

Members Replies to Request for Suggestions on Indicators of Stability, Possible Data Sources and Information Systems for Child Well-Being Data:

Indicators of family stability would be:

High educational attainment
Medium income or above
Employment history
Child school success
No major health or mental health problems
Health insurance

High rates of the following would indicate family instability:

Poverty
Unemployment
Domestic Violence
Substance abuse
Involvement of the criminal justice system
Children truancy, frequently absent or chronically tardy
Dropped out of school
Abuse and neglect rates
Teen parents
Low education attainment
GEDs
Meets Medicaid eligibility
Poor health

Measures of child well being:

The Ages and Stages Monitoring Questionnaire and Social and Emotional Monitoring Questionnaire are valid tools to assess child well being for children under the age of 5. These tools screen for developmental, behavioral and social –emotional problems. Can be used by individual problem as an measure.
Maternal birth outcomes – premature and low birth weight babies
Children at grade level
Pre-school and school suspension and expulsion rates
Child suicide rate

A few thoughts in response to the e-mails:

1. Given the administration's coordinated effort around early childhood and the RTTT application, I wonder if it might makes sense to focus on kids 9-18 rather than kids B-9. If you decide to go B-18, you could say that you will incorporate the RBA work that the Cabinet does regarding the younger kids. With a B-18 population, you could choose headline indicators that speak to the major age groupings and organize secondary indicators by those age groupings.
2. The Youth Committee of the CETC (now housed in DOL) is quite active on youth issues. You might ask the chair to send a representative to the work group.

3. The American Fact Finder is a tremendously helpful tool for getting Census data. The Census has just incorporated the 2010 Census data into the ACS single year estimates (state level) so you can get a wealth of demographic information that can be used as indicators. By the end of the month, the Ct Data collaborative is launching an Early Childhood Portal, which present much of the available state indicator data.

4. Possible indicators for stable families include stable housing (% more than 30% of income for housing, % in stable housing, housing/school transiency), single parents (especially in poverty), births to moms without a high school degree, and % of families with involved fathers (probably a data development agenda item). The strategic area of stable families proves the maxim that often the things we value most are the least well measured.

Here's some sources:

<http://childstats.ed.gov/americaschildren/>

including behavioral health indicators:

<http://childstats.ed.gov/americaschildren/health3.asp>

including: additional behavioral indicators needed:

<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/beh6.asp>

http://www.childstats.gov/pdf/ac2009/ac_09.pdf

See page x-xiii

See also Table BEH2 pages 147-150

http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc7_eng.pdf

Some of the information needed for the Primary measures, particularly the LBW measure, may be available from databases contained within DPH. Other Secondary indicators may also be possible using databases within DPH, and include:

Child Health: childhood lead screening or immunization status

Safety: childhood injury-related emergency room visits or hospitalization

Food insecurity: WIC enrollment through age 4

Participation rates in the federal nutrition programs - School Breakfast, Summer Food, At-Risk Suppers, Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (at family and daycare centers) as well as WIC.

We could also look at the direct certification of certain programs such as free meals and SNAP (and vice a versa) and possible other direct certification roads to SNAP that may be available to the state.

For the younger age group (around nine and under), some indicators that were considered as part of the early childhood cabinet work that may be of interest include:

- * Percent of CT Children Uninsured (data source: AECF Kids Count)
- * Maternal Education Less than a HS Diploma (data source: AECF Kids Count)
- * K-3 Attendance (data source: SDE)
- * Discipline Incidents (data source: SDE)

If this work extends to also look at the older age group (ten to eighteen), then some indicators we have considered as part of our efforts to create an agency-level report card at the SDE may be of interest. These include:

- * Percent Graduating High School (data source: SDE)
- * Percent Graduates in Postsecondary Education for at least Two Semesters
- * Percent Earning Self-sufficient Wages