate.

AIDS data are now being released every two years, and the latest available at this time are for 2000. The AIDS figures are cumulative. They include all children who have ever been diagnosed with the disease — among them those who are already deceased. Thus it is impossible for the total ever to decline.

As of the end of 2000, a total of 172 D.C. children twelve years of age or under had ever been diagnosed with AIDS. This was an increase of four cases or two percent over the 168 registered at the end of 1998. In the previous two-year period, the number had increased by 24, from 144 to 168.

One more AIDS case is one too many. However, such a rapid reduction in the rate of growth is cause for hope. Perhaps some year soon the number will no longer grow at all.

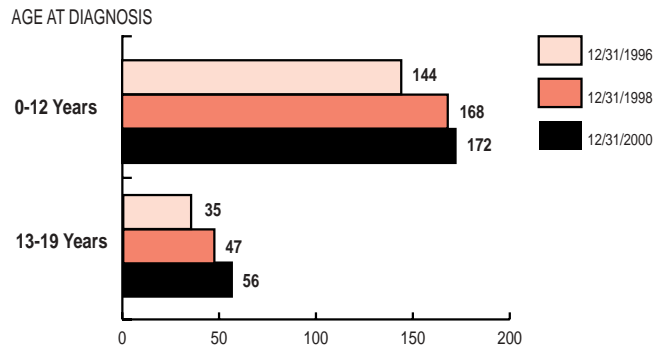
Most AIDS victims under 13 contracted the disease perinatally — meaning that they caught it from their mothers at or before the time of birth.

Among teens aged 13 to 19, the numbers are smaller than among younger

Figure 18

CHILDREN AND TEENS DIAGNOSED WITH AIDS BY AGE GROUP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1996, DECEMBER 31, 1998, AND DECEMBER 31, 2000*

District of Columbia



Source: Administration for HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Epidemiology Division
*Note: Numbers are cumulative and include persons already deceased

children. A total of 56 had been diagnosed with AIDS at the end of 2000. That was an increase of nine cases, or 19 percent, over the number two years earlier. In the previous two-year period, the increase had been 12 cases, or 34 percent.

5. While the majority of children 12 and under who have ever been diagnosed with AIDS are still living, the proportion of victims aged 13 to 19 who still survive is much larger.

Among the 172 AIDS cases ever diagnosed in children 12 and under, 92 are living with the disease while 80 have died. That is 53 percent of the total ever diagnosed who still survive. Of the 56 cases among those aged 13 to 19, 42 are living with AIDS and 14 have died. Those still living are 75 percent of the total ever diagnosed with AIDS in this age group.

6. Tragic as it is that persons of any age should contract AIDS, children and youth are a small percent of the total.

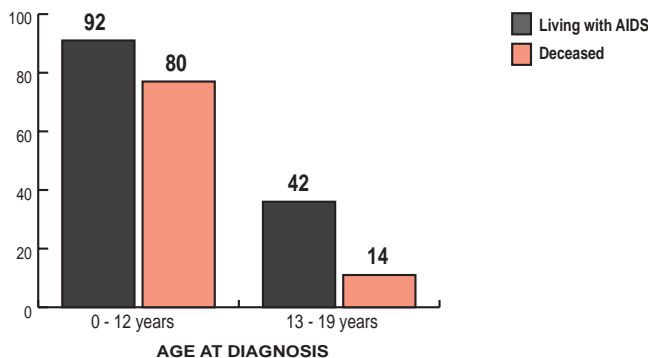
Of the 13,040 D.C. residents diagnosed with AIDS through the end of 2000, 228 were under the age of 20. That is 1.7 percent of all AIDS victims and one out of 596 persons under age 20 who live in the District.

7. The combined number of cases of the three most common sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) — chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis — decreased in 2000 for the third straight year. However, the incidence of two of these diseases, chlamydia and syphilis, actually increased. A disproportionate share of STD cases occur among teenagers.

Figure 19

CHILDREN AND TEENS DIAGNOSED WITH AIDS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2000 LIVING WITH AIDS AND DECEASED

District of Columbia



Source: Administration for HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Epidemiology Division

During 2000, a total of 2,082 cases of STDs were found among D.C. children and teens under age 20. According to the Census Bureau, the District had 135,806 persons this young in that year. About 1.5 percent of them — one in 65 — were diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease.

The story gets worse when we look at how the number of cases of STDs in children and teens relates to the total found among persons of all ages. That total was 6,435 in the year 2000. Of all those cases, 32 percent were diagnosed in persons under 20.

But this is still only part of the story. In all, 1,892 cases of the three diseases occurred among teenagers 15 to 19 years of age. That was nearly 91 percent of cases among persons under 20 years, and 29 percent of cases suffered by all ages. Of the 37,867 D.C. residents in the 15-to-19 age group, five percent were diagnosed with an STD in 2000 — one District teen in 20.

Persons who had not yet reached their 20th birthday suffered 40 percent of all cases of chlamydia diagnosed in 2000 and 28 percent of gonorrhea cases. But they fell victim to only five percent of cases of syphilis.

Of the three diseases, chlamydia — which was virtually unheard of until a few years ago, partly because it was commonly confused with or masked by gonorrhea — is now the most common in both the District and the nation. It is also the leading cause of sterility in American women.

Chlamydia may be partly responsible for the recent reduction in births, although more cases of that disease probably existed earlier than were detected owing to poor diagnostic techniques. Many of the earlier cases may have gone without treatment, whereas many may now be cured before they can do serious damage.

The 1,297 cases of chlamydia among children and youth reported in the

District in 2000 dwarfed both gonorrhea (758 cases) and syphilis (27 cases out of a total of 516 for all ages).

There is a brighter side to the STD statistics, however. The combined incidence of the three diseases among children and teens has been declining since 1998. In 1997, it was 2,831. In 1998, it decreased slightly to 2,811 — by a mere 20 cases or a fraction of one percent.

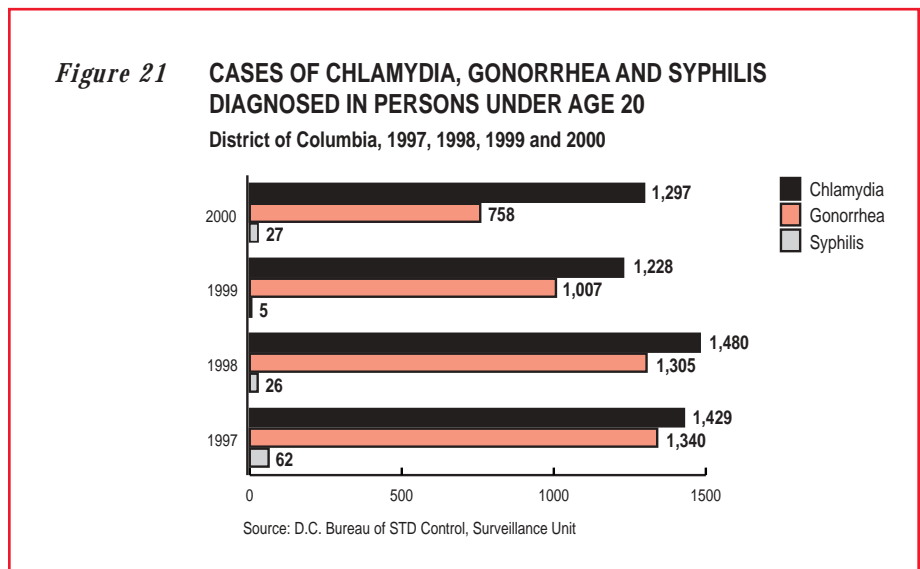
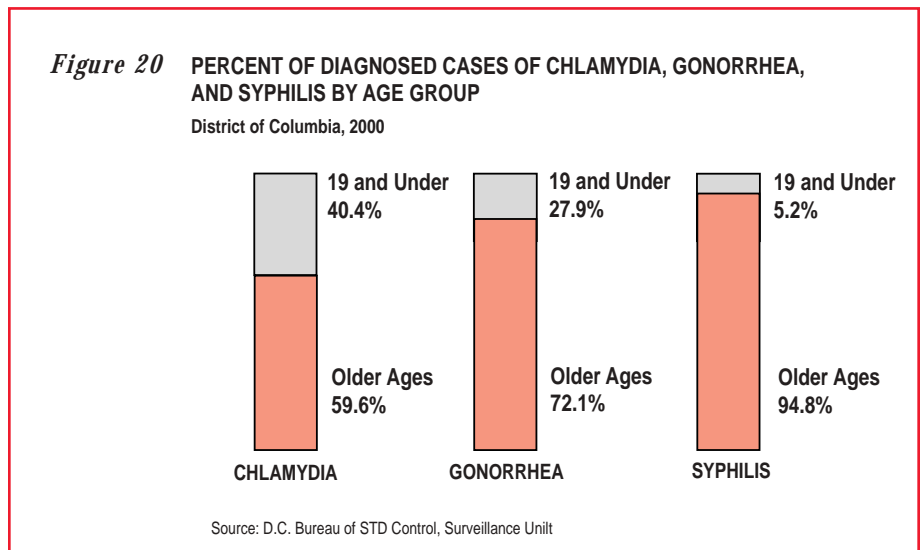
In 1999, moreover, the total declined sharply to 2,240, lower by 571 cases or 20 percent. The total continued to decrease in 2000, falling to 2,082 —

although this time the drop was a smaller 158 cases or seven percent.

However, cases of chlamydia among the under-20 group increased in 2000. The number of cases diagnosed grew to 1,297 from 1,228 in 1999.

In sharp contrast, gonorrhea cases declined in 2000 by 25 percent from 1,007 cases to 758.

Syphilis cases, which had numbered only 5 among this age group in 1999, increased five-fold to 27, but remain a small percent of all STDs among children.



8. Immunization rates among D.C. children between 19 and 35 months of age have decreased slightly, according to a national survey. Immunization rates have decreased nationally as well.

Each year the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveys the percentage of two-year old children (defined as those between 19 and 35 months of age) who have been immunized against major childhood diseases in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The CDC survey is intended to measure progress toward the goal of the national "Healthy People 2010" plan. The program's target for 2010 is 90 percent coverage in every state. Toward that end, free immunizations are offered to all children.

Vaccinations now protect against a number of diseases that not long ago were feared. One combined vaccine covers Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough), or "DTP" (a series of three or four immunizations).

Another combination covers Measles, Mumps and Rubella (German measles) or "MMR" (one immunization). Still other vaccines prevent Polio (three immunizations); Haemophilus Influenza type b, or "Hib" (three); Hepatitis B (three); and Varicella or chicken pox (one).

In 2000, there was a general decline in the rate of vaccination of two-year-olds for most diseases, both nationally and in the District of Columbia. The national rate fell back by about one percentage point or less for most diseases, while remaining generally at or above the 90 percent mark.

The District's immunization rates, in common with those of most states, declined somewhat more sharply than the nation's — dropping by four to five percentage points in the majority of cases. They are now below those of most states. Still, most remain at the

90 percent level, or no more than a few points below it. (These figures are the result of a national survey and are subject to sampling error.)

In 2000, for example, 90.8 percent of two-year-olds in the District of Columbia were shown by the survey to have received three DTP immunizations. This was down from 92.5 percent in 1999, or by 1.7 percentage points. The national rate in 2000 was 94.1 percent.

For Polio, the decline was also by 1.7 points, from 87.2 to 85.5 percent. For MMR, it was a 5.1 point decline, from 91.3 to 86.2 percent; and for Hepatitis B, it was 2 points, from 87.9 to 85.9 percent.

D. C. officials say that a number of measures are now in effect to raise the capital city's vaccination rates currently and in the future. The District, while often compared to states for statistical purposes, is not really a state but a major city. Considered in this light, its immunization rates are generally in the same range as, and sometimes higher than, other cities such as Chicago, Detroit, and Houston.

F. SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

1. Deaths to children and teens living in the District increased in 1999 —breaking a declining trend that had extended over the previous three years.

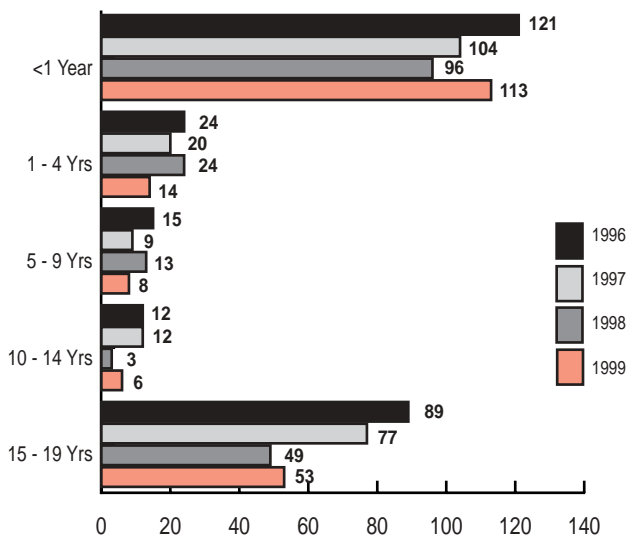
The latest vital statistics available when this was written were for 1999. In that year, 194 of the District's children and teens died. That was an increase of nine deaths over the 185 recorded in 1998, or five percent. Those 185 deaths had represented a decrease of 37 deaths or 17 percent from the prior year, which in turn had followed two consecutive declines of 15 percent in 1997 and seven percent in 1996.

The greatest incidence of deaths throughout this four-year period was to babies under one year of age. They totaled 113 in 1999. That unfortunate number is chiefly due to less than adequate medical care and nutrition for both mother and infant during the critical period from conception through the first year of life.

Infant deaths had declined from 121 to 96, or by nearly 21 percent, in the

Figure 22

CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS BY AGE
District of Columbia, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

two years between 1996 and 1998. This happy change was due mainly to a sharp increase in the percentage of mothers receiving adequate prenatal care. That, in turn, was accompanied by a substantial reduction in the percent of babies born at abnormally low weights of less than 5 1/2 pounds.

All those trends were reversed in 1999, as noted earlier in this report. The percent of mothers whose prenatal care is adequate has decreased slightly, and the share of babies born too small has grown sharply.

The number of babies who died during their first year increased from 96

to 113 from 1998 to 1999 — returning to almost the same level as in 1996, and wiping out most of the gains achieved since.

The second largest number of deaths among children and youth occurred to teens aged 15 through 19. Teen deaths also increased in 1999. They rose from 49 to 53, or by eight percent, and reversed a declining trend that had persisted for more than half a decade.

Nonetheless, deaths to teenagers remained well below the levels seen in most years before 1999. Yet the sudden increase is cause for concern.

Why does it come at this time, when crime among juveniles is generally going down? (See Section F8.) Is this merely a blip, or is it a true turning point? Clearly, this is a trend shift that warrants closer examination.

2. Violent deaths to teens decreased in 1999 for the sixth year in a row.

In 1999 a total of 44 teens living in the District died violent deaths. That was a decrease of two from 46 in 1998. In this respect, at least, the declining trend was not reversed but was extended for a sixth year. The latest reduction, however, was tiny compared to most of those that had preceded it — suggesting that the rate may have begun to stabilize or perhaps even to reverse.

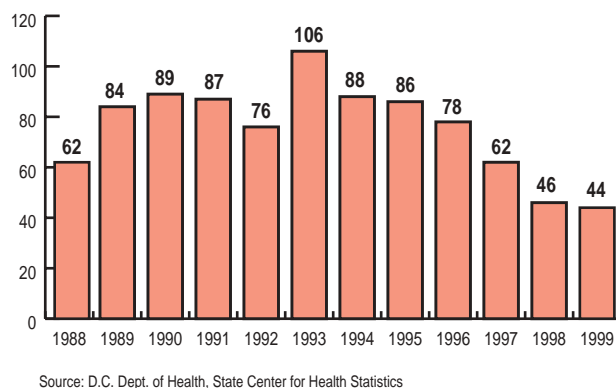
3. Murders of teens increased sharply in 1999, although the number is still well below those of the previous ten years.

There were 39 deaths to D.C. teens aged 15 to 19 in 1999 through homicide or assault. This was a large increase in relative terms — six more deaths than in 1998, or 18 percent. Furthermore, it reversed an even more rapid downturn. In four successive years that decline had reduced the number of teens murdered by well over half, from 78 to 33.

Still, 39 teen deaths by murder are fewer than in any year since 1987, when there were only 15. While even one murdered teen is too many, a greater concern is that there may be another increase next year. In 1988, the number of murders had suddenly spurted from 15 to 46, and the year after that to 71. In 1993 it peaked at 100, then remained at over 75 for two more years.

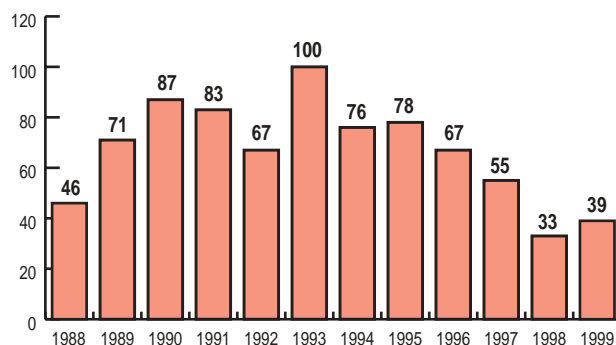
From 1988 until the recent decline began in 1996, more than 600 teenagers had died at the hands of someone else. Now that guns are so widely available that almost any angry

Figure 23 **VIOLENT DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 - 19**
District of Columbia, 1988 - 1999



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 24 **DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 TO 19 BY HOMICIDE / ASSAULT***
District of Columbia, 1988-1999



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration
* As of 1999, the new federal ICD-10 cause of death classification separates legal intervention from homicide/assault. Previously they were combined.

person can lay his hands on one, can we be sure that this horror will not escalate again?

Yet the increase in murders does not fully explain the increase in teen deaths that occurred in 1999 — while at the same time the total number of violent deaths did not increase, but declined by two.

One part of the explanation lies in the fact that there was an increase in deaths to teenagers from non-violent sources - heart attacks, cancer, infectious diseases, and miscellaneous other causes. There were nine of these in 1999, versus only three in 1998.

The rest of the explanation lies in the fact that the total number of teen deaths by violent causes other than murder — accident and suicide — dropped by more than half, from 13 to five.

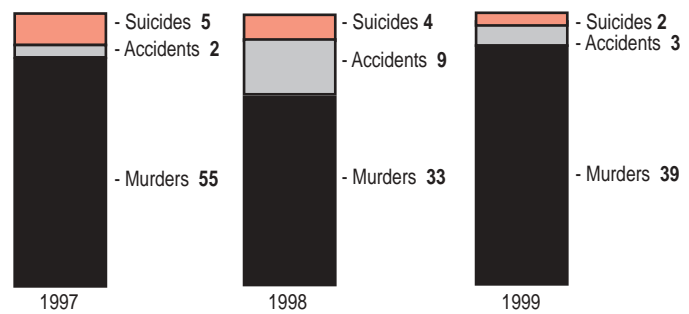
4. Child abuse cases were down in 2000 for the second year in a row, and the number is now the lowest on record.

The number of child abuse cases filed with the D.C. Courts decreased from 192 in 1999 to 156 in 2000. This is the first time since 1993 that abuse filings have declined in number for two years in a row. The 36-case drop is a reduction of 19 percent, and it follows a still larger one of 112 cases or 37 percent in 1999.

Child abuse cases that reach the courts are now well below the levels of the late 1980s and the early 1990s. In fact, this year's total is more than two-thirds below that of 1990. There is reason for hope that this situation will continue, and that a new and lower baseline level may really have been reached.

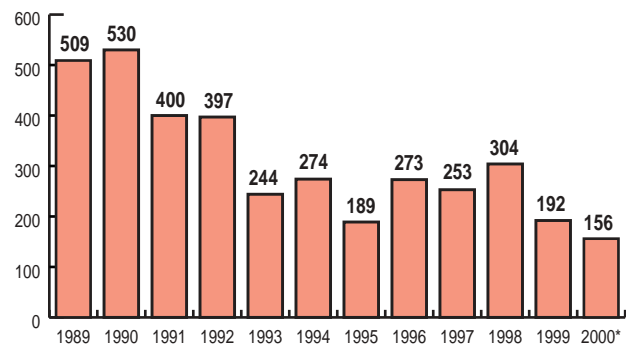
The pattern shown by the chart certainly suggests this possibility. However, as we have seen in regard to murders, trends can suddenly reverse. Furthermore, the abuse caseload has fluctuated quite widely and rapidly in the past.

Figure 25 **CAUSES OF VIOLENT DEATHS TO TEENS 15 TO 19 YEARS OLD**
District of Columbia, 1997, 1998 and 1999



Source: D.C. Dept. of Health, State Center for Health Statistics

Figure 26 **CASES FILED FOR CHILD ABUSE**
D.C. Superior Court, 1989 - 2000*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
* Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

There is no guarantee that next year will not show an increase, and it could be substantial.

5. Child neglect cases, while also declining for the past three years, have not done so at nearly the rate of abuse cases. In two of the three years the decrease has been in single digits, and the overall drop has been less than one-tenth of the 1997 total. (Fig.27, p.30)

Neglect cases totaled 1,261 in 2000, seven fewer than in 1999. The year before the decrease had been 113, or about eight percent. However, this substantial drop had followed a decline

of only five cases in 1998. The total decrease over the three years since 1997 was 125 cases.

Case filings for child neglect had peaked at 1,512 in 1994, after a steep rise from only 288 four years before, in 1990. The next year they dropped quite sharply to 1,323 or by about 13 percent, then began rising slowly to 1997.

However, the year 2000 level is only 62 cases or less than five percent below that of 1995. If neglect cases are establishing a new baseline level, it appears to be several times as high as in the fairly recent past.

6. Infants under one year of age are more than twice as likely to be victims of neglect than children of older ages, as shown by cases filed with the D.C. Courts. However, cases alleging child abuse are now somewhat more likely to be filed for victims age four and older.

In 2000, 168 cases alleging neglect of children under one year of age were brought before the Courts of the District of Columbia. Most of the older age categories had much larger total numbers, but every one of these categories represented more than one year of age.

For example, while neglect cases were filed for 335 children from seven through ten years of age, this category covers four years. After we adjust the numbers for this fact, the average number of cases in proportion to individual year of age is 84, just half of that for the one-year-olds.

For child abuse the situation is different. Between 1999 and 2000, the number of cases alleging abuse of victims under one year of age dropped by more than half, from 15 to seven.

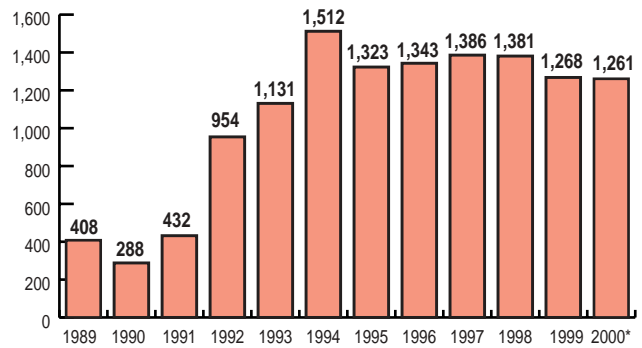
Most other age categories showed much smaller changes. As a result, children in all age categories from four years up now have proportionally larger numbers of alleged victims of abuse than either infants under one or small children from one to three.

Since we have been publishing these statistics, 1999 was the first year in which any older age group had proportionally as many or more abuse cases as those under one year. In that year only those eleven and twelve years old did so, equaling the under-one-year group with 15 cases per year of age.

In 2000 all age categories from four years up exceeded the under-one year group in abuse cases at least slightly on a per-year-of-age basis. In three of the four categories, the difference was substantial.

Figure 27

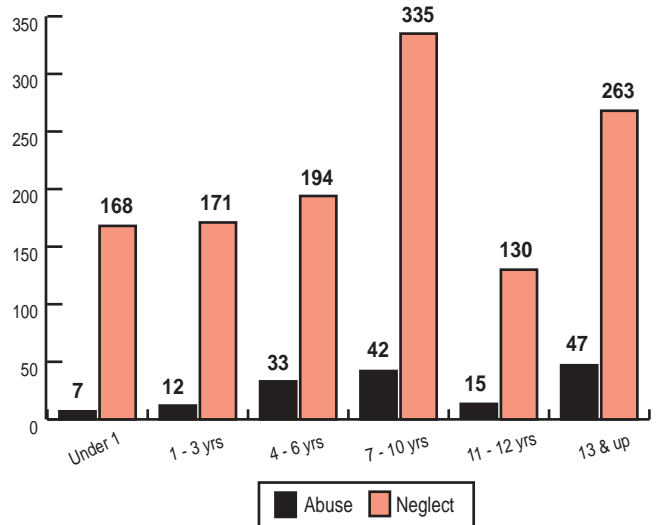
CASES FILED FOR CHILD NEGLECT
D.C. Superior Court, 1989 - 2000*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
* Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 28

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REFERRALS BY AGE OF CHILD
D.C. Superior Court, 2000



Source: Unpublished Data, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

7. The number of petitions filed for civil orders of protection against domestic violence increased substantially between 1999 and 2000, but the number granted remained virtually unchanged.

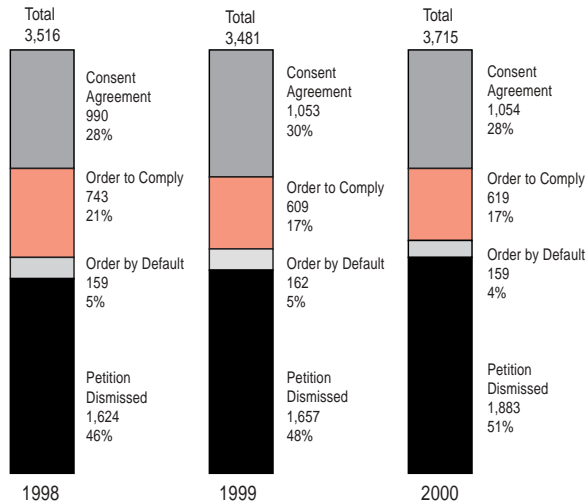
In 2000, 3,715 petitions were filed with the D.C. Superior Court asking for civil orders of protection against domestic violence. This was an increase of 234 or nearly seven percent over the 3,481 filed in 1999. The

number that year had been smaller by only 35 or one percent from 1998.

Of the petitions filed in 2000, 1,054 or 26 percent resulted in consent agreements without going to a hearing — one more than in 1999. In 619 more cases, 17 percent of the total, a hearing was held and the respondent was ordered to comply. That was ten more cases than in 1999. In 159 cases, five percent of the total, the respondent did not appear for the hearing and an order was issued by

Figure 29

PETITIONS FOR CIVIL ORDERS OF PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FILED WITH D.C. SUPERIOR COURT District of Columbia, 2000



Source: Superior Court of the District of Columbia

default. This was three fewer default orders than in 1999.

A total of 1,832 petitions, 49 percent of all those filed in 2000, thus resulted in either an agreement or an order to comply. That was eight cases more than in 1999. On the other hand, the number of petitions dismissed in 2000 was 1,883 and they made up 51 percent of all those filed. Most dismissals result from the fact that many petitioners fail to follow through with the legal process. In 1999 a smaller 1,657 were dismissed and were 48 percent of the total.

In the three years for which D.C. Kids Count has data, the percentage of petitions dismissed has increased from 46 to 51 percent of the total filed. The number resulting in either a consent agreement or an order to comply has decreased — from 1,892 in 1998 to 1,824 in 1999 and to 1,832 in 2000.

Domestic violence contributes to homelessness. The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness reports that two emergency programs for victims of domestic violence served 74 families with 226 members in 2000.

8. Juvenile cases referred to the D.C. Superior Court for all causes in 2000 continued a decline that has been underway for over a decade. The latest level is under half the number in 1988.

A total of 2,495 new juvenile cases were sent to the D.C. Superior Court in 2000, by far the lowest number in decades. As recently as 1988, the number topped 5,000. Since then the trend has been generally downward,

though with slight upward reversals in some years.

In 1995 juvenile cases dropped below 4,000 for the first time, but then rose again to 4,012 in 1996. Beginning in 1997 the decline resumed, but this time at an accelerated and steady pace, until by 2000 the number of cases had decreased by more than 1,500 in just four years.

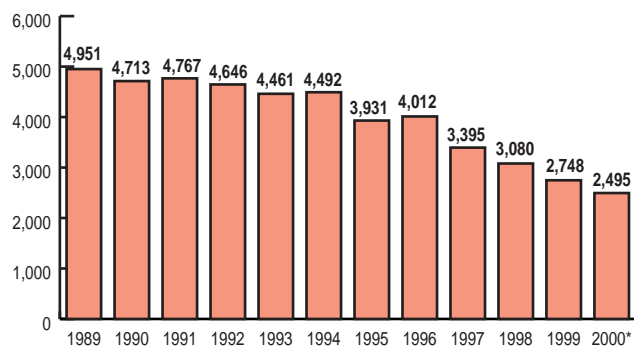
9. “Acts Against Public Order” are the most common crimes of which juveniles in the District are accused. The total number of these alleged crimes has decreased in most years since 1988, while their share of the total has grown. In 2000 the number continued to drop, and their percentage of the total decreased for the first time as well.

“Acts Against Public Order” is a catch-all term for a variety of crimes, of which those involving drug and weapons are the most common. Narcotics charges made up 56 percent of the total in 2000. Weapons charges were 14 percent, and the remaining 30 percent alleged miscellaneous other offenses.

The total number of public order cases has been cut by more than half

Figure 30

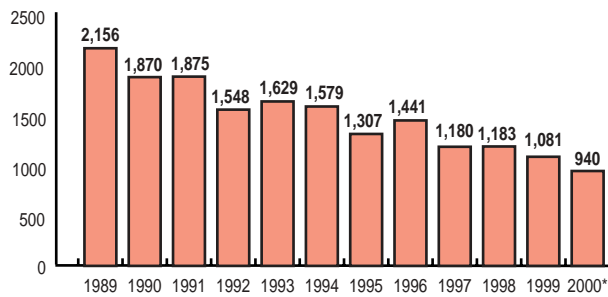
JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ALL CAUSES, 1989-2000*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports

*Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

Figure 31 JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER, 1989-2000*

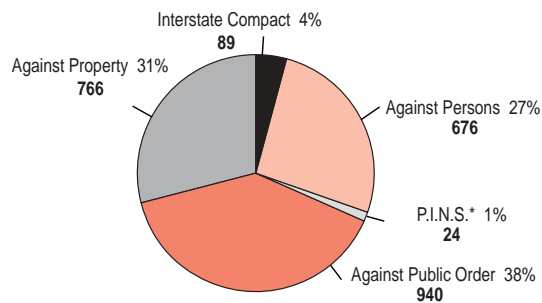


Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

from 1989, when there were 2,156, to 2000, when there were 940. 2000 was the first year in which the number dropped below 1000. Although the trend has been somewhat irregular in the meantime, there have been seven years in which public order offenses decreased versus four in which they increased.

As the number of cases of this kind has declined, their share of the overall juvenile caseload has changed. It dropped from nearly 44 percent of the total in 1989 to 33 percent in 1995. It then increased to 39 percent in 1999. But in 2000, it decreased again to below 38 percent.

Figure 32 JUVENILE NEW REFERRALS BY TYPE OF ACT D.C. Superior Court, 2000



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Unpublished Data
*Persons in Need of Supervision

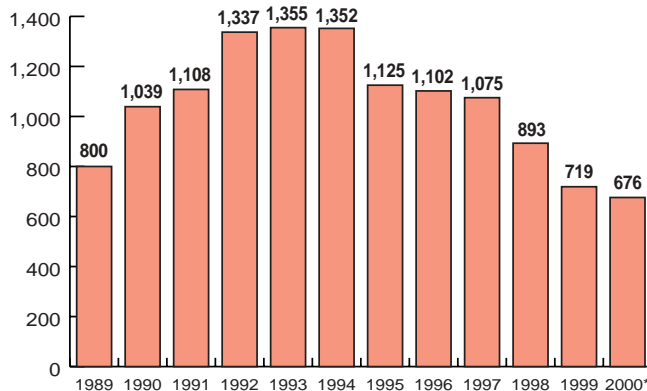
10. Crimes against persons which juveniles are alleged have committed have been declining for seven years in a row. They have now reached a level below any year for at least the past two decades.

There were 676 cases brought before the District of Columbia Courts in 2000 in which juveniles were accused of crimes against other persons. The most common of these alleged crimes was assault, comprising 81 percent of cases.

The second most frequent juvenile crime against persons was robbery or attempted robbery, making up 16 percent. Almost all robberies involved the use of arms or other means of force or violence. There were four homicides. No rapes were reported in 2000.

As with public order crimes, the number of alleged crimes against persons with juvenile defendants has been declining. Their number has decreased for the past seven years without a break, and has now dropped below any seen since 1980. These crimes made up 27 percent of all cases in which juveniles were brought before the D.C. Courts in 2000. At their peak in 1993, they were 30 percent of cases.

Figure 33 JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR OFFENSES AGAINST PERSONS, 1989 - 2000*



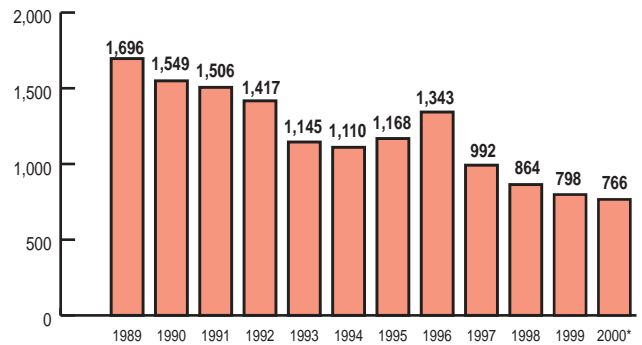
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual reports
* Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and development Division, District of Columbia Courts

11. Property crime cases in which juveniles are the defendants have also reached a new low.

A total of 766 cases alleging “Acts Against Property” were filed with the D.C. Courts in 2000. This was 32 cases or four percent fewer than in 1999. Since 1996, property crime cases have declined by 43 percent. From 1990 to the present, their number has been cut by more than half.

Property crimes now make up 31 percent of cases against juveniles, compared to 33 percent in 1990. Over half, 56 percent, involve automobiles. The second most common category is vandalism.

Figure 34 JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C. SUPERIOR COURT FOR ACTS AGAINST PROPERTY, 1989 - 2000*



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports
*Data for 2000 are unpublished, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts

G. EDUCATION

1. In 2001, the D.C. Public Schools saw their SAT scores drop below any level seen in the past decade.

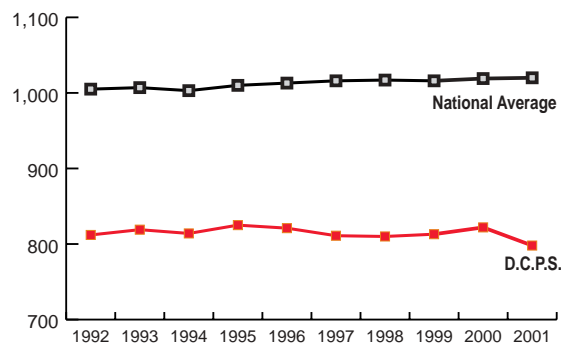
The combined math and verbal score of D.C.P.S. students on the SAT had risen in both 1999 and 2000, reaching 822 in the latter year. This was nearly the highest level they had achieved on the test since 1992. (Owing to a change in the College Board’s scoring procedures, pre-1992 scores are not comparable.) The only higher score was 825 in 1995.

In 2001, however, the District’s SAT score dropped back suddenly to 798, a three percent decline. The previous low had been 810 in 1998.

The national average, meanwhile, improved slightly to 1,020. The local index is 78 percent of that, down from nearly 81 percent in 2000.

The District’s decline in the combined SAT was mainly the result of a drop in the verbal component. The verbal score decreased from 414 to 396, or by four percent. The math score was down from 408 to 402, or 1.5 percent.

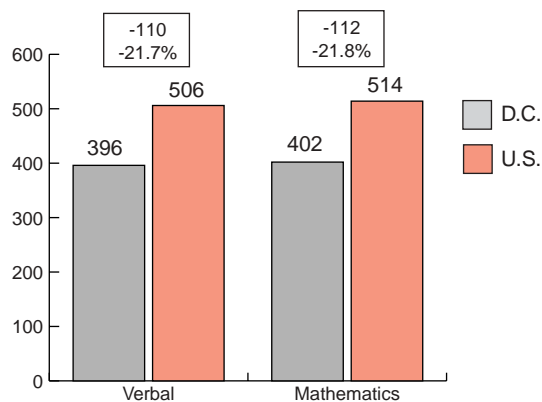
Figure 35 COMBINED MATH/VERBAL SCORES ON SAT
D.C. Public Schools vs. National Average, 1992 - 2001



D.C.P.S.	812	819	814	825	821	811	810	813	822	798
Nat'l Avg	1,005	1,007	1,003	1,010	1,013	1,016	1,017	1,016	1,019	1,020

Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Figure 36 DIFFERENCES IN VERBAL AND MATH SCORES BETWEEN D.C. AND THE NATION
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) 2001



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

2. In the Stanford 9 Achievement Tests for reading, the percent of D.C. Public Schools students scoring at basic or above in 2001 was somewhat improved in several grades since 1998, but has remained about the same at the rest. Furthermore, the high school grades perform at significantly lower levels than either the elementary or middle school grades.

Stanford 9 Tests have been given by the D.C. Schools since 1997. They are administered in every grade from first to 11th. Although overall performance in 2001 was better than in 1997, it was little if any better in most grades than in 1998.

The test results show the percentage of students in every grade from first

through 11th who perform at four different levels, from “below basic” to “advanced.” The definitions of these categories are as follows:

Below Basic - little or no mastery of fundamental knowledge for this grade level;

Basic - partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for satisfactory work at this grade level;

Proficient - solid academic performance, indicating that students are prepared for this grade level;

Advanced - superior performance, beyond grade level mastery.

The Stanford 9 tests are given in both reading and mathematics. The standard for promotion to the next grade is basic proficiency or higher, although

basic proficiency signifies only partial mastery of the skills fundamental to satisfactory performance in the present grade.

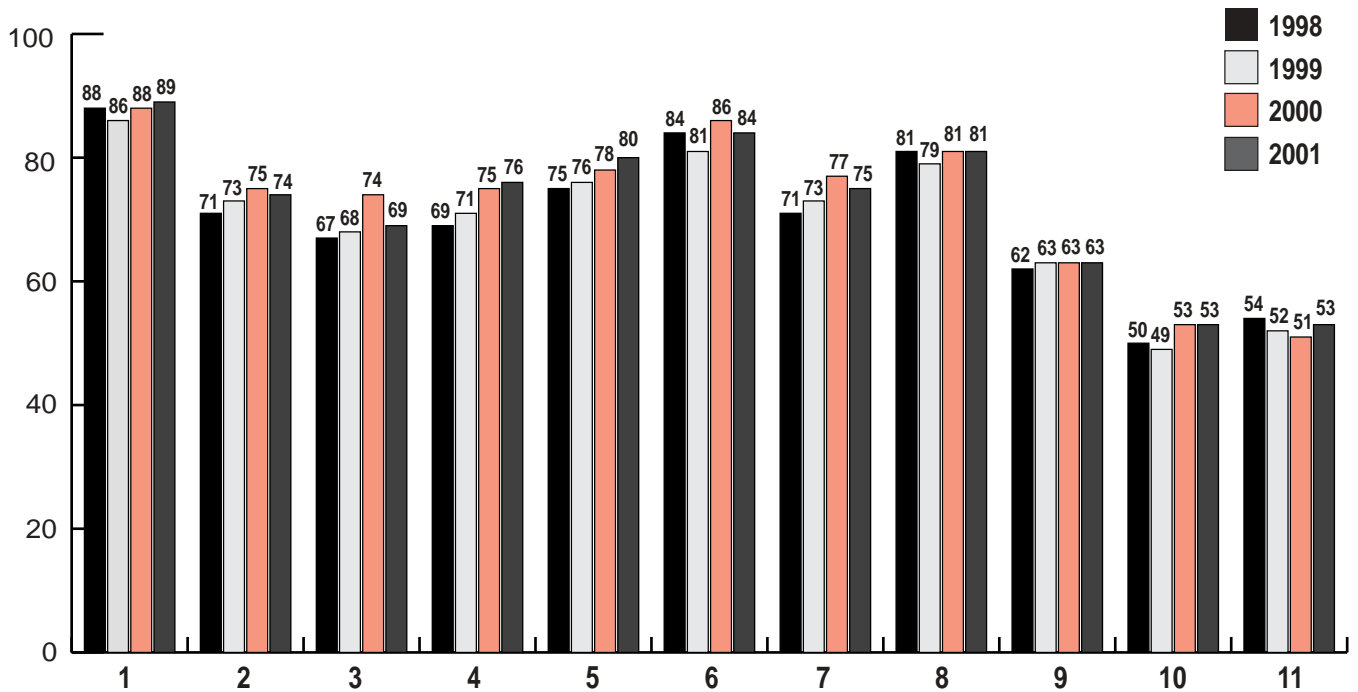
In the reading test, District students scored best in first grade in 2001, with 89 percent scoring at or above basic level. They did not do as well in any succeeding grade.

The grade-by-grade changes in reading performance were generally consistent with previous years. Test performance slipped considerably in second grade, dropping to 74 percent.

The percentage dropped further in third grade, to 69 percent. It then improved steadily in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. In sixth grade 84 percent tested at basic level or above - the closest to first grade of any.

Figure 37

**PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR HIGHER
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR READING
D.C. Public Schools, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001**



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

There was another drop in seventh grade, to 75 percent. Then the reading score once more improved, rising to 81 percent in eighth - substantially better, yet still not up to the levels of either first or sixth grades.

But ninth grade performance once more declined dramatically, dropping from 81 to 63 percent. In 10th it fell further to 53 percent, and remained at that level in 11th grade. Thus, only slightly over half of D.C. Public Schools students tested at or above basic proficiency in 11th grade — thereby meeting the standard for promotion to high school seniors and retaining their chances of going on for college or technical training.

In the past three years, D.C.P.S. has strongly emphasized test preparation and has put intense pressure on principals and teachers to raise Stanford 9 reading test scores. The results of these years of “teaching to the test” are disappointing.

After improving substantially in 1998, the first year after the Stanford 9 test was first administered, reading performance has not continued to rise steadily in most grades. Fourth and fifth are the only grades to show consistent year-to-year improvement from 1998 through 2001.

Second, third and seventh grades rose in 1999 and 2000, but then dropped back in 2001. In eighth and 10th grades performance fell back from 1998 to 1999, rebounded in 2000, but then stalled at the 2000 level.

Ninth grade readership improved from 1998 to 1999, but thereafter did not change at all. In 11th grade scores fell in 1999 and 2000, then rose again in 2001 — but still remained one point below their 1998 level. Six of the 11 grades have

shown no more than a two percentage point increase from 1998 to 2001, and five have gained no more than one point. Three of the four grades from eighth to 11th have been conspicuous by their weakness. Eleventh grade performance has actually declined, and eighth grade has not advanced at all.

Gains of three or more percentage points since 1998 have been registered by five grades, however. They are second, fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth.

There was no progress overall in 2001. Reading scores improved over 2000 levels in four grades, remained the same in three, and deteriorated in four. In grades from 6 through 11, only one grade — 11th — showed any improvement.

Two percentage points was the largest year-to-year increase in any grade, and five points was the largest decrease. If the percentage point changes in all eleven individual grades are added together, taking into account their signs, their sum is minus 4.

3. “Basic” performance in the Stanford 9 denotes only partial mastery of requirements for the present grade. The percentages now reading at “proficient” and “advanced” levels are typically less than 30 percent of all students tested, and only 15-18 percent in the high school grades.

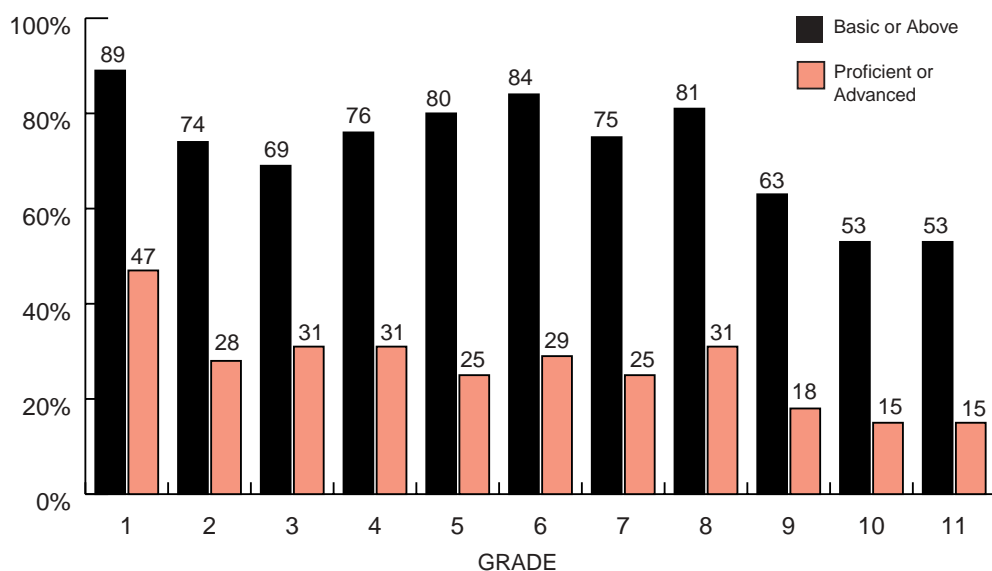
On the 2001 tests, while 89 percent of the D.C. Public Schools’ first graders tested at “basic or above” level, only 47 percent scored “proficient” or “advanced.” This means that less than half read at grade level or above.

Other grades did nowhere near as well. In 10th and 11th grades, where 53 percent could read at “basic or above,” only 15 percent were either “proficient” or “advanced.” Reading at these levels, not merely partial mastery, is necessary for success in college and in most skilled occupations.

Moreover, the percentages reading at the “proficient” or “advanced” levels

Figure 38

PERCENT OF STUDENTS READING AT BASIC OR ABOVE LEVEL VS. PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED LEVEL IN STANFORD 9 READING TESTS
D.C. Public Schools, 2001



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Schools

slipped somewhat between 2000 and 2001 in six of the 11 grades. In only six grades were they better than in 1998.

4. In test scores on reading, D.C. students are now equal or close to the national levels for “basic and above” in most of the elementary and middle school grades, but their performance in ninth through 11th grades drops far below their peers in the nation as a whole. And virtually all grades perform far below national reading norms for “proficient” and “advanced.”

Despite their failure to show continuing improvement, elementary and middle level students in the D.C. Public Schools now read at or close to national average levels in most of the lower eight grades if “basic or above” is taken as the standard.

On this basis, D.C. students in first, fifth, sixth and eighth grade actually score better than their peers nationally. Yet in the senior high grades, reading performance falls between 11 and 21 percentage points below national norms, even at this relatively lax standard.

At the “proficient and advanced” level, only the District’s first graders score above the national norm. In ninth and 10th grades, the percentages who are at this level are less than half those for the nation as a whole, while in 11th grade they are nine points below the nation.

Thus the closer the District’s students approach to graduation, the less they are equipped by reading skills to compete in the world of work and college. Their continued low SAT scores reflect this fact.

5. In mathematics, D.C. Public School students scored at about last year’s levels in 2001, but maintained their improvement over earlier years. (Fig.40, pg.37)

The percent of District students testing at basic or above in math rose slightly in six of 11 grades from 2000 to 2001, but dipped slightly or remained the same in the others. However, in almost all grades the 2001 level was substantially higher than student performance in either 1998 or 1999.

In first through sixth grades, the percentage of students at basic or above in 2001 ranged generally from seven to 15 points higher than in 1998. The sole exception was first grade, where 87 percent of students already tested at basic and above in 1998. The 2001 level was 89 percent, two points above 1998 and the same as for reading. And as with reading, achievement fell off after first grade.

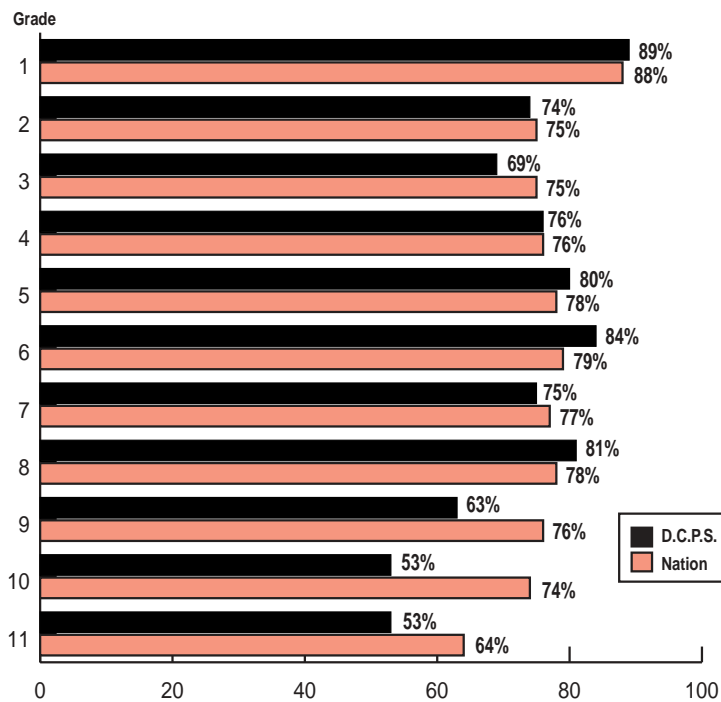
The second grade’s math percentage was 76, two points higher than reading. The schools’ math score rose to 79 percent in third grade, then declined to 74 percent in fourth.

The scores declined somewhat and briefly reached a plateau at 66 and 67 percent in fifth and sixth grades respectively. But unlike reading, the math percentages in seventh, eighth and ninth grades dropped sharply again to another plateau in the mid-to-upper 40s. In 10th and 11th grades they fell to a still lower level, this time in the upper 20s.

In no grade above sixth did as many as half of D.C. students perform math at basic proficiency level or above.

Figure 39

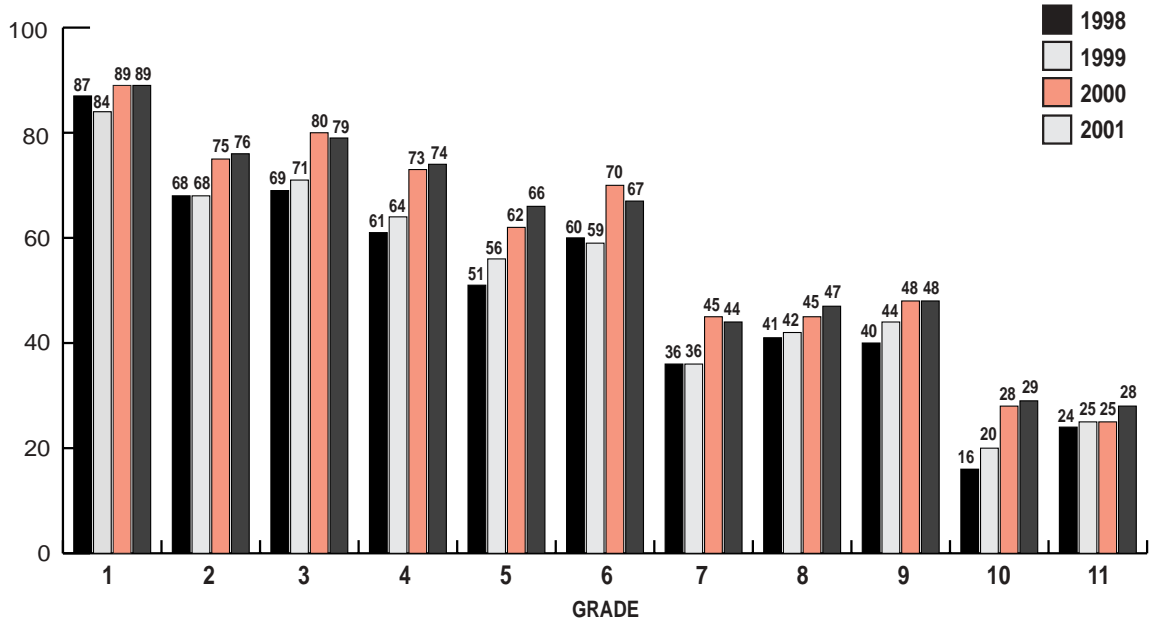
PERCENT OF STUDENTS READING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR ABOVE STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR READING D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS vs. THE NATION, 2001



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

Figure 40

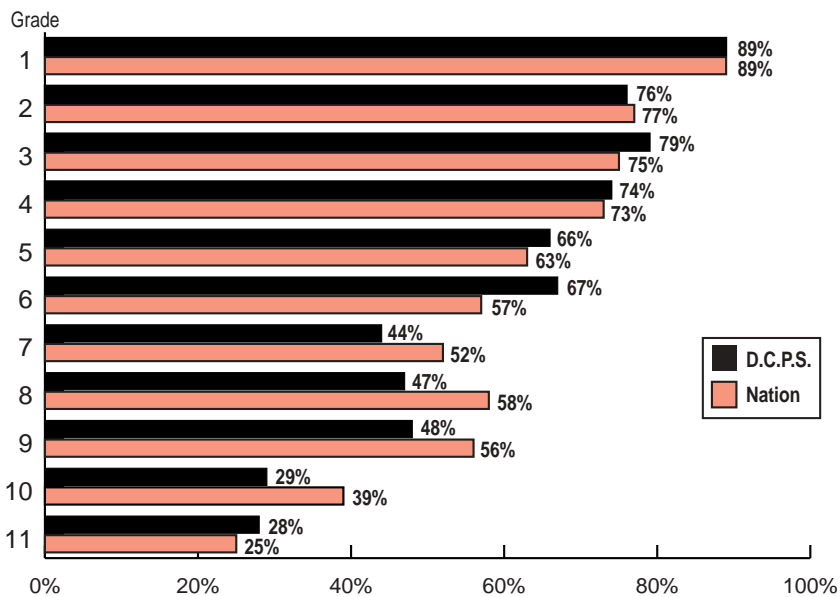
**PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR HIGHER
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR MATHEMATICS
D.C. Public Schools, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001**



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Figure 41

**PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT BASIC PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR HIGHER
STANFORD 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR MATHEMATICS
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS vs. THE NATION, 2001**



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for D.C. Public Schools

6. D. C. students' math performance is comparable to that of the nation as a whole through the elementary grades, but is significantly worse in the secondary grades.

D.C. students start their school years at or above the nation in math test achievement. In first grade they equal the national norm for basic and above, which is 89 percent. In second grade they come within a single point of it at 76 percent.

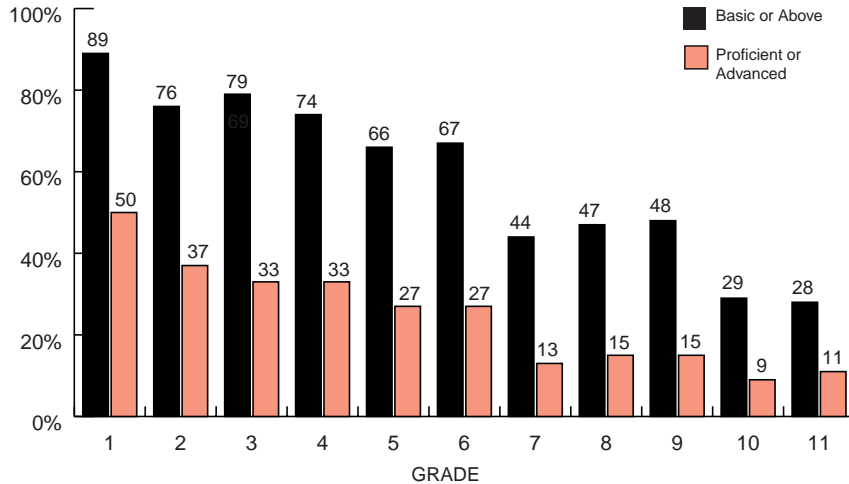
They exceed the national level for basic and above throughout the rest of the elementary grades. They are ahead by from one to four percentage points in third through fifth grades, culminating with a full ten-point advantage in sixth.

At the proficient or advanced level, D.C. students perform math at or above the national norm in first through third grades. They are also ahead in sixth grade by three points — 27 percent for the District compared to 24 percent nationally.

Figure 42

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PERFORMING MATH AT BASIC OR ABOVE LEVEL VS. PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED LEVEL IN STANFORD 9 MATHEMATICS TESTS

D.C. Public Schools, 2001



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Schools

Unfortunately, this performance spurt does not last. At the basic and above level, the District's students fall behind the nation's by eight points in seventh grade, by 11 points in eighth, by eight points in ninth, and by ten points in 10th. In 10th grade, 29 percent do math at basic and above.

In 11th grade, the national average for basic and above falls abruptly from 39 percent to 25 percent. D.C. students' performance also declines, but by only a single point to 28 percent. This leaves the District leading the nation by three percentage points, yet with 72 percent still not doing math at a level that indicates even partial mastery of 11th grade skills.

At the proficient and advanced levels, the District's 11th grade students hold a four-point advantage over the nation. However, this still means that only 11 percent of them perform at or above grade level, versus seven percent for the nation.

Thus, despite a generally better performance for the District in math than in reading, much more work remains

to be done in this area. Only about one D.C. student in nine can perform 11th grade math at or above grade level. That this affects their chances of going on to college is confirmed by their low scores in the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

7. The graduation rate for D.C. students increased in 2000, but is still below the level of most years in the last decade.

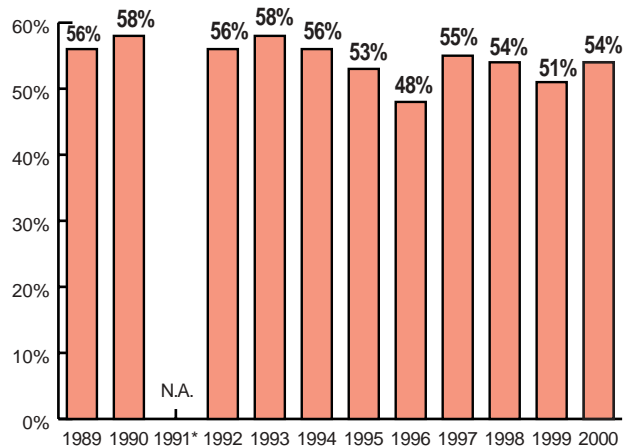
The graduation rate for D.C. Public Schools, as reported by Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools, rose to 54 percent in 2000 from 51 percent (more precisely, 50.5 percent) in 1999. However, this increase merely restored the rate to its 1988 level. That, in turn, was below the level of seven of the ten previous years for which data were available.

Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools produces the graduation rate by first calculating the percent of attrition from 9th or 10th grade enrollments to the number of graduates, then subtracting that percentage from 100.

Computed in this manner, the graduation rate has generally varied in a fairly narrow range between 53 and 59 percent since 1989, with three exceptions. They were in 1991, when the data necessary to compute the rate were unavailable; in 1996, when it dropped to 48 percent and fell below the 50 percent mark for the first and only time; and in 1999, when it declined to just above half at 50.5 percent.

Figure 43

GRADUATION RATE FOR CLASSES OF 1989 to 2000
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools
* Data unavailable for 1991

8. The combined official enrollments in the District's publicly-supported schools (both the D.C. Public Schools and the public charter schools) fell at an accelerating rate from 1993 through 1998. Then they rose in 1999 and 2000. All of the recent increase was due to the charter schools, which first opened in 1997. D.C.P.S. enrollments continued to fall.

The D.C.P.S. official enrollments fell from 80,937 in 1992 to 68,925 in 2000. That was a decrease of 12,012 pupils or nearly 15 percent. Over two-thirds of that loss, 8,186 pupils, occurred after 1987.

The public charter schools opened in 1997 with an enrollment of 250. Charter school enrollments escalated thereafter to 4,204 in 1998, to 6,980 in 1999, and to 9,828 in 2000. The 2000 enrollment was 39 times the first year's enrollment of 250.

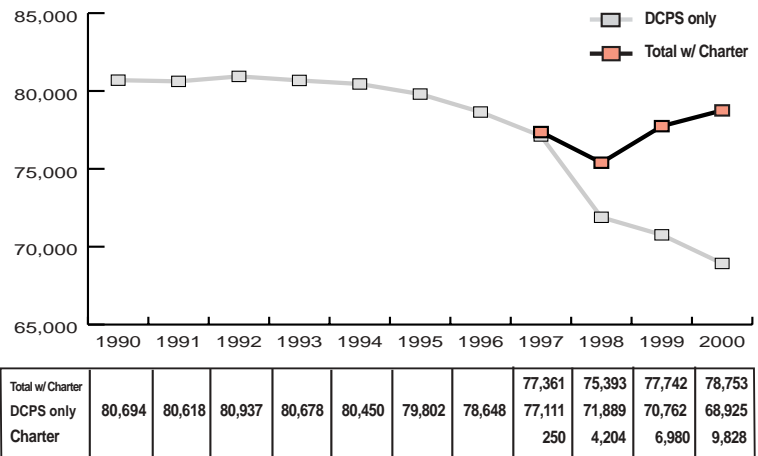
In 1998, the second year of charter school operation, the combined enrollment in D.C.P.S. and the charters fell. D.C.P.S. lost 5,922 pupils — almost half of the total decrease from 1993 to 2000. The charter school enrollment increase of 3,954 in that year was not enough to offset the D.C.P.S. decline, with the result that the combined enrollment was down by 1,968.

D.C.P.S. rolls continued to fall, but more slowly — by 427 in 1999 and 1,837 in 2000. However, the charters grew faster, by 2,776 in 1999 and 2,848 in 2000. As a result, the combined enrollment rose by 3,360 to reach a level of 78,753 in 2000, slightly above that of 1996.

9. Enrollments in the D.C. Public Schools' Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten, and Pre-School classes have all declined in the 2000-2001 school year. However, the decrease has been far less in Pre-Kindergarten and Pre-School than in Kindergarten.

Figure 44

TREND IN OFFICIAL ENROLLMENTS FOR D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY AND FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS COMBINED District of Columbia, 1990 - 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The official figures for these grades provided by the school system last year have been changed, so those we present here will differ somewhat from last year's Fact Book.

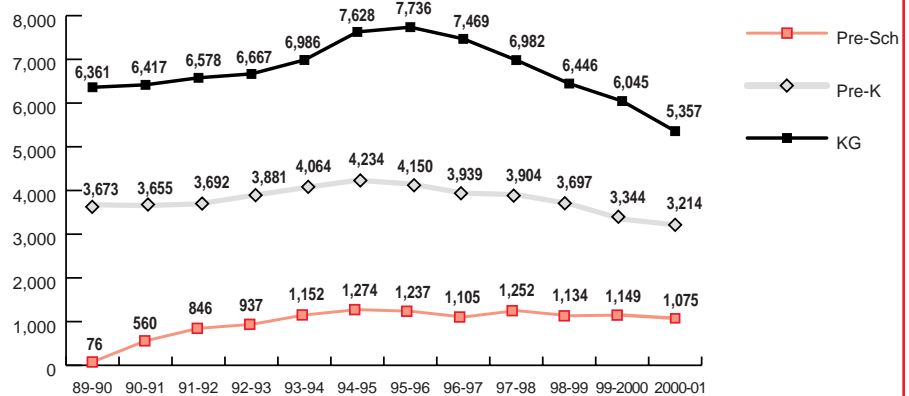
Kindergarten enrollments in the D.C. Public Schools decreased from 6,045 in the 1999-2000 school year to 5,357 in 2000-2001. This means 688 fewer enrollees, a drop of 11.4 percent. In the previous year, the decrease was 401 or 6.2 percent.

The peak year for enrollment in Kindergarten was 1995-96, when there were 7,736 children. From that year to 2000-2001, the number has declined by 2,379 or 30.8 percent.

The Pre-Kindergarten enrollments have declined by 130 children or 3.9 percent, from 3,344 in 1999-2000 to 3,214 in 2000. Pre-School enrollments are down by 74 or 6.4 percent, from 1,149 to 1,075.

Figure 45

ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN, PRE-KINDERGARTEN, AND PRE-SCHOOL CLASSES D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1989-90 TO 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR



Source: Prepared by Mary Levy for Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools

Pre-Kindergarten peaked in 1994-95 at 4,234, and has since decreased by 1,020 or 24.1 percent. Pre-School did not peak until 1997-98, and since then is down by 177 or 14.1 percent.

H. SELECTED INDICATORS BY WARD

In this section, we compare the District's eight wards with the city as a whole and with other wards on various measures of child well-being. The indicators shown here are the only ones for which we could obtain usable data at the ward level.

There are two tables plus a map. The map shows the locations of each of the eight wards. The larger of the two tables presents statistics on each indicator — both numbers of children affected and rates, usually in terms of percentages — for the city as a whole and for each ward.

Comparing the Wards...

This larger table on page 41 is a bit complicated. The first three rows are general demographic indicators (estimated population, children under 18, and live births). The rest are indicators of children's health and of those receiving welfare.

To compare the health indicator data, please note the following. The second of these, births to teen mothers, has three rows showing:

- ◆ First, the total number of births to teens under age 20 (1,113 in the entire city and 162 in Ward 1);
- ◆ Second, the percentage of all live births in the city or ward that were to teens (14.8 percent of live births in the city were to teens, as were 14.6 percent of those in Ward 1); and
- ◆ Third, the percent of all teen births in the city or ward that occurred in that location (100 percent of them occurred in the city as a whole, of course, and 14.6 percent of them occurred in Ward 1).

How the Wards Rank...

This smaller table below shows how each ward ranks among the eight on most of the same indicators. In all but one case, the larger the number, the higher the rank.

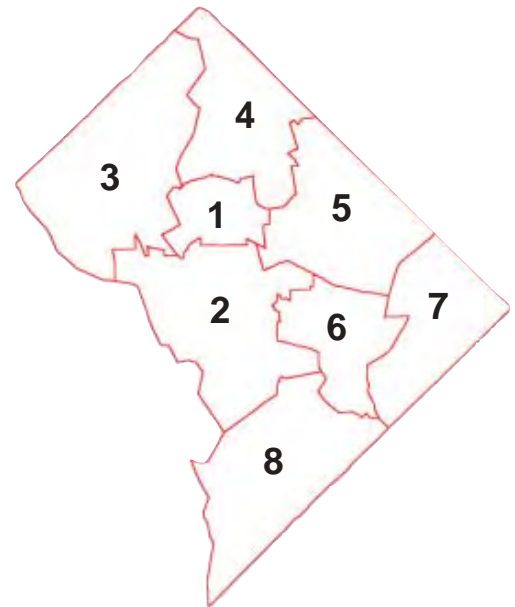
For example, the ward with the smallest number of births to teens receives a rank of 1 or best. The ward with the largest number ranks 8th or worst.

The sole exception to this rule is the percent of births with which there was adequate prenatal care. In this case, the higher the percentage, the better the situation and the lower the rank. Ward 3, where 80.5 percent of newborns received adequate prenatal care, ranks 1st. Ward 8, where only 45.7 percent of babies born were adequately cared for, ranks 8th.

If two wards are tied, each receives the same rank, which is halfway between the ranks the two would have received if there had not been a tie. For example, Wards 1 and 5 are tied for third place on deaths to children and youth. As a result, both receive a rank of 3.5.

The bottom row of the table shows the combined rank of each ward on all

LOCATIONS OF WARDS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



the indicators shown. Ward 8 receives a combined rank of eight, reflecting the fact that it ranks eighth on all of the 10 indicators. Wards 1 and 5 rank 5th and 4th respectively on the combined indicators because most of their indicators are in the middle range.

HOW THE WARDS RANK ON INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING District of Columbia, 1999 and 2001

Indicator	Wards							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Births to Single Mothers	6	2	1	3	5	4	7	8
Births to Teens (Under Age 20)	6	2	1	3	5	4	7	8
Percent of Births with Adequate Prenatal Care	6	4	1	2	3	5	7	8
Low Birthweight Babies (Under 5.5 Pounds)	5	2	1	4	6	3	7	8
Infant Deaths (Under 1 Year)	2.5	2.5	1	6	7	4.5	4.5	8
Deaths to Children & Youth (1-19 years)	3.5	5	1	2	3.5	6	7	8
Deaths to Teens (15 - 19 Years)	4	4	1	2	4	6	7	8
Teen Murders	5	3	1	2	4	6	7	8
Children Receiving TANF*	4	3	1	2	5	6	7	8
Children Receiving Food Stamps	5	6	1	2	4	3	7	8
Combined Rank	5	3	1	2	4	6	7	8

* Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, which has replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
Sources: Birth, Health and Mortality Indicators – D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics
TANF Data – D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration

COMPARING THE WARDS ON INDICATORS OF CHILD HEALTH, MORTALITY AND WELFARE

Indicator	District of Columbia	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
Demographic Factors									
Total Population, 2000	572,059	80,014	82,845	79,566	71,393	66,548	65,457	64,704	61,532
% of Total	100.0%	14.0%	14.5%	13.9%	12.5%	11.6%	11.4%	11.3%	10.8%
Children Under 18, 2000	114,992	13,565	8,807	10,276	14,685	14,517	12,494	18,058	22,590
% of Pop. That is Under 18	20.1%	17.0%	10.6%	12.9%	20.6%	21.8%	19.1%	27.9%	36.7%
% of City's Child Population	100.0%	11.8%	7.7%	8.9%	12.8%	12.6%	10.9%	15.7%	19.6%
Babies Born Alive, 1999	7,513	1,112	799	854	936	809	824	941	1,237
% of Live Births in City	100.0%	14.8%	10.6%	11.4%	12.5%	10.8%	11.0%	12.5%	16.5%
Health and Mortality Indicators (1999)									
Births to Single Mothers	4,641	653	446	45	534	631	547	778	1,006
% of Live Births	61.8%	58.7%	55.8%	5.3%	57.1%	78.0%	66.4%	82.7%	81.3%
% of Births to Singles in City	100.0%	14.1%	9.6%	1.0%	11.5%	13.6%	11.8%	16.8%	21.7%
Births to Teen Mothers (Under 20)	1,113	162	83	6	110	159	152	194	247
% of Live Births	14.8%	14.6%	10.4%	0.7%	11.8%	19.7%	18.4%	20.6%	20.0%
% of Teen Births in City	100.0%	14.6%	7.5%	0.5%	9.9%	14.3%	13.7%	17.4%	22.2%
Percent of Births with Adequate Prenatal Care	59.0%	57.3%	58.7%	80.5%	65.2%	60.6%	57.4%	52.6%	45.7%
Low Birthweight Babies (Under 5.5 Pounds)	997	128	87	55	118	140	116	155	198
% of All Live Births	13.3%	11.5%	10.9%	6.4%	12.6%	17.3%	14.1%	16.5%	16.0%
% of Low Birthweights in City	100.0%	12.8%	8.7%	5.5%	11.8%	14.0%	11.6%	15.5%	19.9%
Infant Deaths (Under 1 Year)	113	10	10	5	14	18	11	11	34
Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	15.0	9.0	12.5	5.9	15.0	22.2	13.3	11.7	27.5
% of Infant Deaths in City	100.0%	8.8%	8.8%	4.4%	12.4%	15.9%	9.7%	9.7%	30.1%
Deaths to Children and Youth (1-19 Years)	81	9	10	2	8	9	12	14	17
% of Child Deaths in City	100.0%	11.1%	12.3%	2.5%	9.9%	11.1%	14.8%	17.3%	21.0%
Deaths to Teens (15-19 Years)	53	6	6	1	4	6	7	10	13
% of Teen Deaths in City	100.0%	11.3%	11.3%	1.9%	7.5%	11.3%	13.2%	18.9%	24.5%
Teen Murders (15-19 Years)	39	5	3	0	2	4	6	9	10
% of Teen Murders in City	100.0%	12.8%	7.7%	0.0%	5.1%	10.3%	15.4%	23.1%	25.6%
Welfare Indicators (FY 2001)									
Children Receiving TANF	31,530	2,863	2,803	33	2,218	3,955	4,279	6,389	8,990
% of Child Recipients in City	100.0%	9.1%	8.9%	0.1%	7.0%	12.5%	13.6%	20.3%	28.5%
Children Receiving Food Stamps	67,423	7,924	10,774	291	5,959	7,826	7,591	11,557	15,501
% of Child Recipients in City	100.0%	11.8%	16.0%	0.4%	8.8%	11.6%	11.3%	17.1%	23.0%

*Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

Sources: Total Population and Children Under 18 - 2000 Census, ward-level data from D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center
 Live Births and Health and Mortality Indicators - D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics
 Welfare Indicators - D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration



A WORD ABOUT THE DATA

Data Definitions and Sources

We attempt to define our indicators clearly and adequately in the text, and to indicate data sources in all tables and charts. However, in case some are not clear, the definitions and sources of a number of key indicators follow. Where we feel there are important limitations in the data, these are also stated.

Some of the indicators are stated as percentages. For those whose math is rusty, a percentage is calculated by dividing the number of occurrences of a particular need or problem by some other quantity to which it is related — often the number of possible occurrences. Then, in order to make the result a whole number rather than a decimal fraction, it is multiplied by 100. For example, to get the percentage of all births that are to unmarried mothers, we divide the number of births to unmarried mothers by the total number of births, then multiply the result by 100.

Babies Born Without Adequate Prenatal Care

How Defined: The annual average number and/or percent of infants born to mothers who received no prenatal care or either inadequate or Intermediate care, based on the Institute of Medicine criteria, as shown in the adjoining table.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1999.

Births to Single Mothers

How Defined: The annual number and/or percent of births that occur to mothers who do not report themselves as married when registering for the birth.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1999.

Births to Teenage Mothers

How Defined: The annual number and/or percent of births that are to women or girls between 15 and 19 years of age.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Limitation(s): Note that many of these young mothers, those aged 18 or 19, are legally adults. Vital statistics by age are normally reported for five-year age groups, e.g., 15-19. The national KIDS COUNT Data Books report these numbers in the same way.

These and all other vital statistics (such as deaths) are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest statistics in this year's report are for 1999.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE CRITERIA FOR ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE

Category	If Gestation is (in Weeks):	And Number of Prenatal Visits is at Least:
Adequate	13 or Less	1
	14 to 17	2
	18 to 21	3
	22 to 25	4
	26 to 29	5
	30 to 31	6
	32 to 33	7
	34 to 35	8
	36 or More	9
	And Number of Prenatal Visits is No More Than:	
Inadequate	14 to 21	0
	22 to 29	1
	30 to 31	2
	32 to 33	3
	34 or More	4
Intermediate	All Combinations Other Than Above	

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed with the D.C. Superior Court alleging child abuse or neglect.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts. (Data for the latest year are unpublished.)

Limitation(s): These are cases alleging child abuse or neglect, not verified occurrences. The D.C. Government does keep track of verified instances of child abuse; the numbers are considerably smaller. However, there may be a variety of reasons why actual abuses might not be verified. Both measures probably understate the extent of the problem. Both can probably serve better as indicators of change in the magnitude of the problem rather than as exact measures of the magnitude itself. Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Child Support Cases

How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed for child support in the District of Columbia.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts. (Data for the latest year are unpublished.)

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Graduation Rate:

How Defined: The percentage of the number of students enrolled in 10th grade who graduate three years later. Note that the graduates are not necessarily all the same children, but may include some who entered the D.C. schools after 10th grade.

Source: Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools.

Homeless Children and Families

How Defined: Those children and families who do not have a permanent home in which they can live. They may be housed in shelters or in transitional housing, staying with family or friends, or may be totally without shelter.

Source: The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness.

Infant Mortality Rate

How Defined: The number of deaths to infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

Note that this is not a percentage.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1999.

Juvenile Cases

How Defined: The annual number of new cases filed against juveniles (under 18) in the D.C. Superior Court.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts. (Data for the latest year are unpublished.)

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District.

Low Birth Weight Babies

How Defined: The annual number of babies born at weights under 5.5 pounds or 2,500 grams.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1999.

Paternity Cases

How Defined: The number of new cases alleging paternity filed with the D.C. Superior Court.

Source: The Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts. . (Data for the latest year are unpublished.)

Limitation(s): Court statistics are not available for wards or other sub-areas of the District

TANF (Welfare) Payments

How Defined: The average number of children covered by public assistance payments in a given time period (year or month). TANF stands for "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families." Beginning in 1996 it replaced "Aid to Families with Dependent Children" (AFDC).

Source: D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration.

Teen Violent Deaths

How Defined: The annual number of deaths from violent causes (accident, murder, or suicide) to persons aged 15 to 19.

Source: D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration

Limitation(s): These and all other vital statistics data are not available until the second year following their collection; i.e., the latest data in this year's report are for 1999). Since these data were not collected until nine years after the last Census, and since we do not have what we regard as a good estimate of the population aged 15 to 19 in the District as of 1999, we do not attempt to report a rate based on population, but only the actual number.



D.C. KIDS COUNT ON TOUR 2001 ART & POETRY CONTEST

“Why Every Kid Counts in the District of Columbia.”

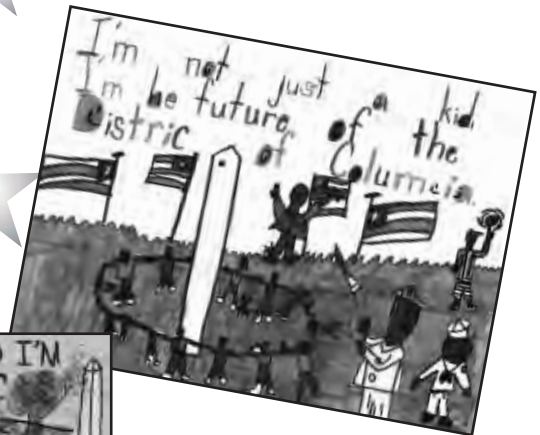
The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative sponsored its second annual Art and Poetry Contest to highlight the extraordinary talents of students in Kindergarten through 8th grade in the D.C. Public School System. Contestant entries were judged on originality, creativity, design, and expression of theme. Awardees will receive prizes and their entries will be featured on location at various sites in the District and in D.C. KIDS COUNT Publications.

HURRAH to All of Our Stars!

A R T

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

Ousman Cheek
6 years old, 1st grade
Shepherd Elementary School
Teacher - Mrs. Crockett



3RD - 5TH GRADE

1st Place
Iman Acty
9 years old, 4th grade
Amidon Elementary School
Teacher - Beverly Carpenter



2nd Place
Tie between DeShawn Ross & Andre Wilkinson



DeShawn Ross
11 years old, 5th grade
Meyer Elementary School
Teacher - Viola Burley-Leak

Andre Wilkinson
10 years old, 5th grade
Amidon Elementary School
Teacher - Beverly Carpenter



3rd Place
Denis Castillo
10 years old, 4th grade
Meyer Elementary School
Teacher - Viola Burley-Leak



POETRY

3RD - 5TH GRADE

Tia Morsell
9 years old, 4th grade
Kimball Elementary School
Teacher - Ms. Neal

I AM THE FUTURE

I'm the future, yes I am,
I can do anything, yes I can.
People may want to talk about me,
But when I look into the mirror I know what I see.
I am the future, yes I am!

I'm the future, that is me.
I'm the future, you can see.
I'm going far, yes I am.
I can do all things, yes I can.
The future is me!

I can go any direction,
I can make any selection.
I can be anything I want to be,
Because the future is me.
Yes, the future is Me!

Yesterday's kid, tomorrow's big star;
If I make an effort I can go far.
I can go to law school or get my Ph.D.
But all that I know is,
The future is me!

6TH - 8TH GRADE

Ramo Hemmings
13 years old, 8th grade
Jefferson Junior High School
Teacher - Ken Tiemeyer

CAN'T YOU SEE

I'm not just a kid can't you see
I'm the future of DC
With my brains and skills
I'm going to be all I can be
Work hard and try to achieve
All my hopes and dreams
Step my step get out of my way
I'm going to succeed today
Just look at me can't you see
I'm not just a kid
I'm the future of DC.

If you aren't going to help me on my way
There's no need for you to stay
Look into my eyes and tell what you see
Because I'm telling you, can't you see
I'm not just a kid
I'm the future of DC.

I want to be just like you
With my fancy suit and nice car
But without you I won't go very far
So invest in me
Can't you see I'm not just a kid
I'm the future of DC
I have lots to offer just listen to me
Because I'm not just a kid
I'm the future of DC.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Congratulations are extended to advocates of the District's Children, including individuals, families, neighborhoods, organizations and communities who have advocated for children and who have made the publication of this annual Fact Book possible.

We are particularly grateful to the following people and organizations, which contributed their efforts this year:

George Grier, Principal, The Grier Partnership, for his expert data collection, analysis, and reporting;

Sonali Patel, Director of Public Policy, D.C. Children's Trust Fund and Project Director, D.C. KIDS COUNT, for her text contributions and for editing and managing the production of the Fact Book; Raël Nelson-James, Project Assistant, D.C. Children's Trust Fund for her administrative support;

Kinaya C. Sokoya, Executive Director, D.C. Children's Trust Fund for the Prevention of Child Abuse; Ellen London, Communications and Development Manager, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Krishna Roy, Ph.D., Demographer, Council of Latino Agencies for their skillful editing and contributions to the production of the Fact Book;

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Dr. Fern Johnson-Clarke, Chief, Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration; Cora Thorne, Statistical Officer, Research and Development Division, District of Columbia Courts; Mary Levy, Consultant to Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools; Kate Jesberg, Administrator, and Michael Cunningham, Policy Analyst, D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration; Ann M. Oliva, D.C. Initiative Program Officer, The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness; Paul Roddy, Director, Domestic Violence Unit, D.C. Superior Court; Volta Asbury, Staff Assistant, D.C. Administration for HIV/AIDS, Epidemiology Division; Michelle Amar-Harried, Surveillance Coordinator, D.C. Department of Health, Bureau of STD Control, Surveillance Unit; Jim Giandelis, Program Manager, Rosie McLaren, CDC Public Health Advisor, and Dewanda Eaton, VFC Coordinator, District of Columbia Department of Health, Immunization Program; for contributing the excellent data without which the Fact Book could not exist.



Peggy Cooper-Cafritz, President, D.C. Board of Education, with Ji-Er Yang 3rd Place winner of the 2000 D.C. KIDS COUNT Art & Poetry Contest.

Members of the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative for Children and Families for their continued support and assistance with dissemination of the Fact Book: Robert Abney, Jr., Program Analyst, Child and Family Services Agency; Jennifer Bissell, Project Director, DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; Susie Cambria, Director of Public Policy, DC Action for Children; Mary F.M. Cooper, Chief, Children's Division, D.C. Public Library; Ora Graham, Supervisor of Community Resources, Child and Family Services Agency; Angela M. Jones, Executive Director, DC Action for Children; Ellen London, Communications and Development Manager, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation; Krishna Roy, Ph.D., Demographer, Council of Latino Agencies; and Leila Smith, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse of Metropolitan Washington.

Capital Children's Museum for hosting the 2001 D.C. KIDS COUNT breakfast briefing/press conference & awards ceremony.

Photos provided by Children's National Medical Center and the William Wendt Center for Loss and Healing;

Art and poetry provided by D.C. Public School students, Kindergarten through 8th grade.



Response to 2000 DC KIDS COUNT Survey Suggestions

The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative finds the feedback from its Survey questionnaire to be particularly helpful in guiding the expansion of the indicators that we attempt to cover each year on the well-being of the District's children. We make every effort to investigate and, possibly, include the suggestions made on any completed survey that is returned to us. To show the importance of community feedback in the process of developing the Fact Book, we would like to address all of the specific requests we received on the 2000 survey. We report these requests as originally submitted, in response to the following survey question:

What topics or information would you like to see included in future Fact Books? Please be as specific as possible.



♦ **“Unintentional Injury”**

We have been unable to find data on unintentional injuries to children in the District of Columbia. Many, and probably most, such injuries go unreported, and any estimates of the number would very likely be understated. Most, however, are minor. We do report on accidental deaths to children.

♦ **“Literacy Rates”**

The Census Bureau does not collect any data on literacy rates — nor does any other official agency, to our knowledge. The Census does determine the highest grade people have reached in school, which can be a rough indicator of literacy. The latest U. S. Census data on education available at this time are from the 1990 census. At that time, fewer than nine percent of D.C. residents 18 or older had less than a ninth grade education, indicating that the literacy rate was quite high.

♦ **“Please identify which communities have services/agencies for children and rank quality/quantity of services”**

All communities in the District have services/agencies for children. However, the purpose of the D.C. KIDS COUNT Fact Book is not to report on or rank such services/agencies, but rather to be an impartial source of data on the well-being of the District's children.

♦ **“Present results in community based meetings”**

D.C. KIDS COUNT has recently expanded the membership of our Collaborative in order to better disseminate the information released in each year's Fact Book. We are also making every effort to attend a variety of meetings, such as the monthly meetings of the eight Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives, the monthly meetings of the Washington Parent Education Collaborative, as well as others, in order to provide KIDS COUNT information to attendees. We welcome the opportunity to present the KIDS COUNT information at community based meetings. Please contact the D.C. Children's Trust Fund at 202-624-5555 in order to schedule a presentation.

♦ **“Include more facts about the Hispanic population.”**

The Council of Latino Agencies (CLA) has joined the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative. We look forward to working with CLA and other D.C. agencies to expand the data we are able to report on a variety of different populations in the District.

♦ **“Produce these facts in Spanish for the fast growing Hispanic DC resident population”**

As the KIDS COUNT collaborative expands the work we do with different D.C. agencies, we hope the book will eventually reach a wider audience including those who speak a language other than English.

♦ **“School nurses have an important role, and yet there is not mention of the school health program”**

D.C. Kids Count does not generally report on services to children as such. The only time we report on services is when — as in the case of homelessness — the only reliable indicator of need is the number of people who seek such services.

♦ **“More ward by ward stats on arrest and incarceration rates of youths”**

The D.C. Courts do not record crime statistics by ward. Neither do the police. To our knowledge, there are no other reliable sources on this subject.

♦ **“Family Attachment”**

From the outset, D.C. Kids Count has considered the strength of the family to be one of the most important factors in child well-being. In this issue we report on several indicators that reflect “family attachment.” They include the number and percent of children living with both parents in their own homes; births to single mothers and teenage mothers; and court cases for paternity, domestic violence,

child support, child abuse and child neglect.

♦ **“Number of fathers, not in home, involved in daily or weekly interaction with child.”**

We agree that this information would provide valuable data, however, presently we know of no reliable statistics on this topic, nor do we know how they could be collected reliably. In too many cases, even the whereabouts of absent fathers are not known.

♦ **“Education info on families, parents”**

The 2000 Census collected information on education, but this is one of many items that have not yet been published. If the education data are released in time for next year’s Fact Book, we will report on them then.

♦ **“Percentage of DC High School students who go to college”**

While the 2000 Census will eventually report on how many D.C. residents are enrolled in college, it did not collect data on where they went to high school. We do not know of any source of reliable data on this topic.

♦ **“Change name from KIDS to CHILDREN”**

KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. It is primarily funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation which publishes the National KIDS COUNT Data Book (which can be found at: www.aecf.org/kidscount or by contacting the D.C. Children’s Trust Fund at 202-624-5555). We have kept the KIDS COUNT name for the sake of consistency with other states working on this effort.

♦ **“Recommend Solutions”**

The 2001 Fact Book includes specific recommendations that relate more directly to the data reported. These recommendations were gathered through the assistance of the many agencies involved with the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative as well as the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect.

♦ **“Percent of City Budget that goes to supporting kids and families.”**

This information can be found in *“What’s in it for Kids? — A Budget and Program Analysis for the District of Columbia”*, a publication released annually by D.C. Action for Children.

♦ **“Public housing stats (#units, #people buying, etc.)”**

While many D.C. children live in public housing, we know of no reliable and up-to-date statistics on their number. Statistics on public housing, as such, are beyond the scope of the Kids Count Fact Book. Readers interested in them are referred to the D.C. Housing Authority.



♦ **“Domestic Violence”**

Data on domestic violence that results in petitions for civil orders of protection, provided by the D.C. Superior Court, are included in the 2001 D.C. KIDS COUNT Fact Book.

♦ **“Abuse/Neglect cases by ward or zip code”**

The District of Columbia Courts, which are the only reliable source for these statistics, do not maintain or report them by ward. We are presently attempting to obtain the data from other sources.

♦ **“The metallic ink looks expensive — whether or not it is — would recommend not doing it again because of the public perception.”**

Based on the feedback we received, the public perception of the 2000 Fact Book was very positive. The ink was not expensive. However, it was used because this was the millennium edition.

♦ **“Trends of number of children in temporary foster care”**

To publish any trend indicator, we need at least several years of reliable data. We know of no data meeting this requirement at this time.

♦ **“Trends of duration of foster care experience (prior to placement with permanent family)”**

To publish any trend indicator, we need at least several years of reliable data. We know of no data meeting this requirement at this time.

♦ **“More about foster care — more race specific and ward specific data”**

We know of no data meeting this requirement at this time.

♦ **“After school care”**

D.C. Kids Count does not generally report on services to children as such. The only time we report on services is when — as in the case of homelessness — the only reliable indicator of need is the number of people who seek such services.

♦ **“Special education”**

In the 2000-2001 school year, the D.C. Public Schools reported 10,517 students in special education classes. This was 15.3 percent of the schools’ total official enrollment. Beginning next year we plan to report this information regularly.

♦ **“Number totals printed next to % figures and under chart % figures”**

Only a minority of our charts present data in percentage form. For most of these, only percentage figures are available from our sources. Where numbers are available, we often report them in the text. Printing the numbers under the percent figures, on the few year-by-year trend bar charts for which they are available, would clutter these charts with additional information that most readers would not find useful. In the future, we will try to provide numerical as well as percentage information for the latest year wherever we can, usually in the text.

♦ **“Child care/ family support services”**

D.C. Kids Count does not generally report on services to children as such. The only time we report on services is when — as in the case of homelessness — the only reliable indicator of need is the number of people who seek such services.



♦ **“Breakdown of causes of child deaths (especially interested in SIDS)”**

In 1999, the leading cause of deaths among D.C. infants was complications of the placenta, umbilical cord, and membrane (27 of 113 deaths). The second was respiratory distress syndrome (13 deaths).

Complications of pregnancy and short gestation period/low birth-weight were tied for third place with nine infant deaths each. SIDS was a minor cause with only two deaths in 1999.

♦ **“Information break out in ethnic groups as well as by sex groups”**

Most of our data sources do not report data broken down by racial, ethnic or sex groups.

♦ **“Breakdowns by race and economic level”**

Most of our data sources do not report data broken down by racial, ethnic or sex groups. No data we get are reported by economic level.

♦ **“Health care mapping by locale/ward”**

D.C. Kids Count does not generally report on services to children as such. The only time we report on services is when — as in the case of homelessness — the only reliable indicator of need is the number of people who seek such services.



A TRIBUTE TO D.C.P.S. STUDENTS, TEACHERS & PARENTS KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative members would like to express our deepest sympathies to all those who were affected by the tragedies that occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001.

Amongst those who perished on Flight 77 which crashed into the Pentagon, were three DC Public School students, three DC Public School teachers, two DC Public School parents and two staff members of the National Geographic Society. They were en route to participate in a program at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary near Santa Barbara, California, as part of a marine research project known as Sustainable Seas Expeditions. Both students and teachers were competitively selected to participate in this program sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

We pay tribute to these star pupils, talented teachers, committed parents and dedicated National Geographic Society staff members to acknowledge how much their outstanding achievements and lives did COUNT!

STUDENTS

Bernard Brown
Leckie Elementary School
Grade: 6

Asia Cottom
Backus Middle School
Grade: 6

Rodney Dickens
Ketcham Elementary School
Grade: 6

TEACHERS

Hilda Taylor
Leckie Elementary School

Sarah Clark
Backus Middle School

James Debeuneure
Ketcham Elementary School

PARENTS

Marsha Ratchford
Leckie Elementary School

Johnny Doctor, Jr.
Leckie Elementary School

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