



Succeeding Generations: On the Effects of Investments in Children

Robert Haveman, Barbara Wolfe

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Drawn from an extensive two-decade longitudinal survey of American families, *Succeeding Generations* traces a representative group of America's children from their early years through young adulthood. It evaluates the many background factors that are most influential in determining how much education children will obtain, whether or not they will become teen parents, and how economically active they will be when they reach their twenties. *Succeeding Generations* demonstrates how our children's future has been placed at risk by social and economic conditions such as fractured families, a troubled economy, rising poverty rates, and neighborhood erosion. The authors also pinpoint some significant causes of children's later success, emphasizing the importance of parents' education and, despite the apparent loss of time spent with children, the generally positive influence of maternal employment. Haveman and Wolfe supplement their research with a comprehensive review of the many debates among economists, sociologists, developmental psychologists, and other experts on how best to improve the lot of America's children.

"A state-of-the-art investigation of the determinants of children's success in the United States....Clearly written, highly readable, and compelling."—*Contemporary Sociology*

"Haveman and Wolfe are professors of economics who bring sophisticated statistical and econometric techniques to the analysis of the economic and educational success of children as they progress into young adulthood."—*Choice*

"This study is one of the most comprehensive of its kind, in part because the researchers collected detailed information about a wide range of children each year for more than two decades." —*Wisconsin State Journal*

"The research at the core of this book addresses critically important questions in social science...an important contribution to the literature." —*Robert Plotnick, University of Washington*

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