

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

Child Population  
Characteristics

Family Structure

**Neighborhoods**

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### PF 3.1 Residential Stability

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

The United States has long been a highly mobile society. In 1960, 21 percent of children under the age of 18 had moved to a new residence during the previous year. The general trend since that time has been toward somewhat lower rates of mobility, with a rate of 16 percent in 2001.<sup>1</sup>

**Differences by Age.** Young children were the most mobile of any child age group (Table PF 3.1). In 2001, 22 percent of children between the ages of 1 and 4 had changed residences in the previous year, compared with 17 percent among children ages 5 to 9, 13 percent of children ages 10 to 14, and 11 percent of youth ages 15 to 17.

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.** For all children under age 18 in 2001, White children were the least mobile, with 15 percent moving during the previous year compared with 21 percent of Black and 19 percent of Hispanic children.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

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**Table PF 3.1**

Percentage of children under age 18 who have moved within the last year, by age, and by race and Hispanic origin: 1990-2001

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>All children</b>	18	17	18	17	17	18	18	17	17	17	16
Ages 1-4	24	23	22	23	22	25	24	23	23	23	22
Ages 5-9	19	18	18	17	17	18	19	18	18	18	17
Ages 10-14	15	14	15	14	13	15	15	14	13	14	13
Ages 15-17	15	15	14	14	15	13	14	13	13	13	11
<b>White children<sup>a</sup></b>	18	17	17	16	16	17	17	16	16	16	15
Ages 1-4	23	22	21	22	21	24	23	22	21	22	21
Ages 5-9	18	17	17	16	16	18	18	16	17	17	16
Ages 10-14	14	13	15	13	12	14	15	13	13	13	12
Ages 15-17	14	14	14	14	13	12	13	12	12	12	10
<b>Black children<sup>a</sup></b>	21	21	21	20	20	22	23	22	23	22	21
Ages 1-4	26	26	27	26	25	29	29	28	32	28	26
Ages 5-9	22	22	22	20	22	22	26	24	27	24	22
Ages 10-14	19	17	18	17	16	18	18	20	17	18	17
Ages 15-17	18	16	16	14	18	14	17	16	15	15	16
<b>Hispanic children<sup>a</sup></b>	25	21	24	23	21	23	23	21	19	21	19
Ages 1-4	32	27	27	28	26	31	28	26	24	26	24
Ages 5-9	28	20	25	24	20	23	21	21	19	20	18
Ages 10-14	18	19	21	19	15	18	22	16	14	18	17
Ages 15-17	21	19	19	20	21	19	17	17	16	18	15

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

Note: Estimates for 1995 are not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2003). *Geographic Mobility: March 2000 to March 2001, General Mobility by Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex, and Age*. [On-line]. Available: <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/mobility.html>; U.S. Census Bureau. (2002). *Current Population Reports*, P20-538; U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). *Current Population Reports*, P20-531; U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Current Population Reports*, P20-520; U.S. Census Bureau. (1998). *Current Population Reports*, P20-510; U.S. Census Bureau. (1997). *Current Population Reports*, P20-497; U.S. Census Bureau. (1995). *Current Population Reports*, P20-485; U.S. Census Bureau. (1993). *Current Population Reports*, P20-473; U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). *Current Population Reports*, P20-463.

### PF 3.2 Children in Poor and Very Poor Neighborhoods

Recent research has demonstrated a significant relationship between neighborhood quality and the well-being of the children and youth who live in them. Even after controlling for relevant personal and family background characteristics, residence in a low-income neighborhood has been shown to have negative effects on early childhood development, associated with higher rates of dropping out of high school and with young parenthood.<sup>1</sup> In 2001, 54.9 percent of children who lived in very poor neighborhoods (defined as a census tract in which 40 percent or more of the residents live in poor families) were themselves poor (Table PF 3.2).

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.** More Black children lived in very poor neighborhoods than either Hispanic<sup>2</sup> or White children. Sixty three percent of Black children who lived in very poor neighborhoods were poor, compared to 49 percent of Hispanic children and 37 percent of White, non-Hispanic children (Figure PF 3.2).

**Differences by Family Type.** Children in mother-only families in very poor neighborhoods were much more likely to be poor than were children in married-couple families (69.7 percent versus 34.3 percent) (Figure PF 3.2).

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<sup>1</sup> Brooks-Gunn, J., Duncan, G., Klebanov, P., & Sealand, N. (1994). Do Neighborhoods Influence Child and Adolescent Behavior? *American Journal of Sociology*, 99(2).

<sup>2</sup> Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Blacks include Hispanics of the same race.

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**Table PF 3.2**

Percentage of related children below the poverty line by the poverty level of their neighborhood, by age of child, by family structure, and by race and Hispanic origin: 2001

	All Areas	Neighborhood Poverty Level <sup>a</sup>			
	Currently below poverty level	Outside of poverty area	20 percent or more below poverty level	30 percent or more below poverty level	40 percent or more below poverty level
<b>All related children<sup>b</sup></b>	15.8	11.0	37.5	45.3	54.9
<b>Age</b>					
Ages 1-5	18.2	12.5	43.0	53.1	61.7
Ages 6-17	14.6	10.2	34.8	41.3	51.2
<b>Family structure</b>					
Married couple families	8.0	5.9	22.4	28.3	34.3
Ages 1-5	9.2	6.4	27.0	35.0	36.4
Ages 6-17	7.4	5.6	20.0	25.0	33.2
Mother-only families	39.3	30.7	57.0	60.9	69.7
Ages 1-5	48.9	40.1	64.6	69.5	77.7
Ages 6-17	35.3	27.0	53.3	56.5	65.4
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>c</sup></b>					
White, non-Hispanic	8.9	7.7	22.3	25.5	36.8
Black	30.0	18.7	47.4	52.5	63.4
Hispanic	27.4	20.0	42.2	47.0	49.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.1	10.7	17.0	26.0	—

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

<sup>b</sup> Children who are related to the householder and who are under 18 years of age.

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

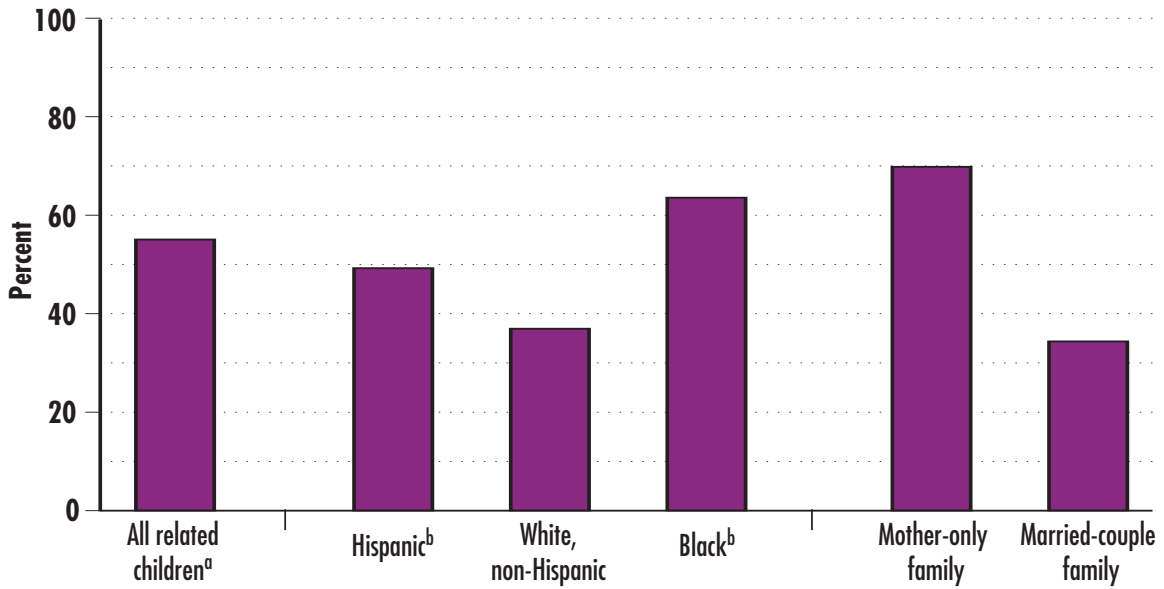
— Data not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Poverty in the United States, 2001. *Current Population Survey*, P60-219.

## Neighborhoods

**Figure PF 3.2**

Percentage of related children below the poverty line who live in very poor neighborhoods, by race and Hispanic origin, and family type: 2001



<sup>a</sup> Children who are related to the householder and who are under 18 years of age.

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Poverty in the United States, 2001. *Current Population Survey*, P60-219.