

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Child Population
Characteristics

Family Structure

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 2002, 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. In 2002, Black and Hispanic families were considerably less likely than White families to be without any minor children, with proportions of 43 percent and 37 percent respectively, compared to 54 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.

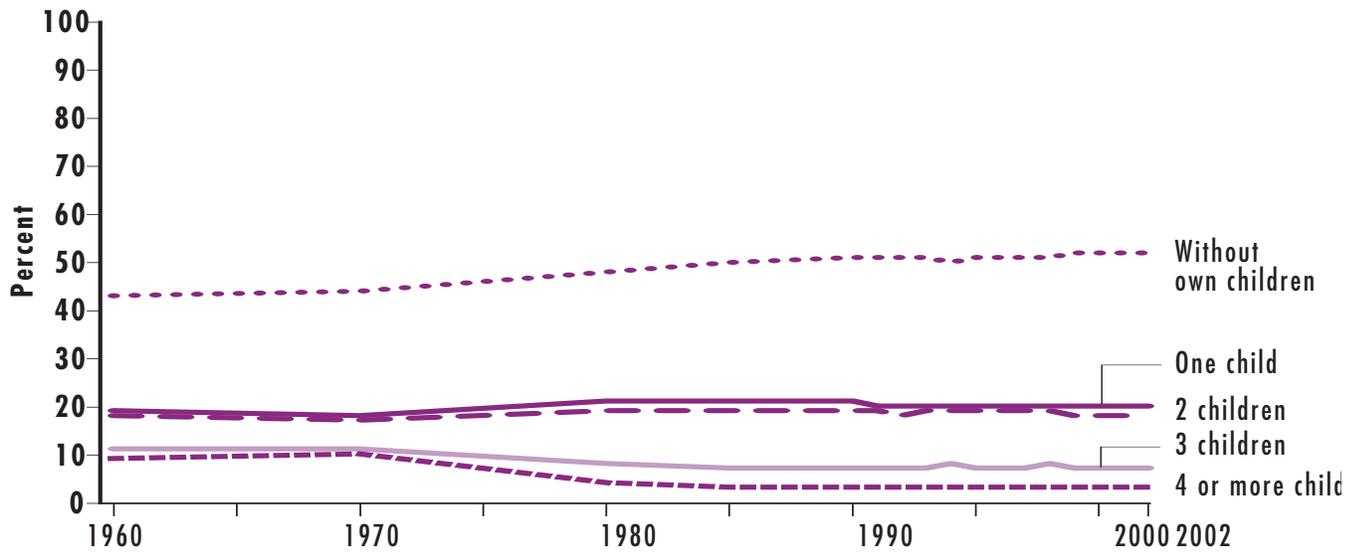
These general trends are also evident when White, Black, and Hispanic¹ families are considered separately, though the levels are substantially different for each group (Table PF 2.1). For example, between 1970 and 2002, the percentage of Black families with four or more children dropped from 19 percent to 4 percent. The percentage for Whites during that period went from 9 percent to 2 percent. For Hispanic families, the percentage dropped from 10 percent to 5 percent between 1980 (the first year for which Hispanic estimates are available) and 2002.

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

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Figure PF 2.1

Percentage of families by number own children: 1960-2002



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003). Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-547; U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). America's families and Living Arrangements. *Current Population Reports*, P20-537; U.S. Census Bureau. (1999). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-509; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-515; U.S. Census Bureau. (1997). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-495; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-488; U.S. Census Bureau. (1990). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-447; U.S. Census Bureau. (1981). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-366; U.S. Census Bureau. (1971). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-218; U.S. Census Bureau. (1961). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-106.

Family Structure

Table PF 2.1

Percentage distribution of families by number of own children and by race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1960-2002

	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^a	2002
All families												
Without own children	43	44	48	51	51	51	51	51	52	52	52	52
One child	19	18	21	21	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
2 children	18	17	19	19	19	19	19	19	18	18	18	18
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	7
4 or more children	9	10	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
White families^b												
Without own children	43	45	49	51	52	52	52	52	53	53	53	54
One child	19	18	21	21	20	19	20	20	19	19	19	19
2 children	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	18	18	18	18	18
3 children	11	11	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
4 or more children	9	9	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2
Black families^b												
Without own children	—	39	38	41	42	43	42	42	44	45	43	43
One child	—	18	23	25	24	24	24	23	24	24	23	26
2 children	—	15	20	19	20	18	20	21	19	19	19	19
3 children	—	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	9
4 or more children	—	19	8	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Hispanic families^b												
Without own children	—	—	31	37	36	36	35	36	37	36	37	37
One child	—	—	23	23	23	23	24	23	23	24	23	23
2 children	—	—	23	21	23	23	23	23	22	22	23	23
3 children	—	—	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
4 or more children	—	—	10	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	5

^a Beginning with March 2001, data are from the Expanded CPS Sample and use population controls based on Census 2000.

^b 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. (2003). Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-547; U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). America's families and Living Arrangements. *Current Population Reports*, P20-537; U.S. Census Bureau. (1999). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-509; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-515; U.S. Census Bureau. (1997). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-49; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-488; U.S. Census Bureau. (1990). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-447; U.S. Census Bureau. (1981). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-366; U.S. Census Bureau. (1971). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-218; U.S. Census Bureau. (1961). Household and Family Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-106.

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, AND 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.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 those from intact families tend, on average, to be moderate to small.²

Between 1970 and 2002, the proportion of children in two-parent families decreased from 85 percent to 69 percent. Of the remainder, 23 percent lived with their mother only; 5 percent lived with their father only;³ and 4 percent lived with neither parent (Table PF 2.2.A).⁴ 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. The decrease in the proportion of children living in two-parent families is evident for Black, White, and Hispanic⁵ 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).⁶ However, between 1996 and 2000, that percentage increased modestly to 38 percent, and has remained at this level through 2002. For Hispanic children, the percentage living in two-parent families decreased from 75 percent in 1980 to 65 percent in 2002.

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

² Zill, N., Morrison, D. R., & 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).

³ 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.

⁴ Data from the 1996 Current Population Survey (not shown) indicate that 11 percent of all children under age 18 are living in families with single parents who are divorced. See U.S. Census Bureau. (1997). Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996. *Current Population Reports*, PPL-66 (Update).

⁵ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁶ In Table PF 2.2.A, estimates for Blacks include Hispanics of that race, whereas estimates for Whites do not. In Figure PF 2.2 estimates for Blacks and Whites include Hispanics of those races. In Table PF 2.2.B, estimates for Blacks and Whites do not include Hispanics.

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Table PF 2.2.A

Percentage distribution of living arrangements of children by presence of parents in household, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1970-2002

	1970	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^a	2002
All children											
Two parents ^b	85	77	73	69	68	68	68	68	69	69	69
Mother only ^c	11	18	22	23	24	24	23	23	22	22	23
Father only ^c	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
No parent	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
White, non-Hispanic											
Two parents ^b	—	—	81	78	77	77	76	77	77	78	77
Mother only ^c	—	—	15	16	16	17	16	16	16	16	16
Father only ^c	—	—	3	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
No parent	—	—	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3
Black^d											
Two parents ^b	58	42	38	33	33	35	36	35	38	38	38
Mother only ^c	30	44	51	52	53	52	51	52	49	48	48
Father only ^c	2	2	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	5
No parent	10	12	8	11	9	8	9	10	9	10	8
Hispanic^d											
Two parents ^b	—	75	67	63	62	64	64	63	65	65	65
Mother only ^c	—	20	27	28	29	27	27	27	25	25	25
Father only ^c	—	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	5
No parent	—	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	5

^a Beginning with March 2001, data are from the Expanded CPS Sample and use population controls based on Census 2000.

^b Excludes families where parents are not living as a married couple.

^c Because of data limitations, includes some families where both parents are present in the household, but living as unmarried partners.

^d Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Blacks include Hispanics of that race.

— Data not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003). Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-547; U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). America's Families and Living Arrangements. *Current Population Reports*, P20-537; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-514u; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-506u; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-496u; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P20-491; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P20-484; U.S. Census Bureau. (1994). *Current Population Reports*, P20-478; U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P20-468; U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P20-461; U.S. Census Bureau. (1986). *Current Population Reports*, P20-410.

Family Structure

Table PF 2.2.B

Percentage distribution of children under age 18 in two-parent, one-parent, or no-parent families, by age, race and Hispanic origin: 1996

	Two-parent families			One-parent families			No parents present	
	Total ^a	Biological parents	One biological, One step-parent	Total ^a	Biological mother	Biological father	Total ^a	Grandparents
All children	70.9	64.2	6.7	25.4	22.7	2.5	3.7	1.8
Age								
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
Race and Hispanic origin								
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 ^b	68.2	62.9	5.3	27.5	25.7	1.7	4.3	1.4

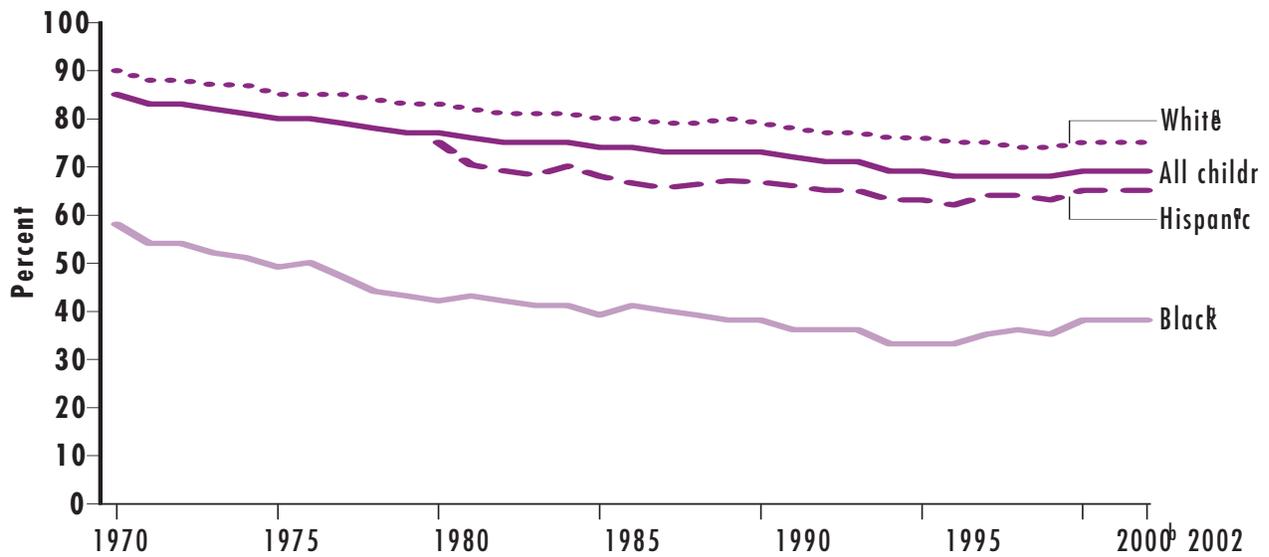
^a Totals for two-parent, one-parent, and no-parent families include categories beyond those presented separately.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P20-491; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P20-484.

Figure PF 2.2

Percentage of children who are living with two parents, by race and Hispanic origin: 1970-2002



^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Blacks and Whites include Hispanics of that race.

^b Beginning with March 2001, data are from the Expanded CPS Sample and use population controls based on Census 2000.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003). Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics. *Current Population Reports*, P20-547; U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). America's Families and Living Arrangements. *Current Population Reports*, P20-537; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-514u; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-506u; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-496u; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P20-491; U.S. Census Bureau. (1996). *Current Population Reports*, P20-484; U.S. Census Bureau. (1994). *Current Population Reports*, P20-478; U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P20-468; U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P20-461; U.S. Census Bureau. (1986). *Current Population Reports*, P20-410.

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.¹ 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 1970 and 1995 before leveling off in the late 1990s (Figure PF 2.3). However, nonmarital births among female youths 15 to 19 years continued to rise throughout the late 1990s. Among all females ages 15 to 19, 29.5 percent of births were nonmarital in 1970, compared with 79.7 percent in 2002 (Table PF 2.3.A).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin. The percentage of all births to unmarried females increased for Whites, American Indians, and Hispanics² between 1980 and 2001 (Table PF 2.3.B). The percentage increased 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 has also declined since that time.

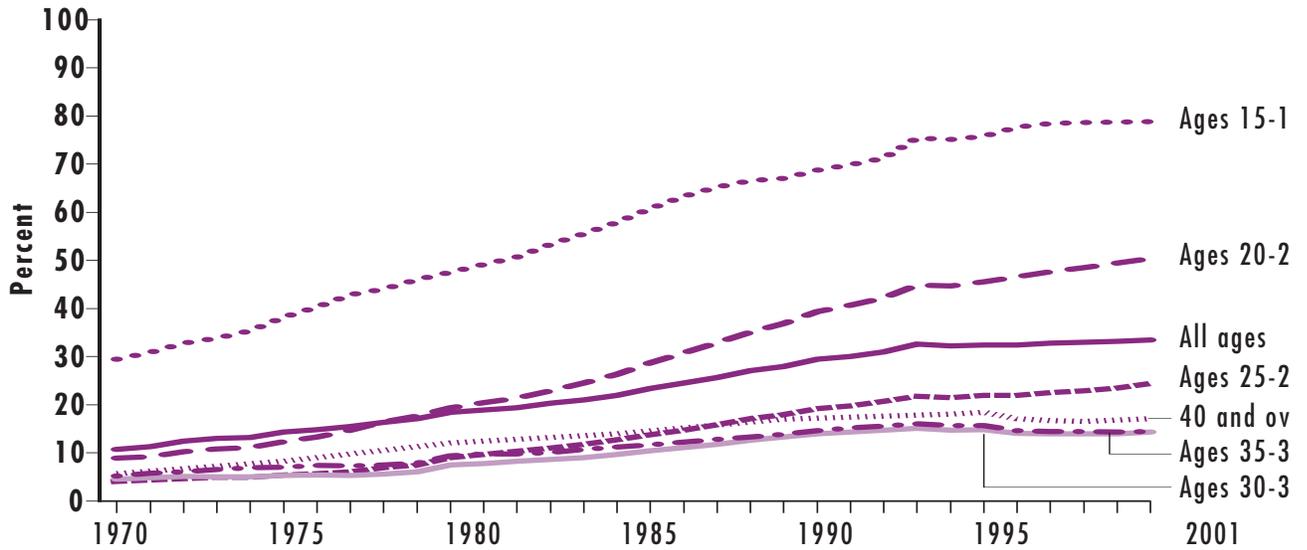
In 2001, Asian and White females had the lowest percentage of nonmarital births at 14.9 and 22.5 percent, respectively. Hispanics were next at 42.5 percent, followed by American Indian and Black females at 59.7 percent and 68.6 percent, respectively. This ordering is the same for most age groups, though the size of the difference can vary substantially by the age of the mother. For females ages 15 to 19 in 2001, for example, Whites and Hispanics have very similar percentages of births to unmarried women—74.0 and 72.1 percent, respectively—while the percentage among young Black unmarried females ages 15 to 19 is much higher at 95.8 percent. By ages 25 to 29, however, percentages for Hispanic females move midway between White and Black rates, with Whites at 14.8 percent, Hispanics at 33.5 percent, and Blacks at 57.7 percent (Table PF 2.3.B).

¹ McLanahan, S., & Sandefur, G. (1996). *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

² 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

Percentage of all live births to unmarried females, by age: 1970-2001



Sources: Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., Park, M. M., & Sutton, P. D. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2001. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 51(2); Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 50(5); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Menacker, F., & Hamilton, B. E. (2001). Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(1); Ventura, S. J., & Bachrach, C. A. (2000). Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(16).

Family Structure

Table PF 2.3.A

Percentage of all births to unmarried females ages 15 to 19, by age of mother, and by race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1970-2002

	1970	1975	1980 ^a	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 ^b
All females, ages 15-19	29.5	38.2	47.6	58.0	67.1	75.2	75.9	77.8	78.5	78.7	78.8	78.9	79.7
Ages 15-17	43.0	51.0	62.0	71.0	78.0	84.0	84.0	86.7	87.5	87.6	87.7	87.8	88.4
Ages 18 or 19	22.0	30.0	40.0	51.0	61.0	70.0	71.0	72.5	73.6	73.9	74.3	74.6	75.6
White, ages 15-19^c	17.1	22.9	33.1	44.8	55.5	67.9	69.3	70.9	71.9	72.6	73.1	74.0	75.1
Ages 15-17	25.0	33.0	45.0	58.0	68.4	79.0	80.9	82.5	82.8	84.5	85.0	85.6	86.1
Ages 18 or 19	14.0	17.0	27.0	38.0	50.1	62.0	63.5	65.2	66.6	67.6	68.3	69.6	70.9
Black, ages 15-19^c	62.7	76.9	85.7	90.2	92.2	95.2	95.5	95.8	95.8	95.6	95.7	95.8	—
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	98.5	—
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	94.0	—
Hispanic, ages 15-19^c	—	—	41.9	51.3	59.4	67.3	67.7	71.6	72.9	72.9	72.6	72.1	73.8
Ages 15-17	—	—	51.0	61.0	68.0	75.0	75.0	80.3	81.6	81.8	81.5	81.1	82.8
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	36.0	46.0	54.0	62.0	63.0	65.6	67.2	67.3	67.3	67.0	68.6

^a 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.

^b Preliminary 2002 data.

^c Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for White and Black births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning in 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.

— Data not available.

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics (2003). Unpublished preliminary work tables for 2002. Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., Park, M. M., & Sutton, P. D. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2001. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 51(2); Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 50(5); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Menacker, F., & Hamilton, B. E. (2001). Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(1); Ventura, S. J., & Bachrach, C. A. (2000). Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 48(16).

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Table PF 2.3.B

Percentage of all live births to unmarried females, by age, race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1970-2002

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990 ^a	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 ^a
All live births	10.7	14.3	18.4	22.0	28.0	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.8	33.0	33.2	33.5	33.8
Ages 15-19	29.5	38.2	47.6	58.0	67.1	75.2	75.9	77.8	78.5	78.7	78.8	78.9	79.7
Ages 20-24	8.9	12.3	19.4	26.3	36.9	44.7	45.6	46.6	47.7	48.5	49.5	50.4	51.4
Ages 25-29	4.1	5.4	9.0	12.7	18.0	21.5	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.9	23.5	24.4	25.2
Ages 30-34	4.5	5.3	7.5	9.7	13.3	14.7	14.8	14.1	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.3	14.5
Ages 35-39	5.2	7.0	9.4	11.2	13.9	15.7	15.7	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.4	14.5
40 and over	5.7	8.2	12.1	14.0	17.0	18.1	18.4	17.1	16.7	16.5	16.8	17.1	17.2
White^b	5.7	7.3	11.2	14.7	16.9	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.9	22.1	22.1	22.5	22.9
Ages 15-19	17.1	22.9	33.1	44.8	55.5	67.9	69.3	70.9	71.9	72.6	73.1	74.0	75.1
Ages 20-24	5.2	6.1	11.7	17.7	24.5	33.3	34.4	35.3	36.4	37.2	38.2	39.8	41.1
Ages 25-29	2.1	2.6	5.2	8.1	9.7	12.7	13.2	13.3	13.6	13.8	14.0	14.8	15.3
Ages 30-34	2.1	2.7	4.6	6.3	6.9	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.9	8.1
Ages 35-39	2.7	3.9	6.4	8.1	7.8	9.4	9.6	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.4	8.5	8.5
40 and over	3.3	4.6	8.6	10.9	10.9	12.2	12.5	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.6	11.1	11.1
Black^b	37.6	48.8	56.1	61.2	66.7	70.0	70.0	69.4	69.3	69.1	68.7	68.6	—
Ages 15-19	62.7	76.9	85.7	90.2	92.2	95.3	95.5	95.8	95.8	95.6	95.7	95.8	—
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	80.9	—
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	57.7	—
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	43.2	—
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	39.9	—
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	40.6	—
Hispanic^b	—	—	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.8	40.7	40.9	41.6	42.2	42.7	42.5	43.4
Ages 15-19	—	—	41.9	51.3	59.4	67.3	67.7	71.6	72.9	72.9	72.6	72.1	73.8
Ages 20-24	—	—	23.8	30.9	39.6	45.0	45.2	46.1	47.5	48.6	49.6	49.9	51.3
Ages 25-29	—	—	15.9	22.2	28.6	31.1	31.2	30.4	31.2	32.1	33.2	33.5	35.1
Ages 30-34	—	—	15.2	19.6	25.5	26.4	26.0	24.6	24.4	25.1	25.8	25.9	26.7
Ages 35-39	—	—	16.2	20.8	26.5	27.4	26.9	25.7	24.7	25.4	25.7	25.2	25.9
40 and over	—	—	15.9	20.2	28.9	29.0	29.6	27.9	27.5	27.3	28.8	28.4	28.4

continued

Family Structure

Table PF 2.3.B continued

Percentage of all live births to unmarried females, by age, race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1970-2002

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990 ^a	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 ^a
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	7.3	9.5	13.2	16.3	16.7	15.6	15.6	15.4	14.8	14.9	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	40.6	47.7	57.0	63.1	62.7	72.0	72.1	71.4	71.1	71.6	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	10.9	15.5	23.5	30.1	31.0	31.8	32.4	33.0	33.1	34.3	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	4.2	5.7	8.3	12.1	12.9	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.2	11.3	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	3.0	4.6	6.3	8.0	8.9	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.6	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	4.0	5.8	7.5	8.9	9.2	6.9	6.5	6.8	6.7	6.7	—
40 and over	—	—	3.6	8.0	10.0	10.8	10.7	10.1	9.4	8.6	9.1	8.7	—
American Indian	—	—	39.2	46.8	53.6	57.2	58.0	58.7	59.3	58.9	58.4	59.7	—
Ages 15-19	—	—	61.9	72.5	78.9	82.5	84.1	84.4	85.9	85.9	85.7	87.1	—
Ages 20-24	—	—	38.6	48.5	57.2	60.7	61.7	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	65.4	—
Ages 25-29	—	—	28.1	35.9	43.2	45.7	46.4	47.3	47.6	47.3	46.4	48.2	—
Ages 30-34	—	—	22.2	31.8	38.3	40.6	41.4	41.2	42.0	39.7	39.9	39.9	—
Ages 35-39	—	—	22.5	27.7	35.5	40.6	40.1	40.3	41.1	39.5	39.1	41.2	—
40 and over	—	—	21.3	28.4	37.5	38.9	43.0	45.6	38.6	42.0	41.2	41.0	—

^a Preliminary 2002 data.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Whites and Blacks include persons of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning in 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are tabulated separately. 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.

— Data not available.

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics. (2003). Unpublished data. Hamilton, B. E., Martin, J. A., & Sutton, P. D. (2003). Births: Preliminary Data for 2002. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 51(11). Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., Park, M. M., & Sutton, P. D. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2001. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 51(2); Martin, J. A., Hamilton, B. E., Ventura, S. J., Menacker, F., & Park, M. M. (2002). Births: Final Data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 50(5); Ventura, S. J., Martin, J. A., Curtin, S. C., Menacker, F., & Hamilton, B. E. (2001). Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 49(1); Ventura, S. J., & Bachrach, C. A. (2000). Nonmarital 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 Reports*, 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 Reports*, 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 Reports*, 44(11, Supp.); Ventura, S. J. (1987). Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1985. *Monthly Vital Statistics Reports*, 36(Supp. 11); Ventura, S. J. (1983). Births of Hispanic Parentage: 1980. *Monthly Vital Statistics Reports*, 32(36[6 Supp]).

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORHOOD

PF 2.4 Children Living in Foster Care

A child is placed in foster care¹ 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 from 262 thousand in 1982 to 559 thousand in 1998. Since then, the number of children in foster care decreased to 634 thousand in 2002 (Table PF 2.4.A). 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 during the same time period from 4.2 to 7.8 per 1,000 children in 1998. Similarly, this rate declined to 7.3 per 1,000 children in 2002. However, some of the increase in the earlier years may be a function of the implementation of a new reporting system, which became fully operational in 1998. (Figure PF 2.4.A).

Differences by Race and Hispanic origin. Since the new reporting system was fully implemented in 1998, data on the race and Hispanic origin² of the children in foster care has been available. These data show that Black, non-Hispanic children accounted for 37 percent of all children in foster care in 2002. White, non-Hispanic children account for a similar proportion (39 percent), while 17 percent of children in foster care are of Hispanic origin (Figure PF 2.4.B).

Differences by Age. Preschoolers (1 to 5 years) and young children (6 to 10 years) each account for almost a quarter of all children in foster care. Youth (11 to 15 years) are about 30 percent of all children in care. Teenagers ages 16 to 18 years accounted for 19 percent in 2002, while children under one year old accounted for about 5 percent in 2002 (Table 2.4.B). When looking specifically at children who entered foster care in a particular year (Table 2.4.C), these proportions change somewhat. While 5 percent of children in foster care were less than one year old in 2002, 14 percent of children entering foster care were in this age range.

¹ 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.

² Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 2.4.A

Number and rate of children living in foster care: Selected years, 1982-2002

	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996 ^a	1998 ^b	2000 ^b	2002 ^b
Children in foster care (<i>in thousands</i>)	262	276	280	340	400	427	468	507	559	552	534
Rate ^c (<i>per thousand</i>)	4.2	4.4	4.5	5.4	6.2	6.4	6.8	7.2	7.8	7.6	7.3

^a 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 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.

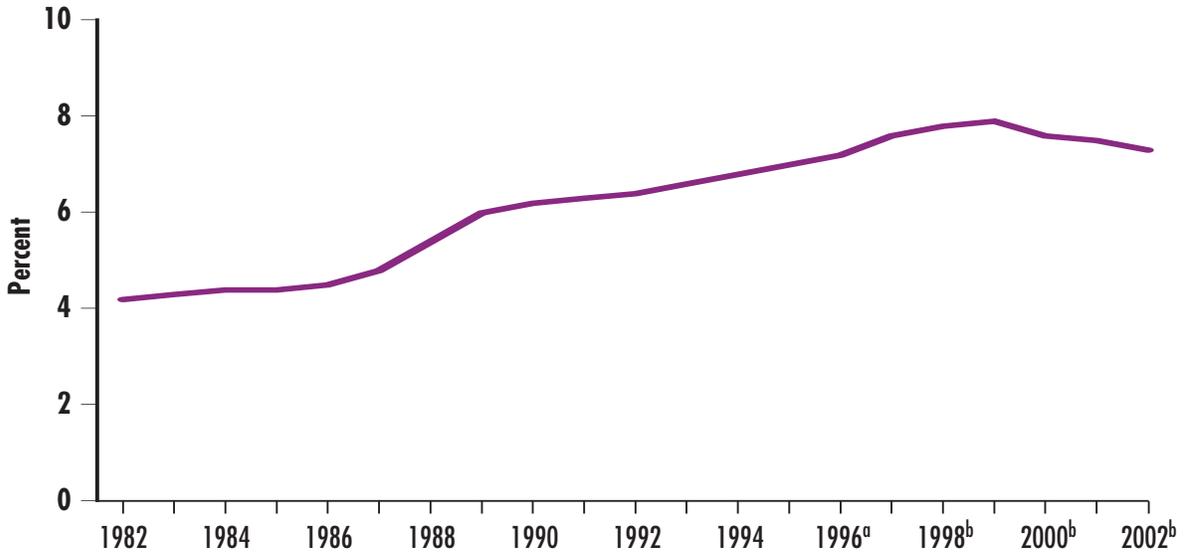
^b Based on data submitted by States as of October 1, 2003.

^c The rate is calculated as the total number of children in the population divided by the number of children in foster care, for a given year. The denominator is based on census counts of the population. These counts for 1990 on have been revised since the last publication of this report, and are now based on the 2000 census.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). *Preliminary FY 2002 and revised FY 1998-2001 estimates*. Unpublished. U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means. (2002). *The Green Book: 2000*. Washington, DC: U.S. Congress; U.S. Census Bureau. (2002). *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2001*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Figure PF 2.4.A

Rate of children living in foster care: 1982-2002



^a 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 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.

^b Based on data submitted by states as of October 1, 2003.

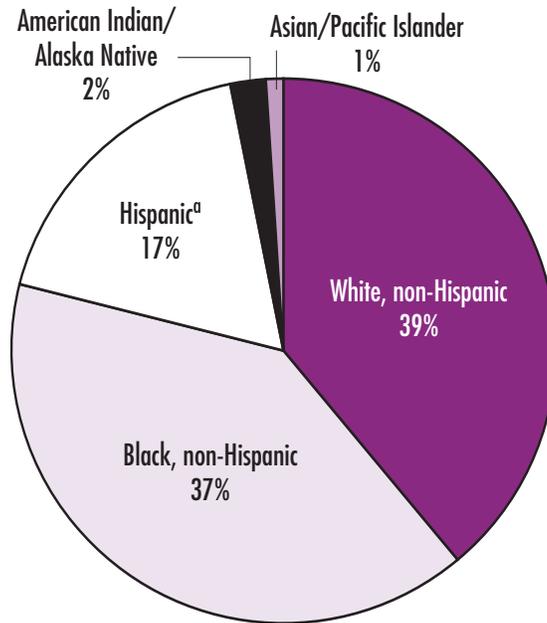
^c The rate is calculated as the total number of children in the population divided by the number of children in foster care, for a given year. The denominator is based on census counts of the population. These counts for 1990 on have been revised since the last publication of this report, and are now based on the 2000 census.

Note: The rate is calculated as the total number of children in the population divided by the number of children in foster care, for a given year. The denominator is based on census counts of the population. These counts for 1990 on have been revised since the last publication of this report, and are now based on the 2000 census.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). *Preliminary FY 2002 and revised FY 1998-2001 estimates*. Unpublished. U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means. (2002). *The Green Book: 2000*. Washington, DC: U.S. Congress; U.S. Census Bureau. (2002). *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2001*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Figure PF 2.4.B

Children in foster care by race and Hispanic origin: 2002



^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Note: Data for 2002 are preliminary estimates.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). *Preliminary FY 2002 Estimate as of October 1, 2003*. Unpublished.

Family Structure

Table PF 2.4.B

Percentage of children in foster care, by race and Hispanic origin, sex, and age: 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All children in foster care (in thousands)	559	567	552	543	534
Race and Hispanic origin (percent)					
White, non-Hispanic	35	35	38	38	39
Black, non-Hispanic	43	38	39	37	37
Hispanic ^a	15	17	15	17	17
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	2	2	2	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	1	1	1	1
Sex					
Male	52	52	52	52	52
Female	48	48	48	48	48
Age					
Under age 1	4	4	4	4	5
Ages 1-5	26	25	24	24	24
Ages 6-10	27	26	25	24	22
Ages 11-15	27	28	29	30	30
Ages 16-18	15	17	18	18	19

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Note: Based on data submitted by States as of October 1, 2003.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). *Preliminary FY 2002 and revised FY 1998-2001 estimates*. Unpublished.

SECTION 1. POPULATION, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 2.4.C

Percentage of children entering foster care, by race and Hispanic origin and age: 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering foster care (in thousands)	299	293	293	295	302
Race and Hispanic origin (percent)					
White, non-Hispanic	45	43	47	46	46
Black, non-Hispanic	30	27	29	28	28
Hispanic ^a	16	16	15	16	17
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	3	3	3	2
Asian/ Pacific Islander	2	2	2	1	1
Age					
Under age 1	13	13	13	13	14
Ages 1-5	25	25	25	25	26
Ages 6-10	22	22	21	21	20
Ages 11-15	29	29	29	29	29
Ages 16-18	11	11	11	11	11
Mean age	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Note: Based on data submitted by States as of October 1, 2003.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). *Preliminary FY 2002 and revised FY 1998-2001 estimates*. Unpublished.