

Data Definitions and Sources

Percent of Total Population 18 and Under, 2000

Definition: This measures the number of children ages birth through 18.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Density of Children, 2000

Definition: This measures the number of children ages birth through 18 per square mile.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Changes in Total Child Population, 1990 to 2000

Definition: This measures changes in the 18-and-under population from 1990 to 2000.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3A and 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Changes in 6-Year-Olds Attending Chicago Public Schools, 2000 to 2002

Definition: This counts the number of 6-year-olds who were enrolled in any grade in September 2000 and September 2002.

Source: Chapin Hall Center for Children analysis of Chicago Public Schools Student Information System

Percent of Children Who Are Hispanic, 2000

Definition: Children are defined as age 19 or younger. Race is a self-identification question on the decennial census in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. Hispanic is defined as people who identified themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or "other Spanish, Hispanic or Latino." People who are Hispanic may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Children Who Are Black, 2000

Definition: Children are defined as age 19 or younger. Race is a self-identification question on the decennial census in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The 2000 Census was the first to allow respondents to select more than one racial category. We display respondents counted as black or African American alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Children Who Are White, 2000

Definition: Children are defined as age 19 or younger. Race is a self-identification question on the decennial census in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The 2000 Census was the first to allow respondents to select more than one racial category. We display respondents counted as white alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Children Who Are Asian, 2000

Definition: Children are defined as age 19 or younger. Race is a self-identification question on the decennial census in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The 2000 Census was the first to allow respondents to select more than one racial category. We display respondents counted as Asian alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Changes in Young Child Population (Birth to 5), 1996 to 2000

Definition: This measures changes in the birth-to-5 population from 1996 to 2000.

Sources: Chapin Hall Center Children projections of child population (for 1996 data) and U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3 (for 2000 data)

Class of 2002 High School Dropout Rate

Definition: This measures the percentage of students entering high school together in 1998 that dropped out before graduating in 2002.

Source: Consortium on Chicago School Research

Children Tested for Lead Poisoning, 2002

Definition: Children are defined as age 6 or younger. The number of children tested includes the total number of unique children with any blood lead test (capillary or venous) reported in 2002. Children with a community area of "unknown" were reported with addresses that could not be geocoded to a particular location in the city (street address was invalid or missing or was a post office box), but were identified as being a Chicago resident using the city or zip code.

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health

Children With High Blood Lead Levels, 2002

Definition: Children are defined as age 6 or younger. The number of children with an elevated blood lead level (i.e. lead poisoned) counts the number of children whose highest venous blood lead level was 10 micrograms per deciliter or higher. High capillary tests are excluded from counts of elevated tests. Children with a community area of "unknown" were reported with addresses that could not be geocoded to a particular location in the city (street address was invalid or missing or was a post office box), but were identified as being a Chicago resident using the city or zip code.

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health

Violent Crimes, 2002

Definition: Violent crimes are criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault/battery and murder. Data are displayed as the number of crimes per square mile.

Source: Chicago Police Department, 2002 Annual Report

Non-Violent Crimes, 2002

Definition: Non-violent crimes—or property crimes—are burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Data are displayed as the number of crimes per square mile.

Source: Chicago Police Department, 2002 Annual Report

Percent of Families in Poverty, 2000

Definition: A family is a group of two or more people with own children who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption. A family is considered to be in poverty if the family's income falls below the poverty threshold as determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The poverty threshold is meant to reflect the income that can sustain a family's basic needs for a year. It counts income before taxes and does not include capital gains and non-cash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid and public housing. Poverty thresholds vary by family size. For example, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$17,960 in 2000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Median Family Income, 2000

Definition: A family is a group of two or more people with own children who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent, 2000

Definition: A family is a group of two or more people with own children who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption. This data reflects families headed by a single parent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Families Headed by a Grandparent, 2000

Definition: A family is a group of two or more people with own children who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption. This data reflects families headed by a grandparent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Children Receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, 2003

Definition: Data are active cases in September 2003. Children grantees refers to TANF Medical Assistance Grant recipients.

Source: Illinois Department of Human Services

Percent of Two-Parent Families That Are Working, 2000

Definition: A family is a group of two or more people who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption. Families include those with children and with no children. Adults are defined as being in the labor force if they were working or with a job but not at work (due to illness or vacation, for example) during the reference week. Those who are excluded include those whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work. Also excluded are people on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. The reference week is the calendar week preceding the date on which the respondents completed their questionnaire.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Percent of Single-Parent Families That Are Working, 2000

Definition: A family is a group of two or more people who reside together and are related by birth, marriage or adoption. Families include those with children and with no children. Adults are defined as being in the labor force if they were working or with a job but not at work (due to illness or vacation, for example) during the reference week. Those who are excluded include those whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work. Also excluded are people on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. The reference week is the calendar week preceding the date on which the respondents completed their questionnaire.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3

Changes in Children Birth to 5 Receiving Child Care Subsidies, 1998 to 2003

Definition: This reflects the number of children ages birth through 5 who received a child care subsidy certificate from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Source: Chapin Hall Center for Children analysis of Illinois Department of Human Services data

Children Receiving Food Stamps, 2003

Definition: Data are active cases in September 2003. This displays the number of children receiving benefits from the federal Food Stamp Program.

Source: Illinois Department of Human Services

Children Receiving Medicaid, 2003

Definition: Data are active cases in September 2003. Medicaid is available to children age 19 and younger. Infants qualify if their family income is less than twice the federal poverty level, while children ages 1 to 19 qualify if their family income is less than 133 percent of the poverty level.

Source: Illinois Department of Human Services

Acknowledgements

“Chicago Kids Count 2004: Building Strong Communities” was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Lloyd Fry Foundation. We thank them for their support but acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of Voices for Illinois Children alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of these foundations.

“Chicago Kids Count 2004: Building Strong Communities” was produced with the help and oversight of Robert M. Goerge, PhD, research fellow and associate professor at the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. His leadership and work on data collection and analysis was invaluable. The Chapin Hall Center for Children is a research and development center that brings the highest standards of scholarship and the intellectual resources of one of the world’s great research universities to the real-world challenges of policymakers and service providers struggling to ensure that children grow, thrive and take their place in a formidable world.

This report was written by Chicago Kids Count Project co-directors Julie Parente and Brenda Baker of Voices for Illinois Children. We would like to thank Voices’ staff and the Chicago Kids Count Advisory Committee for their guidance and input.

We would like to acknowledge the following people who helped us collect the data on the status of Chicago children and without whom this report would not be possible: Elaine M. Allensworth at the Consortium of Chicago School Research; Jenifer Cartland at the Child Health Data Lab

at Children’s Memorial Hospital; JoAnne Durkee, Barbara Gaynor, Tina Layer and Nyle Robinson at the Illinois Department of Human Services; and Anne Evens at the Chicago Department of Public Health.

We also would like to thank all the people who were interviewed for this report: Cassandra Alexander at the Westside Health Authority; Kristen Eckberg at After School Matters; Clarethia Cross at the Chicago Police Department; Anne Evens and Ann Parry at the Chicago Department of Public Health; Karen Haigh and Jenny Seacat at Chicago Commons; Indira Johnson at the Shanti Foundation for Peace; Reginald Jones and Susan Munro at the Steans Family Foundation; Tom Layman at the Metro Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children; John Lee and Megan Readler at Chicago Youth Centers; Sara Manewith at Christopher House; Kathleen Mayer, Patricia Martinez and Maureen Stiso at Rachel Carson Elementary School; Gail Nelson at the Carole Robertson Center for Learning; and Anita Weinberg at Loyola University Chicago.

Photographs were provided by Chicago Youth Center Fellowship House, Belia Ortega, Rachel Carson Elementary School, the Steans Family Foundation, Marc Pokempner (pg. 3, 12, 13), and Jon Randolph (pg. 5, 6, 11, 22, ibc). Thanks for all your help.

The report was designed by Pinzke Design and printed by Kokopelli Communications Group; thanks to Nancy Pinzke and Craig Eihl for their help. The online database was designed by Stephen H. Grant and Gene Moy at Objective Arts, Inc.