National data sources on child and family well-being used by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, along with their connection to the decennial Census

Dataset	Topic area	Dataset description	Key indicators included in America's Children that used this dataset, with report years	Are Census counts or Census-derived estimates used to calculate rates?	Are Census-derived population controls used to calibrate weights?	Is the Census used for population denominator or weighting?
Air Quality System (AQS)	Environment	Database of air pollution measurements from thousands of monitoring stations run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and by state, local, and Tribal agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.	• Outdoor air quality (2023, 2025)	Yes	N/A	Yes
American Community Survey (ACS)	Demographic; economic; housing; education	Annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau containing sociodemographic, economic, and housing information from a sample of households across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.	• Language spoken at home and difficulty speaking English (2023)	N/A	Yes	Yes

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American Housing Survey (AHS)	Housing	Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every two years and supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research. It contains detailed information about the quality and cost of housing in the United States.	• Housing problems (2023, 2025)	N/A	Yes	Yes
Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)	Education	Mandatory survey of all public school districts and schools in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The database contains information about school discipline, access to and participation in advanced courses, school finances, and other school and teacher characteristics.	• High school academic course-taking (2023)	None found	N/A	No
Current Population Survey (CPS)	Economic; family; education	Monthly survey conducted for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census	• Family structure and children's	N/A	Yes	Yes

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		Bureau. The sample is drawn from a complete list of addresses based on Census addresses. The dataset contains detailed information on employment and unemployment. Monthly data are supplemented by an annual Social and Economic Supplement, a School Enrollment Supplement, and a Food Security Supplement, which supply information about child and family well-being.	living arrangements (2023) • Children of at least one foreign-born parent (2023) • Child poverty and income distribution (2023) • Supplemental poverty measure (2023) • Secure parental employment (2023, 2025) • Food insecurity (2023, 2025) • Percentages of young children enrolled in education			

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			(2023 special feature) • High school completion (2023) • Youth neither enrolled in school nor working (2023, 2025) • College enrollment (2023)			
FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, National Incident-Based Reporting System (UCR / NIBRS)	Safety and crime	Database containing detailed information on each crime incident reported by law enforcement officers.	• Youth victims of serious violent crimes, with NCVS (2023, 2025) • Youth perpetrators of serious violent crimes, with NCVS (2023, 2025)	**Yes**	**N/A**	**Yes**

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Monitoring the Future (MTF)	Behavior (substance use)	Annual school-based survey about behaviors, attitudes, and values of nationally representative samples of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. The survey is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and is being conducted by the Survey Research Center in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.	• Any nicotine use [earlier: regular cigarette smoking] (2023, 2025) • Alcohol use (2023, 2025) • Illicit drug use (2023, 2025)	N/A	No	No
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Education	Assessment of student achievement in grades 4, 8, and 12, administered by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Results are reported for the nation, states, and selected urban districts. States that receive Title I funds are required to take part in the reading and math assessments in grades 4 and 8.	• Mathematics and reading achievement (2023)	N/A	None found	No
National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)	Child welfare	Annual case-level data on reports of child abuse and neglect and their outcomes, submitted voluntarily by state child protective services	• Child maltreatment (2023, 2025)	Yes	N/A	Yes

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		agencies to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The system was created under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and its data are the basis of the annual Child Maltreatment report.				
National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)	Safety and crime	Household survey sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Everyone ages 12 and older in sampled households is interviewed about crimes they experienced, whether or not those crimes were reported to the police.	• Youth victims of serious violent crimes (2023, 2025) • Youth perpetrators of serious violent crimes (2023, 2025)	**Yes***	**Yes**	**Yes**
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)	Health; nutrition; environment	Survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that combines interviews with physical examinations and laboratory tests. The data are used to produce national	• Oral health: untreated dental cavities (2025) • Secondhand smoke (2023, 2025)	**N/A**	**Yes, indirect**	**Yes**

Dataset	Topic area	Dataset description	Key indicators included in America's Children that used this dataset, with report years	Are Census counts or Census-derived estimates used to calculate rates?	Are Census-derived population controls used to calibrate weights?	Is the Census used for population denominator or weighting?
		estimates of health and nutrition.	• Lead in the blood of children (2023, 2025) • Diet quality (2023) • Obesity (2023, 2025)			
National Health Interview Survey **(NHIS)**	Health	Household interview survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). It is the main source of official national estimates on the health of the U.S. population.	• Health insurance coverage (2023, 2025) • Usual source of health care (2023, 2025) • Oral health: dental visit (2023, 2025) • Emotional and behavioral difficulties (2023, 2025) • Disability (2023, 2025)	**N/A**	Yes	**Yes**

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			• Asthma (2023, 2025)			
National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES)	Education; early childhood	Household surveys on education topics sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It collects information about the educational activities of children and families in the United States.	• Child care (2023) • Family reading to young children (2023)	N/A	Yes, indirect	Yes
National Immunization Surveys (NIS)	Health	Telephone surveys of parents conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor vaccination coverage among children, youth, and adults. With parents' permission, children's vaccination records are confirmed by their health care providers. The surveys produces national, state, and selected local estimates.	• Immunization (2023, 2025)	N/A	Yes, indirect	Yes
National Survey of Children's	Health; family; early childhood	Household survey of children birth to age 17, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and	• School readiness (2025)	N/A	Yes, indirect	Yes

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Health **(NSCH)**		conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It contains national and state-level information about children's health, their families, and their communities.				
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)	Behavior (substance use); mental health	Annual survey of people ages 12 and older conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered in every state and the District of Columbia. It contains information about substance use and mental health.	• Adolescent depression (2023)	**N/A**	**Yes**	**Yes**
National Vital Statistics System: Linked Birth and Infant Death Data **(NVSS Linked Birth/Infant Death)**	Health	Data file produced by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) that links infant death certificates to the corresponding birth certificates. The linked file contains information derived from the birth certificate such as age, race and ethnicity, and maternal and family characteristics, as well as information from the death certificate such as age at death and cause of death.	• Infant mortality (2023, 2025)	**No**	**N/A**	**No**

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National Vital Statistics System: Mortality (NVSS Mortality)	Health	National file of death certificates from all states, New York City, and the District of Columbia, compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). It contains information about cause of death and demographic information obtained by the funeral directors and family members.	• Child injury and mortality (2023, 2025) • Adolescent injury and mortality (2023, 2025)	Yes	N/A	Yes
National Vital Statistics System: Natality (NVSS Natality)	Health; family	National file of birth certificates from all states, New York City, and the District of Columbia, compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The dataset includes birth data provided by the hospital and demographic information provided by the mother at the time of birth.	• Births to unmarried women (2023, 2025) • Adolescent births (2023, 2025) • Preterm birth and low birthweight (2023, 2025)	Yes	N/A	Yes
Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)	Environment	Compliance database for the drinking water program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) containing information about drinking water contamination levels	• Drinking water quality (2023, 2025)	Yes	N/A	Yes

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		across the nation's public water systems.				
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System **(YRBSS)**	Behavior; health	School-based survey of high school students conducted every two years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with state, Tribal, and local surveys run by health and education agencies. It contains information about health-related behaviors among young people.	• Sexual activity (2023, 2025)	**N/A**	**No**	**No**

Sources: Information in this table draws on the sources below and on documentation available on each dataset's website. Information on NHIS sampling weights, which was not available directly on the NHIS website, comes from IPUMS NHIS.
Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2023). America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2023. U.S. Government Printing Office.
Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2026). America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2025. U.S. Government Printing Office.
IPUMS Health Surveys. (n.d.). User note: Sampling weights. IPUMS NHIS, University of Minnesota. Retrieved October 29, 2026, from https://nhis.ipums.org/nhis/userNotes_weights.shtml

Notes: Key indicators are those indicators that appeared in America's Children 2023 or 2025 and used this dataset. Years in parentheses are the reports that used the indicator. Indicator names follow the most recent report; earlier names are in brackets. The 2024 special issue was excluded as it focused exclusively on maternal and infant health and well-being and contained a more expansive list of indicators than the ones historically tracked by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics in its America's Children report. The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey was excluded because data collection ended in 2022.

Yes = Uses Census Bureau decennial counts, population estimates, or projections, all of which are built on the decennial census.
Yes, indirect = Uses another source, usually ACS totals, that is itself calibrated to Census-based estimates.
No = The documentation names a non-Census source (for example, commercial address lists, NCES school files, or vital records).
None found = No Census input found in the sources reviewed.
N/A = Not applicable. The dataset does not use Census data for this purpose. For example, administrative data systems do not weight, and surveys calculate rates from their own weighted samples rather than using Census counts as denominators.

* This data source is an exception to the rule governing N/A for population denominators in national surveys as youth-perpetrated victimizations are reported as a rate per 1,000 youth ages 12-17.