

1994 Children's Score Card

This is the first Score Card for Children in Los Angeles County, a joint effort by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council and United Way. It is based on a concept paper on outcome measurement for family and children's services developed for the Los Angeles Children's Planning Council in 1993. United Way undertook data collection and formulation of the Score Card as part of the 1994 State of the County Report.

The Children's Score Card is designed to measure the well-being of the children of Los Angeles County. Its purpose is:

- to increase public awareness of the conditions of children and their families, set expectations for improvement over time, and track changing conditions;
- to guide program planning and allocation of resources for public and private agencies that provide services to families and children by highlighting both successes and areas of greatest need; and
- to set shared goals for improvement and standards by which to judge the adequacy of shared efforts to improve the conditions of children.

The concept paper on outcome measurement was developed by an interdisciplinary working group. The first step was to identify principles as guidelines for measuring outcomes. The group then established a set of desired outcomes for children, and appropriate measurements to ascertain achievement of the outcomes.

The outcomes to be measured for the Score Card are:

- Good Health
- Economic Well-being
- Safety and Survival
- Adult Support for Children
- Emotional and Social Support
- Achievement and Readiness to Participate in the Workforce

At the conclusion of the outcome measurement paper, it was noted that the list of measurements suggested as a beginning point "will undoubtedly be refined with experience." That proved true, as numerous possible items were reviewed, accepted, rejected, added to, substituted for and otherwise refined by the DATA Committee of the Children's Planning Council. This first Score Card for Children should be considered a work in progress, one which we hope to improve over time.

It is important to note that Score Card ratings do not necessarily indicate that an agency is not performing adequately. In fact, a "worse" rating may indicate that an agency is capturing more of an existing problem in its reporting, or is doing more to respond to a problem. Ratings refer to achievement of desired outcomes for children.

Los Angeles County Children's Score Card – 1994

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Outcomes for Children	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	RATING
Good Health						BETTER
1. Adequate prenatal care	72.7%	70.7%	70.6%	71.3%	73.5%	better
2. Adequate birthweight (over 2,500 gr.)	93.6%	93.6%	93.9%	93.9%	93.9%	same
3. Drug exposed births	1,844	2,411	2,374	2,551	2,973	worse
4. Infant death rate	9.3	9.3	8.0	7.8	7.2	better
5. Children with health insurance (California)	*	*	77.0%	*	81.0%	better
6. Kindergartners fully immunized	88.7%	88.4%	89.0%	90.1%	91.2%	better
7. Sexually transmitted disease rate	831.0	669.0	658.0	596.0	544.0	better
8. Children 0-12, HIV+/AIDS	50	39	53	66	81	worse
9. Births to adolescents - percent of total	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	same
Economic Well-Being						WORSE
10. Children above poverty level**	85.8%	81.0%	78.9%	*	*	worse
11. Income disparity**	*	13%	11%	*	*	worse
12. Children on AFDC	16.2%	16.5%	18.7%	21.5%	23.7%	worse
13. Homeless children	*	42,000	46,000	52,000	54,000	worse
14. Children in School Lunch Program	*	49.6	48.2%	50.4%	54.0%	worse
Adult Support for Children						WORSE
15. Per capita education expenditures (California percent of U.S. average)	93.4%	93.4%	87.0%	84.8%	82.4%	worse
Safety and Survival						WORSE
16. Child abuse cases investigated	114,597	111,799	108,088	120,358	139,106	worse
17. Children in foster care	27,463	30,747	31,991	30,572	32,728	worse
18. Child deaths - Child abuse deaths	58	42	45	61	46	mixed
Homicide, age 15-19	224	313	308	366	355	worse
Suicide, age 15-19	41	65	47	42	48	same
19. Juvenile Delinquency: Gang deaths	452	554	690	771	800	worse
Arrest rate - total	5,991.8	6,624.0	6,387.8	5,981.7	5,801.6	mixed
Arrest rate - violent crime	734.9	951.4	1,064.8	949.2	913.0	worse
Social and Emotional Support						MIXED
20. Children living with parent(s)**	93.3%	89.5%	85.5%	*	*	worse
21. Adoptions finalized	426	270	617	669	1,088	better
Achievement/Workforce Readiness						MIXED
22. Graduation rate	57%	56%	58%	59%	60%	better
23. SAT scores	903	900	896	899	902	same
24. Productive Activity Index***	*	89.8%	90.9%	*	*	same
25. Courses for university admission	33%	33%	33%	36%	35%	better
26. Students fluent in English/bilingual	78%	76%	73%	70%	68%	worse

* Data not available.

** Census data for 1970, 1980, 1990.

*** Percent of youth age 16-19 who are enrolled in high school, college or other training, or in the labor force - 1980, 1990.