

U.S. CHILDREN BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS OF GAO-18-41SP

Assessing the well-being of U.S. children

The **success of the nation** depends in large part on how well families and society care for children so that they become **healthy and productive adults**.



WHAT DID WE EXAMINE?

We collected and analyzed federal data in three categories:



Family, physical, and social environment



Physical and mental health



Early care and education

WHAT DID WE FIND?

1 In recent years, the well-being of U.S. children has:

- worsened in some areas
- remained constant in some areas
- improved in others

2 Well-being continues to be generally worse for children who are:

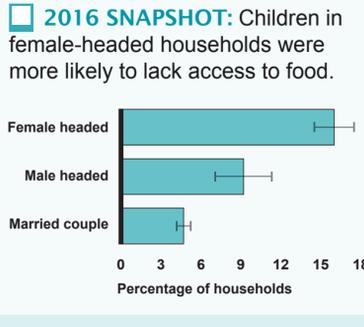
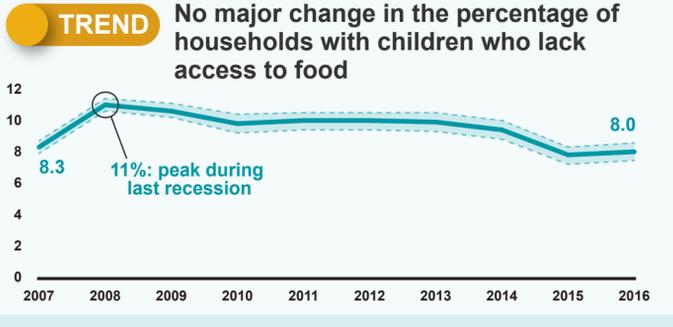
- minority
- poor
- from families headed by single mothers

BELOW ARE SOME OF OUR SPECIFIC FINDINGS.

How precise are these results? Data ranges represented by or indicate 95% confidence intervals. These mean that if agencies were to survey the entire population, there is a 95% chance that the result would be within the interval.

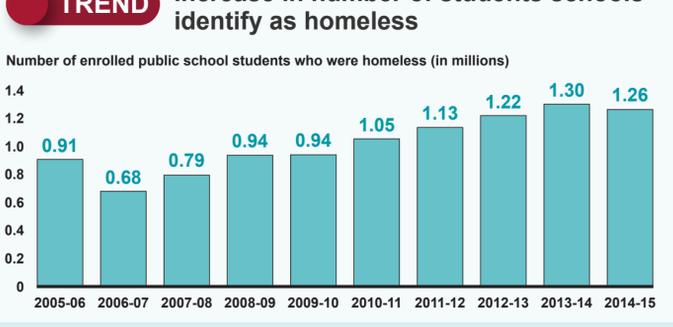
Family, physical, and social environment

ACCESS TO FOOD*



*We are referring to food insecurity, which is a lack of access to adequate food for a healthy lifestyle for all household members. Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

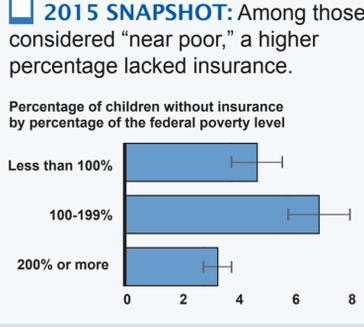
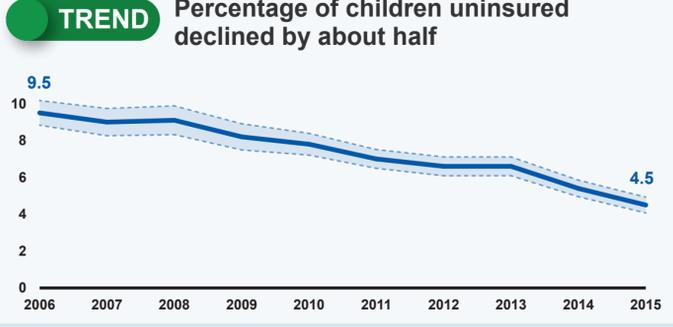
STUDENT HOMELESSNESS



Source: U.S. Department of Education's Consolidated State Performance Report data from the National Center for Homeless Education.

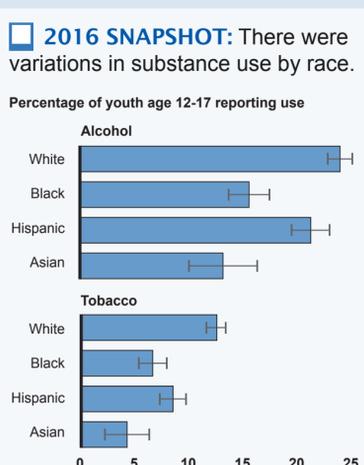
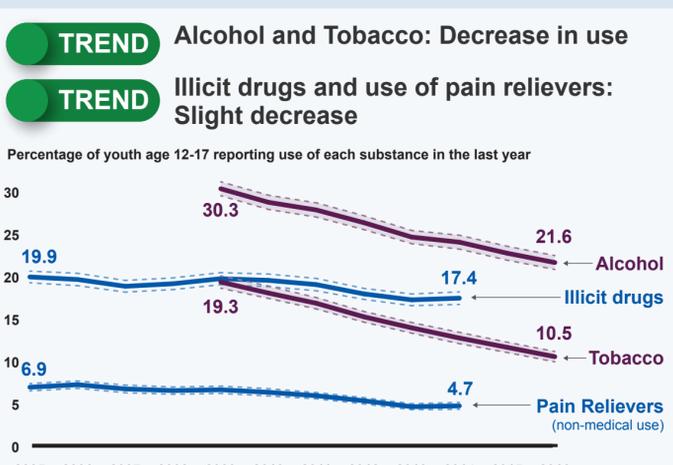
Physical and mental health

ACCESS TO INSURANCE



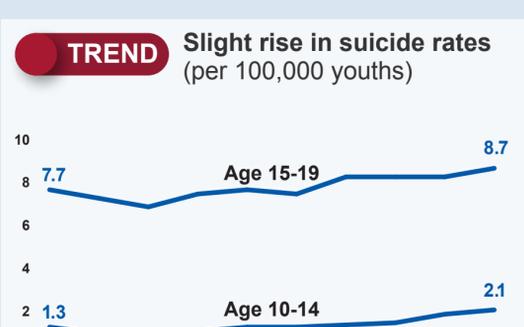
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Health Interview Survey.

ALCOHOL, SMOKING, AND DRUG USE



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Survey on Drug Use and Health and National Vital Statistics System.

Early care and education

SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY



Source: U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey.

For notes on data definitions and methodology, see full report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING OUR RECOMMENDATION, see GAO-18-41SP at GAO.GOV.