

Center for Technology and Teacher Education

America's Children: How Are We Doing?



Curry School of Education
University of Virginia

Credits
Michael Berson

America's Children: How Are We Doing?

Module information

- **Discipline:** Government, Sociology, or Psychology
- **Specific lesson topic:** Welfare of Children
- **Methodology:** Primary Source

K-12 objectives:

1. Analyze the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics Report *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 1998*.
2. Compare and contrast changes in population and family characteristics as indicated in *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* over the past few decades.
3. Synthesize indicators of children's well-being in the following areas: economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education.

Materials needed:

- Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. [*America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 1998*](#).
<http://childstats.gov>

Procedures:

- Introduction to America's Children: Key National Indicators

Explain the purpose of the report. This non-technical report provides information on national indicators of child well being and illustrates changes in these indicators over time.
- Examine the population and family characteristics presented in the report.
 1. What does a child in 1998 "look like"? Thinking back to your own childhood, identify some similarities and differences.
 2. What do you think that a child in 2020 might "look like" in a future report?
- Divide students into four groups of social scientists. Each group will study one of the following indicators of children's well-being.
 1. Economic security
 2. Health
 3. Behavior and social environment
 4. Education
- Students will summarize their findings based on the information that they find in the report.
- Have students search the web to find a federal, state and/or local agency responsible for improving children's well being. Based on their findings, students should interview a representative from the agency to better understand how they service children.
- Have students report their findings to the class.

Assessment

K-12:

- Students can write a report on the state of children in your community.
- Students can interview a local child advocate to find out how to get involved in the improvement of the quality of life for children.
- Students can construct an action plan to help a group of children in your community improve the quality of their lives.

Methods:

- Students will try to find literature that they could connect to better understand children in poverty.
- Have students develop questions related to a particular chart, table, or graph presented in the report.

Related Resources:

[Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service](http://www.usda.gov/fcs/fcs): <http://www.usda.gov/fcs/fcs>
[Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census](http://www.census.gov): <http://www.census.gov>
[Department of Defense Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense \(Personnel Support, Families and Education\)](http://dticaw.dtic.mil/prhome/das_psfe.html) http://dticaw.dtic.mil/prhome/das_psfe.html
[Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics](http://www.nces.ed.gov): <http://www.nces.ed.gov>
[Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov): <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov>
[Agency for Health Care Policy and Research](http://www.ahcpr.gov): <http://www.ahcpr.gov>
[Maternal and Child Health Bureau](http://www.hhs.gov/hrsa/mchb): <http://www.hhs.gov/hrsa/mchb>
[National Center for Health Statistics](http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww): <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww>
[National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](http://www.nih.gov/nichd): <http://www.nih.gov/nichd>
[Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation](http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov): <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov>
[Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research](http://www.huduser.org): <http://www.huduser.org>
[Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs): <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>
[National Institute of Justice](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij): <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>
[Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](http://www.ncjrs.org/ojjdp): <http://www.ncjrs.org/ojjdp>
[Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov): <http://www.bls.gov>
[Women's Bureau](http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb): <http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb>
[National Science Foundation Science Resources Studies Division](http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs): <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs>
[Office of Management and Budget Statistical Policy Office](http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OMB/html/ombhome.html): <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OMB/html/ombhome.html>