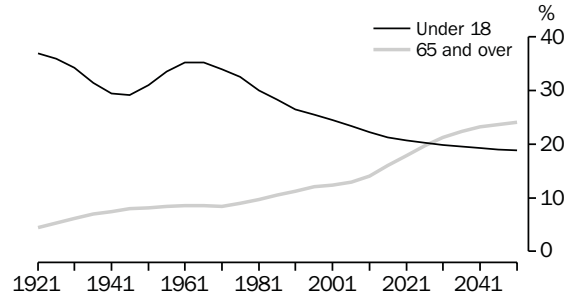




AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN 1998–1999



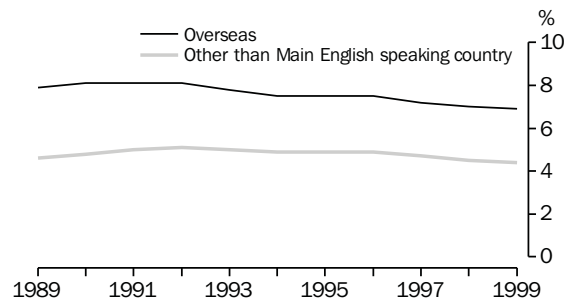
AGE GROUPS IN THE POPULATION



- The proportion of children under 18 in the population has declined in the last decade from 27% in 1989 to 25% in 1999, and is projected to fall to around 20% by 2051.
- Of Australia's 4,724,900 children in 1999, 4% (207,400) were estimated to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories (various issues) (Cat. no. 3201.0); Population Projections, 1997 to 2051 (Cat. no. 3222.0); and unpublished data, Estimated Resident Population, Population Projections and Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population—High Series.

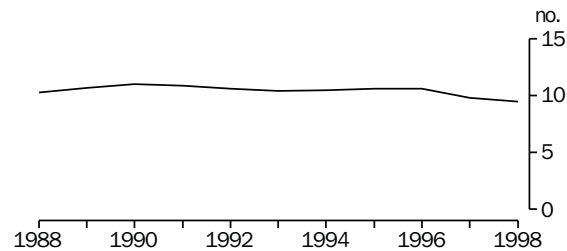
CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY BIRTHPLACE



- Over the last ten years, the proportion of children born overseas has remained steady.
- In 1999, 7% of children were born overseas, with around two-thirds from other than mainly English speaking countries.

Source: Unpublished data, Estimated Resident Population, 1989 to 1999.

TEENAGE BIRTH RATE(a)

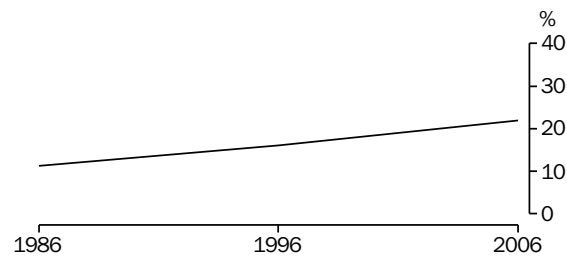


(a) Confinements per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

- The teenage birth rate has declined slightly since 1990.
- In 1998 there were 9.5 confinements per 1,000 females aged 15-17, down from 11.0 in 1990.

Source: *Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999* (Cat. no. 4119.0) and unpublished data, Births, 1998.

CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES(a)

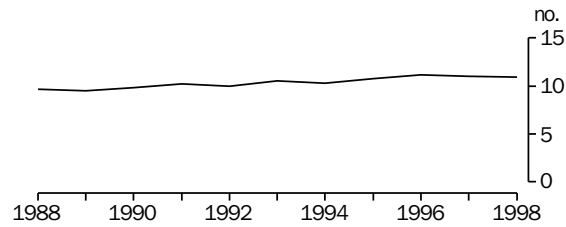


(a) Series C projection for 2006.

- Children in one-parent families increased from 11% in 1986 to 16% in 1996 and are projected to reach 22% by 2006 if current trends continue.
- In 1997, 978,400 children (21%) had a natural parent who did not live with them. Over three-quarters of these children were living in one-parent families.

Sources: *Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999* (Cat. no. 4119.0) and unpublished data, Population Projections.

CHILDREN UNDER 18 WHO EXPERIENCED PARENTAL DIVORCE(a)

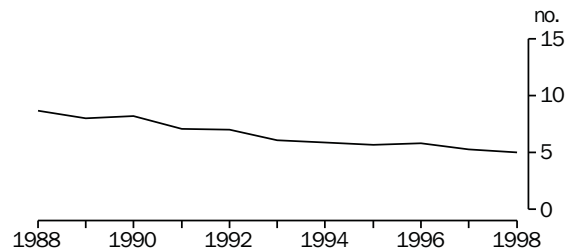


(a) Rate per 1,000 children under 18 in the population.

- Children who experienced the divorce of their parents increased slightly from 9.7 per 1,000 children in 1988 to 10.9 in 1998.
- During 1998, there were 51,600 children whose parents divorced.

Source: *Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999* (Cat. no. 4119.0) and unpublished data, Marriages and Divorces, 1998.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE(a)

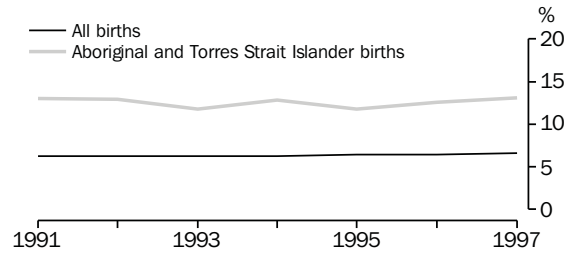


(a) Infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

- The infant mortality rate has declined steadily in the last 10 years from 8.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988 to 5.0 in 1998.
- In 1998, the Indigenous infant mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 15.2 (for combined total of Qld, SA, WA and NT only).

Source: *Deaths, Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0).

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES(a)

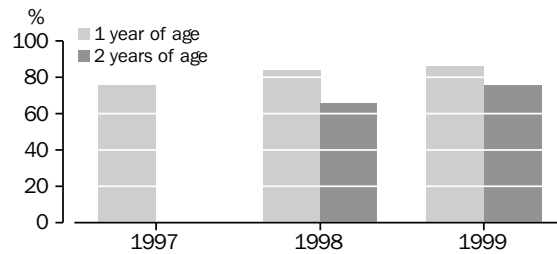


(a) Less than 2,500g.

- The proportion of low birthweight babies has changed little in recent years, remaining steady at 7% of all babies.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies were nearly twice as likely to be of low birthweight, 13% in 1997.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Perinatal Statistics Unit, *Australia's Mothers and Babies* (various issues), AIHW, Sydney.

CHILDREN AGED 1–2 FULLY IMMUNISED(a)

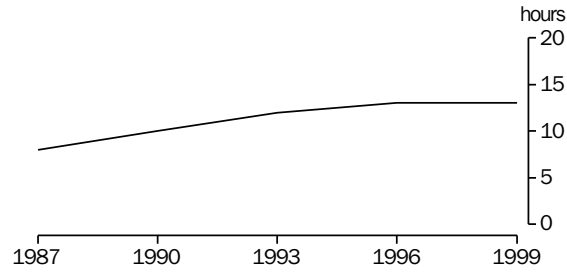


(a) Data for children 2 years of age are not available for 1997.

- In 1999, 87% of 1 year old children were registered as being fully immunised.
- The proportion was lower for 2 year old children (76%).

Source: *Communicable Diseases Intelligence* (various issues), National Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and Aged Care.

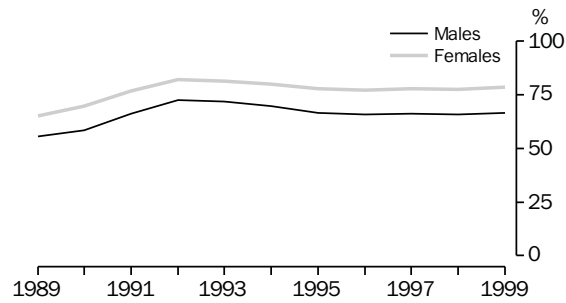
CHILDREN UNDER 5—MEDIAN HOURS PER WEEK SPENT IN CARE



- In 1999, half of all children under 5 using child care spent 13 hours or more in care per week, an increase from 8 hours in 1987.
- In 1999, 66% of children under 5 used child care, of whom more than 1 in 3 used informal care (e.g. by relatives) only.

Source: *Child Care, Australia* (Cat. no. 4402.0) and unpublished data, Child Care Survey (various years).

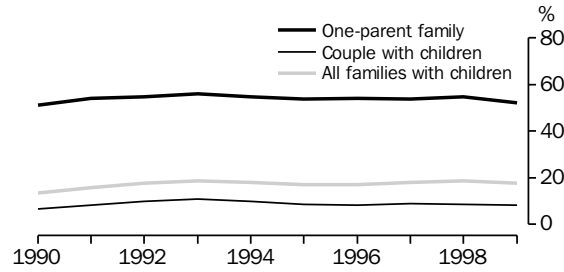
YEAR 12 APPARENT RETENTION RATES



- After peaking in the early 90s, apparent retention rates to Year 12 have declined slightly.
- In 1999, the rate was 79% for girls and 66% for boys.

Source: *Schools, Australia* (various issues) (Cat. no. 4221.0).

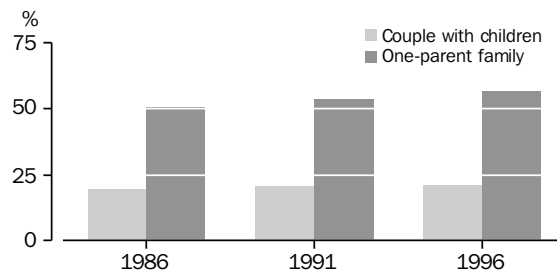
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 WITH NO PARENT EMPLOYED



- In the last 10 years, the proportion of families with children under 18 with no parent employed has fluctuated, ranging from 14% in 1990 to 19% in 1993.
- The proportion was consistently higher for one-parent families than couple families (52% and 8% in 1999).
- In 1999, 9% of families with children under 18 had one or both parents employed part time, and no parent employed full time.

Source: Unpublished data, Labour Force Survey, June 1990 to June 1999.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18—PROPORTION RENTING THEIR HOMES



- In 1996, 28% of families with children under 18 were renting their homes, compared with 24% in 1986 and 26% in 1991.
- More than half (57%) of all one-parent families were renting in 1996.

Source: Unpublished data, Census of Population and Housing (various years).

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