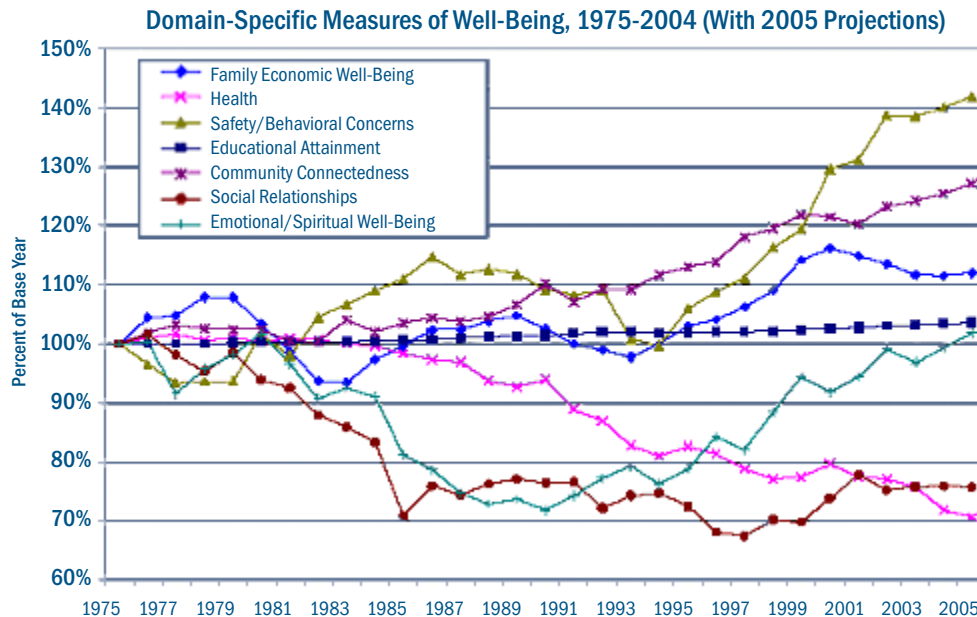




Overall Well-Being of American Youth Improves Despite No Improvement in Health, Education, and Social Relationship Categories

The 2006 Child Well-Being Index (CWI),¹ a comprehensive measurement of trends in the quality of life of American children and youth, indicates an overall steady increase in child and youth well-being since 1995. CWI incorporates data from 28 indicators across seven “domains” to gauge how youth have fared since 1975. While some domains show improvement, the *health* domain² exhibits a continued decline in 2003 (almost 30% below its 1975 baseline level), exemplifying the results of increased childhood obesity. The *education* domain³ has remained fairly constant, hovering around the 1975 baseline, in spite of national efforts directed at improving it. The *social relationships* domain⁴ remains below the 1975 baseline, which is indicative of the rise in children residing in single-parent homes.



Sources: Land, K. C. (2006). 2006 Report: The Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-being Index (CWI) 1975-2004, With Projections for 2005. A composite index of trends in the well-being of America's children and youth. The Foundation for Child Development. Duke University. Retrieved April 27, 2006, from <http://www.fcd-us.org/PDFs/03-21-06FINAL2006CWIRreport.pdf>.

Foundation for Child Development. (2006). Child Well-Being Index Points to Pre-K Participation and Parents' Education as Leading Indicators of Educational Achievement. Press Release: 28 March 2006. Retrieved April 27, 2006, from <http://www.fcd-us.org/PDFs/03-24-06FINALPressRelease.pdf>.

¹ Updated annually, the 2006 CWI is based on observed data through 2003 with the following exceptions: child mortality rates and activity limitations, 2002; child obesity rates, 1999-2000. 2004 updates are available for most indicators, and 2005 updates are available for three indicators. The remaining indicators are projections formulated through the use of statistical time series models and are found to have been very accurate.

² The *health* domain includes measures of: infant mortality rate, low birth weight rate, mortality rate (ages 1-19), rate of children with very good or excellent health (as reported by parents), rate of children with activity limitations (as reported by parents), and rate of overweight children and adolescents (ages 6-19).

³ The *education* domain includes: measures of reading and math test scores (ages 9, 13, and 17).

⁴ The *social relationships* domain includes measures of: rate of children in families headed by a single parent, and rate of children who have moved within the last year (ages 1-18).

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit www.tasc.org.

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