

The 2009 Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) Report, Including:

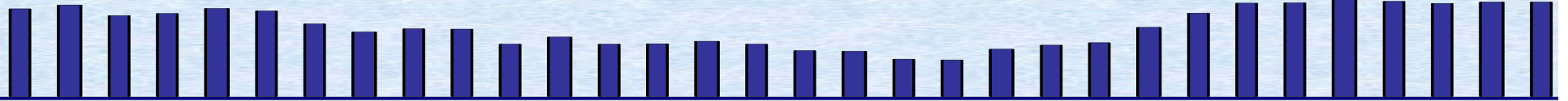
- **An Update of the CWI for the Years 1975-2007, with Projections for 2008, and**
- **A Special Focus Report on Anticipating the Impacts of the 2008-2010 Recession**

A Social Indicators Project Supported by the
Foundation for Child Development

Connecticut State Assembly Presentation, June 16, 2009

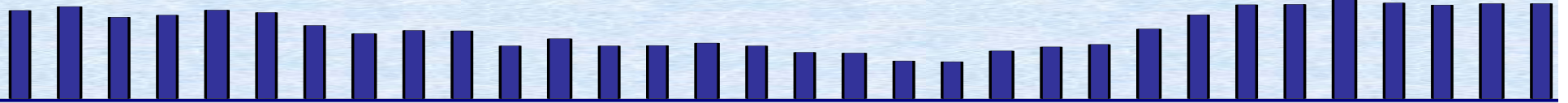
Kenneth C. Land, Ph.D., Project Coordinator

Duke University



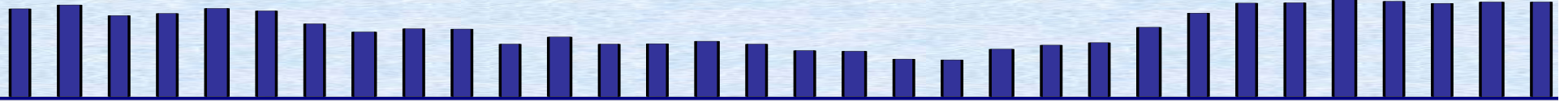
What is the CWI?

- It is a composite measure of trends in the quality of life, or well-being, of America's children and young people since 1975.
- It consists of 28 social indicators organized in seven quality-of-life domains.



What Does the CWI Tell Us?

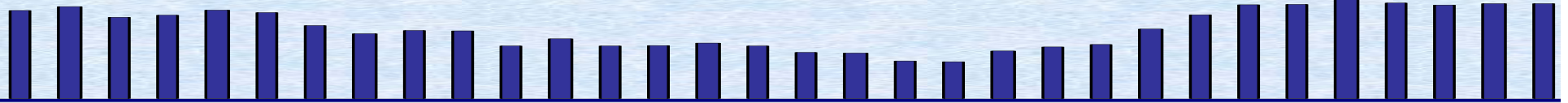
- Did overall child and youth well-being in the United States improve or deteriorate over the last two generations?
- By how much?
- In which domains or areas of social life?
- For which age groups?
- For boys and girls equally?
- For which racial and ethnic groups?
- Did disparities between groups increase or decrease?



Methods of CWI Construction

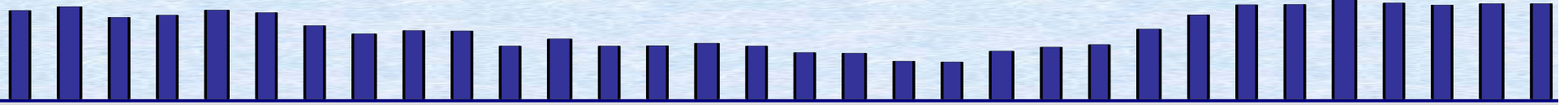
- The CWI places 28 national level indicators into seven quality-of-life domains:
 - Family Economic Well-Being
 - Health
 - Safety/Behavioral Concerns
 - Educational Attainment
 - Community Connectedness
 - Social Relationships (with Family and Peers)
 - Emotional/Spiritual Well-Being

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- Each of the 28 indicators uses annual time series data from vital statistics and sample surveys
- Each indicator is indexed by percentage change from the base year, 1975.
- The base year is assigned a value of 100.
 - A value greater than 100 in subsequent years means the social condition measured has improved. A value less than 100 means the social condition has deteriorated.

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- The 28 indicators are grouped together into seven domains to construct domain-specific summary well-being indices.
 - Within these summary indices, each indicator is equally weighted.
- The seven domain indices are combined into the Child and Youth Well-being Index (CWI).
 - Each domain is equally weighted in the construction of the CWI.

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Composite Index of Child and Youth Well-Being

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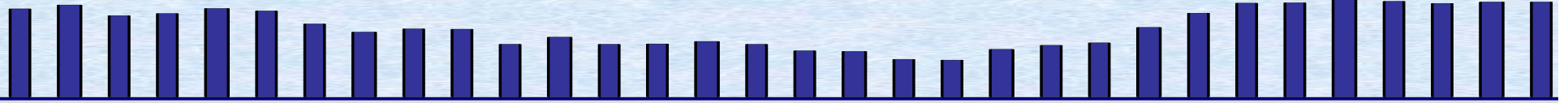
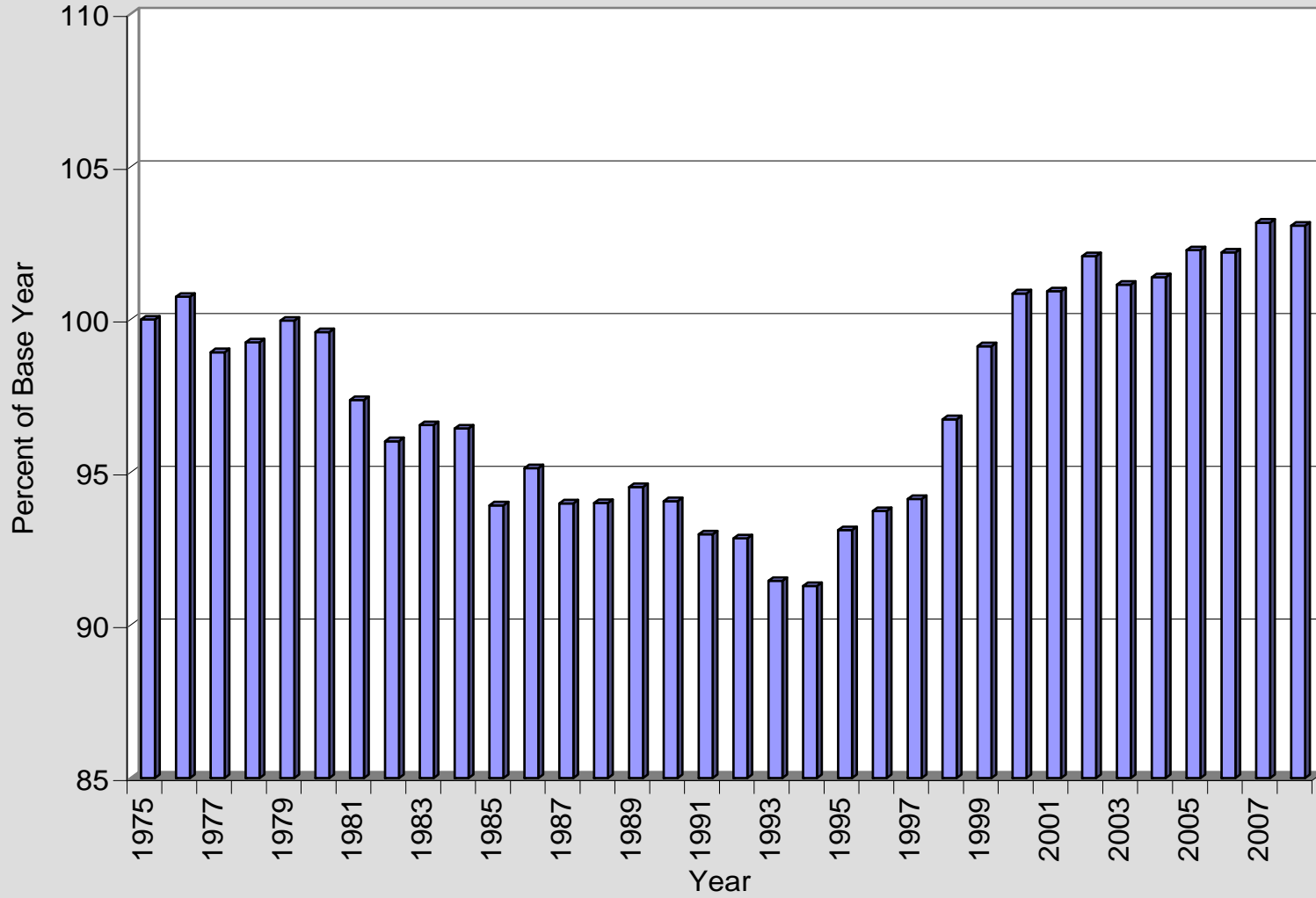
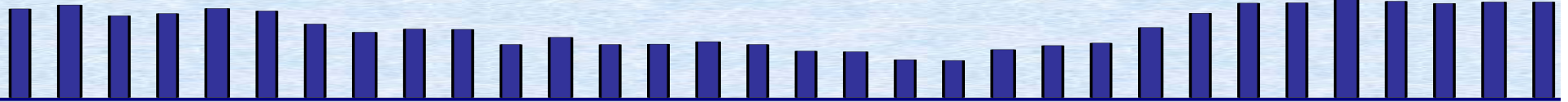


Figure 1: Child Well-Being Index, 1975-2007, with Projections for 2008.



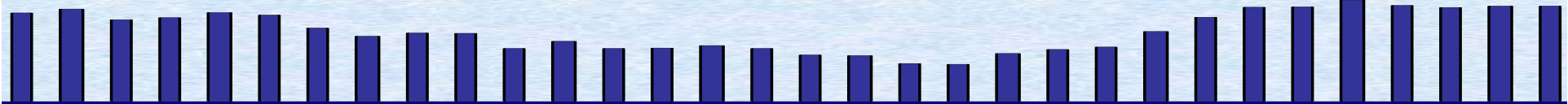
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➤ Figure 1 identifies:

- ✓ a long “recession” in child and youth well-being in the years 1980-1994,
 - ✓ followed by a rapid improvement in the years 1995-2002, and
 - ✓ then a slowing of improvements in the early years of this first decade of the 21st century.
- So, just as the *CWI* allowed us be the first to signal that the steady increases in numerous *Key Indicators* in the period 1994-2002 were indicative not just of isolated trends, but rather of an overall improvement in well-being, the *CWI* more recently has signaled that this trend of overall improvement has slowed.

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Domain-Specific Indices

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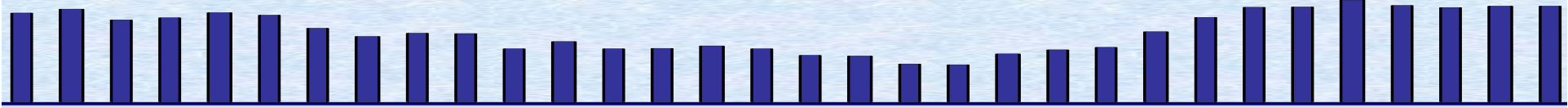
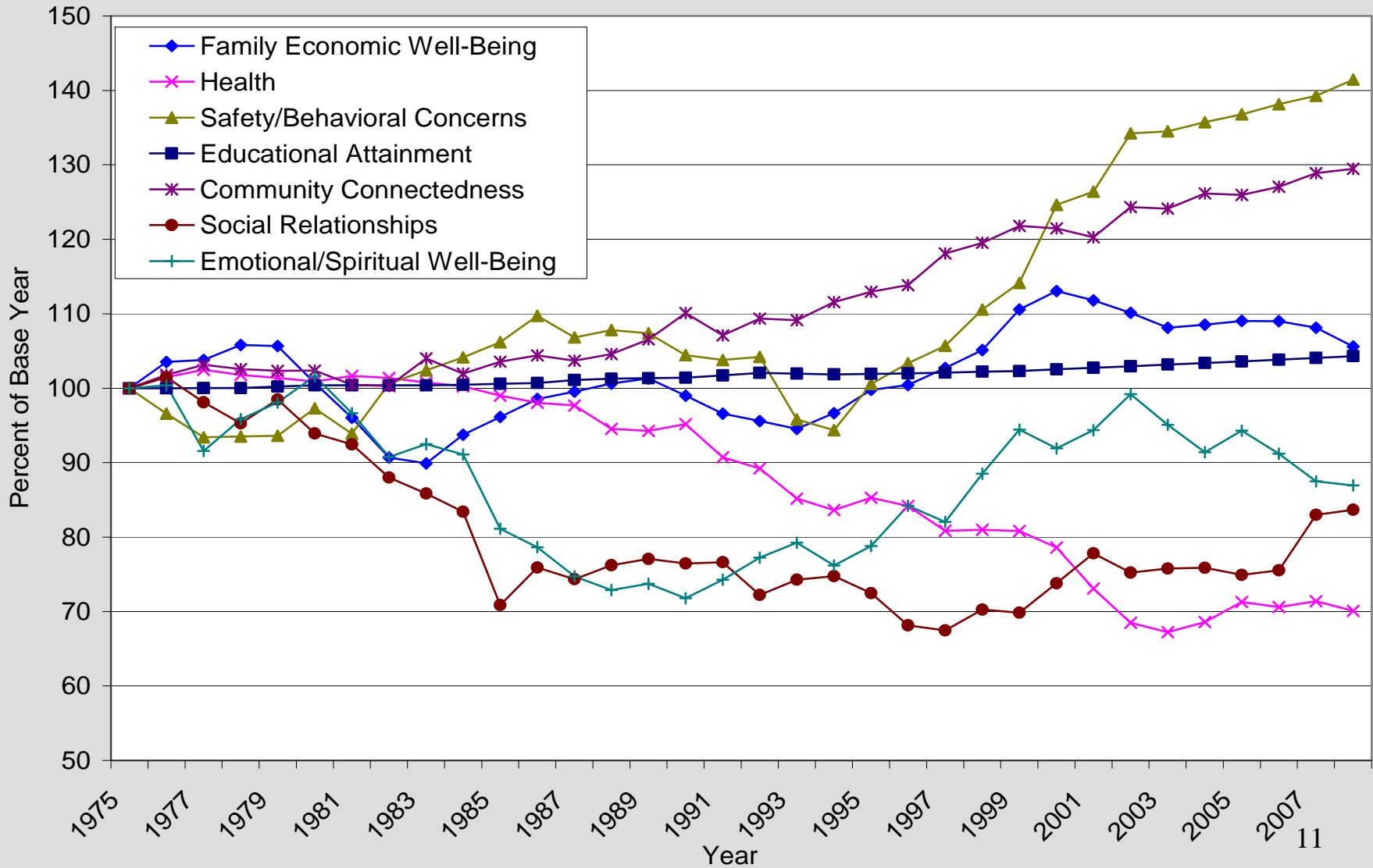
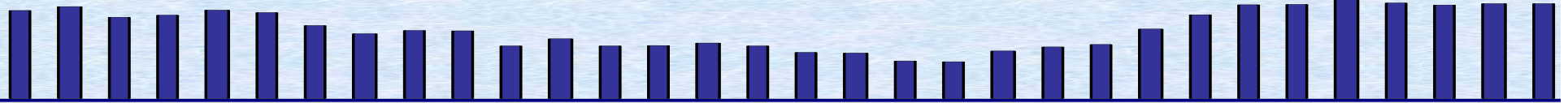


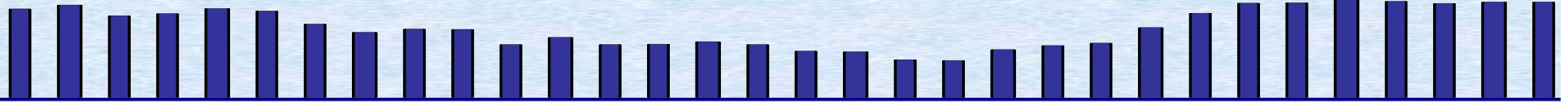
Figure 2. Domain-Specific Summary Indices, 1975-2007, with Projections for 2008.





➤ Figure 2 helps us to identify the components of changes over time in child and youth well-being, specifically:

- ✓ *domains that show improvements* (safety/behavioral concerns and community connectedness/participation),
- ✓ *domains that have declined* (health and social relationships),
- ✓ *domains that have changed less markedly* (family economic well-being, educational attainment and emotional/spiritual well-being, with the latter having declined substantially and then recovered).

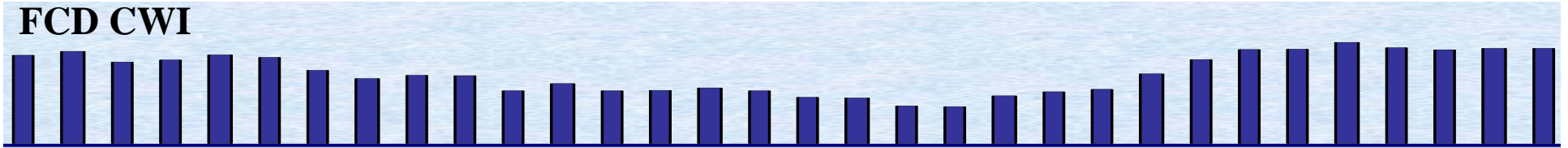


Special Focus Report

Anticipating Impacts of a 2008-2010 Recession

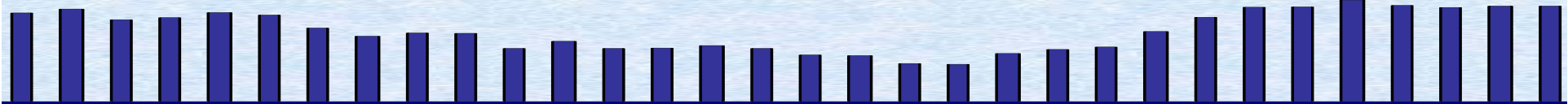
The financial and banking crisis of 2008 has mushroomed into a severe downturn in the economy. This makes salient the questions:

- ✓ What will be the impacts of the current period of financial crisis, rising unemployment, and economic recession on child well-being?
- ✓ Can these impacts be anticipated today, well before the corresponding official statistics are compiled and released some four or five years from now?
- ✓ We think they can be, at least to some extent.



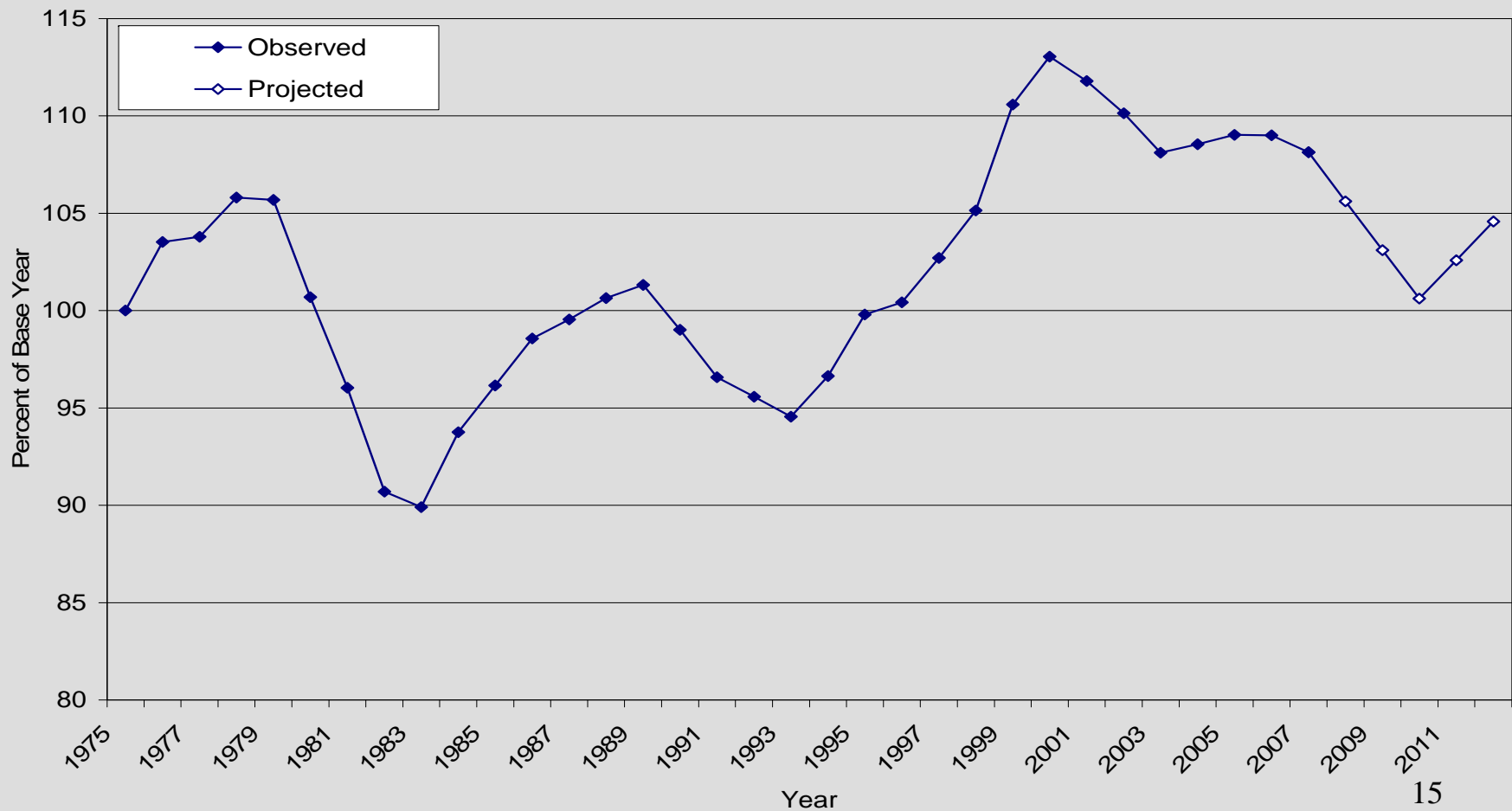
I. Impacts on the Composite CWI

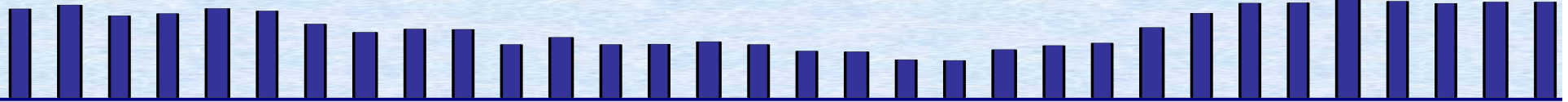
- For the overall composite CWI, we anticipate a decline of about 2 points – about 2 percent – from its recent peak in 2007 to a low point in 2010.
- This will bring the CWI down to just above the 100 at which it is set in its base year 1975.
- This overall decline in the CWI will occur through several of the Domains of the CWI and their Key Indicators. But it will be driven most directly by a decline in the Family Economic Well-Being Domain Index, to which we turn our attention.



II. Impacts on Family Economic Well-Being

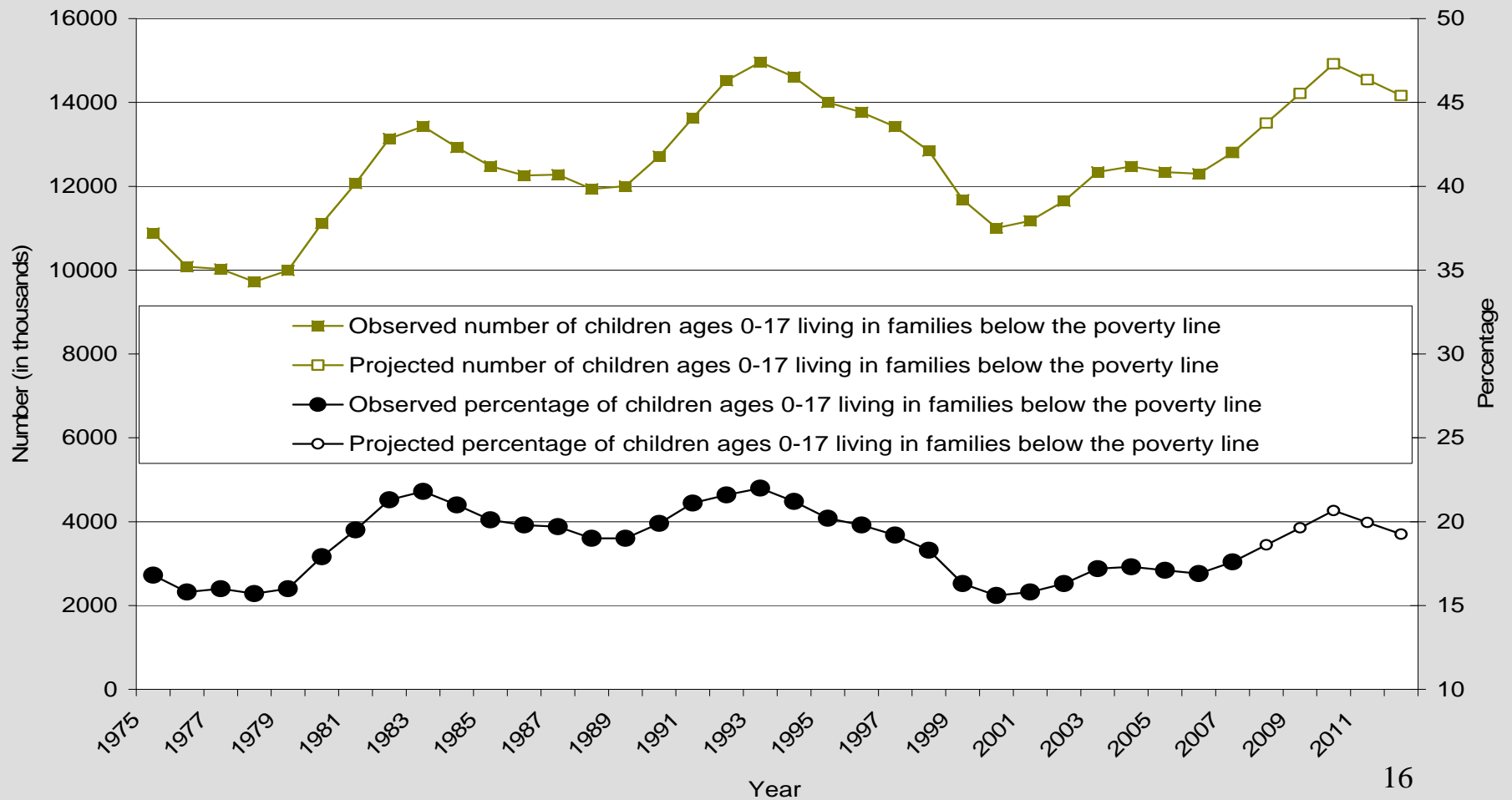
Figure 3. Family Economic Well-Being Index, 1975-2007, with Projections for 2008-2012.

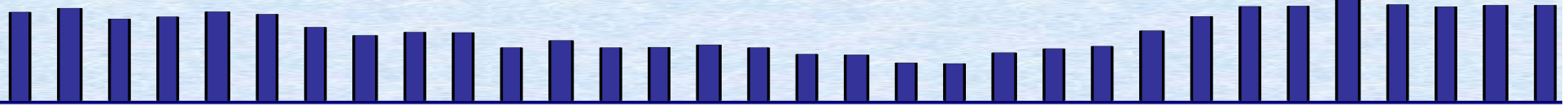




Family Economic Well-Being Components – Poverty

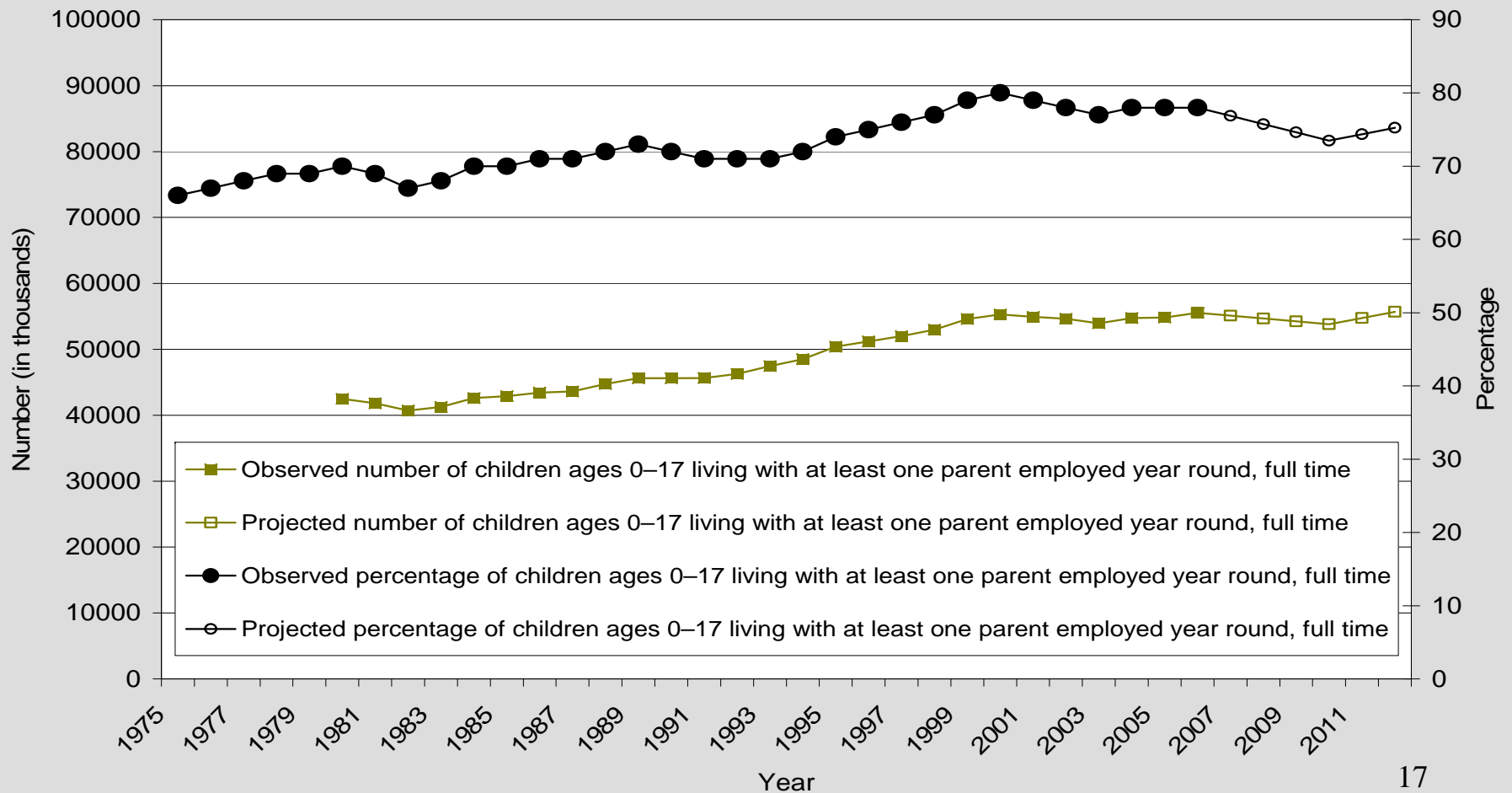
Figure 4. Number and Percentage of Children Ages 0-17 Living in Families Below the Poverty Line, 1975-2007, with Projections for 2008-2012.

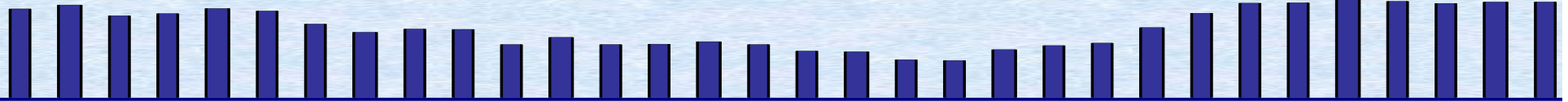




Family Economic Well-Being Components – Secure Parental Employment

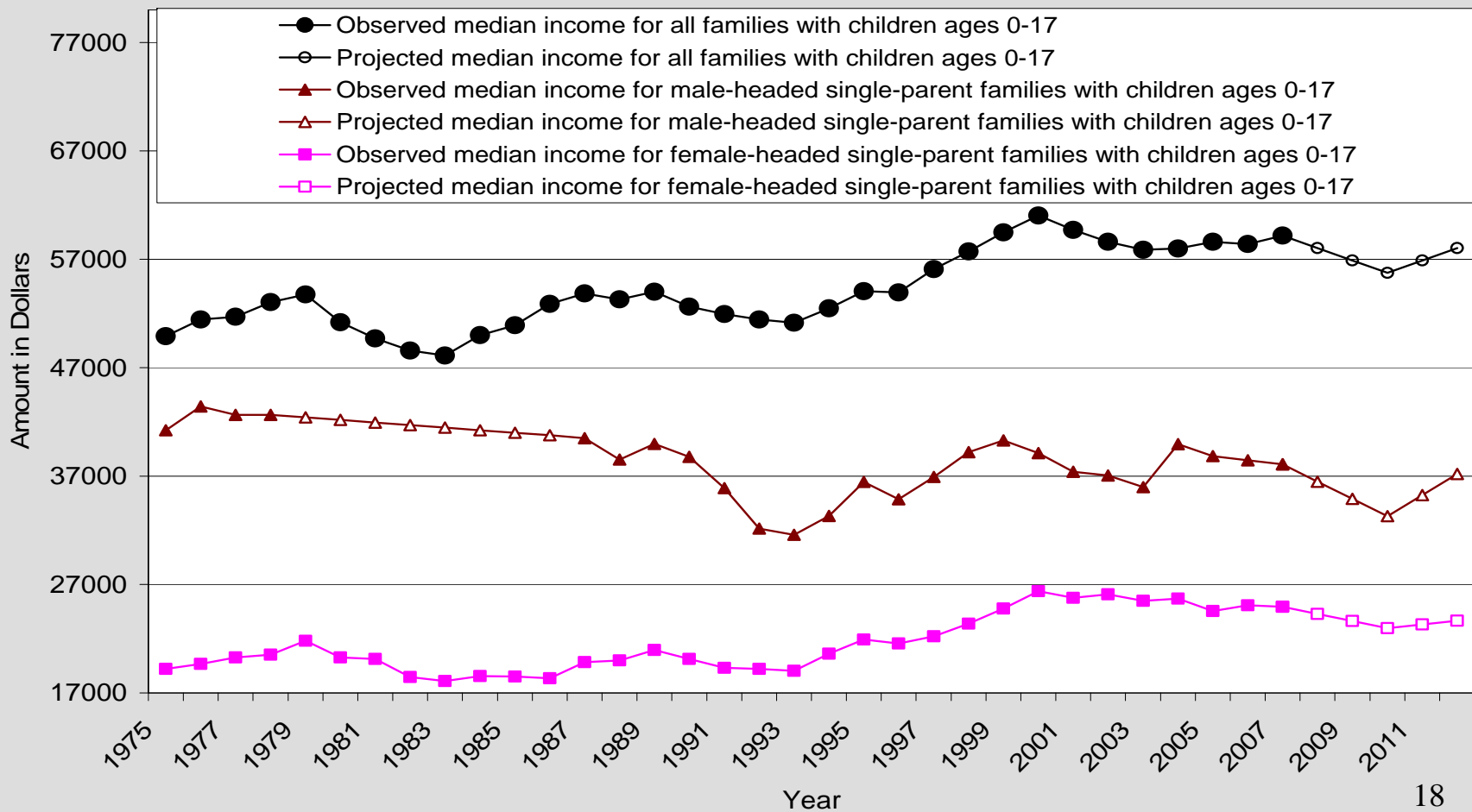
Figure 5. Percentage and Number of Children Ages 0–17 Living With At Least One Parent Employed Year Round, Full Time, 1975 or 1981 to 2006, with Projections for 2007-2012.

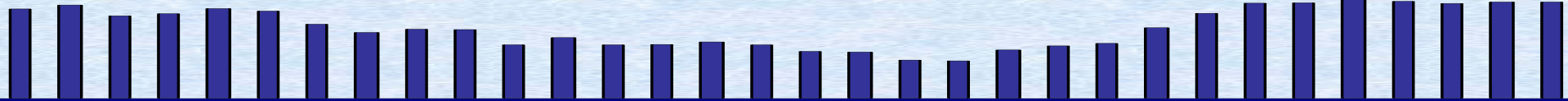




Family Economic Well-Being Components – Median Family Income

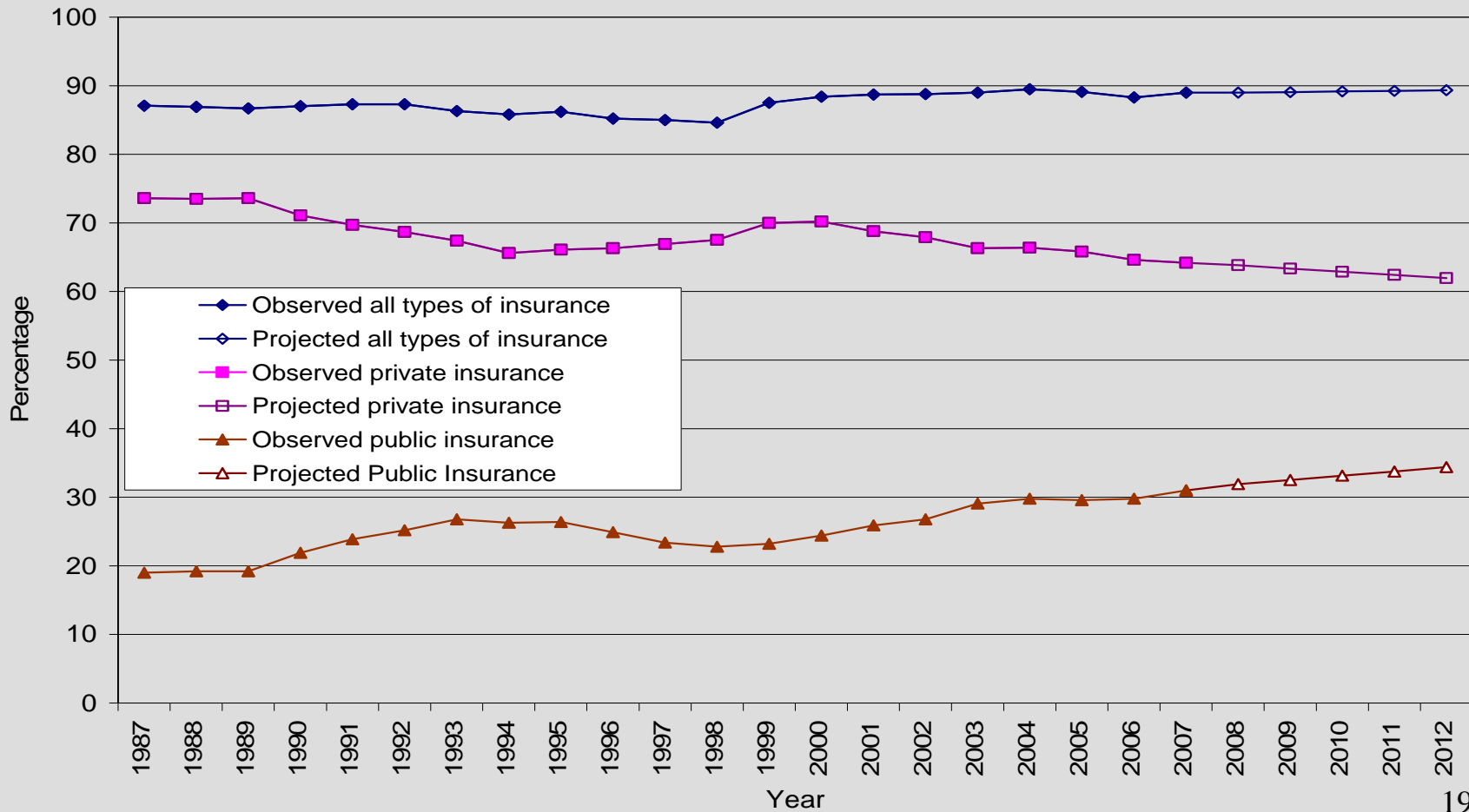
Figure 6. Median Family Income in Families with Children Under 18 Years Old in 2007 Dollars, 1975-2007, with Projections for 2008-2012.

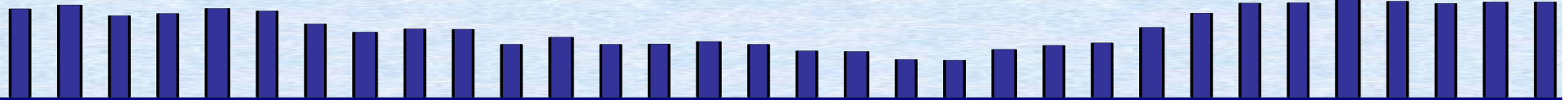




Family Economic Well-Being Components – Health Insurance

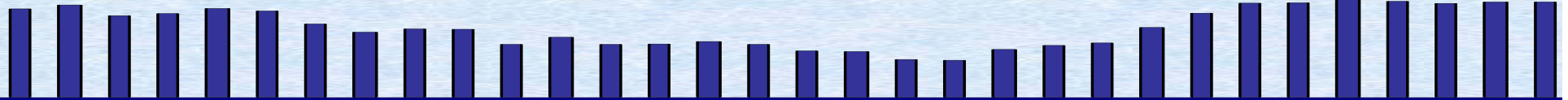
Figure 7. Percentage of Children Living in Families With Health Insurance, 1987-2007, with Projections for 2008-2012





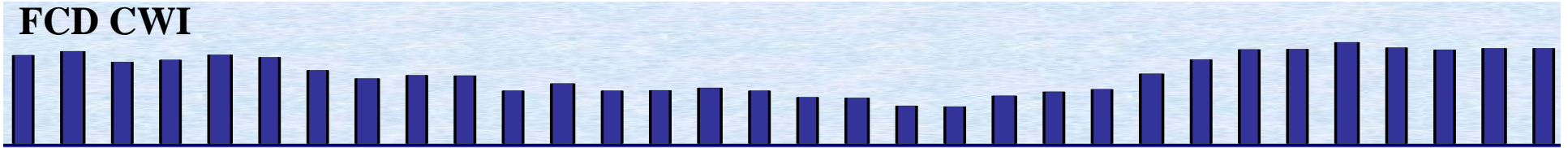
III. Secondary Impacts on Other Domains/Indicators

Well-Being Domain	Key Indicator	Qualitative Direction of Expected Impact
Health	Rate of Overweight Children and Adolescents	+
	Mortality Rate (Ages 1-19)	+
Safety/Behavioral	Rate of Violent Crime Offending (ages 12-17)	+
	Rate of Violent Crime Victimization (ages 12-17)	+
Community Connectedness/Participation	Rate of Youths ages 16 to 19 Who are Not Working/Employed and Not Attending School	+
	Rate of Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment (ages 3-4)	-
	Rate of Young Adults Who Have Received a Bachelor's Degree (ages 25-29)	+



Secondary Impacts on Other Domains/Indicators, Continued.

Well-Being Domain	Key Indicator	Qualitative Direction of Expected Impact
Social Relationships	Rate of Residential Mobility of Families	Less Reduction Than Typical of Recessions
	Rate of Children Living in Families Headed by a Single Parent	+
Emotional/Spiritual	Suicide Rate (ages 10-19)	+
	Rate of Participation in Religious Services	+
	Rate of Assessed Importance of Religious Beliefs	+



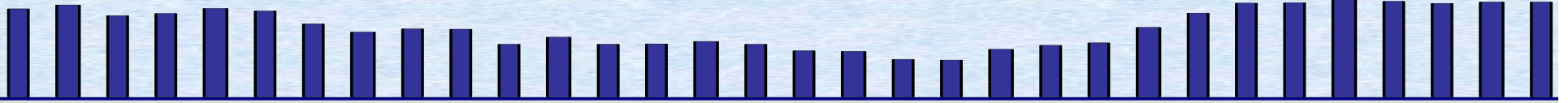
IV. A Diversity of Impacts

Beneath these national level indicators and associated impacts, there will be a diversity of impacts across the U.S.

Two important variants of this diversity:

- ✓ geographical diversity
- ✓ diversity across race/ethnic and socioeconomic lines

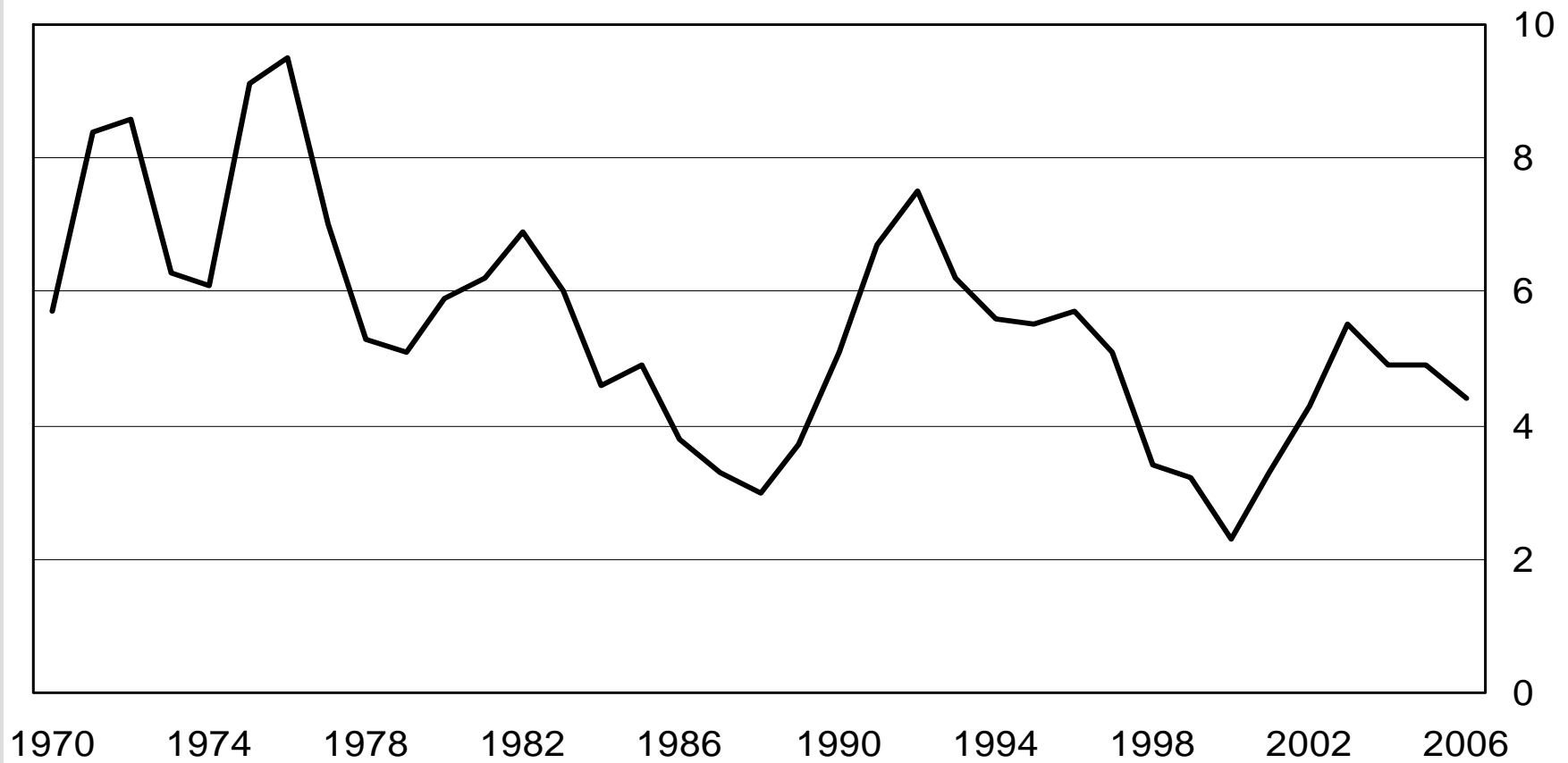
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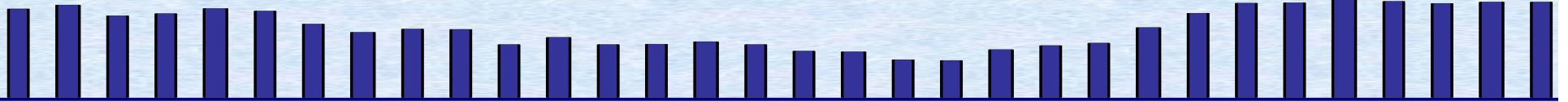
V. A Focus on Connecticut

Unemployment

Unemployed workers as percent of civilian labor force

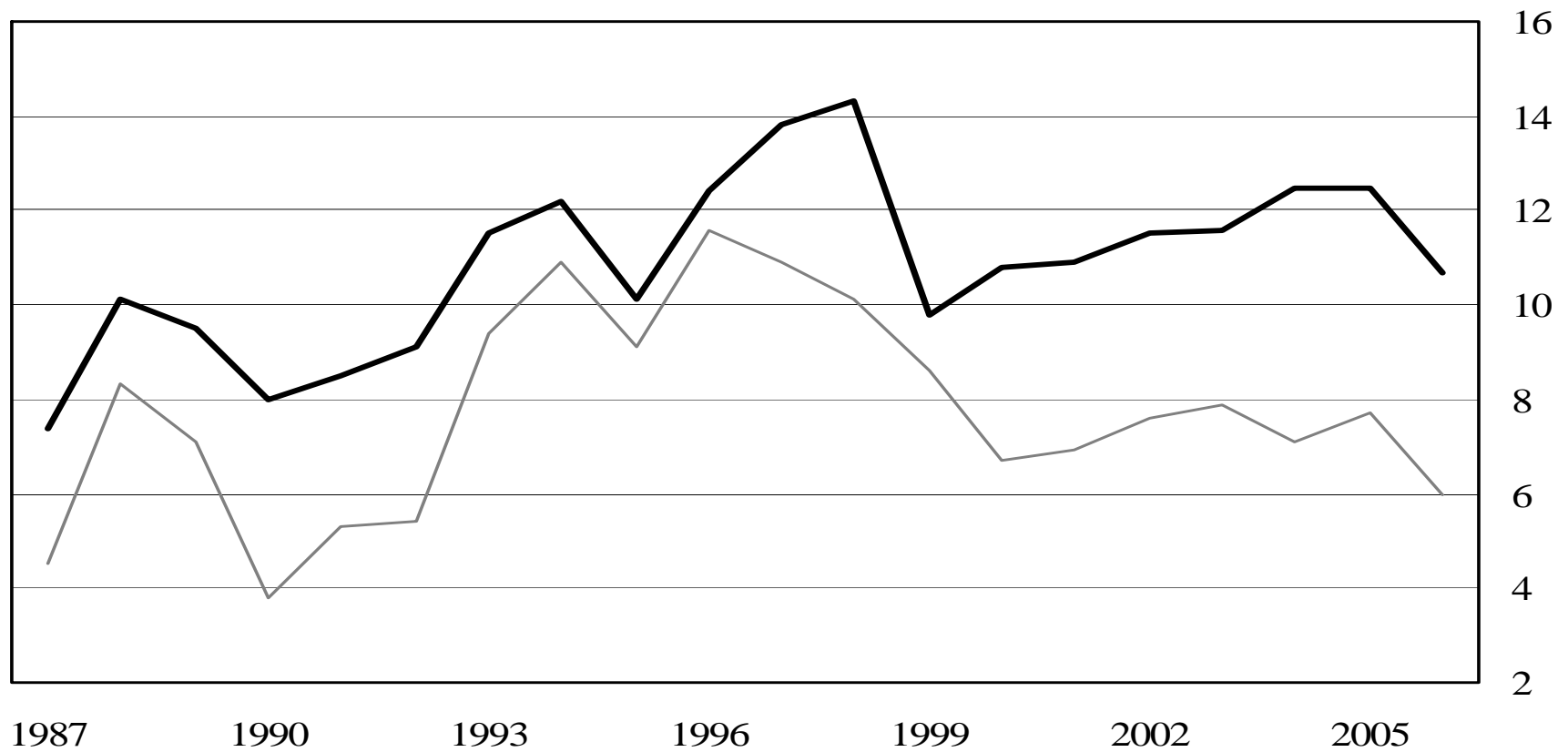


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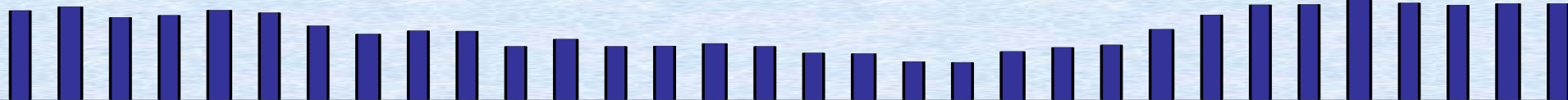


V. A Focus on Connecticut

Persons without private or public health insurance coverage
Percent of population under 65 and under 18



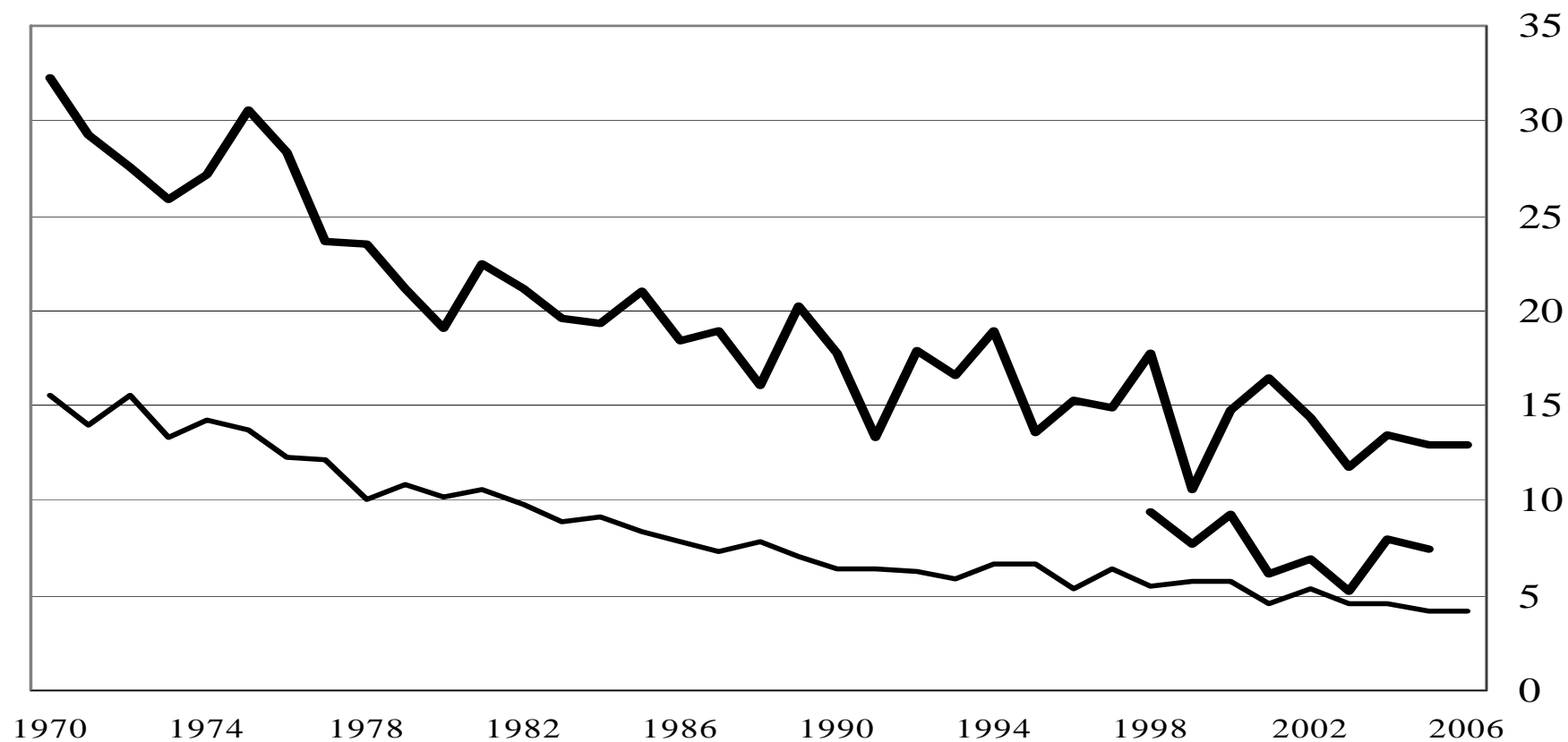
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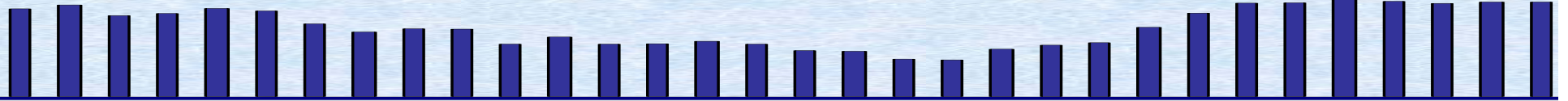
V. A Focus on Connecticut

Infant mortality by race

Deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births



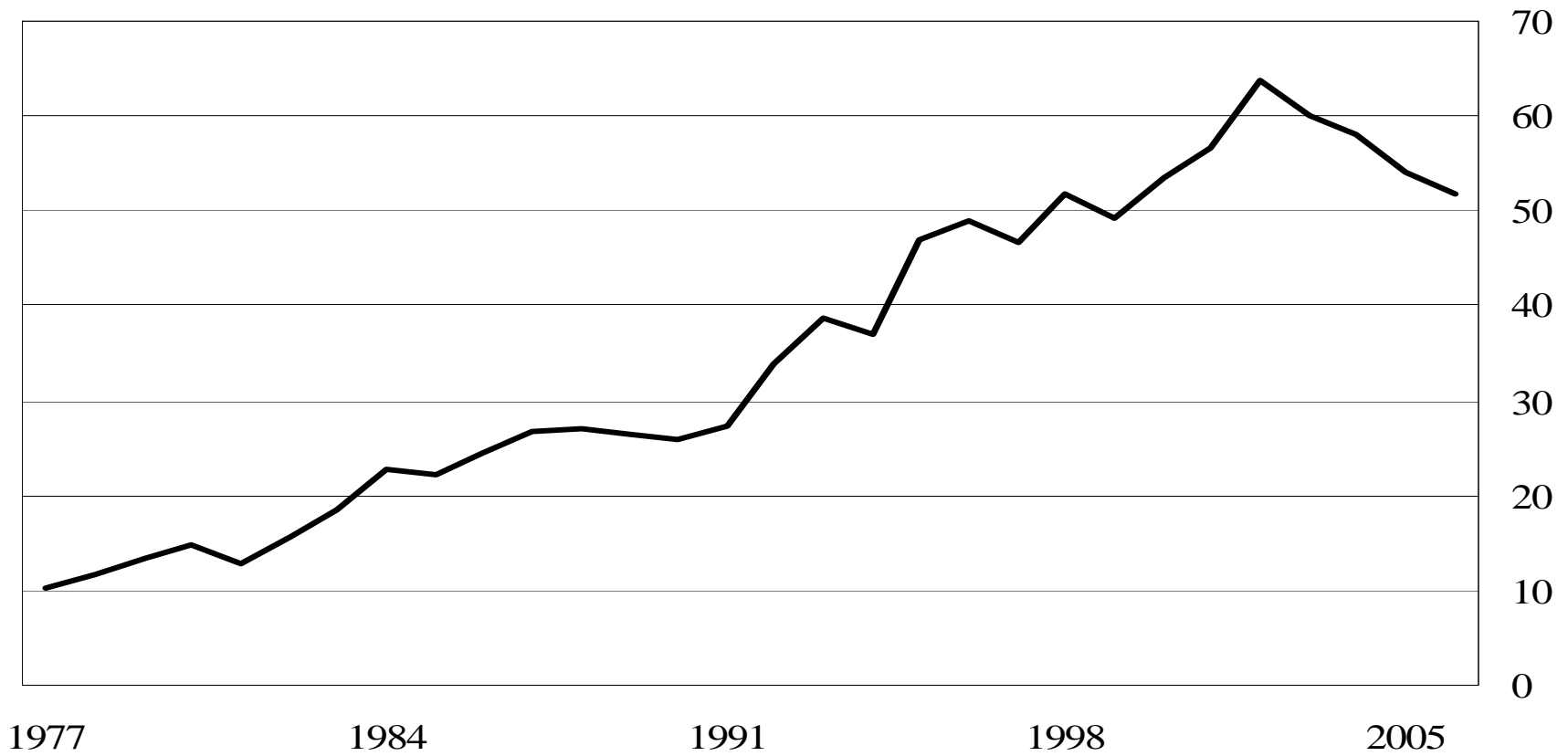
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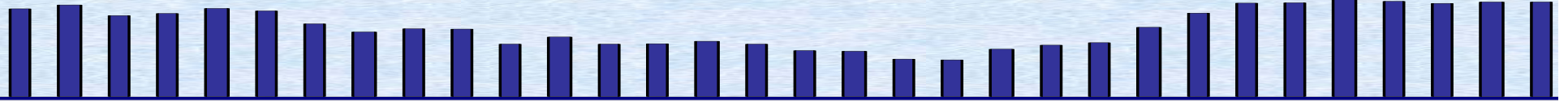
V. A Focus on Connecticut

Child abuse

Reports of abuse per 1,000 children under 18



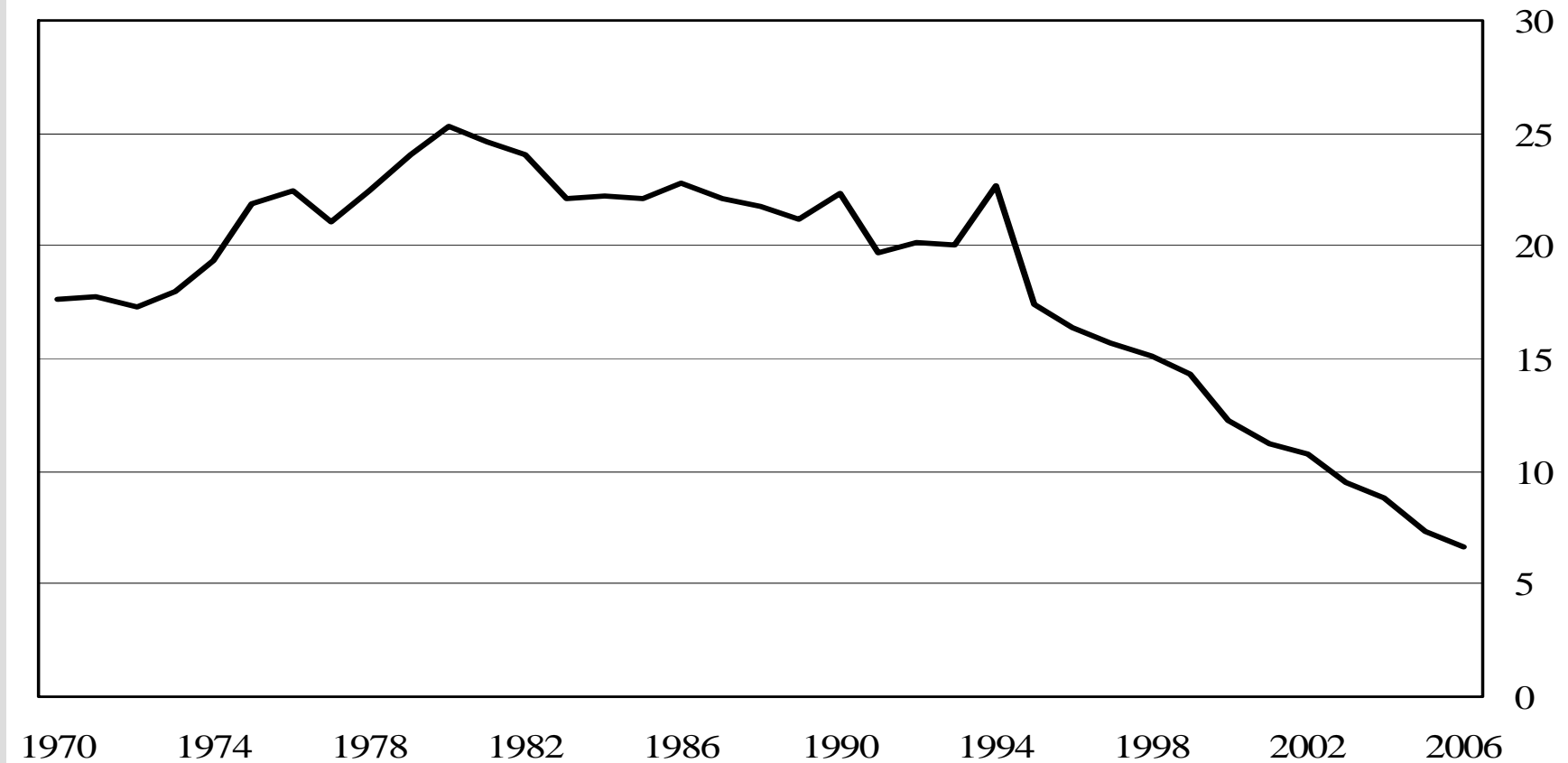
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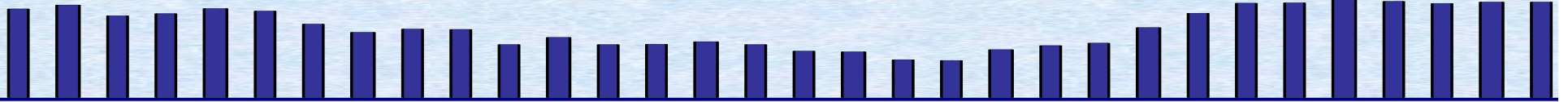
V. A Focus on Connecticut

High school dropouts

Four-year cumulative dropout rate (per 100), by graduating class year



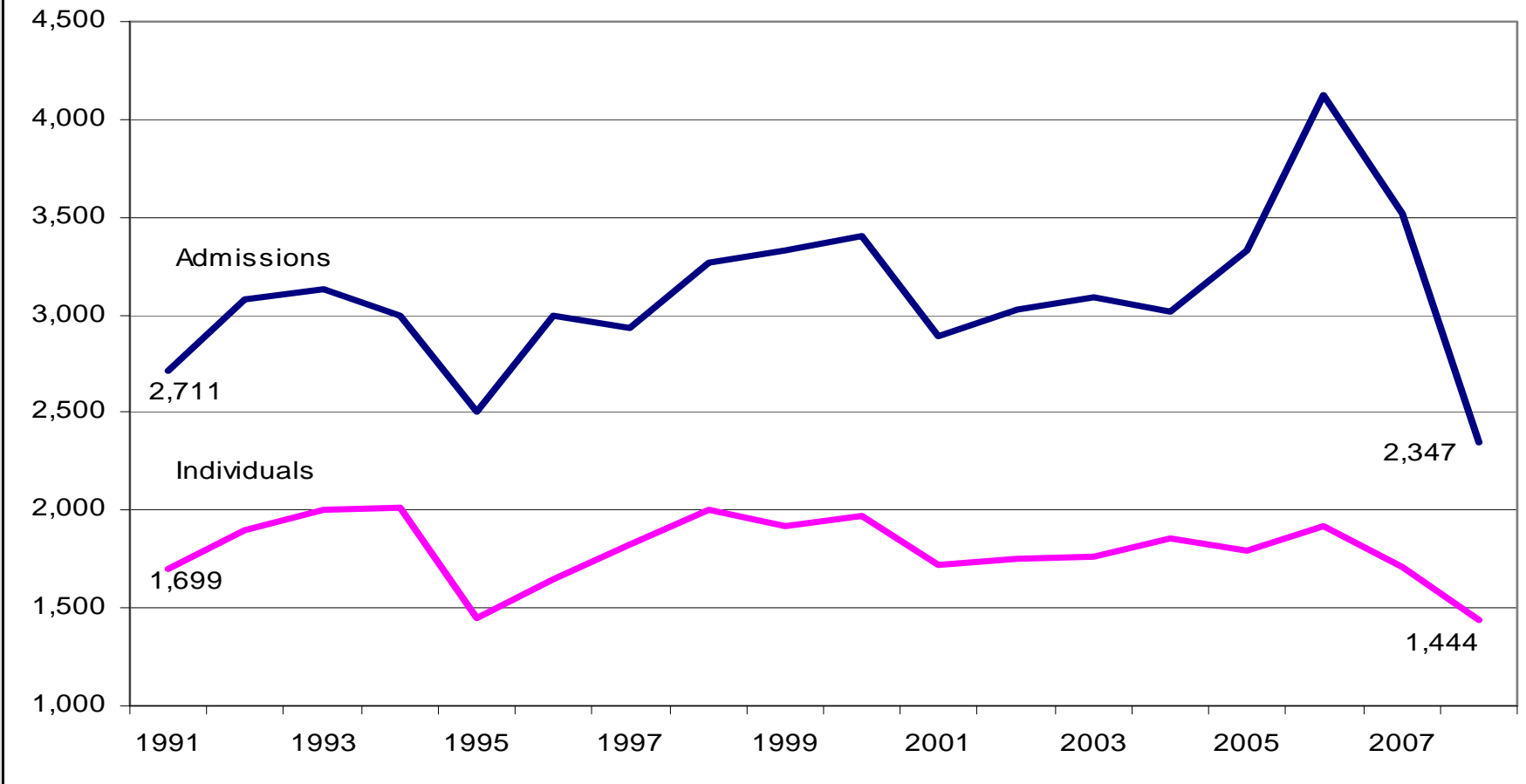
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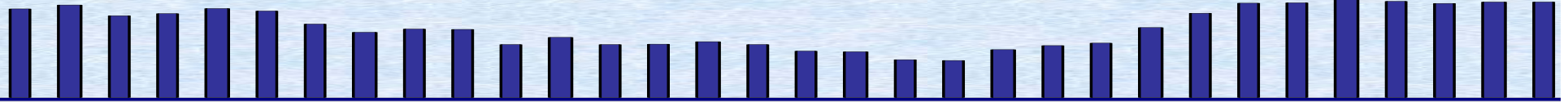


V. A Focus on Connecticut

Detention Cases by Age

Number of admissions and unduplicated individuals, under age 16





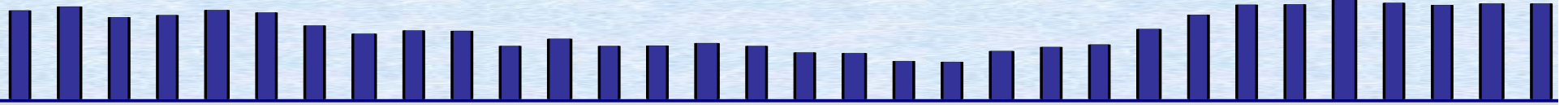
Conclusion

The comprehensive, composite view of well-being taken by the CWI leads to cross-walks and comparisons among the various dimensions tapped by its indicators.

This analysis of interdependencies and interactions among indicators and dimensions of child and youth well-being alerts us to a number of negative consequences of the current economic downturn. In particular:

- There is a high probability that there will be some reversal of decades-long improvements.
- It is important for citizens, parents, and community and political leaders to be aware of these potential deteriorations so that actions at all levels of society can be taken for their amelioration.

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The CWI on the Web:

<http://www.soc.duke.edu/~cwi/>