

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

**Child Population
Characteristics**

Family Structure



PF 3.1 Residential Stability

Research has demonstrated a strong relationship between residential stability and child well-being, with frequent moves associated with such negative outcomes as dropping out of high school, delinquency, depression, and nonmarital youth births. Some researchers theorize that these negative associations may result from a lack of attachment to a local community and its institutions on the part of frequent movers.

The United States has long been a highly mobile society. In 1960, 21 percent of children under the age of 18 had moved to a new residence during the previous year. The general trend since that time has been toward somewhat lower rates of mobility, with a rate of 17 percent in 2000.¹

Differences by Age. Young children were the most mobile of any child age group (Table PF 3.1). In 2000, 23 percent of children between the ages of one and four had changed residences in the previous year, compared with 18 percent among children ages 5 to 9, 14 percent of children ages 10 to 14, and 13 percent of youth ages 15 to 17.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.² For all children under age 18 in 2000, White children were the least mobile, with 16 percent moving during the previous year compared with 22 percent of Black and 21 percent of Hispanic children.

¹ Wood, D., Halfon, N., Scarlata, D., Newacheck, P., & Nessim, S. (1993). Impact of Family Relocation on Children's Growth, Development, School Function, and Behavior. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 270 1334-1338; Coleman, J. (1998). Social Capital and the Creation of Human Capital. *American Journal of Sociology*, 94 s95-s120.

² Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

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Table PF 3.1

Percentage of children under age 18^a who have moved within the last year, by age, and by race and Hispanic origin:^b 1990-2000^c

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All children	18	17	18	17	17	18	18	17	17	17
Ages 1-4	24	23	22	23	22	25	24	23	23	23
Ages 5-9	19	18	18	17	17	18	19	18	18	18
Ages 10-14	15	14	15	14	13	15	15	14	13	14
Ages 15-17	15	15	14	14	15	13	14	13	13	13
White children	18	17	17	16	16	17	17	16	16	16
Ages 1-4	23	22	21	22	21	24	23	22	21	22
Ages 5-9	18	17	17	16	16	18	18	16	17	17
Ages 10-14	14	13	15	13	12	14	15	13	13	13
Ages 15-17	14	14	14	14	13	12	13	12	12	12
Black children	21	21	21	20	20	22	23	22	23	22
Ages 1-4	26	26	27	26	25	29	29	28	32	28
Ages 5-9	22	22	22	20	22	22	26	24	27	24
Ages 10-14	19	17	18	17	16	18	18	20	17	18
Ages 15-17	18	16	16	14	18	14	17	16	15	15
Hispanic children	25	21	24	23	21	23	23	21	19	21
Ages 1-4	32	27	27	28	26	31	28	26	24	26
Ages 5-9	28	20	25	24	20	23	21	21	19	20
Ages 10-14	18	19	21	19	15	18	22	16	14	18
Ages 15-17	21	19	19	20	21	19	17	17	16	18

^a Estimates are based on children ages one to 18 at time of survey.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

^c Estimates for 1995 are not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2001). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(538); U.S. Census Bureau (2000). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(531); U.S. Census Bureau (2000). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(520); U.S. Census Bureau (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(510); U.S. Census Bureau (1997). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(497); U.S. Census Bureau (1995). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(485); U.S. Census Bureau (1993). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(473); U.S. Census Bureau (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(463); U.S. Census Bureau (1991). *Current Population Reports*, P-20(456).

PF 3.2 Children in Poor and Very Poor Neighborhoods

Recent research has demonstrated a significant relationship between neighborhood quality and the well-being of the children and youth who live in them. Even after controlling for relevant personal and family background characteristics, residence in a low-income neighborhood has been shown to have negative effects on early childhood development, associated with higher rates of dropping out of high school and with young parenthood.¹ In 2000, 51.4 percent of children living below the poverty level lived in a very poor neighborhood—defined as a census tract in which 40 percent or more of the residents live in poor families² (Table PF 3.2).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.³ Black children were the most likely to live in very poor neighborhoods, followed by Hispanic children and White children. Fifty four percent of Black children in poverty lived in very poor neighborhoods, compared to 51 percent of Hispanic children and 47 percent of White children (Figure PF 3.2).

Differences by Family Type. Children in mother-only families in poverty were much more likely to live in a very poor neighborhood than were children in married-couple families (64.9 percent versus 32.6 percent) (Figure PF 3.2).

¹ Brooks-Gunn, J., Duncan, G., Klebanov, P., & Sealand, N. (1994). Do Neighborhoods Influence Child and Adolescent Behavior? *American Journal of Sociology*, 99(2) 353-395; Crane, J. (1991). The Epidemic Theory of Ghettos and Neighborhood Effects on Dropping Out of High School and Teenage Childbearing. *American Journal of Sociology*, 1126-1159.

² While trend data for children are not available, trends for the entire population show that between 1970 and 1990, the percent of all persons living in very poor neighborhoods increased from 3 percent to 4.5 percent, and the numbers nearly doubled from 4.1 million to 8 million. See Jargowsky, P. A. (1996). *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*. New York, NY: Russell Stage.

³ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

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Table PF 3.2

Percentage of related children^a below the poverty line^b by the poverty level of their neighborhood,^c by age of child, by family structure, and by race and Hispanic origin:^d 2000

	All Areas	Neighborhood Poverty Level			
	Currently below poverty level	Outside of poverty area	Below poverty level	30 percent or more below poverty level	40 percent or more below poverty level
All related children	15.6	10.8	36.7	46.0	51.4
Age					
Under 6 years	16.9	11.8	39.1	49.3	54.0
6-17 years	14.9	10.3	35.5	44.3	49.9
Family structure					
Married couple families	8.1	5.9	22.0	29.9	32.6
Under 6 years	8.6	6.3	23.0	28.4	33.0
6-17 years	7.9	5.7	21.5	30.7	32.4
Mother-only families	39.8	31.1	57.7	62.5	64.9
Under 6 years	47.2	38.1	64.5	71.3	71.0
6-17 years	36.5	28.1	54.6	58.0	61.9
Race and Hispanic origin					
White	12.3	9.2	31.3	41.8	47.4
Black	30.4	20.1	45.7	51.2	54.4
Hispanic	27.3	20.0	41.0	46.7	50.5

^a Under 18 years of age.

^b Poverty rate of neighborhood in 1989, poverty status of persons in 2000.

^c Neighborhoods are defined as census tracts and block-numbering areas. Both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are included. The poverty rate is the percentage of all persons in the neighborhood living in families below the Federal poverty line in 1990.

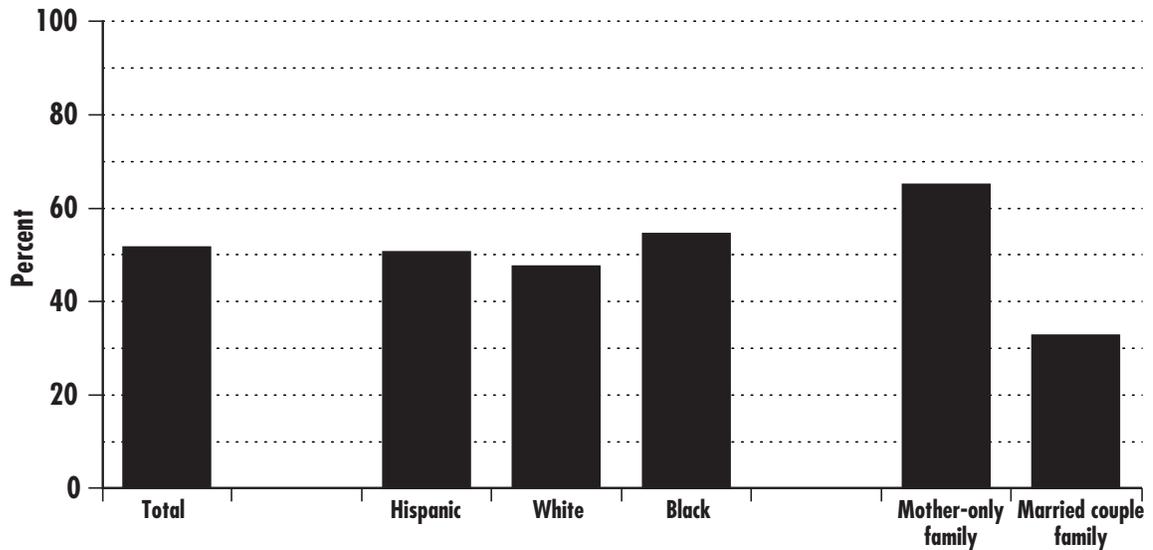
^d Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include persons of Hispanic origin. Estimates for Whites also include all other persons not White, Black, or Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2001). Poverty Status of People in 2000. *Current Population Survey*, (March Supplement).

Neighborhoods

Figure PF 3.2

Percentage of related children^a below the poverty line^b who live in very poor (above 40 percent of poverty) neighborhoods,^c by race and Hispanic origin,^d and family type: 2000



^a Under 18 years of age.

^b Poverty rate of neighborhood in 1989, poverty status of persons in 2000.

^c Neighborhoods are defined as census tracts and block-numbering areas. Both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are included. The poverty rate is the percentage of all persons in the neighborhood living in families below the Federal poverty line in 1990.

^d Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Estimates for Whites also include all other persons not White, Black, or Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2001). Poverty Status of People in 2000. *Current Population Survey*, (March Supplement).