

SECTION 1

POPULATION, FAMILY & NEIGHBORHOOD



PF 1.1

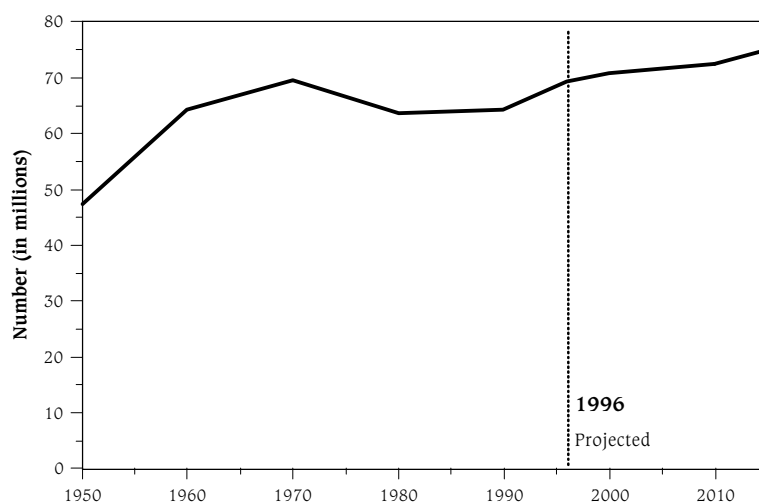
NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN THE UNITED STATES

Though the total 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 1996, with projections through the year 2020. From 1950 to 1960, roughly the period of the baby boom, the number of children increased by 36 percent from 47.3 to 64.5 million. The number rose at a more modest rate in the ensuing decade to 69.8 million in 1970. The number actually declined to 63.7 million by 1980, and held steady over the next decade. Between 1990 and 1996, the number of children rose by more than five million to 69.4 million. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the number of children will continue to rise over the next several decades, reaching 77.6 million by the year 2020.

Differences by Race and Ethnicity. Between 1996 and the year 2020, the number of children is projected to grow for all race and ethnic groups presented in the table (see Table PF 1.1). Increases will be proportionally greatest for Hispanic children, whose numbers are projected to grow from 10.0 to 17.2 million by the year 2020, an increase of more than 70 percent. Should these projections prove accurate, Hispanics could become the largest minority child population as early as 2010.

Figure PF 1.1
Number of Children Under Age 18 in the U.S.:
1950–2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 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. Series P-25 No. 519, Estimates of the Population of the United States, By Age, Sex, and Race: April 1, 1960 to July 1, 1973, Table 2. Series P-25, No. 917, Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1970 to 1981, Table 2. Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995, Updated Tables, Appendix A. Series P-25, No. 1130, Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050, Table 2.

Table PF 1.1
Number of Children Under 18 by Age and Race/Ethnicity: 1950–2020
(Number in Millions)

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1996 ^a	PROJECTED		
							2000	2010	2020
ALL CHILDREN	47.3	64.5	69.8	63.7	64.2	69.4	70.8	72.5	77.6
Age									
0-5	19.1	24.3	20.9	19.6	22.5	23.5	22.9	23.9	26.4
6-11	15.3	21.8	24.6	20.8	21.6	23.2	24.3	23.6	25.8
12-17	12.9	18.4	24.3	23.3	20.1	22.7	23.6	25.0	25.4
Race/Ethnicity									
White	41.3	55.7	59.3	52.5	51.3	54.9	55.4	55.2	57.9
Non-white ^b	6.0	8.8	10.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black	—	8.1	9.5	9.5	9.9	10.8	11.3	12.2	13.4
Hispanic ^c	—	—	—	5.6	7.9	10.0	11.0	13.7	17.2
Asian	—	—	—	1.1	2.2	2.9	3.3	4.3	5.4
American Indian	—	—	—	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0

Note: ^a 1996 estimate is for July 1.
^b “Non-white” refers to all races other than white, and includes black, Native American, Asian, and any other race except white.
^c People of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 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. Series P-25, No. 519, Estimates of the Population of the United States, By Age, Sex, and Race: April 1, 1960 to July 1, 1973, Table 2. Series P-25, No. 917, Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1970 to 1981, Table 2. Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995, Updated Tables, Appendix A. Series P-25, No. 1130, Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050, Table 2.

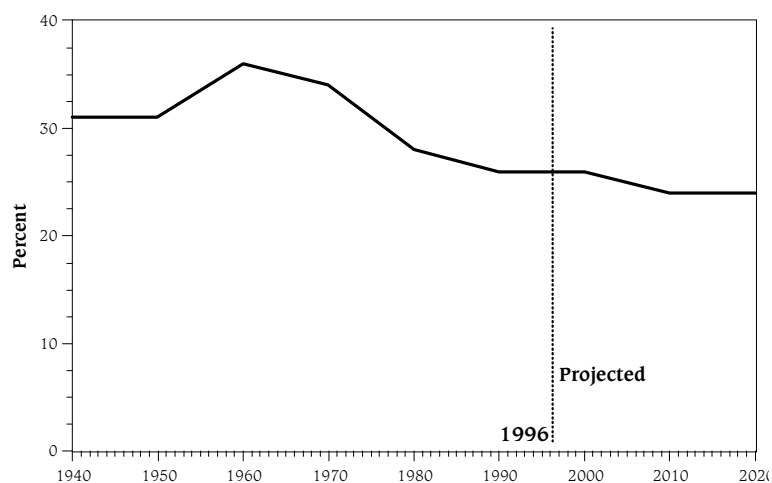
PF1.2

CHILDREN AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION

The proportion of the total 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 in the proportion of the population under age 18 from 1940 through 1996, with projections through the year 2020. In 1940 and 1950, children constituted 31 percent of the overall population. During the next decade, children as a proportion of the population rose rapidly to 36 percent. The rise in birthrates that produced this increase in the proportion of children in the population during the 1950s is commonly known as the baby boom. Since that peak in 1960, the percentage has been declining to its current level of 26 percent. Projections by the Bureau of the Census predict that this proportion will drop further to 24 percent by the year 2010, and will remain at approximately that level through 2020.

Figure PF 1.2
Children Under Age 18 as a Percentage of the Total Population:
1940–2020



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. PPL-41 *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995*, Updated Tables, Appendix A. Series P-25, No. 1130, *Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050*, Table 2.

Table PF 1.2
Children Under Age 18 as a Percentage of the Total Population:
1940–2020

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1996 ^a	PROJECTED		
								2000	2010	2020
All Children Ages 0-17	31	31	36	34	28	26	26	26	24	24

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. PPL-41 *Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995*, Updated Tables, Appendix A. Series P-25, No. 1130, *Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050*, Table 2.

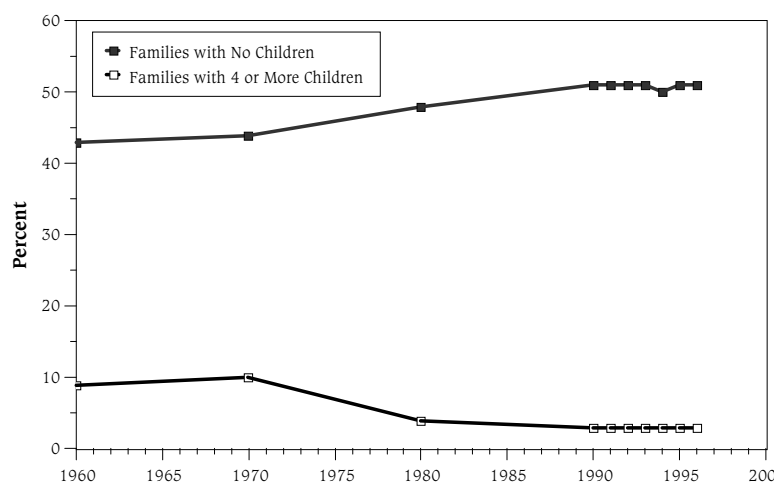
*PF 1.3***THE PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES CONTAINING CHILDREN,
AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

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 1996, the percentage of families with four or more own children under age 18 in the household decreased from nine percent to three percent (see Figure PF 1.3). During the same period, the proportion of families with no minor children grew from 43 percent to 51 percent.

Differences by Race and Ethnicity. These general trends are also evident when white, black, and Hispanic families are considered separately, though the levels are substantially different for each group (see Table PF 1.3). For example, between 1970 and 1996 the percentage of black families with four or more children dropped from 19 percent to five percent. The percentage for whites during that period went from nine percent to three percent. For Hispanic families, the percentage dropped from ten percent to seven percent between 1980 (the first year for which Hispanic estimates are available) and 1996.

Black and Hispanic families were considerably less likely than white families to be without any minor children, with proportions of 43 percent, 36 percent, and 52 percent, respectively in 1996. They were also both more likely than white families to have four or more children, though these differences were smaller than in previous decades.

Figure PF 1.3
*Percentage of Families with No Children, and With Four or More Resident Children:
1960–1996*



Source: Estimates for 1960 - 1996 from "Household and Family Characteristics," Current Population Reports, Series P-20 for various years.

Table PF 1.3
Percentage Distribution of Families by Number of Own Children Under 18 Years of Age: 1960–1996

	1960	1970	1980	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
ALL FAMILIES										
Without own children	43	44	48	51	51	51	51	50	51	51
One child	19	18	21	21	20	20	20	20	20	20
2 children	18	17	19	19	19	18	19	19	19	19
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
White Families										
Without own children	43	45	49	51	53	53	53	52	52	52
One child	19	18	21	21	19	20	19	19	20	19
2 children	18	18	19	19	18	18	19	19	19	19
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
4 or more children	9	9	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
Black Families										
Without own children	—	39	38	41	41	42	42	40	42	43
One child	—	18	23	25	25	24	25	25	24	24
2 children	—	15	20	19	19	19	18	20	20	18
3 children	—	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9	9
4 or more children	—	19	8	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Hispanic Families										
Without own children	—	—	31	37	36	36	37	36	36	36
One child	—	—	23	23	22	22	23	22	23	23
2 children	—	—	23	21	23	22	22	23	23	23
3 children	—	—	13	12	12	13	12	13	12	12
4 or more children	—	—	10	7	7	7	7	6	7	7

Source: Estimates for 1960 - 1996 from "Household and Family Characteristics," Current Population Reports, Series P-20 for various years.

PF 1.4

RACIAL AND ETHNIC 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 in the decades to come. Table PF 1.4 presents the racial and ethnic composition of America's children from 1960 to 1996, 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 66 percent in 1996, and is expected to continue a steady downward trend until, by the year 2020, non-Hispanic whites will constitute just over one half (55 percent) of all U.S. children. The historical trend for all whites is similar though less dramatic, since Hispanics comprise an increasingly large proportion of the white population (see Table PF 1.4).

As of 1996, blacks constituted the largest minority population group at 16 percent of the total child population. (see Table PF 1.4). They were followed by Hispanics at 14 percent, Asian Americans at 4 percent, and Native Americans at 1 percent. By the year 2010, Hispanics are projected to be 19 percent of the child population, supplanting blacks as the largest minority group in the child population. By the year 2020, more than 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, increasing from 4 percent in 1996 to 6 percent by the year 2020.

Figure PF 1.4
Percentage Distribution of U.S. Children by Race/Ethnicity:
1980-2020

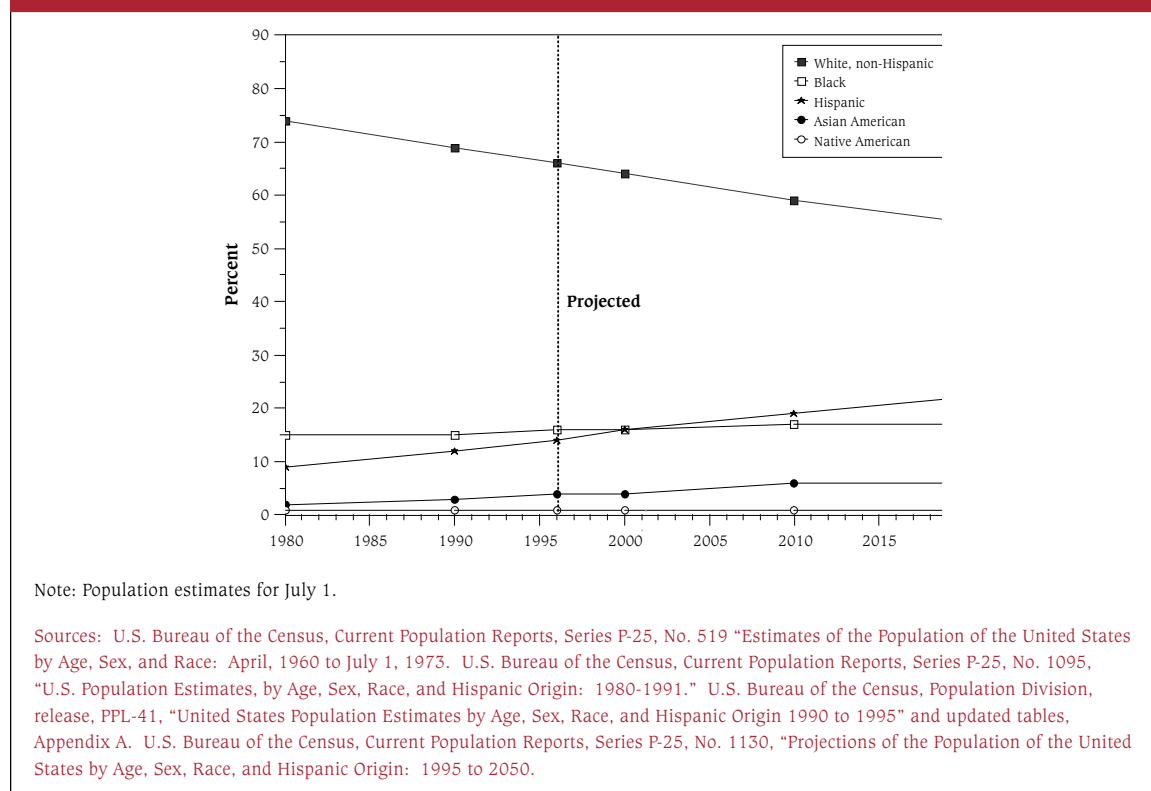


Table PF 1.4
Percentage Distribution of U.S. Children Under 18 by Race/Ethnicity:
1960–2020

	1960	1970	1980	1990	1996	PROJECTED		
						2000	2010	2020
White	86	85	82	80	79	78	76	75
White, non-Hispanic	--	--	74	69	66	64	59	55
Black	13	14	15	15	16	16	17	17
Hispanic	--	--	9	12	14	16	19	22
Asian American	--	--	2	3	4	4	6	6
Native American	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1

Note: All population estimates for July 1.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 519 "Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, and Race: April, 1960 to July 1, 1973." U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25 No. 1095, "U.S. Population Estimates, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980-1991." U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division, release, PPL-41, "United States Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin 1990 to 1995" and updated tables, Appendix A. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 1130, "Projections of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050."

*PF 1.5***IMMIGRANT CHILDREN**

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Rates of immigration have varied substantially over periods of our history, as have the countries and cultures from which these immigrants originate. Recently the U.S. has been experiencing a period of high immigration. Immigrant children are of particular interest, since they may have special needs that must be addressed through the education system.

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 (see Figure PF 1.5.A).

Differences by Age. Older children are more likely than younger children to be foreign born. In 1990, 6.5 percent of youth ages 15 to 19 were foreign born, compared to only 1.4 percent of children under age five (see Table PF 1.5).

Differences by Race and Ethnicity. The percentage of children who are foreign-born varies substantially by racial and ethnic background (see Figure PF 1.5.B). In 1980, less than two 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 declined from 40.0 to 33.2 percent, while the percentage of foreign-born Hispanic children increased to almost 16 percent.

Figure PF 1.5.A
Percentage of U.S. Children Ages 19 and Under Who Were Foreign Born^a: 1970–1990



Notes: ^aIncludes 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
Percentage of U.S. Children Ages 19 and Under Who Were Foreign Born^a
by Race/Ethnicity: 1980-1990

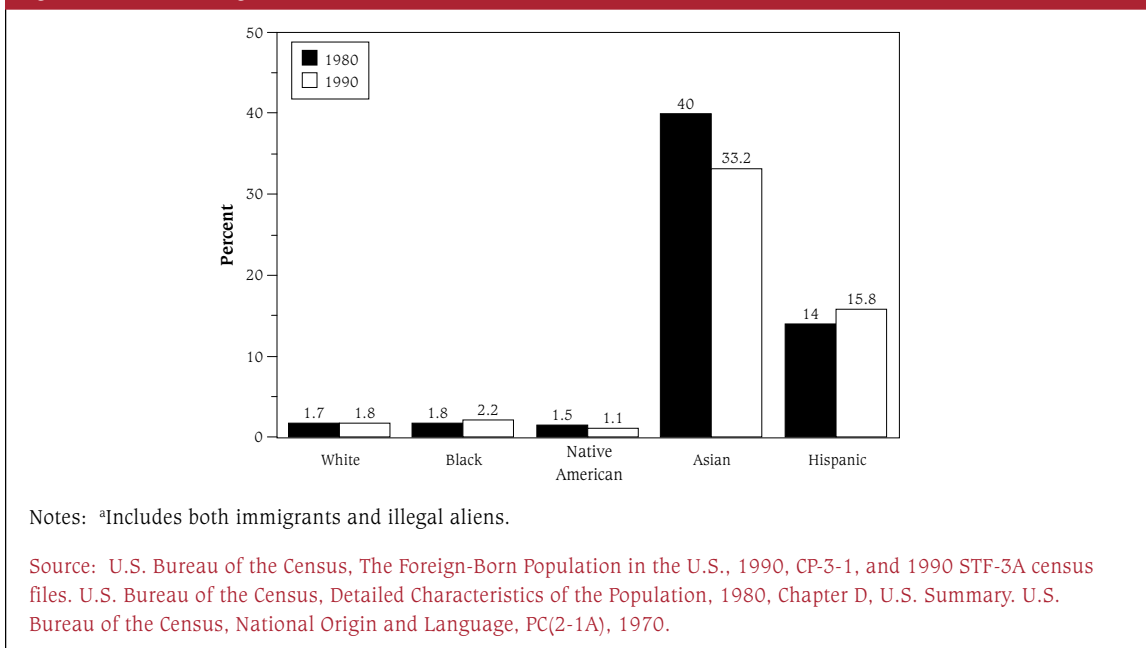


Table PF 1.5
Percentage of U.S. Children Ages 19 and Under Who Were Foreign-Born^a
by Age and Race/Ethnicity: 1970-1990

	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: ^aIncludes 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.

PF 1.6

THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE DEPENDENT POPULATION

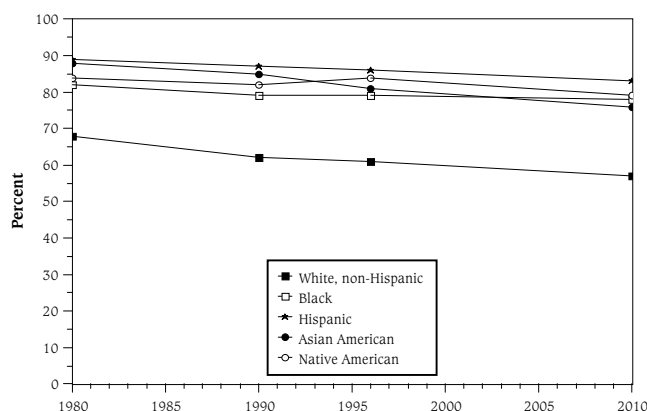
Children and senior citizens frequently depend on assistance from family members, friends, and government agencies. Both the young and old are less likely than other age groups to fully support themselves through participation in the labor market. Varying proportions of both the child population and the elderly population therefore receive income transfers, health care, and other services through public programs. This indicator looks at children (under age 18) as a percentage of the dependent population (children under age 18 + adults ages 65 and older).

Senior Citizen Population Grows in Relation to Child Population. The number of children in the U.S. declined after 1970, while the number of senior citizens increased (see Table PF 1.1 earlier in this volume). Children under 18 went from being 79 percent of the dependent population in 1960 to 67 percent, where it has stayed since 1990 (see Table PF1.6). Despite the fact that the child population is growing again, this slow downward trend is expected to continue, and the growth of the elderly population will continue to outpace growth in the child population.

Differences by Race and Ethnicity. The trend toward a larger senior population relative to the child population is occurring among all racial and ethnic groups. Table PF 1.6 shows that between 1980 and 1990, children declined as a percentage of the dependent population across all racial and ethnic groups. Population projections for 2010 suggest that there will be even more seniors relative to children in each group at that time.

Yet there are also considerable differences across groups in the number of children relative to senior citizens. There are far fewer white children relative to white senior citizens than there are minority children relative to minority seniors. White children are currently estimated to make up about 61 percent of the white dependent population. African-Americans are closest to whites with children making up 79 percent of the combined child and elderly population total. Among Hispanics, children outnumber seniors by the greatest margin, with children estimated to be 86 percent of the dependent population.

Figure PF 1.6
Percentage of Children in the Dependent Population (Persons Age 65 and Over and Those Under Age 18) by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P25-1095. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division, release PPL-41, "United States Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin 1990 to 1995" and updated tables. Day, Jennifer Cheeseman, Population Projections of the United States by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P25-1130, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1996.

Table PF 1.6
Percentage of Children in the Dependent Population (Persons Age 65 and Over and Those Under Age 18) by Race/Ethnicity

	1960	1970	1980	1990	Estimate 1996	Projected ^a 2010
Total	79	78	71	67	67	65
White, non Hispanic	—	—	68	62	61	57
Black	—	—	82	79	79	78
Hispanic	—	—	89	87	86	83
Asian American	—	—	88	85	81	76
Native American ^b	—	—	84	82	84	79

Notes: ^a Projection is based on the Census Bureau's middle series.

^b Includes Alaskan Natives.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P25-1095. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division, release PPL-41, "United States Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin 1990 to 1995" and updated tables. Day, Jennifer Cheeseman, Population Projections of the United States by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P25-1130, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1996.

PF 2.1

FAMILY STRUCTURE: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. CHILDREN BY NUMBER OF PARENTS IN HOUSEHOLD

Family structure is correlated with many factors that contribute to child well-being such as material wealth. It is also associated with many child outcomes. For example, children from disrupted or never-married families are somewhat more likely to use alcohol and drugs, to become teen parents, and to achieve lower earnings than are children from intact families, and they are less likely to attain a high school diploma. These associations are evident even after controlling for family socioeconomic status, race, and other background factors.¹ 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 intact families tend, on average, to be moderate to small.²

Between 1960 and 1996, the proportion of children in two-parent families (about three-quarters of whom were families with both biological parents present)³ decreased from 88 percent to 68 percent (see Figure PF 2.1)

Differences by Race and Ethnicity. The decrease in the proportion of children living in two-parent families is evident for both black and white children, though the descent is significantly steeper for black children. Between 1960 and 1996, the proportion of black children living in two-parent families fell by 34 percentage points, from 67 percent to 33 percent. By contrast, the drop for white children was only 16 percentage points, from 91 percent to 75 percent. For Hispanic children, the trend is also towards a smaller proportion of children in two-parent families, decreasing from 75 percent to 62 percent between 1980 (the first year for which Hispanic estimates are available) and 1996.

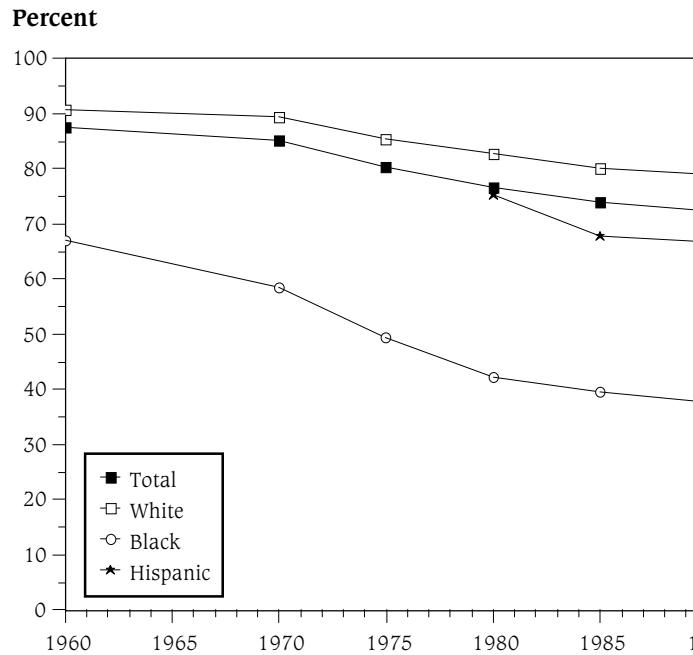
Table PF 2.1.B presents 1980 and 1990 census data for Asian and Native American families in addition to data on white, black, and Hispanic families. The percent of children living in two-parent families dropped for all five groups during that period. In 1990, Asian children were the most likely to live in a two-parent household at 84 percent followed closely by whites at 82 percent, then Hispanics (71 percent), Native Americans (64 percent) and blacks (47 percent).

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

² 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.

³ In 1990, 76.4 percent of married couple families with children were headed by the two biological parents of the children. Norton, Arthur J., and Louisa F. Miller. 1992. *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the 1990s*. *Current Population Reports, Special Studies*, P23-180. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Figure PF 2.1
Percentage of U.S. Children Under Age 18 Living With Two Parents,
by Race/Ethnicity: 1960–1996



Source: 1960 data U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, PC (2) - 4B, "Persons by Family Characteristics," Tables 1 and 19. 1970 Hispanic data U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, PC (2) - 1 C, "Persons of Spanish Origin," Table 4. Data from 1970 - 1995 U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-491, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1995," and earlier reports. 1996 data U.S. Bureau of Census Unpublished tables.

Table PF 2.1.A
Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old by Race/Ethnicity:
Selected Years, 1960–1996 (in percents)

	1960	1970 ^a	1975	1980 ^a	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
TOTALS:												
Two Parents	88	85	80	77	74	73	72	71	71	69	69	68
Mother Only	8	11	16	18	21	22	22	23	23	23	23	24
Father Only	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
No Parent	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
White												
Two Parents	91	90	85	83	80	79	78	77	77	76	76	75
Mother Only	6	8	11	14	16	16	17	18	17	18	18	18
Father Only	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
No Parent	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Black												
Two Parents	67	58	49	42	40	38	36	36	36	33	33	33
Mother Only	20	30	41	44	51	51	54	54	54	53	52	53
Father Only	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	4
No Parent	11	10	8	12	7	8	6	7	7	10	11	9
Hispanic^b												
Two Parents	--	--	--	75	68	67	66	65	65	63	63	62
Mother Only	--	--	--	20	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	29
Father Only	--	--	--	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
No Parent	--	--	--	3	3	3	4	3	4	5	4	5

Note: ^aRevised estimate based on population from the decennial census for that year.

^bHispanics may be of any race.

Source: 1960 data U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, PC (2) - 4B, "Persons by Family Characteristics," Tables 1 and 19. 1970 Hispanic data U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, PC (2) - 1 C, "Persons of Spanish Origin," Table 4. Data from 1970 - 1995 U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-491, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1995," and earlier reports. 1996 data U.S. Bureau of Census unpublished tables.

Table PF 2.1.B
Percentage Distribution of U.S. Families with Own Children Under Age 18, by
Family Type and Race/Ethnicity: 1980 and 1990

	1980	1990
TOTAL		
Married couple	81.5	77.1
Female head	16.1	17.7
Male head	2.4	4.1
White		
Married couple	85.7	82.2
Female head	12.1	14.0
Male head	2.2	3.7
Black		
Married couple	54.3	46.9
Female head	41.7	47.6
Male head	4.0	5.5
Hispanic		
Married couple	76.6	71.4
Female head	20.4	22.1
Male head	3.1	6.5
Asian American		
Married couple	88.5	84.3
Female head	9.4	9.8
Male head	2.1	2.9
Native American		
Married couple	71.5	63.6
Female head	24.2	28.7
Male head	4.3	7.8

Source: "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, Table 14, with data from the Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population, "General Social and Economic Characteristics," PC80-1-C1, United States Summary, tables 100,121, and 131; and Census of Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 3, tables P-19, P-20, and P-21.

PF 2.2

PERCENTAGE OF ALL BIRTHS THAT ARE TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Children who are born to single mothers — regardless of the age of the mother — 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.⁴

Between 1960 and 1994, there was a considerable increase in the percentage of all births to unmarried mothers — from 5.3 percent in 1960 to 32.6 percent in 1994 (see Figure PF 2.2). However, preliminary data for 1995, displayed in Table PF 2.2, indicate a small decline in the percentage of all births to unmarried mothers, to 32.0 percent.

Differences by Age of the Mother. Nonmarital childbearing increased among mothers of all ages between 1960 and 1994 (see Table PF 2.2). For mothers ages 15 to 19, nonmarital births increased from 14.8 percent in 1960 to 75.5 in 1994. For mothers ages 20 to 24, nonmarital births increased from 4.8 percent in 1960 to 44.9 percent in 1994. For mothers in all age groups over age 24, nonmarital births increased from three percent or less in 1960 to between 15 and 22 percent in 1994. Age data are not yet available for 1995, so it is unclear whether the overall decline in the percentage of nonmarital births noted for that year occurred for mothers of all ages or only among certain age groups.

Contrary to popular opinion, nonmarital childbearing does not occur primarily among teenagers. In 1994, about 31 percent of nonmarital births were to teenagers (young women under age 20), 35 percent were to women ages 20 to 24, and about 35 percent were to women ages 25 and older.⁵

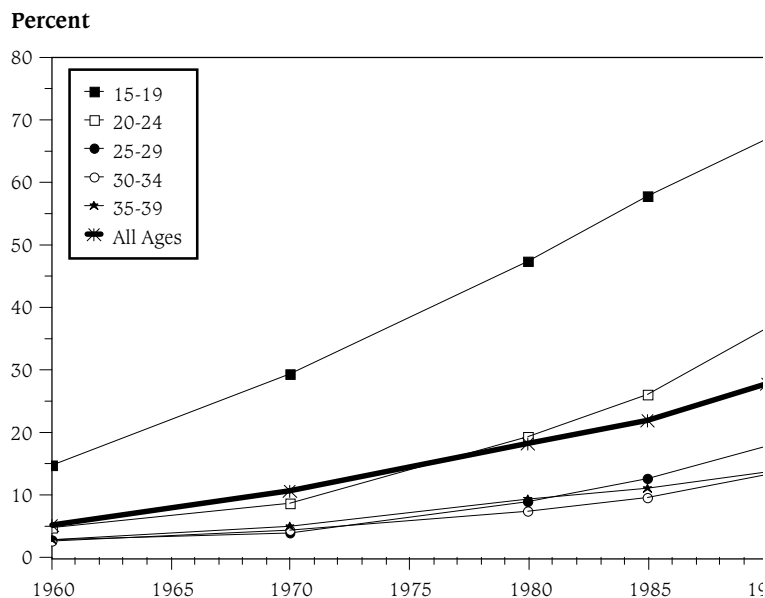
Differences by Race and Ethnicity. The percentage of all births to unmarried mothers increased steadily for whites, blacks, and Hispanics between 1980 and 1994.⁶ Preliminary data indicate a slight decline for all three groups in 1995. In 1994, Asian and white women had the lowest percentage of nonmarital births at 24.1 and 25.5 percent, respectively. Hispanics were next at 43.1 percent, followed by American Indian and black women at 57.0 percent and 70.5 percent. This ordering is the same for all age groups, though the size of the difference can vary substantially by the age of the mother. For young women ages 15 to 19, for example, whites and Hispanics have very similar percentages of births to unmarried mothers — 67.6 and 69.7 percent, respectively — while the percentage among young black women ages 15 to 19 is much higher at 95.3 percent. By ages 25-29, however, percentages for Hispanic women move midway between white and black rates, with whites at 16.5 percent, Hispanics at 33.2 percent, and blacks at 57.3 percent (see Table PF 2.2).

⁴ See Ventura, S.J., 1995. *Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980-1992*. NCHS Series 21, No. 53. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and McLanahan, S., and Sandefur, G. 1994. *Growing up with a single parent: What hurts, what helps*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

⁵ Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Matthew, T.J., Clarke, S.C. *Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994*. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; Vol. 44, No. 11, Supp., Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996.

⁶ Data are available for whites from 1960, and for blacks from 1970, indicating that the percent of births which were nonmarital had also been increasing prior to 1980 for those races. Data for Hispanics are only available starting in 1980.

Figure PF 2.2
Percentage of All Births to Unmarried Mothers by Age of Mother:
1960–1995



Source: 1960 - 1992 data: Ventura, S.J., 1995. Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980-92. Vital and Health Statistics Series 21, No. 53, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, June 1995. 1992 Hispanic data from unpublished tables; Stephanie Ventura: National Center for Health Statistics. 1993 data: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Taffel, S.M., et. al. Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1993. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; Vol. 44, No. 3, Supp. 1, Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1995. 1994 data: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Matthew, T.J., Clarke, S.C. Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; Vol. 44, No. 11, Supp., Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996. 1995 data: Rosenberg, H.M., Ventura, S.J., Maurer, J.D., et. al. Births and Deaths: United States, 1995. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; Vol. 45, No. 3, Supp. 2, Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996.

Table PF 2.2
Percentage of All Births to Unmarried Mothers,
by Age of Mother and Race/Ethnicity:^a 1960–1995

	1960	1970	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
ALL RACES										
All Ages	5.3	10.7	18.4	22.0	28.0	29.5	30.1	31.0	32.6	32.0
Ages 15-19	14.8	29.5	47.6	58.0	67.1	68.8	70.0	71.3	75.5	—
Ages 20-24	4.8	8.9	19.4	26.3	36.9	39.4	40.7	42.2	44.9	—
Ages 25-29	2.9	4.1	9.0	12.7	18.0	19.2	19.8	20.7	21.8	—
Ages 30-34	2.8	4.5	7.5	9.7	13.3	14.0	14.3	14.7	15.1	—
Ages 35-39	3.0	5.2	9.4	11.2	13.9	14.6	15.2	15.6	16.1	—
WHITE										
All Ages	2.3	5.7	11.2	14.7	20.4	21.8	22.6	23.6	25.5	25.3
Ages 15-19	7.2	17.1	33.1	44.8	56.4	58.8	60.4	62.3	67.6	—
Ages 20-24	2.2	5.2	11.7	17.7	27.8	30.2	31.7	33.4	36.3	—
Ages 25-29	1.1	2.1	5.2	8.1	12.6	13.7	14.3	15.2	16.5	—
Ages 30-34	1.0	2.1	4.6	6.3	9.3	9.8	10.2	10.6	11.1	—
Ages 35-39	1.3	2.7	6.4	8.1	10.3	10.9	11.4	11.7	12.3	—
BLACK										
All Ages	—	37.6	56.1	61.2	66.5	67.9	68.1	68.7	70.5	69.5
Ages 15-19	—	62.7	85.7	90.2	92.0	92.3	92.6	92.9	95.3	—
Ages 20-24	—	31.3	57.0	65.4	72.6	74.7	75.2	76.7	79.0	—
Ages 25-29	—	20.3	36.8	45.2	53.3	54.7	55.0	55.8	57.3	—
Ages 30-34	—	19.6	29.6	37.0	45.2	46.5	46.7	46.9	47.4	—
Ages 35-39	—	18.6	28.4	35.1	42.0	43.8	44.7	44.8	45.8	—
HISPANIC										
All Ages	—	—	23.6	29.5	36.7	38.5	39.1	40.0	43.1	40.8
Ages 15-19	—	—	41.9	51.3	53.7	61.2	61.9	62.8	69.7	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	23.8	30.9	35.1	41.5	42.3	43.4	47.0	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	15.9	22.2	25.7	30.3	30.8	31.7	33.2	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	15.2	19.6	23.0	26.6	27.2	27.5	28.6	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	16.2	20.8	23.2	27.6	28.5	29.0	30.3	—
ASIAN										
All Ages	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16.2	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62.7	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30.0	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.3	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.0	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.8	—
AMERICAN INDIAN										
All Ages	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57.0	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82.9	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60.6	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45.5	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40.6	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38.5	—

Notes: ^aBirths from 1980 onwards by race of mother. Tabulations prior to 1980 are by race of child, which assigns the child to the race of the nonwhite parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are nonwhite. Source: 1960 - 1992 data: Ventura, S.J., 1995. Births to Unmarried Mothers: United States, 1980-92. Vital and Health Statistics Series 21, No. 53, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, June 1995. 1992 Hispanic data from unpublished tables; Stephanie Ventura: National Center for Health Statistics. 1995 data: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Taffel, S.M., et. al. Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; Vol. 44, No. 3, Supp. 1, Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1995. 1994 data: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Matthew, T.J., Clarke, S.C. Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; Vol. 44, No. 11, Supp., Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996. 1994 data for Asians and American Indians from unpublished tables; Stephanie Ventura: National Center for Health Statistics. 1995 data: Rosenberg, H.M., Ventura, S.J., Maurer, J.D., et. al. Births and Deaths: United States, 1995. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; Vol. 45, No. 5, Supp. 2, Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1996. Hispanic data for 1980: Ventura, S.J., Births of Hispanic parentage, 1980. Monthly Vital Statistics Report, volume 32, no. 6, Supp., Hyattsville, MD: Public Health Service, 1983. Hispanic data for 1985: Ventura, S.J. Births of Hispanic parentage, 1985. Monthly Vital Statistics Report; vol. 36, no. 11 Supp., Hyattsville, MD: Public Health Service. Hispanic data for 1990 and 1991: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States Vol. I Natality (table 1-46). Issues for 1990-91.

PF 2.3

CHILDREN LIVING IN FOSTER CARE⁷

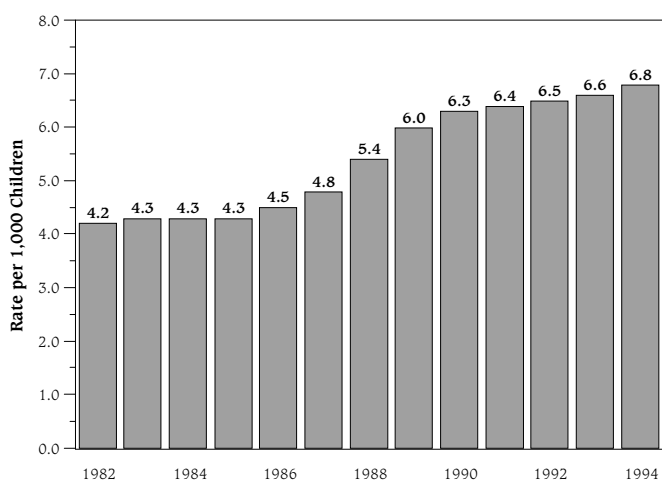
A child is placed in foster care when a court determines that his or her family cannot provide a minimally safe environment. This determination often follows an investigation by a state or county child protective services worker. Placement most commonly occurs either because a member of a household has 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 462 thousand in 1994. As shown in Figure PF 2.3, the rate of children living in foster care (*i.e.*, the number of children in foster care per one thousand children under age 18) also rose dramatically during the same time period, from 4.2 foster children per one thousand children under age 18 in 1982 to 6.8 in 1994 — an increase of over 60 percent. Between 1990 and 1994, the rate of children in foster care continued to increase, but at a slower pace.

⁷ For purposes of this report "foster care" is defined as a living arrangement where a child resides outside his/her own home, under the case management and planning responsibility of a state child welfare agency. These living arrangements include relative and non-relative foster homes, group homes, child care facilities, emergency shelter care, supervised independent living, and non-finalized adoptive homes.

Figure PF 2.3
Children Living in Foster Care: 1982–1994 (Rate per thousand)



Note: Estimate of total is the number of children in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year. 1994 is the last year in which data on foster care was 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. Thus, the new system may bring about a significant change in estimates of children in foster care. However, the first release of data from AFCARS show no significant change in estimates of children in foster care.

Source: Tatara, Tashio. "U.S. Child Substitute Care Flow Data for FY 1993 and Trends in the State Child Substitute Care Populations," VCIS Research Notes, No. 11, August 1995. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1995 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995).

Table PF 2.3
Number and Rate (per thousand) of Children Living in Foster Care: 1982–1994

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total Number (in thousands)	262	269	270	270	280	300	340	383	400	414	427	445	462
Rate (per thousand)	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.8	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.8

Note: Estimate of total is the number of children in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year. 1994 is the last year in which data on foster care was 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. Thus, the new system may bring about a significant change in estimates of children in foster care. However, the first release of data from AFCARS show no significant change in estimates of children in foster care.

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PF 3.1

RESIDENTIAL STABILITY: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO HAVE MOVED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR

Recent 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 teen births. Some researchers theorize that these negative associations may result from a lack of rootedness in a local community and its institutions on the part of frequent movers.⁸

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, to a low of 17 percent in 1994 (see Table PF 3.1.A).

Differences by Age. Young children were the most mobile of any child age group (see Table PF 3.1.B). In 1994, 22 percent of children under the age of five had changed residences in the previous year, compared to 17 percent among children ages 5-9, 13 percent for ages 10-14, and 15 percent for youth ages 15-17.

Differences by Race and Ethnicity. For all children under age 18 in 1994, 16 percent of white children moved during the previous year compared to 20 percent of black children and 21 percent of Hispanic children. For each group, the youngest children were the most likely to move, and children ages 10-14 were the least likely to move.

*Table PF 3.1.A
Percentage of Children Under Age 18 Who Have Moved
Within the Last Year: 1960–1994*

	1960	1970	1981	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total ^a	21	19	18	18	17	18	17	17

Note: ^aTotal children refers to all children between the ages of 1 and 17.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Geographical Mobility, various years.

⁸ Coleman, J. 1988. "Social Capital and the Creation of Human Capital." *American Journal of Sociology*. 94: s95-s120.

Table PF 3.1.B
Percentage of Children Under Age 18 Who Have Moved
Within the Last Year, by Age and Race/Ethnicity: 1990–1994

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
ALL CHILDREN					
Total^a	18	17	18	17	17
1-4 Years	24	23	22	23	22
5-9 Years	19	18	18	17	17
10-14 Years	15	14	15	14	13
15-17 Years	15	15	14	14	15
WHITE					
Total^a	18	17	17	16	16
1-4 Years	23	22	21	22	21
5-9 Years	18	17	17	16	16
10-14 Years	14	13	15	13	12
15-17 Years	14	14	14	14	13
BLACK					
Total^a	21	21	21	20	20
1-4 Years	26	26	27	26	25
5-9 Years	22	22	22	20	22
10-14 Years	19	17	18	17	16
15-17 Years	18	16	16	14	18
HISPANIC					
Total^a	25	21	24	23	21
1-4 Years	32	27	27	28	26
5-9 Years	28	20	25	24	20
10-14 Years	18	19	21	19	15
15-17 Years	21	19	19	20	21

Note: ^aTotal children refers to all children between the ages of one and 17.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Geographical Mobility, various years.

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 low income neighborhoods has been shown to have negative effects on early childhood development and to be associated with higher rates of high school drop out and teen parenthood.⁹

Overall, one in 20 American children lived in very poor neighborhoods in 1990, defined as census tracts in which 40 percent or more of the residents live in poor families. More than one in five children lived in neighborhoods in which 20 percent or more of the residents live in poor families (see Table PF 3.2).

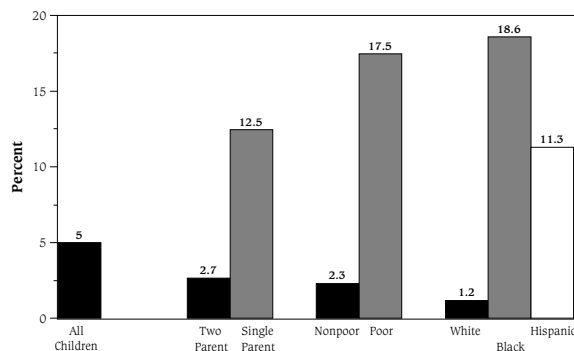
Differences by Race and Ethnicity. Black children were the most likely to live in very poor neighborhoods, followed by Hispanic children, and — at a much lower rate — white children. Almost 19 percent of black children live in very poor neighborhoods, compared to 11.3 percent of Hispanic children and 1.2 percent of white children (see Figure PF 3.2).

Differences by Family Structure. Children in single-parent families were much more likely to live in a very poor neighborhood than were children in two-parent families (12.5 percent versus 2.7 percent) (see Figure PF 3.2).

Differences by Family Income. More than one in six poor children (17.5 percent) lived in very poor neighborhoods compared to 2.3 percent of nonpoor children.

⁹ Brooks-Gunn, J., Duncan, G., Klebanov, P., and Sealant, N. 1994. "Do Neighborhoods Influence Child and Adolescent Behavior?" *American Journal of Sociology*, 99(2), 353-395. See also Crane, J., 1991. "The Epidemic Theory of Ghettos and Neighborhood Effects on Dropping Out of High School and Teenage Childbearing." *American Journal of Sociology*, 96(5), 1126-1159.

Figure PF 3.2
Percentage of Children Who Live in Very Poor (40+ % Poverty)
Neighborhoods: 1990.



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

Source: Tabulations by Paul A. Jargowski from 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3A (CD-ROM version)

Table PF 3.2
Percentage of Children Who Live in Poor Neighborhoods:
1990

	NEIGHBORHOOD POVERTY LEVEL	
	20+ % Poor	40+ % Poor
TOTAL	22.9	5.0
Age of Child		
0-4	23.5	5.3
5-17	22.7	4.9
Family Structure		
Two Parent	17.3	2.7
Single Parent	41.2	12.5
Race/Ethnicity		
White non-Hispanic and other	12.2	1.2
Black	56.4	18.6
Hispanic	46.6	11.3
Family Poverty		
In poverty	54.6	17.5
Not in poverty	16.0	2.3

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

Source: Tabulations by Paul A. Jargowski from 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3A (CD-ROM version).