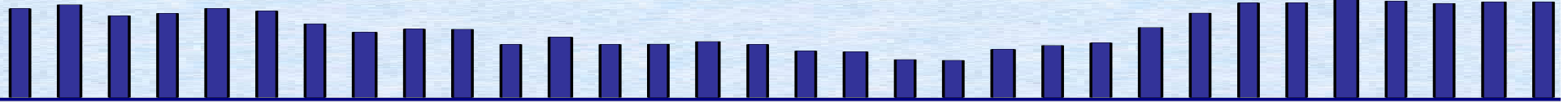


FCD CWI



**The Foundation for Child Development  
Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI)  
2008 Special Focus Report:**

**Trends in Infancy/Early Childhood and  
Middle Childhood Well-Being, 1994-2006**

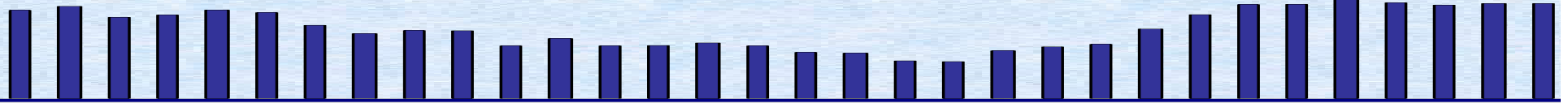
A Social Indicators Project Supported by the  
Foundation for Child Development

New American Foundation Presentation, April 25, 2008

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

**Duke University**

## FCD CWI



The Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) Project issues an annual update on trends in the overall quality of life of America's children and youth.

The Project combines trends in 28 indicators of well-being for all childhood and adolescent ages from birth to age 18 into a composite index, the CWI.

Figure 1 shows the track record of the CWI from the 1975 base year through 2005 with projections for 2006, as reported in our 2007 update.

# FCD CWI

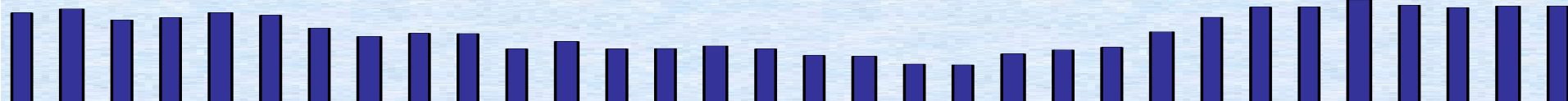
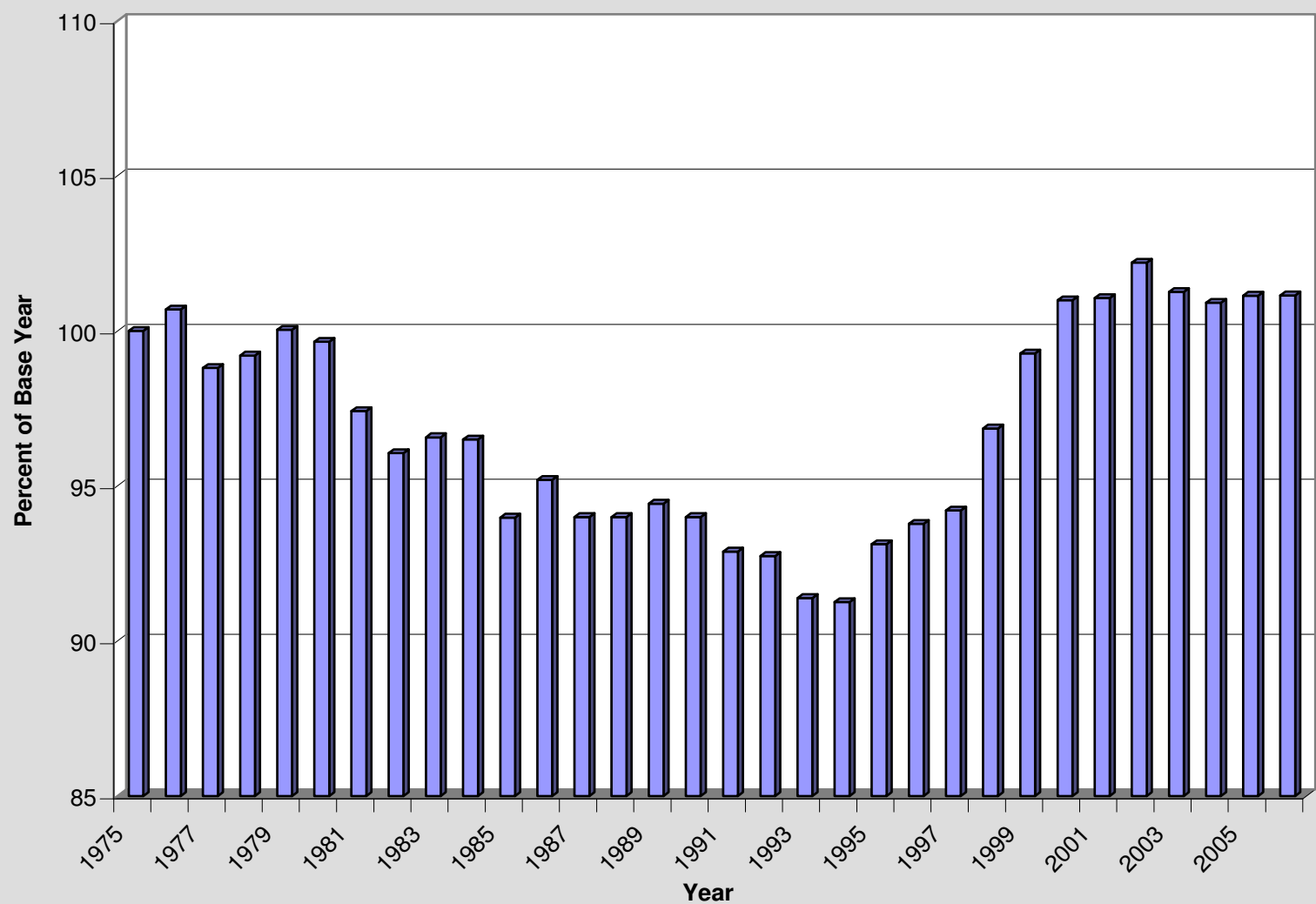
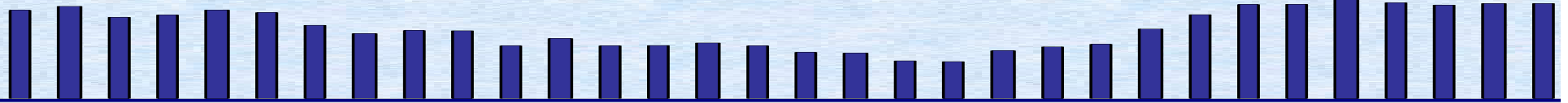


Figure 1: Child Well-Being Index, 1975-2005, with Projections for 2006





## Special Emphasis Report Focus:

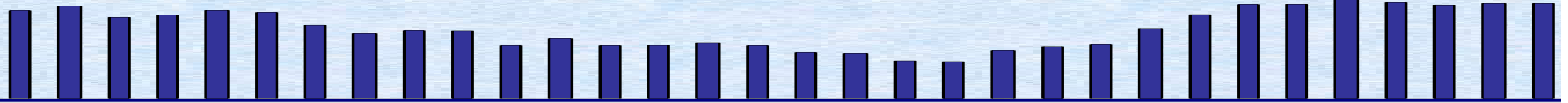
We zoom in on trends in indicators of well-being for two childhood age groups:

- *infancy/early childhood ages* (0 to 5) and
- *middle childhood ages* (6-11)

and make comparisons with corresponding trends for the *adolescence age group* (12-17) from 1994 to 2006.

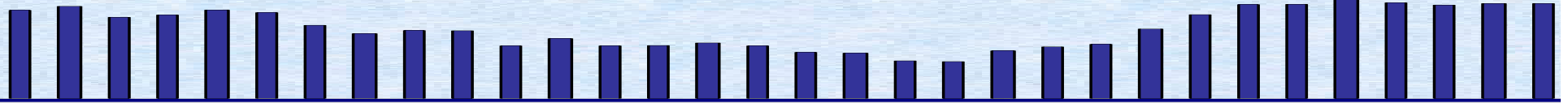
From the overall CWI we are aware of rapid improvements in well-being for adolescents/teenagers over this period.

It is possible to infer that all or most of the gains in the overall CWI are due to dramatic improvements in well-being for adolescents and not much has correspondingly improved for the younger childhood ages.



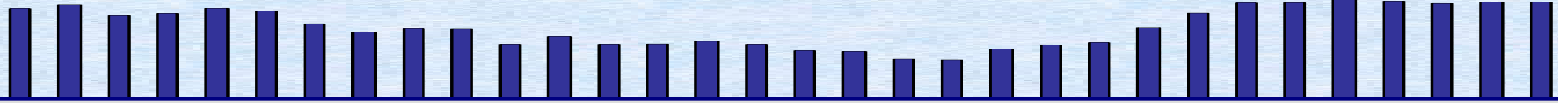
## Four Questions Addressed in this Report:

- First, do our composite indices of infancy/early childhood and middle childhood well-being show improvements since the mid-1990s?
  - Or have improvements in well-being been concentrated only or primarily among adolescents?
- Second, how do trends vary among the six domains/areas of well-being of the CWI for the infancy/early childhood and middle childhood age groups?
  - Have some of these domains improved more than others?
  - Have some deteriorated?



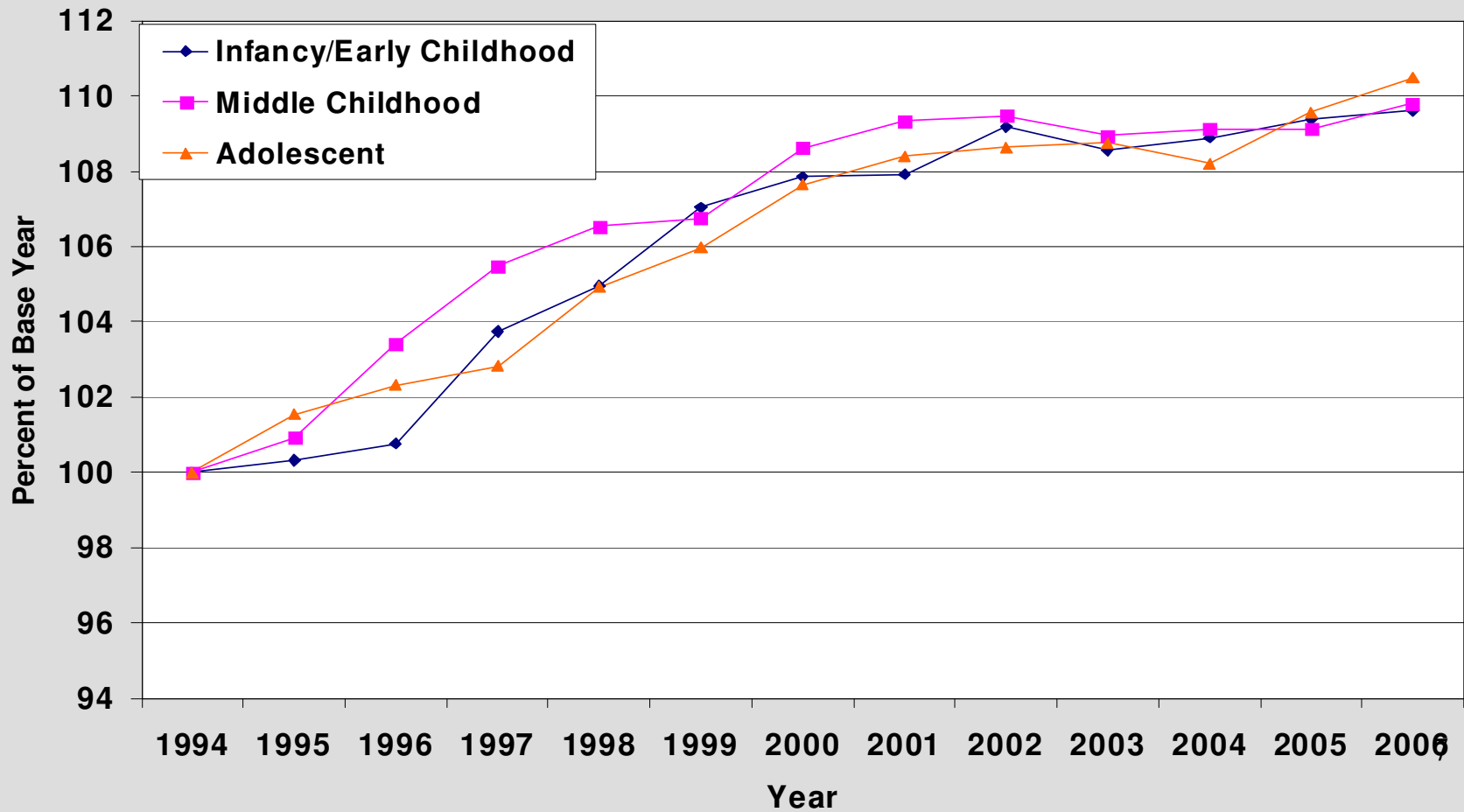
## Four Questions Addressed in this Report:

- Third, are there any particular indicators of well-being for the infancy/early childhood and middle childhood ages that trend toward substantially good news since the mid-1990s?
  - That is, are there indicators for which improvements are notable?
- Fourth, correspondingly, are there any particular indicators that are trending negatively since the mid-1990s?
  - That is, are there indicators that have deteriorated?

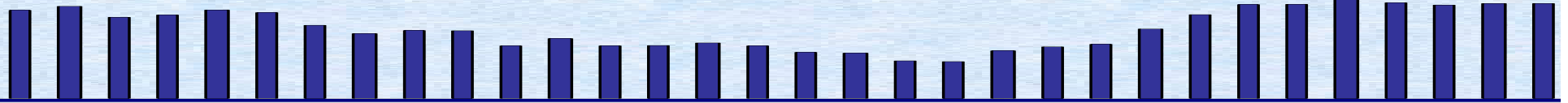


# First Question: Trends in Age-Specific Composite Well-Being Indices

Figure 1. Infancy/Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, and Adolescent Composite Well-Being Indices, 1994-2006



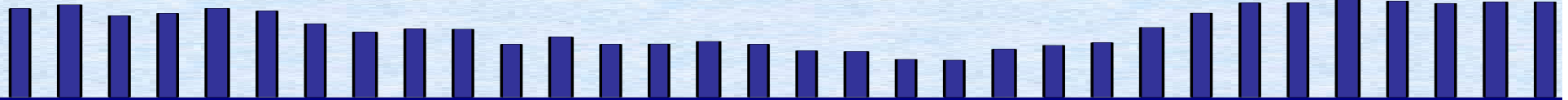
## FCD CWI



## Second Question: Trends in Domain-Specific Composite Indices for the Infancy/Early and Middle Childhood Ages

- The composite CWI is based on indicators of well-being that are organized into seven domains or areas of social life:
  - Family Economic Well-Being,
  - Social Relationships (to family and peers),
  - Health,
  - Safety/Behavioral Concerns,
  - Educational Attainment,
  - Community Connectedness (participation in educational, economic, and political institutions), and
  - Emotional Well-Being.
- For the present study of the two youngest age groups, time series data are available only for the first six of these seven domains, as shown in the following table.

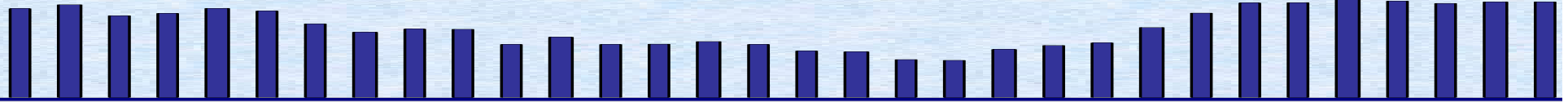
# FCD CWI



## Age-Specific Indicators of Child and Youth Well-Being\*

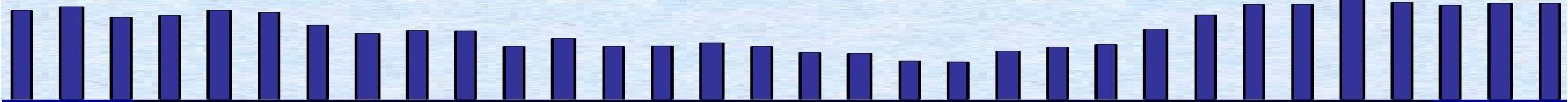
Domain	Indicator	Infancy/Early Childhood Ages or Availability of Indicator	Middle Childhood Ages or Grade of Indicator	Adolescent Ages or Grade of Indicator
<b><i>Family Economic Well-Being Domain</i></b>				
	Poverty Rate <sup>1</sup>	0-5	6-17	12-17
	Secure Parental Employment <sup>2</sup>	0-5	6-17	
	Health Insurance Coverage <sup>3</sup>	0-5	6-11	12-17
<b><i>Health Domain</i></b>				
<i>--- Risk Factors</i>	<b><i>Mother Smoking During Pregnancy<sup>4</sup></i></b>	√		
<i>--- Access to and Use of Services</i>	<b><i>No Usual Health Care<sup>5</sup></i></b>	0-4	5-17	
	<b><i>Vaccination<sup>6</sup></i></b>	19-35 months		
	<b><i>Unmet Dental Need<sup>7</sup></i></b>	2-4	5-11	12-17
	<b><i>With A Dental Visit Last Year<sup>8</sup></i></b>	2-4	5-11	12-17
	<b><i>Late or No Prenatal Care<sup>9</sup></i></b>	√		
<i>--- Outcomes</i>	Low Birth Weight <sup>10</sup>	√		
	Infant Mortality Rate <sup>11</sup>	√		
	Mortality Rate <sup>12</sup>	1-4	5-9	10-19
	Overweight Rate <sup>13</sup>	2-5	6-11	12-19
	Subjective Health (as reported by their parents) <sup>14</sup>	0-4	5-11	12-17
	Activity Limitation (as reported by their parents) <sup>15</sup>		5-11	12-17
	<b><i>Elevated Blood Lead<sup>16</sup></i></b>	0-6		
	<b><i>Asthma<sup>17</sup></i></b>	0-4	5-10	12-17
	<b><i>Learning Disability<sup>18**</sup></i></b>	3-4	5-11	12-17
	<b><i>ADHD<sup>19**</sup></i></b>	3-4	5-11	12-17

# FCD CWI



Domain	Indicator	Infancy/Early Childhood Ages or Availability of Indicator	Middle Childhood Ages or Grade of Indicator	Adolescent Ages or Grade of Indicator
<b><i>Safety Domain</i></b>				
	Feel Unsafe at School <sup>20</sup>		6 <sup>th</sup> grade	7-12 <sup>th</sup> grade
	Homicide Rates <sup>21</sup>	0,1-4	5-9	
	Child Maltreatment <sup>22</sup>	2-5	6-9	
	Teenage Birth Rate <sup>23</sup>			10-17
	Violent Crime Victimization <sup>24</sup>			12-19
	Violent Crime Offenders <sup>25</sup>			12-17
	Cigarette Smoking <sup>26</sup>			12 <sup>th</sup> grade
	Alcohol Drinking <sup>27</sup>			12 <sup>th</sup> grade
	Illicit Drug Use <sup>28</sup>			12 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b><i>Social/Family Relationships Domain</i></b>				
	Residential Mobility <sup>29</sup>	1-4	5-9	10-17
	Changes of School <sup>30</sup>		6-11	12-17
	Single Parenthood <sup>31</sup>	0-5	6-11	12-17
	Parent Had Breakfast with Child Every Day <sup>32</sup>	0-5	6-11	12-17
	Parent Had Dinner with Child Every Day <sup>33</sup>	0-5	6-11	12-17

# FCD CWI



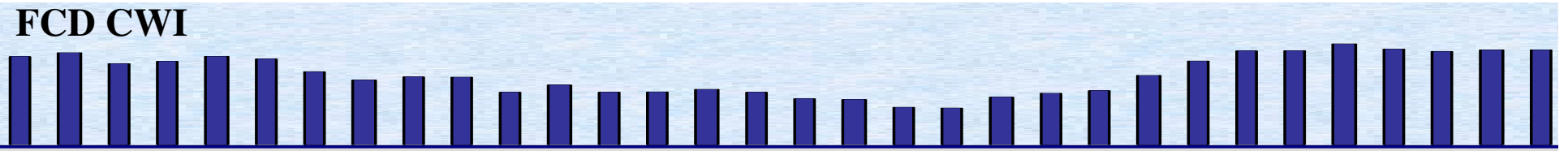
Domain	Indicator	Infancy/Early Childhood Ages or Availability of Indicator	Middle Childhood Ages or Grade of Indicator	Adolescent Ages or Grade of Indicator
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## *Education Attainment Domain*

---Home Environment	<b>Read to Every Day</b> <sup>34</sup>	3-5		
	<b>TV Rules</b> <sup>35</sup>	3-5	6-11	12-17
--- Outcomes	<b>Recognize All Letters</b> <sup>36</sup>	3-5		
	<b>Count 20 or Higher</b> <sup>37</sup>	3-5		
	<b>Write Names</b> <sup>38</sup>	3-5		
	<b>Read or Pretend to Read</b> <sup>39</sup>	3-5		
	<b>Have 3-4 Skills</b> <sup>40</sup>	3-5		
	Read <sup>41</sup>		9	13 & 17
	Math <sup>42</sup>		9	13 & 17
Science <sup>43</sup>		9	13 & 17	

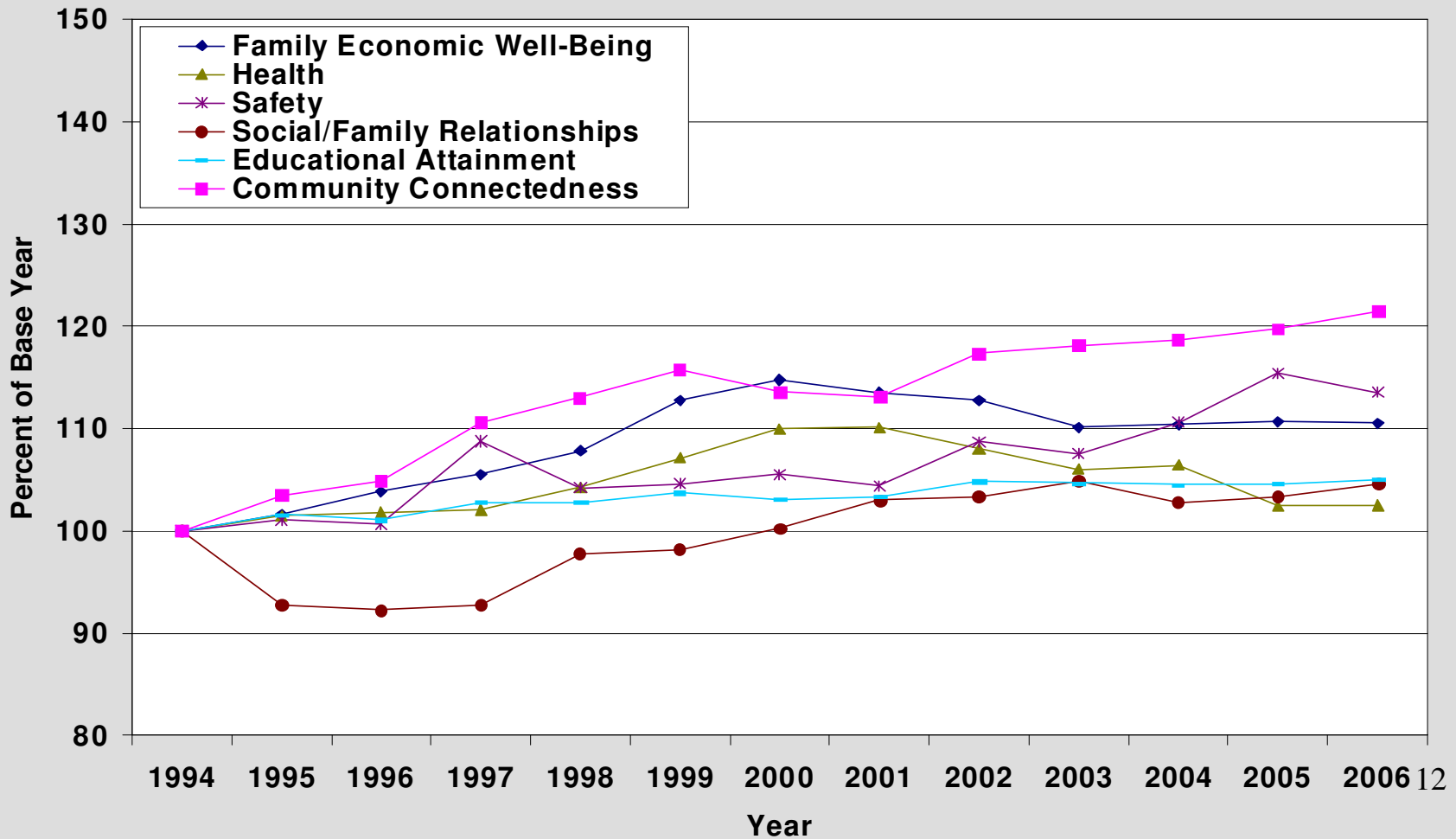
## *Community Connectedness Domain*

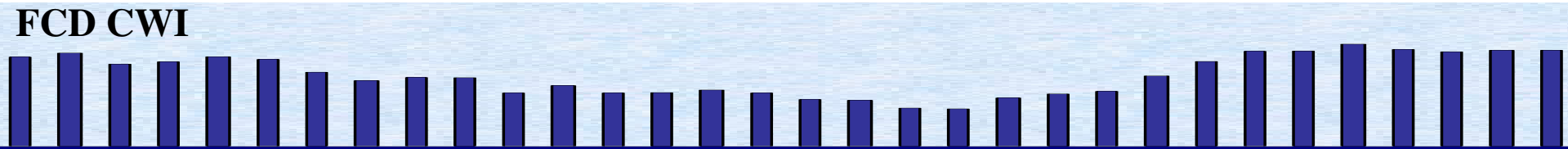
Preschool Attendance <sup>44</sup>	3-4		
<b>Kindergarten</b> <sup>45</sup>	4-6		
<b>Early Childhood Center Care</b> <sup>46</sup>	3-5		
<b>Extracurricular Activity: Sports</b> <sup>47</sup>		6-11	12-17
<b>Extracurricular Activity: Clubs</b> <sup>48</sup>		6-11	12-17
<b>Extracurricular Activity: Lessons</b> <sup>49</sup>		6-11	12-17
<b>Missing 3+ days</b> <sup>50</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup> grade	8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Not Working and Not in School <sup>51</sup>			16-19



**Second Question (Part 1):  
Trends in Domain-Specific Composite Indices for the Infancy/Early Childhood Ages**

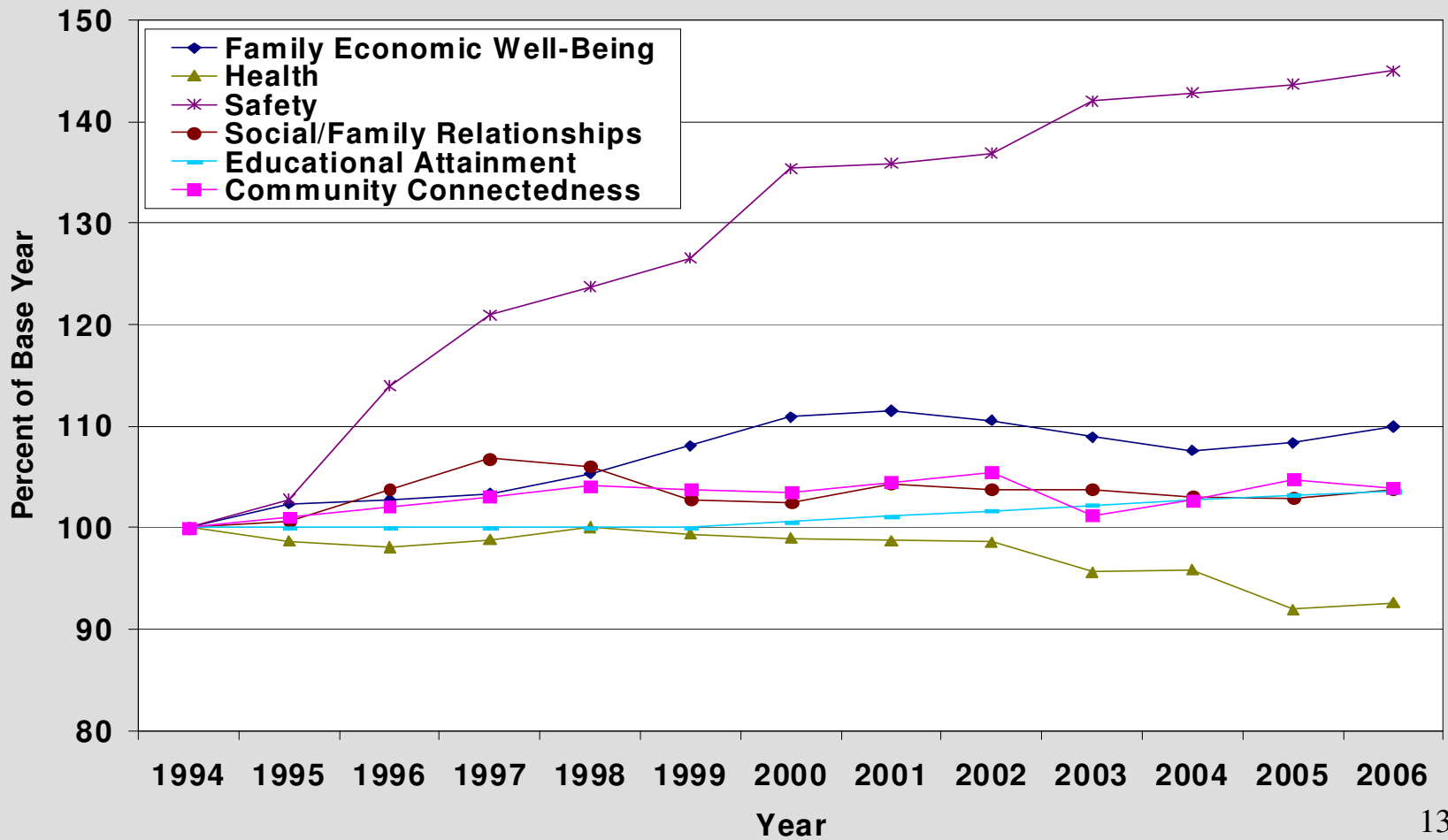
Figure 2. Infancy/Early Childhood Well-Being by Domains, 1994-2006

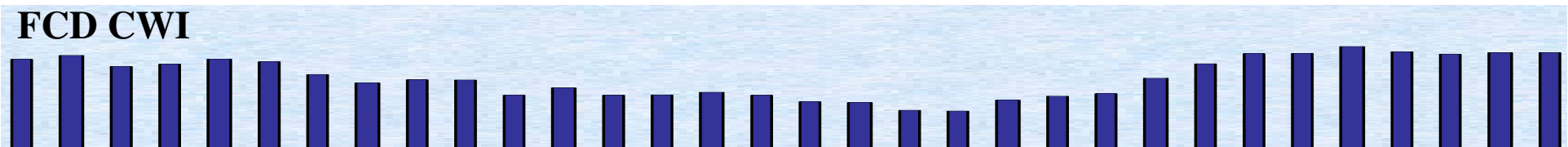




**Second Question (Part 2):  
Trends in Domain-Specific Composite Indices for the Middle Childhood Ages**

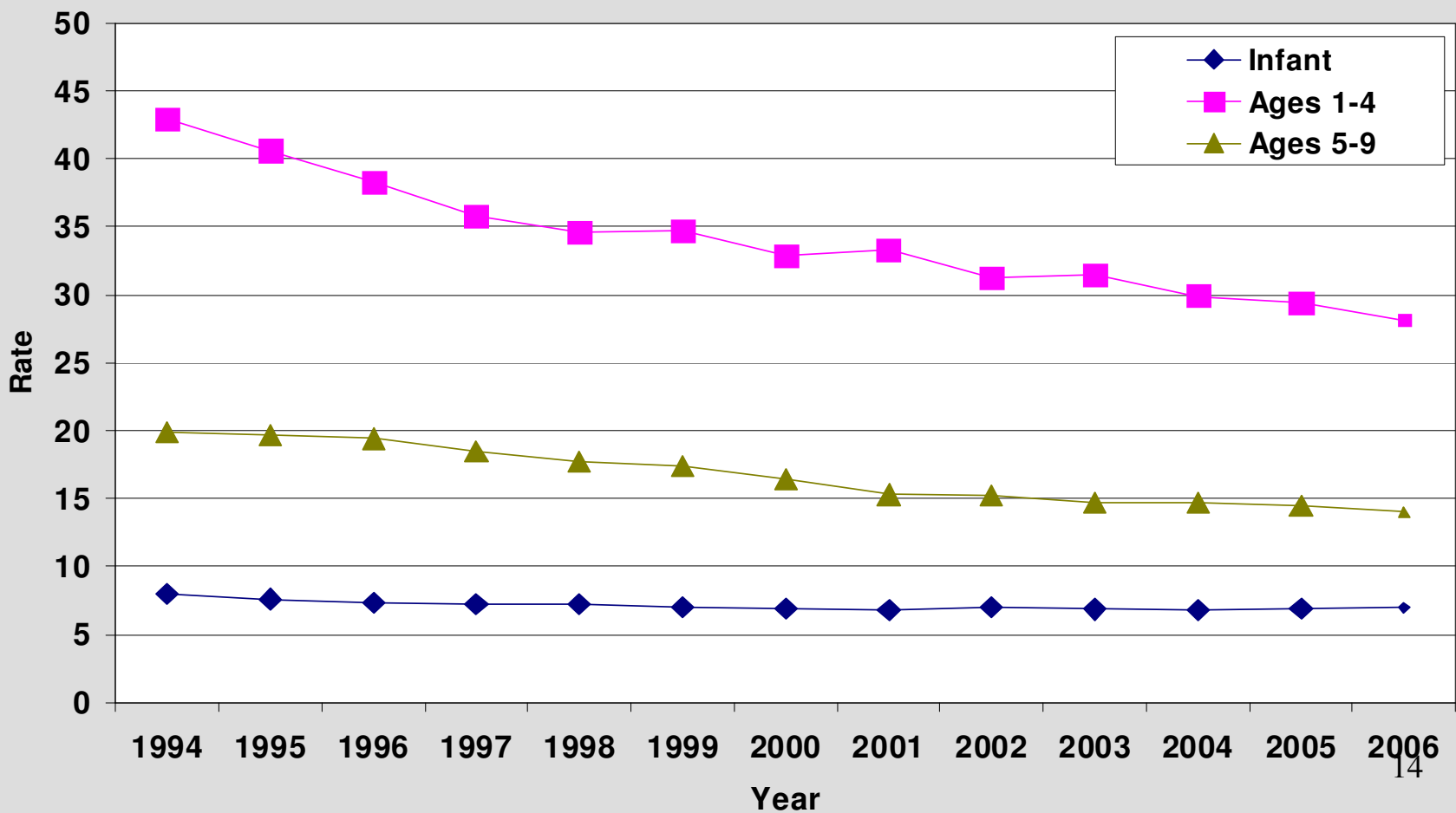
Figure 3. Middle Childhood Well-Being by Domains, 1994-2006

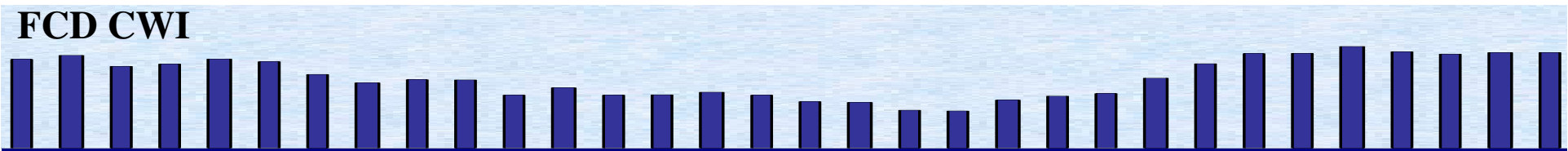




### Third Question: Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

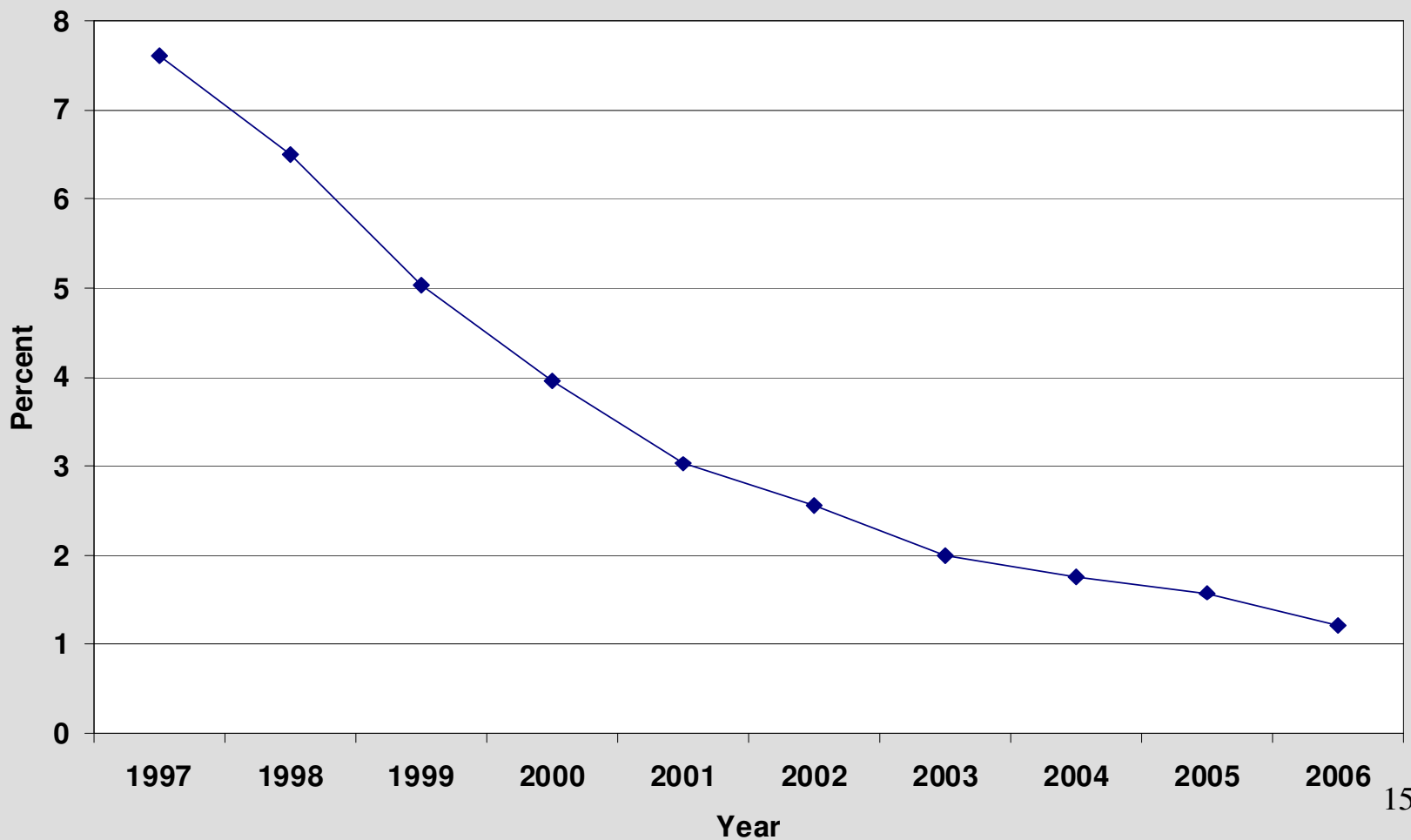
Figure 4. Infant, Early Childhood, and Middle Childhood Mortality Rates, 1994-2006

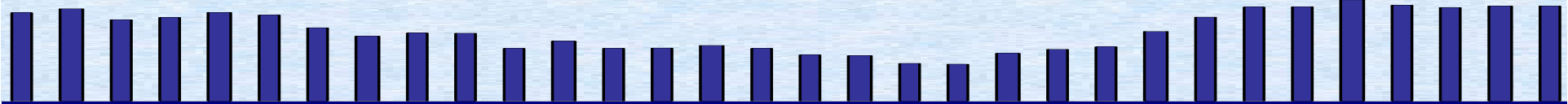




## Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

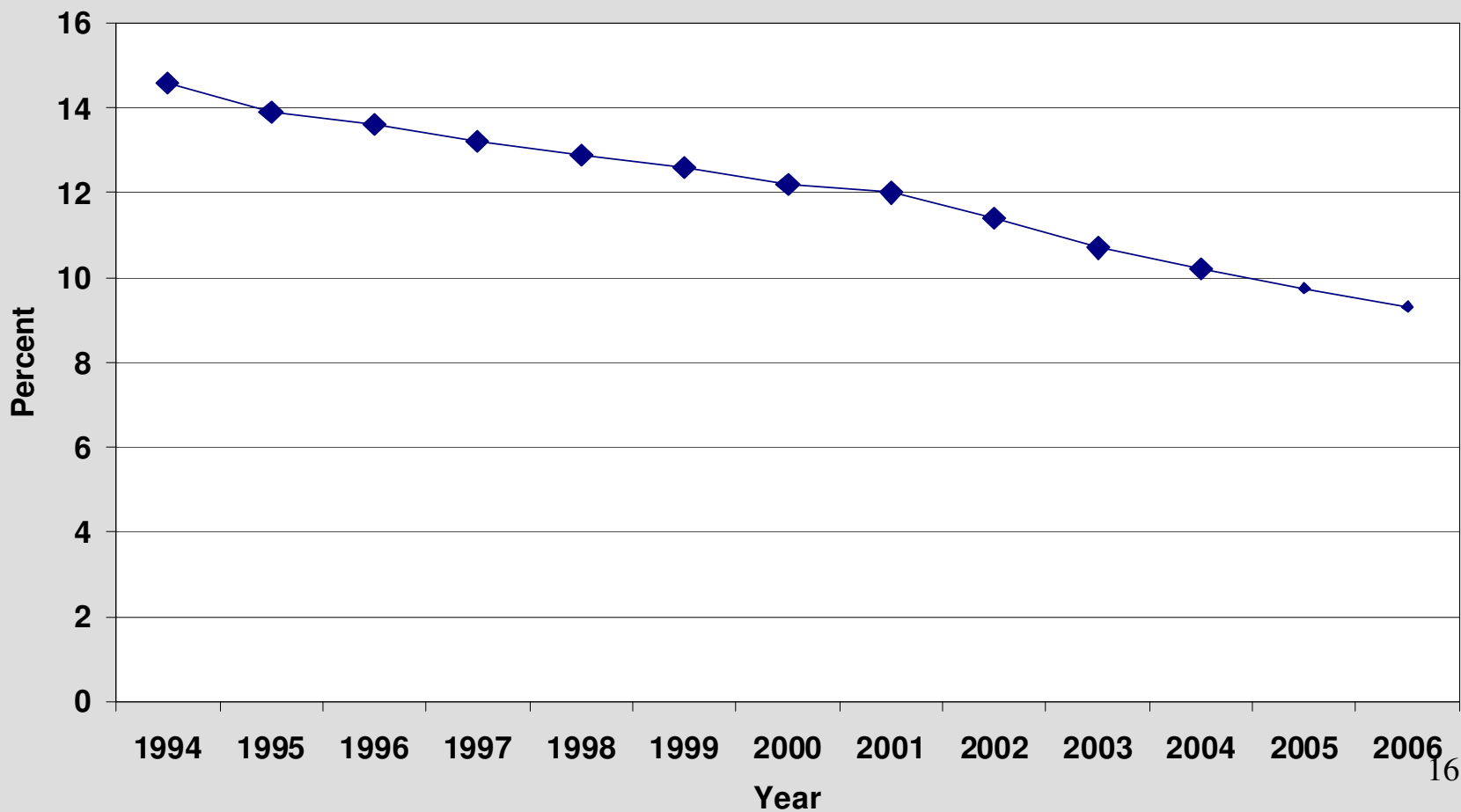
Figure 5. Percentage of Children Under Six Years Old with Elevated Blood Lead Levels, 1997-2006

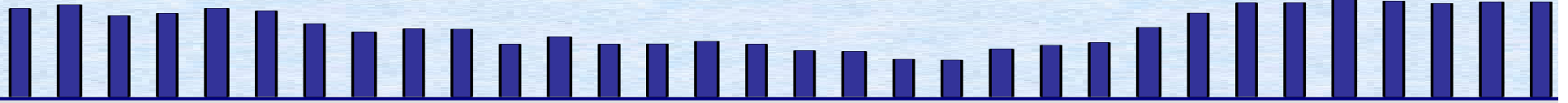




## Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

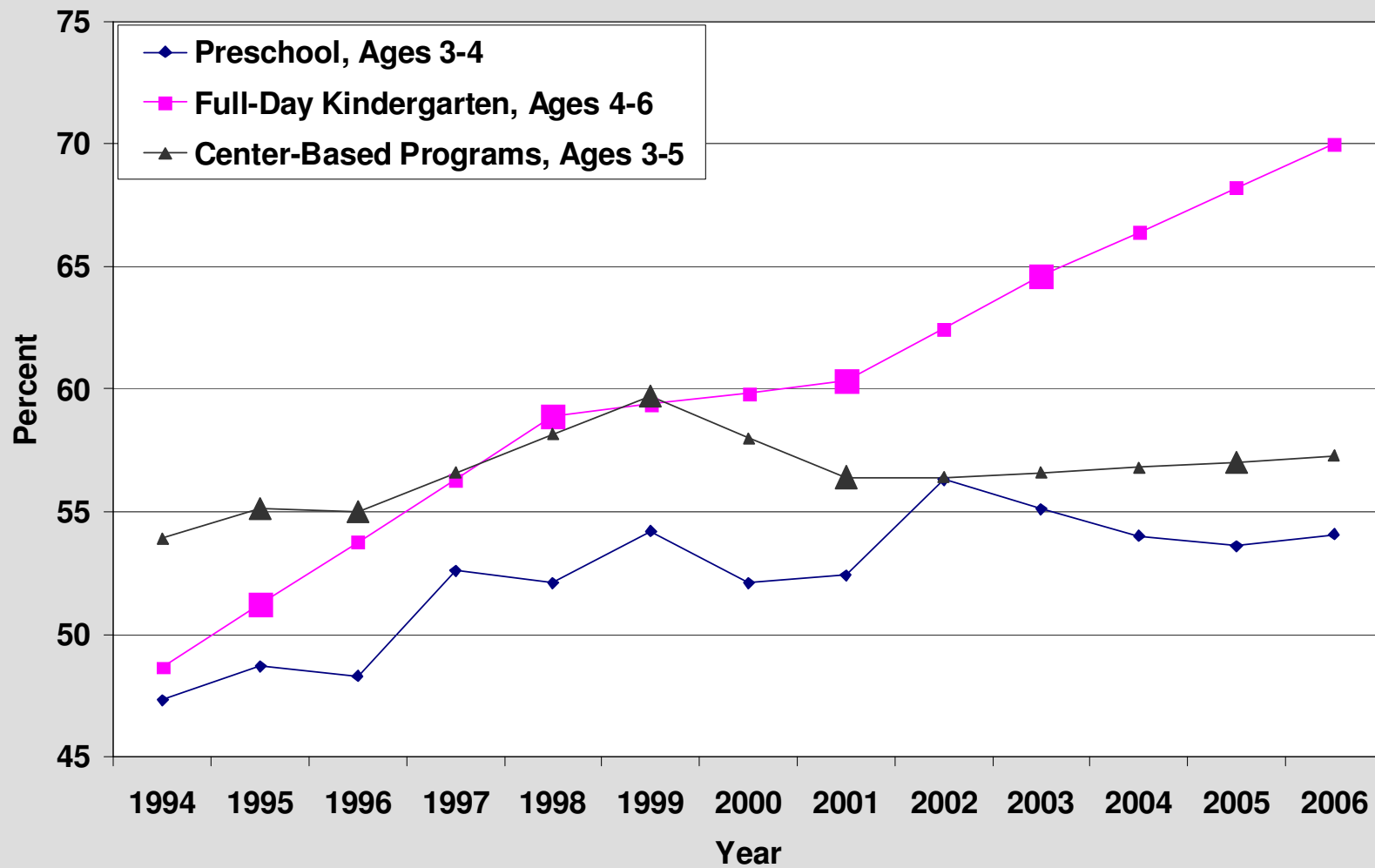
Figure 6. Percent of Total Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy, 1994-2006

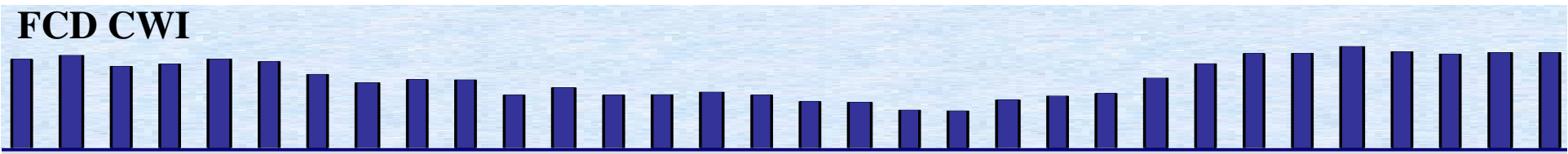




## Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

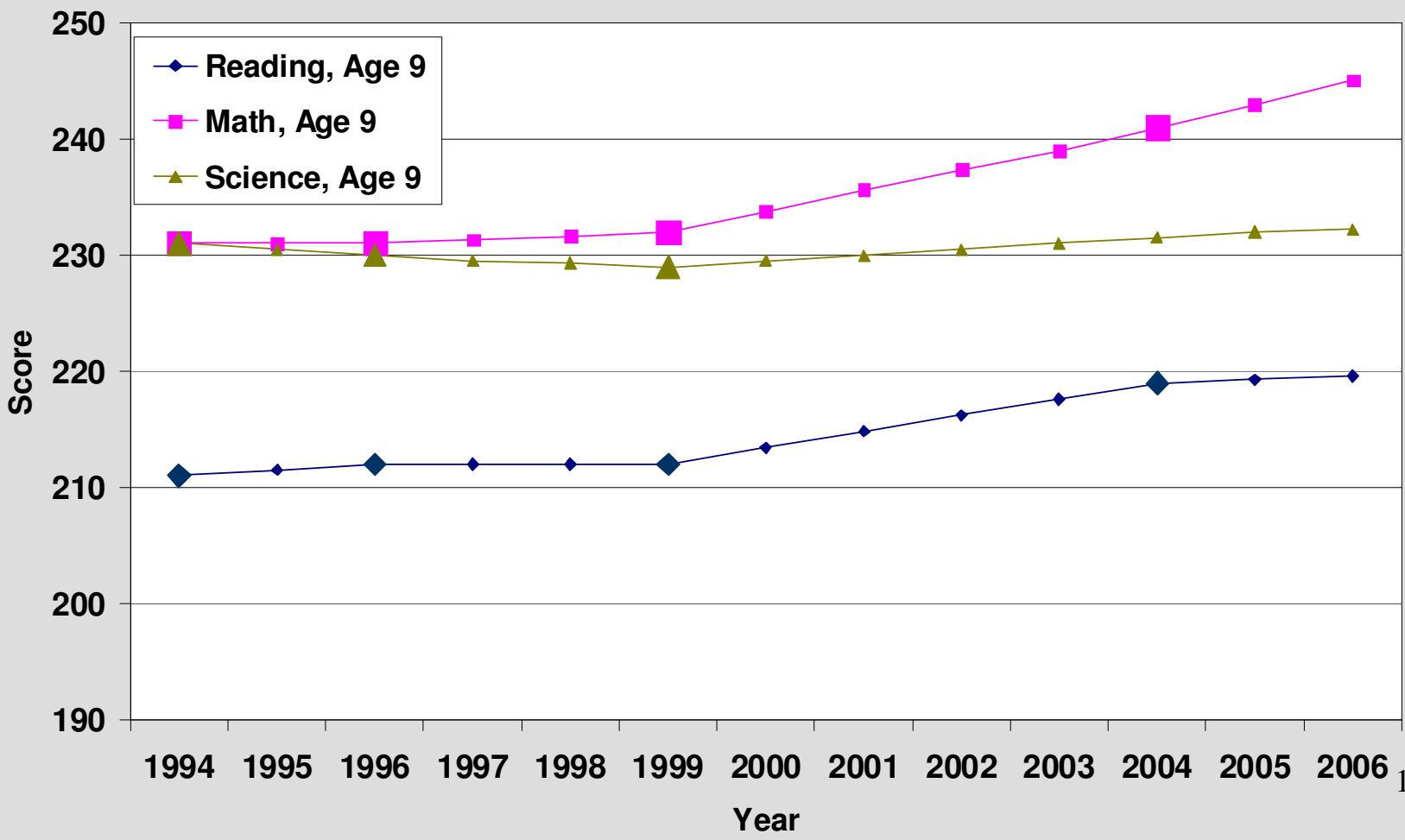
Figure 7. Preschool, Center-Based Early Childhood Care, and Full-Day Kindergarten Enrollment Rates, 1994-2006

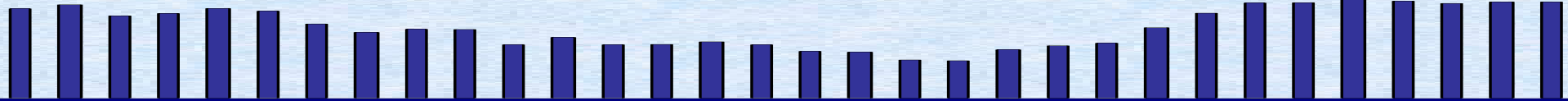




## Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

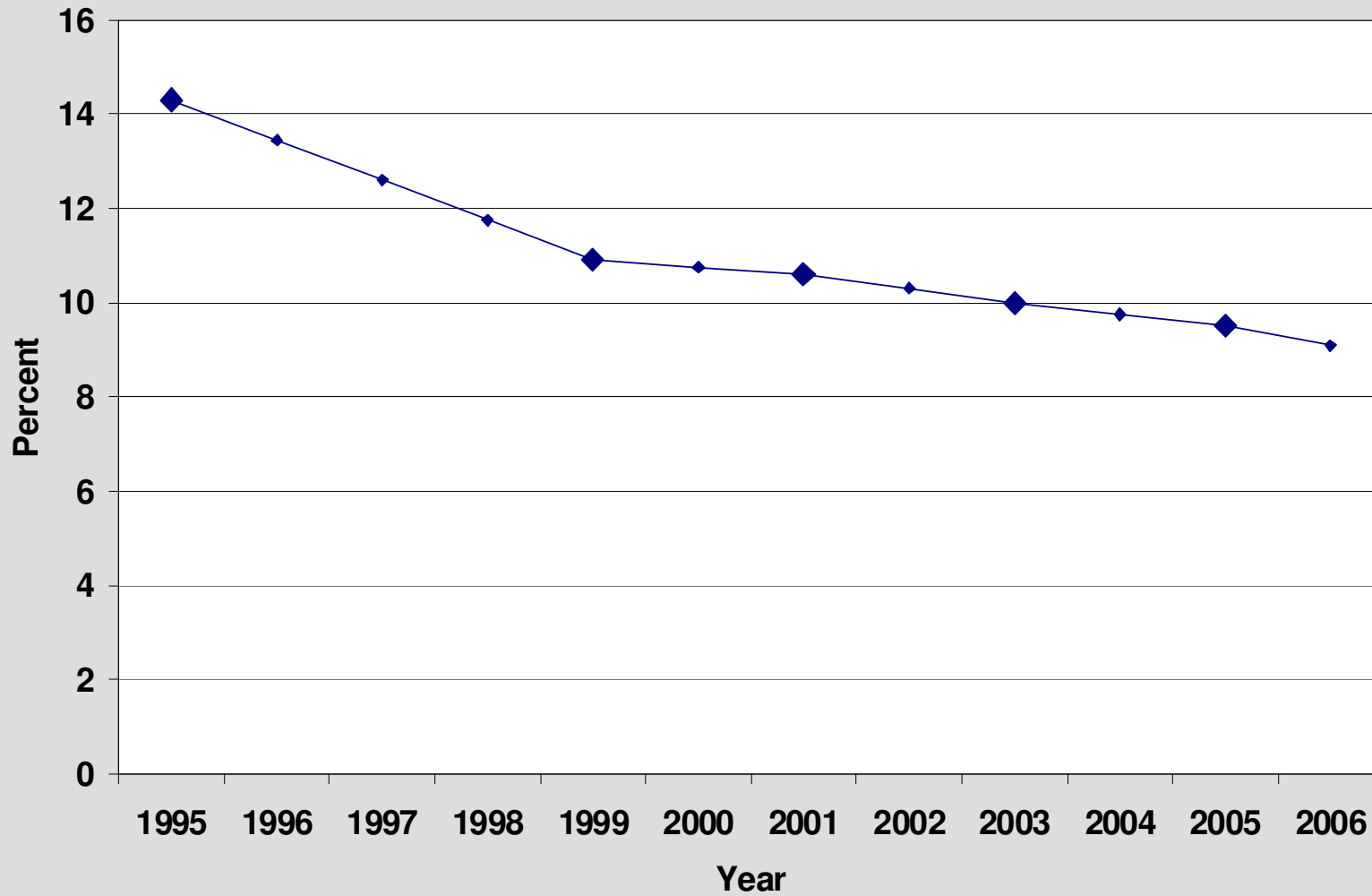
**Figure 8. National Assessment of Educational Progress Test Scores for Reading, Mathematics and Science Skills, 1994-2006**

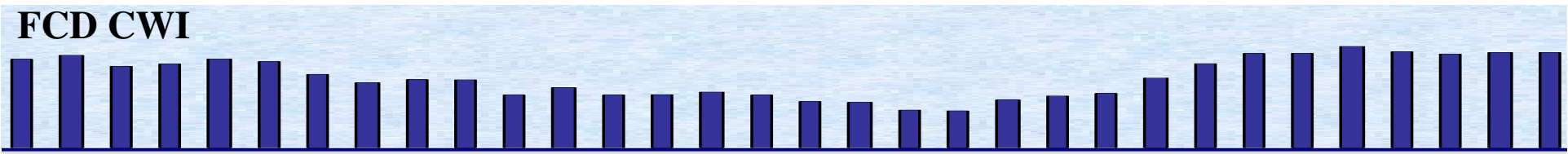




## Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

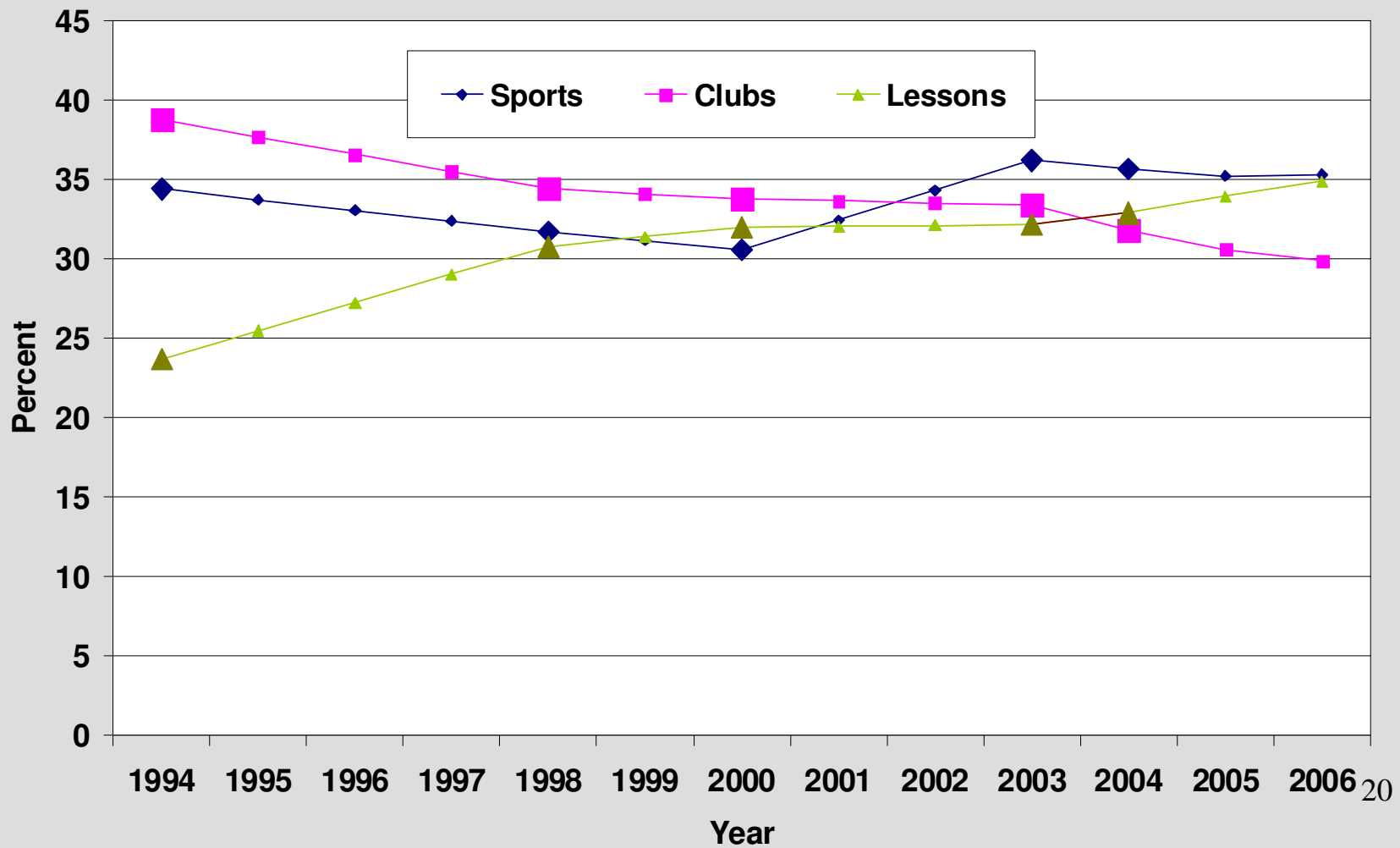
Figure 9. Percentage of 6th Grade Students who Feared Attack or Harm at School or on the Way to and from School, 1995-2006

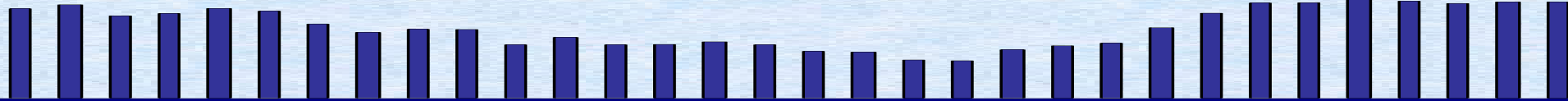




## Good News Trends—Specific Indicators

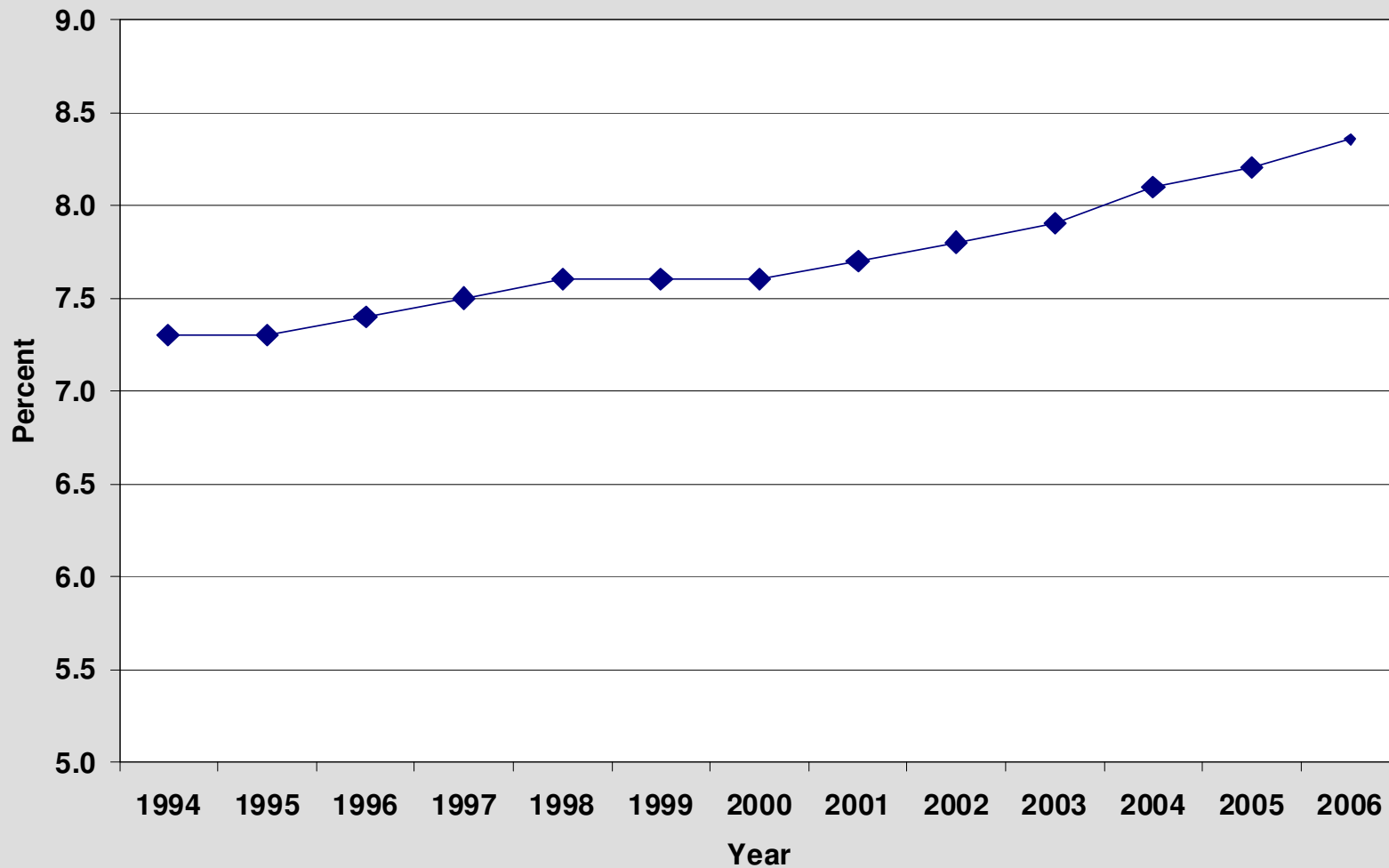
Figure 10. Percent Ages 6-11 Participating in Specific Extracurricular Activities, 1994-2006

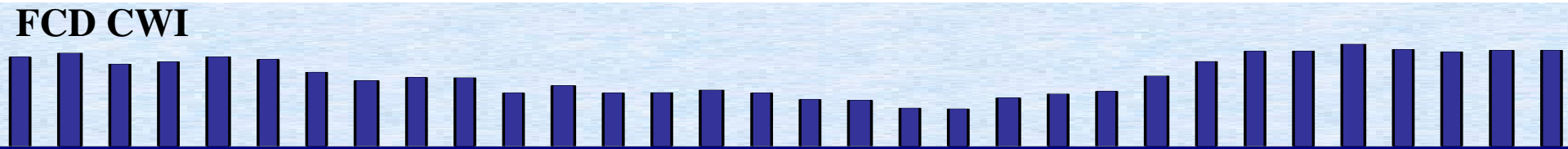




## Fourth Question: Areas of Concern—Specific Indicators

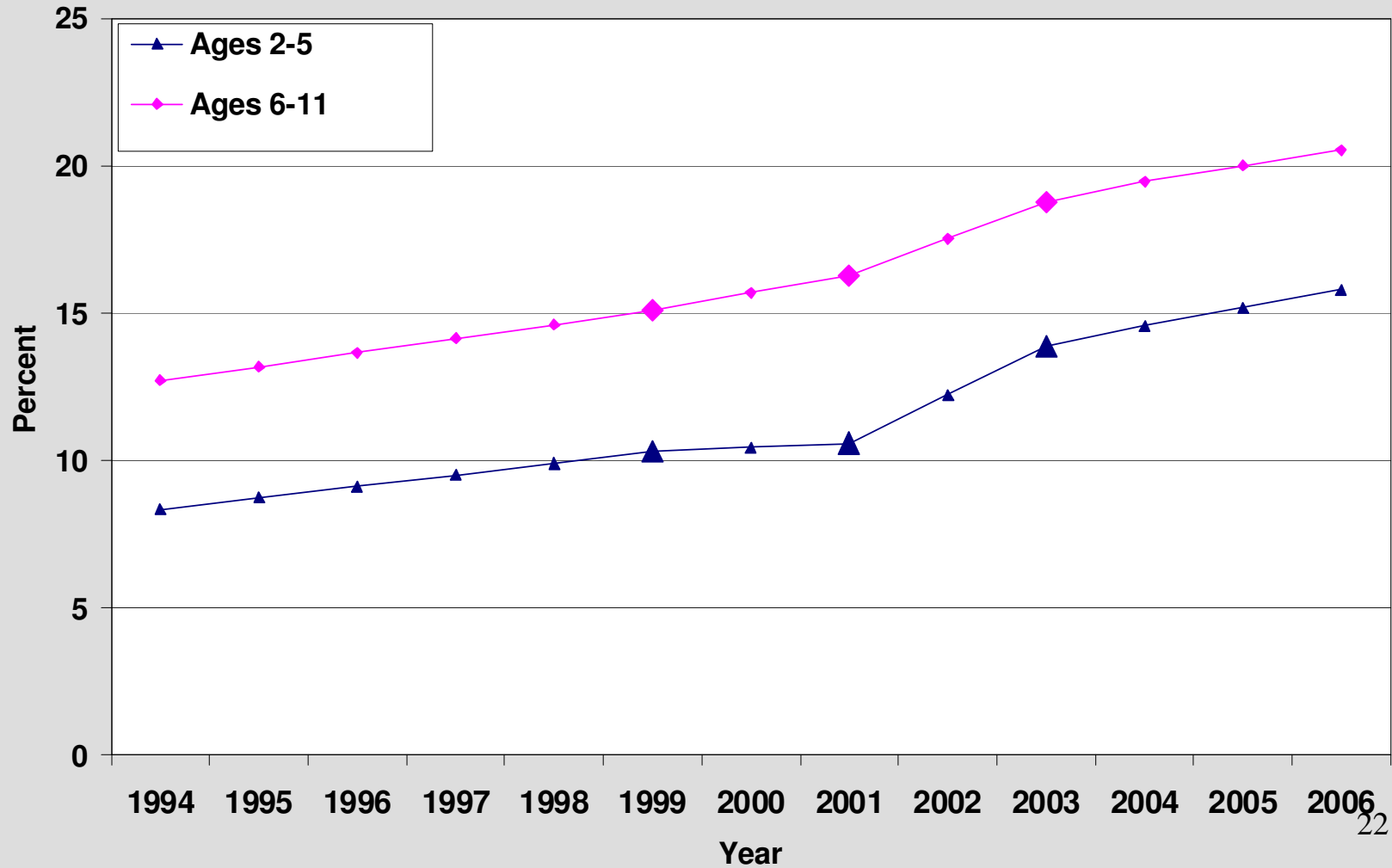
Figure 11. Low Birth Weight Rates, 1994-2006

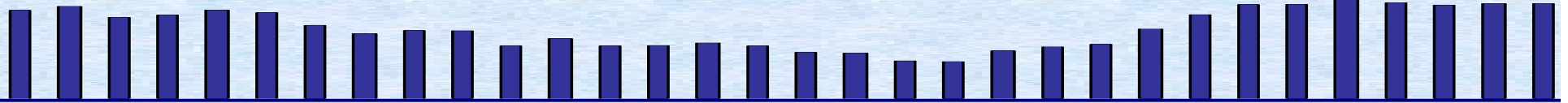




## Areas of Concern—Specific Indicators

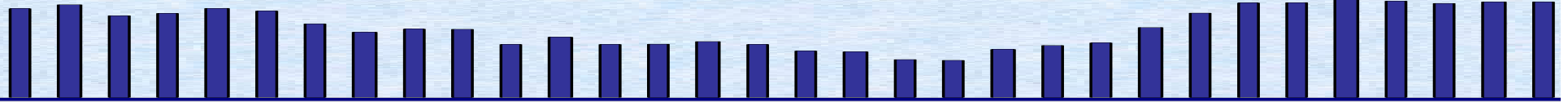
Figure 12. Early and Middle Childhood Overweight Rates, 1994-2006





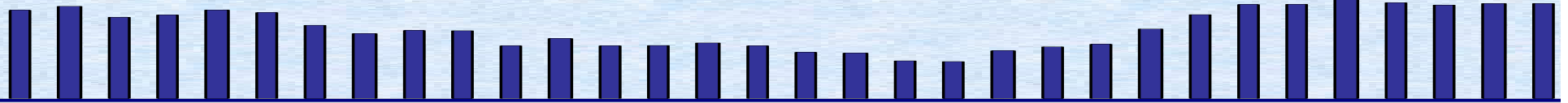
## Conclusions

- ✓ Our age-specific composite well-being indices show that improvements in child and youth well-being across the 12 years from 1994 to 2006 have *benefited the infancy/early childhood and middle childhood ages as well as the adolescent ages*. The composite well-being indices for the three groups follow very similar trends.
- ✓ There is *more variability in the domain-specific trends over time for the middle childhood ages* because of great improvements in the Safety/Behavioral Domain and declines in the Health Domain due to increased rates of overweight children.



## Conclusions

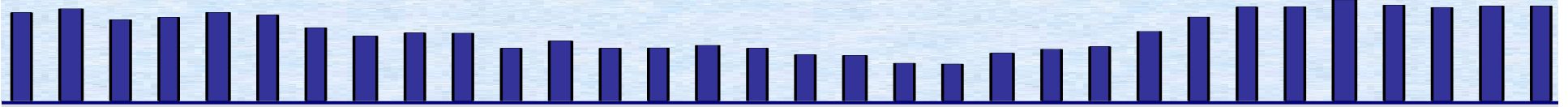
- ✓ For both age groups, the Family Economic Well-Being Domain Indices follow similar trends that covary with national economic expansions and contractions.
- ✓ Among the indicators studied, there are several that show *improving or good news trends from 1994 to 2006*, including:
  - declining infant and early childhood mortality rates,
  - declining prevalence of blood lead poisoning,
  - declining rates of mothers who smoke during pregnancy,
  - increasing enrollments of children ages 4-6 enrolled in full-day kindergarten,
  - increasing scores on mathematics and reading tests,
  - declining rates of 6th graders who fear attack or harm in school or on the trip to and from school, and
  - increases in rates of participation in school-related extracurricular lessons.



## Conclusions

- ✓ On the other hand, *two indicators show negative trends*. These are increases in the prevalence of:
  - low-birth weight babies, and
  - overweight children.
  
- *A Looming Concern*: What are the implications of the economic turbulence of 2007 and 2008 – the credit/housing finance crisis, rising inflation, and job losses – for child well-being? Will there be some retreat from the gains of 1994-2006?

FCD CWI



# The CWI on the Web:

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