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Study finds problems at home can limit child's success as adult

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One in every seven American children faces family problems that greatly limit his or her chances of future success, according to the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The foundation's 1999 Kids Count survey measured six factors:

growing up in a single-parent home, having parents with low educational attainment, living in poverty, having parents who are not in the work force, being dependent on welfare and lacking health insurance.

The survey found 9.2 million children had at least four risk factors; it noted that 26 percent of

children with four or more risk factors were high school dropouts, compared to only 1 percent among those with no risk factors.

And 16 percent of girls in the high-risk group became teen-age mothers, compared to one-tenth of 1 percent of those with no risk factors.