



From "Getting By" to "Getting Ahead"

MINNESOTA KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2008



Children's Defense Fund



Produced by Children's
Defense Fund Minnesota



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Minnesota KIDS COUNT is a project of Children's Defense Fund Minnesota

ABOUT CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND



Children's Defense Fund

Children's Defense Fund (CDF) was founded in 1973 by Marian Wright Edelman to provide a strong and effective voice for the children of America, since they cannot vote, hire lobbyists, or speak out for themselves. The mission of the CDF is to Leave No Child Behind and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investment before they get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown. Using research and data, we work to shape federal, state and local policies that best serve our children's needs in a cost-effective manner.

CDF is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research and advocacy organization supported by foundations, corporate grants, and individual donations. As an independent voice for children, CDF does not accept government funds.

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota began its work in 1985.

WHAT IS KIDS COUNT?



KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the U.S. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.

As the Minnesota KIDS COUNT grantee, Children's Defense Fund Minnesota releases periodic reports and an annual data book regarding the well-being of children and families in Minnesota. Please visit our website at www.cdf-mn.org/kidscount to locate the electronic copy of this data book, details about how to order additional printed copies, a link to online data (available through the CLIKS website), and previous Minnesota KIDS COUNT publications.

From “Getting By” to “Getting Ahead”

Minnesota KIDS COUNT Data Book 2008

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Introduction

It has often been said that it takes sufficient income to “get by,” while it takes assets to “get ahead.” This year’s Minnesota KIDS COUNT book explores the extent to which Minnesota’s families are getting by and getting ahead by examining trends in income, assets, and the cost of basic needs for families raising children in our state.

The finances of parents, while they should be far from the minds of children, are often evident — through the amount or quality of food on the table, the level of the thermostat, delayed trips to the doctor, and the anxiety and fear in the voices of their struggling parents. When families have limited resources it impacts the health and well-being of their children immediately and decades later. Research has provided an abundance of evidence about how poverty can drastically affect the lives of kids, jeopardizing their prospects for good health, a solid education, skills to join the workforce, and choices that contribute to the success of the entire society. Not only does poverty violate values we all share about offering equal opportunity and dignity to every child, but it has an enormous public price tag. Recent state estimates place the cost of child poverty in Minnesota alone at \$5.7 billion annually, due to lost economic productivity and added expenditures in the health care and criminal justice systems.

While financial pressures are most acute for those in poverty, deep economic concerns are shared by middle-class families who are reeling from rising costs of necessities, wages that aren’t keeping pace with inflation, limited or no savings, and the collapse of

the housing market. Despite their best efforts, many families are one health crisis or job loss away from “official” poverty.

There has been much talk recently about alleviating poverty in our state and beyond. In the past year, the Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020, a product of the 2006 state legislative session, began its work. The bi-partisan Commission’s 18 legislators and two other citizens convened meetings in St. Paul and toured the state to better understand the challenges faced by Minnesotans in poverty and how local communities are responding to their neighbors in need. The city of Duluth conducted community engagement sessions, developed targeted strategies, and crafted a “declaration to end poverty” as part of its Blueprint to End Poverty initiative. Similar movements to re-dedicate attention and resources to fighting poverty are at work in Connecticut, Wisconsin, and New York City, and abroad in the United Kingdom. Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota applauds those efforts and adds its voice to the growing chorus calling for change. Only when we achieve economic security for all families will we be able to realize the potential of every child and create thriving communities in our state and elsewhere.

In addition to focusing on economic security, this KIDS COUNT data book contains comprehensive data that reveals how well Minnesota is meeting the basic needs that all children share. The information presented here is not meant to be overly prescriptive, but rather descriptive — to better equip parents, service providers, policy members and all community members with accurate, up-to-date information about the well-being of children in our state. Armed with this understanding, we hope all Minnesotans will work to advance solutions that help every Minnesota family not just “get by,” but “get ahead.”

—*Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota, May 2008*

From “Getting By” to “Getting Ahead”

Despite its reputation for opportunity, Minnesota is home to half a million residents who live in poverty, including 152,000 children.¹ There are three times as many children in poverty as there are students on the teeming University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus.² The average annual cost for full-time care for an infant at a child care center is nearly \$13,000, more than a worker could make in an entire year working full-time at a minimum wage job.³ These lopsided ratios of hardship to opportunity have severe consequences for Minnesota.

Limited or unstable financial resources drive negative outcomes for nearly all of the other indicators for children contained in this book. Therefore, any effort to improve the well-being of children must begin with a consideration of families’ finances. Any employer concerned about the skills and ingenuity of future workforce must consider how to improve the economic security of families. And any policymaker faced with tough policy choices needs to recognize that investing in



our youngest citizens — and the families doing their best to raise them — is the key to prosperity for our state and world.

This essay explores how well Minnesota’s families are getting by, or falling further behind. It details the work effort of Minnesota’s parents and the costs of basic needs that eat up their paychecks. It highlights the critical role of public programs, but also reveals how they could do more to put families on a path to a more secure future. Lastly, it offers some suggestions about how we can transform Minnesota into a state where all children and their families can get ahead.

Poverty in Minnesota Hits Highest Point of Decade

In national comparisons of income, Minnesota has historically ranked among the highest income states for personal

and family income, with generally low rates of its residents in poverty. However, comparing any state against itself rather than other states offers a more accurate assessment. Examining state-level income data since 2000 reveals concerning trends regarding the economic security of Minnesota’s residents, families, and children. The most recent year’s estimates from the American Community Survey reveal that in 2006 (the most recent data year), poverty climbed to its highest heights of the decade for many groups, including:

- The highest number and percentage of individuals living in poverty
- The highest number of all families in poverty
- The highest number and percentage of single-parent families living in poverty
- The highest number and percentage of children under 5 living in poverty, and
- The highest number of all children in poverty⁴

We must act to halt this erosion of opportunity for so many residents of Minnesota. Poverty wastes valuable human resources and has enormous public costs. Recent research estimates place the cost of childhood poverty in the United States at \$500 billion each year, or about 4 percent of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product.⁵ This phenomenal price-tag results from the diminished productivity and economic output, and increased health and crime costs.⁶ In Minnesota, these public costs for child poverty are estimated to total \$5.7 billion annually.⁷ Minnesota cannot afford to forfeit this money, nor these children’s futures.

Poverty “Poisons” Children

About 50,000 Minnesota children under the age of five live in families with incomes less than poverty.⁸ For these children, a time that ought to be a rich and enjoyable developmental period is instead often characterized by unstable housing and child care arrangements, infrequent and poor quality food, and delayed or no medical care. These children’s caregivers are often buckling under the weight of stress and exhaustion resulting from multiple jobs, fearfulness about how their family will survive, and depression about their circumstances. Recent research by the American Association for the Advancement of Science found that when children live in dire poverty in their early years, they are flooded with unhealthy levels of stress hormones, which can permanently impair their language development and memory.⁹ **Poverty acts like a poison, damaging the growing brain and limiting children’s**

potential as they grow into adulthood.¹⁰ Despite later efforts to improve children’s well-being, many children are negatively and powerfully shaped by the “poison” of their early experiences.

While poverty appears to be most devastating to young children, individuals of all ages face poverty’s assault on multiple dimensions of their well-being. Those raised in poor households are more likely to experience hunger and fragile health, they are more likely to struggle to keep up in the classroom and to leave school early, they are more likely to have poor prospects for work because of few skills and limited education.¹¹ Furthermore, children raised in environments characterized by stress and unmet needs are more likely to resort to behaviors with expensive public consequences — such as having children at a young age, relying on public cash assistance, and committing crime.¹²

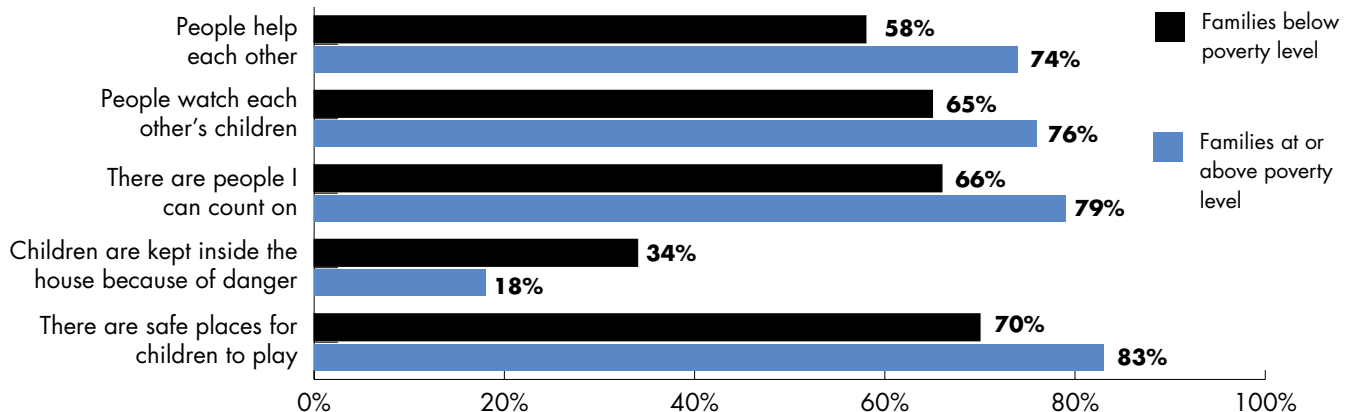
Poverty Widespread Among Children of Color

In 2006, Minnesota’s child poverty rate for all children (12 percent) tied for 5th lowest among the states.¹³ Only Maryland, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Hawaii had lower rates. And while the largest numbers of children living in poverty in Minnesota are non-Hispanic white children, as a group, a relatively small share of these children live in economic deprivation (7 percent).¹⁴

Yet Minnesota’s comparatively low rates of poverty for white children mask the widespread economic hardship faced by so many non-white children in our state. Fully 45 percent of the black children living in Minnesota in 2006 lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.¹⁵ **As a group, the economic circumstances of black children in Minnesota are among the worst in the country.** Among the 33 states with enough

Neighborhood Characteristics, By Poverty Level, 2004

Percent of people who agreed to the following statements:



Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004.

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black children to produce reliable survey estimates, only three states — Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi — had a higher child poverty rate among black children than Minnesota.¹⁶ Minnesota’s poverty rate for black children is 10 percentage points above the national average of 35 percent.¹⁷

Minnesota children from other racial and ethnic groups also experience widespread poverty. Only six states (among those with enough data to be ranked) had higher poverty rates among children of Asian descent than Minnesota in 2006.¹⁸ Twenty percent of Asian children in Minnesota lived in poverty, placing Minnesota 7 percentage points above the national average.¹⁹ Minnesota’s rate of Hispanic/Latino children in poverty, at 26 percent, was near the national average of 28 percent, but still far more prevalent than

white, non-Hispanic children.²⁰

These poverty figures are unsurprising considering the uneven distribution of income among Minnesota’s families raising children. While the median income (half make more, half make less) of white, non-Hispanic families raising children was nearly \$70,000 in 2006, the median income of families headed by black, American Indian, and Hispanic parents was roughly half that amount.²¹

The share of non-Hispanic white children in Minnesota is steadily declining, and the complexion of our state’s children is more varied now than any time in history. In 2006, more than one in five children in Minnesota were children of color (other than non-Hispanic white).²² Of course, poverty is a scourge that children of any

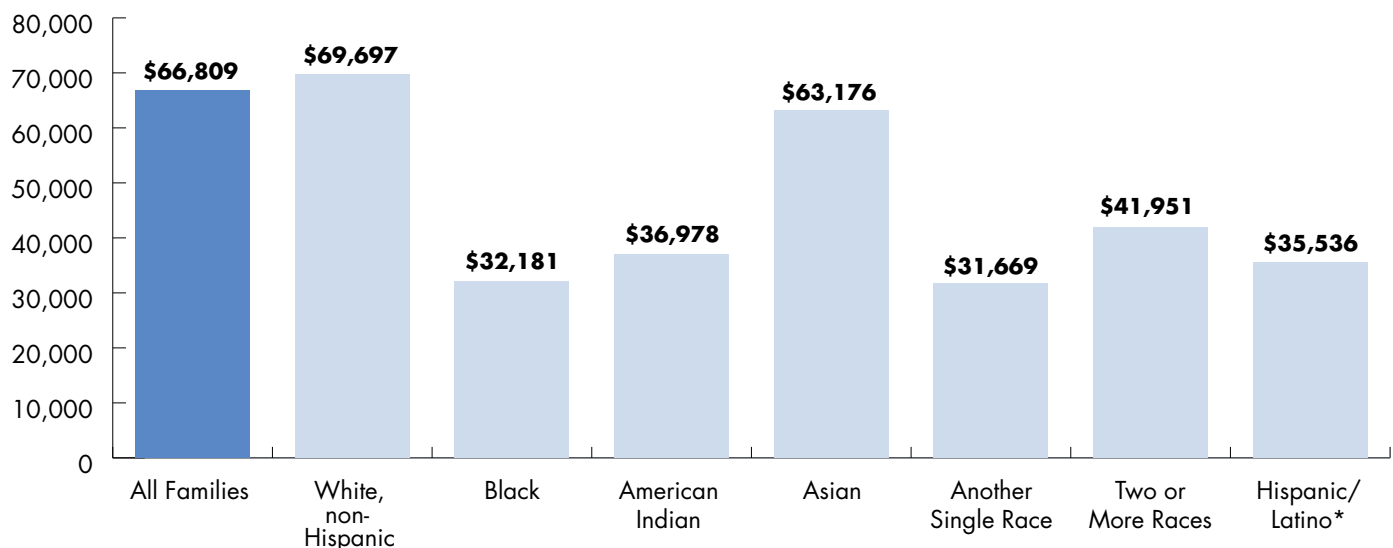
hue should not have to endure. However, the changing population characteristics of our state make responding to the scope of poverty and economic hardship in families of color all the more urgent.

Minnesota Parents at Work

Parents everywhere are united in the desire that their hard work and sacrifice will add up to better lives for their children and their grandchildren. In pursuit of this goal, the work initiative of Minnesota’s parents is among the highest in the country.

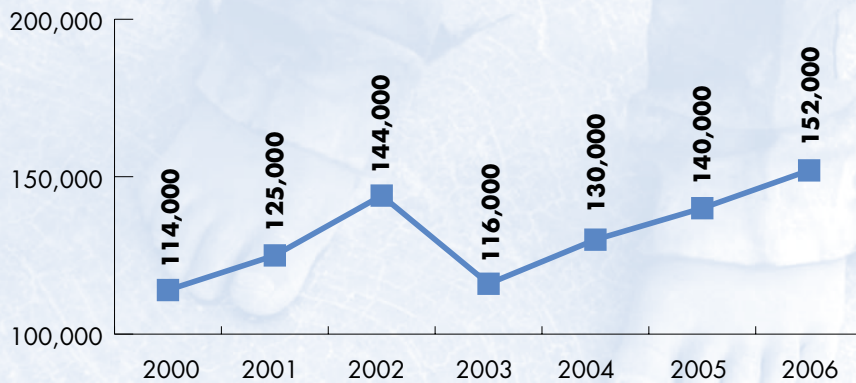
Nearly 80 percent of Minnesota families have all the parents in the household in the workforce.²³ Even young children in Minnesota are likely to see their parent(s) head off to work, with 70 percent of children under age 6 having all their “available” parents (those living in the

Median Income of Minnesota Families Raising Children, By Race/Ethnicity, 2006



*May be represented in any of the other race categories, except the first. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Children in Poverty in Minnesota, 2000–2006



Source: Census 2000–2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002–2006 American Community Survey.

household) part of the workforce.²⁴ And those Minnesota families in poverty are about equally likely to be working as higher income families, as three-fourths of poor families have one or both parents in the workforce.²⁵

Yet the stability, certainty, and value of work in Minnesota is increasingly in jeopardy for many families. Between 2000 and 2006, the share of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment increased 22 percent.²⁶ In addition, many of those parents who put in long hours at the office, at the restaurant, and at the corner store still find their wages do not cover the costs of their basic needs.

Minnesota is also home to numerous families that live outside of the official definition of poverty, but that are nonetheless struggling, stressed, running up debt, and highly vulnerable. About 206,000 Minnesota children lived in families between 100 and 200 percent of poverty in 2006.²⁷ It is widely acknowledged that the official federal

poverty threshold — roughly \$20,500 for a family of two parents and two children in 2006 — is a gross understatement of the financial resources required by families to purchase the items that are essential to a basic family budget.²⁸

Consider the basic financial demands of a typical family of four, where mom and dad both work and jointly earn about \$42,000, or roughly double the poverty threshold. Their children's safe, enriching day care setting costs more than half of mom's entire salary; 20 percent of their income goes to pay the mortgage; they spend several hundred dollars in premiums each month for health care coverage to protect their family from illness, plus a \$25 co-pay for each inevitable ear infection and bout of pink eye; more on the bread and macaroni and apples and milk and such to prepare thrifty meals eaten at home; a \$20 box of diapers that barely lasts two weeks; clothing for those little bodies that outgrow their shoes each year, plus winter coats to save the kids from the ravages of Minnesota's February winds; the heating bill that keeps going up despite their best attempts to

turn down the thermostat; another tank of gas in the rusting station wagon for transportation to shuttle to day care, to work, to the grocery store, and the doctors' office, and each time they look at the big number on their odometer they wonder when the next repair will come around...

According to the JOBS NOW Coalition, the average annual cost of meeting basic needs for a family of four with two workers in Minnesota in 2007 was about \$51,000, almost two-and-a-half times the official poverty threshold for a family of four.²⁹ In other words, each worker would have to earn at least \$12.24 per hour to fully cover the cost of a “no-frills” budget that secures only food, housing, child care, health care, transportation and clothing.³⁰ Yet 37 percent of the jobs in Minnesota, or more than a million jobs, pay less than this “family-supporting” wage.³¹ The result is that many working families above official poverty find that they cannot secure a decent standard of living.

Problems are compounded for lower income workers who may lose their jobs, because their families are highly vulnerable. Low-wage workers are only half as likely to receive unemployment insurance benefits as higher-wage workers.³² Losing a job is the most common reason parents cited for applying for cash assistance through the Minnesota Family Investment Program.³³

Asset Poverty More Widespread Than Income Poverty

While much data collection is focused upon income and earnings, considering families' net worth is a fuller measure

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Percentage of Black Children in Poverty by State, 2006

State	Percent
Louisiana	48%
Mississippi	48%
Oklahoma	46%
Minnesota	45%
Wisconsin	45%
Kentucky	45%
Missouri	43%
Arkansas	43%
Ohio	42%
District of Columbia	42%
Michigan	41%
Alabama	41%
Tennessee	41%
Pennsylvania	40%
South Carolina	40%
Indiana	40%
Illinois	39%
Washington	37%
North Carolina	36%
Texas	35%
U.S.	35%
Georgia	34%
Colorado	33%
Kansas	33%
Florida	32%
New York	32%
Massachusetts	29%
Delaware	29%
California	28%
Arizona	27%
Virginia	25%
New Jersey	24%
Connecticut	22%
Nevada	22%
Maryland	18%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau and Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota. The 17 states that are not listed did not have sufficient numbers of black children to permit analysis.

of their financial well-being. Net worth is a families’ financial assets minus their liabilities, or “what they owe” subtracted from the value of “what they have.” Financial assets include checking, savings, investment and retirement accounts; physical possessions such as vehicles or homes; as well as properties and small businesses that generate income. Assets operate like roots, giving families depth and stability when various economic winds blow. Assets can also allow families to more fully shape their future, creating opportunities to generate more income, pursue higher education for themselves or their children, and climb the economic ladder, even out of poverty.

Unfortunately, when examining Minnesota children’s well-being through the lens of family net worth, even more children are in precarious situations than those living in poverty. In 2004 (the most recent data year), **17 percent of Minnesota children lived in households that were “asset poor.”** That means, in the absence of income, their families did not have enough financial resources to live above the federal poverty level for three months.³⁴ (By comparison, 11 percent of Minnesota children were experiencing income poverty in 2004.) These families, with little or no net worth, could not provide for their basic needs if they were to experience an economic crisis such as a job loss or a medical emergency.

Health insurance coverage is increasingly being viewed as a critical asset for families to remain, or become, economically secure. In Minnesota, an estimated 85,000 children (7 percent) in Minnesota lacked health insurance in 2004–2006 (the most

recent national data), an increase of more than 20,000 children from four years prior.³⁵ Among Minnesota's low-income children (under 200 percent of poverty), about 15 percent are uninsured, in addition to more than 24 percent of their low-income parents.³⁶ Beyond risking these children's and parents' health, their lack of health insurance also places their families in economic jeopardy. According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development, "there is no greater threat to a family's financial security than the expenses of a major medical emergency or treatment of a chronic illness. For families without health coverage, particularly the low-income, major medical expenses paid for through credit cards or other forms of debt is a leading cause of bankruptcy.³⁷ **Lack of health insurance is a form of high-stakes roulette, not just with one's health, but with one's economic security.**

The Rising Cost of Basic Needs

Between 1997 and 2006, trends in family budgets for two-worker families statewide revealed that costs spiked for several basic needs. During the past nine years:

- health care costs have risen 12 percent,
- transportation costs have risen 33 percent, and
- and child care costs have risen 55 percent.³⁸

Food, energy, and gasoline prices also continue to outpace many families' wage growth, if any. While rising costs of key needs places strain on families at all income levels, families earning the least have no room in their budgetary "pie" to accommodate these widening slices.



Child care, an absolute necessity for working parents, has seen the most soaring prices of any basic need, with a 55 percent increase in Minnesota in just under a decade.³⁹ In 2005, a nationwide survey found that parents below the poverty level spent an astounding 29 percent of their monthly income on child care costs, while those at or above the poverty level spent 6 percent.⁴⁰ **In Minnesota, the average annual cost for full-time care for an infant at a child care center was nearly \$13,000**

in 2007, or more than a worker could make in an entire year working full-time at a minimum wage job.⁴¹ Alternately, placing an infant in a family child care setting would cost more than \$7,200 annually. Families with more than one child can see their child care expenses easily exceed \$20,000 annually. Yet to remain in the workforce, families must contend with the weighty cost of care.

Despite the tremendous cost burden of child care as well as its necessity to the success of Minnesota's workforce, more than three-fourths of families believed eligible for the state's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) do not receive it.⁴² CCAP, which defrays some the cost of child care for participating families, receives a limited allocation each year from the state,

WHAT IS POVERTY?

TWO COMMON MEASURES OF POVERTY

The federal poverty thresholds are used to determine the official number of Americans in poverty and for other statistical purposes. The thresholds are adjusted for family size and also change slightly depending on family composition. For example, in 2007, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two adults and two children was \$21,027, the poverty threshold for a family of four with one adult and three children was \$21,100.

The federal poverty guidelines (FPG) are a simplification of the federal poverty thresholds. The guidelines are used to determine

eligibility for a variety of public programs. Each family size corresponds to a poverty level, regardless of who is in the family unit. The federal poverty guideline (100% FPG) for 2007 for a family of four was \$20,650, while 200% FPG for a family of four was \$41,300.

WHAT THE POVERTY MEASURES DON'T MEASURE

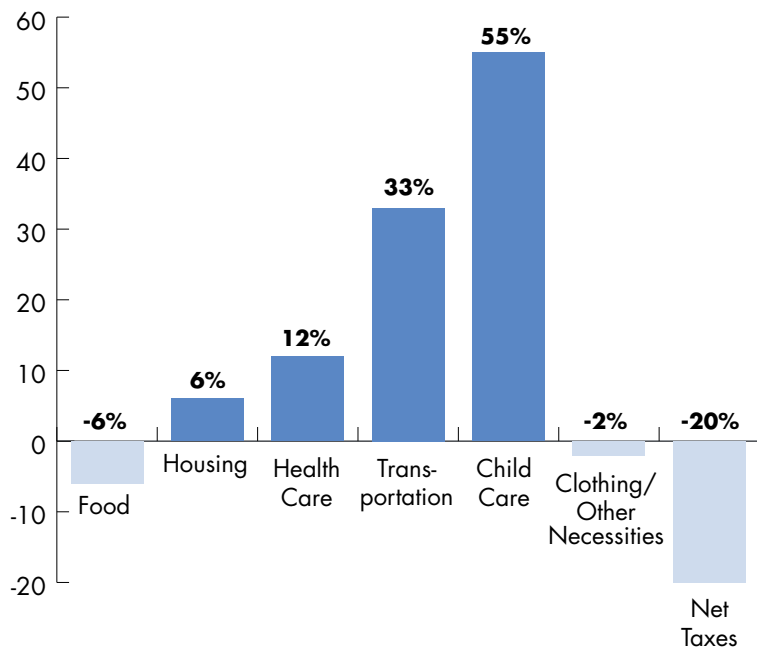
Both of these measures are flawed in many ways. They are widely acknowledged to understate the amount of money families need to meet basic needs such as housing, health care, food, child care and clothing. The poverty measures also look at pre-tax income, so they don't capture

the impact of taxes (and key credits or deductions) on families' income. Furthermore, the measures don't capture geographic variation in costs of living, the value of benefits such as Food Support, or how child care and other significant expenses impact the family budget.

In 1959, the federal poverty threshold represented about 50 percent of median income for a U.S. family of four. In 2007, it represented only about 30 percent of median income. Unlike the U.S., many other countries define poverty with a relative measure, examining how far a family's income is from the mainstream, for example, setting poverty at 50 percent of the median income.

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Change in Cost of Basic Needs in Minnesota, 1997–2006



Source: JOBS NOW Coalition. Based on living costs for two-worker families in JOBS NOW's Cost of Living in Minnesota statewide family budgets.

regardless how many families are eligible for assistance. Limited funds mean that many eligible families end up on waiting lists, such as the 4,000 families waiting for assistance at the close of 2007,⁴³ and many more eligible families do not bother applying. Furthermore, Minnesota is actually in the bottom third of all states in serving families when considering its entrance level for eligibility. Minnesota is one of 16 states where the income eligibility for Child Care Assistance is set below 50 percent of the state median income,⁴⁴ leaving many working families to grapple with how they will afford the costs of child care and severely limiting their options for quality care.

Parents face thorny choices when their needs outpace their resources and they have

no assets to tap. They can take out payday loans or pile on debt, often with terms that leave them in financial quicksand. They can resort to more affordable child care, but many cheap settings raise doubts about their children's safety or development. They can pay the most urgent bills first and let some slide. They can skip a meal here or there, or buy cheaper food that is likely nutritionally deficient. They can choose not to fill prescriptions, or let their child's rattling cough linger without a trip to the clinic, or drop their health coverage from their employer or MinnesotaCare to escape the pressing premiums. These choices parents make, while rational and often necessary, may ultimately jeopardize their child's health and well-being, and their family's long-term security. **As families**

wrestle with crushing personal costs, they are forced into choices that can generate costly public outcomes.

The Role of Public Programs

Nearly all Minnesotans agree that public programs should assist Minnesota families experiencing economic hardship and fill in the gaps when limited income from work, or disability, prevents families from securing a basic standard of living for their children. They ought to be designed to help families who can and do apply personal initiative to “get ahead.” In addition, programs that help families gain economic security ought to be viewed as the public investments that they are — because while Minnesota children who grow up in poverty cost the public nearly \$6 billion annually,⁴⁵ those who grow up in financially secure homes are far more likely to become the successful citizens, parents, and workers who positively shape our state's future for everyone's benefit.

In Minnesota, several public programs — such as the Child Care Assistance Program, Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare health care coverage, Free and Reduced-Price School Lunches, Food Support, and the Energy Assistance Program, as well as key tax credits like the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and state Working Family Credit — serve to fill in some of the gaps for some families with income that does not cover all their costs of living. The importance of these programs to raising healthy children and strong families cannot be understated. In 2006, nearly 300,000 Minnesota children received health insurance through either Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare,⁴⁶

allowing their families to treat and manage their children’s health needs in a cost-effective and health-effective manner. Last year, almost a third of public school students received a free or 40-cent lunch at school, giving them the nutritional fuel necessary to focus in the classroom.⁴⁷ And in 2007, nearly 30,000 children were being nurtured in quality child care settings with the help of the Child Care Assistance Program,⁴⁸ while their parents went to work or attended school, a boon to the state economy.

While Minnesota’s offering of public benefits serves some families, the programs are unnecessarily complex, do not reach all the families that need assistance, and are vulnerable to being rolled back during economic downturns — when families need the most help. A recent national study found that, in Minnesota, 23 percent of

working families have incomes that fall below a “basic family budget,” before considering the impact of public benefit programs, also called “work supports.”⁴⁹ (Because they consider regional variation in costs as well as families’ expenditures for basic needs, these budgets present a more accurate picture of a family’s economic status than traditional measures such as the federal poverty threshold.) However, more than 4 percent of these families are lifted out of economic hardship because they receive Minnesota’s “work supports.”⁵⁰ **Yet one in five Minnesotans (19 percent) still live in families with income below a basic family budget, experiencing hardship and suffering from an inability to secure their needs.**⁵¹

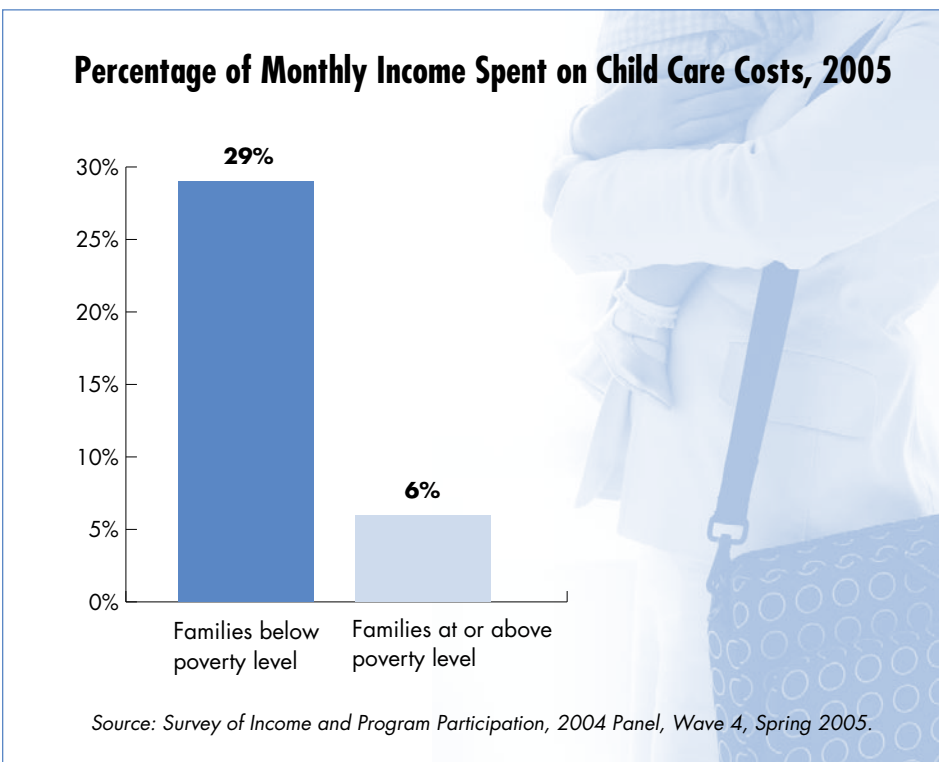
Some of this hardship could be relieved by improving families’ utilization of public programs. Many working families are also

eligible for these work supports but are not receiving them, because the programs are not fully funded (in the case of Child Care Assistance Program or the Energy Assistance Program), or because challenges such as complex application procedures, limited awareness, or a sense of hassle that outweighs the benefits can prevent families from utilizing needed help. Estimates about the gap in coverage between those families who are eligible and those are receiving help from Minnesota’s major work support programs is significant. During 2001–2003,

- 76 percent of those eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program,
- 58 percent of those eligible for Food Support,
- 22 percent of those eligible for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, and
- 18 percent of those eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit

were not receiving assistance from these public benefits.⁵²

Public programs have become increasingly important because of the profound changes in the American economy during the past few decades, shifts that have made it more difficult for families to raise children. Between 1979 and 2005, despite the country’s tremendous economic productivity, the poorest one-fifth of American families actually saw their real income decrease 1 percent — meaning they actually made less money, adjusted for inflation, in 2005 than in 1979.⁵³ Meanwhile, the greatest gains in income over those years went to the richest families. In addition, according to the Center for American Progress, “during



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most of the 1960s and 1970s, a worker with a full-time minimum wage job could support a family of three above the poverty line. Since then, the minimum wage has fallen so far that **the combination of the minimum wage and the Earned Income Tax Credit now provides a family with less income (in real terms) than did the minimum wage alone in much of the 1960s and 1970s.**⁵⁴

Since the 1960s, the value of the federal minimum wage has been deteriorating, meaning many low-wage workers have to work longer hours or more jobs to secure the same standard of living for their families.⁵⁵ In response, in 2005 Minnesota was one of many states and localities to raise its minimum wage above the federal rate. However, Minnesota's

current minimum wage of \$6.15 (for large businesses) is lower than the wage floor established in 28 other states,⁵⁶ and will soon be eclipsed by the federal minimum wage of \$6.55 that will go into effect July 24, 2008. Despite a modest increase, the soon to be implemented federal wage is still far distant from the \$12.24 for two workers, or \$24.48 for one, that JOBS NOW Coalition found necessary for a average Minnesota family of four to afford basic needs.⁵⁷ Had the federal minimum wage risen along with inflation since 1968, when its value was the greatest, it would be \$9.82 today, in 2008 dollars.⁵⁸ The value of wages has been watered-down, weakening families in the process. For many Minnesotans, work does not pay what it used to, nor what it needs to.

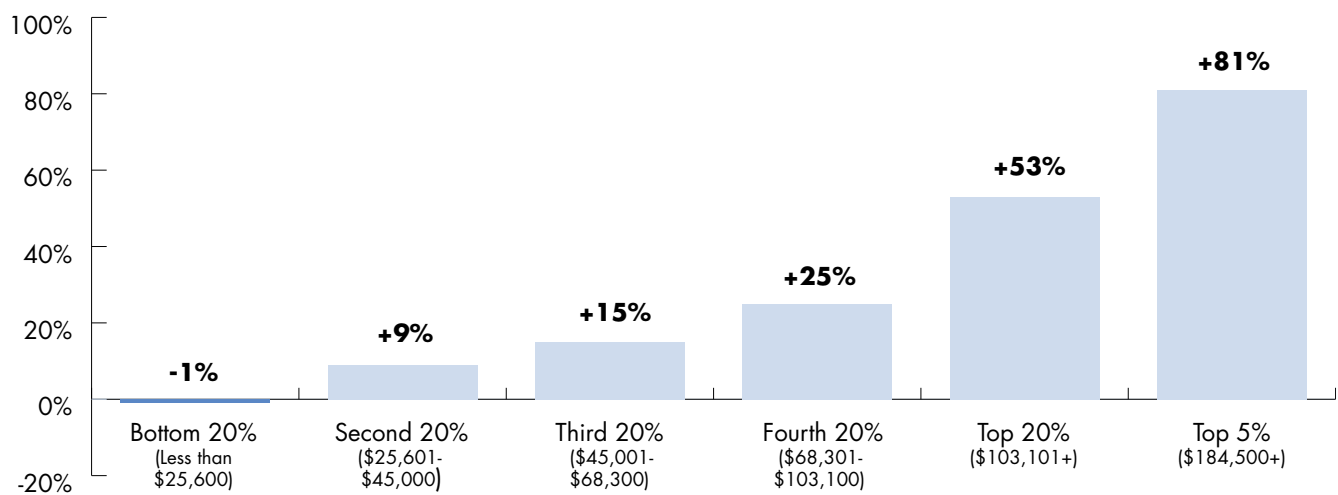
The Path to Prosperity

While the answers to these immense economic challenges are beyond the scope of this essay, below is list of clear goals that would help Minnesota become a home to more opportunity for its families:

- Investment in young children who are most vulnerable, and hold the most promise
- Health insurance for all, to prevent medical costs from causing financial devastation
- Financial and other support to improve access to all types of post-secondary education, to equip young people with the skills to compete economically, and improve their earning potential

Change in U.S. Real Family Income by Quintile and Top 5 Percent, 1979–2005

Since 1979, the poorest 20% of American families has actually seen their average income decrease, once adjusted for inflation. The highest income American families have experienced the greatest rise in their income.



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Historical Income Tables, Table F-3. Notes: Shows growth in average income received by each fifth and top 5 percent of all American families. Income breaks between quintiles have been rounded to the nearest hundred dollars.

- Expanded financial education, coaching, and assistance for Minnesotans of all ages to become more aware of financial tools, strategies, and opportunities
- More effort to help families save and develop assets, such as the FAIM program (see page 16), to buffer against hard times and to leverage greater opportunities
- Greater outreach for public programs, as well as simplified application and renewal procedures, and increased coordination across programs
- Full funding for Child Care Assistance Program, to ensure quality environments for young children and to support Minnesota's workforce, and in recognition of the crushing costs of child care on family budgets
- Coordinated design of public benefit programs and tax policies to “make work pay” — so that increased effort always leads to increased income
- Progressive tax policies that allow all Minnesotans and Americans to share in economic gains

While there is much work needed to accomplish these goals, Minnesotans have always believed in helping their neighbors to succeed, wisely recognizing that when all families do well, we will all benefit. Of course, this is an incomplete list of potential responses to the economic challenges facing our state. It is the task of all Minnesotans to further envision and advance economic security for all its residents.

Conclusion

The economic landscape in Minnesota and elsewhere has changed dramatically in the past several decades. Despite the fact that the work effort of Minnesota parents

Anti-Poverty Initiatives Online

DULUTH'S BLUEPRINT TO END POVERTY

Duluth's Blueprint to End Poverty is an initiative that is “bringing community members together to determine what it will take to end poverty in Duluth and to form a plan to bring economic prosperity and hope to every citizen.”

www.communityactionduluth.org/blueprint.html

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO END POVERTY IN MINNESOTA BY 2020

A bi-partisan, bi-cameral commission of 18 state legislators and 2 unelected citizens charged with develop guidelines and preparing recommendations on how to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020.

www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep

A MINNESOTA WITHOUT POVERTY

A Minnesota Without Poverty is a collaboration between three faith-based organizations:

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, and Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota, that are guided by a vision that “it is the Creator's intent that all people are provided those things that protect human dignity and make for healthy life: adequate food and shelter, meaningful work, safe communities, healthcare, and education.”

www.mnwithoutpoverty.org

SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY

A website created by foundations to build momentum for national action addressing poverty in 2009. Spotlight has invited all the presidential candidates to answer five questions concerning poverty and economic opportunity to stimulate a national dialogue on poverty and opportunity.

www.spotlightonpoverty.org

is among the highest in the nation, many families still cannot afford the resources to give their children a secure life. While broad economic and policy changes and aggressive inflation in the cost of basic needs has impacted families across the income spectrum, lower income families are most vulnerable. More Minnesota children are experiencing poverty now than at any point this decade, and economic hardship for families of color is more severe in Minnesota than many other states. Knowing all of this, we must act. Because poverty is a “poison,” we need to work to provide the antidotes. Because economic hardship drains the public purse, we need to invest in children now or we will pay even more for the results of their diminished lives later. Because we desire our state to live up to our shared

values that offer opportunity, dignity, and hope to everyone, we must work to ensure that all Minnesota families get beyond “getting by,” and truly “get ahead.”

For a guide to “Partners for Prosperity,” organizations that help Minnesota families get ahead, please see pages 15–16.

For specific federal policy recommendations to reduce poverty, please see From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half, published in April 2007 by the Center for American Progress Task Force on Poverty, available at www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/poverty_report.html.

How Well Minnesota Families Are GETTING BY

12: Percent of children in poverty, 2006.¹

33: Percent increase in number of children in poverty, 2000–2006.²

15: Percent of children under age 5 in poverty, 2006.³

35: Percent increase in number of children under 5 in poverty, 2000–2006.⁴

152,000: Children living in poverty in 2006, including:⁵

- **72,900:** White, non-Hispanic children
- **36,500:** Black children
- **11,600:** Asian children
- **4,900:** American Indian children
- **6,800:** Other children of a single race
- **9,700:** Children of two or more races
- **18,300:** Hispanic/Latino children (who may also be counted in all the above racial groups, except for the first)

69,000: Number of families in poverty, 2006.⁶

30: Percent increase in number of families in poverty, 2000–2006.⁷

28: Percent of single-parent families in poverty, 2006.⁸

40: Percent increase in number of single-parent families in poverty, 2000–2006.⁹



\$5.7 billion: Annual estimated cost of child poverty in Minnesota (based on lost economic productivity and additional expenditures in the health care and the criminal justice systems), 2006.¹⁰

19: Percent of Minnesotans in working families experiencing economic hardship (income below a basic family budget), 2001–2003.¹¹

78%: Percent of families with all available parents in the workforce, 2006.¹²

348,000: Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, 2006.¹³

22: Percent increase in share of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, 2000–2006.¹⁴

\$432.5 million: Value of federal dollars coming into Minnesota due to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), 2006.¹⁵

\$138.8 million: Value of the Working Family Credit, a state supplement to the EITC, 2006.¹⁶

For sources, please see Data Notes beginning on page 46.

By the Numbers

How Well Minnesota Families Are GETTING AHEAD

97,000: Number of children living in crowded housing, 2006.¹⁷

43,000: Number of children whose families do not have a vehicle, 2006.¹⁸

29,000: Number of children whose families do not have telephone service, 2006.¹⁹

17: Percent of households raising children that are “asset poor” (insufficient net worth to stay above the federal poverty level for three months, in the absence of income) in 2004.

2: Minnesota’s rank among states for extent of asset poverty, 2004. (1 is the lowest amount.)²¹

\$1.7 million: Between 2000 and 2007, amount low-wage Minnesota families have deposited into matched savings accounts that can be used to purchase homes, pursue higher education, and launch or expand small businesses, through the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program.²²

1,200: Families who have completed financial education classes through FAIM²³

859: Families enrolled in FAIM as of January 1, 2008.²⁴

\$7,000: Asset limit for families to qualify for Food Support (excluding vehicles and homes), 2008.²⁵

\$20,000: Asset limit for families of two or more to qualify for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare (excluding vehicles and homes), 2008. (Pregnant women and children do not have any asset limits for coverage.)²⁶

\$125,552: Median net worth of all households, 2004. (Half worth more, half less.)²⁷

12: Percent of all households with zero or negative net worth, 2004.²⁸

73: Percent of all households with interest-bearing accounts, 2004.²⁹

4: Minnesota’s rank among states for rate of homeownership, 2004.³⁰ (1 is highest rate.)

46: Minnesota’s rank among states for racial inequality in rates of homeownership, 2004.³¹ (50th has the greatest disparity.)

For sources, please see Data Notes beginning on page 46.



By the Numbers

How Well Minnesota Families Are Doing AFFORDING BASIC NEEDS

64: Percent of children in low-income households (less than 200% poverty) where housing costs exceed 30% of household income, 2006.³²

33: Percent increase in share of children in low-income households where housing costs exceed 30% of household income, 2000–2006.³³

\$12,800: Average statewide annual cost for licensed full-time infant care in a child care center, 2007.³⁴

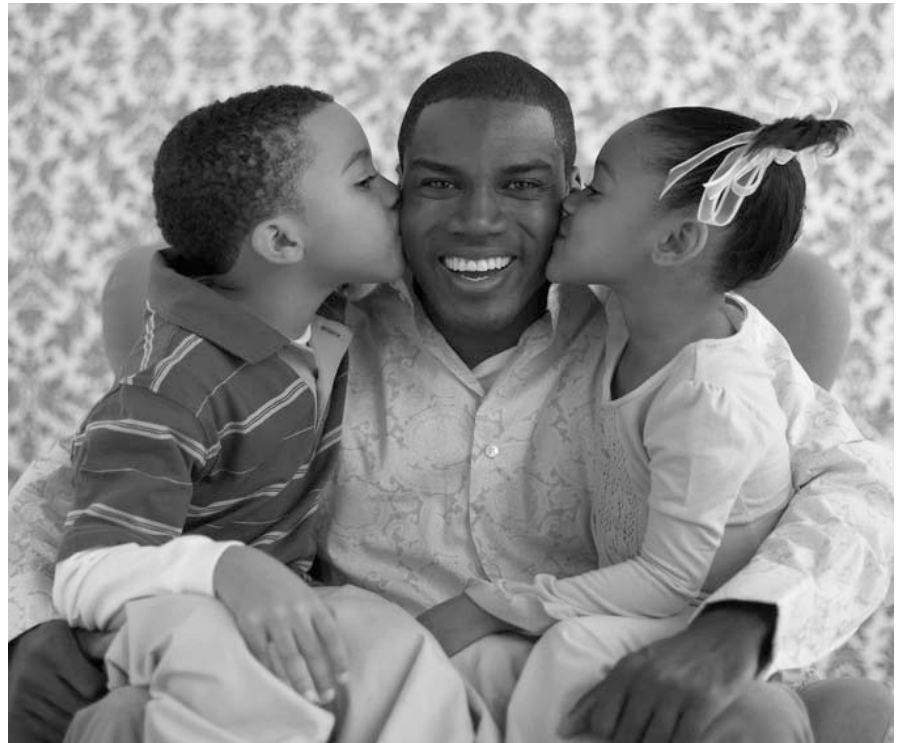
\$7,300: Average statewide annual cost for licensed full-time infant care in a family care setting, 2007.³⁵

50: Rank of Minnesota among states for the affordability of infant child care, 2005.³⁶ (Based on cost as a percent of median income; 50th is least affordable.)

5: Percent of working adults spending 20% or more of their income on out-of-pocket medical costs, 2004.³⁷

108: Percent increase in share of working adults spending 20% or more of their income on out-of-pocket medical costs, 2001–2004.³⁸

24: Percent of “children with special health care needs” whose families spend \$1,000 or more out-of-pocket in medical expenses per year for their child, 2005–06.³⁹



18: Percent of “children with special health care needs” whose medical conditions cause financial problems for their family, 2005–06.⁴⁰

\$51,000: The average annual cost of meeting basic needs for a family of four with two workers in Minnesota (or \$12.24/hour) in 2007.⁴¹

37: Percent of the jobs in Minnesota that paid less than this family-supporting wage in 2007.⁴²

4: Number of full-time minimum wage jobs it would take for a couple with two children in Minnesota to meet their family’s basic needs in 2007.⁴³

For sources, please see Data Notes beginning on page 46.

Guide to “Partners for Prosperity”

Numerous strategies exist to strengthen the economic security of families and communities, including matched savings accounts (IDAs), debt counseling, financial education and coaching, small business development, and accrual of financial assets such as homes and cars. These efforts help families to weather lean economic times, plan beyond the next paycheck, and better position themselves to advance their economic interests. The following is a sampling of some of the many “Partners for Prosperity” that work with Minnesota families to help them create a more prosperous future, to truly “get ahead.”



Bridge To Benefits

STATEWIDE

Bridge to Benefits is a project by Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota to improve the well-being of families and individuals by helping them access public supports. A free online screening tool available at www.bridgetobenefits.org helps users understand if they are eligible for seven public programs and two income tax credits, and connects them to local organizations to assist with enrollment. In Minnesota, thousands of eligible families are not participating in these programs or claiming the tax credits that could provide increased economic stability for their families, and bring vast sums of money into local communities.

Learn more at www.bridgetobenefits.org or by calling 651-227-6121.

Circles of Support, Kootasca Community Action Partnership

ITASCA AND KOOCHICING COUNTIES

Social capital, or supportive networks of people, is an asset that often is overlooked. Circles of Support recognizes the need for families with lower incomes to be connected with people in the community, not just to expand their support network, but also to open doors to new resources. The support group matches community members, or “allies,” with families with lower incomes to work together toward economic security. Along with financial literacy classes and tips for building assets, Circle of Support creates friendships that break down divides between race and class. The basic tenet of the Circle of Support strategy is to assure that all people have enough money, meaning, and friends to thrive.

Guide to “Partners for Prosperity”

Learn more about the Circles of Support at Kootasca Community Action Partnership at www.kootasca.org/circles.html or by calling 1-218-283-5230. (Also offered at other Community Action agencies around the state.)

Express Refund Loan and Savings Program, AccountAbility Minnesota

TWIN CITIES AREA

The nonprofit AccountAbility Minnesota operates numerous free tax preparation sites around the Twin Cities area and supports partner sites statewide. In addition, at select tax sites, it offers a free alternative to the “Instant Money” loans available through commercial tax preparers that siphon away a large fraction of families’ tax returns. The Express Refund Loan and Savings Program offers filers the opportunity to get their refund through direct deposit within 24 to 48 hours, with a 0% interest loan and no fees. To encourage connection with mainstream financial institutions, participants open a free savings account with one of AccountAbility’s partner credit unions.

Learn more at www.accountabilitymn.org or by calling 651-287-0187.

Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM)

STATEWIDE

With the goal of helping families grow their money to purchase key assets, FAIM offers Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). Qualifying families and individuals can invest in an IDA savings account to



receive a 3-to-1 match for every dollar of earned income saved. Account holders who save \$960 will see their the accounts grow to \$3840 (maximum amount). Savings must be applied to purchase of a first home, pursuit of a higher education at an accredited public post secondary institution, or capitalization of a small business. All account holders must complete financial management classes (on topics such as credit repair, debt reduction, savings and spending plans, securing tax credits, and consumer protection practices) and asset-specific curriculum.

Learn more at www.minnesotafaim.org or by calling 1-800-492-4805.

Lutheran Social Services Financial Counseling

STATEWIDE

Aiming to help families find “a financial peace of mind,” Lutheran Social Services (LSS) offers comprehensive financial services, including services for those in crisis. As an accredited nonprofit Consumer Counseling Service Program, LSS provides financial education, budget counseling,

bankruptcy services, housing counseling, foreclosure prevention, debt reduction, and credit help. Free and confidential budget counseling is available in-person, over the phone, and even online. Debt Management Plans can help clients stop collections calls, avoid bankruptcy, and rebuild credit ratings, among other services.

Learn more at www.cccs.org or by calling 1-888-577-2227.

Marshall area Financial Empowerment Collaborative (MFEC)

MARSHALL AREA, SOUTHWEST MN

The Marshall area Financial Empowerment Collaborative (MFEC) is made up of representatives from businesses, non-profit organizations and government agencies who work together to promote awareness of financial services and resources available in Marshall and surrounding communities. Its website at www.marshallmoney.org features consumer tools, financial resources, teaching resources, and community contacts for financial services, as well as an up-to-date schedule about local events such as classes on homeownership and personal

finance, free tax (VITA) sites, and radio shows. As the MFEC brochure says, “It’s not how much you have — it’s how you manage what you have.”

Learn more at www.marshallmoney.org or by calling 507-337-2812.

Personal Finance Center, Faith in the City

MINNEAPOLIS

The Personal Finance Center’s range of financial services aims to assist people in accessing mainstream banking products and services, along with empowering people to reach financial success and stability. Through courses on consumer education, money management, banking, and taxes, the Center promotes financial literacy and independence. The program also offers Family Savings Accounts (FSAs) for purchasing a home, starting a business, or higher education financial assistance. Along with free financial literacy classes, FSA holders receive \$4 for every \$1 saved.

Learn more at www.faithinthecity.org/services/pfc.html or by calling 612-879-5220.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Sites

STATEWIDE

To provide an alternative to paid tax preparation for families with lower incomes, hundreds of free volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) sites exist, staffed by volunteers with extensive training. By preparing tax returns at no cost, VITA sites allow tax filers to reap

the full value of their refunds including important tax benefits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is worth more than \$4,000 to some families. Most VITA sites are open from February 1 to April 15, with some sites available outside of tax season. Sites are sponsored by the Department of Revenue and numerous community organizations. Some sites have volunteers who speak languages other than English.

To find a free tax site visit www.taxes.state.mn.us/vita/free_tax_prep.shtml or call United Way 2-1-1 by dialing 2-1-1 (651-291-0211 for cell phone users).



Wheel Get There, Minnesota Valley Action Council

SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA, INCLUDING BLUE EARTH, BROWN, FARIBAULT, LE SUEUR, MARTIN, NICOLLET, SIBLEY, WASECA, AND WATONWAN COUNTIES

Without personal transportation, getting to work, to child care, to the grocery store, and to other settings is challenging and time-consuming. Yet purchasing a car can also prove difficult for low-income

families, as many loans have predatory terms and unreliable cars may prove more costly than they first appear. Wheel Get There (WTG), a program of the Minnesota Valley Action Council, helps people purchase reliable, low-cost vehicles. WTG also provides ongoing education about general maintenance, assistance with repairs, and counseling about budgeting for the costs associated with car ownership. Funded primarily through car donations, Wheel Get There helps families get around quickly and reliably, creating stability for their families while providing a key asset.

Learn more at www.mnvac.org/wgt_main.html or by calling 1-800-767-7139.

(Similar programs are also offered at other Community Action agencies.)

www.helpmnsave.org

STATEWIDE

This website is designed for direct service staff working to help people become economically secure through financial literacy education and asset building. Sponsored by the Minnesota Community Action Partnership, the website features a wealth of resources for practitioners on topics such as consumer protection, debt reduction, building good credit, tax credits, and budgeting. It also offers tools to tailor financial literacy education to meet the experiences of different cultural groups and a helpful FAQ under the “Ask A Financial Counselor” section.

Learn more at www.helpmnsave.org.

State-Level Data: Key Findings

The pages that follow contain the most recent state-level data regarding Minnesota's children. Culled from numerous reliable state and national data sources, the information paints a comprehensive portrait of child and family well-being.

Similar to the 2007 Minnesota KIDS COUNT Data Book, the data is organized within seven basic needs: Family & Caregivers, Economic Security, Food & Nutrition, Healthy Development, Early Care & Education, School Age Care & Education, and Safe Homes & Communities. Demographic information is also provided on page 20. Additional graphics, trends, and text about key issues or programs are provided to enrich the data. Some data in the State Tables that follow is also provided in the County Tables, which begin on page 28. These indicators are labeled with a "CT" to alert readers. At right is a summary of key statewide findings for the most recent year of data, by section.



Key Findings for Minnesota

DEMOGRAPHICS

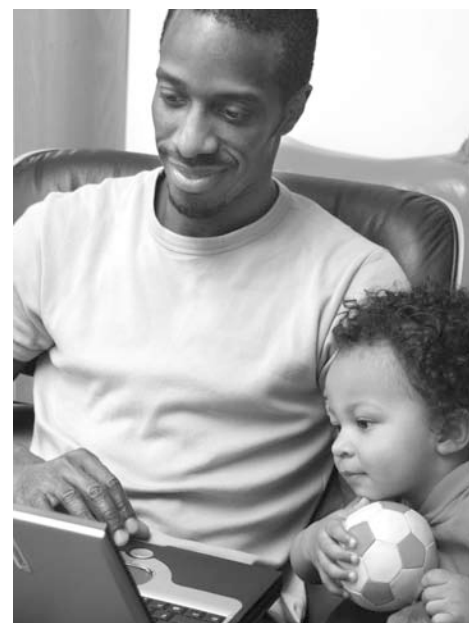
- Children under the age of 18 make up about a quarter of Minnesota's population.
- More than 1 in 5 Minnesota children are children of color (Non-white and/or Hispanic)

FAMILY & CAREGIVERS

- One-third of Minnesota households are raising children.
- 1 in 4 children lives in a household with only one parent present.
- About 27,000 children are being raised by their grandparents.
- 32% of births were to unmarried women.
- About 1,500 children were born to teenage mothers (age 15–17).
- Nearly 7,000 children were abused or neglected.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- 1 in 10 Minnesota families lives in poverty.
- 12% of children live in poverty, while 6% live in extreme poverty (less than half the poverty line).



- Nearly 80% of families have all parents in the workforce.
- Almost 3 in 10 children live in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment.
- Less than half of households headed by unmarried women are receiving child support.

FOOD & NUTRITION

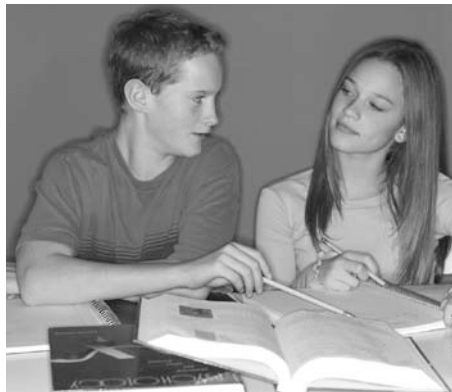
- About a third of public school students are enrolled in free and reduced-price lunches.
- Only 10% of the number of children who receive free and reduced-price lunches during the school year participate in feeding sites during the summer.
- 11% of children live in families receiving Food Support (food stamps).
- More than 4 in 10 infants (under 1 year of age) benefit from the WIC nutrition program.
- 8% of Minnesota households are “food insecure,” lacking access to enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

- 85,000 children do not have health insurance.
- Almost 300,000 children receive public health care coverage through Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.
- 14% of Minnesota children have special health care needs, and 21% of these children have conditions that cause their parents to cut back or stop working.
- Almost 3,500 children were born at low birth weight, while 6,700 were born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

- The average cost of full-time, year-round care for an infant at a child care center is nearly \$13,000.
- 7 in 10 children under age 6 have all available parents in the workforce.
- About 18,000 children attend Head Start or Early Head Start.
- About 4,000 eligible families were on waiting lists for the Child Care Assistance Program at the end of 2007.



SCHOOL-AGE CARE & EDUCATION

- 1 in 10 kindergarteners do not have the language and literacy skills necessary to begin kindergarten.
- 13% of K–12 public school students are enrolled in special education, while 7% have limited English proficiency.

SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES

- Nearly 1,300 children were poisoned by lead.
- 19% of 12th graders work 21 or more hours per week.
- About 11,000 youth were arrested for serious crimes.
- 22 children were murdered.

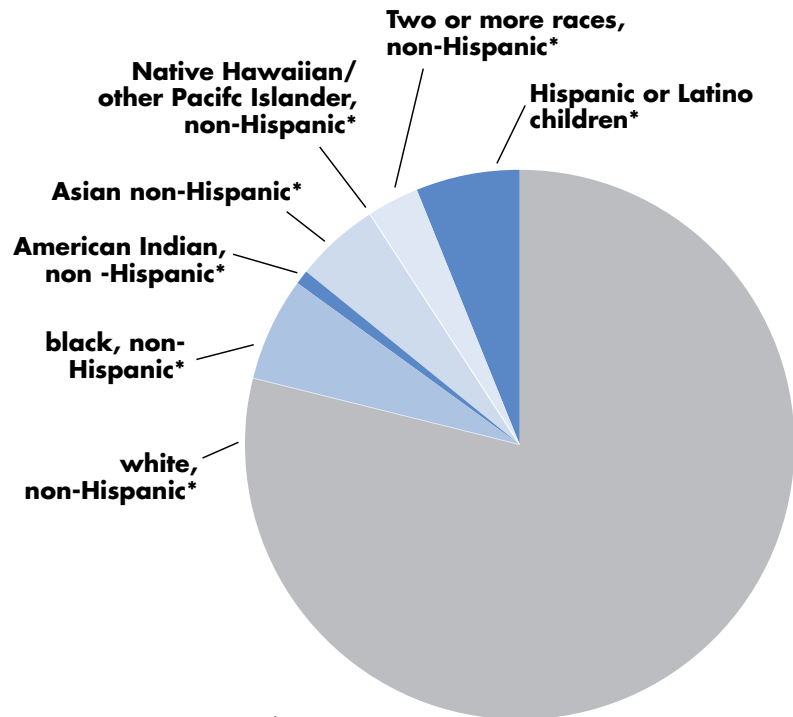
Demographics



The Changing Face of Minnesota

There are more children of color in Minnesota today than at the beginning of the decade. Between 2000 and 2006, the number of Black children grew from 66,000 to 80,000 (from 5 percent to 6 percent of all children). During the same years, the number of Hispanic or Latino children grew from 56,000 to 73,000 (from 4 percent to 6 percent). Non-Hispanic White children represent 79 percent of Minnesota's children today, down from 82 percent in 2000.

Children in Minnesota, By Race/Ethnicity, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2006.

*As of % of children

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Total population CT	5,167,101		2006
Child population, As % of total population CT	1,257,264	24%	2006
Children 0-4, As % of children	345,250	27%	2006
Children 5-11, As % of children	470,199	37%	2006
Children 12-14, As % of children	214,905	17%	2006
Children 15-17, As % of children	226,910	18%	2006
Children by Race/Ethnicity			
White, non-Hispanic, As % of children	988,666	79%	2006
Black, non-Hispanic, As % of children	80,048	6%	2006
American Indian, non-Hispanic, As % of children	18,499	1%	2006
Asian, non-Hispanic, As % of children	58,032	5%	2006
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic, As % of children	562	<1%	2006
Two or more races, non-Hispanic, As % of children	38,166	3%	2006
Hispanic or Latino children, As % of children	73,291	6%	2006

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

Family & Caregivers



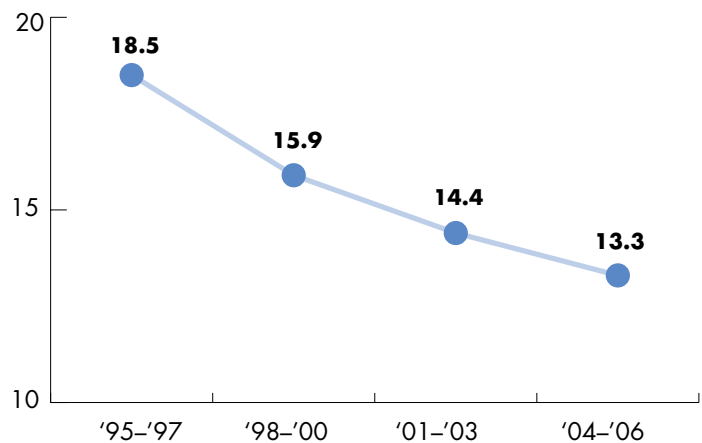
Percent of Children Born to Unmarried Parents, 2006

Top 10 Counties		Bottom 10 Counties	
Mahnomen	68.7%	Kittson	11.9%
Beltrami	54.1%	Carver	13.6%
Cass	49.1%	Lincoln	14.3%
Nobles	45.3%	Wilkin	14.9%
Pine	43.3%	Traverse	18.2%
Ramsey	43.2%	Scott	18.5%
Mower	43.1%	Wright	18.7%
Koochiching	42.1%	Sherburne	20.6%
Freeborn	41.0%	Lake	21.4%
Pennington	41.0%	Marshall/Stevens	22.1%

Source: Minnesota Department of Health.

Minnesota Children Born to Teenage Mothers (Age 15–17), Rate per 1,000, 1995–2006

Following a national trend, the teen birth rate in Minnesota has fallen dramatically in the past decade.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health. Note: Three-year averages are used to improve accuracy.

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
FAMILY & CAREGIVERS			
Households raising children, As % of all households	679,983	33%	2006
Children in households:			2006
with married adults, As % of children in households	927,000	74%	2006
with mother only, As % of children in households	231,000	18%	2006
with father only, As % of children in households	87,000	7%	2006
Children being raised by unmarried, cohabitating partners, As % of children	85,000	7%	2006
Children being raised by grandparents, As % of children	27,000	2%	2006
Children in immigrant families (child and/or parent is foreign-born), As % of children	169,000	13%	2006
Total births	73,515		2006
Children born to unmarried mothers, As % of births	23,304	32%	2006
Children born with no father listed on the birth certificate, As % of births	6,910	9%	2006
Children born to teenage (age 15–17) mothers, Rate per 1,000 15- to 17-year-olds, 2004-2006 CT	1,533	13.3	2006
Children abused or neglected, Rate per 1,000 children CT	6,988	5.6	2006
Children in the Family Assessment Response program	14,043		2006
Children in out-of-home placements, Rate per 1,000 children	14,770	11.7	2006
Children who were state wards waiting for adoptive homes, year-end	652		2006
Children aging out of foster care without a permanent family	83		2006

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

Economic Security

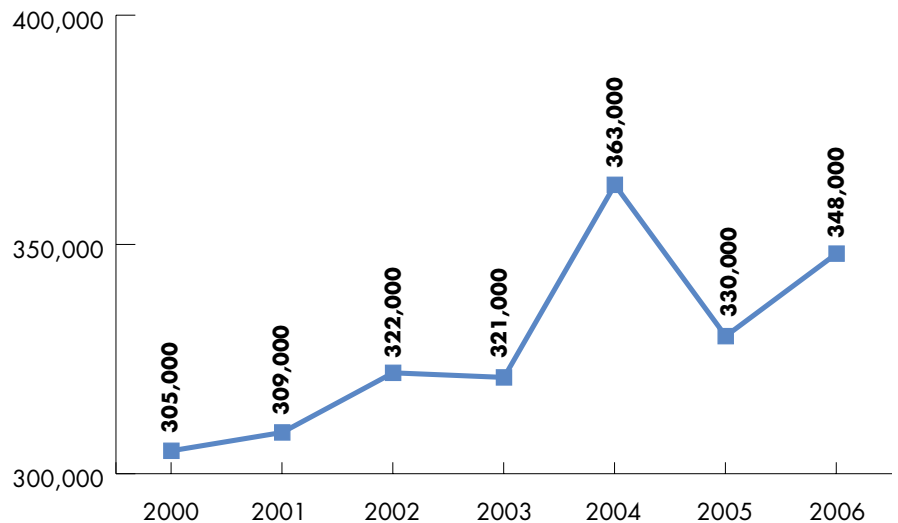


Children at Various Levels of Poverty, 2006

150–200% OF POVERTY	116,000 children
100–150% OF POVERTY	90,000 children
Official Poverty Line (About \$20,500 for a family of two adults and two children in 2006)	
50–100% OF POVERTY	83,000 children
BELOW 50% POVERTY	69,000 children

Source: 2006 American Community Survey.

Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment, 2000–2006



Source: Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2006 American Community Survey.

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
ECONOMIC SECURITY			
Children living in extreme poverty, As % of children CT	69,000	6%	2006
Children living in poverty, As % of children CT	152,000	12%	2006
Children under age 5 living in poverty	50,000	15%	2006
Families living in poverty, As % of families	69,000	10%	2006
Entire population living in poverty, As % of population	492,000	10%	2006
Median annual income of families raising children (in 2006 dollars)	\$66,300		2006
Families with all resident parents in the workforce, As % of families	495,709	78%	2006
Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, As % of children	348,000	28%	2006
Tax households who claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), As % of tax households CT	263,419	11%	2006 (TY05)
Total value of the EITC CT	\$432,501,000		2006 (TY05)
Families in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP, welfare-to-work)	64,663		
In Child-only cases	19,358		Dec. 2006
In Adult-eligible cases	45,305		Dec. 2006
Children in Tribal TANF cases (welfare-to-work)	468		
Households headed by unmarried women who are receiving child support, As % of households headed by unmarried women	43,000	42%	2003–2005

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

Food & Nutrition

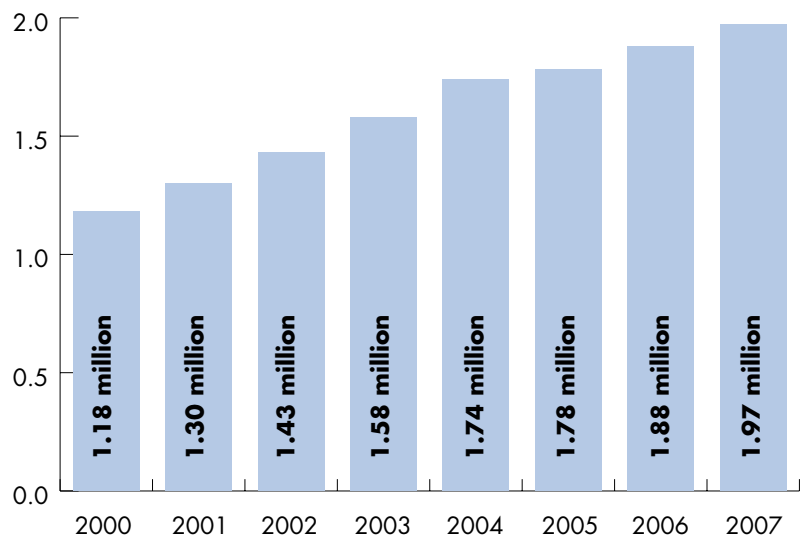


What Is the Summer Food Service Program?

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded program that provides nutritious meals to children during summer vacation when the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program meals are not available. Yet many communities across Minnesota do not have summer feeding sites. Only about 10 percent of students who receive free and reduced-price lunches during the school year receive meals during the summer. The federal government has simplified the paperwork for organizations sponsoring feeding sites, to attract more public agencies and nonprofit organizations to become sponsors. To learn more about promoting or sponsoring summer meals in your community, please contact Jenny Butcher, SFSP Coordinator, at 651-582-8526 or 1-800-366-8922, or fns@state.mn.us.

Total Food Shelf Visits in Minnesota, 2000–2007

Since 2000, food shelf visits in Minnesota have increased about 67 percent.



Source: Hunger Solutions Minnesota.

Find out how many children and households visited food shelves in your county during 2007 at www.kidscount.org/cliks.

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
FOOD & NUTRITION			
K–12 students approved for free or reduced-price school lunch, As % of K–12 students CT	257,193	31%	2006–07
Average monthly enrollment of children receiving Food Support, As % of children CT	137,274	11%	2007
Average monthly participation in the WIC nutrition program			
Women (pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum)	31,664		2006
Infants (less than 1 year old), As % of children under age 1	30,420	44%	2006
Children (1 to 5 years old), As % of children age 1 to 5	66,982	24%	2006
Percent of households that are “food insecure”		8%	2004–2006
Percent of households with children that are “food insecure” (Midwest region data)		15%	2004–2006
Pounds of food distributed at food shelves	47,327,158		2007
Children in families visiting food shelves (non-unique, counted each visit)	818,334		2007
Children in the Summer Food Service Program (average daily participation), As % of those enrolled in free and reduced-price school lunches	25,560	10%	2007

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

Healthy Development



Who Are “Children with Special Health Care Needs?”

“Children with special health care needs” are those with a condition expected to last 12 months or more, who either currently need prescription medications; need more medical care, mental health or educational services than most children their age; are limited in their ability to do the things most children can do; need special therapy; or have emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems requiring treatment or counseling. Common conditions include (but are not limited to) ADD/ADHD, allergies, asthma, autism-spectrum disorders, emotional problems, migraines, and mental retardation. Children with special health care needs exist equally in families at all income levels.



How Do Special Health Care Needs Affect Kids and their Families?

- About 37,000 children in Minnesota have special health care needs that cause their parents to cut back or stop working.

- About 18,000 children missed more than 10 days of school because of their health conditions.
- About 12,000 of these children did not have health insurance at some point during the year.

Source: National Survey of Children With Special Health Care Needs, 2005–2006.

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT			
Children without health insurance, As % of children	85,000	7%	2004–2006
Average monthly enrollment of children in Medical Assistance	250,479		2006
Average monthly enrollment of children in MinnesotaCare CT	46,173		2006
Children born at low birth weight, As % of births CT	3,470	5%	2006
Children born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, As % of births CT	6,713	9%	2006
Children whose mothers received late or inadequate prenatal care, As % of births	2,113	3%	2006
Children on SSI (Supplemental Security Income)	11,203		Dec. 2006
Children (0–18) on TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act)	3,097		June 2006
Children who have special health care needs (CSHCN)	177,668	14%	2005–06
Percent of CSHCN without insurance at some point in last year		7%	2005–06
Percent of CSHCN with 11 or more days of school absences due to illness		10%	2005–06
Percent of CSHCN whose conditions cause families to cut back or stop working		21%	2005–06

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

Early Care & Education



Minnesota Among the Least Helpful States for Child Care Assistance

Minnesota is one of only 16 states where the income eligibility for child care assistance is set below 50 percent of the state median income. The District of Columbia and 34 states assist families at higher income levels to purchase child care.

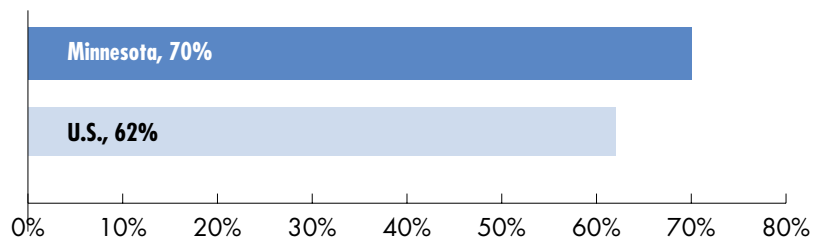
Child care subsidies are critical to a strong workforce. Research shows that access to high-quality, affordable child care improves the employment stability of workers.

Quality child care settings also enhance children's cognitive development, thereby strengthening the workforce of tomorrow.

Source: Policy Matters 2007, Center for the Study of Social Policy.

Children Under Age 6 with All Available Parents in the Workforce, Minnesota vs. United States, 2006

Minnesota's young children are more likely to have parents in the workforce than young children across the nation.



Source: 2006 American Community Survey.

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
EARLY CARE & EDUCATION			
Average annual cost for licensed full-time infant care (52 weeks)			
Center-based CT	\$12,840		2007
Family-based CT	\$7,260		2007
Average annual cost for licensed full-time preschool care (52 weeks)			
Center-based CT	\$9,700		2007
Family-based CT	\$6,490		2007
Children under age 6 with all available parents in the workforce, As % of children under age 6	282,000	70%	2006
Children in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), average monthly enrollment			
Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Transition Year	14,555		2007
Basic Sliding Fee (BSF)	14,941		2007
Families on waiting lists for the CCAP	4,030		Dec. 2007
Children served by Head Start or Early Head Start	18,008		2006–2007
Children age 3 to 5 attending preschool, nursery school or kindergarten, As % of children age 3 to 5	117,000	56%	2006

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

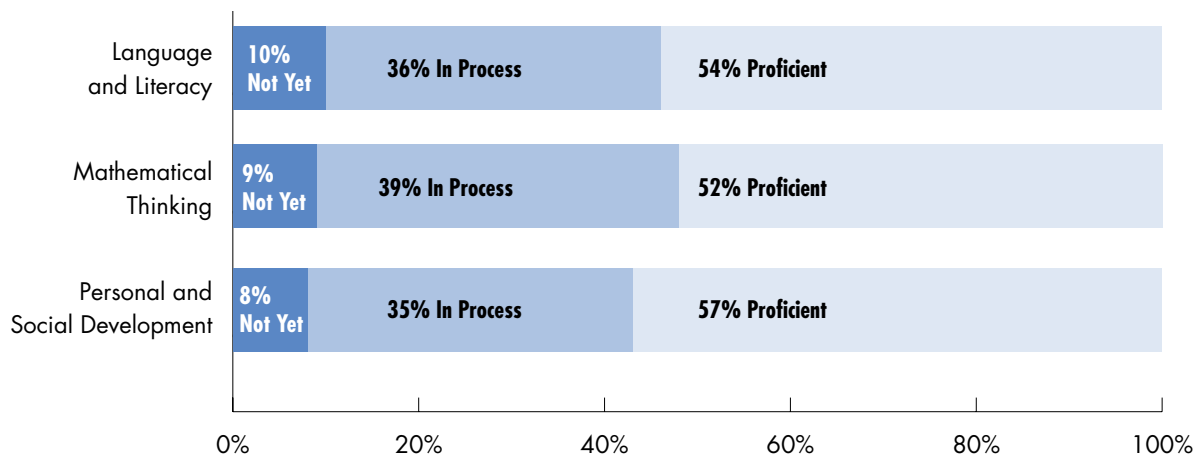
School-Age Care & Education



Readiness Levels for Minnesota's Kindergarteners, by Domain, 2006

For each domain, kindergarten teachers used these guidelines to rate the children's performance:

- **Not Yet**, meaning the child cannot perform this skill yet.
- **In Process**, meaning the child may perform this skill intermittently or is beginning to do so, but it is not demonstrated reliably or consistently.
- **Proficient**, meaning the child can reliably and consistently demonstrate this skill.



Source: Minnesota School Readiness Study: Developmental Assessment at Kindergarten Entrance - Fall 2006

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
SCHOOL-AGE CARE & EDUCATION			
Students who are home schooled	17,621		2006-07
Students enrolled in non-public schools	81,163		2006-07
Students enrolled in K-12 public schools CT	828,246		2006-07
K-12 public school students with limited English proficiency, As % of K-12 public school students CT	61,709	7%	2006-07
K-12 public school students enrolled in special education, As % of K-12 public school students CT	105,336	13%	2006-07
Kindergarteners not yet ready for kindergarten			
In language and literacy skills		10%	Fall 2006
In mathematical thinking skills		9%	Fall 2006
In personal and social development		8%	Fall 2006
Children age 6 to 12 with all available parents in the workforce, As % of children 6-12	336,000	71%	2006
Average weekly cost of licensed full-time school-age care			
Center-based	\$170		2007
Family-based	\$110		2007

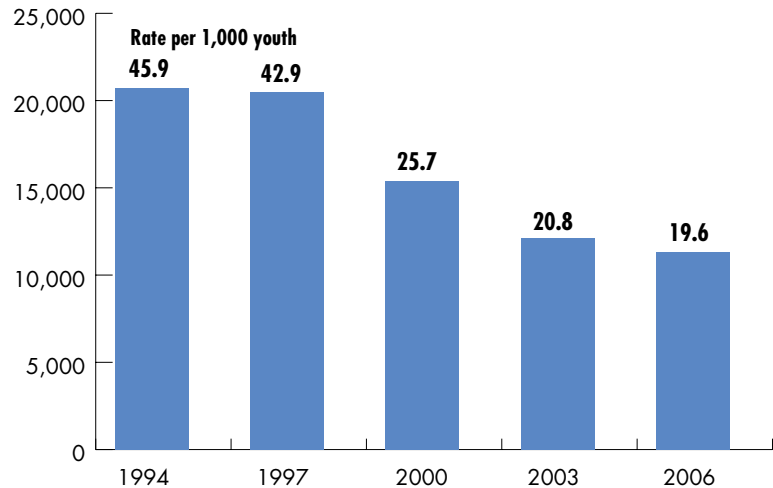
NOTE: Data for 2006-2007 high school graduation and drop out rates was not available at time of publication, but will be posted online when available. Please visit www.kidscount.org/clicks.

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

Safe Homes & Communities



Children Age 10–17 Arrested for Serious Crimes, 1994–2006



The rate of youth arrested for serious crimes has declined significantly during the past 12 years, although the 2006 rate was up just slightly from 2005. “Serious” crimes are officially called “Part I crimes” and include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft, and arson.

Source: Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

STATE-LEVEL DATA	NUMBER	RATE	YEAR(S)
SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES			
Children under age 6 testing positive for lead poisoning CT	1,290		2006
Children living in crowded housing, As % of children	97,000	8%	2006
Students who do not participate in activities or clubs because of the cost		18%	2007
12th graders who feel other adults in their community care about them			
“not at all”		10%	2007
“a little or some”		52%	2007
“quite a bit or very much”		37%	2007
12th graders who volunteer each week			
0 hours		59%	2007
1–5 hours		36%	2007
6 or more hours		15%	2007
12th graders who work for pay each week (including babysitting)			
0 hours		23%	2007
1–10 hours		31%	2007
11–20 hours		26%	2007
21 or more hours		19%	2007
Children age 10–17 arrested for serious crimes, Rate per 1,000 children age 10–17 CT	11,319	19.6	2006
Children who died from unintentional injuries CT	118		2006
Children who committed suicide	25		2006
Children who were murdered	22		2006

CT: Data also available in the County Table, beginning on page 28.

County Tables

MORE DATA ON CLIKs

All of the data indicators in the County Tables (and many more) are available online through the CLIKs (Community-Level Information on Kids) website, which you can access through the KIDS COUNT page at www.cdf-mn.org/kidscount. For more information, please see the Guide to Online Data on page 44.



What's Happening with Kids in Your Area?

While state trends tell important stories, often local communities defy state patterns, experience unique challenges, or exhibit successes not seen statewide. What follows is a county-level data across all areas of child well-being, beginning with demographic information on the following page. The additional data is organized within seven basic needs that all children share:

- 1. Family & Caregivers**
- 2. Economic & Security**
- 3. Food & Nutrition**
- 4. Healthy Development**
- 5. Early Care & Education**
- 6. School Age Care & Education**
- 7. Safe Homes & Communities.**

Use this data to compare your county to similar counties, those in your region, as well as statewide figures. Use it to celebrate improvement, identify needs, and recommit to finding solutions.

Stars of the State

Minnesota is home to countless organizations and agencies working to move these numbers in the right direction. We have chosen to highlight seven of them that creatively and effectively respond to the needs of children and their families. These “Stars of the State” are profiled within each section. They are part of a broad constellation of people across Minnesota and beyond who work to help all children thrive and succeed.

Note: Surveys often are not designed to produce reliable estimates for areas with small numbers of people or sub-groups. For this reason, some of the KIDS COUNT data presented at the state level is not available at the county level.

	Total population, 2006	Child (0-17) population, 2006	K-12 public school enrollment, 2006-07	Median house- hold income, 2005
COUNTY	DEMOGRAPHICS			
Aitkin	16,149	3,028	2,058	\$37,268
Anoka	327,005	86,536	64,642	\$61,776
Becker	32,230	7,490	4,438	\$41,592
Beltrami	43,169	11,037	7,439	\$38,605
Benton	38,688	9,518	5,585	\$45,588
Big Stone	5,510	1,143	929	\$34,749
Blue Earth	58,254	11,463	9,675	\$44,562
Brown	26,361	5,710	3,495	\$45,625
Carlton	34,116	7,511	6,080	\$45,613
Carver	87,545	24,367	14,549	\$74,493
Cass	29,036	6,334	4,255	\$40,320
Chippewa	12,721	2,885	2,264	\$39,154
Chisago	50,344	12,994	8,503	\$60,379
Clay	54,476	12,054	8,618	\$44,099
Clearwater	8,440	1,998	1,510	\$35,777
Cook	5,329	894	670	\$39,934
Cottonwood	11,659	2,731	2,435	\$40,180
Crow Wing	61,009	13,591	10,007	\$42,050
Dakota	388,001	104,523	73,342	\$66,637
Dodge	19,770	5,307	3,973	\$55,307
Douglas	35,467	7,263	5,327	\$42,640
Faribault	15,283	3,333	2,064	\$38,002
Fillmore	21,151	4,941	2,764	\$41,710
Freeborn	31,636	6,940	4,259	\$39,345
Goodhue	45,807	10,556	6,943	\$51,246
Grant	6,078	1,251	1,174	\$38,267
Hennepin	1,122,093	268,737	152,583	\$56,004
Houston	19,832	4,505	3,802	\$50,317
Hubbard	18,890	3,991	2,407	\$42,010
Isanti	38,576	9,012	6,318	\$56,064
Itasca	44,729	9,496	6,776	\$39,989
Jackson	11,150	2,351	1,474	\$40,225
Kanabec	16,276	3,697	2,512	\$41,648
Kandiyohi	41,088	9,974	5,772	\$45,357
Kittson	4,691	1,069	757	\$38,089
Koochiching	13,658	2,839	2,020	\$38,652
Lac qui Parle	7,464	1,558	1,539	\$38,041
Lake	10,966	2,020	1,516	\$43,250
Lake of the Woods	4,327	903	579	\$37,403
LeSueur	27,895	6,509	4,313	\$51,965
Lincoln	5,963	1,311	1,064	\$35,083
Lyon	24,640	5,854	4,230	\$42,124
McLeod	37,279	9,483	5,762	\$49,846
Mahnomen	5,072	1,427	1,353	\$31,903

	Total population, 2006	Child (0-17) pop- ulation, 2006	K-12 public school enrollment, 2006-07	Median house- hold income, 2005
COUNTY	DEMOGRAPHICS			
Marshall	9,951	2,144	1,396	\$39,693
Martin	20,768	4,504	3,302	\$40,281
Meeker	23,405	5,577	5,764	\$48,314
Mille Lacs	26,169	6,052	6,745	\$43,037
Morrison	32,919	7,981	5,067	\$43,712
Mower	38,666	9,399	5,788	\$42,707
Murray	8,778	1,898	1,170	\$40,622
Nicollet	31,313	6,925	2,269	\$51,330
Nobles	20,445	5,393	3,367	\$39,354
Norman	6,850	1,550	1,181	\$35,158
Olmsted	137,521	35,045	21,859	\$58,034
Otter Tail	57,817	12,195	7,994	\$40,446
Pennington	13,709	3,127	2,186	\$40,655
Pine	28,419	6,201	3,989	\$41,232
Pipestone	9,423	2,191	1,458	\$37,440
Polk	31,088	7,020	5,205	\$39,622
Pope	11,212	2,294	1,301	\$40,643
Ramsey	493,215	124,008	83,506	\$49,873
Red Lake	4,168	912	715	\$35,857
Redwood	15,791	3,735	2,207	\$43,281
Renville	16,531	3,980	2,084	\$44,057
Rice	61,980	13,866	8,351	\$52,497
Rock	9,535	2,275	1,554	\$42,542
Roseau	16,201	4,297	3,306	\$45,639
St. Louis	196,067	39,095	26,278	\$40,054
Scott	124,092	35,616	19,046	\$78,108
Sherburne	84,995	22,767	18,243	\$63,181
Sibley	15,126	3,810	2,328	\$46,742
Stearns	144,096	33,136	22,867	\$47,024
Steele	36,221	9,201	6,502	\$51,296
Stevens	9,827	1,810	1,345	\$42,916
Swift	10,307	2,260	1,572	\$38,277
Todd	24,375	5,679	4,055	\$37,095
Traverse	3,799	808	575	\$32,883
Wabasha	22,282	5,174	4,671	\$52,140
Wadena	13,445	3,138	2,832	\$33,769
Waseca	19,469	4,599	3,513	\$46,085
Washington	225,000	59,140	37,961	\$73,976
Watsonwan	11,164	2,891	1,979	\$39,187
Wilkin	6,634	1,614	1,218	\$44,460
Winona	49,288	9,812	6,043	\$40,686
Wright	114,787	31,649	21,899	\$60,018
Yellow Medicine	10,430	2,362	1,780	\$38,613
STATE	5,167,101	1,257,264	828,246	\$52,048

Family & Caregivers

Whether biological, adoptive or informal caregivers, families are the first and most powerful force in children's development and well-being. Yet all caregivers benefit from outside support and encouragement, such as the Crisis Nursery Kinship Services in Rochester (described at right). Some struggling parents need additional public services, while a small number are not equipped to meet their children's needs or pose threats to their safety.

This section includes county-level data on children born to teenage mothers (age 15–17) and children who are the subject of substantiated (confirmed) cases of abuse or neglect. Additional county-level data indicators about Family & Caregivers available online include: percent of children born to unmarried mothers, percent of children born with no father on the birth certificate, children who have been placed in out-of-home placements (such as foster care, group homes, residential treatment centers, and juvenile correction facilities), and children in the Family Assessment Response program.



Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

Kinship Caregiver Services, Child Care Resource & Referral

ROCHESTER & SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

Who they are

In 1995, when the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) in Rochester advertised its new support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren, the poor response made them consider canceling. But Fern Shaw, a grandmother raising her four grandchildren, insisted it be held. Since that first “Grandparents Parenting, Again” support group, attended by Shaw and two others, the CCR&R has expanded its services and now serves more than 100 “kinship caregivers.” Most often, kinship care results when a parent's substance abuse, mental health issues, death, or incarceration leads to other relatives stepping in to care for the children. The majority of kinship arrangements are informal, outside of the foster care system. Kinship Caregiver Services responds to the unique needs of these caregivers as they seek to navigate services, find



Fern Shaw and her granddaughter, Sonne, spend time together on a field trip to a nature center with Kinship Caregiver Services of Rochester.

support, and respond to the educational, social, and emotional issues of their young charges.

What they do

Kinship Caregiver Services offers information about legal custody options, medical and financial assistance, and support services. Staff help caregivers stay updated on financial topics, child development, and child care options. Many kinship caregivers face stresses that may feel overwhelming. During these times, they can utilize the Crisis Nursery, which provides temporary, short-term care (daytime or overnight) for the children while they sort out a crisis. Staff also provide in-home family counseling, children's programming, and referrals to community resources. To manage everyday pressures, caregivers learn about

relaxation techniques such as massage and music therapy. Thirteen years after its first meeting, Fern Shaw still attends the support group. “Just hearing that you aren't the only person out there that is having these issues is helpful,” she said. All of the services offered are free and confidential. Due to its success in serving kinship caregivers, the CCR&R received funding from the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association to serve the entire Southeastern Minnesota region. According to Carma Bjornson, Family Resource Director at the CCR&R, some families travel 40 or more miles to attend activities or events.

Supporting Minnesota families

In 2006, an estimated 27,000 Minnesota children were being raised by their grandparents with parents absent from the household, and thousands more rely upon other relatives. Although many of these caregivers did not plan to “parent again,” Kinship Caregiver Services helps them find support and success in their second act.

Learn more at www.c2r2.org/crisis/cn_kinship.htm, or 1-800-462-1660.

	Children born to teens, age 15-17, 2006	Teen birth rate per 1,000 girls age 15-17, 2004-06	Children abused or neglected, 2006	Child abuse or neglect rate per 1,000 children, 2006
COUNTY	FAMILY & CAREGIVERS			
Aitkin	1	*	40	13.2
Anoka	60	8.4	391	4.5
Becker	10	12.9	137	18.3
Beltrami	33	30.2	97	8.8
Benton	17	15.9	49	5.1
Big Stone	0	*	14	12.2
Blue Earth	17	13.5	106	9.2
Brown	3	*	32	5.6
Carlton	10	11.6	19	2.5
Carver	11	5.2	110	4.5
Cass	14	29.6	29	4.6
Chippewa	7	*	7	2.4
Chisago	8	8.4	49	3.8
Clay	11	11.5	99	8.2
Clearwater	4	*	9	4.5
Cook	1	*	4	4.5
Cottonwood	5	*	25	9.2
Crow Wing	17	14.4	32	2.4
Dakota	77	7.4	390	3.7
Dodge	7	*	23	4.3
Douglas	3	*	56	7.7
Faribault	6	*	105**	19.7**
Fillmore	2	*	19	3.8
Freeborn	14	19.8	54	7.8
Goodhue	9	10.9	33	3.1
Grant	0	*	3	2.4
Hennepin	388	17.2	2,091	7.8
Houston	5	*	6	1.3
Hubbard	4	*	26	6.5
Isanti	10	12.6	82 α	9.1
Itasca	13	13.1	59	6.2
Jackson	3	*	12	5.1
Kanabec	2	*	13	3.5
Kandiyohi	25	23.2	75	7.5
Kittson	0	*	5	4.7
Koochiching	3	*	6	2.1
Lac qui Parle	1	*	6	3.9
Lake	2	*	23	11.4
Lake of the Woods	0	*	2	2.2
LeSueur	7	12.5	31	4.8
Lincoln	1	*	12***	1.0***
Lyon	3	*	12***	1.0***
McLeod	16	17.1	82	8.6
Mahnomen	5	*	20	14.0

	Children born to teens, age 15-17, 2006	Teen birth rate per 1,000 girls age 15-17, 2004-06	Children abused or neglected, 2006	Child abuse or neglect rate per 1,000 children, 2006
COUNTY	FAMILY & CAREGIVERS			
Marshall	0	*	4	1.9
Martin	11	14.9	105**	19.7**
Meeker	6	*	10	1.8
Mille Lacs	7	13.3	52	8.6
Morrison	10	11.4	43	5.4
Mower	22	23.4	47	5.0
Murray	2	*	12***	1.0***
Nicollet	3	*	33	4.8
Nobles	16	25.5	7	1.3
Norman	2	*	4	2.6
Olmsted	35	12.0	89	2.5
Otter Tail	8	6.9	64	5.2
Pennington	5	*	10	3.2
Pine	10	12.4	48	7.7
Pipestone	1	*	14	6.4
Polk	12	16.8	34	4.8
Pope	1	*	23	10.0
Ramsey	244	24.0	694	5.6
Red Lake	0	*	2	2.2
Redwood	4	*	13	3.5
Renville	7	*	19	4.8
Rice	24	12.4	83	6.0
Rock	3	*	2	0.9
Roseau	5	*	10	2.3
St. Louis	53	14.8	316	8.1
Scott	32	8.7	158	4.4
Sherburne	22	7.3	43	1.9
Sibley	7	*	11	2.9
Stearns	32	10.7	143	4.3
Steele	12	14.8	39	4.2
Stevens	1	*	6	3.3
Swift	1	*	31	13.7
Todd	10	14.2	29	5.1
Traverse	1	*	3	3.7
Wabasha	5	*	9	1.7
Wadena	7	*	13	4.1
Waseca	2	*	25	5.4
Washington	32	5.8	177	3.0
Watsonwan	6	*	14	4.8
Wilkin	0	*	-	-
Winona	7	11.9	57	5.8
Wright	28	8.3	116	3.7
Yellow Medicine	2	*	10	4.2
STATE	1533	13.3	6,988	5.6

* Rate not calculated for less than 20 births over three years. ** Faribault and Martin County values are combined as one. *** Lincoln, Lyon and Murray County values are combined as one. In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county.

Economic Security

Many families in Minnesota struggle to purchase the resources their children need to have a strong foundation for their development. Inadequate income and limited financial assets create anxiety and instability for families, leading to poorer outcomes for children. Yet programs such as the Jeremiah Program (described at right) offer concrete resources, family support, and workforce skills that can help families prosper.

This section includes county-level data on children living in poverty, as well as the number of households who claimed the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and its value. The EITC benefits low-wage workers raising children, and is available as a refund. Worth up to \$4,400 during 2006 (the most recent data year), the EITC is both a key benefit for low-income families and a powerful economic stimulus for communities. Additional county-level data indicators about Economic Security available online include: entire population living in poverty, and families in the Minnesota Family Investment Program.



Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

Jeremiah Program

MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Who they are

Jeremiah Program is a stepping stone toward economic security for single mothers and their children. More than an affordable housing provider, the program supports its residents through holistic programming, career development, and community support. In addition to housing families in downtown Minneapolis since 1998, Jeremiah added a St. Paul campus in 2007, bringing the program capacity to 77 residential apartments. Beyond their full-time jobs as mothers, the residents are also required to be enrolled in a college or university, work part-time, and participate in Jeremiah's classes. "I think it is a program for purely mature individuals who are truly ready to make a difference in their lives," said Adrianee Powell, a Jeremiah resident who is a mother of one and an undergraduate student at the University of St. Thomas.

How they make a difference

The goal of Jeremiah Program is to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty that is all too



Christine, a resident of Jeremiah Program, celebrates with her two children, China and Benard, after receiving her college degree.

common in single parent homes. Residents have access to counseling, career services, life skills education, and empowerment training. An employment task force provides linkages to businesses for career exploration and employment. Residents develop leadership skills through involvement in the resident council, while improving fiscal management skills by paying their rent and managing their household budgets. Meanwhile, Jeremiah Program's children — many of whom have been homeless, experienced disruptive environments, or had limited exposure to early educational opportunities — are nurtured at the onsite Child Development Center, receiving individualized attention within a structured school readiness environment. Mothers partner with their children's teachers to enhance their parenting skills.

Supporting Minnesota Families

Jeremiah Program assists families in working toward a priceless asset: higher education. After graduating from a college or university, previous Jeremiah participants have seen their income increase and their children thrive. The average wage of residents increased from \$8.00 (at program entrance) to \$15.39 upon graduation. Within a year of graduating, the average wage of former participants is \$18.77 and 62 percent of the graduates report increased responsibility and/or earnings. Karen Miley, Jeremiah Program Director of Advancement, believes the focus on community connectedness is key to participants' educational and economic success. A vast majority of the women do not have a support system when they come to Jeremiah, she said, but that is one of the program's many lasting benefits.

Learn more at www.jeremiahprogram.org

	Children living in poverty, 2005*	% children living in poverty, 2005*	Tax households who claimed the EITC, 2006 (TY05)	Total value of the EITC, 2006 (TY05)
COUNTY	ECONOMIC SECURITY			
Aitkin	678	23.7%	1,025	\$1,654,048
Anoka	6,471	7.7%	13,161	\$21,352,384
Becker	1,197	16.6%	2,383	\$4,156,075
Beltrami	2,631	25.5%	3,993	\$7,744,600
Benton	861	9.5%	2,557	\$4,069,442
Big Stone	174	15.5%	326	\$559,388
Blue Earth	1,345	12.4%	3,287	\$4,931,888
Brown	479	8.7%	1,390	\$2,190,718
Carlton	807	11.2%	2,114	\$3,473,757
Carver	965	4.2%	2,189	\$3,458,117
Cass	1,391	23.2%	2,226	\$4,115,292
Chippewa	338	11.8%	814	\$1,393,723
Chisago	855	6.9%	2,421	\$3,967,597
Clay	1,540	13.5%	2,974	\$4,854,548
Clearwater	434	22.2%	776	\$1,456,572
Cook	113	12.3%	363	\$508,690
Cottonwood	399	15.1%	704	\$1,144,467
Crow Wing	1,637	12.5%	4,207	\$6,919,678
Dakota	6,371	6.3%	14,153	\$22,902,280
Dodge	354	6.9%	871	\$1,382,745
Douglas	818	11.5%	2,089	\$3,348,154
Faribault	474	15.0%	1,112	\$1,834,489
Fillmore	649	13.3%	1,359	\$2,171,293
Freeborn	836	12.5%	2,045	\$3,343,358
Goodhue	858	8.5%	2,039	\$3,197,700
Grant	168	13.4%	436	\$714,741
Hennepin	37,027	14.4%	55,494	\$90,616,865
Houston	442	9.9%	1,115	\$1,722,820
Hubbard	640	16.6%	1,408	\$2,428,314
Isanti	737	8.6%	1,790	\$2,841,184
Itasca	1,582	17.4%	3,138	\$5,397,823
Jackson	291	12.7%	580	\$985,442
Kanabec	506	14.1%	943	\$1,624,131
Kandiyohi	1,263	13.2%	2,902	\$4,703,142
Kittson	138	13.4%	269	\$476,512
Koochiching	510	18.3%	993	\$1,614,119
Lac qui Parle	158	10.5%	397	\$604,703
Lake	268	13.0%	627	\$993,694
Lake of the Woods	118	13.1%	303	\$523,235
LeSueur	551	8.8%	1,130	\$1,794,525
Lincoln	156	12.2%	308	\$486,868
Lyon	610	11.0%	1,490	\$2,435,046
McLeod	736	8.2%	502	\$1,032,301
Mahnomen	395	28.9%	585	\$1,058,821

	Children living in poverty, 2005*	% children living in poverty, 2005*	Tax households who claimed the EITC, 2006 (TY05)	Total value of the EITC, 2006 (TY05)
COUNTY	ECONOMIC SECURITY			
Marshall	281	13.3%	1,462	\$2,340,918
Martin	707	15.8%	1,984	\$3,210,263
Meeker	574	10.6%	1,175	\$2,007,237
Mille Lacs	773	13.5%	2,071	\$3,519,027
Morrison	1,016	13.0%	2,382	\$3,800,137
Mower	1,193	13.2%	2,577	\$4,175,833
Murray	190	10.4%	489	\$721,435
Nicollet	706	10.8%	1,472	\$2,236,880
Nobles	824	16.2%	1,473	\$2,457,093
Norman	225	14.5%	491	\$825,106
Olmsted	2,950	8.9%	6,453	\$10,763,338
Otter Tail	1,735	14.3%	3,513	\$5,746,870
Pennington	371	12.5%	996	\$1,685,080
Pine	982	16.6%	2,067	\$3,580,760
Pipestone	260	12.4%	585	\$1,014,542
Polk	1,006	14.6%	2,125	\$3,598,124
Pope	337	14.6%	615	\$961,304
Ramsey	21,894	18.4%	28,752	\$48,540,724
Red Lake	113	12.5%	277	\$446,504
Redwood	416	11.2%	967	\$1,618,278
Renville	513	13.0%	1,027	\$1,800,228
Rice	1,197	9.3%	2,776	\$4,662,052
Rock	218	10.0%	559	\$873,833
Roseau	341	8.0%	958	\$1,597,350
St. Louis	5,710	15.2%	11,661	\$18,109,075
Scott	1,434	4.3%	3,859	\$6,529,101
Sherburne	1,165	5.5%	2,943	\$4,816,639
Sibley	431	11.8%	805	\$1,420,212
Stearns	2,954	9.4%	7,252	\$11,414,055
Steele	803	9.1%	2,080	\$3,478,179
Stevens	161	9.3%	379	\$562,151
Swift	244	10.9%	648	\$1,023,285
Todd	935	16.4%	1,742	\$3,066,362
Traverse	138	17.4%	241	\$418,408
Wabasha	420	8.3%	1,173	\$1,812,986
Wadena	613	19.3%	1,307	\$2,172,893
Waseca	472	10.7%	1,080	\$1,726,572
Washington	2,636	4.6%	7,193	\$11,344,305
Watonwan	407	14.3%	772	\$1,439,903
Wilkin	169	10.5%	422	\$685,269
Winona	1,134	12.3%	2,542	\$3,938,401
Wright	1,822	6.1%	4,442	\$7,035,181
Yellow Medicine	271	11.2%	644	\$1,140,141
STATE	139,709	11.6%	263,419	\$432,501,323

* Data for county-level and statewide child poverty estimates in this table were obtained from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, not the American Community Survey, the source for state-level poverty estimates on page 22. In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county.

Food & Nutrition

Food fuels children's bodies and minds, helping them to develop and grow. A full belly is virtually a prerequisite for learning, as hungry children can't concentrate. Yet food is also the part of the family budget that is often squeezed when other costs become too great. Several public programs seek to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children. The Kids Café® at the Damiano Center (described at right) is an example of how one community responded creatively to reduce children's hunger during the summer months.

This section includes county-level data on K-12 school students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, and the average monthly enrollment of children receiving Food Support (food stamps). Additional county-level data indicators about Food & Nutrition available online include: women and children participating in the WIC supplemental nutrition program, and children in families visiting food shelves.



Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

Kids Café®, Damiano Center

DULUTH AREA

Who they are

Less than a decade ago, parents whose children received a solid meal from their free or reduced-priced school lunch had few places to turn in the summer. Meanwhile, staff at the Damiano Center in downtown Duluth had observed an increased numbers of children visiting their building alone in search of food, including one determined child who crawled through an office window to try to access a candy dish. In 2001, the Damiano Center, which offers a range of supportive services for families in need, responded by becoming the first Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank's Kids Café® site in Duluth. A national program of America's Second Harvest, the nation's Food Bank Network, Kids Café®s serve hot, nutritious meals to children along with offering educational activities year-round at more than 300 sites nationwide. The Damiano Center Kids Café® is also a USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsor. This summer, SFSP sites benefited from the USDA's move to simplify



A child enjoys a cantaloupe slice, part of a free meal served at the Damiano Center Kids Café® in Duluth.

administrative rules. "Now we can spend a little more time planning activities for kids and less time doing paperwork," said Laurel Sanders, Kids Café® Program Coordinator.

What they do

Learning is a central ingredient at the Kids Café®, as children assist in preparing food, worm composting, and creating recipes for "make and take" meals for the weekends. Thanks to a partnership with the Duluth Community Garden Program and Duluth Art Institute, Damiano's children also have the opportunity to plant, nurture, and harvest their own vegetables in an organic garden. The resulting food is fresh, local, and nutritious. Each month, children celebrate and explore an ethnic tradition, sampling traditional foods and learning from speakers. "We are trying avoid the stigma of going to a soup kitchen and be more of an after-

school program," Sanders said, offering games, field trips and service-learning projects. According to a child named Jesse, they are succeeding: "I like Kids Café®. Playing the games is good, and the food, too. I always feel good here."

Supporting Minnesota families

Summer is the busiest time of year for Damiano Center's Kids Café®, and the need keeps growing. The Kids Café® has served more families each year since opening, including 4,255 meals to 340 children during 2007. The Café also supports parents by encouraging them to eat with their children and connecting them with Damiano's other services, including a clothing exchange, emergency assistance, and housing access and homelessness prevention.

Learn more at www.damianocenter.org/kidscafe.html

	Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, 2006-07	% students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, 2006-07	Children enrolled in Food Support, 2007	% of all children enrolled in Food Support, 2007
COUNTY	FOOD & NUTRITION			
Aitkin	929	45.1%	459	15.2%
Anoka	16,011	24.8%	6,766	7.8%
Becker	1,652	37.2%	1,132	15.1%
Beltrami	4,044	54.4%	3,519	31.9%
Benton	1,514	27.1%	745	7.8%
Big Stone	388	41.8%	87	7.6%
Blue Earth	2,852	29.5%	1,273	11.1%
Brown	902	25.8%	395	6.9%
Carlton	1,779	29.3%	791	10.5%
Carver	1,991	13.7%	621	2.5%
Cass	2,367	55.6%	1,463	23.1%
Chippewa	827	36.5%	267	9.3%
Chisago	1,829	21.5%	730	5.6%
Clay	2,390	27.7%	1,650	13.7%
Clearwater	775	51.3%	386	19.3%
Cook	210	31.3%	49	5.5%
Cottonwood	1,040	42.7%	263	9.6%
Crow Wing	3,842	38.4%	1,439	10.6%
Dakota	12,228	16.7%	5,960	5.7%
Dodge	806	20.3%	351	6.6%
Douglas	1,438	27.0%	672	9.2%
Faribault	847	41.0%	325	9.8%
Fillmore	836	30.2%	363	7.3%
Freeborn	1,627	38.2%	775	11.2%
Goodhue	1,358	19.6%	764	7.2%
Grant	425	36.2%	140	11.2%
Hennepin	55,319	36.3%	35,739	13.3%
Houston	721	19.0%	364	8.1%
Hubbard	1,131	47.0%	534	13.4%
Isanti	1,890	29.9%	768	8.5%
Itasca	2,798	41.3%	1,439	15.2%
Jackson	460	31.2%	188	8.0%
Kanabec	1,002	39.9%	570	15.4%
Kandiyohi	2,360	40.9%	1,457	14.6%
Kittson	319	42.1%	55	5.2%
Koochiching	800	39.6%	382	13.4%
Lac qui Parle	546	35.5%	82	5.2%
Lake	423	27.9%	183	9.1%
Lake of the Woods	223	38.5%	65	7.2%
LeSueur	1,223	28.4%	435	6.7%
Lincoln	416	39.1%	78	5.9%
Lyon	1,437	34.0%	579	9.9%
McLeod	1,558	27.0%	598	6.3%
Mahnomen	913	67.5%	617	43.2%

	Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, 2006-07	% students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, 2006-07	Children enrolled in Food Support, 2007	% of all children enrolled in Food Support, 2007
COUNTY	FOOD & NUTRITION			
Marshall	615	44.1%	150	7.0%
Martin	1,259	38.1%	560	12.4%
Meeker	1,826	31.7%	397	7.1%
Mille Lacs	2,081	30.9%	645	10.7%
Morrison	1,932	38.1%	568	7.1%
Mower	2,507	43.3%	1,178	12.5%
Murray	384	32.8%	125	6.6%
Nicollet	702	30.9%	638	9.2%
Nobles	1,600	47.5%	599	11.1%
Norman	553	46.8%	211	13.6%
Olmsted	5,536	25.3%	3,679	10.5%
Otter Tail	2,785	34.8%	1,153	9.5%
Pennington	709	32.4%	324	10.4%
Pine	1,706	42.8%	840	13.6%
Pipestone	539	37.0%	231	10.5%
Polk	1,983	38.1%	987	14.1%
Pope	468	36.0%	208	9.1%
Ramsey	41,488	49.7%	25,928	20.9%
Red Lake	367	51.3%	124	13.6%
Redwood	791	35.8%	381	10.2%
Renville	779	37.4%	454	11.4%
Rice	2,428	29.1%	1,238	8.9%
Rock	478	30.8%	146	6.4%
Roseau	1,124	34.0%	160	3.7%
St. Louis	9,420	35.8%	5,849	15.0%
Scott	2,957	15.5%	1,263	3.5%
Sherburne	2,899	15.9%	1,185	5.2%
Sibley	793	34.1%	291	7.6%
Stearns	6,749	29.5%	3,151	9.5%
Steele	1,788	27.5%	947	10.3%
Stevens	373	27.7%	122	6.7%
Swift	521	33.1%	162	7.2%
Todd	2,226	54.9%	574	10.1%
Traverse	221	38.4%	116	14.4%
Wabasha	874	18.7%	298	5.7%
Wadena	1,532	54.1%	487	15.5%
Waseca	964	27.4%	500	10.9%
Washington	4,996	13.2%	2,448	4.1%
Watsonwan	845	42.7%	221	7.6%
Wilkin	408	33.5%	156	9.7%
Winona	1,878	31.1%	909	9.3%
Wright	3,888	17.8%	1,481	4.7%
Yellow Medicine	775	43.5%	162	6.9%
STATE	257,193	31.1%	137,274	10.9%

In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county.

Healthy Development

We desire good health for all children so that they can focus on learning and laughing and the other hallmarks of childhood, and to set them on a path to become healthy adults. Children's health conditions and uncertain access to health care may disrupt many other areas of children's lives, as well as jeopardize parents' finances and ability to remain in the workforce. Taking steps to secure good health begins even before a child is born, as organizations such as Everyday Miracles (described at right) recognize.

This section includes county-level data on children born at low birth weight, average monthly enrollment of children in Medical Assistance, and average monthly enrollment of children in MinnesotaCare. Additional county-level data indicators about Healthy Development available online include: total births, children born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, and children whose mothers received late or inadequate prenatal care.



Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

Everyday Miracles

ANOKA & GREATER TWIN CITIES AREA

Who they are

By creating a supportive environment for women in poverty who are pregnant, Everyday Miracles seeks to provide a healthy start for babies who may be at risk. The Anoka-based nonprofit achieves its mission primarily through the work of nearly 30 doulas, women experienced in childbirth who provide support to women before, during, and just after childbirth. Each expectant mother is paired with a doula who offers prenatal education, breastfeeding information, birthing classes, labor support, and postpartum visits. Many of the doulas are native to other countries or multi-lingual, which helps Everyday Miracles connect with women from diverse backgrounds using appropriate cultural practices. Unlike other metro area doula services, Everyday Miracles' doula program is not restricted by women's county of residence, hospital choice, or stage of pregnancy.



Charlotte cherishes her newborn Damari, whose healthy birth was supported by Everyday Miracles programming and doula services.

How they make a difference

Recognizing that mothers with lower incomes are less likely to attend prenatal classes, Everyday Miracles holds its own classes at local community centers. The program builds community among its families by offering weekly meals, sharing a community garden, and holding a "Blessing Way" ceremony. Like a baby shower, the event seeks to encourage the pregnant mother with wishes and gifts from other women who care about her. The program's maternity clothing closet and baby equipment "swap" provides necessary items free of charge for the families. Through its numerous services, Everyday Miracles aims to reduce preterm and low-birth

weight births, encourage breastfeeding, decrease medical interventions during birth and labor, and empower families to parent successfully. For families in high-risk social situations, Everyday Miracles partners with public health nurses and other community agencies to provide home visiting services.

Supporting Minnesota families

Since it began in 2003, Everyday Miracles has helped welcome more than 700 babies into the world. The program has experienced rapid growth with almost half of its total participants being served in 2007, a testament to the sensitive and supportive services it offers to pregnant women. As its website says, the organization strives to "nurture the mother so she can nurture her child," preparing mothers to give their children the best possible start in life.

Note: At press time, Everyday Miracles was in search of a new location to house its services.

Learn more at www.everyday-miracles.org

	Children born at low birth weight, 2006	% of births at low birth weight, 2006	Children enrolled in Medical Assistance, 2006	Children enrolled in MinnesotaCare, 2006
COUNTY	HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT			
Aitkin	6	3.8%	971	276
Anoka	216	5.0%	13,747	2,261
Becker	15	3.6%	2,379	560
Beltrami	37	5.2%	4,794	745
Benton	36	6.0%	1,616	342
Big Stone	1	1.9%	236	109
Blue Earth	43	5.7%	2,478	391
Brown	15	4.6%	1,076	129
Carlton	20	4.8%	1,774	297
Carver	42	3.3%	1,505	399
Cass	17	4.7%	2,254	620
Chippewa	5	3.0%	680	145
Chisago	27	4.0%	1,820	582
Clay	33	4.5%	2,952	405
Clearwater	5	4.0%	705	195
Cook	2	4.4%	96	99
Cottonwood	6	4.2%	766	126
Crow Wing	34	4.3%	2,997	1,109
Dakota	221	4.0%	12,007	2,322
Dodge	5	1.8%	758	125
Douglas	12	2.9%	1,617	431
Faribault	4	2.6%	744	138
Fillmore	13	4.8%	839	251
Freeborn	19	5.1%	1,615	286
Goodhue	30	5.2%	1,536	303
Grant	2	2.8%	310	126
Hennepin	888	5.5%	60,151	7,047
Houston	12	4.8%	727	160
Hubbard	7	3.0%	1,107	462
Isanti	24	4.6%	1,563	500
Itasca	29	5.9%	2,636	743
Jackson	4	3.7%	475	108
Kanabec	9	4.5%	1,006	269
Kandiyohi	20	3.3%	2,922	543
Kittson	2	4.8%	165	133
Koochiching	2	1.8%	745	239
Lac qui Parle	3	4.0%	322	123
Lake	4	4.0%	457	143
Lake of the Woods	2	5.3%	171	108
LeSueur	17	4.3%	1,126	181
Lincoln	4	5.8%	239	86
Lyon	13	3.5%	1,293	195
McLeod	14	2.6%	1,440	341
Mahnomen	4	4.8%	746	74

	Children born at low birth weight, 2006	% of births at low birth weight, 2006	Children enrolled in Medical Assistance, 2006	Children enrolled in MinnesotaCare, 2006
COUNTY	HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT			
Marshall	5	5.6%	449	155
Martin	13	5.8%	1,239	212
Meeker	13	4.1%	1,016	326
Mille Lacs	13	3.7%	1,477	489
Morrison	21	4.9%	1,485	647
Mower	28	5.0%	2,641	284
Murray	2	2.3%	406	100
Nicollet	21	5.0%	1,300	147
Nobles	19	5.7%	1,649	197
Norman	3	5.2%	464	136
Olmsted	94	4.4%	6,462	608
Otter Tail	38	6.1%	2,650	960
Pennington	10	5.1%	662	172
Pine	15	4.3%	1,573	508
Pipestone	6	4.3%	578	91
Polk	17	4.4%	1,818	522
Pope	5	4.2%	422	242
Ramsey	440	6.0%	37,798	4,840
Red Lake	1	2.6%	245	72
Redwood	7	3.2%	917	213
Renville	10	4.5%	1,013	198
Rice	46	5.7%	2,493	374
Rock	7	5.4%	442	102
Roseau	8	4.3%	476	161
St. Louis	114	5.4%	10,094	1,931
Scott	101	5.0%	2,974	849
Sherburne	47	3.5%	2,712	799
Sibley	7	3.3%	747	147
Stearns	104	5.5%	5,748	1,208
Steele	19	3.6%	2,055	220
Stevens	3	2.5%	264	85
Swift	3	2.8%	546	152
Todd	8	2.6%	1,418	616
Traverse	1	2.3%	244	52
Wabasha	13	5.3%	660	227
Wadena	14	7.2%	998	364
Waseca	16	6.1%	966	157
Washington	132	4.6%	5,039	1,324
Watsonwan	6	3.8%	703	87
Wilkin	0	0.0%	303	84
Winona	27	5.2%	1,869	339
Wright	83	4.0%	3,298	1,218
Yellow Medicine	6	4.6%	500	160
STATE	3,470	4.9%	250,479	46,173

In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county.

Early Care & Education

Some of the greatest leaps in a child's physical, emotional, and intellectual abilities occur before the age of 6.

Parents, caregivers and others who interact with young children have the power to affect the trajectory of a child's life, depending upon the level of nurturing and the quality of early learning experiences. Years before children will board their first yellow bus, organizations such as Way to Grow (described at right) help parents recognize important steps they can take to prepare their children for success in school and beyond.

This section includes county-level data on the average annual cost for infants and preschool-age children at both child care centers and family-based (in-home) providers. No additional county-level data indicators about Early Care & Education are available online.



Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

Way To Grow

MINNEAPOLIS AREA

Who they are

Way to Grow recognizes that success in the classroom begins long before children go off to school. Since 1989, the program has promoted school readiness by sending trained "Family Educators" to conduct home visits with low-income families whose young children may fall behind developmentally. More than 90 percent of the families served have incomes below the poverty level, and many also face extreme isolation, limited English skills, and barriers to securing affordable housing and health care. The Family Educators become trusted allies to help parents as they nurture their children's early development and navigate important resources, such as quality child care providers and early screening services. About 80 percent of the staff are from communities of color, and staff members speak 11 different languages.

How they make a difference

Recognizing that parents are children's first teachers, Way to Grow guides parents in setting personal goals so that young children are physically, socially, emotionally, and



Family Educator, Mai Nhia Lor, shares a smile with two proud graduates from Way to Grow who entered kindergarten in Fall 2007.

cognitively ready to start kindergarten. To encourage brain development, Family Educators help parents implement early literacy skills in everyday interaction and play with their child, as well as using loving, but effective direction. To promote healthy children, parents learn about prenatal care, nutrition, lead prevention education, and injury prevention. To fulfill family's basic needs, Way to Grow connects families with resources for housing, clothing, food, education, and work opportunities. Importantly, the Family Educators also help parents learn to manage the stress of caring for a young child, and connect them with other professional help if necessary.

Supporting Minnesota families

Lily Sáenz Romero, a Family Educator, worked with one mother whose 2 ½-year-old daughter often screamed,

banged her head against the wall, and threw things. Romero helped the mother understand the daughter's emotional challenges, establish positive discipline, and encourage her daughter. "My friends kept asking me how I learned to stay calm and how I handled this situation so well," said the mother. By addressing some of the child's social-emotional needs, Way to Grow helped this family to focus more attention on learning. During 2007, Way to Grow's Family Educators conducted more than 7,000 home visits with parents and expectant parents, benefiting more than 1,500 children under age 6. However, Way to Grow's full impact is much broader, as it also prepares children for the classrooms and workplaces of tomorrow.

Learn more at www.mplswayatogrow.org

	Annual cost for center-based infant care, 2007	Annual cost for family-based infant care, 2007	Annual cost for center-based preschool care, 2007	Annual cost for family-based preschool care, 2007
COUNTY	EARLY CARE & EDUCATION			
Aitkin	NP	\$6,280	NP	\$5,920
Anoka	\$12,320	\$7,220	\$9,530	\$6,240
Becker	NP	\$5,710	NP	\$5,490
Beltrami	\$7,020	\$5,690	\$5,630	\$5,480
Benton	\$8,680	\$6,020	\$7,150	\$5,480
Big Stone	NP	NP	NP	NP
Blue Earth	\$8,270	\$6,030	\$6,870	\$5,670
Brown	\$6,830	\$5,660	\$6,310	\$5,550
Carlton	\$7,770	\$6,960	\$6,600	\$6,720
Carver	\$13,700	\$8,440	\$10,350	\$7,390
Cass	NP	\$6,390	NP	\$6,120
Chippewa	NP	\$5,510	NP	\$5,510
Chisago	\$10,630	\$6,900	\$8,400	\$6,090
Clay	\$7,280	\$5,620	\$1,330	\$5,150
Clearwater	NP	\$5,420	NP	\$5,200
Cook	NP	\$7,800	NP	\$7,150
Cottonwood	NP	\$4,940	NP	\$4,940
Crow Wing	\$7,060	\$6,570	\$6,430	\$6,210
Dakota	\$14,040	\$8,340	\$10,440	\$7,200
Dodge	NP	\$6,800	NP	\$6,540
Douglas	\$8,320	\$5,760	\$6,500	\$5,300
Faribault	\$6,370	\$5,070	\$6,370	\$5,070
Fillmore	NP	\$6,040	NP	\$5,680
Freeborn	\$7,440	\$5,850	\$5,510	\$5,630
Goodhue	\$7,580	\$6,530	\$6,550	\$6,200
Grant	NP	\$6,500	NP	\$5,200
Hennepin	\$15,080	\$8,670	\$11,010	\$7,640
Houston	NP	\$5,780	\$6,600	\$5,450
Hubbard	\$22,050	\$5,430	\$15,700	\$5,260
Isanti	\$9,160	\$6,770	\$7,840	\$5,930
Itasca	NP	\$7,060	NP	\$6,180
Jackson	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200
Kanabec	\$8,580	\$5,710	\$7,020	\$5,290
Kandiyohi	\$7,020	\$5,840	\$6,400	\$5,510
Kittson	NP	\$4,960	NP	\$4,960
Koochiching	NP	\$6,310	NP	\$5,820
Lac qui Parle	NP	\$4,580	NP	\$4,580
Lake	\$8,450	\$6,930	\$7,410	\$6,760
Lake of the Woods	NP	\$4,550	NP	\$4,550
LeSueur	NP	\$6,480	NP	\$6,050
Lincoln	NP	\$4,680	NP	\$4,680
Lyon	\$6,550	\$5,840	\$5,200	\$5,450
McLeod	\$10,310	\$6,470	\$6,770	\$5,840
Mahnomen	\$7,800	\$5,410	\$7,280	\$4,640

	Annual cost for center-based infant care, 2007	Annual cost for family-based infant care, 2007	Annual cost for center-based preschool care, 2007	Annual cost for family-based preschool care, 2007
COUNTY	EARLY CARE & EDUCATION			
Marshall	NP	NP	NP	NP
Martin	NP	\$5,580	NP	\$5,450
Meeker	\$7,850	\$5,530	\$6,480	\$5,270
Mille Lacs	\$8,580	\$6,190	\$7,440	\$5,660
Morrison	\$7,280	\$5,520	\$5,980	\$5,230
Mower	\$7,280	\$6,400	\$6,760	\$6,130
Murray	NP	\$4,550	NP	\$4,550
Nicollet	\$7,240	\$6,230	\$6,240	\$5,840
Nobles	NP	NP	NP	NP
Norman	NP	NP	NP	NP
Olmsted	\$12,310	\$7,530	\$9,430	\$6,770
Otter Tail	\$10,400	\$5,620	\$6,890	\$5,380
Pennington	\$6,500	\$5,190	\$5,980	\$4,910
Pine	NP	\$6,980	NP	\$6,380
Pipestone	\$6,980	NP	\$5,860	NP
Polk	\$7,500	\$5,590	\$5,820	\$5,220
Pope	NP	\$6,030	NP	\$5,700
Ramsey	\$14,340	\$7,840	\$10,510	\$7,020
Red Lake	\$5,530	\$4,390	\$5,010	\$4,450
Redwood	NP	\$6,240	NP	\$6,240
Renville	\$5,770	\$5,530	\$5,560	\$5,400
Rice	\$8,450	\$6,820	\$7,640	\$6,270
Rock	NP	\$4,800	NP	\$4,760
Roseau	NP	\$4,700	NP	\$4,630
St. Louis	\$8,690	\$7,190	\$7,600	\$6,560
Scott	\$14,920	\$8,380	\$10,660	\$7,400
Sherburne	\$9,980	\$6,790	\$8,080	\$5,720
Sibley	NP	\$7,350	NP	\$6,310
Stearns	\$9,170	\$5,830	\$7,610	\$5,460
Steele	\$8,850	\$5,970	\$6,810	\$5,640
Stevens	NP	\$5,200	NP	\$5,200
Swift	NP	\$5,630	NP	\$5,500
Todd	NP	\$5,600	NP	\$5,310
Traverse	NP	\$5,030	NP	\$5,030
Wabasha	\$8,060	\$6,760	\$6,760	\$6,050
Wadena	NP	\$5,620	\$4,550	\$5,330
Waseca	\$7,900	\$5,820	\$6,860	\$5,470
Washington	\$14,420	\$7,720	\$10,490	\$6,830
Watsonwan	NP	\$5,630	NP	\$5,420
Wilkin	NP	\$5,040	NP	\$5,020
Winona	\$8,270	\$5,710	\$6,670	\$5,170
Wright	\$10,770	\$7,260	\$8,820	\$6,330
Yellow Medicine	NP	\$6,140	NP	\$5,620
STATE	\$12,840	\$7,260	\$9,700	\$6,490

In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county. NP=No provider surveyed in this county charged a weekly rate during 2007. Weekly rates were multiplied by 52 weeks to derive annual cost figures.

School-Age Care & Education

Children are always learning, but their experiences inside the school walls are where most public attention is focused. School teachers, administrators, counselors, and coaches are important figures who can cultivate children's academic and other skills, especially for those with challenges to learning. Students of all ages respond positively when they are given opportunity to shape their own learning and link knowledge with real-world (and sometime even real-work) experience. Innovative programs such as ThreeSixty (described at right) help students find their voice while exploring a potential career.

This section includes county-level data on K–12 students with limited English proficiency, and K–12 students enrolled in special education. Additional county-level data indicators about School Age Care & Education available online include: students who dropped out of school, and students graduating from high school on time. (Note: These two indicators were not yet released at press time but will be posted online when available.)



Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

ThreeSixty

TWIN CITIES AREA

Who they are

While the ultimate goal of ThreeSixty is to expand perspectives in professional newsrooms, it's the path to that goal that makes a difference in the lives of youth. The nonprofit's free after school programs cater primarily to low-income and minority high school students, teaching them the craft of journalism — including interviewing, writing for print and online media, photojournalism, video production, and podcasting. In addition to an intense summer workshop established in 1971, ThreeSixty has expanded in the last year to include an online magazine with all content prepared by Minnesota teenagers and an introductory (four weeks) summer camp. The 11 high school students who make up ThreeSixty's editorial board envision and create monthly issues of the online magazine, which also publishes the best work created by camp attendees. Since the magazine launched in September 2007, students have published articles on teens in poverty, the presidential election, and fighting stereotypes, among others.



Students in ThreeSixty's summer 2007 day camp meet with anchor Vineeta Sawkar of KSTP 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS.

How they make a difference

By elevating students' voices, ThreeSixty helps them recognize the power in their unique perspectives and helps them "tell stories that matter." ThreeSixty's rigorous training often shapes their life stories as well. While building a portfolio of clips and working with professional journalists, students learn to engage more deeply in the world, challenge assumptions, and develop confidence in their own abilities. "The ThreeSixty workshop ... gave me an opportunity; it took a chance on me," said former ThreeSixty student Michelle Berry, who is now studying journalism at the University of St. Thomas. "For their belief in me, I am ever grateful."

Supporting Minnesota families

About half of the students who attend ThreeSixty's summer camps qualify for

free and reduced lunch and 90 percent of them are students of color. Most classes are offered on the University of St. Thomas campus in St. Paul, where students also get a taste of college life. The students explore potential careers in radio, TV, websites and newspapers. Since 2001, more than 30 ThreeSixty students have gone on to study journalism in college, five of them have worked in professional newsrooms, and six have received full scholarships to attend St. Thomas, where the organization is housed. In an era when traditional media consolidation has led to concerns about narrowing viewpoints, ThreeSixty is preparing students to positively expand the media.

Learn more at threesixtyjournalism.com

	Students with limited English proficiency, 2006-07	% of students with limited English proficiency, 2006-07	Students enrolled in special education, 2006-07	% of students enrolled in special education, 2006-07
COUNTY	SCHOOL-AGE CARE & EDUCATION			
Aitkin	2	0.1%	284	13.8%
Anoka	4,184	6.5%	7,602	11.8%
Becker	16	0.4%	695	15.7%
Beltrami	163	2.2%	1,126	15.1%
Benton	25	0.4%	815	14.6%
Big Stone	3	0.3%	125	13.5%
Blue Earth	315	3.3%	1,462	15.1%
Brown	196	5.6%	401	11.5%
Carlton	14	0.2%	780	12.8%
Carver	677	4.7%	1,546	10.6%
Cass	4	0.1%	844	19.8%
Chippewa	61	2.7%	346	15.3%
Chisago	110	1.3%	812	9.5%
Clay	385	4.5%	1,140	13.2%
Clearwater	2	0.1%	198	13.1%
Cook	6	0.9%	85	12.7%
Cottonwood	210	8.6%	356	14.6%
Crow Wing	2	0.0%	1,498	15.0%
Dakota	3,937	5.4%	9,479	12.9%
Dodge	145	3.6%	325	8.2%
Douglas	9	0.2%	811	15.2%
Faribault	55	2.7%	300	14.5%
Fillmore	0	0.0%	312	11.3%
Freeborn	178	4.2%	720	16.9%
Goodhue	124	1.8%	754	10.9%
Grant	3	0.3%	173	14.7%
Hennepin	19,428	12.7%	18,190	11.9%
Houston	1	0.0%	373	9.8%
Hubbard	0	0.0%	469	19.5%
Isanti	86	1.4%	624	9.9%
Itasca	1	0.0%	984	14.5%
Jackson	61	4.1%	189	12.8%
Kanabec	0	0.0%	294	11.7%
Kandiyohi	494	8.6%	692	12.0%
Kittson	0	0.0%	140	18.5%
Koochiching	7	0.3%	267	13.2%
Lac qui Parle	30	1.9%	220	14.3%
Lake	0	0.0%	216	14.2%
Lake of the Woods	0	0.0%	65	11.2%
LeSueur	242	5.6%	606	14.1%
Lincoln	3	0.3%	122	11.5%
Lyon	368	8.7%	504	11.9%
McLeod	193	3.3%	633	11.0%
Mahnomen	0	0.0%	213	15.7%

	Students with limited English proficiency, 2006-07	% of students with limited English proficiency, 2006-07	Students enrolled in special education, 2006-07	% of students enrolled in special education, 2006-07
COUNTY	SCHOOL-AGE CARE & EDUCATION			
Marshall	21	1.5%	202	14.5%
Martin	69	2.1%	489	14.8%
Meeker	43	0.7%	650	11.3%
Mille Lacs	27	0.4%	898	13.3%
Morrison	22	0.4%	681	13.4%
Mower	439	7.6%	752	13.0%
Murray	27	2.3%	163	13.9%
Nicollet	86	3.8%	391	17.2%
Nobles	281	8.3%	494	14.7%
Norman	23	1.9%	170	14.4%
Olmsted	2,276	10.4%	2,297	10.5%
Otter Tail	157	2.0%	1,031	12.9%
Pennington	34	1.6%	320	14.6%
Pine	17	0.4%	394	9.9%
Pipestone	35	2.4%	190	13.0%
Polk	138	2.7%	774	14.9%
Pope	0	0.0%	247	19.0%
Ramsey	19,794	23.7%	11,503	13.8%
Red Lake	1	0.1%	102	14.3%
Redwood	19	0.9%	273	12.4%
Renville	200	9.6%	275	13.2%
Rice	755	9.0%	1,172	14.0%
Rock	31	2.0%	219	14.1%
Roseau	19	0.6%	456	13.8%
St. Louis	32	0.1%	3,542	13.5%
Scott	1,090	5.7%	2,101	11.0%
Sherburne	440	2.4%	2,211	12.1%
Sibley	191	8.2%	284	12.2%
Stearns	1,163	5.1%	3,242	14.2%
Steele	390	6.0%	710	10.9%
Stevens	17	1.3%	232	17.2%
Swift	19	1.2%	236	15.0%
Todd	201	5.0%	597	14.7%
Traverse	0	0.0%	86	15.0%
Wabasha	60	1.3%	529	11.3%
Wadena	0	0.0%	397	14.0%
Waseca	97	2.8%	526	15.0%
Washington	842	2.2%	4,558	12.0%
Watsonwan	262	13.2%	250	12.6%
Wilkin	29	2.4%	190	15.6%
Winona	162	2.7%	868	14.4%
Wright	402	1.8%	2,538	11.6%
Yellow Medicine	58	3.3%	306	17.2%
STATE	61,709	7.5%	105,336	12.7%

In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county.

Safe Homes & Communities

Environments that allow children to enjoy healthy and secure childhoods help them develop into confident, productive adults. However, some children live in homes or communities that pose threats to their well-being. When community members strive to make children feel valued and respected, as the Wakenheza Project (described at right) teaches, children and families thrive.

This section includes county-level data on children under age 6 testing positive for lead poisoning, children who died from unintentional injuries, and children (age 10–17) arrested for serious crimes. Additional county-level data indicators about Safe Homes & Communities available online include: children who committed suicide, children who were murdered, and students who transferred schools during the year. (Note: This final indicator was not yet released at press time but will be posted online when available.)



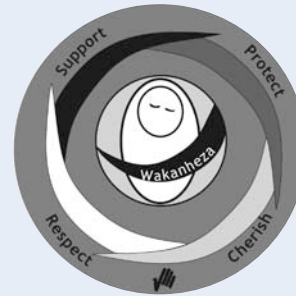
Stars of the State: Organizations Making a Difference

Wakanheza Project

RAMSEY COUNTY
AND STATEWIDE

Who they are

Ask any parent and they can tell you about the looks they've gotten when one of their children has had a tantrum in public. Sometimes there are sympathetic glances. Yet too often, strangers cast looks of criticism. The Wakanheza Project seeks to support families in stressful situations and to create more welcoming environments, so as to prevent them. Crafted as a community-level violence prevention strategy, the project is the brainchild of staff at the Initiative for Peaceful Families and Communities in Ramsey County, part of the St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health. Wakanheza (pronounced "Wah-KAHN-zha") is from the Dakota language meaning "child," but is more accurately translated as "sacred being." The project reminds community members to view children as sacred beings, and helps them recognize how they can make simple gestures that can make families and children feel supported.



How they make a difference

Often people witness families in distress, but don't know how to help. The Wakanheza Project teaches how to defuse situations using principles from violence prevention research. Specific skills include diverting children's attention, helping the adults (without insisting), and acknowledging you've been there. Wakanheza encourages people to "start from a place of believing that parents love their children...and that they are doing the best they can." Mary Comford, a Library Specialist at Rondo Community Outreach Library in St. Paul, implements Wakanheza principles with patrons. "We don't know if there was a fight in the parking lot...but we can affect that moment," she said. "Just a smile and saying, 'Your child is beautiful' can do a lot." The library also altered its physical layout. Two computers located near

the children's play area are reserved for parents, with large tables to accommodate infant carriers or give children space to color.

Supporting Minnesota families

There is no one right way to implement Wakanheza, as it can be adapted to any situation. The training is available to anyone but has been largely adopted by public workers such as librarians, museum workers, school personnel, and health care providers. Thousands of individuals have been trained, and nearly 50 organizations or public entities have become partners. Twin Cities Public Television recently produced a documentary about Wakanheza. DVD copies and other training materials are available to the public to further spread the vision about nurturing the "sacred beings" in our communities.

Learn more at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/hb/wakanheza

	Children under age 6 with lead poisoning, 2006	Children who died from unintentional injuries, 2006	Children age 10-17 arrested for serious crimes, 2006	Serious crime arrest rate per 1,000 children age 10-17
COUNTY	SAFE HOME & COMMUNITIES			
Aitkin	3	0	15	10.1
Anoka	43	4	881	21.4
Becker	3	1	51	14.7
Beltrami	2	2	96	19.0
Benton	5	0	28	6.8
Big Stone	0	0	10	16.5
Blue Earth	8	0	145	29.2
Brown	1	0	31	10.9
Carlton	7	1	11	3.0
Carver	7	4	129	11.3
Cass	3	0	21	6.7
Chippewa	4	1	16	11.2
Chisago	3	2	82	13.4
Clay	2	0	63	10.7
Clearwater	0	0	10	10.7
Cook	1	0	2	4.1
Cottonwood	4	2	21	16.1
Crow Wing	8	1	128	20.1
Dakota	52	7	972	19.8
Dodge	0	2	0	0
Douglas	3	2	70	20.4
Faribault	4	0	13	7.5
Fillmore	6	1	3	1.2
Freeborn	7	0	74	22.3
Goodhue	2	2	57	11.1
Grant	0	0	4	6.3
Hennepin	466	17	2,873	24.8
Houston	4	0	19	8.0
Hubbard	0	0	41	20.6
Isanti	4	2	26	6.0
Itasca	8	0	10	2.1
Jackson	5	0	7	5.7
Kanabec	1	0	45	24.0
Kandiyohi	15	1	112	24.0
Kittson	2	1	3	5.6
Koochiching	3	0	24	16.5
Lac qui Parle	5	0	3	3.6
Lake	1	0	3	2.9
Lake of the Woods	1	0	1	2.0
LeSueur	2	0	41	12.9
Lincoln	0	0	No Data	No Data
Lyon	2	5	52	19.0
McLeod	9	1	69	15.9
Mahnomen	1	2	3	4.6

	Children under age 6 with lead poisoning, 2006	Children who died from unintentional injuries, 2006	Children age 10-17 arrested for serious crimes, 2006	Serious crime arrest rate per 1,000 children age 10-17
COUNTY	SAFE HOME & COMMUNITIES			
Marshall	0	0	No Data	No Data
Martin	3	0	29	13.1
Meeker	6	0	24	9.1
Mille Lacs	6	2	45	15.6
Morrison	3	4	13	3.5
Mower	9	1	120	27.7
Murray	3	2	No Data	No Data
Nicollet	5	0	31	9.7
Nobles	7	2	32	13.6
Norman	1	0	No Data	No Data
Olmsted	10	2	384	25.1
Otter Tail	5	2	71	11.4
Pennington	0	0	23	16.7
Pine	9	0	99	32.0
Pipestone	1	0	1	0.9
Polk	4	1	36	10.4
Pope	1	1	5	4.2
Ramsey	319	7	1,825	33.1
Red Lake	0	1	0	0
Redwood	2	0	6	3.3
Renville	10	0	9	4.6
Rice	9	1	120	18.5
Rock	1	1	2	1.9
Roseau	0	0	6	2.8
St. Louis	53	9	444	23.5
Scott	17	2	177	11.4
Sherburne	4	3	145	14.0
Sibley	7	1	0	0
Stearns	21	2	526	34.5
Steele	4	1	71	16.5
Stevens	4	0	3	3.7
Swift	2	0	40	35.7
Todd	5	1	21	7.4
Traverse	1	0	1	2.4
Wabasha	2	0	8	3.0
Wadena	2	0	14	9.3
Waseca	3	1	10	4.8
Washington	15	4	409	14.3
Watonwan	5	0	25	18.7
Wilkin	1	0	6	7.4
Winona	5	3	62	13.3
Wright	8	1	209	14.8
Yellow Medicine	6	2	2	1.7
STATE	1,290	118	11,319	19.6

In some columns, county figures do not sum to state figure because of additional small counts of children not assigned to a county.

Guide to Online Data

The KIDS COUNT Network is comprised of state-based KIDS COUNT projects in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Network members share the common goal of using data to advance change on behalf of kids and families. KIDS COUNT supports two websites to help community members stay up-to-date on key trends in child well-being. Both websites allow users to easily create custom reports, compare data for different areas, and design impressive graphics that can be added to presentations or reports. Below is a quick overview of each website's features.

KIDS COUNT Data Center

www.kidscount.org/datacenter

The KIDS COUNT Data Center, launched in January 2008, contains more than 100 measures of child well-being. The Data Center includes the most recent data



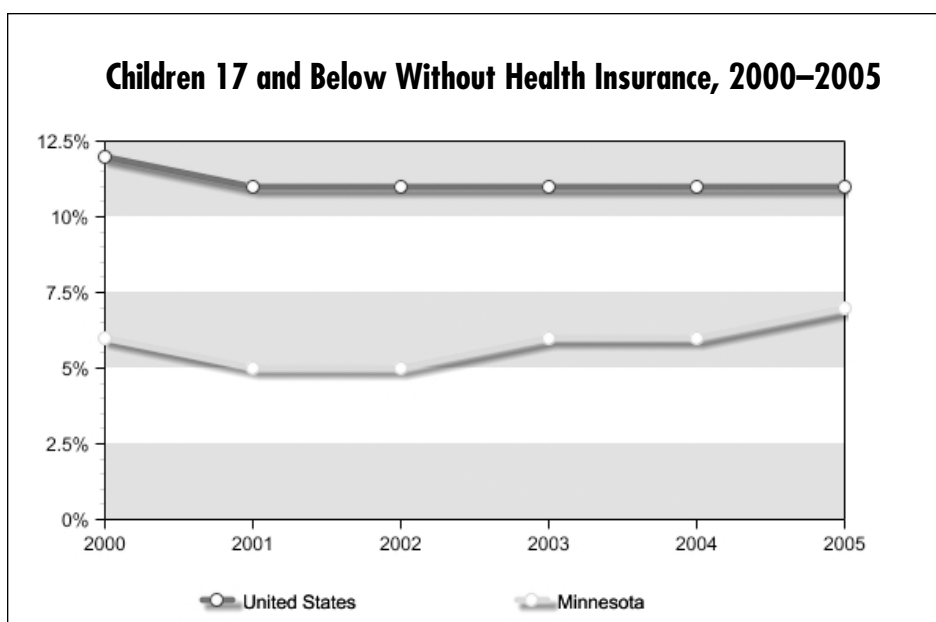
available on Education, Employment and Income, Poverty, Health, Basic Demographics, and Youth Risk Factors for the U.S., all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It also features data for the 50 largest U.S. cities, including Minneapolis. Three to five years of trend data is currently available for most indicators. This powerful database allows you to generate custom reports for

a geographic area (under Profiles) or to compare geographic areas on a topic (using Ranking, Maps, and Line Graphs). For example, you can easily compare the percent of children without health insurance in Minnesota versus other states and the nation. (The KIDS COUNT Data Center replaces the previous KIDS COUNT State Level Data Online system.)

Community-Level Information on Kids (CLIKs)

www.kidscount.org/cliks

This website brings together data on the well-being of children collected by KIDS COUNT grantees (including Children's Defense Fund Minnesota) for use in their data books and other publications. Unlike the KIDS COUNT Data Center, which provides only state-level data for Minnesota (and some data for Minneapolis), the CLIKs website contains county-level data for all 87 counties in Minnesota, and state-level data. Trend data is available for the 10 Annual Indicators that have been tracked since the beginning of the KIDS COUNT project in Minnesota, including:



Line graph created on the KIDS COUNT Data Center website

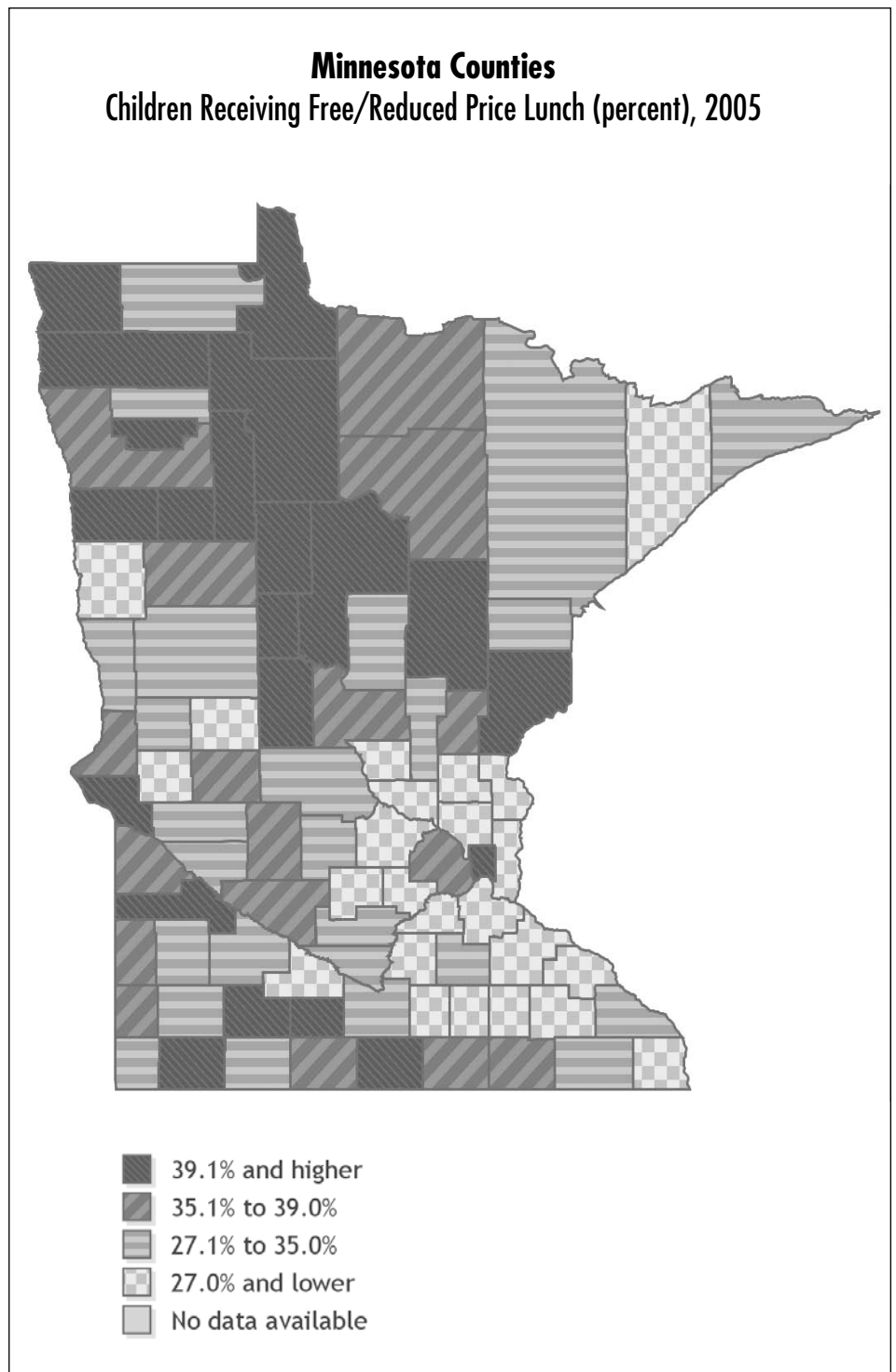
- Children in Poverty
- Children Receiving Food Support
- Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- Children Born to Teen Mothers
- Children Born at Low Birth Weight
- Children Changing Schools
- Children Dropping Out of School
- Children Arrested for Serious Crimes
- Children Abused or Neglected, and
- Children in Out-of-Home Placements

For these 10 Annual Indicators, data is available for each year back to 1993, and some indicators have data dating back to 1991. Both the number and rate/percent is presented.



All county-level data published in this 2008 Minnesota KIDS COUNT Data Book is available through the interactive CLIks website, plus additional data available only online. Similar to this book, data is organized within the Seven Basic Needs.

CLIks allows users to easily create data profiles of indicators, line graphs to observe trends over time, and color-coded maps that reveal county-level variation and patterns. Users can also rank counties (first to last, or highest to lowest for a particular indicator), as well as download raw data to manipulate further.



Map created on the CLIks website

Technical & Data Notes

Technical Notes

“Children” if not otherwise defined refers to those under age 18 (0–17). A “parent” may be either biological, adoptive or a step-parent. “Families” refers to a parent raising one or more children in their household. A “household” may contain a single family, more than one family, a family and one or more sub-families (such as a three generations living together), or it may contain members that are unrelated. Total and sub-group child populations used for calculating most rates are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates for July 1, 2006, or the year that corresponds to the data.

The data for many indicators comes from the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide survey of households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2006, for the first time, the ACS sampled group quarters, including those living in institutions, college dormitories, group homes, correctional facilities, etc. Therefore, ACS estimates from 2006 may not be entirely comparable with earlier ACS estimates, which only sampled the household population, not group quarters.

Statewide poverty estimates are based upon the universe for whom poverty status is determined in the 2006 ACS. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks, institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 18 (such as foster children). The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition. Unlike the 2006 poverty estimates in the statewide indicator table, the 2005 county-level and statewide poverty estimates found in the County Table were obtained from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), U.S. Census Bureau.

Some data presented in this book is reflective of actual counts, while other data is obtained from survey estimates. In the latter case, we have rounded many figures to the nearest 500 or 1,000 to emphasize that the figure is an estimate, which contains a margin of error. For additional information about sampling methodology and confidence intervals, please refer to the original data source or contact Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota.

Data Notes

ESSAY: FROM “GETTING BY” TO “GETTING AHEAD”

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.
- 2 University of Minnesota, Facts and Figures, November 2006. Retrieved from www1.umn.edu/twincities/pdf/FactsNov06.pdf.
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- ## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (P. 20, 29)
- ### Total population, 2006
- Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2006.
- ### Child population, 2006
- Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2006.

Children by race/ethnicity, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates for July 1, 2006. Notes: Hispanic/Latino children are not counted in racial groupings.

BASIC NEED #1: FAMILY & CAREGIVERS (P. 21, 31)

Households raising children, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: See detailed table B11005. Includes all households containing children, regardless of child's relationship to householder.

Children in households, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See detailed table B23008. Universe only includes children being raised by parents.

Children being raised by unmarried, cohabitating partners, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. Unmarried, cohabitating partner may be of either sex. Includes children living with two unmarried parents.

Children being raised by grandparents, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. Only includes grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Excludes multi-generation households where a parent is still the primary caregiver for a child.

Children in immigrant families, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. Refers to families where either a child was not born in the United States, or the child has at least one parent not born in the U.S., or both. Does not indicate immigration status.

Total births, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 1. Notes: Refers to live births only.

Children born to unmarried mothers, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 8.

Children born with no father listed on the birth certificate, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 8.

Children born to teenage (age 15–17) mothers, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 7. Notes: Due to small numbers, rate represents 3-year average for 2004–2006; rate given per 1,000 teenage girls age 15 to 17.

Children abused or neglected, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. "Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2006," October 30, 2007, #07-68-13. Notes: Unique count of children during the year. The same child may have been the subject of multiple reports.

Children in the Family Assessment Response program, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. "Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2006," October 30, 2007, #07-68-13.

Children in out-of-home placements, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. "Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2006," October 30, 2007, #07-68-13.

Children who were state wards waiting for adoptive homes, year-end, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. "Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2006," October 30, 2007, #07-68-13.

Children aging out of foster care without a permanent family, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. "Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2006," October 30, 2007, #07-68-13. Notes: Refers to children who left state guardianship due to reaching age of majority (18) without being adopted.

BASIC NEED #2: ECONOMIC SECURITY (P. 22, 33)

Children living in extreme poverty, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. Refers to children who live in families with an annual income of less than half of the federal poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In 2006, half of the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was \$10,222. Poverty estimates are based upon the universe for whom poverty status is determined. Notably, foster children are not included.

Children/Families living in poverty, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online or detailed tables B17010 and B17006. Refers to

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children/families with annual incomes below the federal poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In 2006, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was \$20,444. Poverty estimates are based upon the universe for whom poverty status is determined. Notably, foster children are not included.

Children under age 5 living in poverty, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. Refers to children age 0–4 living in families with annual incomes below the federal poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In 2006, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was \$20,444. Poverty estimates are based upon the universe for whom poverty status is determined. Notably, foster children are not included.

Entire population living in poverty, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Refers to individuals (children or adults) with annual incomes below the federal poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In 2006, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was \$20,444. Poverty estimates are based upon the universe for whom poverty status is determined. Notably, foster children are not included.

Median annual income of families raising children, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Given in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. See detailed table B19125. Median annual income for families with related children under age 18 living in the household. The median income is the dollar amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups.

Families raising children with all resident parents in the workforce, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: See detailed table C23007. Refers to parents who are in the civilian labor force, including persons who are employed and those who are unemployed but looking for work. Resident means the parent lives in the home with the child.

Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. For children living in single-parent families, this means the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in

married-couple families, this means neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Tax households who claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit, 2006 (Tax Year 2005)

Source: Internal Revenue Service, 2006. Stakeholder Partnerships, Education & Communication (SPEC) Tax Return Information Database for Tax Year 2005. Notes: Analysis by Children's Defense Fund. A tax household is the unit containing all people listed on a single tax return.

Total value of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), 2006 (Tax Year 2005)

Source: Internal Revenue Service, 2006. Stakeholder Partnerships, Education & Communication (SPEC) Tax Return Information Database for Tax Year 2004. Notes: Analysis by Children's Defense Fund. A tax household is the unit containing all people listed on a single tax return. Total value includes the amount paid to offset any tax liability plus the remaining value paid as a refundable credit to the tax household.

Children in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP, welfare-to-work)/Children in Tribal TANF cases

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults, August 2007. DHS-4219H-ENG.

Households headed by unmarried women who are receiving child support, 2003–2005

Source: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003–2005. Notes: Figures represent 3-year averages. Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. Families headed by an unmarried woman (living with one or more of her biological, step-, or adopted children) receiving child support payments during the previous calendar year. Includes never-married persons under age 18 who are the sons or daughters of the head of household. Includes those receiving partial payment, as well as those receiving full payment. There is no child support award in place in many of these families.

BASIC NEED #3: FOOD & NUTRITION (P. 23, 35)

K-12 students approved for free or reduced-price school lunch, 2006–07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Downloads, 2006–07 Enrollments-County-Special Populations spreadsheet. Notes: The number of K–12 public school children approved for free or reduced price lunches as of October 1, 2006. Not all

eligible children participate, and the counts do not include children who attend private schools or home-schooled children. Schools are assigned to the county where the district office is located.

Average monthly enrollment of children receiving Food Support, 2007

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, MAXIS Data Warehouse. Notes: Average monthly enrollment during calendar year 2007 of unique children in Food Support households. Includes children from MFIP Food Portion cases. Count of children only includes Food Support-eligible children in the household. Children were defined as persons whose had not reached their 18th birthday, regardless of relationship to other household members.

Average monthly participation in the WIC nutrition program, 2006

Source: Food Research and Action Center, State of the States 2007, Minnesota page. Notes: Data is for fiscal year 2006. Rates were calculated by dividing the participation figures by the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimate for 2006 for that age group. WIC is officially called the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Percent of households that are "food insecure," 2004–2006

Source: Economic Research Service/USDA, Household Food Security in the United States, 2006. Based on data from Current Population Survey, food security surveys for 2004–2006. Notes: A three-year average is used to increase the accuracy of the estimate. Refers to all Minnesota households, including those without children.

Percent of households with children that are "food insecure," 2004–2006

Source: Economic Research Service/USDA, Household Food Security in the United States, 2006. Based on data from Current Population Survey, food security surveys for 2004–2006. Notes: A three-year average is used to increase the accuracy of the estimate. Refers to households that include children in the Midwest geographic region (as defined by the Census). Sample size does not permit estimates among only Minnesota households with children.

Pounds of food distributed at food shelves, 2007

Source: Hunger Solutions Minnesota, Food Shelf Statistics Report, 01/2007 to 12/2007. Personal contact with James Redmond. Notes: On average, visitors receive 22 pounds per person per visit to a Minnesota food shelf.

Children in families visiting food shelves, 2007

Source: Hunger Solutions Minnesota, Food Shelf Statistics Report, 01/2007 to 12/2007. Personal contact with James Redmond. Notes: Not a unique count of children served.

All children in a family were counted each time a family member visited a food shelf during the year.

Children in the Summer Food Service Program, 2007

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Food and Nutrition Service. Personal contact with Jenny Butcher. Notes: Average daily participation during the month of July (busiest month). Rate is calculated by dividing summer participation figure by free and reduced-price school lunch enrollment figure.

BASIC NEED #4: HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT (P. 24, 37)

Children without health insurance, 2004–2006

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2005–2007. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online. A three-year average is used to increase the accuracy of the estimate.

Average monthly enrollment of children in Medical Assistance, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Reports & Forecasts Division. Notes: Includes children in MFIP households. Refers to children below age 18, although 18- to 20-year-olds are eligible to receive Medical Assistance. Child's age calculated as of July 1, 2006. Children are counted in only one county even if they moved during the year. Children are counted in both Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollee counts if they were enrolled in both programs during the year.

Average monthly enrollment of children in MinnesotaCare, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Reports & Forecasts Division. Notes: Refers to children below age 18, although 18- to 20-year-olds are eligible to receive Medical Assistance. Child's age calculated as of July 1, 2006. Children are counted in only one county even if they moved during the year. Children are counted in both Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollee counts if they were enrolled in both programs during the year.

Children born at low birth weight, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 2. Notes: Refers to live births during 2007 in which the child weighed less than 2500 grams at birth. Single births only; not multiples. Information is collected from birth certificates. Births are assigned to the mother's county of residence, regardless where the birth occurred.

Children born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 2. Notes: Births are assigned to the mother's county of residence, regardless where the birth occurred.

Children whose mothers received late or inadequate prenatal care, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 4. Notes: "Inadequate" is defined as either no prenatal care, care beginning in the 3rd trimester, or an inadequate range of visits, regardless of when prenatal care began. Births are assigned to the mother's county of residence, regardless where the birth occurred.

Children on SSI (Supplemental Security Income), 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, CSHN Table 5. Notes: SSI and TEFRA require the same level of disability for medical eligibility. In addition to meeting medical eligibility criteria, there is financial eligibility criteria which must be met to receive SSI.

Children on TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act), 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, CSHN Table 5. Notes: SSI and TEFRA require the same level of disability for medical eligibility. In addition to meeting medical eligibility criteria, there is financial eligibility criteria which must be met to receive SSI.

Children who have special health care needs (CSHCN), 2005-06

Source: 2005/2006 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, Minnesota Chartbook Page, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. Notes: "Children with special health care needs" are defined as those with a condition expected to last 12 months or more, who either: currently need prescription medications; need more medical care, mental health or educational services than most children their age; are limited in their ability to do the things most children can do; need special therapy; or have emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems requiring treatment or counseling. Common conditions include (but are not limited to) ADD/ADHD, allergies, asthma, autism-spectrum disorders, emotional problems, migraines, and mental retardation.

BASIC NEED #5: EARLY CARE & EDUCATION (P. 25, 39)

Average annual cost for licensed full-time infant/preschool-age care, 2007

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2007 Child Care Provider Rate Survey. Notes: Annual cost was calculated by multiplying average weekly cost by 52 weeks. In some counties, no provider existed who charged a weekly rate during 2007. This is designated by "NP" in the county table.

Children under age 6 with all available parents in the workforce

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center Online. For those children living with one parent, this means the resident parent is in the civilian labor force. For those children living with two parents, this means both resident parents are in the civilian labor force.

Children in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), average monthly enrollment, 2007

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Transition to Economic Stability, Child Care Assistance Program Family Profile, 2007. Notes: Monthly averages of children receiving CCAP including MFIP, TY and BSF families during state fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007).

Families on waiting lists for CCAP, December 2007

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. Notes: The December 2007 wait list was the most recent available at time of publication.

Children served by Head Start or Early Head Start, 2006-2007

Source: 2006-07 Head Start Program Information Report. Notes: Total number of children enrolled in state or federally funded Head Start programs for any period of time. Children age 3 to 5 attending in preschool, nursery school, or kindergarten, 2006. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online.

BASIC NEED #6: SCHOOL AGE CARE & EDUCATION (P. 26, 41)

Students who are home schooled, 2006-07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Education Statistics Summary 2006-2007. Notes: Count as of October 1, 2006.

Students enrolled in non-public schools, 2006-07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Education Statistics Summary 2006-2007. Notes: Count as of October 1, 2006.

Students enrolled in K-12 public schools, 2006-07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Education Statistics Summary 2006-2007. Notes: Count as of October 1, 2006.

K-12 public school students with limited English proficiency, 2006-07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Downloads, 2006-07 Enrollments-County-Special Populations spreadsheet. Notes: Count as of October 1, 2006. Schools are assigned to the county where their district offices are located.

K-12 public school students enrolled in special education, 2006-07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Data Downloads, 2006-07 Enrollments-County-Special Populations spreadsheet. Notes: Count as of October 1, 2006. Schools are assigned to the county where their district offices are located.

Kindergartners not yet ready for kindergarten, 2006-07

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota School Readiness Study: Developmental Assessment at Kindergarten Entrance, Fall 2006. Notes: Refers to children assigned a "not yet" rating in that particular domain. Students assigned an "in process" rating are excluded. Not all kindergartners were assessed; there were 48 elementary schools in the sample.

Children age 6 to 12 with all available parents in the workforce, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: Analysis by Population Reference Bureau. See KIDS COUNT Data Center online.

Average weekly cost for licensed full-time school-age care, 2007

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2007 Child Care Provider Rate Survey. Notes: In some counties, no provider existed who charged a weekly rate during 2007.

BASIC NEED #7: SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES (P. 27, 43)

Children under age 6 testing positive for lead poisoning, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Environmental Health Table 1. Notes: Refers to children who were tested and found to have blood lead levels

of 10 Micrograms per Deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or greater.

Children living in crowded housing, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey. Notes: "Crowded" is defined as households that have more than 1 person per room.

Students who do not participate in activities or clubs because of the cost, 2007

Source: 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables. Notes: The 2007 Minnesota Student Survey was administered in the spring of 2007 to public school students in grades 6, 9, and 12 statewide. Refers to those who answered "activities cost too much" to the question, "In general, why don't you participate in any school-based or community-based activities and clubs?" 12th graders who feel other adults in their community care about them, 2007. Source: 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables.

12th graders who volunteer each week, 2007

Source: 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables.

12th graders who work for pay each week (including babysitting), 2007

Source: 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables.

Children (age 10 to 17) arrested for serious crimes, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Minnesota Crime Information-2006 report; Population Projections, U.S. Census Bureau, 2006. Notes: Refers to arrests of juveniles age 10-17. Rate per 1,000 is calculated by dividing the number of juvenile arrests by the total number of children ages 10 to 17, then multiplying by 1,000. "Serious" crimes (Part I crimes) include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson. Not all children arrested for serious crimes may have committed these crimes, and not all children who committed serious crimes may have been arrested.

Children who died from unintentional injury, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Mortality Tables.

Children who committed suicide, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Mortality Tables.

Children who were murdered, 2006

Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2007 Minnesota County Health Tables, Mortality Tables.

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