

#90-05

**CURRENT CHARACTERISTICS OF WELFARE FAMILIES  
AND THEIR CHILDREN**

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**"THE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT'S POTENTIAL FOR  
PROMOTING THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF POOR CHILDREN"**

**National Health Policy Forum of  
The George Washington University  
Washington, DC**

**A STATISTICAL PROFILE OF WELFARE FAMILIES  
AND THEIR CHILDREN**

**BEING PREPARED BY CHILD TRENDS, INC.**

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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY ASPE TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

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Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department  
of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC**

## **GOALS OF THE STUDY**

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- **to use available survey data to describe characteristics of welfare families that are relevant to the Family Support Act (FSA)**
- **to determine what the characteristics of welfare families imply for the implementation of the FSA and efforts to break the cycle of poverty**
- **to provide benchmark data that will permit an appraisal of the effects of the FSA in the future**

**RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS OF  
WELFARE FAMILIES**

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- **Basic demographic information**
- **Employment-relevant attributes of AFDC adults**
- **Qualities of the home environments in which AFDC children are being raised**
- **Indicators of the development and well-being of AFDC children**

## **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

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- **Number of families by ages of children and parent(s)**
- **Family size and composition**
- **Age and marital status of mother at birth of first child**
- **Ethnic make-up of welfare population**
- **Residential patterns**
- **Geographic mobility**

## **AFDC ADULTS AS POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES**

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- **Educational attainment**
- **Intellectual ability/academic achievement**
- **Vocational training**
- **Employment experience**
- **Attitudes about employment**
- **Self-esteem**
- **Physical or emotional disability**
- **Alcohol and drug abuse**

**THE HOME ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH  
AFDC CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED**

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- **Physical safety**
- **Orderliness and stability**
- **Intellectual stimulation**
- **Emotional support**
- **Access to medical care**

**DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING  
OF AFDC CHILDREN**

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- **Physical health**
- **Academic achievement**
- **Problem behavior and emotional health**
- **Social development**

## **SOURCES OF SURVEY DATA**

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- **National Integrated Quality Control System (QCS)**
- **National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experience of Youth (NLSY)**
- **Current Population Survey (CPS)**
- **National Health Interview Survey on Child Health (NHIS-CH)**

## **COMPARISON GROUPS**

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- **All families with children**
- **Families below official poverty line that have not received welfare in past year (poor, non-welfare families)**
- **Families at or above official poverty line (non-poor families)**
- **Women who have not (yet) had children (non-mothers)**

## **SELECTED FINDINGS**

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### **-DEMOGRAPHIC-**

- **WELFARE FAMILIES ARE SMALLER THAN GENERALLY BELIEVED**
  - mean number of children in AFDC families with children 0-17 = 2.50
  - mean for non-poor families = 2.38
  - 63% of AFDC families have only 1 or 2 children
  - 14% have 4 or more children
  
- **MAJORITY OF WELFARE FAMILIES BEGAN WITH A TEEN BIRTH**
  - 59% of AFDC mothers were 19 or younger at birth of first child
  - 13% were 24 or older
  - 25% of non-poor mothers were 19 or younger at birth of first child
  - 41% were 24 or older
  
- **AT LEAST HALF OF WELFARE MOTHERS WERE NEVER MARRIED TO FATHER OF THE CHILD**
  - same true of only 5% of non-poor mothers

## **SELECTED FINDINGS**

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### **-EMPLOYMENT-RELATED-**

- **EDUCATION LEVELS OF WELFARE MOTHERS ARE HIGHER THAN GENERALLY BELIEVED, BUT STILL COMPARATIVELY LOW**
  - majority of AFDC mothers with children 0-17 have completed high school or GED
  - 13% have some college education
  - 46% of AFDC mothers have not finished high school
  - same true of only 13% of non-poor mothers
  
- **PERFORMANCE OF WELFARE MOTHERS ON ACADEMIC TESTS IS WELL BELOW AVERAGE**
  - on IQ-type scale, mean score of AFDC mothers aged 22-30 on Armed Forces Qualifying Test = 86
  - mean of non-poor mothers = 99
  - mean of non-mothers = 104
  - 47% of AFDC mothers score more than one standard deviation below overall mean
  - 23% score at or above mean
  - most would not qualify for U.S. Armed Forces

## **EMPLOYMENT-RELATED FINDINGS (continued)**

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- **MOST WELFARE MOTHERS HAVE HAD SOME WORK EXPERIENCE, BUT NOT MUCH**
  - mean number of weeks worked in last 5 years by AFDC mothers aged 22-30 = 59
  - 20% worked 2 years or more
  - mean weeks worked by non-poor mothers = 155
  - 71% worked 2 years or more
  
- **MOST WOMEN WITH CHILDREN AGED 3-5 ARE IN LABOR FORCE, BUT ONLY A MINORITY OF AFDC MOTHERS ARE**
  - 59% of non-poor mothers with children aged 3-5 are currently employed
  - 3% are looking for work
  - 21% of mothers with children aged 3-5 who have received AFDC in past year are currently employed
  - 11% are looking for work

**HOME ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH  
AFDC CHILDREN ARE RAISED**

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- **MAJORITY ARE IN HOMES THAT PROVIDE LITTLE INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION**
  - **66% of AFDC children aged 3-5 are in families that score low on "HOME Scale," an index of parental practices that correlate with school achievement**
  - **Only 42% have mothers who read to them 3 times a week or more**
  - **55% are in homes where TV is on 7 hours a day or more**
- **NON-WELFARE POOR FAMILIES ALSO PROVIDE RELATIVELY LITTLE INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION TO THEIR CHILDREN**

## **HEALTH-RELATED ASPECTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT**

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- **BOTH AFDC AND NON-WELFARE POOR FAMILIES COME OUT BADLY ON INDICATORS OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND INJURY PREVENTION**
  - **56% of AFDC children (ages 0-17) have adult smoker in household**
  - **same is true of 50% of non-welfare poor children, versus 39% of non-poor children**
  - **45% of AFDC children do not use seat belts regularly**
  - **same is true of 44 percent of non-welfare poor**
  - **27% of non-poor children don't use seat belts**

## **ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE**

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- **WELFARE CHILDREN COME OUT SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER THAN NON-WELFARE POOR CHILDREN ON INDICATORS OF ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE CARE**
  - **64% of AFDC children (ages 3-17) have seen a dentist in last 12 months**
  - **Only 47% of non-welfare poor have had dental care within year**
  - **74% of non-poor children have had dental care**
  - **Twice as many non-welfare poor children have not seen a doctor in 2 years or more:**
    - 13% of non-AFDC poor children (ages 0-17)
    - 6% of AFDC children
    - 8% of non-poor children

**DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING  
OF AFDC CHILDREN**

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- **WELFARE CHILDREN ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS HEALTHY THAN NON-POOR CHILDREN**
  - **39% of AFDC children rated in "Excellent" health, versus 57% of non-poor children so rated**
  - **7% of AFDC children in "Fair" or "Poor" health, versus only 2% of non-poor children**
  
- **WELFARE CHILDREN ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO FAIL IN SCHOOL**
  - **By teen years (ages 12-17), 36% of AFDC teens have repeated a grade**
  - **17% of non-poor teens have repeated**

**DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING  
OF AFDC CHILDREN (continued)**

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- **WELFARE CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO PRESENT SERIOUS CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS**
  - **23% of AFDC teens have been suspended or expelled from school at least once**
  - **10% of non-poor teens have ever been suspended or expelled**
- **NON-WELFARE POOR CHILDREN SHOW ABOUT SAME LEVEL OF HEALTH, LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS AS AFDC CHILDREN**

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT ACT**

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- **DIVERSITY OF AFDC POPULATION CREATES LIKELIHOOD OF DIFFERENTIAL IMPACTS**
  - **Obvious possibilities for "creaming" by state programs**
  - **Greatest opportunity for constructive change may lie in that segment of the AFDC parent population that falls between those who are readily employable and those who present formidable challenges to employment**
- **CONCERN THAT FSA WILL CONVERT WELFARE POOR INTO WORKING POOR**
- **SUGGESTION THAT WELFARE-TO-WORK PROGRAMS SHOULD AIM AT PREPARING AFDC MOTHERS FOR NON-TRADITIONAL, BLUE-COLLAR TRADES**
- **NEED FOR PARENTING EDUCATION, FAMILY LITERACY, OR HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE TO COMPENSATE FOR DEFICIENCIES IN HOME ENVIRONMENTS OF AFDC CHILDREN**
- **DATA SUPPORT CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE OF LOSS OF MEDICAID BENEFITS**

Table A1. Demographic Characteristics of Mothers in AFDC Families, Poor Non-AFDC Families, and Non-Poor Families, Families with Children 0-17 Years Old, United States, 1988.

	<u>AFDC Families</u>	<u>Poor Non-AFDC Families</u>	<u>Non-Poor Families</u>	<u>All Families with Focus Child Aged 0-17</u>
<u>Mother's Education Level</u>				
Grade School Only	12.0%	17.0%	3.7%	5.5%
Some High School	33.5%	27.2%	8.8%	12.6%
High School Graduate	41.1%	41.4%	43.7%	43.3%
Some College	12.1%	10.1%	22.4%	20.5%
College Graduate	.9%	2.9%	13.0%	11.0%
Graduate School	.4%	1.3%	8.3%	7.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Labor Force Status of Mother</u>				
Employed	23.5%	45.1%	65.1%	59.6%
Unemployed	10.1%	7.9%	2.8%	3.9%
Not in labor force	65.0%	44.6%	30.7%	35.1%
No Mother Figure in Household	.3%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%
Mother under 18 years	1.3%	1.3%	.2%	.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Age of Bio Mother At Birth of First Child</u>				
Under 18	30.1%	26.4%	8.9%	12.4%
18-19	29.0%	24.7%	15.9%	17.9%
20-23	28.0%	31.1%	34.4%	33.5%
24-29	9.0%	14.5%	33.2%	29.4%
30 or older	4.0%	3.3%	7.6%	6.9%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Bio Mother and Father Ever Married</u>				
Yes	50.4%	83.3%	95.5%	90.1%
No	49.6%	16.7%	4.5%	9.9%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Current Marital Status of Mother</u>				
Never Married	31.1%	8.7%	1.6%	5.0%
Married	31.5%	63.3%	88.7%	81.3%
Divorced	20.7%	14.9%	5.5%	7.7%
Separated	15.3%	9.6%	2.1%	4.0%
Widowed	1.1%	2.5%	.8%	1.0%
No mother figure in household	.3%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Child Trends, Inc., analysis of data from 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table A2. Demographic Characteristics of Mothers in AFDC Families, Poor Non-AFDC Families, and Non-Poor Families, Families with Children 3-5 Years Old, United States, 1988.

	<u>AFDC Families</u>	<u>Poor Non-AFDC Families</u>	<u>Non-Poor Families</u>	<u>All Families with Focus Child Aged 3-5</u>
<u>Mother's Education Level</u>				
Grade School Only	12.0%	18.2%	2.5%	4.7%
Some High School	32.1%	24.5%	7.8%	11.6%
High School Graduate	41.6%	46.0%	42.6%	42.8%
Some College	13.2%	6.1%	22.7%	20.5%
College Graduate	1.0%	5.2%	15.0%	12.8%
Graduate School	.2%	.0%	9.3%	7.6%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Labor Force Status of Mother</u>				
Employed	20.8%	37.5%	59.1%	53.3%
Unemployed	10.7%	12.1%	2.8%	4.3%
Not in labor force	68.1%	49.2%	37.1%	41.3%
No Mother Figure in Household	.5%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Age of Bio Mother At Birth of First Child</u>				
Under 18	28.5%	29.0%	7.1%	11.0%
18-19	29.3%	25.3%	11.3%	14.3%
20-23	31.0%	25.9%	30.1%	29.9%
24-29	7.3%	16.7%	41.3%	35.7%
30 or older	3.9%	3.1%	10.2%	9.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Bio Mother and Father Ever Married</u>				
Yes	45.6%	81.4%	96.0%	89.3%
No	54.4%	18.6%	4.0%	10.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Current Marital Status of Mother</u>				
Never Married	34.2%	10.8%	1.5%	5.7%
Married	31.8%	69.6%	90.2%	82.3%
Divorced	22.0%	11.4%	4.0%	6.5%
Separated	10.6%	6.2%	2.7%	3.8%
Widowed	.9%	.7%	.6%	.6%
No mother figure in household	.5%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Child Trends, Inc., analysis of data from 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table B1. Demographic Characteristics of AFDC Families, Poor Non-AFDC Families, and Non-Poor Families, Families with Children Aged 0-17 Years Old, United States, 1988.

	<u>AFDC Families</u>	<u>Poor Non-AFDC Families</u>	<u>Non-Poor Families</u>	<u>All Families with Focus Child Aged 0-17</u>
<u>Race and Hispanic Origin (Child's)</u>				
White Non-Hispanic	42.8%	51.8%	79.0%	73.4%
Black Non-Hispanic	37.0%	24.2%	8.4%	12.4%
Hispanic	16.6%	20.7%	9.2%	10.8%
Asian, Pacific Islander	2.5%	1.0%	2.8%	2.7%
American Indian, Other	1.1%	2.3%	.6%	.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Family Structure</u>				
Biological mother only	65.6%	34.0%	10.1%	17.3%
Biological mother and father	17.9%	49.1%	72.9%	65.7%
Bio mother and stepfather	6.8%	7.3%	9.4%	8.9%
Grandparents	4.5%	2.4%	.8%	1.3%
Adoptive parents	.6%	.4%	1.2%	1.1%
Bio father and stepmother	.3%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%
Biological father only	.4%	.9%	1.3%	1.2%
Other	4.0%	4.5%	3.1%	3.3%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Number of Children in Family</u>				
One	6.5%	5.0%	1.6%	2.3%
Two	56.3%	48.3%	68.5%	65.7%
Three	23.5%	27.7%	22.2%	22.8%
Four	9.1%	12.4%	5.7%	6.5%
Five or more	4.7%	6.6%	2.0%	2.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Number of Times Moved Since Birth</u>				
None	22.3%	26.3%	35.0%	33.1%
Once	18.3%	19.3%	23.7%	22.8%
Twice	13.3%	16.2%	11.8%	12.3%
Three	15.9%	10.6%	11.2%	11.6%
Four or more times	30.1%	27.6%	18.4%	20.2%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Related Adult Female Present in Household</u>				
Yes	12.4%	10.2%	7.9%	8.5%
No	87.6%	89.8%	92.1%	91.5%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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Table B1. Demographic Characteristics of AFDC Families, Poor Non-AFDC Families, and Non-Poor Families, Families with Children Aged 0-17 Years Old, United States, 1988 (continued).

	<u>AFDC Families</u>	<u>Poor Non-AFDC Families</u>	<u>Non-Poor Families</u>	<u>All Families with Focus Child Aged 0-17</u>
<u>Parent Education Level</u>				
Grade School Only	9.7%	11.8%	2.1%	3.6%
Some High School	29.5%	23.4%	4.8%	8.7%
High School Graduate	44.5%	44.5%	35.5%	37.1%
Some College	14.1%	14.4%	24.5%	22.8%
College Graduate	1.3%	3.7%	16.6%	14.1%
Graduate School	.8%	2.1%	16.4%	13.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Combined Labor Force Status of Parents</u>				
Two Parents in Household:				
- Father employed, mother not in labor force	12.9%	25.6%	28.2%	26.5%
- Father unemployed, mother not in labor force	2.7%	3.0%	.4%	.8%
- Both currently employed	8.9%	20.7%	54.5%	47.5%
- Both in labor force, one or both unemployed	3.5%	7.8%	3.6%	3.9%
- Mother in labor force, father not	3.5%	4.4%	1.7%	2.0%
- Neither in labor force	9.2%	6.2%	.7%	1.9%
Single Parent in Household:				
- Not in labor force	41.2%	11.0%	1.6%	6.1%
- Currently employed	11.3%	18.1%	9.1%	10.0%
- Currently unemployed	6.7%	3.2%	.3%	1.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Family Income</u>				
< \$5,000	31.5%	22.6%	--	5.0%
\$ 5,000 - 9,999	38.0%	41.1%	.3%	7.5%
\$10,000 - 14,999	15.2%	32.7%	4.1%	7.7%
\$15,000 - 19,999	6.6%	3.3%	11.4%	10.3%
\$20,000 - 34,999	5.9%	.3%	36.9%	30.7%
\$35,000 or more	2.9%	--	47.3%	38.9%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Family Has Telephone</u>				
Yes	72.7%	71.0%	96.5%	92.2%
No	27.3%	29.0%	3.5%	7.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Child Trends, Inc., analysis of data from 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table B2. Demographic Characteristics of AFDC Families, Poor Non-AFDC Families, and Non-Poor Families, Families with Children Aged 3-5 Years Old, United States, 1988.

	AFDC Families	Poor Non-AFDC Families	Non-Poor Families	All Families with Focus Child Aged 3-5
<u>Race and Hispanic Origin (Child's)</u>				
White Non-Hispanic	49.1%	53.0%	80.4%	75.0%
Black Non-Hispanic	31.8%	19.8%	7.2%	10.8%
Hispanic	17.0%	23.4%	8.6%	10.6%
Asian, Pacific Islander	1.5%	--	3.5%	3.0%
American Indian, Other	.6%	3.7%	.3%	.6%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Family Structure</u>				
Biological mother only	65.5%	27.1%	8.9%	16.4%
Biological mother and father	19.9%	57.6%	81.0%	72.6%
Bio mother and stepfather	6.1%	7.3%	4.4%	4.8%
Grandparents	2.8%	2.1%	.9%	1.2%
Adoptive parents	2.1%	.0%	1.2%	1.2%
Bio father and stepmother	.5%	.0%	.3%	.3%
Biological father only	.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%
Other	2.9%	4.6%	2.1%	2.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Number of Children in Family</u>				
One	5.5%	4.0%	1.3%	2.0%
Two	61.9%	60.3%	74.4%	72.0%
Three	21.9%	23.3%	18.9%	19.6%
Four	6.9%	9.1%	4.0%	4.7%
Five or more	4.0%	3.4%	1.4%	1.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Number of Times Moved Since Birth</u>				
None	17.0%	25.5%	41.1%	37.4%
Once	19.8%	17.3%	26.6%	25.2%
Twice	15.5%	20.9%	13.0%	13.8%
Three	20.9%	10.7%	9.2%	10.6%
Four or more times	26.8%	25.6%	10.1%	13.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Related Adult Female Present in Household</u>				
Yes	9.4%	5.5%	6.0%	6.3%
No	90.6%	94.5%	94.0%	93.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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Table B2. Demographic Characteristics of AFDC Families, Poor Non-AFDC Families, and Non-Poor Families, Families with Children Aged 3-5 Years Old, United States, 1988 (continued).

	<u>AFDC Families</u>	<u>Poor Non-AFDC Families</u>	<u>Non-Poor Families</u>	<u>All Families with Focus Child Aged 3-5</u>
<u>Parent Education Level</u>				
Grade School Only	9.1%	9.9%	1.0%	2.5%
Some High School	29.8%	21.7%	4.4%	8.4%
High School Graduate	45.1%	50.9%	34.7%	37.0%
Some College	13.9%	11.8%	23.9%	22.0%
College Graduate	1.0%	3.7%	18.7%	15.7%
Graduate School	1.1%	2.0%	17.3%	14.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Combined Labor Force Status of Parents</u>				
Two Parents in Household:				
- Father employed, mother not in labor force	16.0%	27.9%	34.8%	32.2%
- Father unemployed, mother not in labor force	3.6%	6.9%	.3%	1.1%
- Both currently employed	10.3%	19.2%	50.0%	43.4%
- Both in labor force, one or both unemployed	3.4%	9.9%	3.9%	4.3%
- Mother in labor force, father not	2.2%	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%
- Neither in labor force	4.8%	4.4%	.5%	1.3%
Single Parent in Household:				
- Not in labor force	43.9%	10.7%	1.6%	6.9%
- Currently employed	8.5%	16.7%	7.8%	8.5%
- Currently unemployed	7.3%	2.9%	.1%	1.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Family Income</u>				
< \$5,000	29.1%	28.7%	--	5.5%
\$ 5,000 - 9,999	36.7%	38.4%	.3%	7.3%
\$10,000 - 14,999	16.3%	29.9%	4.6%	7.9%
\$15,000 - 19,999	8.7%	3.0%	12.4%	11.3%
\$20,000 - 34,999	5.7%	--	39.5%	32.6%
\$35,000 or more	3.5%	--	43.2%	35.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Family Has Telephone</u>				
Yes	73.6%	66.8%	96.0%	91.5%
No	26.4%	33.2%	4.0%	8.5%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Child Trends, Inc., analysis of data from 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.



**TABLE 5. Average AFQT Scores (Standardized) of All Women and AFDC Mothers in Different Occupational Classes and Proportions of AFDC Mothers With Test Scores Similar To Those Of Women In Each Class, U.S. Women Aged 22 - 30, 1987.**

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MEAN AFQT SCORE</u>	<u>RANGE (+/- 1 S.D.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF ALL AFDC MOMS WITH TEST SCORES IN OR ABOVE RANGE</u>
ALL WOMEN (n = 5,369)	100	85 - 115	
AFDC MOMS (n = 597)	86	71 - 101	84%
<b>OCCUPATIONAL CLASS</b>			
Manual Operatives	91	77 - 105	69%
Household Workers	95	78 - 112	67%
Crafts & Construction	95	80 - 108	63%
Service Occupations	96	81 - 111	60%
Clerical/ Secretarial	101	88 - 114	45%
Sales Workers	104	91 - 117	39%
Management/Adminstrtve	105	93 - 117	35%
Professional/Technical	108	96 - 120	29%



Table C. Health Status, Health Insurance Coverage, and Health-Related Aspects of Home Environment, AFDC Children, Poor, Non-AFDC Children, and non-Poor Children, Children 17 Years of Age and Under, United States, 1988.

	All Ages 0-17	All Ages 3-17	Ages 0-5	Ages 6-17	Ages 6-11	Ages 12-17
<u>Excellent Health Status</u>						
All Children	53.1%	52.9%	53.6%	52.8%	53.0%	52.7%
AFDC	39.1%	38.2%	41.3%	37.3%	39.6%	34.4%
Poor, no AFDC	38.6%	36.7%	44.8%	35.0%	37.5%	32.3%
Non Poor	56.6%	56.5%	56.7%	56.5%	56.6%	56.4%
<u>Fair/Poor Health Status</u>						
All Children	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	2.7%	2.4%	3.0%
AFDC	6.5%	6.6%	5.8%	7.0%	6.7%	7.4%
Poor, no AFDC	5.6%	5.2%	6.0%	5.4%	5.0%	5.9%
Non Poor	2.1%	2.0%	2.2%	2.0%	1.6%	2.3%
<u>Activity Limitation</u>						
All Children	5.5%	6.3%	3.2%	6.9%	6.7%	7.0%
AFDC	8.5%	10.1%	5.0%	11.4%	12.2%	10.3%
Poor, no AFDC	6.6%	7.7%	4.0%	8.2%	5.4%	11.2%
Non Poor	5.0%	5.7%	2.8%	6.2%	6.1%	6.3%
<u>Dental Care in Last Year</u>						
All Children	na	70.4%	na	74.9%	75.8%	74.1%
AFDC	na	64.3%	na	67.9%	68.7%	66.8%
Poor, no AFDC	na	47.1%	na	48.4%	50.0%	46.6%
Non Poor	na	73.7%	na	78.6%	79.9%	77.3%

(continued)

Table C. Health Status, Health Insurance Coverage, and Health-Related Aspects of Home Environment, AFDC Children, Poor, Non-AFDC Children, and non-Poor Children, Children 17 Years of Age and Under, United States, 1988.

(continued)

Health Insurance Coverage

All Children	75.4%	76.7%	72.5%	77.2%	76.5%	77.8%
AFDC	22.2%	21.4%	24.7%	20.2%	19.5%	21.1%
Poor, no AFDC	42.7%	44.3%	39.0%	45.0%	48.2%	41.3%
Non Poor	86.2%	87.0%	84.3%	87.2%	87.7%	86.8%

Medicaid Coverage

All Children	13.2%	12.1%	16.5%	11.2%	12.2%	10.3%
AFDC	88.3%	88.1%	89.6%	87.3%	86.3%	88.6%
Poor, no AFDC	18.8%	17.5%	23.0%	16.5%	17.9%	14.9%
Non Poor	2.4%	2.0%	3.3%	1.9%	1.3%	2.4%

Uses Seatbelt

All Children	69.9%	65.7%	82.2%	62.7%	65.7%	59.7%
AFDC	55.0%	49.6%	67.1%	45.3%	45.6%	44.8%
Poor, no AFDC	56.2%	48.7%	70.8%	47.5%	47.1%	48.0%
Non Poor	73.3%	69.3%	86.0%	66.3%	70.7%	62.2%

Shares Bedroom with Parent

All Children	9.6%	5.3%	21.1%	3.2%	4.8%	1.5%
AFDC	20.7%	10.2%	37.7%	7.1%	10.1%	3.2%
Poor, no AFDC	16.7%	10.7%	33.7%	7.0%	10.1%	3.4%
Non Poor	7.5%	4.1%	16.9%	2.3%	3.5%	1.2%

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Source: Child Trends, Inc., analysis of data from 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Table D. Achievement and School Discipline Problems of AFDC Children, Poor, Non-AFDC Children, and Non-Poor Children, Children Aged 6-17, United States, 1988.

Achievement/Behavior Indicator, <u>Group of Children</u>	<u>Ages 6-17</u>	<u>Ages 6-8</u>	<u>Ages 9-11</u>	<u>Ages 12-17</u>
<u>Repeated a Grade</u>				
All Children	16.6%	8.5%	17.5%	20.1%
AFDC	31.2%	17.7%	39.0%	36.1%
Poor, no AFDC	26.4%	10.9%	32.2%	32.2%
Non Poor	13.9%	6.9%	13.2%	17.4%
<u>Mean Class Standing Rating</u>				
All Children	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.4
AFDC	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.8
Poor, no AFDC	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.6
Non Poor	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.3
<u>Learning Disability</u>				
All Children	7.8%	4.8%	8.6%	8.8%
AFDC	10.7%	6.1%	14.7%	11.6%
Poor, no AFDC	8.2%	3.8%	9.9%	9.8%
Non Poor	7.4%	4.8%	7.8%	8.4%
<u>Called in for Teacher Conf.</u>				
All Children	17.7%	13.0%	16.7%	20.5%
AFDC	26.0%	19.3%	23.4%	32.4%
Poor, no AFDC	21.4%	20.1%	14.8%	25.8%
Non Poor	16.3%	11.2%	16.0%	18.8%
<u>Suspended from School</u>				
All Children	7.1%	.8%	3.1%	12.2%
AFDC	12.9%	3.1%	8.1%	23.0%
Poor, no AFDC	12.0%	1.3%	5.8%	21.6%
Non Poor	5.9%	.4%	2.2%	10.3%

Source: Child Trends, Inc., analysis of data from 1988 National Health Interview Survey of Child Health, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Contents of  
Abbreviated HOME Scale  
(NLSY, Children Aged 3-5)

Parent Report

- Child read to several times per week
- Child has 10 or more books of own
- Family gets at least one magazine
- Child has use of record or tape player and tapes of own
- Parent has helped to teach child numbers, alphabet, colors, shapes and sizes
- Child has some choice in foods to eat
- Parent limits hours of television
- Parent does not hit back when child hits
- Child taken on outings at least monthly
- Child taken to museums at least yearly
- Child eats meal with both mother and father figure once a day or more
- Child spanked less than twice in last week

Interviewer Observation

- Parent's voice conveyed positive feeling about child
- Parent conversed with child at least twice during visit
- Parent caressed, kissed, or hugged child at least once
- Parent introduced interviewer to child by name
- Parent did not physically restrict, shake, or grab child
- Parent did not slap or spank child during visit
- Child's play environment appears safe
- Interior of home not dark or perceptually monotonous
- All visible rooms reasonably clean
- All visible room minimally cluttered

Relationship Between Family Financial Circumstances  
and Quality of Child's Home Environment,  
Children Aged 3-5 of U.S. Women Aged 22-30 in 1987 (NLSY)

<u>Quality of Child's Home Environment (HOME Score)</u>	<u>Receiving Welfare Payments</u>	<u>Below Poverty But Not Receiving Welfare</u>	<u>Neither Poor Nor On Welfare</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Supportive (19+)	34%	35%	68%	59%
Below Average (15-18)	42	41	25	30
Deficient (<15)	24	24	7	11
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
				c = .31***
<u>Level of Intellectual Stimulation</u>				
Adequate (11+)	49%	48%	74%	68%
Below Average (8-10)	34	39	20	24
Deficient (<8)	17	13	6	8
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
				c = .25***
<u>Level of Emotional Support</u>				
Adequate (8+)	48%	40%	68%	62%
Below Average (6-7)	27	34	24	26
Deficient (<6)	25	26	8	12
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
				c = .26***

Relationship Between Family Financial Circumstances  
and Quality of Child's Home Environment,  
Children Aged 3-5 of U.S. Women Aged 22-30 in 1987 (NLSY)

Individual Parent-Report Items  
from HOME Scale, by Ethnicity

<u>HOME Scale Item</u>	<u>Receiving Welfare Payments</u>	<u>Below Poverty But Not Receiving Welfare</u>	<u>Neither Poor Nor On Welfare</u>	
<b>Mother reads stories to child three or more times a week</b>				
Total	42%	36%	57%	c = .19*
Black	30%	27%	37%	.17*
Hispanic	33%	28%	43%	.18*
White	53%	42%	61%	.16*
<b>Child has 10 or more books of his/her own</b>				
Total	51%	59%	81%	c = .29*
Black	28%	33%	54%	.29*
Hispanic	39%	23%	57%	.27*
White	72%	78%	88%	.22*
<b>Television is on in home 7 or more hours every day</b>				
Total	55%	44%	35%	c = .20*
Black	60%	44%	43%	
Hispanics	47%	42%	31%	
Whites	53%	44%	34%	

\* p < .001