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Volume Title: Fatal Years: Child Mortality in Late Nineteenth-Century America

Volume Author/Editor: Samuel H. Preston and Michael R. Haines

Volume Publisher: Princeton University Press

Volume ISBN: 0-691-04268-3

Volume URL: http://www.nber.org/books/pres91-1

Conference Date: n/a

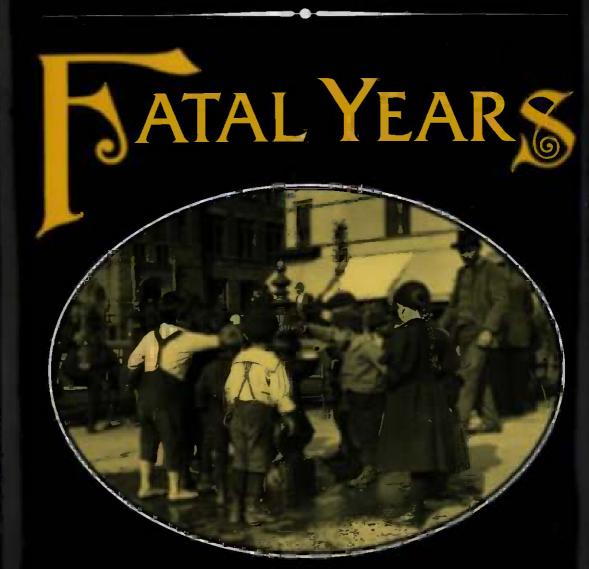
Publication Date: January 1991

Chapter Title: Front matter, tables of content

Chapter Author: Samuel H. Preston, Michael R. Haines

Chapter URL: http://www.nber.org/chapters/c11539

Chapter pages in book: (p. -23 - -8)



Child Mortality in Late Nineteenth-Century America

Samuel H. Preston and Michael R. Haines

FATAL YEARS

Child Mortality in Late Nineteenth-Century America

SAMUEL H. PRESTON AND MICHAEL R. HAINES

Fatal Years is the first systematic study of child mortality in the United States in the late nineteenth century. Exploiting newly discovered data from the 1900 Census of Population, Samuel Preston and Michael Haines present their findings in a volume that is not only a pioneering work of demography but also an accessible and moving historical narrative.

Despite having a rich, well fed, and highly literate population, the United States had exceptionally high childmortality levels during this period: nearly one out of every five children died before the age of five. Preston and Haines challenge accepted opinion to show that losses in privileged social groups were as appalling as those among lower classes. Improvements came only with better knowledge about infectious diseases and greater public efforts to limit their spread. The authors look at a wide range of topics, including differences in mortality in urban versus rural areas and the differences in child mortality among various immigrant groups.

Samuel H. Preston is the Frederick J. Warren Professor of Demography and Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Michael R. Haines is the Banfi Vintners Distinguished Professor of Economics at Colgate University.

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FATAL YEARS

CHILD MORTALITY IN LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA

Samuel H. Preston and Michael R. Haines



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 41 WILLIAM STREET,

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

PRESTON, SAMUEL H.

FATAL YEARS : CHILD MORTALITY IN LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA /
SAMUEL H. PRESTON AND MICHAEL R. HAINES.

P. CM.

 ${\tt INCLUDES\ BIBLIOGRAPHICAL\ REFERENCES\ AND\ INDEX}.$

ISBN 0-691-04268-3 (ALK PAPER)

1. CHILDREN—UNITED STATES—MORTALITY—HISTORY—19TH CENTURY.

1. HAINES, MICHAEL R. II. TITLE.

HB1323.C52U67 1991 304.6'4'083—DC20 90-45129 CIP

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