

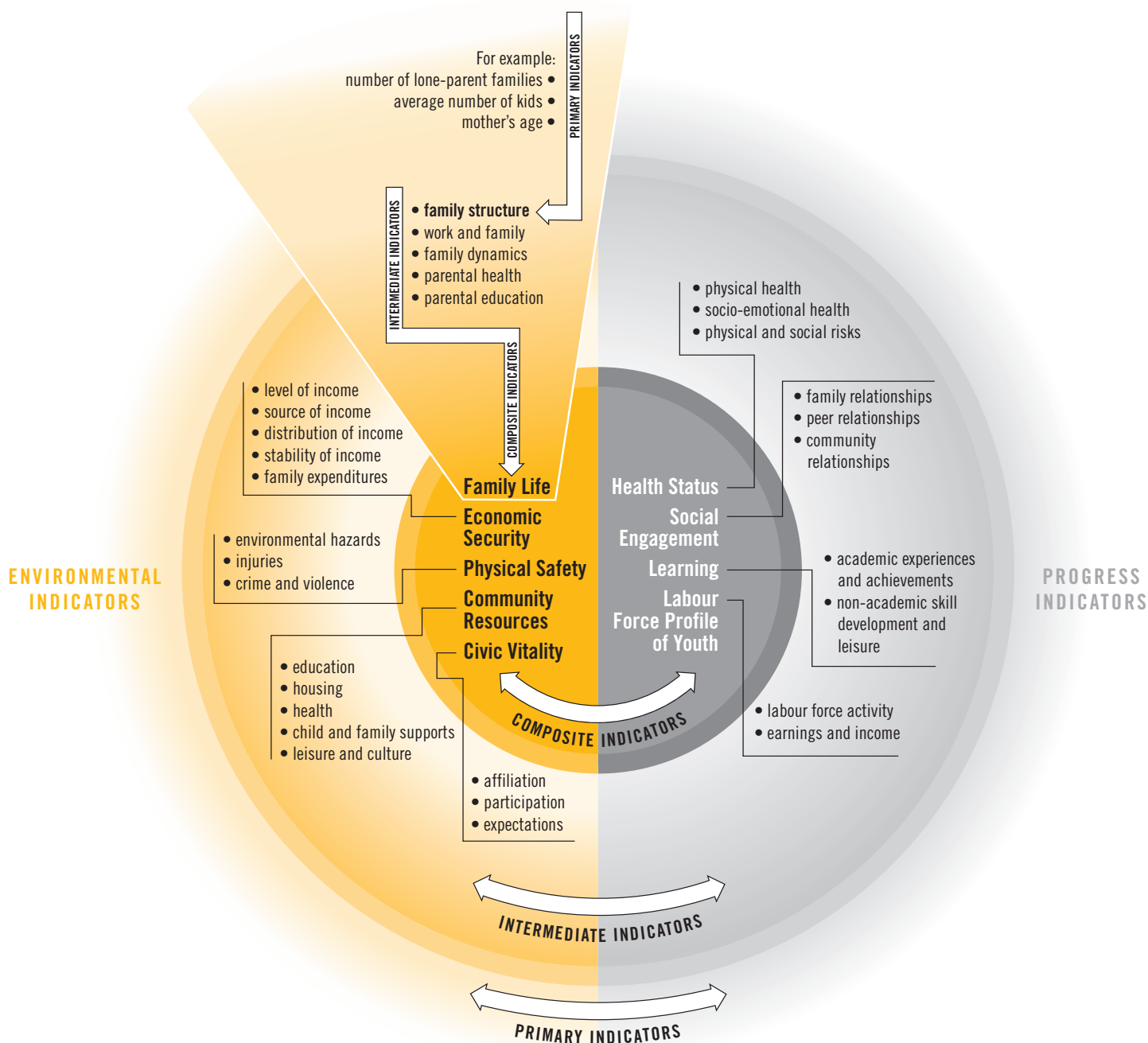
TECHNICAL NOTE

The Progress of Canada's Children and Youth is based on a large database of information on children, youth and families in Canada. It is built on environmental indicators, which represent the developmental influences that affect child development, and progress indicators, which are general measures of how well our children and youth are faring.

A three-tiered model has been developed to organize the wealth of data the CCSD has assembled on selected environmental and progress indicators. Primary indicators constitute the first tier. They represent a single measure of data calculated over time against a base period to indicate the direction of change.

Primary indicators are grouped under a number of intermediate indicators, the second tier. These indicators represent key determinants or outcomes of child well-being. The intermediate indicators are grouped into a third tier of composite indicators that assess both the environment of child development and children's progress through specific developmental periods.

Because of space limitations, *The Progress of Canada's Children and Youth* presents only a small portion of the research. The following chart outlines the model of composite and intermediate indicators that are used.



DATA SOURCES

The primary data for *The Progress of Canada's Children and Youth 2006* have been calculated by researchers at the Canadian Council on Social Development using information from the databases listed below. Additional data sources follow and they are listed according to the section of *Progress* in which they were used. Sources for the charts are provided with each chart.

Primary Data Sources:

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), developed by Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada, collects information on over 20,000 children (newborns to 15 years of age). Starting in 1994, the NLSCY will survey these children every two years until they reach adulthood. In the first cycle of the survey, both the child's primary caregiver and teacher were asked to provide information, as were children aged 10 and 11. In the second cycle of the survey in 1996, children aged 12 and 13 were also included, and in the third survey cycle in 1998, children aged 14 and 15 were included. The NLSCY includes a broad range of family, household, and community characteristics affecting child development. Data used in this *Progress* report are from the 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 surveys.

Canadian Community Health Survey

The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada, collects information regarding health determinants, health status, and health system utilization across Canada. The CCHS targets persons aged 12 or older who are living in private dwellings in the 10 provinces and three territories. The CCHS covers approximately 98% of the Canadian population aged 12 or older. Data used in this *Progress* report are from the Cycle 1.1 (2001) and Cycle 2.1 (2003) surveys.

National Population Health Survey

The National Population Health Survey (NPHS), conducted by Statistics Canada, collects information related to the health of the Canadian population. A cross-section of information is obtained by surveying all members of the survey households (58,000 individuals). To collect longitudinal information, one respondent per household, aged 12 years or older, is surveyed (18,000 individuals). Data used in this *Progress* report are from the 1994/95, 1996/97, and 1998/99 surveys.

Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics

Started in 1993, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) is an ongoing longitudinal survey that interviews each sample member over a six-year period. The longitudinal nature of this survey as well as its extensive data content allows analysis of issues related to the labour market and income, including low income and changes in income over time. Data used in this issue of *Progress* are from the 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 surveys.

Census of the Population, 1996 & 2001

Statistics Canada's 1996 and 2001 Censuses provide national coverage of the entire Canadian population, including variables on demographic, social, cultural, labour force, and income data,

as well as details on dwellings, households, and families. Generally, data are presented for Canada, the provinces, territories and for Census Metropolitan Areas. Some tables include comparisons with data from earlier Censuses.

Survey of Household Spending

This survey offers information about spending on a wide variety of goods and services, as well as data on dwelling characteristics and household ownership of equipment. The survey collects information such as household and family expenditures for food, shelter, child care, health care, recreation, reading materials, education, taxes, pension contributions, and much more. It also collects data such as the type of dwelling, tenure (owned or rented), number of rooms, and heating equipment used, as well as information on household equipment and vehicles. This survey replaces HFE and FAMEX. Data used in this *Progress* report are from the 1999 and 2002 surveys.

Labour Force Survey

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects monthly information on the labour market activities of Canada's working-age population, including specific subgroups in the population. The microdata capture personal characteristics for all individuals in the household – such as information on age, gender, marital status, educational attainment, and family characteristics – as well as detailed labour force characteristics for household members aged 15 and older – such as information about hours of work, wages, occupation, duration of unemployment, and the like. Data are available by province and for the three largest Census Metropolitan Areas of Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning

This new survey was conducted by Statistics Canada in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada. Done in October 1999 as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey, it is the first household survey to collect detailed information on how Canadians prepare for their children's post-secondary education. Data concerning 20,353 children aged 18 and under were collected, including detailed information on both the children and the households. The survey identified financial preparations made by parents to prepare for their children's post-secondary education – such as savings being set aside, potential demands for student loans, and the like – along with non-financial preparations such as communicating parental aspirations and expectations, the extent of parents' involvement in children's learning and schooling, and their attitudes and practices concerning homework and television viewing.

Ethnic Diversity Survey

The Ethnic Diversity Survey was developed by Statistics Canada, in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage, to provide information on the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of people in Canada and how these backgrounds relate to their lives today.

The survey covered topics such as ethnic or cultural ancestry and identity, family background, religion, language use, social networks, interactions with others, and civic participation. The survey was conducted from April to August 2002. About 42,500 people aged 15 and older were interviewed by telephone in the 10 provinces.

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THE PROGRESS OF CANADA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2006

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