

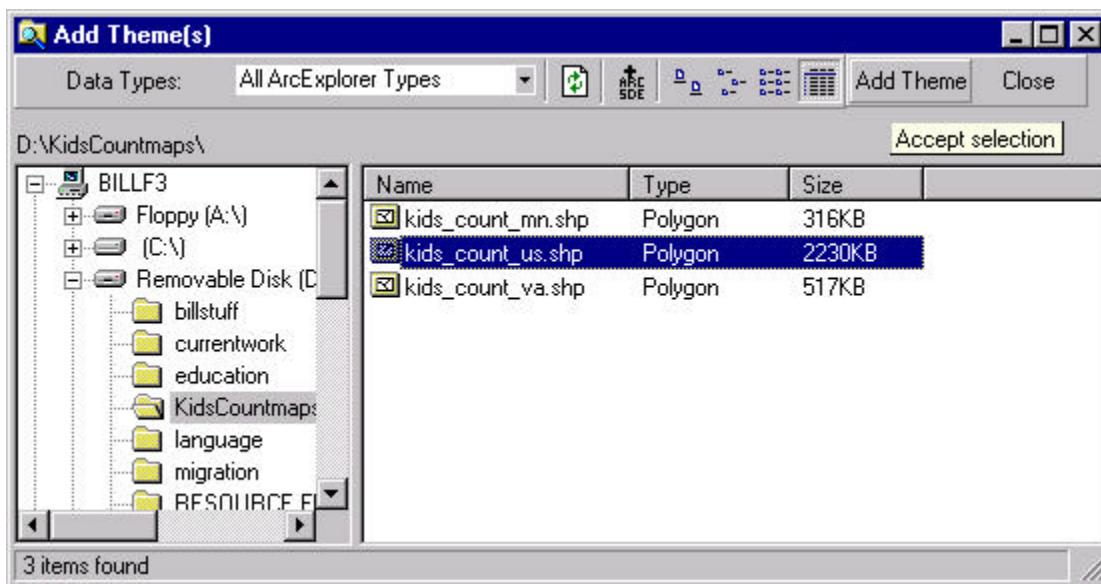
## Using Kids Count Indicators in ArcExplorer

**Note:** In order to use the Kids Count mapping tool, you must first install ArcExplorer 2.0, a “light-weight GIS viewer” produced by ESRI. This free software and instructions on its installation are available to download at <http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/aedownload.html>.

### Getting Started

Download and unzip the data you wish to use from the SSDAN Kids Count website. After unzipping the folder, you will see five files. All five files are necessary to work with the Kids Count indicators in ArcExplorer.

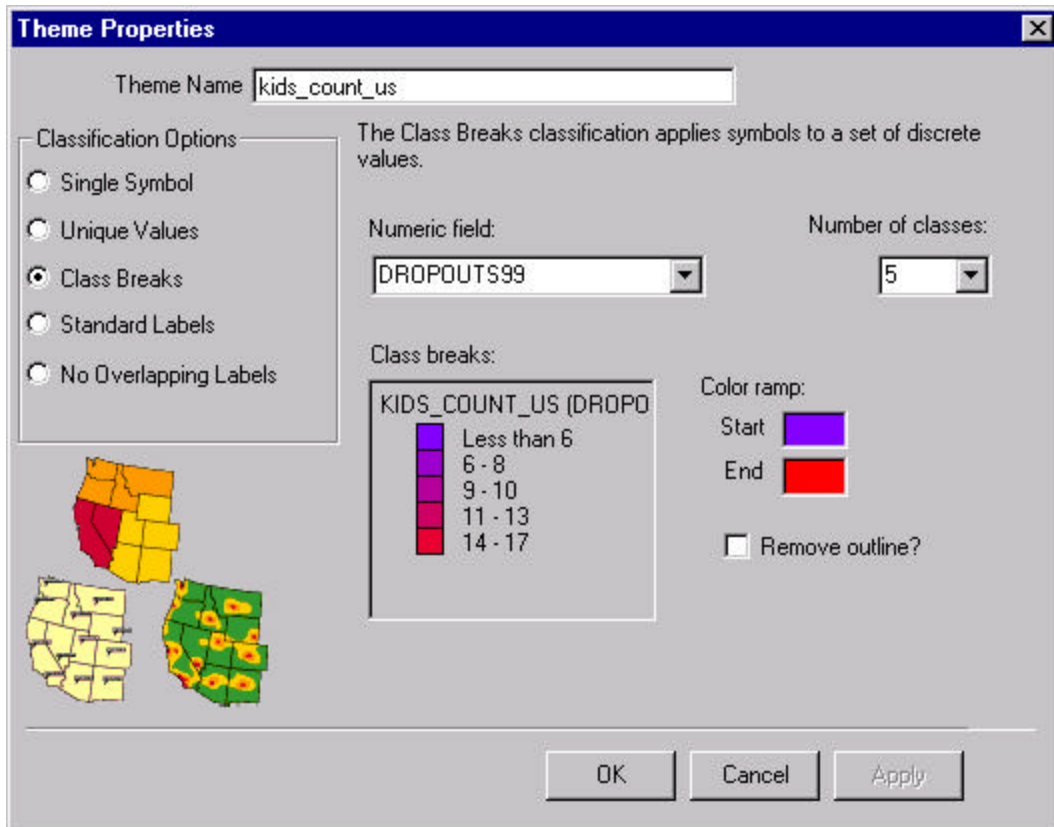
After opening ArcExplorer, select the option “Add Theme” under the theme menu. Use the directory tree on the left hand side of the window to locate the files you downloaded and unzipped. Select the .shp file you wish to use (for example, kids\_count\_us.shp, or kids\_count\_mn.shp) and click “Add Theme” in the upper right-hand corner. After adding the shapefile as a theme, click “Close”.



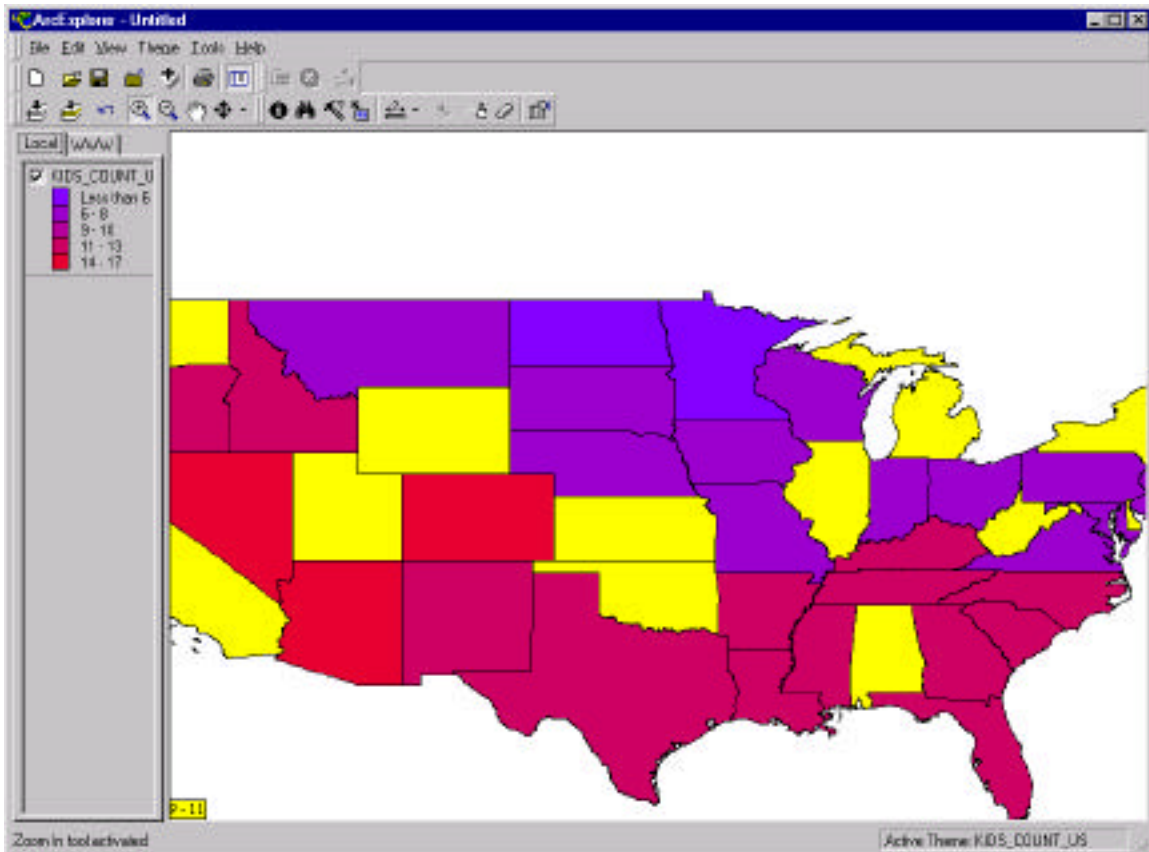
Once you’ve closed the window, you should see a blank workspace. To the left of the workspace is a legend area that should list the name of the theme you’ve just added, as well as any other themes you are working with. To make the theme active and your data visible, click on the check box next to the theme name.

### Mapping Data

To begin mapping Kids Count indicators, double click the theme name on the legend. This will open the Theme Properties window with the current theme’s data loaded. Under “Classification Options”, choose “Class Breaks.”



The “Numeric field” pull-down menu allows the user to select any one variable to map. Alternatively, the name of the variable can be typed directly into the field. ArcExplorer will automatically determine where the class breaks fall; however, the user may determine the number of classes. Click “Apply” to map the selected variable, and use “Cancel” to close the window. The variable should now be mapped in the workspace, and the legend will now include the class breaks. Clicking on the one of the colored blocks in the legend will highlight all the states or counties that fall into that class, and can be useful in identifying regional trends. To clear selections, click on the eraser icon on the toolbar.



Use the appendix at the end of this document for help in interpreting the variables.

(Note: ArcExplorer will sometimes read variable names beginning with an initial “%” as beginning with a “Z”, in which case they will appear at the end of an alphabetical list of variables.)

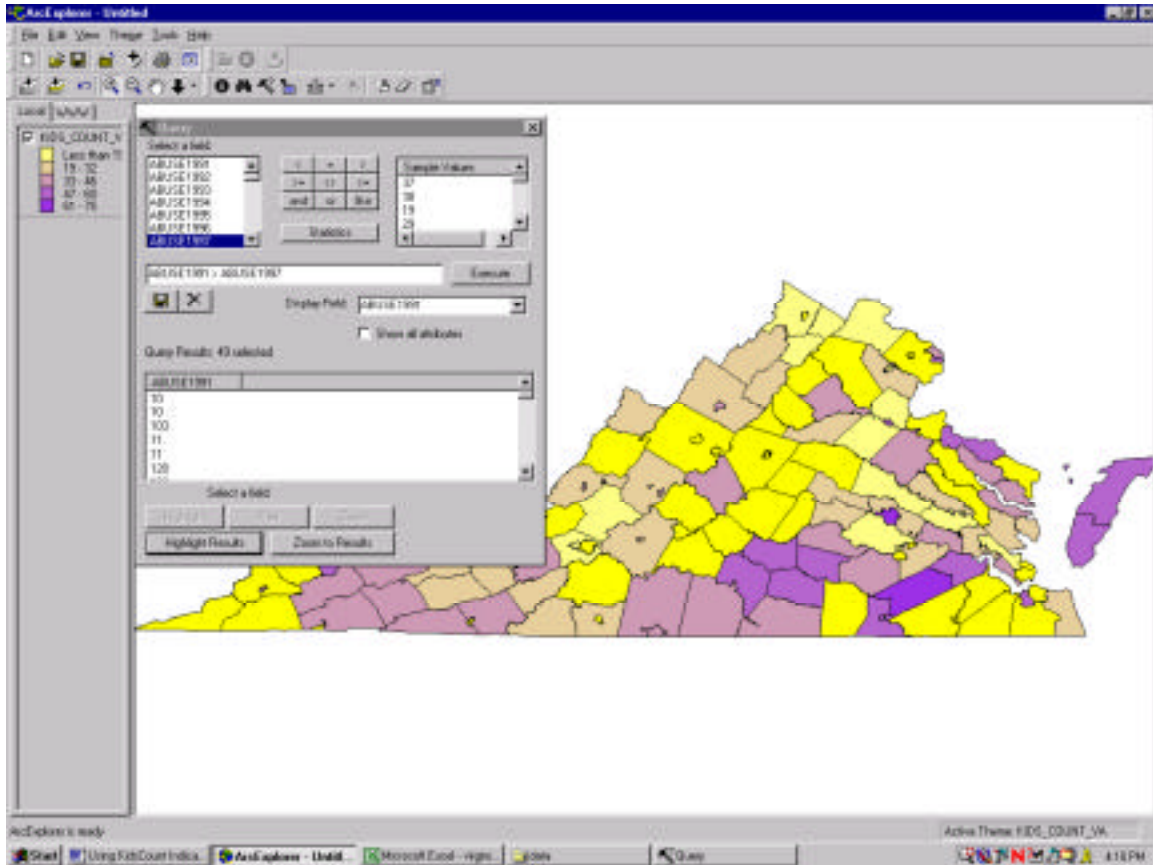
## Queries

More sophisticated data analysis is possible using ArcExplorer’s Query Building function. To begin using the Query Builder, click on the hammer icon on the tool bar, or select “Query Builder” under the tools menu.

There are two basic ways of using the Query Builder: first, to compare variables over time (For example, to ask the question: where were there more reported cases of child abuse in 1991 than in 1997?) and second, to identify where variables meet a certain threshold (For example, in how many Virginia counties did more than 50% of students qualify for reduced-price school lunches?).

To compare two variables, select the first variable from the list in the upper left-hand corner of the Query window. Then, choose your method of comparison from the buttons immediately to the right of the list. The top two rows will be most useful for the Kids Count data user. The contain “<” (less than), “=” (equal to), “>” (greater than), “>=”

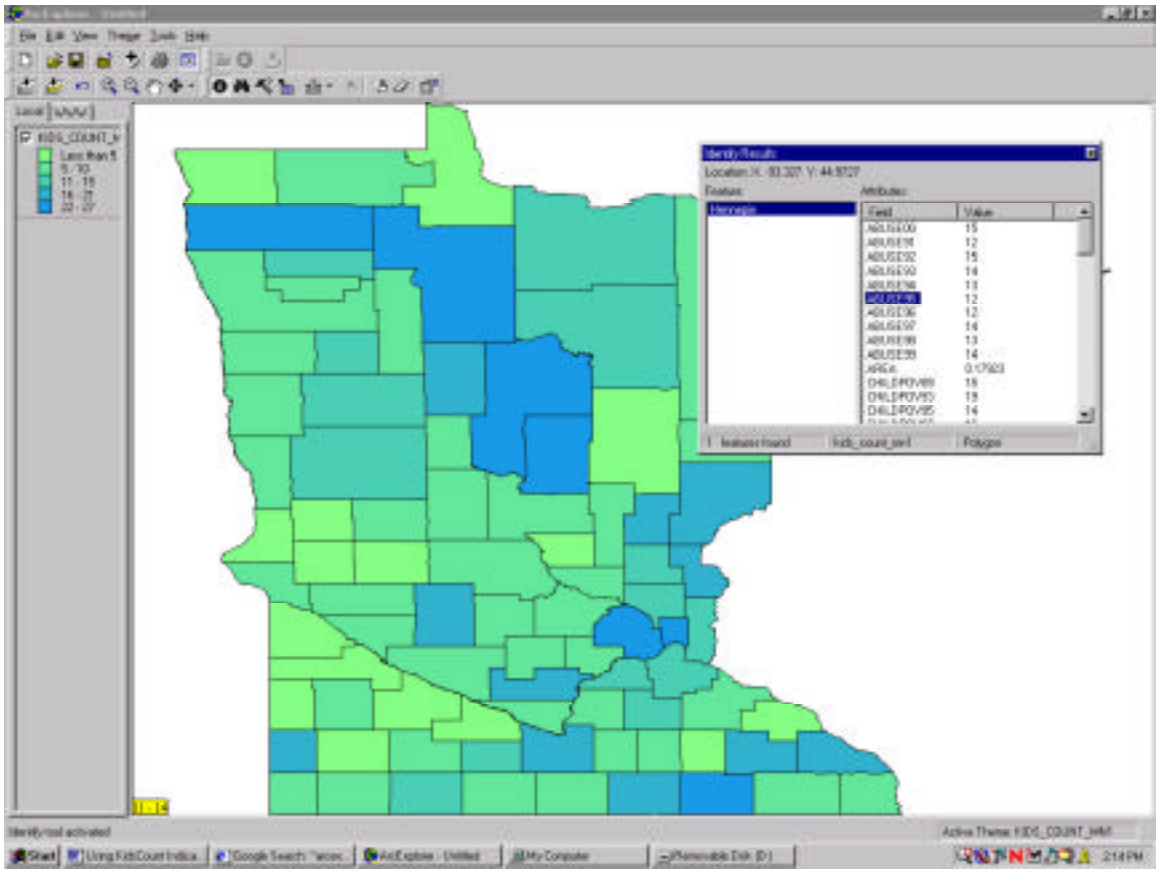
(greater than or equal to), “<>” (not equal to), and “<=”(less than or equal to). Click on the method you would like to use, and then select a second variable from the list to the left. Once you have selected your variables and comparison, click the “execute” button to calculate the number of counties or states that meet your criteria. To view the results on the map, click the “Highlight Results” button near the bottom of the Query window.



Comparing a single variable to a numeric threshold works in much the same way as comparing two variables; however, instead of entering a second variable, the user chooses a number. Choosing the “Statistics” button after you have selected a variable will generate a list of sample values based on your variable, but you may find it more useful to enter a number by hand.

### The Identify Tool

A final useful feature of ArcExplorer is the Identify Tool. To use this tool, select the “i” icon on the tool bar (a white letter “i” in a small black circle), or the “Identify” option under the Tools menu. The cursor will now appear with the “i” icon next to it. ArcExplorer will highlight any area you click on while this icon is showing, and call up a window showing the values for every Kids Count indicator available for that state (if using the US file) or county (if using a state file).



(Note: For most users, it will be helpful to sort the indicators in alphabetical order by clicking on the “Field” header.)

## Appendix

### Kids Count Indicators for the United States (by state)

| Variable | Years         | Description  |
|----------|---------------|--|
| NCR      | 1990,94,96-99 | National composite rank  |
| Poverty  | 1990,94,96-99 | Percent of children in poverty (data reflect poverty in the previous year)                   |
| SnglPar  | 1990-1999     | Percent of families with children headed by a single parent                                  |
| DropOuts | 1990-1999     | Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)                                   |
| InfMort  | 1990-1999     | Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)   |
| LowBW    | 1990-1999     | Percent low-birthweight babies   |
| Idle     | 1990-1999     | Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)                           |
| NoStdyWk | 1990-1999     | Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment  |
| TeenBrth | 1990-1999     | Teen birth rate (births per 100,000 females ages 15-17)                                      |
| TeenDth  | 1990-1999     | Rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19) |
| MdFamInc | 1999          | The median income of a family with children  |
| <18poor  | 1999          | Number of children under 18 in working-poor families   |
| %<18poor | 1999          | Percent of under 18 in working-poor families   |
| %ExtPov  | 1999          | Percent of Children in Extreme Poverty (income below 50% of poverty level)                   |
| %Alimony | 1999          | Percent of Female-headed families receiving child support or alimony                         |
| %fdstamp | 1999          | Percent of Children in low-income working families receiving food stamps                     |
| %w/oinsr | 1999          | Percent of Children in low-income working families without health insurance                  |
| %noinsur | 1999          | Percent of Children who do not have health insurance   |
| %2yrimmu | 1999          | Percent of 2 year olds who were immunized  |
| %3-5schl | 1999          | Percent of kids ages 3 to 5 who attend nursery school or kindergarten                        |
| %<6care  | 1999          | Children under age 6 in paid child care while parents work                                   |
| JvVCRmAR | 1997 & 1998   | Juvenile Arrest Rate For Violent Crimes Per 100,000 youths ages 10-17                        |
| JvPCrmAR | 1997 & 1998   | Juvenile Arrest Rate for Property Crimes per 100,000 youths ages 10-17                       |
| %4lowmth | 1996 & 2000   | Percent of 4th Graders scoring below the basic math level                                    |
| %4lowrdn | 1998          | Percent of 4th Graders scoring below the basic reading level in 1998                         |
| %8lowmth | 2000          | Percent of 8th Graders scoring below the basic math level                                    |
| White    | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is White   |
| Black    | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is Black   |
| AmIndian | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is American Indian or Native American                    |
| Asian    | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is Asian   |
| PacIsldr | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is Hawaii/Other Pacific Islander                         |
| Other    | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is some other race                                       |
| Twoplus  | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is two or more races                                     |
| Hisp     | 2000          | Percent of under 18 population that is Hispanic, regardless of race                          |
| Under18  | 1990 & 2000   | Number of children under 18  |
| Age0-4   | 1990 & 2000   | Number of children age 0-4   |
| Age5-11  | 1990 & 2000   | Number of children age 5-11  |
| Age12-14 | 1990 & 2000   | Number of children age 12-14   |
| Age15-17 | 1990 & 2000   | Number of children age 15-17   |
| Cg<18    | 2000          | Change in number of children under 18, 1990-2000   |
| %C<18    | 2000          | Percent change in number of children under 18, 1990-2000                                     |
| Cg0-4    | 2000          | Change in number of children age 0-4, 1990-2000  |
| %C0-4    | 2000          | Percent change in number of children age 0-4, 1990-2000                                      |
| C5-11    | 2000          | Change in number of children age 5-11, 1990-2000   |
| %C5-11   | 2000          | Percent change in number of children age 5-11, 1990-2000                                     |

|         |      |   |
|---------|------|---|
| C12-14  | 2000 | Change in number of children age 12-14, 1990-2000         |
| %C12-14 | 2000 | Percent change in number of children age 12-14, 1990-2000 |
| C15-17  | 2000 | Change in number of children age 15-17, 1990-2000         |
| %C15-17 | 2000 | Percent change in number of children age 15-17, 1990-2000 |

### Kids Count Indicators for Minnesota (by county)

| Variable  | Years           | Description  |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| ChildPov  | 89,93,95,97,98  | Percentage of Children in Poverty  |
| FoodStmp  | 1993-2000       | Percent of children receiving food stamps  |
| TeenMom   | 94,96-99        | Three-year average of children born to teens ages (15-17)  |
| LowBW     | 1991-2000       | Percent of children born at a low birth weight   |
| ChngSch   | 1993-1998, 2000 | Percent of children who changed schools within or outside of their school district in a given year   |
| LateGrad  | 1997-2000       | Percent of students in grade 12 who have either dropped out during 9-12 <sup>th</sup> grades or are continuing their education and thus are not graduating with their class              |
| SerCrime  | 1991-2000       | Number of children per 1000 under 18 arrested for Part I crimes: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson                                   |
| Abuse     | 1991-2000       | Number of children per 1000 for whom a report of child abuse or neglect was substantiated by a county child protection worker  |
| Placement | 1991-2000       | The number of children who spent time in foster care, group homes, emergency shelter or residential treatment facilities during the year, including those formally placed with relatives |

### Kids Count Indicators for Virginia (by county/independent city)

| Variable | Years     | Description   |
|----------|-----------|---|
| PRENA    | 1991-1997 | Number of women who received prenatal care in first trimester   |
| LOWBW    | 1991-1997 | Number of low birth-weight births   |
| INFDH    | 1991-1997 | Number of infant deaths (under 1 year old)  |
| 114DH    | 1991-1997 | Number of deaths (ages 1 - 14)  |
| STD      | 1993-1997 | Number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases (ages 12-17)   |
| ABUSE    | 1991-1997 | Founded (substantiated) victims of child abuse and neglect  |
| TVDTH    | 1991-1997 | Teen violent deaths (ages 15-17)  |
| DELQI    | 1993-1996 | Number of intake cases involving delinquency  |
| DRUGS    | 1993-1997 | Number of children possessing alcohol or drugs in school  |
| WEAPS    | 1993-1997 | Number of children possessing weapons in school   |
| VCRIM    | 1991-1997 | Number of juvenile arrests for violent crime  |
| St425    | 1991-1997 | Percent of fourth graders whose composite standardized scores were above the 25th percentile                                  |
| LPT      | 1991-1997 | Percent of sixth graders who passed all three Literacy Passport tests   |
| HSDRP    | 1991-1997 | Percent of 9th - 12th graders who dropped out of public school  |
| PPE      | 1991-1997 | Per-pupil expenditures  |
| SE618    | 1991-1997 | Number of children, ages 6-8, who qualify for special education services  |
| Pro      | 1993-1997 | Percent of children in grades K-3 who were promoted   |
| BTH18    | 1991-1997 | Births to girls under age 18  |
| OOWBH    | 1991-1997 | Number of out-of-wedlock births   |
| FCARE    | 1991-1997 | Number of children in out-of-home foster care   |
| LUNCH    | 1991-1997 | Percent of children qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches  |
| WELFARE  | 1991-1997 | Number of children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) |
| UNEMP    | 1991-1997 | Unemployment rate   |

|        |           |  |
|--------|-----------|--|
| PCINC  | 1991-1996 | Per capita income                        |
| HSTART | 1996-1997 | Number of children enrolled in HeadStart |