The well-being and vulnerabilities of children age 3 and younger in Minnesota

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Key messages

- Most doing well, yet sizeable portion are not
- Vulnerable populations growing
- Troubling trends
- Data gaps and lags
# Number of children age 3 and younger

Age and race of 286,600 children age 3 and younger in Minnesota in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 1</td>
<td>71,854</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year-olds</td>
<td>67,321</td>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 year-olds</td>
<td>72,283</td>
<td>African American</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 year-olds</td>
<td>75,122</td>
<td>Mixed or other race</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increase in number of births, 2000-2007

- 73,675 babies born in Minnesota in 2007
- 9 percent more than in 2000
- Birth rate steady at 14 births per 1,000
Increase in number of births by race – 2000-2007

- **African American**: 52%
- **Asian**: 51%
- **Hispanic**: 50%
- **American Indian**: 24%
- **White**: 0%
- **Statewide**: 9%

*Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health*
Number of teen births (2006)

- American Indian: 352
- Asian: 467
- African American: 765
- Hispanic or Latina: 839
- White: 2,689
- Statewide: 5,090

Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Change in teen birth rates by race (1991-2006)

Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Who is caring for the babies?
Parental and FFN care

- 78% of infants and toddlers are at home with their parents, grandparents, other family members, or friends of the family.

- Over 17,000 infants and 58,000 toddlers in Minnesota are in licensed child care settings.
Child care use – low-income urban families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Children age 2 and younger</th>
<th>Children age 3-5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No child care, parent care only</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFN only</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFC Center-based</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center-based</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MELF baseline survey, 2008
Parent care or FFN care only – low-income urban families

- African American: 61% (Children age 2 and younger), 39% (Children age 3-5)
- Hmong: 68% (Children age 2 and younger), 54% (Children age 3-5)
- Hispanic: 92% (Children age 2 and younger), 48% (Children age 3-5)
- Somali: 89% (Children age 2 and younger), 51% (Children age 3-5)
- White: 83% (Children age 2 and younger), 45% (Children age 3-5)

Source: MELF baseline survey, 2008
Maternal depression

- 12% of Minnesota mothers with a recent birth experienced frequent postpartum depressive symptoms, including 20% of low-income mothers (enrolled in Medicaid) (National Health Survey, 2006)

- 19% to 37% report sometimes, usually, or always feeling so sad and hopeless that they are concerned about their ability to cope with personal or family concerns in local surveys (Wilder Research, 2008)
Economic conditions of our youngest children
Employed parents

- 63% of children birth through age 3 in Minnesota had all of their primary caregivers in the workforce in 2005-2007
MFIP use

- In 2008, over 30,000 children birth to age three
- Decrease of 23% since 2003 at its peak
- Decline largely due to the Diversionary Work Program (DWP), which began enrolling participants in July 2004
Child poverty

- The federal poverty threshold (100% of poverty) for a family of 4 in 2009 is $22,000 a year.

- An estimated 39,300 (14%) children birth through age 3 live in poverty, up from 12% in 2000.

- An additional 43,600 children under age 4, for a total of 82,900 (30%), are living at or below 185 percent of the poverty threshold.
Child poverty by race/ethnicity (2007)

- American Indian: 47%
- African American: 43%
- Hispanic: 27%
- Asian: 19%
- White: 9%

Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau
Number of children in poverty (2007)

- White: 19,761
- African American: 7,891
- Hispanic: 6,589
- Asian: 1,672
- American Indian: 983

Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau
Access to resources and services
Prenatal care trends

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health
Prenatal care by race/ethnicity

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health
Estimated number with inadequate prenatal care

- American Indian: 834
- African American: 1,193
- Asian: 2,068
- Hispanic: 2,264
- White: 8,676

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health, 2007
Newborn screening

The Minnesota Department of Health Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program works with health care providers and parents to ensure all newborns are screened for hearing loss by one month of age.

In 2008, 68,922 newborns (97.3%) were screened for hearing loss, an increase from 82 percent in 2005.
Newborn screening

Less than 3 percent had confirmed hearing loss. Of those with permanent hearing loss (108 babies), 31% were enrolled in Help Me Grow/Early Intervention by 6 months of age.
Well-baby and well-child visits (low income only)

Source: Child and Teen Check-up Program, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Part C – Early Childhood Special Education

- In 2008, 4,579 children age 2 and younger (about 2%) were being served by the federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) Part C, which requires states to provide special education services to infants and toddlers with disabilities.

- Increase of 66% over ten years, due in part to revised and expanded eligibility criteria in 2007.
Head Start

- Minnesota has 36 Head Start programs
- In 2006-07 school year, 47% percent of eligible 3 year-olds (5,834 children) were enrolled in Head Start, down from 71% (5,315 children) in 1999-2000, due to increases in the number of eligible children.
- In 2007, 7% of eligible children birth to age (2,644 children) were enrolled in Early Head Start, up from 4% (1,202 children) in 2000, due to increases in the number of programs.
Well-being of our youngest children
Infant mortality trends – rate per 1,000 births

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health
Infant mortality by race – rate per 1,000 births

- American Indian: 11
- African American: 9
- Hispanic: 5
- White: 5
- Asian: 4

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health
Immunizations

Source: National Immunization Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Rate of asthma hospital admissions per 1,000 children age 3 and younger

Source: Minnesota Hospitalization Association
Special health care needs

- An estimated 16,824 (8%) children birth to 3 had a special health care need in 2006, up from 11,813 (6%) in 2003.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health (using data from the National Survey of Children’s Health)
Child maltreatment

- In 2008, 2,527 children birth through age 3 (1%) were in out-of-home care.
- These children make up a larger proportion of all children in out-of-home care than they did in 2000; 19 percent of those in out-of-home care were under age 4 in 2008, compared to 12 percent in 2000.
Child maltreatment, 2008

- African Americans (524) and American Indians (423) make up a disproportionate number of children under age 4 in out of home placement, a number that has been trending up since 2000.

- The largest group (988) are white children.
Children in out-of-home care are more likely to have disabilities than other children. Among children under age 4 in out-of-home care in Minnesota, 11 percent have identified disabilities, compared to less than half a percent of all Minnesota children.
The most vulnerable

- American Indians have lower rates of prenatal care and well-baby visits and higher rates of teen births, infant mortality, and out-of-home placement.
- Latinas have lower rates of prenatal care and higher rates of births to teenage mothers.
- African Americans have higher rates of low-birth weight babies, infant mortality, and out-of-home placement.
How many Minnesota babies are vulnerable?

- Homeless: 700
- Out-of-home placements: 2,527
- Special health care needs: 16,800
- Teen moms: 20,000
- Poverty: 39,000
- Depressed moms: 43,000
- Moderate and high-risk for developmental delays: 43,000
Now what?
Why to intervene early

- Health
- Income
- Education
Early childhood systems framework

FAMILIES SUPPORTED AND CHILDREN THRIVING, HEALTHY, AND READY FOR SCHOOL
IN THE CONTEXT OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Comprehensive health services
that meet children’s vision,
hearing, nutrition, behavioral,
and oral health as well as
medical health needs

Early identification, assessment
and appropriate services for
children with special health
care needs, disabilities, or
developmental delays

Early care and education
opportunities in nurturing
environments to ensure
children learn what they need
to succeed in school and life

Economic and parenting
supports to ensure children
have nurturing and stable
relationships with caring adults

Health, mental health,
and nutrition

Family support

Special needs/early
intervention

Early learning

National Early Childhood Systems Working Groups

wilderresearch.org
Future population of Minnesota

Projected population change in Minnesotans ages 5-24 from 2006 to 2020

- Asian: 34%
- Hispanic: 28%
- American Indian: 27%
- African American: 24%
- White: -7%
- Other: -2%
For more information please visit

www.wilderresearch.org

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