

**SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Child Population  
Characteristics**



**Neighborhoods**

### PF 2.1 Families with Children

Since 1960, Americans have been moving toward having families with fewer children. Indeed, a growing percentage of families have no minor children of their own in their household. Between 1960 and 2000, the percentage of families with four or more of their own children under age 18 in the household decreased from 9 percent to 3 percent (Figure PF 2.1). During the same period, the proportion of families with no minor children grew from 43 percent to 52 percent.

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.**<sup>1</sup> These general trends are also evident when White, Black, and Hispanic families are considered separately, though the levels are substantially different for each group (Table PF 2.1). For example, between 1970 and 2000 the percentage of Black families with four or more children dropped from 19 percent to four percent. The percentage for Whites during that period went from 9 percent to 3 percent. For Hispanic families, the percentage dropped from 10 percent to 6 percent between 1980 (the first year for which Hispanic estimates are available) and 2000.

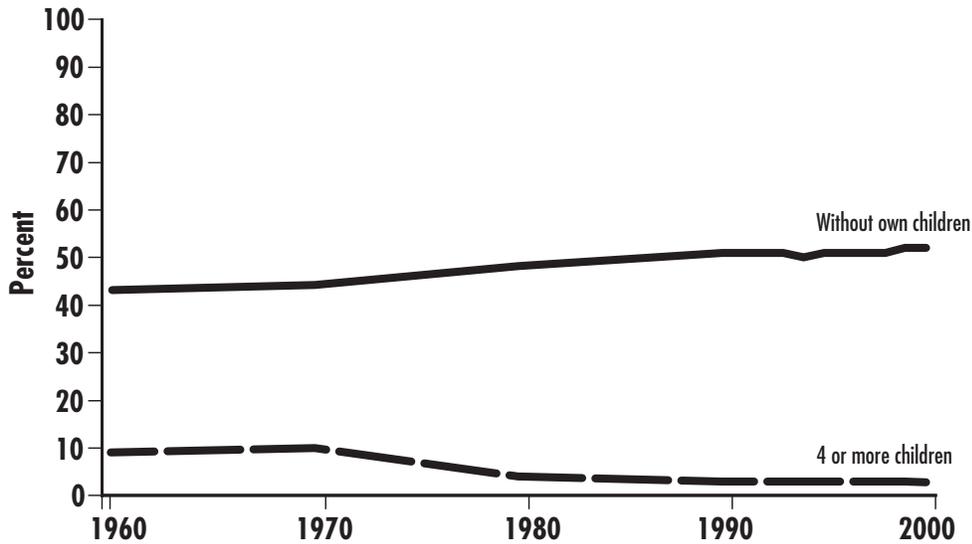
In 2000, Black and Hispanic families were considerably less likely than White families to be without any minor children, with proportions of 45 percent and 36 percent respectively, compared to 53 percent for Whites. They also were more likely than White families to have four or more children, though these differences were smaller than in previous decades.

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<sup>1</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

**Figure PF 2.1**

Percentage of families with no children, and with four or more resident children: 1960-2000



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2001). *America's Families and Living Arrangements*, P-20(537); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(509); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(515); U.S. Census Bureau (1997). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(495); U.S. Census Bureau (1996). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(488); U.S. Census Bureau (1994). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(477); U.S. Census Bureau (1993). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(467); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(458); U.S. Census Bureau (1990). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(447); U.S. Census Bureau (1981). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(366); U.S. Census Bureau (1971). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(218); U.S. Census Bureau (1961). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(106).

## Family Structure

**Table PF 2.1**

Percentage distribution of families by number of own children and by race and Hispanic origin:<sup>a</sup>  
Selected years, 1960-2000

	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>All families</b>										
Without own children	43	44	48	51	51	51	51	51	52	52
One child	19	18	21	21	20	20	20	20	20	20
2 children	18	17	19	19	19	19	19	19	18	18
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	8	7	7
4 or more children	9	10	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>White families</b>										
Without own children	43	45	49	51	52	52	52	52	53	53
One child	19	18	21	21	20	19	20	20	19	19
2 children	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	18	18	18
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
4 or more children	9	9	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
<b>Black families</b>										
Without own children	—	39	38	41	42	43	42	42	44	45
One child	—	18	23	25	24	24	24	23	24	24
2 children	—	15	20	19	20	18	20	21	19	19
3 children	—	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
4 or more children	—	19	8	6	5	5	5	4	4	4
<b>Hispanic families</b>										
Without own children	—	—	31	37	36	36	35	36	37	36
One child	—	—	23	23	23	23	24	23	23	24
2 children	—	—	23	21	23	23	23	23	22	22
3 children	—	—	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
4 or more children	—	—	10	7	7	7	6	6	6	6

<sup>a</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

— Data not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2001). *America's Families and Living Arrangements*, P-20(537); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(509); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(515); U.S. Census Bureau (1997). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(495); U.S. Census Bureau (1996). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(488); U.S. Census Bureau (1994). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(477); U.S. Census Bureau (1993). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(467); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(458); U.S. Census Bureau (1990). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(447); U.S. Census Bureau (1981). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(366); U.S. Census Bureau (1971). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(218); U.S. Census Bureau (1961). *Household and Family Characteristics*, P-20(106).

## SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

## PF 2.2 Living Arrangements of Children

Family structure is one of many factors that contributes to child well-being. It is also associated with the well-being of the child as an adult. For example, children from disrupted families or families where the parents never married are somewhat more likely to use alcohol and drugs, to become teen parents, and are less likely to earn a high school diploma than children from intact families. These associations are evident even after controlling for family socioeconomic status, race, and other background factors.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the great majority of children brought up in single-parent families do well. In particular, differences in well-being between children from divorced and those from intact families tend, on average, to be moderate to small.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1970 and 2000, the proportion of children in two-parent families (about 64 percent of whom live with both biological parents)<sup>3</sup> decreased from 85 percent to 69 percent (Table PF 2.2.A).

In 2000, 22 percent of children lived with their mother only; four percent lived with their father only;<sup>4</sup> and 4 percent lived with neither parent (Table PF 2.2.A).<sup>5</sup> Of those who lived with neither parent, approximately one-half were residing with one or more grandparents as of 1996 (Table PF 2.2.B).

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.**<sup>6</sup> The decrease in the proportion of children living in two-parent families is evident for Black, White, non-Hispanic, and Hispanic children, though the decline is somewhat steeper for Black children (Figure PF 2.2). Between 1970 and 1996, the proportion of Black children living in two-parent families fell by 25 percentage points from 58 percent to 33 percent (Table PF 2.2.A). However, between 1996 and 2000, that percentage increased modestly to 38 percent. Between 1970 and 2000, the drop for White, non-Hispanic children was 13 percentage points, from 90 percent to 77 percent. For Hispanic children, the percentage living in two-parent families decreased from 78 percent to 65 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Amato, P. R. (1993). Children's Adjustment to Divorce: Theories, Hypotheses, and Empirical Support. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 55 23-58.

<sup>2</sup> Zill, N., Morrison, D., and Coiro, M. (1993). Long-Term Effects of Parental Divorce on Parent-Child Relationships: Adjustment and Achievement in Early Adulthood. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 7(1) 91-103.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2001). *Current Population Reports*, P-70(74).

<sup>4</sup> The Current Population Survey overestimates the proportion of children living in father-only families, because it identifies many cohabiting biological-parent couples as father-only. Though the precise size of the overestimate is not known, analyses of the 1996 Survey of Income and Program Participation indicate that a little over 2 percent of all children actually lived in father-only families in that year.

<sup>5</sup> Data from the 1996 Current Population Survey (not shown) indicate that 11 percent of all children under age 18 who are living in families live with single parents who are divorced. See Saluter, A. (1997). *Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996*, PPL-66(Update).

<sup>6</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Blacks include Hispanics of that race.

## SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, &amp; NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 2.2.A

Percentage distribution of living arrangements of children by race and Hispanic origin:<sup>a</sup>  
Selected years, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	1995 <sup>b</sup>	1996 <sup>b</sup>	1997 <sup>b</sup>	1998 <sup>b</sup>	1999 <sup>b</sup>	2000 <sup>b</sup>
<b>All children</b>									
Two parents <sup>c</sup>	85	77	73	69	68	68	68	68	69
Mother only <sup>d</sup>	11	18	22	23	24	24	23	23	22
Father only <sup>d</sup>	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
No parent	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
<b>White, non-Hispanic</b>									
Two parents <sup>c</sup>	90	83	81	78	77	77	76	77	77
Mother only <sup>d</sup>	8	14	15	16	16	17	16	16	16
Father only <sup>d</sup>	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	4	4
No parent	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Black</b>									
Two parents <sup>c</sup>	58	42	38	33	33	35	36	35	38
Mother only <sup>d</sup>	30	44	51	52	53	52	51	52	49
Father only <sup>d</sup>	2	2	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
No parent	10	12	8	11	9	8	9	10	9
<b>Hispanic</b>									
Two parents <sup>c</sup>	78	75	67	63	62	64	64	63	65
Mother only <sup>d</sup>	—	20	27	28	29	27	27	27	25
Father only <sup>d</sup>	—	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	4
No parent	—	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	5

<sup>a</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Blacks include Hispanics of that race.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in these years may reflect changes in the Current Population Survey because of newly instituted computer-assisted interviewing techniques and/or because of the change in the population controls to the 1990 Census-based estimates, with adjustments.

<sup>c</sup> Excludes families where parents are not living as a married couple.

<sup>d</sup> Because of data limitations, includes some families where both parents are present in the household, but living as unmarried partners.

— Data not available.

Sources: Fields, J. & Casper, L. M. (2001). *America's Families and Living Arrangement: March 2000*. (Issue No. 537). Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(496u); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(506u); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(514u); U.S. Census Bureau (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(491); U.S. Census Bureau (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(484); U.S. Census Bureau (1994). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(478); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(461); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(468); U.S. Census Bureau (1986). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(410).

## Family Structure

**Table PF 2.2.B**

Percentage distribution of children under age 18 in two-parent, one-parent, or no-parent families,<sup>a</sup> by age and race and Hispanic origin:<sup>b</sup> 1996

	Two-parent families			Single-parent families			No parents present	
	Total	Biological parents	One biological, One step-parent	Total	Biological mother	Biological father	Total	Grandparents
<b>All children</b>	70.9	64.2	6.7	25.4	22.7	2.5	3.7	1.8
Under age 5	74.3	72.5	1.9	23.0	21.6	1.2	2.6	1.5
Ages 5-14	70.5	62.8	7.7	25.9	23.0	2.8	3.6	1.8
Ages 15-17	66.3	54.9	11.4	27.7	23.7	3.8	6.0	2.0
<b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>								
White, non-Hispanic	79.0	71.5	7.5	18.5	15.5	2.9	2.5	1.1
Black, non-Hispanic	36.9	31.7	5.2	54.9	52.5	2.0	8.2	5.1
American Indian/ Alaska Native	62.2	54.0	8.2	32.1	29.4	2.1	5.8	3.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	83.6	80.3	3.3	14.3	12.6	1.4	2.1	0.9
Hispanic	68.2	62.9	5.3	27.5	25.7	1.7	4.3	1.4

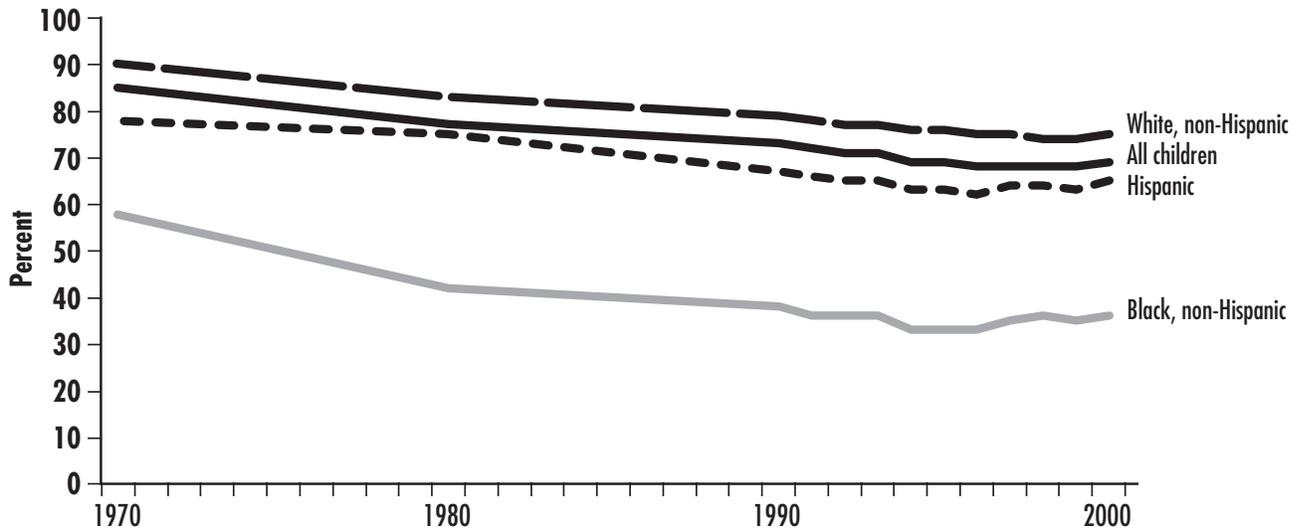
<sup>a</sup> Totals for two-parent, one-parent, and no-parent families include categories beyond those presented separately.

<sup>b</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2001). *Current Population Reports*, P-70(74).

Figure PF 2.2

Percentage of children under age 18 who are living with two parents, by race and Hispanic origin:<sup>a</sup>  
1970-2000<sup>b</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in the years 1994 and beyond may reflect changes in the Current Population Survey because of newly constituted computer-assisted interviewing techniques and/or because of the change in the population controls to the 1990 Census-based estimates, with adjustments.

Sources: Fields, J. & Casper, L. M. (2001). *America's Families and Living Arrangement: March 2000*. (537). Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(496u); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(506u); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(514u); U.S. Census Bureau (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(491); U.S. Census Bureau (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(484); U.S. Census Bureau (1994). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(478); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(461); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(468); U.S. Census Bureau (1986). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(410).

## PF 2.3 Percentage of All Births to Unmarried Females

Children who are born to single females, regardless of age, are considerably more likely than children born to two parents to grow up poor, to spend large portions of their childhood without two parents, and to become single parents themselves.<sup>1</sup> Bearing children outside of marriage is a particularly troubling development for youth when young females have little education and lack the ability to support their children economically, especially as single parents.

**Differences by Age.** Nonmarital childbearing increased among females of all age groups between 1960 and 1994 before dropping off modestly in 1995.

However, nonmarital births as a percent of all births have increased among youth since 1960 (Figures PF 2.3.A and B). Among all females ages 15 to 19, 14.8 percent of births were nonmarital in 1960, compared with 78.9 percent in 2001. The percentage of births to youth that occurred outside of marriage rose fairly steadily through 2001.

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.**<sup>2</sup> The percentage of all births to unmarried females increased for Whites, American Indians, and Hispanics between 1980 and 2000 (Table PF 2.3.A). The percentage increased steadily for Black females between 1980 and 1995 and has declined slightly since 1995. The percentage of all births to unmarried Asian females steadily increased from 1980 to 1996, but the percentage decreased in 1997 and was unchanged in 1998. In 2000, the percentage of unmarried Asian females giving birth had decreased to 14.8 percent (Table PF 2.3.A).

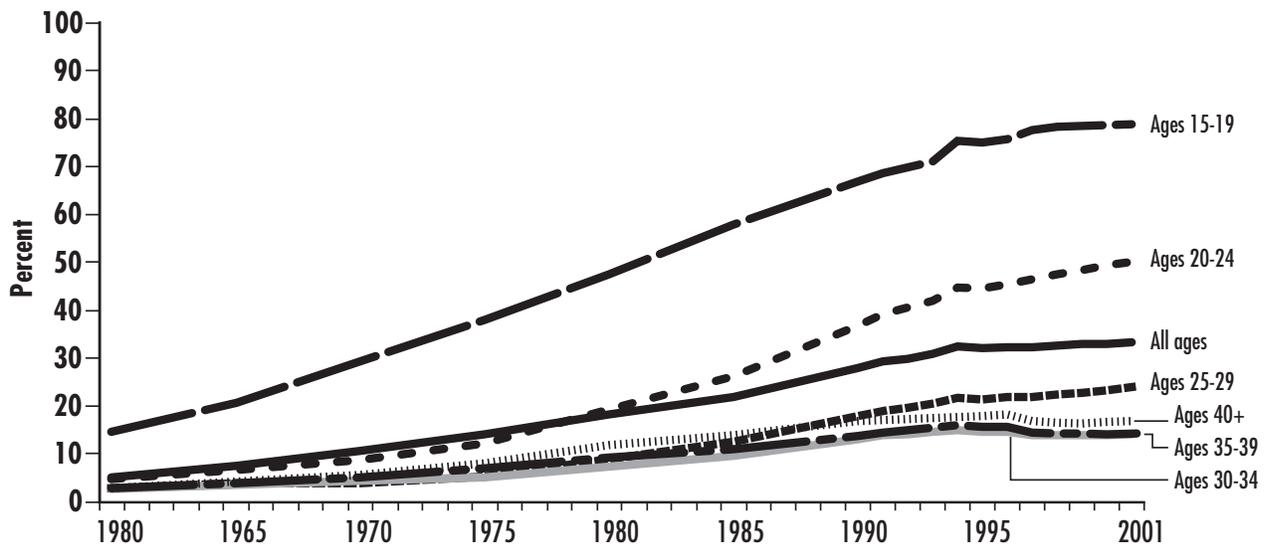
In 2000, Asian and White females had the lowest percentage of nonmarital births at 14.8 and 22.1 percent, respectively. Hispanics were next at 42.7 percent, followed by American Indian and Black females at 58.4 percent and 68.7 percent, respectively. This ordering is the same for most age groups, though the size of the difference can vary substantially by the age of the mother. For females ages 15 to 19 in 2000, for example, Whites and Hispanics have very similar percentages of births to unmarried women—73.1 and 72.6 percent, respectively—while the percentage among young Black unmarried females ages 15 to 19 is much higher at 95.7 percent. By ages 25 to 29, however, percentages for Hispanic females move midway between White and Black rates, with Whites at 14.0 percent, Hispanics at 33.2 percent, and Blacks at 57.1 percent (Table PF 2.3.A).

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<sup>1</sup> McLanahan, S. & Sandefur, G. (1996). *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What helps*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the non-White parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White. Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are not included. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

Figure PF 2.3.A

Percentage of all births to unmarried<sup>a</sup> females,<sup>b</sup> by age: 1960-2001

<sup>a</sup> Births to unmarried females are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported for data 1960-1979.

<sup>b</sup> Data for states in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate for data 1980-1999.

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics (2002). Unpublished work. Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, E., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(5); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Menacker, E., & Hamilton, B. E. (2001). Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(1); Ventura, S. J. & Bachrach (2000). Non-marital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(16).

## Family Structure

**Table PF 2.3.A**

Percentage of all live births to unmarried females, by race and Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup> and by age:  
Selected years, 1960-2001

	1960	1970	1975	1980 <sup>b</sup>	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>All live births</b>	5.3	10.7	14.3	18.4	22.0	28.0	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.8	33.0	33.2	33.4
Ages 15-19	14.8	29.5	38.2	47.6	58.0	67.1	75.2	75.9	77.8	78.5	78.6	78.8	78.9
Ages 20-24	4.8	8.9	12.3	19.4	26.3	36.9	44.7	45.6	46.6	47.7	48.5	49.5	50.3
Ages 25-29	2.9	4.1	5.4	9.0	12.7	18.0	21.5	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.9	23.5	24.2
Ages 30-34	2.8	4.5	5.3	7.5	9.7	13.3	14.7	14.8	14.1	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.2
Ages 35-39	3.0	5.2	7.0	9.4	11.2	13.9	15.7	15.7	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.4
40 and over	3.1	5.7	8.2	12.1	14.0	17.0	18.1	18.4	17.1	16.7	16.5	16.8	17.1
<b>White<sup>b</sup></b>	2.3	5.7	7.3	11.2	14.7	16.9	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.9	22.1	22.1	22.5
Ages 15-19	7.2	17.1	22.9	33.1	44.8	55.7	67.9	69.3	70.9	72.2	72.6	73.1	74.0
Ages 20-24	2.2	5.2	6.1	11.7	17.7	24.8	33.3	34.4	35.3	36.4	37.2	38.2	39.8
Ages 25-29	1.1	2.1	2.6	5.2	8.1	9.7	12.7	13.2	13.3	13.6	13.8	14.0	14.7
Ages 30-34	1.0	2.1	2.7	4.6	6.3	6.9	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.9
Ages 35-39	1.3	2.7	3.9	6.4	8.1	7.8	9.4	9.6	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.4	8.5
40 and over	1.6	3.3	4.6	8.6	10.9	10.9	12.2	12.5	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.6	11.1
<b>Black<sup>b</sup></b>	—	37.6	48.8	56.1	61.2	66.7	70.0	70.0	69.4	69.3	69.1	68.7	—
Ages 15-19	—	62.7	76.9	85.7	90.2	92.2	95.3	95.5	95.8	95.7	95.6	95.7	—
Ages 20-24	—	31.3	43.0	57.0	65.4	72.8	79.3	79.9	80.0	80.5	80.7	80.8	—
Ages 25-29	—	20.3	26.8	36.8	45.2	53.4	56.8	57.5	56.9	57.1	57.0	57.1	—
Ages 30-34	—	19.6	24.1	29.6	37.0	45.2	46.5	45.6	44.1	43.6	43.3	42.6	—
Ages 35-39	—	18.6	23.9	28.4	35.1	42.1	45.3	44.2	42.5	41.6	40.9	40.3	—
40 and over	—	18.3	23.1	29.5	34.4	40.0	43.5	43.4	43.0	41.9	41.9	41.1	—
<b>Hispanic</b>	—	—	—	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.8	40.7	40.9	41.6	42.2	42.7	42.4
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	41.9	51.3	59.4	67.3	67.7	71.6	72.9	72.9	72.6	72.1
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	23.8	30.9	39.6	45.0	45.2	46.1	47.5	48.6	49.6	49.8
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	15.9	22.2	28.6	31.1	31.2	30.4	31.2	32.1	33.2	33.5
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	15.2	19.6	25.5	26.4	26.0	24.6	24.4	25.1	25.8	25.9
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	16.2	20.8	26.5	27.4	26.9	25.7	24.7	25.4	25.7	25.2
40 and over	—	—	—	15.9	20.2	28.9	29.4	29.6	27.9	27.5	27.3	28.8	28.6

continued

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 2.3.A continued

Percentage of all live births to unmarried females, by race and Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup> and by age:  
Selected years, 1960-2001

	1960	1970	1975	1980 <sup>b</sup>	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	—	—	—	7.3	9.5	13.2	16.3	16.7	15.6	15.6	15.4	14.8	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	40.6	47.7	57.0	63.1	62.7	72.0	72.1	71.4	71.1	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	10.9	15.5	23.5	30.1	31.0	31.8	32.4	33.0	33.1	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	4.2	5.7	8.3	12.1	12.9	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.2	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	3.0	4.6	6.3	8.0	8.9	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	4.0	5.8	7.5	8.9	9.2	6.9	6.5	6.8	6.7	—
40 and over	—	—	—	3.6	8.0	10.0	10.8	10.7	10.1	9.4	8.6	9.1	—
<b>American Indian</b>	—	—	—	39.2	46.8	53.6	57.2	58.0	58.7	59.3	58.9	58.4	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	61.9	72.5	78.9	82.5	84.1	84.4	85.9	85.9	85.7	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	38.6	48.5	57.2	60.7	61.7	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	28.1	35.9	43.2	45.7	46.4	47.3	47.6	47.3	46.4	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	22.2	31.8	38.3	40.6	41.4	41.2	42.0	39.7	39.9	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	22.5	27.7	35.5	40.6	40.1	40.3	41.1	39.5	39.1	—
40 and over	—	—	—	21.3	28.4	37.5	38.9	43.0	45.6	38.6	42.0	41.2	—

<sup>a</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the non-White parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

<sup>b</sup> Data for Black and White births include persons of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are tabulated separately.

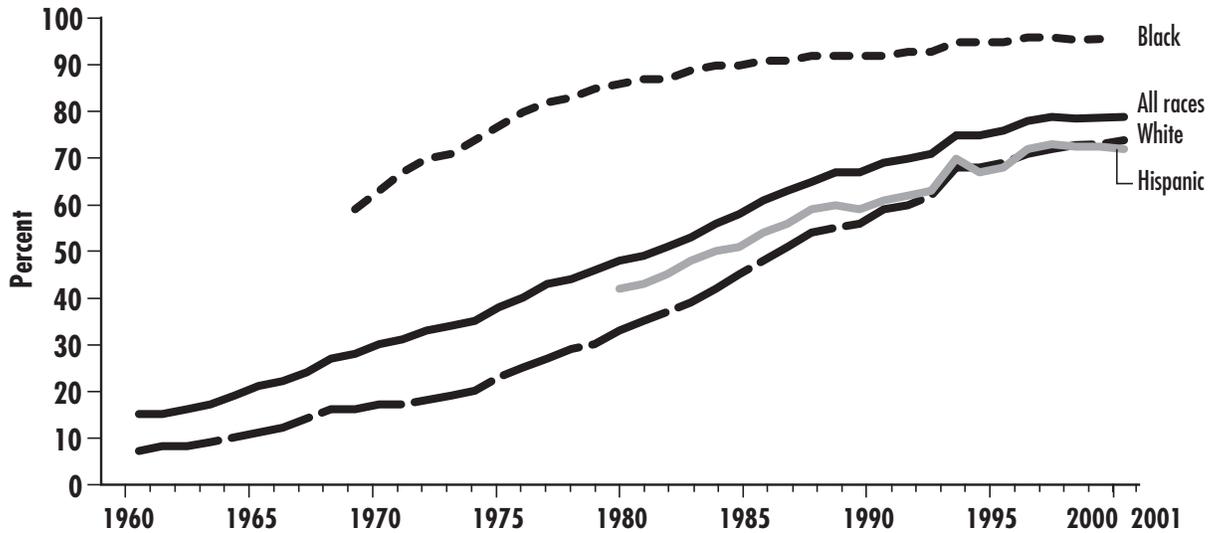
— Data not available.

Sources: Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(5); Ventura, S. J. (2002). Special tabulations of 2000 data for Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian populations. Unpublished work. National Center for Health Statistics. ; National Center for Health Statistics. (2002). Unpublished work; Ventura, S. J. & Bachrach (2000). Non-marital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(16); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Mathews, T. J., & Park, M. M. (2000). Births: Final Data for 1998. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(3); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., & Mathews, T. J. (1999). Births: Final Data for 1997. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(18); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., & Mathews, T. J. (1998). Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1996. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 46(Supp. 11); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Mathews, T. J., & Park, M. M. (1997). Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 45(11[Supp. 2]); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Mathews, T. J., & Clarke, S. C. (1996). Advanced Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 44(11 Supp.); National Center for Health Statistics (1995). Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for March 1995. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 44(3); Ventura, S. J. (1995). Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States 1980-1992. *Vital Health Statistics Report*, 21(53); Ventura, S. J. (1987). Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1985. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 36(Supp. 11); Ventura, S. J. (1983). Births to Hispanic Parentage: 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 32(36[6 Supp]).

## Family Structure

**Figure PF 2.3.B**

Percentage of all births to unmarried females ages 15 to 19, by race<sup>a</sup> and Hispanic origin:<sup>b</sup> 1960-2001



<sup>a</sup> Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning to the child the race of the non-White parent, or to the race of the father, if both were non-White.

Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are tabulated separately. Data for Blacks for 2001 are not yet available.

<sup>b</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

Sources: Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, E., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(5); National Center for Health Statistics. (2002). Unpublished work; Ventura, S. J. & Bachrach (2000). Non-marital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(16); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Mathews, T. J., & Park, M. M. (2000). Births: Final Data for 1998. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(3); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., & Mathews, T. J. (1999). Births: Final Data for 1997. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(18); Ventura, S. J. (1995). Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States 1980-1992. *Vital Health Statistics Report*, 21(53).

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 2.3.B

Percentage of all births to unmarried females ages 15 to 19, by age of mother, and by race and Hispanic origin:<sup>a</sup> Selected years, 1960-2001<sup>b</sup>

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>All females, ages 15-19</b>	14.8	21.0	29.5	38.2	47.6	58.0	67.1	75.2	75.9	77.8	78.5	78.7	78.8	78.9
Ages 15-17	24.0	33.0	43.0	51.0	62.0	71.0	78.0	84.0	84.0	86.7	87.5	87.6	87.7	87.8
Ages 18 or 19	11.0	15.0	22.0	30.0	40.0	51.0	61.0	70.0	71.0	72.5	73.6	73.9	74.3	74.6
<b>White, ages 15-19</b>	7.2	11.0	17.1	22.9	33.1	44.8	55.7	67.9	69.3	70.9	71.9	72.6	73.1	74.0
Ages 15-17	12.0	17.0	25.0	33.0	45.0	58.0	68.4	79.0	80.9	82.5	82.8	84.5	85.0	85.6
Ages 18 or 19	5.0	9.0	14.0	17.0	27.0	38.0	50.1	62.0	63.5	65.2	66.6	67.6	68.3	69.5
<b>Black, ages 15-19</b>	—	—	62.7	76.9	85.7	90.2	92.2	95.2	95.5	95.8	95.8	95.6	95.7	—
Ages 15-17	—	—	76.0	87.0	93.0	96.0	95.8	98.0	97.9	98.4	98.3	98.4	98.3	—
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	52.0	68.0	80.0	86.0	89.7	93.0	93.8	94.0	93.9	93.9	94.1	—
<b>Hispanic, ages 15-19</b>	—	—	—	—	41.9	51.3	59.4	67.3	67.7	71.6	72.9	72.9	72.6	72.1
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	51.0	61.0	68.0	75.0	75.0	80.3	81.6	81.8	81.5	81.0
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	36.0	46.0	54.0	62.0	63.0	65.6	67.2	67.3	67.3	67.0

<sup>a</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are not included. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

<sup>b</sup> Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the non-White parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White. — Data not available.

Sources: Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, E., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(5); National Center for Health Statistics. (2002). Unpublished work; Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Menacker, E., & Hamilton, B. E. (2001). Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(1); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Mathews, T. J., & Park, M. M. (2000). Births: Final Data for 1998. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(3); Ventura, S. J. & Curtin, S. C. (1999). Statistical Bulletin. (Issue No. 1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., & Mathews, T. J. (1999). Births: Final Data for 1997. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(18); Ventura, S. J. (1995). Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States 1980-1992. *Vital Health Statistics Report*, 21(53).

## PF 2.4 Children Living in Foster Care

A child is placed in foster care<sup>1</sup> when a court determines that his or her family cannot provide a minimally safe environment. This determination often follows an investigation by a state or county child protective services worker. Placement most commonly occurs either because a member of a household has physically or sexually abused a child or because a child’s caretaker(s) has severely neglected the child. In some cases, children with severe emotional disturbances may also be put into foster care.

Since both Federal and state laws discourage removal of children from their families unless necessary to ensure a child’s safety, placement in foster care is an extreme step taken only when a child is in immediate danger or when attempts to help the family provide a safe environment have failed. Thus, the frequency of placements in foster care is an indicator of family dysfunction that is so severe that a child cannot remain safely with his or her family.

The number of children in foster care rose sharply from 262 thousand in 1982 to 555 thousand between 1982 and 2000 (Table PF 2.4). The rate of children living in foster care (i.e., the number of children in foster care per 1,000 children under age 18) also rose dramatically during the same time period, from 4.2 to 7.7 per 1,000 children. However, some of the increase may be a function of the implementation of a new reporting system, which became fully operational in 1998. Since that time, both the numbers and rates per thousand have remained relatively stable (Figure PF 2.4).

**Table PF 2.4**

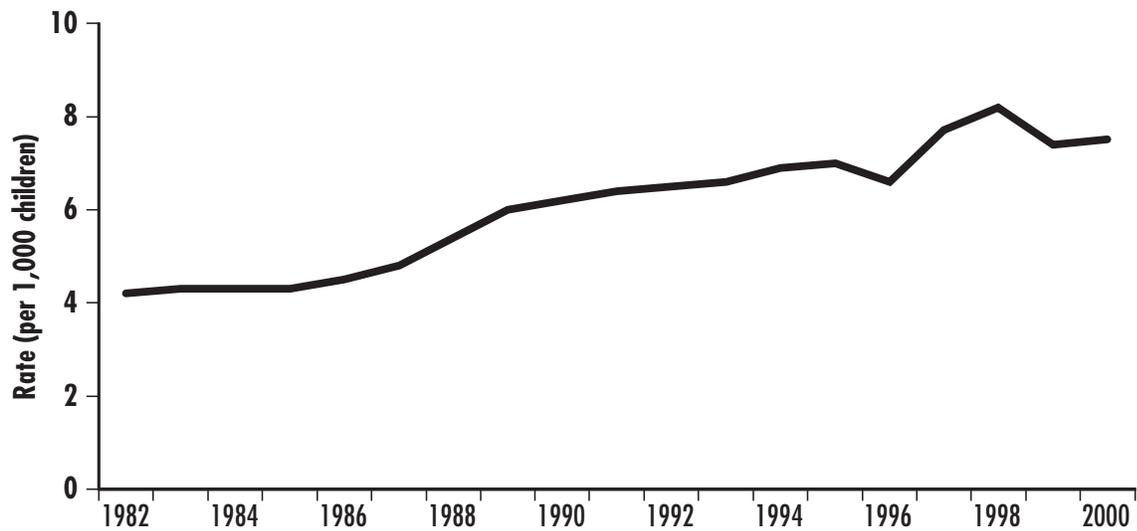
**Number and rate of children living in foster care: Selected years, 1982-2000<sup>a</sup>**

	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
<b>Children in foster care</b> <i>(in thousands)</i>	262	276	280	340	400	427	468	507	556	555
<b>Rate</b> <i>(per thousands)</i>	4.2	4.3	4.5	5.4	6.2	6.5	6.9	6.6	8.0	7.7

<sup>a</sup> 1996 was the last year in which data on foster care were collected through the Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS). The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) has implemented the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) as a replacement for VCIS. While VCIS was a voluntary reporting system, states are required to participate in AFCARS and must use uniform definitions. Most importantly, AFCARS collects case-level foster care data. Estimates in this table may not be comparable to estimates provided in previous issues of *Trends in the Well-Being of America’s Children and Youth* due to updated data provided by the states and revised population estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The numbers and rates in this table are for children under 18. The FY 1998, FY 1999, and FY 2000 AFCARS data are from files available as of May 1, 2002.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2002). *The AFCARS Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; Tataara, T. (1997). *Estimates of Children in Foster Care for Years 1982-1996*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; Tataara, T. (1995). *U.S. Child Substitute Care Flow Data for FY 1993 and Trends in the State Child Substitute Care Populations*. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this report, foster care is defined as a living arrangement where a child resides outside his or her own home, under the case management and planning responsibility of a state child welfare agency. These living arrangements include relative and nonrelative foster homes, group homes, child-care facilities, emergency shelter care, supervised independent living, and nonfinalized adoptive homes.

**Figure PF 2.4**Children living in foster care: 1982-2000<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 1996 was the last year in which data on foster care were collected through the Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS). The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) has implemented the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) as a replacement for VCIS. While VCIS was a voluntary reporting system, states are required to participate in AFCARS and must use uniform definitions. Most importantly, AFCARS collects case-level foster care data. Estimates in this table may not be comparable to estimates provided in previous issues of *Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth* due to changes in the population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Estimate of total is the number of children in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2002). *The AFCARS Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; Tata, T. (1997). *Estimates of Children in Foster Care for Years 1982-1996*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; Tata, T. (1995). *U.S. Child Substitute Care Flow Data for FY 1993 and Trends in the State Child Substitute Care Populations*. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.