

The 2008 Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) Report, Including

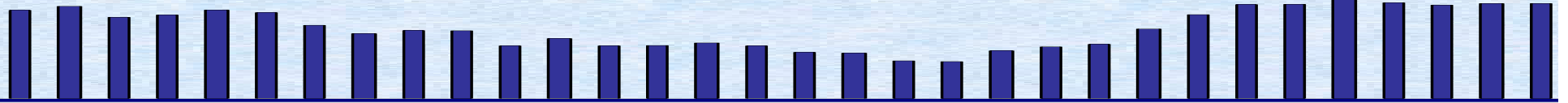
- **An Update of the CWI for the Years 1975-2006,**
- **Projections of the CWI for 2007, and**
- **A Special Focus Report on an Intergenerational Comparison of Adolescent Well-Being**

A Social Indicators Project Supported by the
Foundation for Child Development

New American Foundation Presentation, July 22, 2008

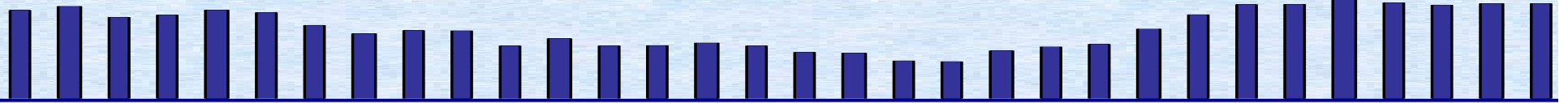
Kenneth C. Land, Ph.D., Project Coordinator

Duke University



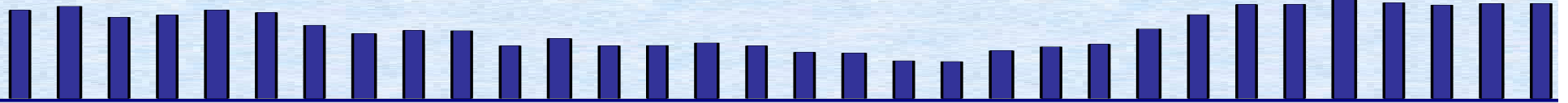
What is the CWI?

- It is a composite measure of trends in the quality of life, or well-being, of America's children and young people since 1975.
- It consists of 28 social indicators organized in seven quality-of-life domains.



What Does the CWI Tell Us?

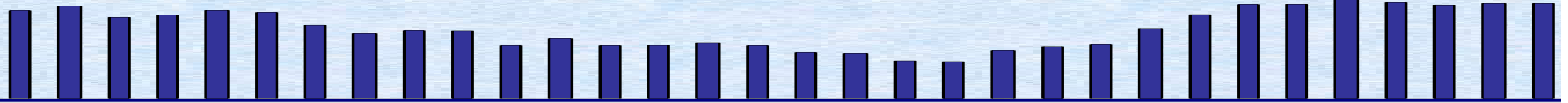
- Did overall child and youth well-being in the United States improve or deteriorate over the last two generations?
- By how much?
- In which domains or areas of social life?
- For which age groups?
- For boys and girls equally?
- For which racial and ethnic groups?
- Did disparities between groups increase or decrease?



Methods of CWI Construction

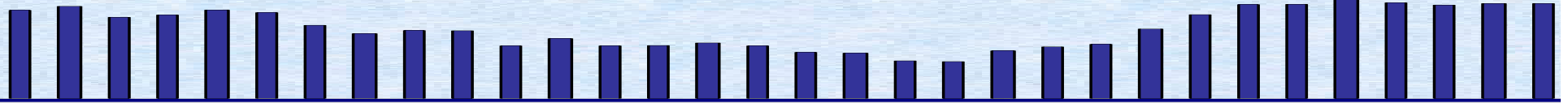
- The CWI places 28 national level indicators into seven quality-of-life domains:
 - Family Economic Well-Being
 - Health
 - Safety/Behavioral Concerns
 - Educational Attainment
 - Community Connectedness
 - Social Relationships (with Family and Peers)
 - Emotional/Spiritual Well-Being

FCD CWI



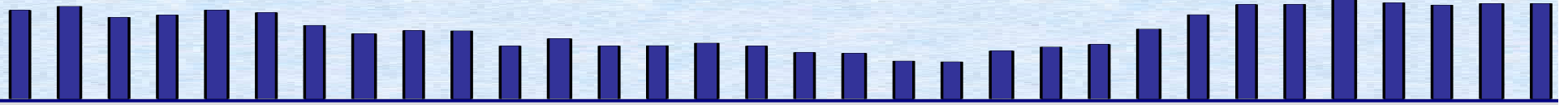
- Each of the 28 indicators uses annual time series data from vital statistics and sample surveys
- Each indicator is indexed by percentage change from the base year, 1975.
- The base year is assigned a value of 100.
 - A value greater than 100 in subsequent years means the social condition measured has improved. A value less than 100 means the social condition has deteriorated.

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- The 28 indicators are grouped together into seven domains to construct domain-specific summary well-being indices.
 - Within these summary indices, each indicator is equally weighted.
- The seven domain indices are combined into the Child and Youth Well-being Index (CWI).
 - Each domain is equally weighted in the construction of the CWI.

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Composite Index of Child and Youth Well-Being

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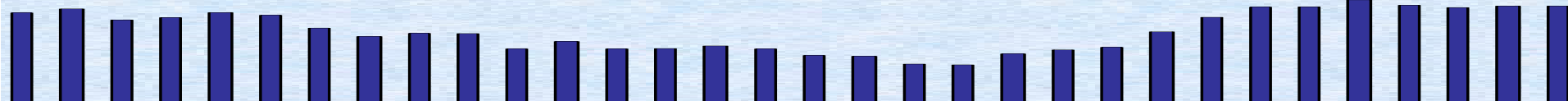
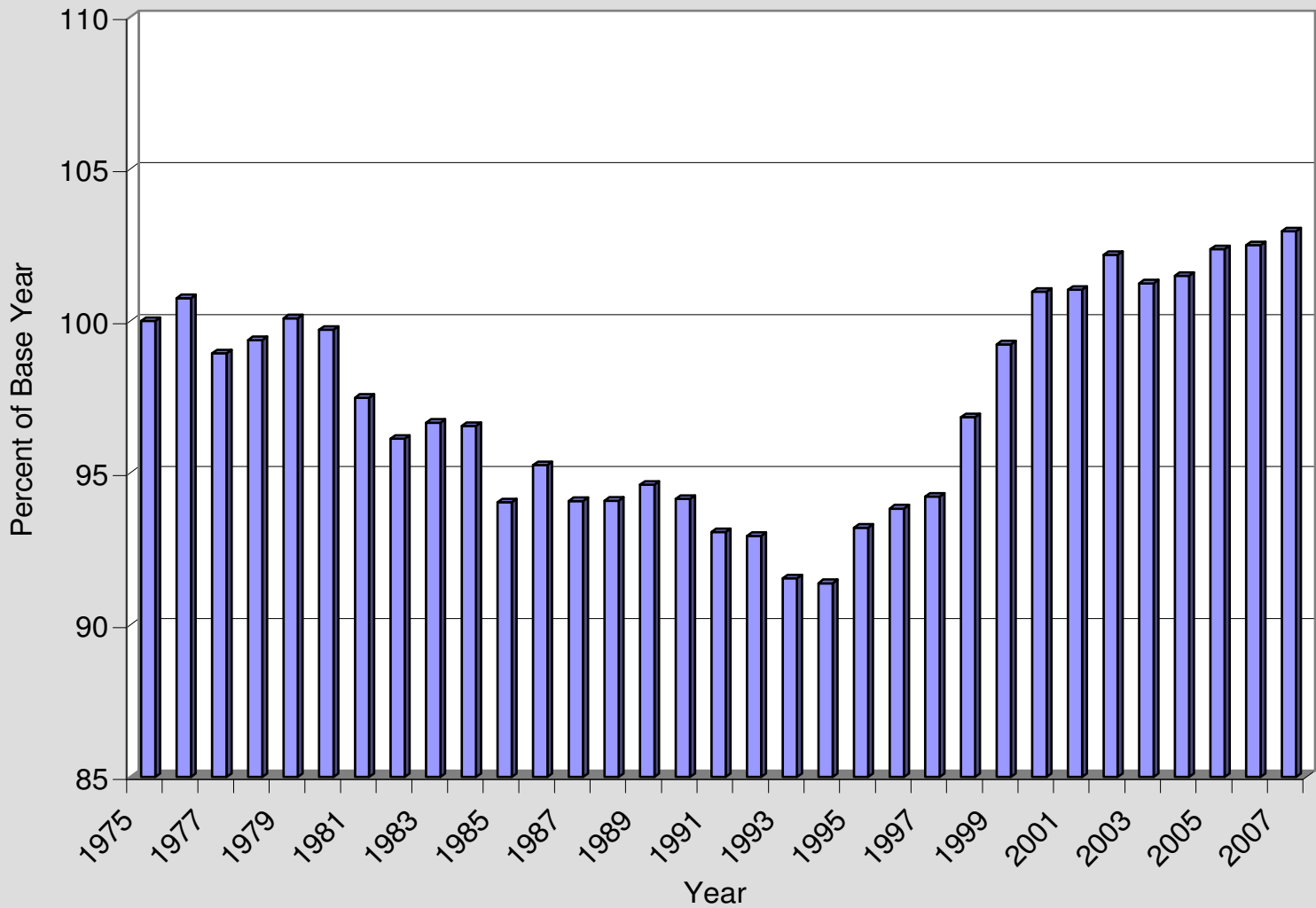
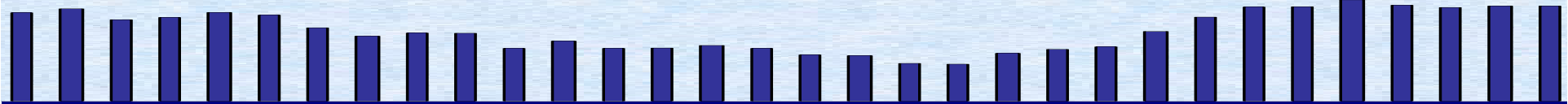


Figure 1: Child Well-Being Index, 1975-2006, with Projections for 2007



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Domain-Specific Indices

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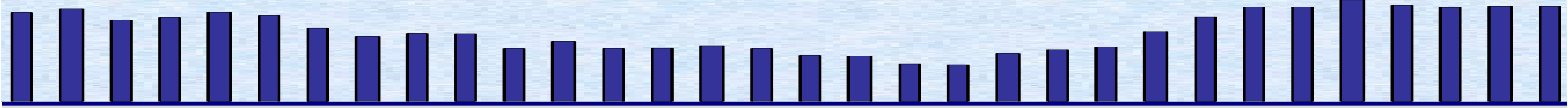
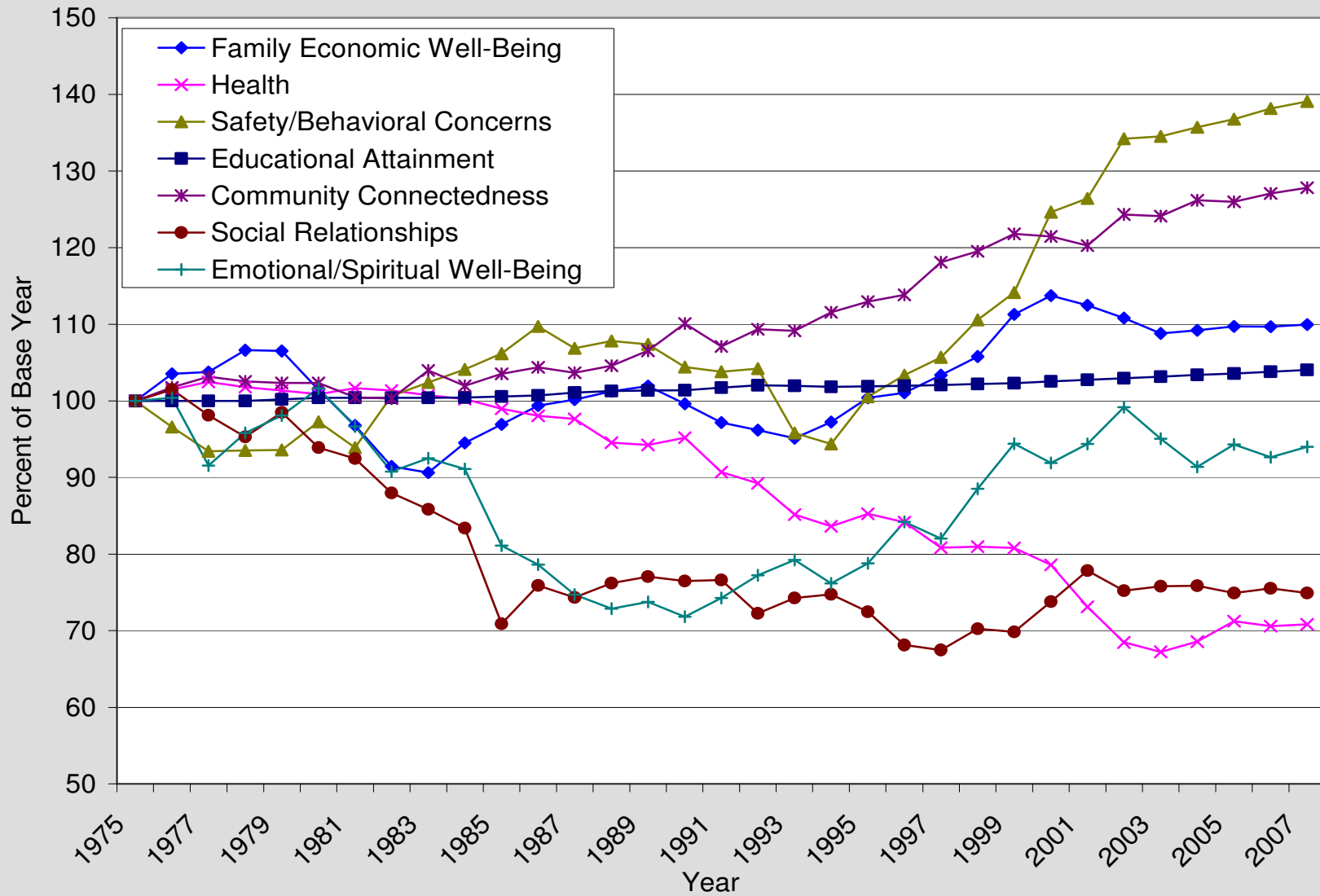
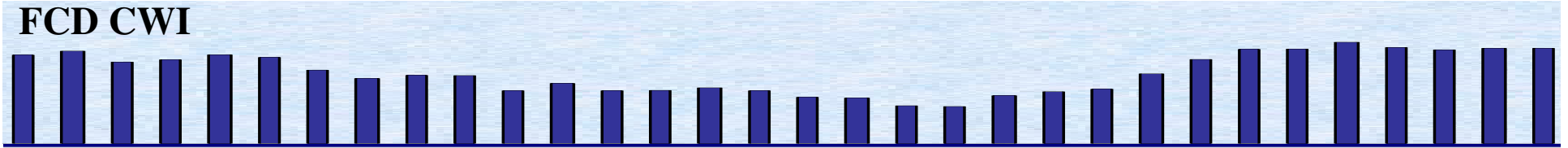


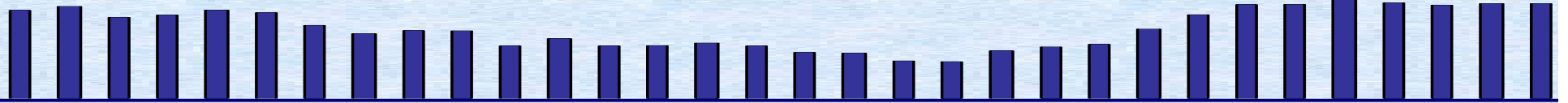
Figure 2. Domain-Specific Summary Indices, 1975-2006, with Projections for 2007.





Looming Macroeconomic Concerns

- The *adverse macroeconomic conditions* that emerged in 2007 and continued and expanded in 2008 may adversely affect the Key Indicators and Domains of Well-Being that comprise the CWI.
- Based on the performance of the CWI during prior economic recessions, *we anticipate that there will be a one to two point decline in the overall composite CWI in the 2007-2009 period.*
- Only time and data will tell if these anticipations become reality.



Special Emphasis Report Focus:

A Comparison of Echo Boomer Adolescents with Their Baby Boomer Parents:

*How Does the Well-Being of Teens
in 2003-2005 Compare to That of
Their Parents a Generation Ago?*

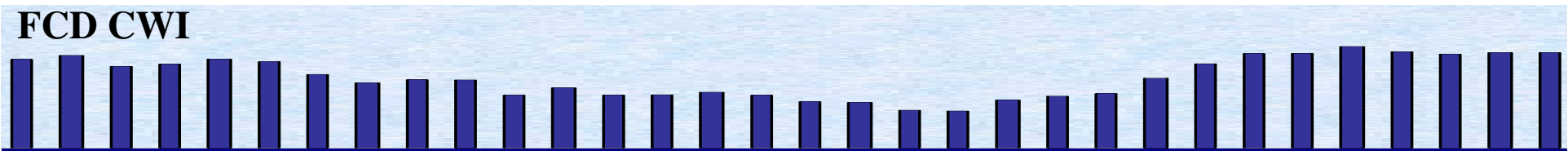
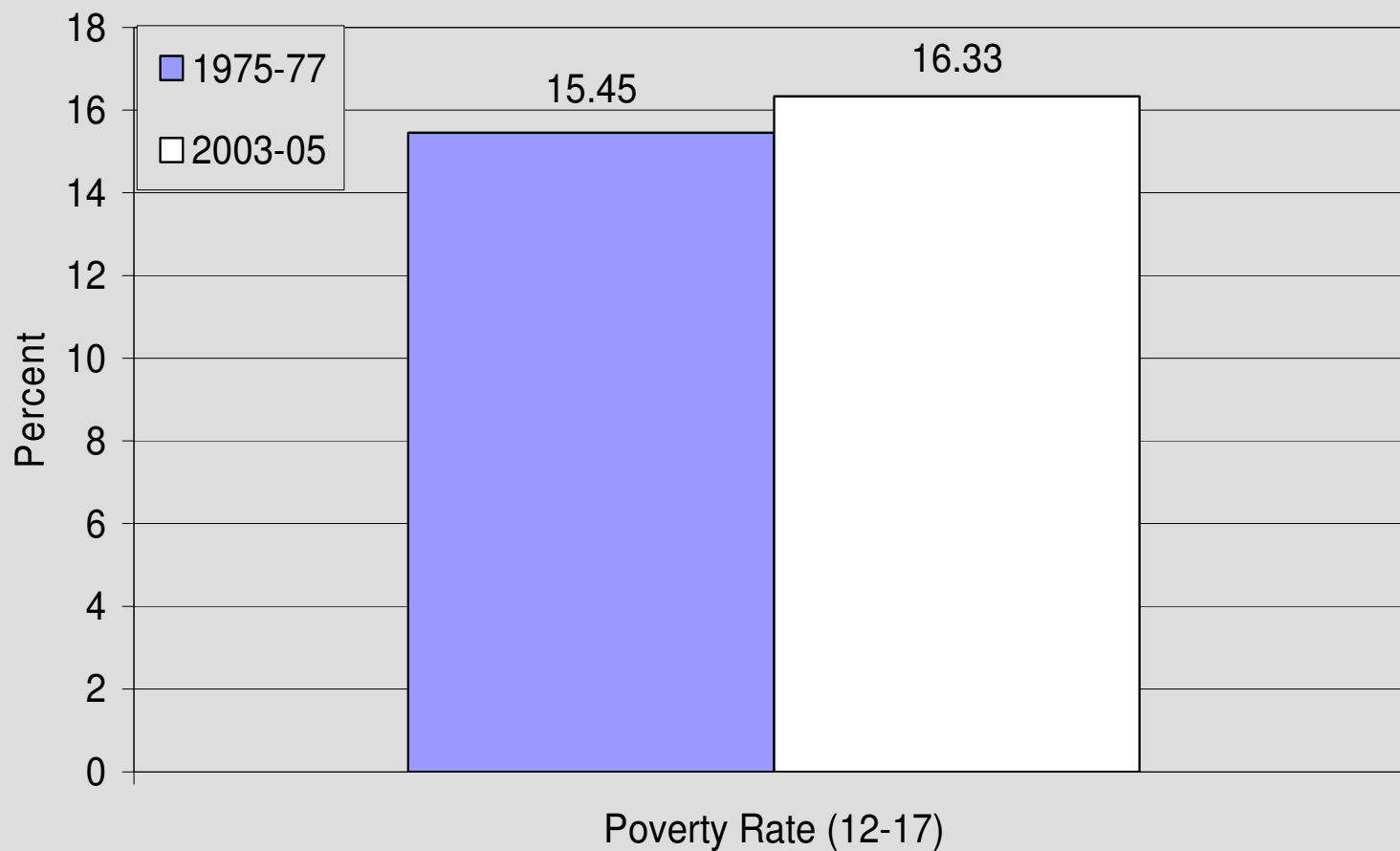


Figure 3. Poverty Rate (Ages 12-17) for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005



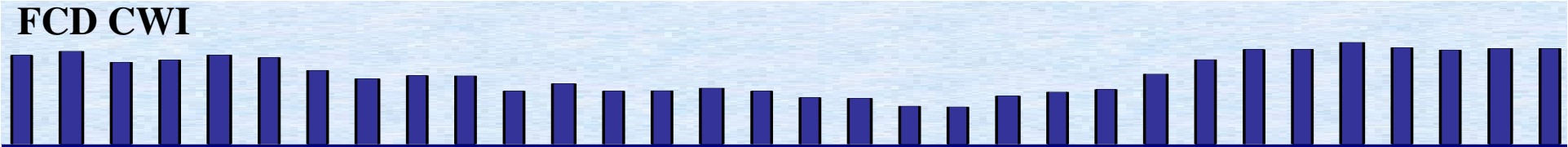
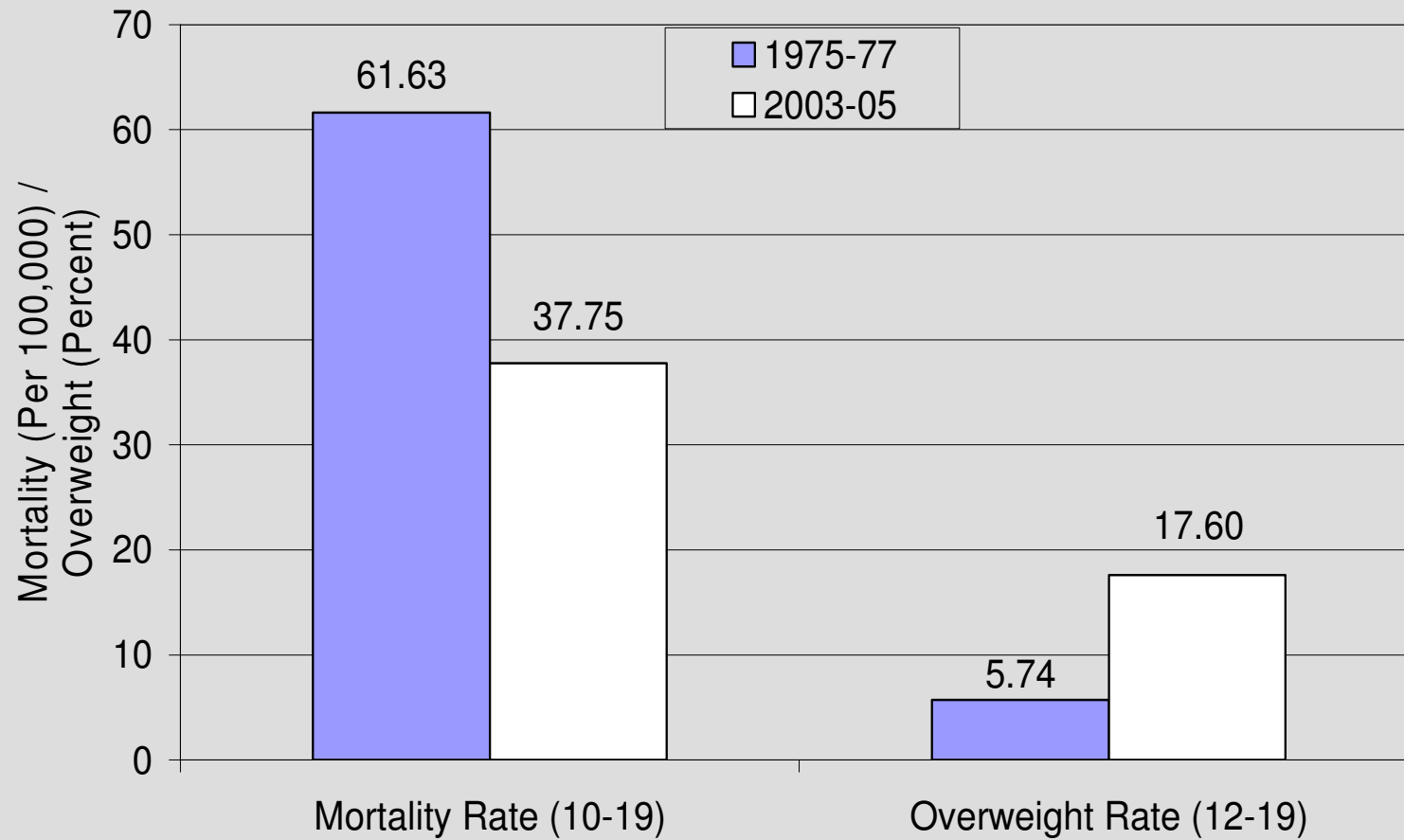


Figure 4. Mortality Rate (Ages 10-19) and Overweight Rate (Ages 12-19) for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005



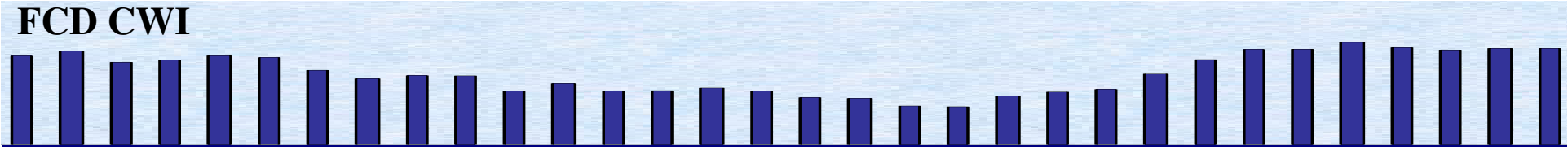
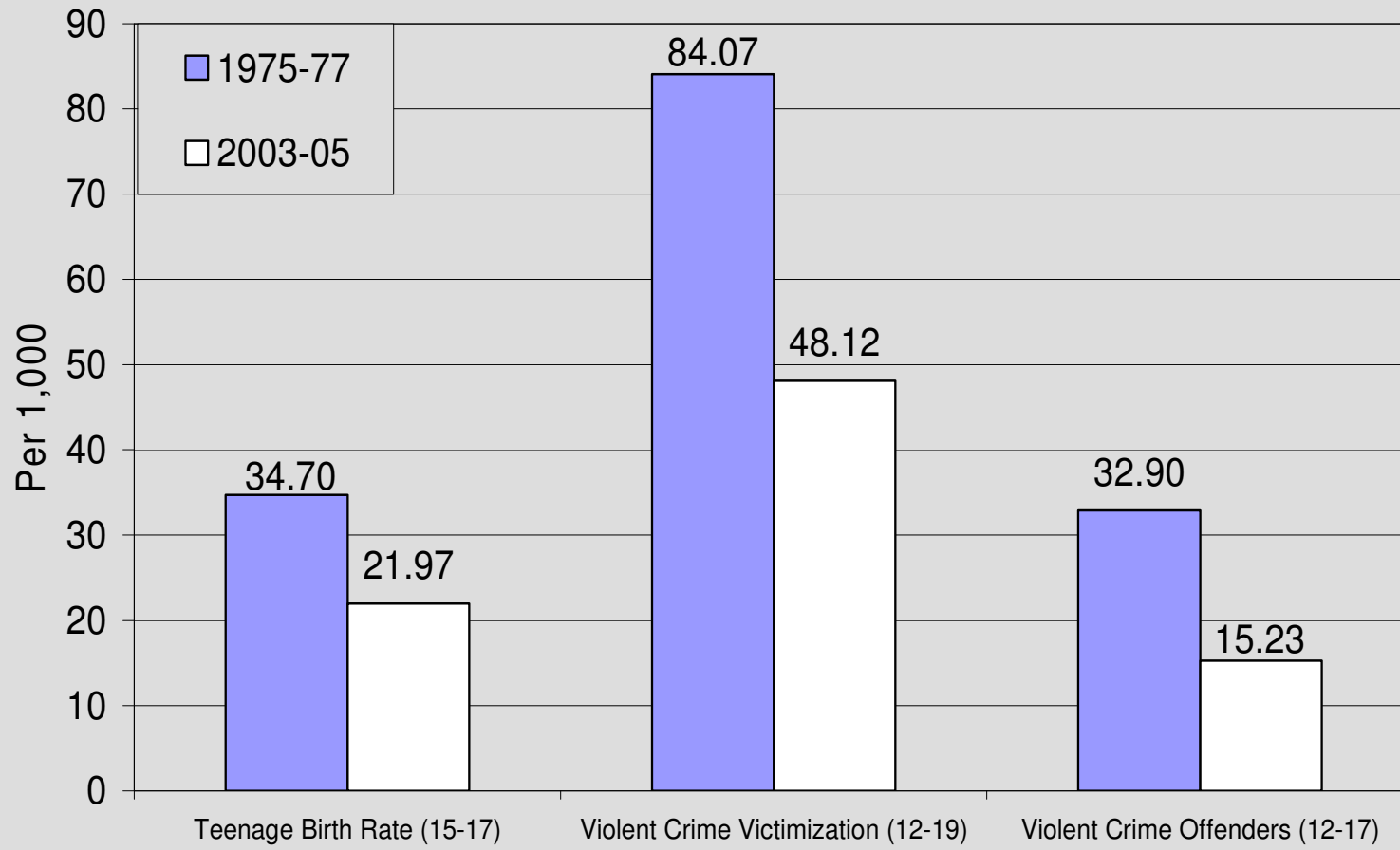


Figure 5. Teenage Birth Rate, Violent Crime Victimization Rate and Offenders Rate for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005



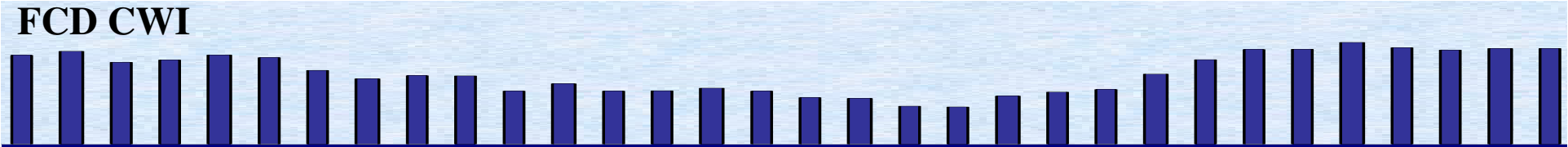
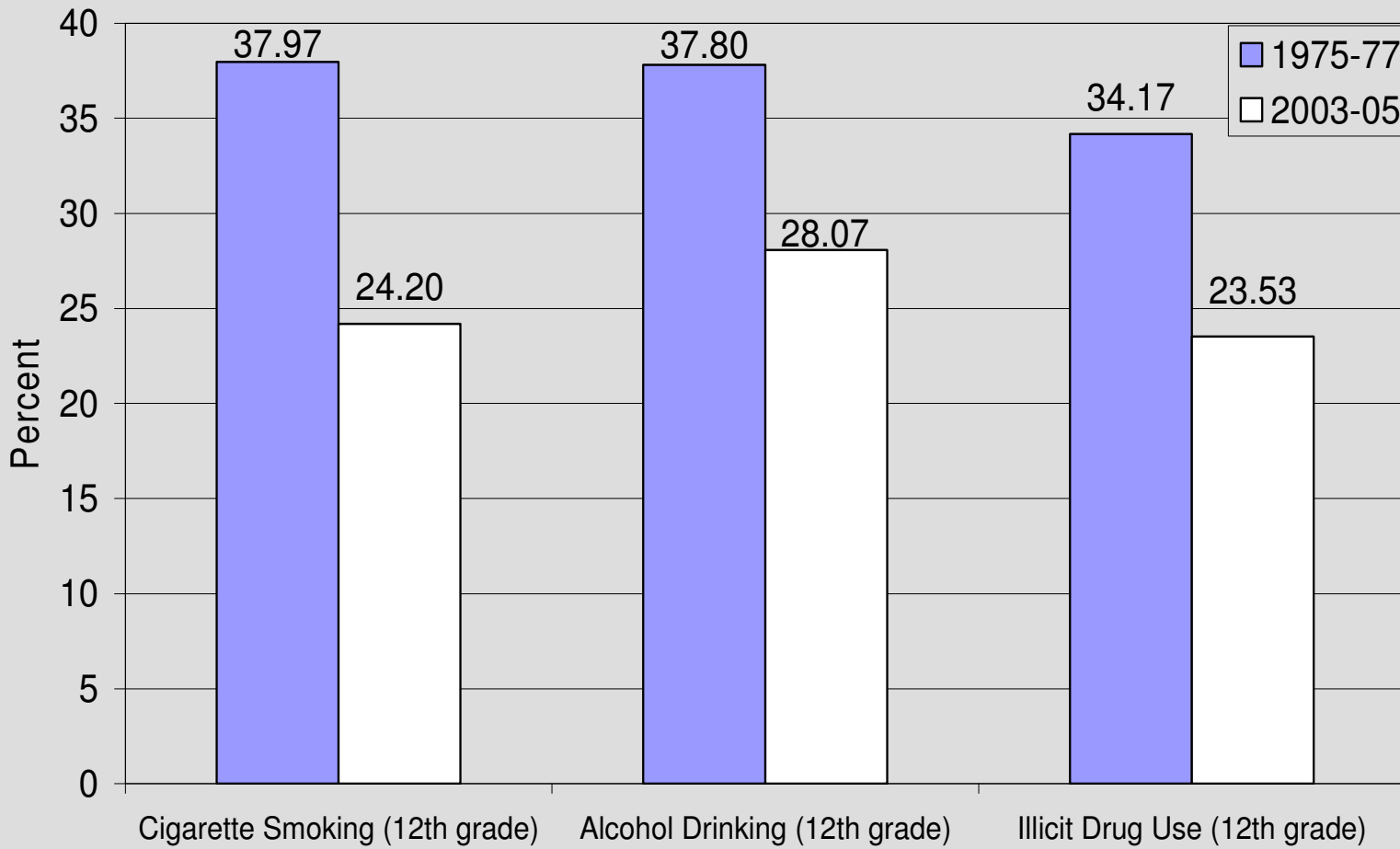


Figure 6. Smoking, Drinking and Illicit Drug Use Rate for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005



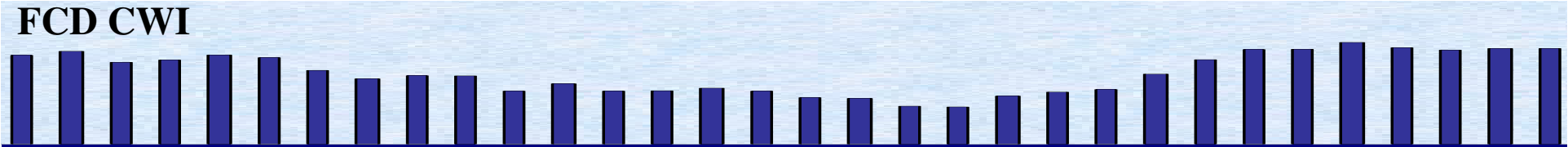
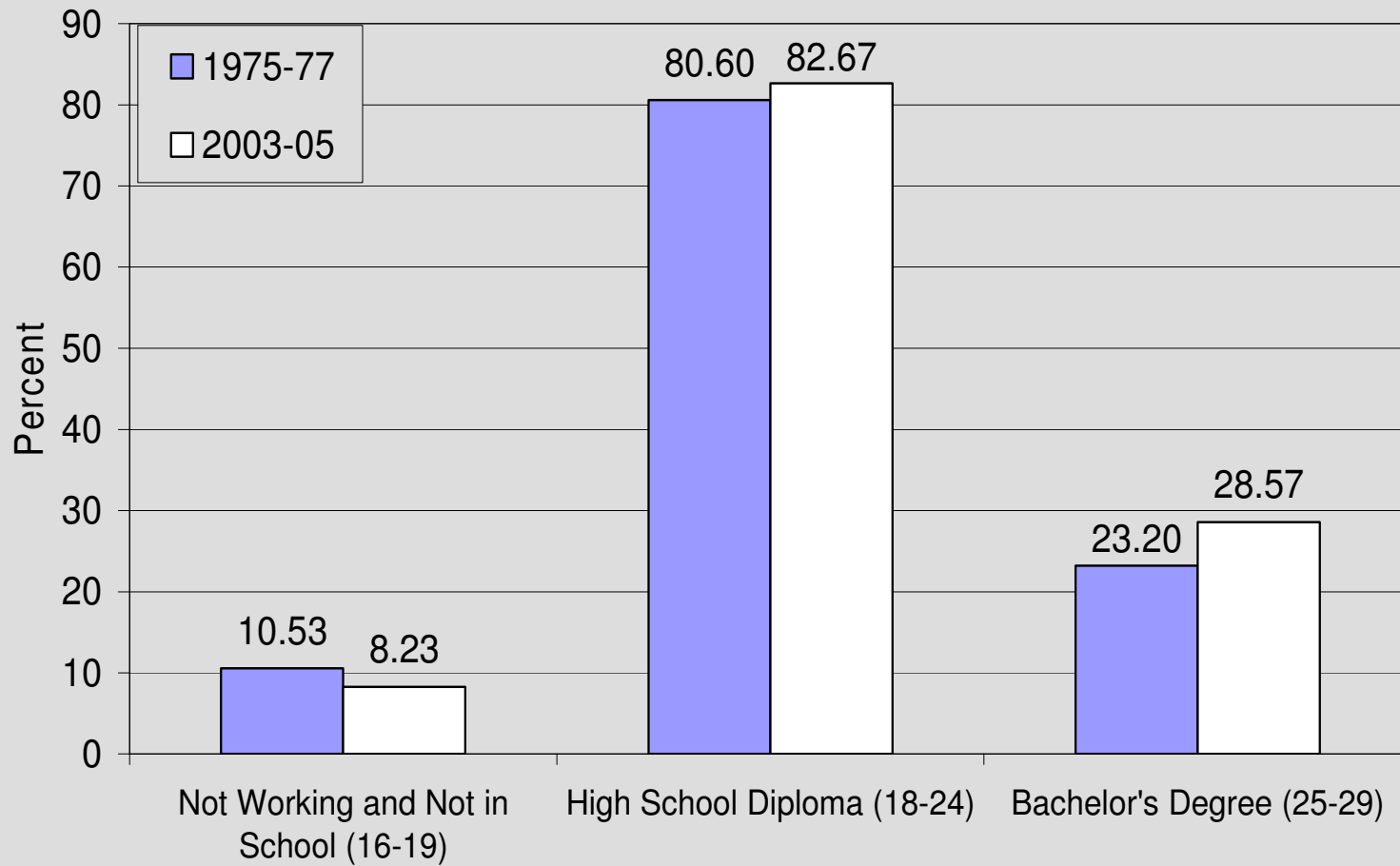


Figure 7. Not Working and Not in School, High School Graduate Rate, and Bachelor's Degree Rate for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005



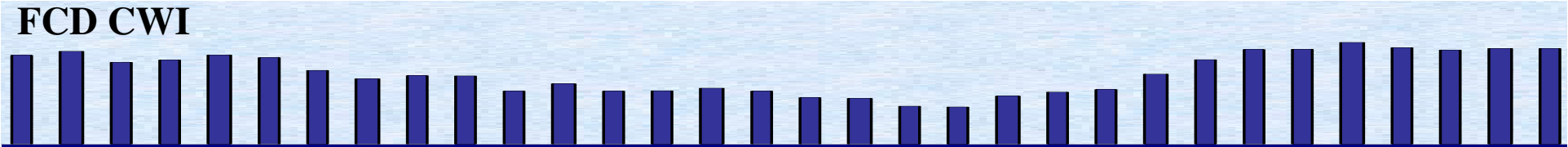
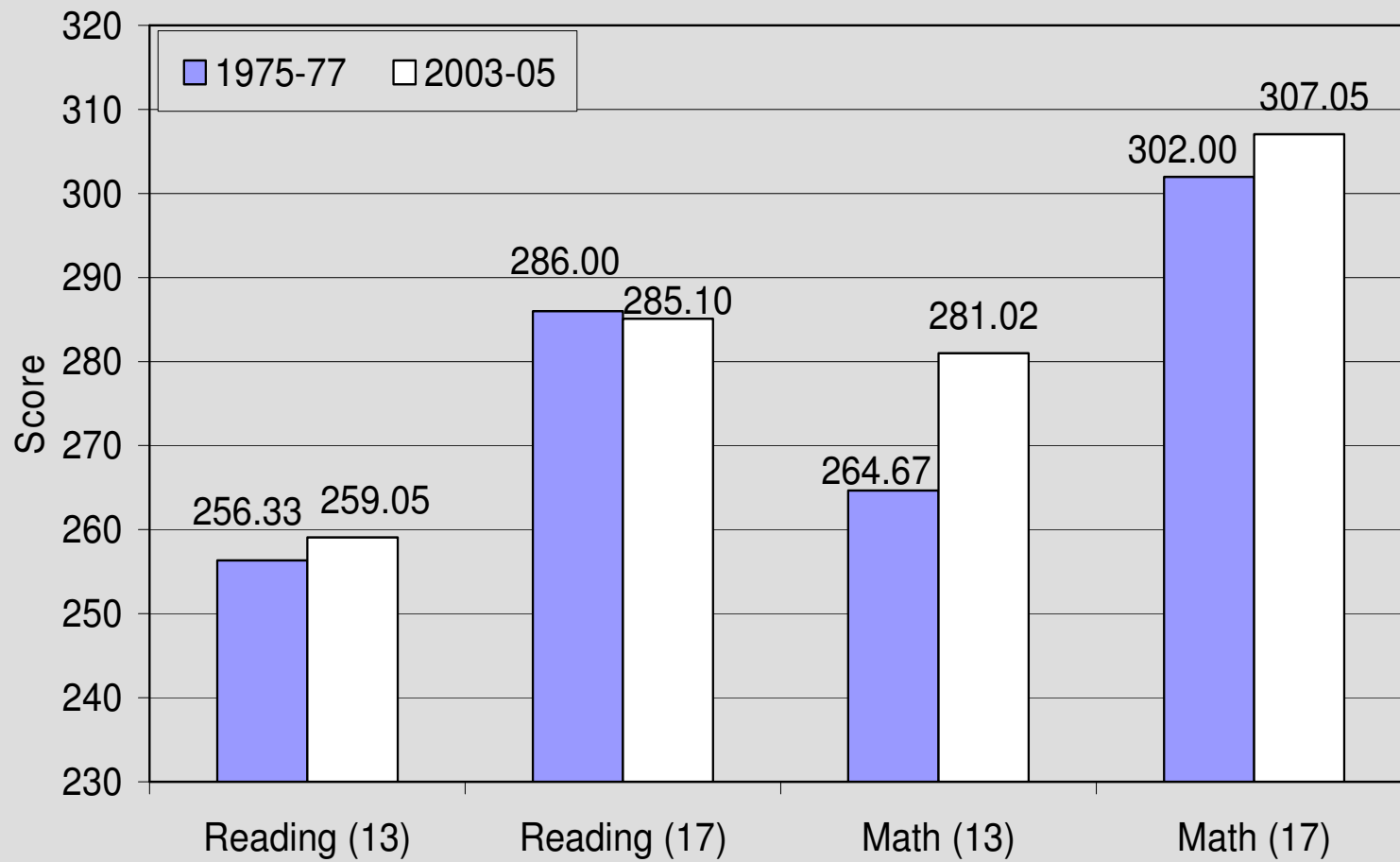


Figure 8. Reading and Math Score (Ages 13 and 17) for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005



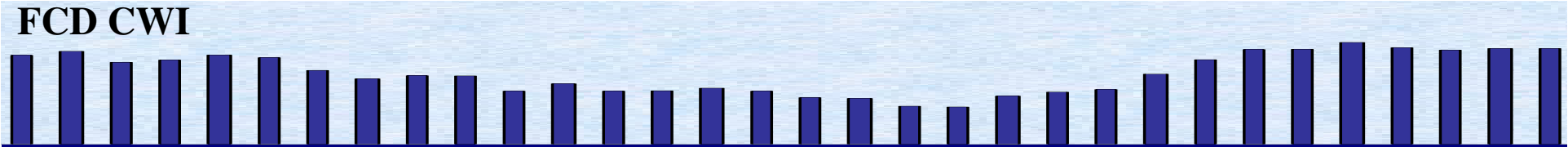
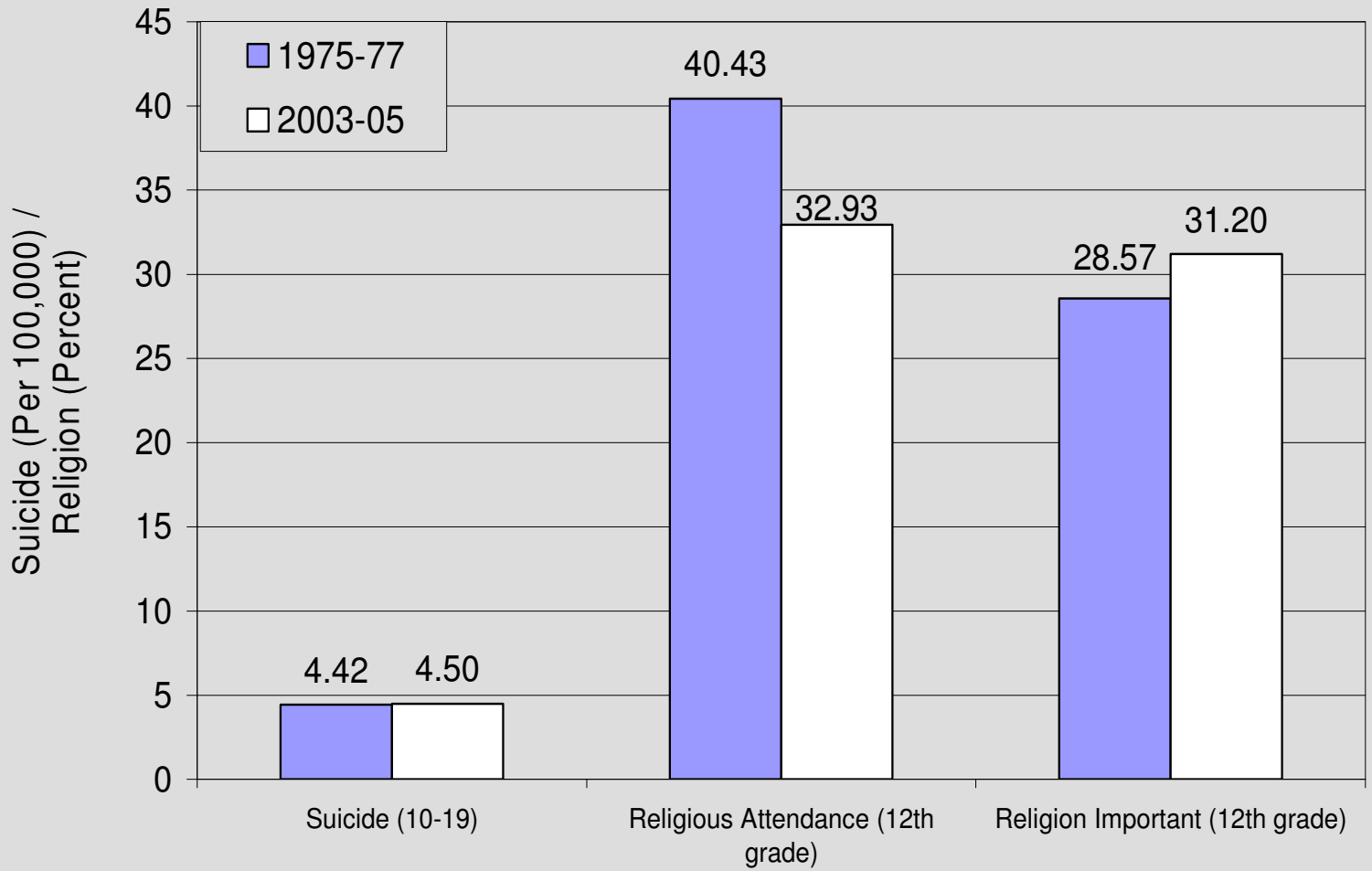
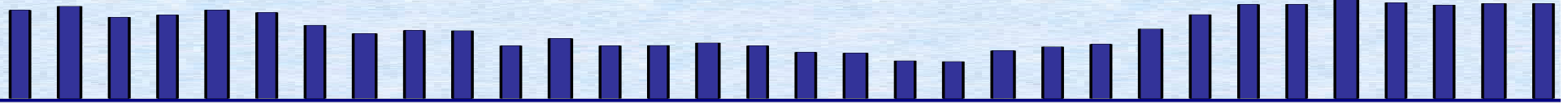


Figure 9. Suicide Rate, Religious Attendance Rate and Religion Important Rate for the Years 1975-1977 and 2003-2005

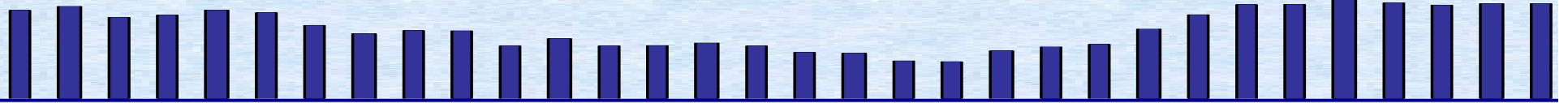




Conclusions

These intergenerational comparisons show that Echo Boomer adolescents in the early 21st century as compared to their Baby Boomer parents were:

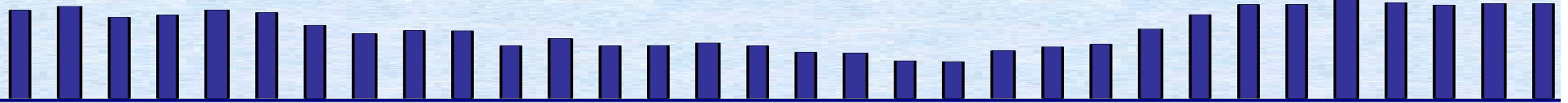
- slightly more likely to live in families *below the poverty line*, and
- had *test scores* on reading and mathematics that are *only slightly higher* than those of their parents.



Conclusions

On the other hand, they were:

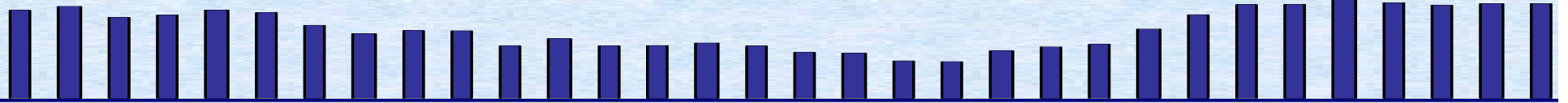
- at much *lower risk of death* from accidents, violence, or disease,
- but *more likely to be overweight or obese*, with associated health problems and risks.



Conclusions

At the same time, they were:

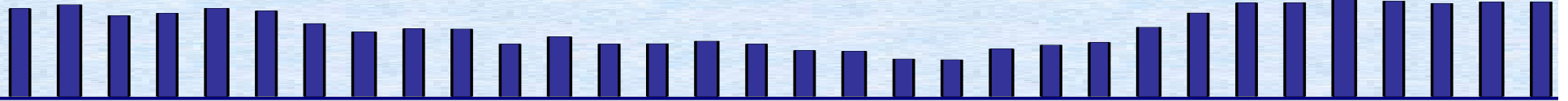
- much *less likely to participate in risky behavior* (bear children, be victims of violent crime or violent crime offenders, and smoke cigarettes, binge drink, or consume illicit drugs) than their parents, and
- *more likely to participate in school and economic institutions.*



**Do Intergenerational Changes in
Adolescent Well-Being Indicators
from the Baby Boomers to the
Echo Boomers Represent an
Instance of**

“Do as I Say, Not as I Did”

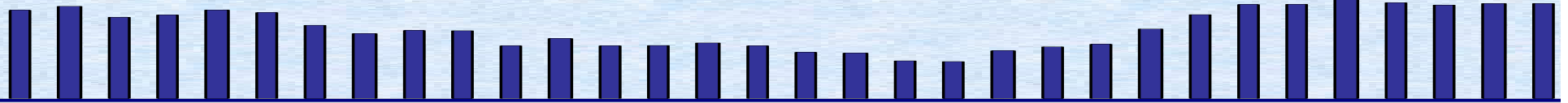
on the Part of Parents and Society?



**Does anyone remember this George Carlin riff on
Baby Boomers?**

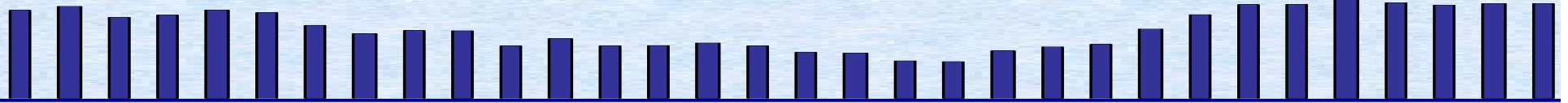


Did Carlin have it right?



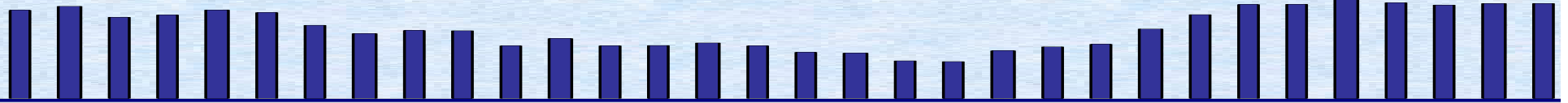
How About the 2006-2008 years? Will the Good Trends in Adolescent Well-Being Continue?

- There are *three portents* of possible negative changes in the CWI and the trends in child and youth well-being—*especially as pertains to the well-being of adolescents*—that bear careful monitoring during the second half of the current decade.



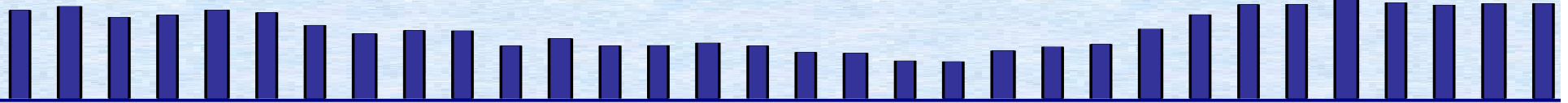
First, there may be **increases in poverty** in the offing for today's adolescents.

- As noted earlier, there are *macroeconomic changes* since 2005, especially for the years 2007 and 2008 (and likely 2009 as well) that could adversely affect the well-being of U.S. children and adolescents.
- It is noteworthy that the *percent of all single-parent families in poverty* rose from **32% in 2004** to **32.3% in 2005**.
- This may be a leading indicator of more general family economic stress during the 2006-2008 period.



Second, a new wave of **increases in teenage childbearing** may have begun.

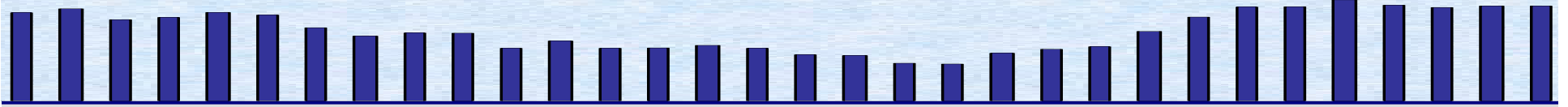
- *Preliminary estimates* show this **indicator increased in 2006** in contrast to the declines recorded for the years 1991-2005.
- Specifically, for the **ages 15-17**, the number of live births per 1,000 females rose from **21.4 in 2005** (the lowest level since 1991) to **22 in 2006**, a *three percent increase*.
- Furthermore, this increase was recorded both for **non-Hispanic white** and **African-American** teenagers in this age group.
- Thus, it is **not due to an increase of the prevalence of Hispanic females** in the aged 15-17 population.



Third, there may be reversals of trends in other safety/behavioral indicators in the offing as well.

- The rate of *violent crime victimization* per 1,000 adolescents ages 12-19 rose from **44.15 in 2005** to **49.8 in 2006**.
- This followed a rise in the rate per 1,000 of *violent crime offenders* ages 12-17 from **13.6 in 2004** to **17.2 in 2005**.
- *Illicit drug use* among 12th graders also increased from **21.5% in 2006** to **21.9% in 2007**.

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The CWI on the Web:

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