

A Measure

of How Families Are Doing

The ten categories listed across the top of this chart are elements of family life which can be measured to determine if and where a family is at risk. The descriptors in the shaded rows are not meant to offer a total picture of families functioning at each stratum of well-being, but instead, are intended to provide general characteristics of families who fall in the three strata.

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		SHELTER	NUTRITION	HEALTH CARE	ALCOHOL/ DRUG USE	EMPLOYMENT	INCOME/ BUDGET	ADULT EDUCATION	CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	PARENTING	FAMILY RELATIONS	
0	Thriving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lives in housing of choice - Spends less than 20% of income for shelter - Feels safe and secure in home and neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can afford a variety of foods - Has appliances, utensils to prepare food in a variety of methods - Has and uses knowledge of basic nutrition - Eats well-balanced, regularly scheduled meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established with health care professionals - Covered by comprehensive insurance - Practice preventive health habits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members do not use illegal drugs; alcohol used in moderation if at all - Former abusers are following effective recovery treatment - Parents help children learn skills needed for healthy, abuse-free life style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constant new development of transferable skills - Employed by thriving business offering comprehensive benefit package - Steady advancement in career of choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient to allow family choices - Able to save 10% of income - Established relationship with financial institution - Pays bills on time; manages debt load without depriving family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has post secondary education or training - Positive, supportive attitude toward learning; takes advantages of opportunities to learn - Sets and pursues long range career and personal goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little or no absenteeism - High marks in most subjects - No discipline problems - Children are leaders among other students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children live with parent(s) or permanent guardians - Mutually agreed upon rules and expectations; conflicts easily negotiated - Children happy, socially well adjusted - Children enjoy parent(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong supportive network of family and friends - Active in community - Strong, positive family identity - Nurturing; consistently care for family members 	<p>This family is continually growing and contributing to its and the community's well-being</p>
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lives in affordable housing - Spends less than 1/3 of income for shelter - Able to secure home; feels safe in neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has enough food to satisfy hunger - Has appliances and utensils needed to prepare food - Understands basic nutrition - Eats three meals a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can get medical care when needed - Insurance covers partial cost of care; can make arrangements to pay balance - Sounds basic health, hygiene, practices, seeks timely treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No drug or alcohol abuse in immediate family - Abusers have sought treatment - Parents discuss use of drugs/alcohol with children and model appropriate behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has attained marketable skills - Employed by secure company offering some benefits - Long-term employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient to meet basic family needs - Plans and sticks to monthly budget; saves when possible - Able to obtain secured credit - Pays bills on time; delays purchases to handle debt load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have high school diploma (GED) - Ambivalent attitude towards learning - Sets and pursues short term career and personal goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absenteeism is not high enough to be a concern - Passing marks in all subjects - Few discipline problems - Children get along with other students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children live with parents and are physically and emotionally safe - Realistic rules; manageable conflict - Children usually happy, outgoing; little violence or aggression - Able to relate to parent(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive extended family support - Feel a part of the community - Sense of family unit - Members physically safe, emotionally secure; seek to change negative behaviors; 	
2	Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lines in temporary shared housing - Spends over 1/3 of income for shelter - Deteriorating housing conditions feels afraid in home neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough food family members are hungry - Unable to prepare food - Little or no nutritional knowledge - Eats when food is available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can't always get medical care - Not covered by insurance and equate income - Doesn't care for self, ignores health problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of illegal drugs/abuse of alcohol or prescription drugs - Abuser denies problem refuses to seek treatment - No discussion of drugs/alcohol usage in home; parents exhibit abusive behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum/entry level job skills - Short-term temporary or no employment, no benefits, no growth opportunities - Lacks job seeking skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unable to meet its basic needs - Spontaneous inappropriate spending, no savings - Unable to obtain credit - Unpaid bills overwhelming debt load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School dropout history of academic failure - Does not consider learning important - Does not set nor pursue systematic careers and personal goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High absenteeism - Failing one or more subjects - Continual discipline problem - Children in conflict with other students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outside placement threatened/ children have run away from home - Unrealistic or non-existing rules constant conflict - Children unhappy withdrawn violent/aggressive - Fearful of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members do not relate to one another - Isolated from others - No family identity, family make-up changes frequently - Nurturing withheld member are subjected to physical violence 	<p>This family cannot meet its needs; growth potential of its members is minimal</p>
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lives in affordable housing - Spends less than 1/3 of income for shelter - Able to secure home; feels safe in neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has enough food to satisfy hunger - Has appliances and utensils needed to prepare food - Understands basic nutrition - Eats three meals a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can get medical care when needed - Insurance covers partial cost of care; can make arrangements to pay balance - Sounds basic health, hygiene, practices, seeks timely treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No drug or alcohol abuse in immediate family - Abusers have sought treatment - Parents discuss use of drugs/alcohol with children and model appropriate behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has attained marketable skills - Employed by secure company offering some benefits - Long-term employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient to meet basic family needs - Plans and sticks to monthly budget; saves when possible - Able to obtain secured credit - Pays bills on time; delays purchases to handle debt load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have high school diploma (GED) - Ambivalent attitude towards learning - Sets and pursues short term career and personal goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absenteeism is not high enough to be a concern - Passing marks in all subjects - Few discipline problems - Children get along with other students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children live with parents and are physically and emotionally safe - Realistic rules; manageable conflict - Children usually happy, outgoing; little violence or aggression - Able to relate to parent(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive extended family support - Feel a part of the community - Sense of family unit - Members physically safe, emotionally secure; seek to change negative behaviors; 	
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