

Fact Sheet: Children: 2009

Children are our future; many government and social programs serve the needs of children. Therefore, the U.S. Census Bureau provides key information on the state of children in America, such as their healthcare, child care, living arrangements, school enrollment, language use, race and poverty status. In this fact sheet, we explore several sources of data on children. Virtually all this information can be found online, either at census.gov or websites cited below.

Survey of Income and Program Participation

Key fact: A longitudinal survey that is the only Census Bureau source of data on child care arrangements and follows the same child over time and provides data poverty spells.

- Provides national-level data only. Data were first collected on child care in 1985.
- Provides data on subjects such as child support providers, child well being, child care, living arrangements, household food security, language use and ability, and GED receipt for children age 15 and older.
- The most recent data on child support pertains to 2005. It includes the dollar amount of support provided and child support agreements for children under age 21.
- The most recent child well-being data are available from the report *A Child's Day: 2006 (Selected Indicators of Child Well-Being)*. It includes topics such as living arrangements, daily interactions with parents, reading, academic experiences (such as gifted classes, feelings about school, repeating a grade, private school), activities (such as sports, lessons, clubs, religious activities), and neighborhood characteristics.
- Most recent published childcare data are available from the report *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005/Summer 2006*. Types of child care analyzed include relative care, organized care facilities and self care.
- Detailed data on living arrangements of children are available by race, age and Hispanic origin of the child.

Current Population Survey (CPS)

Key Fact: Collects national-level information on children's living arrangements, school enrollment, poverty status and child support.

- Estimates are provided for the nation based on a sample of approximately 100,000 addresses in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the CPS as well as for various other supplements such as October (school enrollment) and April (child support).
- Data at the national level are shown for various demographic characteristics, including family status, race groups and Hispanic origin, age, metropolitan residence, family income and work experience.
- The CPS ASEC is the official source of national poverty statistics for children and the population as a whole.

- The data from the CPS ASEC are released around September each year with data from the 2009 ASEC being the most recent available.
- Data are provided on topics such as nativity, full-day nursery school enrollment, number of children with stay-at-home parents, number who live with a single parent, labor force status of those aged 15 to 17 years, high school dropout, health insurance coverage, coresidence with grandparents, and types of child support received by their parents.

American Community Survey (ACS)

Key Fact: A nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic and housing data every year.

- The ACS replaces the decennial census long form.
- Provides single-year estimates for the nation, groups and areas of 65,000 or more population, including counties, cities and all congressional districts.
- Three-year estimates are available for all areas of 20,000 or more population. Later in the year, for the first time, the ACS will provide five-year estimates for the nation's smallest areas, such as census tracts and block groups.
- Sample of about 3 million addresses each year.
- Data are provided by a wide range of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.
- Data are provided on topics such as nativity of parents, language use and ability, poverty status, family income, health insurance status, grandchildren cared for by grandparent, number receiving food stamps and high school completion status.

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

Key fact: Model-based estimates of health insurance coverage for every county in the nation.

- Produces annual estimates describing health insurance coverage for states and each of the nation's counties. A limited set of data was first published in 2005 for calendar year 2000; a broader set of estimates was released in 2009 pertaining to 2006.
- Data products are model-based and combine data from a variety of sources, including the Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey, Census 2000, the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program, the County Business Patterns data set and administrative records (such as aggregated federal tax returns and Medicaid participation records).
- Data are tabulated by age, sex, income, race (for states only) and Hispanic origin. The data pertain only to those younger than 19.

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Key fact: Annual model-based estimates of income and poverty for all states, counties and school districts.

- Estimates are produced for the number of people in poverty, number of children under 18 in poverty; number of children ages 5 to 17 in families in poverty and median household income for all states and counties.
- Data on children under the age of 5 in poverty are available for states only.
- Statistics on children ages 5 to 17 in families in poverty for all school districts.
- Data products are model-based and combine data from a variety sources, including the ACS, the decennial census, population estimates and administrative records such as federal tax information.
- The most recent data available is 2008.

Population Estimates

Key Fact: Annual estimates based largely on administrative records.

- National and state estimates are available by single year of age, sex, race and Hispanic origin as well as by 5-year age groups through age 19.
- County data are available by selected age groups (including 5-year age groups) and sex.
- Data are published on an annual basis—2009 is the most recent.
- Estimates for 2010 will not be provided in 2011 they will be superseded by 2010 census counts. In December 2011, the first July 1, 2011 estimates will be released.

Other data sources:

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Key Fact: Provides national-level information on the health of the civilian non-institutionalized population.

- Data are collected by the U.S. Census Bureau for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).
- Statistics are published by the NCHS on a broad range of health topics such as health insurance, chronic diseases and immunization by various demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.
- Information can be found at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm.

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

Key Fact: Evaluates the health and nutritional status of adults and children.

- Data are published by the NCHS. The survey determines the prevalence of major diseases (such as respiratory diseases and diabetes), risk factors for diseases and chronic conditions by various demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.
- Estimates are produced for previous undiagnosed and known conditions.
- Information can be found at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm.

Early Childhood Longitudinal Program (ECLS)

Key Fact: Provides national data that examine child development, school readiness and early school experiences.

- Data are published by the National Center for Education Statistics. It is available for topics such as children's transitions to non-parental care, early education programs and school.
- Information is analyzed on topics such as family relationships, school, community, early learning and school performance.
- Information can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/>.