

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

Richard Chase
January 2010

Funded by The Minnesota Community Foundation



Key messages

- Most doing well, yet sizeable portion are not
- Vulnerable populations growing
- Troubling trends
- Data gaps and lags

Implications

- Likely more erosion with doing nothing or cuts
- Must do something different, not just more of the same
- School readiness requires more than quality early care and education for 3 and 4-year olds.
- Need common data system for better planning and accountability

Number of children age 3 and younger

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

AGE

Under 1	71,854
1 year-olds	67,321
2 year-olds	72,283
3 year-olds	75,122

RACE

White	77%
Hispanic or Latino	9%
African American	6%
Mixed or other race	5%
Asian	3%
American Indian	1%

Increase in number of births, 2000-2007

- 73,675 babies born in Minnesota in 2007
- 9 percent more than in 2000
- About 50 percent more African American, Asian, and Latino babies and 24 percent more American Indian babies than in 2000
- Same number of white babies in 2000 and 2007

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

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



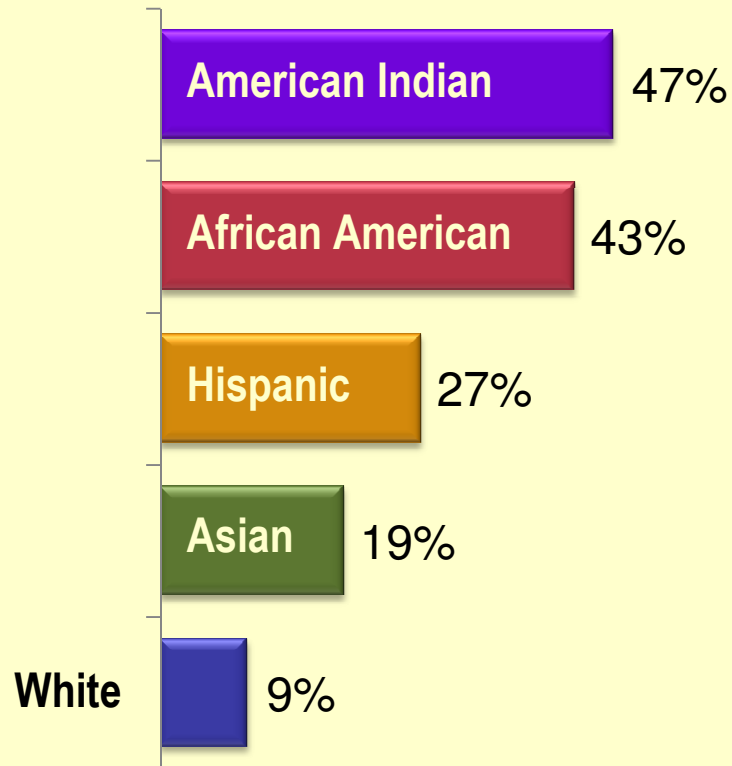
Employed parents

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

Child poverty

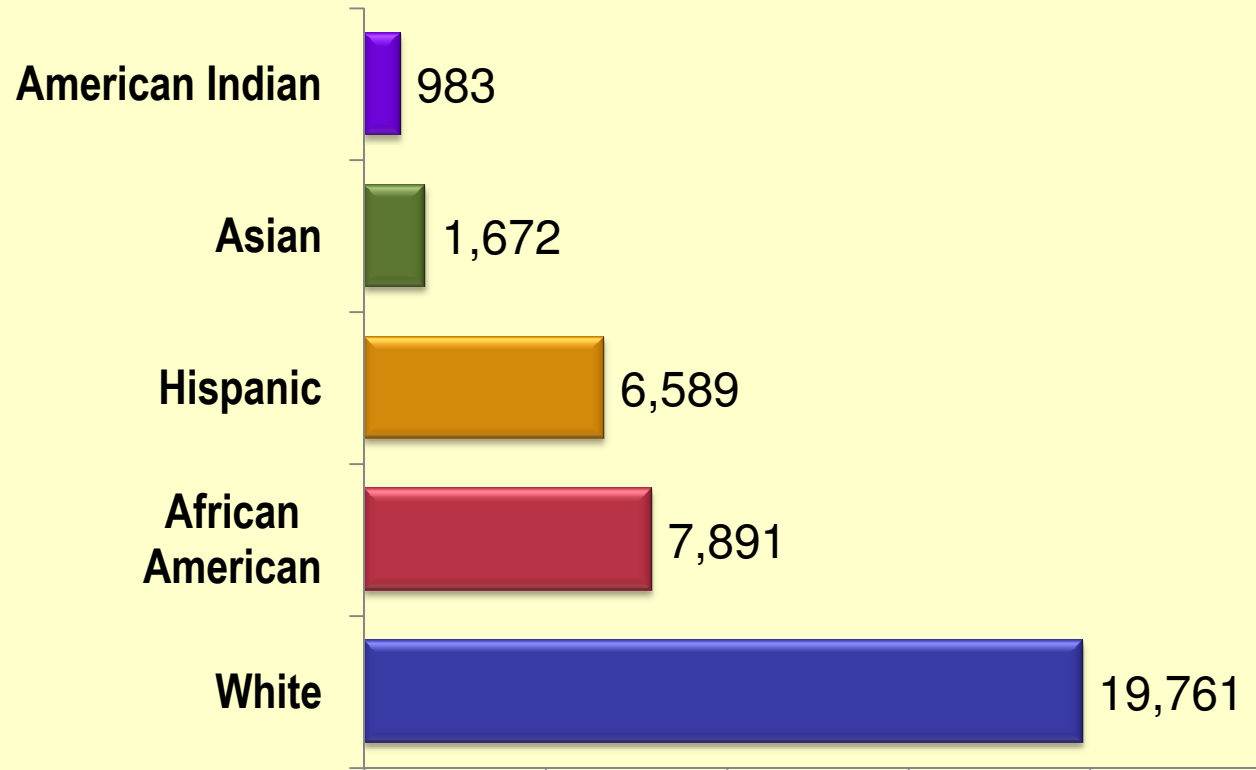
- The federal poverty threshold (100% of poverty) for a family of 4 in 2009 is \$22,000 a year.
- An estimated 39,300 (14%) children birth through age 3 live in poverty -- up from 12% in 2000.
- An additional 43,600 children under age 4, for a total of 82,900 (30%), are living at or below 185 percent of the poverty threshold.

Child poverty by race/ethnicity (2007)



Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Number of children in poverty (2007)

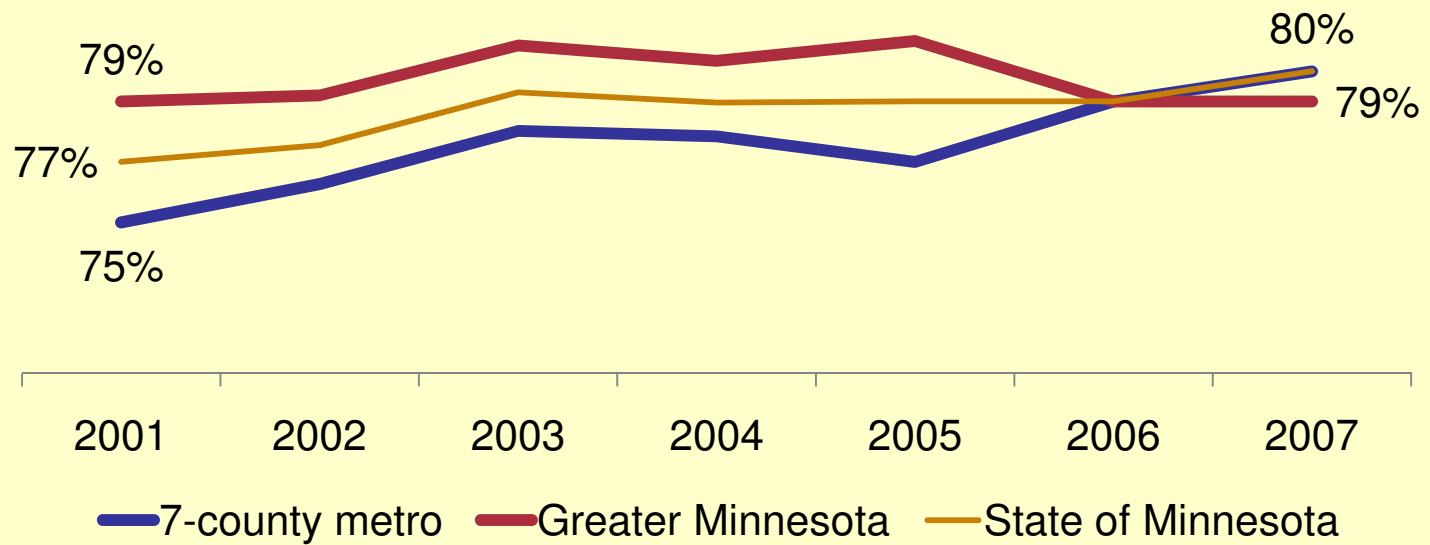


Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Access to resources and services

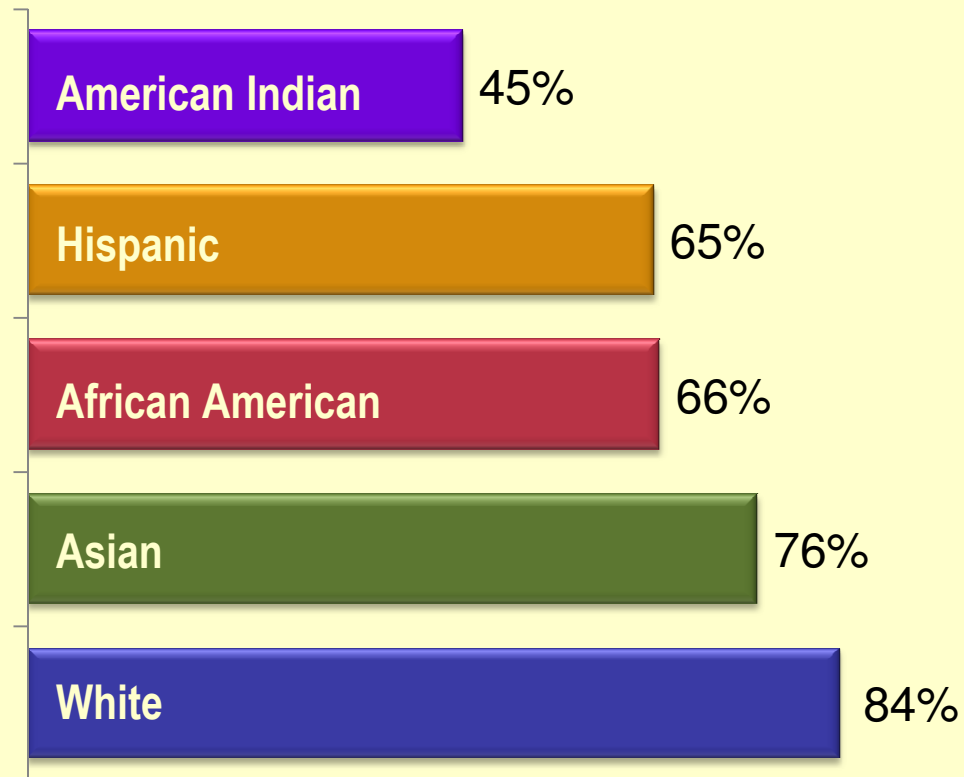


Prenatal care trends



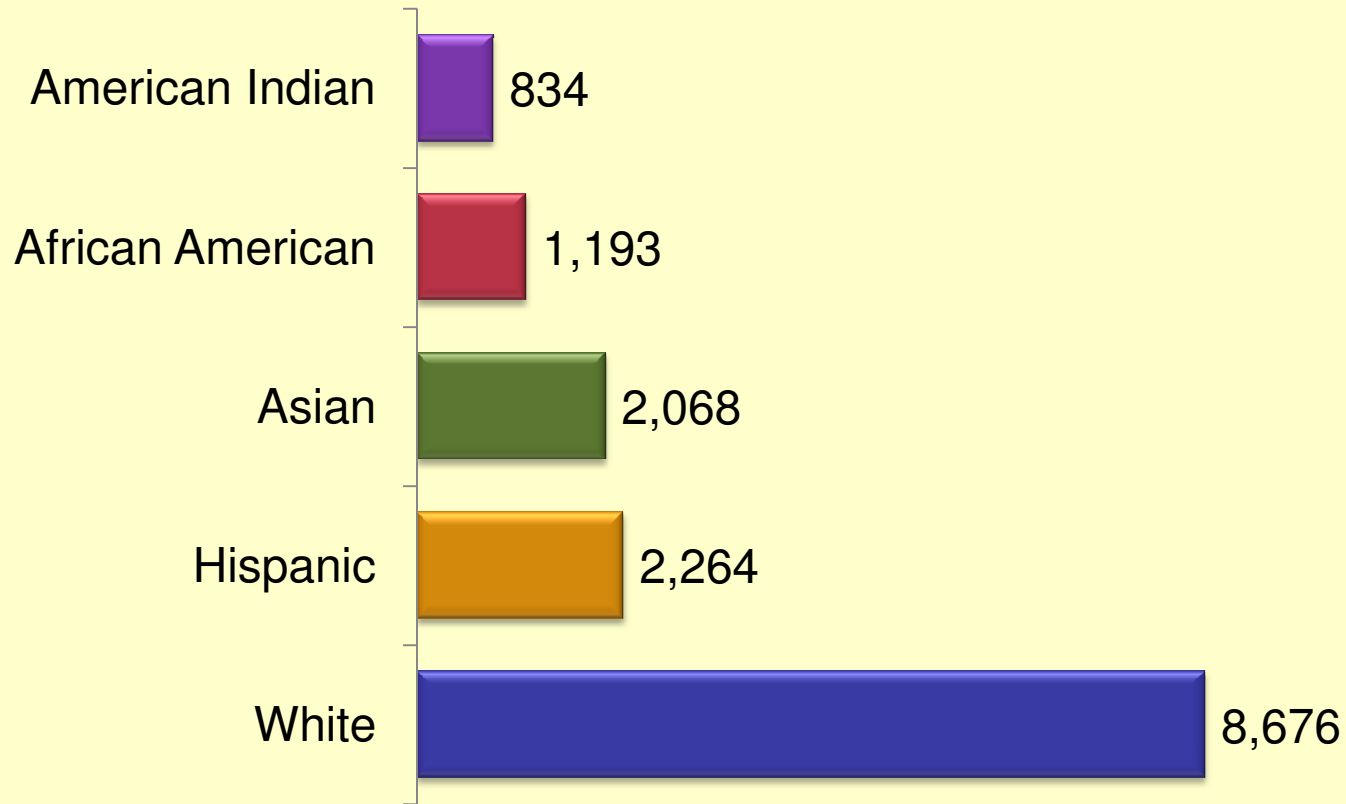
Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health

Prenatal care by race/ethnicity



Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health

Estimated number with inadequate prenatal care



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

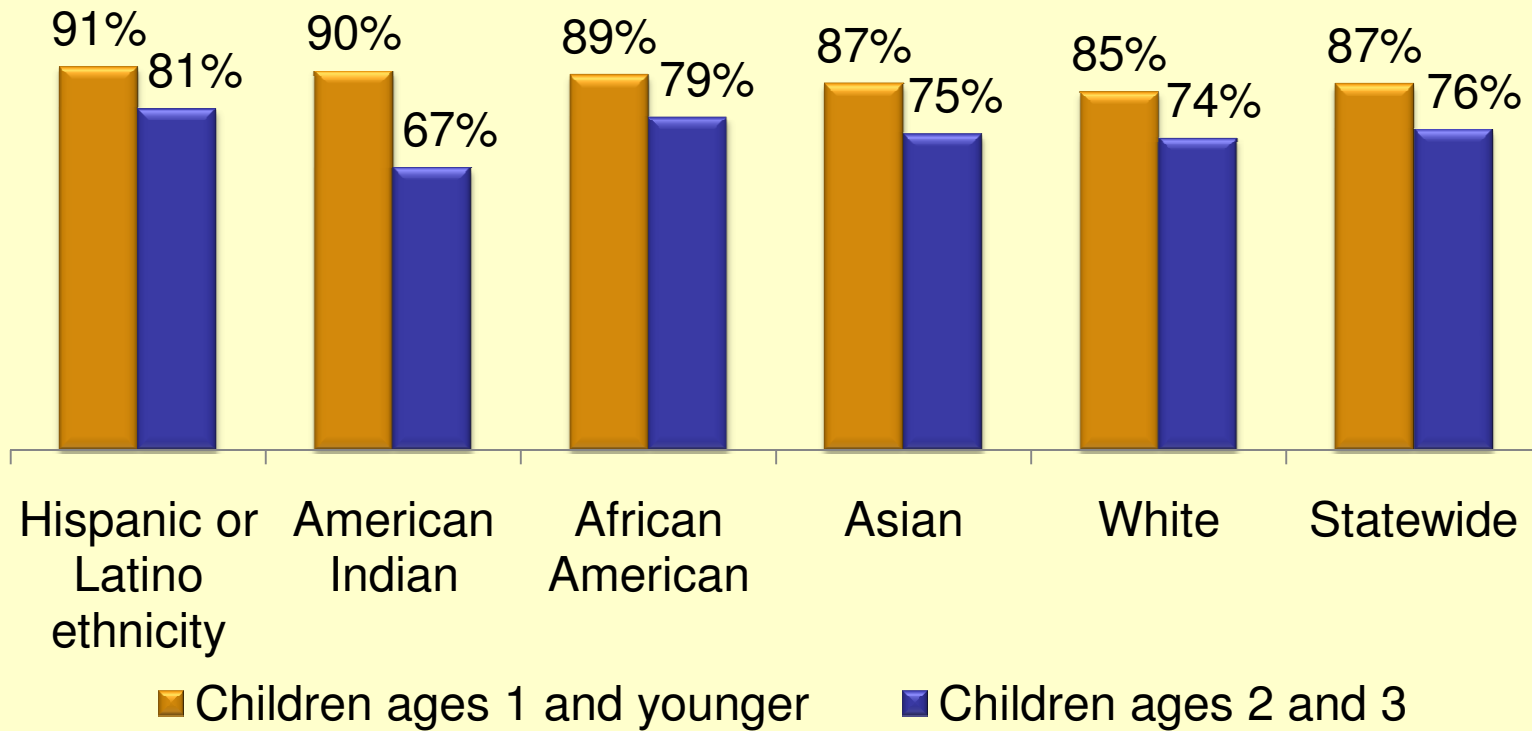
Newborn screening

- 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 (2008)

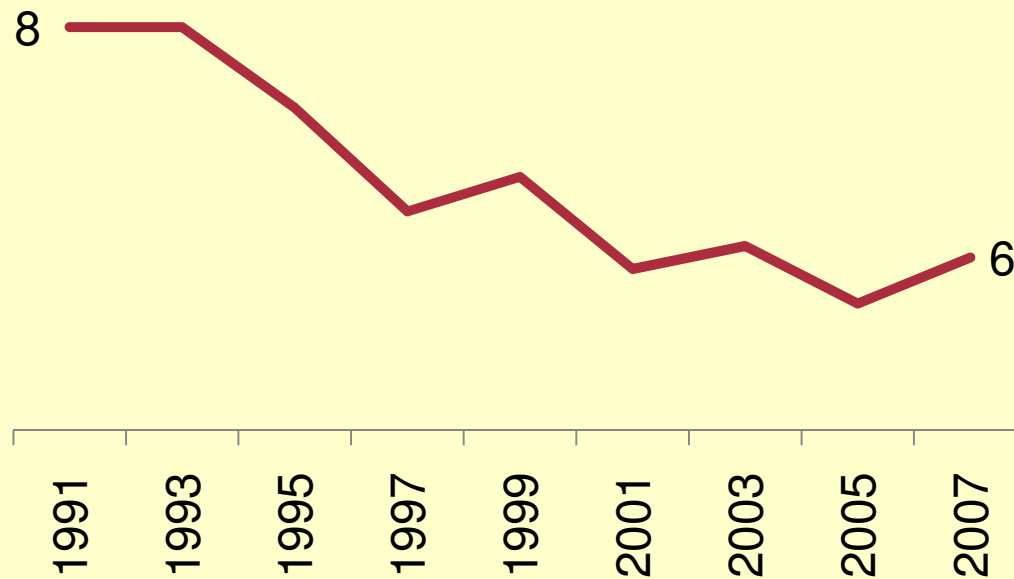
Head Start

- 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

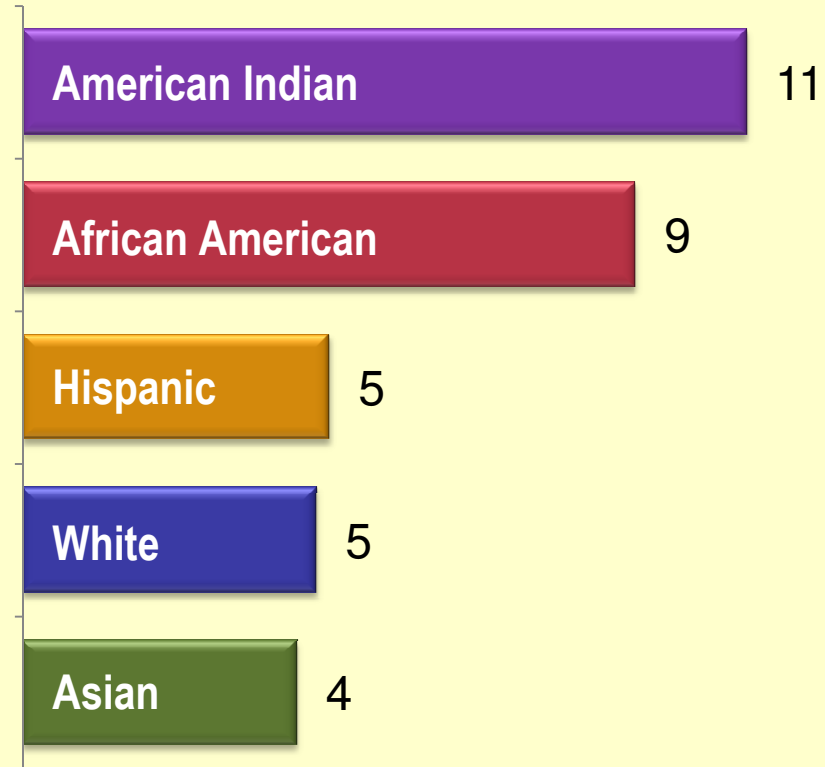


Infant mortality trends – rate per 1,000 births



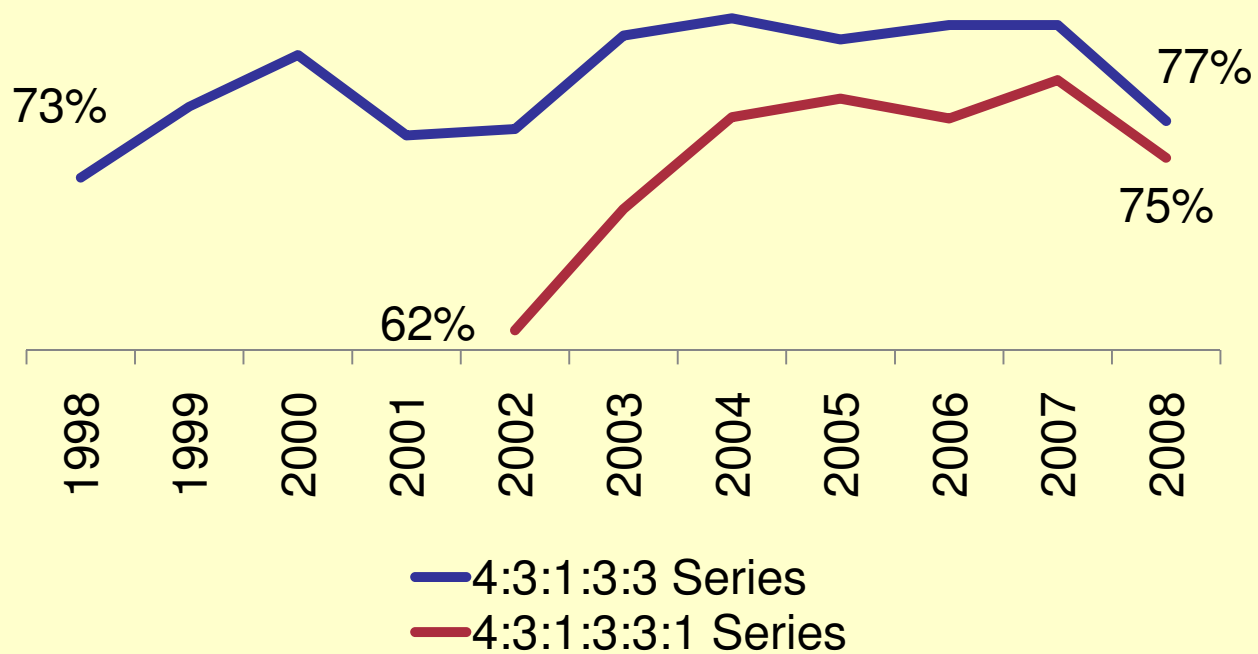
Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health

Infant mortality by race – rate per 1,000 births



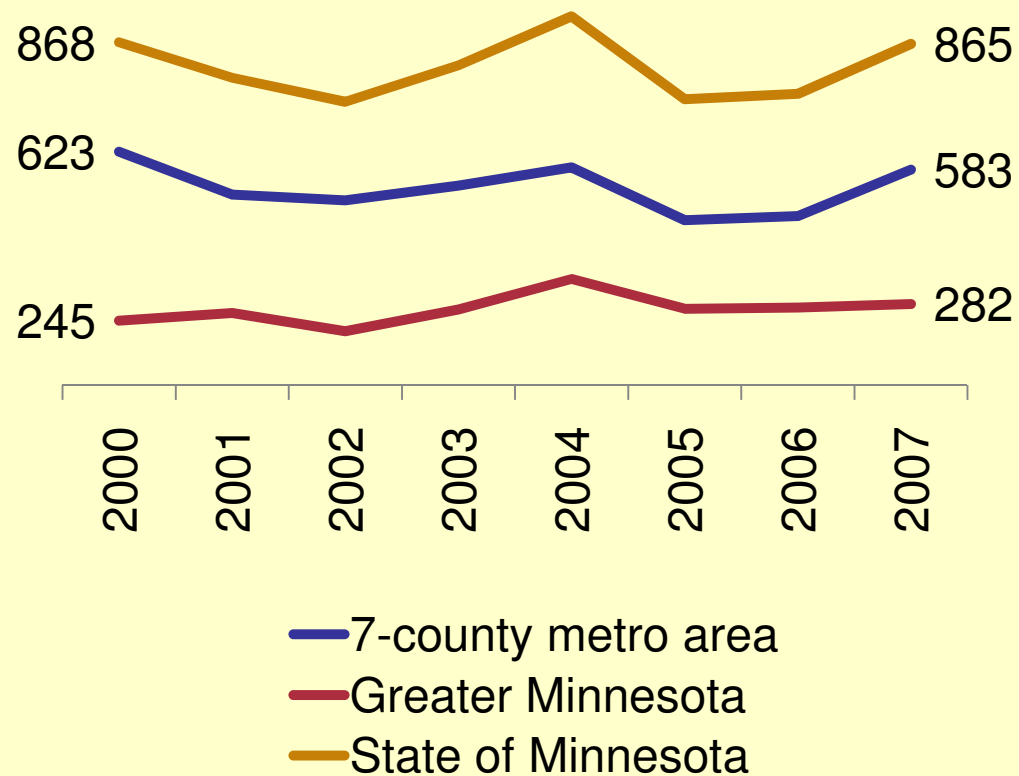
Source: Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health

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

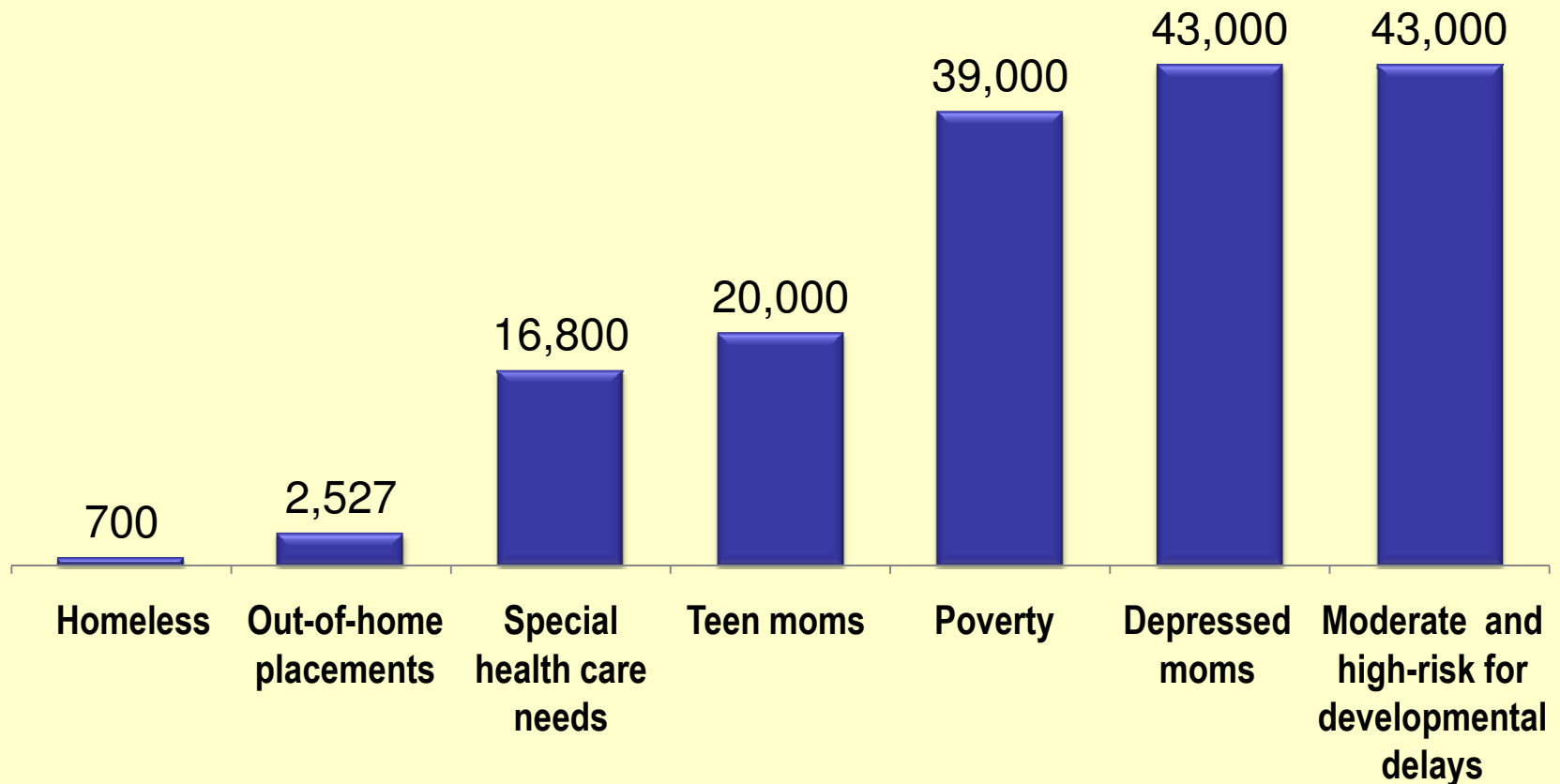
Child maltreatment

- 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.

How many Minnesota babies are vulnerable?

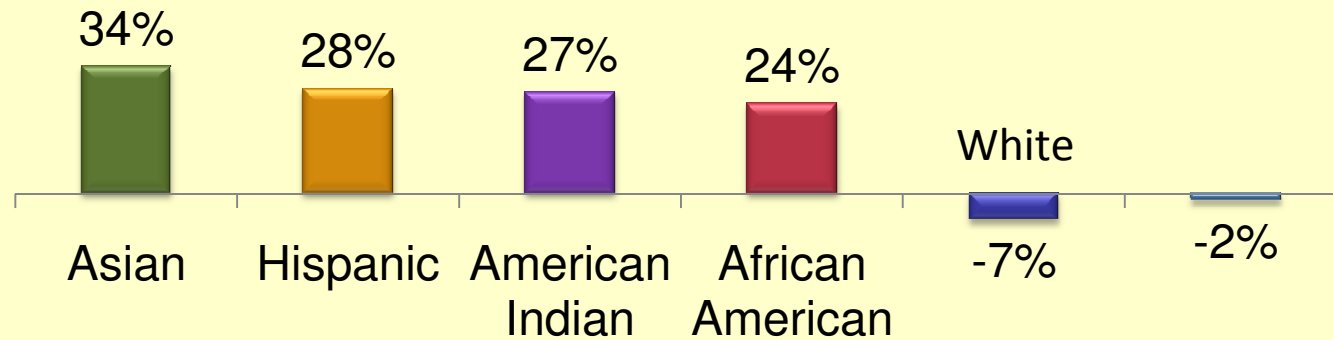


Now what?



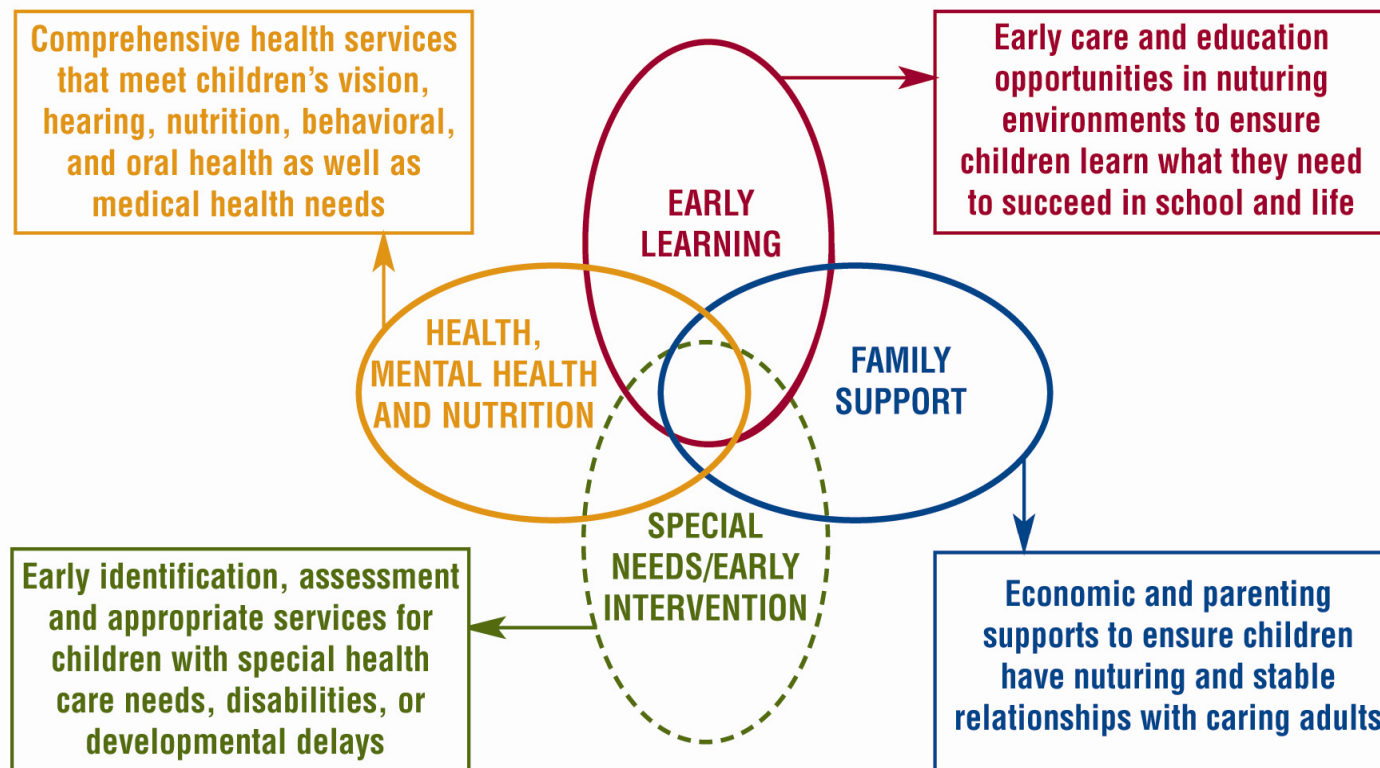
Future population of Minnesota

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



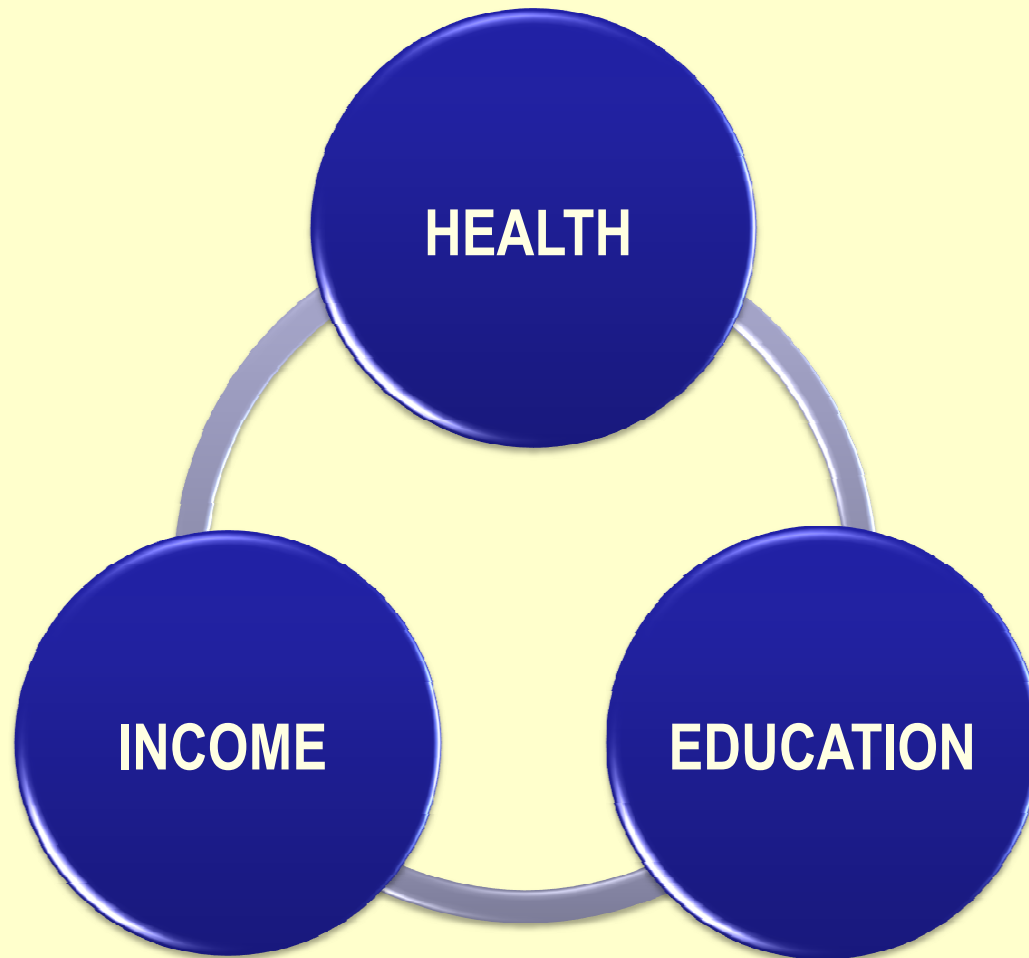
Early childhood systems framework

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



National Early Childhood Systems Working Groups

Why and where to intervene early



Implications

- Likely more erosion with doing nothing or cuts
- Must do something different, not just more of the same
- School readiness requires more than quality early care and education for 3 and 4-year olds
- Need common data system for better planning and accountability

For more information please visit

www.wilderresearch.org

Richard A. Chase, Ph.D.
Consulting Scientist
Wilder Research
451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-280-2706
rick@wilder.org



WILDER
FOUNDATION