

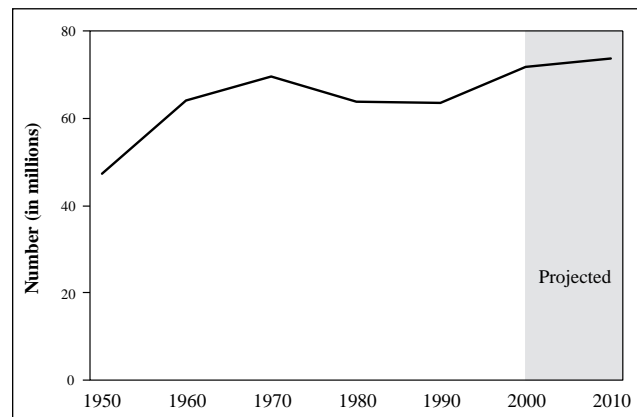
## CHILD POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### PF 1.1 NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN THE UNITED STATES

Though the population of the United States has grown steadily over the last four decades, the trend in the number of children has been less steady, and the number of children has even shrunk during some periods. Figure PF 1.1 presents trends in the total number of children under age 18 from 1950 through 1990, with projections through the year 2010. From 1950 to 1960, roughly the period of the baby boom, the number of children increased by 36 percent from 47.3 to 64.2 million. The number rose at a more modest rate in the ensuing decade to 69.6 million in 1970. The number actually declined to 63.7 million by 1980, and held steady over the next decade. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the number will rise substantially to 71.8 million by the year 2000, an echo of the earlier baby boom generation that is now grown and having children of its own. The number of children is expected to increase to 73.6 million by the year 2010.

The number of Hispanic children in the country grew from 5.3 to 7.8 million between 1980 and 1990. (See Table PF 1.1) By the year 2010, the number is expected to increase to 13.5 million. Should these projections prove accurate, Hispanics will become the largest minority child population by the year 2010.

Figure PF 1.1 NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN US: 1950 - 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics (CPH-1-1) Table 1*. 1970 Census, *Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary, Table 52*. 1980 Census, *General Population Characteristics, U.S. Summary, Table 41*. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 311, *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Single Years of Age, Color, and Sex, 1900 to 1959*, pages 22-23, 42-43. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 917, *Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1970 to 1981*, Table 2. Current Population Reports Series P-25, No. 985, *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1980 to 1985*, Table 2. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 985, *Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050*, Table 2.

Table PF 1.1 NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY AGE AND RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN: 1950 - 2010

	Number in Millions						Projected	
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	
All Children	47.3	64.2	69.6	63.7	63.6	71.8	73.6	
Age								
0-5	19.1	24.3	21.0	19.6	22.0	23.4	20.0	
6-11	15.3	21.7	24.6	20.8	21.5	24.7	27.9	
12-17	12.9	18.2	24.1	23.3	20.0	23.7	25.7	
Race/Hispanic Origin								
White	41.3	55.5	59.1	52.5	47.6	55.9	55.3	
Non White	6.0	8.7	10.6	11.2	—	—	—	
Black	—	—	9.5	9.5	9.6	11.5	12.5	
Hispanic	—	—	—	5.3	7.8	10.5	13.5	

Note: "Non-white" refers to all races other than white, and includes black, Native American, Asian, and any other race except white.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics (CPH-1-1) Table 1*. 1970 Census, *Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary, Table 52*. 1980 Census, *General Population Characteristics, U.S. Summary, Table 41*. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 311, *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Single Years of Age, Color, and Sex, 1900 to 1959*, pages 22-23, 42-43. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 917, *Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1970 to 1981*, Table 2. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 985, *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1980 to 1985*, Table 2. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 985, *Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050*, Table 2.

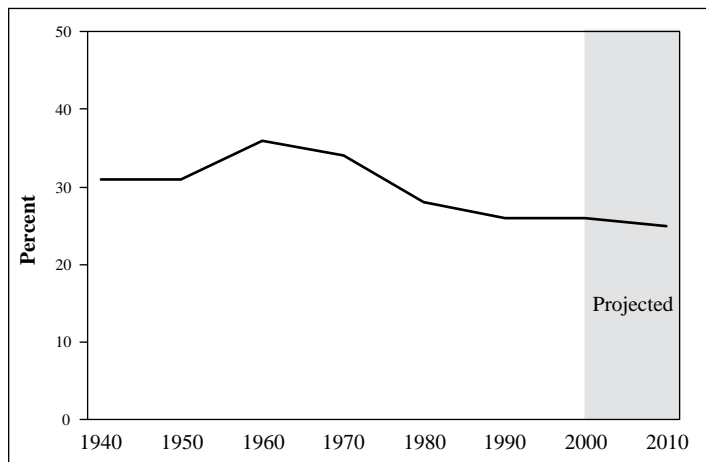
## CHILD POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### PF 1.2 CHILDREN AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION

The proportion of the population who are children can have important consequences for the entire population, including children. On the one hand, because children are for the most part dependent and in need of investment to become productive citizens, they may present special short-term fiscal challenges to society when they constitute a relatively higher proportion of the overall population. On the other hand, as they grow up to become productive adults they will provide support for those entering retirement and for the next generation of children.

Figure PF 1.2 illustrates trends on the proportion of the population under the age of 18 from 1940 through 1990, and projected through the year 2010. In 1940 and 1950, children constituted 31 percent of the overall population. During the next decade the proportion rose to 36 percent, an increase of five percentage points. The rise in birthrates which produced this increase in the proportion of children in the population during the 1950s is commonly known as the *baby boom*. From 1970 to 1990, there was a steady decrease until by 1990 children constituted only 26 percent of the population, a reduction of some 10 percentage points from 1960. Projections produced by the Bureau of the Census predict that this proportion will remain relatively steady from 1990 to 2000, before decreasing slightly to 25 percent in the year 2010.

Figure PF 1.2 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION: 1940 - 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics (CPH-1-1)*. U.S. Bureau of Census, *1970 Census Volume Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary*, *1980 Census Volume, General Population Characteristics, U.S. Summary*. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 311, *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Single Years of Age, Color, and Sex, 1900 to 1959*. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 917, *Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1970 to 1981*. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 985, *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1980 to 1985*. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 985, *Projections of the Hispanic Population: 1983 to 2080*, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 952, *Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1983-2080*.

Table PF 1.2 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL U.S. POPULATION: 1940 - 2010

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	Projected	
							2000	2010
All Children								
Ages 0-17	31	31	36	34	28	26	26	25

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics (CPH-1-1) Table 1. U.S. Bureau of Census, 1970 Census Volume, Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary, Table 52. 1980 Census Volume, General Population Characteristics, U.S. Summary, Table 41. Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 311, Estimates of the Population of the United States by Single Years of Age, Color, and Sex, 1900 to 1959. Series P-25, No. 917, Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1970 to 1981, Table 2. Series P-25, No. 985, Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1980 to 1985, Table 2. Series P-25, No. 985, Projections of the Hispanic Population: 1983 to 2080, Table 2. Series P-25, No. 952, Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1983 to 2080, Table 6.

## CHILD POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

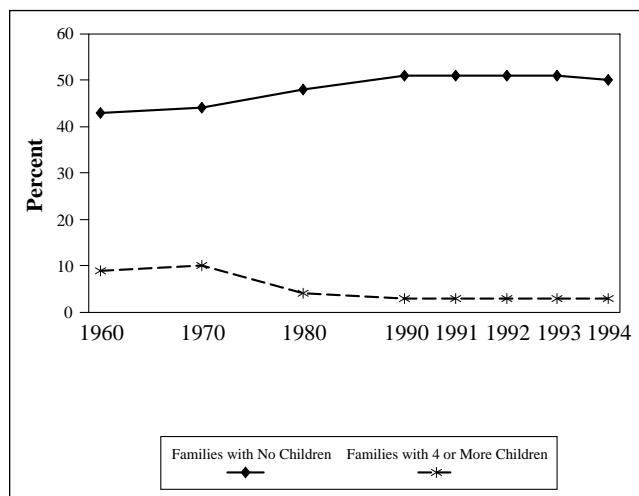
### PF 1.3 THE PROPORTION OF FAMILIES CONTAINING CHILDREN, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Since the height of the baby boom around 1960, Americans have been moving towards families with fewer children. Indeed, a growing percentage of families have no minor children of their own. As Figure PF 1.3 illustrates, between 1960 and 1994, the percent of families with four or more related children under age 18 decreased from 9 percent down to 3 percent. At the same time, the proportion of families with no minor children grew from 43 percent in 1960 to a high of 51 percent in 1992 before dropping slightly to 50 percent in 1994.

These general trends are also evident when white, black, and Hispanic families are considered separately, though the levels are substantially different. (See Table PF 1.3) For example, between 1970 and 1994 the percentage of black families with four or more children dropped from 19 percent to 5 percent. Rates for whites during that period went from 9 percent down to 2 percent. For Hispanic families, rates dropped from 10 percent to 6 percent between 1980 (the first year for which Hispanic estimates are available) and 1994.

Black and Hispanic families were considerably less likely than white families to be without any minor children, with rates of 40 percent, 36 percent, and 52 percent, respectively in 1994. They were also both more likely than white families to have four or more children (5 percent, 6 percent, and 2 percent, respectively), though the differences were smaller in 1994 than in previous decades.

Figure PF 1.3 PERCENT OF FAMILIES WITH NO CHILDREN, AND WITH 4 OR MORE CHILDREN: 1960 - 1994



Source: Estimates for 1960-1993 from "Household and Family Characteristics", Current Population Reports, Series P-20 for various years. Estimates for 1994 were produced by Child Trends, Inc., based on analysis of the March, 1994 Current Population Survey.

**Table PF 1.3 PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE: 1960 - 1994**

	1960	1970	1980	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>All Families</b>								
Without own children	43	44	48	51	51	51	51	50
One child	19	18	21	21	20	20	20	20
2 children	18	17	19	19	19	18	19	19
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	8
4 or more children	9	10	4	3	3	3	3	3
<b>White Families</b>								
Without own children	43	45	49	51	53	53	53	52
One child	19	18	21	21	19	20	19	19
2 children	18	18	19	19	18	18	19	19
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	7
4 or more children	9	9	4	3	3	3	2	2
<b>Black Families</b>								
Without own children	—	39	38	41	41	42	42	40
One child	—	18	23	25	25	24	25	25
2 children	—	15	20	19	19	19	18	20
3 children	—	10	10	9	9	10	10	9
4 or more children	—	19	8	6	6	5	5	5
<b>Hispanic Families</b>								
Without own children	—	—	31	37	36	36	37	36
One child	—	—	23	23	22	22	23	22
2 children	—	—	23	21	23	22	22	23
3 children	—	—	13	12	12	13	12	13
4 or more children	—	—	10	7	7	7	7	6

Source: Estimates for 1960-1993 from "Household and Family Characteristics", Current Population Reports, Series P-20 for various years. Estimates for 1994 were produced by Child Trends, Inc., based on analysis of the March, 1994 Current Population Survey.

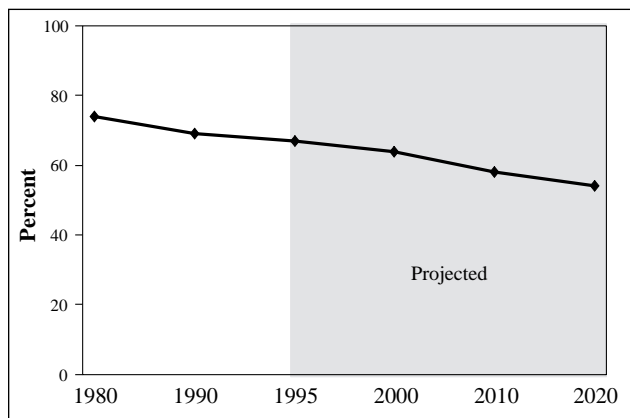
## CHILD POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### PF 1.4 RACE/ETHNICITY COMPOSITION OF U.S. CHILDREN

The United States has become increasingly racially and culturally diverse over the last three decades, and is projected to become even more so during the decades to follow. Table PF 1.4 presents the racial/ethnic composition of America's children from 1960 to 1990, and includes projections of likely changes in that composition through the year 2020 as estimated by the Bureau of the Census. As Figure PF 1.4 illustrates, as recently as 1980 nearly three quarters (74 percent) of all children in this country were non-Hispanic whites. This proportion diminished to 69 percent in 1990, and is expected to continue a steady downward trend until, by the year 2020, non-Hispanic whites will constitute just over one half (54 percent) of all U.S. children. The historical trend for all whites is similar though less dramatic owing to the fact that Hispanics comprise an increasingly large proportion of the white population. (See Table PF 1.4)

As of 1990, blacks constituted the largest minority population group at 15 percent of the total child population. (See Table PF 1.4) They were followed by Hispanics at 12 percent, Asian Americans at 3 percent, and Native Americans at 1 percent. By the year 2010, Hispanics are projected to surpass blacks as the largest minority among the child population at 18 percent. By the year 2020, over one in five American children are expected to be Hispanic, nearly double the proportion in 1990. The Asian American population is also expected to continue its rapid growth during this period, increasing from 3 percent in 1990 to 8 percent by the year 2020.

Figure PF 1.4 PROPORTION OF U.S. CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO ARE NON-HISPANIC WHITE, 1980-2020



Source: For projections 1995 to 2020: Day, Jennifer Cheeseman. "Population Projections of the United States, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050", U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P25-1104, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1993. For 1980 and 1990 estimates: *The Challenge of Change: What the 1990 Census Tells Us about the Children*, prepared by the Population Reference Bureau for the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

Table PF 1.4 PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY RACE/ETHNICITY: 1960-2020

	1960	1970	1980	1990	Projected			
					1995	2000	2010	2020
White	86	85	82 <sup>a</sup>	80 <sup>a</sup>	79	78	75	73
White, non-Hispanic	—	—	74	69	67	64	58	54
Black	13	14	15	15	16	16	17	18
Hispanic	—	—	9	12	14	15	18	21
Asian American	—	—	2	3	4	5	7	8
Native American	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1

Note: <sup>a</sup>Figures for whites for 1980 and 1990 were taken from Hernandez, D.J., "Population Change and the Family Environment of Children" (this report).

Source: For projections 1995 to 2020: Day, Jennifer Cheeseman, "Population Projections of the United States, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050," U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P25-1104, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1993. For 1980 and 1990 estimates: The Challenge of Change: What the 1990 Census Tells Us about Children, prepared by the Population Reference Bureau for the Center for the Study of Social Policy. 1960 and 1970: Hernandez, D.J. Population Change, the Family Environment of Children, and Statistics on Children (this report).



## CHILD POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

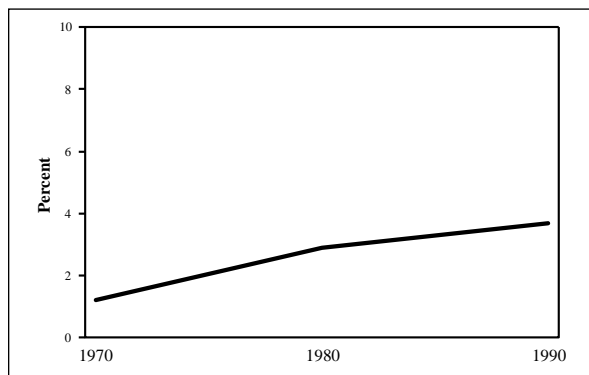
### PF 1.5 IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Rates of immigration, however, have varied substantially over periods of our history, as have the countries and cultures from which these immigrants originate. Immigrant children are of particular interest, as many of them have special needs that must be met through our systems of public and private education.

As Figure PF 1.5.a indicates, the percentage of America's children and youth who are foreign born has been increasing steadily over the last several decades from 1.2 percent in 1970 to 3.7 percent in 1990. The percentage foreign born is highest for older children. In 1990, while the percent foreign born was only 1.4 percent for children under the age of 5, this proportion rises steadily with age to 6.5 percent among youth ages 15-19, or approximately one in every fifteen youth in that age group. (See Table PF 1.5)

The percent foreign born varies substantially by racial and ethnic background. (See Figure PF 1.5.b) In 1980, less than 2 percent of whites, blacks and Native Americans were foreign born, compared to 40.0 percent of Asians and 14.0 percent of Hispanics. By 1990, the percentage of foreign born Asian children had diminished from 40.0 to 33.2 percent, while the percent foreign born Hispanic children increased to 15.8 percent.

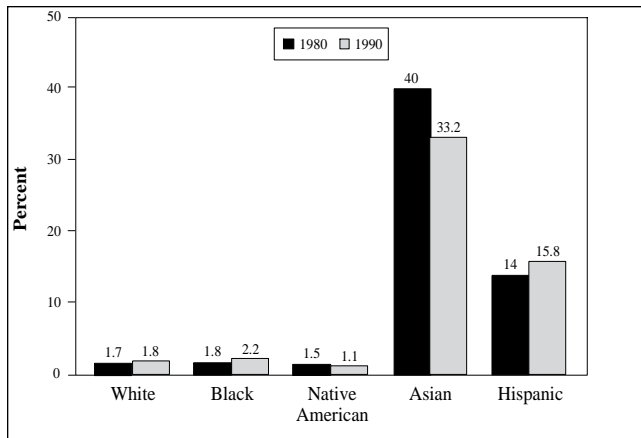
**Figure PF 1.5.A PERCENT OF U.S. CHILDREN AGES 19 AND UNDER WHO WERE FOREIGN BORN<sup>a</sup>: 1970 - 1990**



Notes: <sup>a</sup>Includes both immigrants and illegal aliens.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *The Foreign-Born Population in the U.S., 1990*, CP-3-1, and 1990 STF-3A census files. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Detailed Characteristics of the Population, 1980*, Chapter D, U.S. Summary, U.S. Bureau of the Census, *National Origin and Language*, PC(2-1A), 1970.

**Figure PF 1.5.B PERCENT OF U.S. CHILDREN AGES 19 AND UNDER WHO WERE FOREIGN BORN<sup>a</sup> IN 1980 AND 1990. VARIATIONS BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN**



Notes: <sup>a</sup>Includes both immigrants and illegal aliens.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, The Foreign-Born Population in the U.S., 1990, CP-3-1, and 1990 STF-3A census files. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Detailed Characteristics of the Population, 1980, Chapter D, U.S. Summary, U.S. Bureau of the Census, National Origin and Language, PC(2-1A), 1970.

**Table PF 1.5 PERCENT OF U.S. CHILDREN AGES 19 AND UNDER WHO WERE FOREIGN-BORN<sup>a</sup> BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY: 1970 - 1990**

	1970	1980	1990
All Children	1.2	2.9	3.7
Under 5 years	0.6	1.4	1.4
5 to 9 years	1.1	2.6	2.7
10-14 years	1.4	3.2	4.3
15-19 years	1.8	4.1	6.5
Race/Ethnicity			
White	1.2	1.7	1.8
Black	0.5	1.8	2.2
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	—	1.5	1.1
Asian and Pacific Islander	—	40.0	33.2
Hispanic	—	14.0	15.8

Notes: <sup>a</sup>Includes both immigrants and illegal aliens.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, The Foreign-Born Population in the U.S., 1990, CP-3-1, and 1990 STF-3A census files. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Detailed Characteristics of the Population, 1980, Chapter D, U.S. Summary, U.S. Bureau of the Census, National Origin and Language, PC(2-1A), 1970.