

## At-a-Glance Demographic and Social Trends

1. Children in U.S. population: As of March 1999, 72 million children live in the U.S. The population under 18 represents about 27% of the U.S. population, more than twice as many children as the 32 million elderly over age 65 in the U.S.
2. Race/ethnicity and immigrant status: Racial/ethnic minorities account for 37% of U.S. children; the pre-school population comprises 39% racial/ethnic minorities. The U.S.-born children of immigrants represent more than 16% of the population under age 18--a larger group than any single racial/ethnic group.
3. Living arrangements: One-parent households are less able to provide the same level of resources as two-parent households. Deficiencies are worse for female-headed households. Of the children who live in these households, 54% are Black, 26% are Hispanic, and 15% are API.
4. Family size: The larger the number of children in a family, generally, the greater the health risk, often due to crowded living quarters and "competition" for resources (i.e., food, clothing, and shelter versus health care). Black and Hispanic children live in larger households, 2.35 and 2.48 children respectively, than white and API children, 2.14 and 2.10 children.
5. Income: The income available to a household, or the lack of income, can be a significant factor contributing to health risks for children. Median incomes for white and API children exceed \$50,000 whereas those for Black and Hispanic children are below \$30,000. Sixty-one percent of immigrant children are in households with incomes below the median versus 53% for the second generation and 40% of third and higher generations.
6. Poverty: The 20% of children who live in families below the poverty line is 50% higher than the next age group (18-34 at 14%) and more than twice the percentage at other ages. Racial/ethnic minorities have higher levels of poverty than the white, non-Hispanic majority population; within each racial/ethnic group, children have a higher percentage living below the poverty line. Black and Hispanic children are more than twice as likely to live below the poverty line as API children and more than 3 times as likely as white children.
7. Health: White, non-Hispanic children are reported to be very healthy with 86% in "excellent" or "very good" health. This figure is 9% higher than for API children, 13% higher than for Hispanic children, and 15% higher than for Black children.
8. Health insurance coverage: Among children, 11.1 million or 15% are not covered by health insurance. Only about 11% of white, non-Hispanic children are without health insurance; this proportion is 50% higher for API children (16%), double for Black children (20%), and triple for Hispanic children (30%). Over a third have no dental coverage.

Future trends: The composition, rather than the percentage, of the total population under age 18 is projected to change between 1999 and 2025. The number of API children is projected to grow from 3 million in 1999 to 5.3 million in 2025, and Hispanic children from the current 11.3 million to 19.8

million. The number of Black children is projected to decrease slightly over the projection period, staying between 10.2 and 11.2 million. The percentage of white, non-Hispanic children is projected to decrease from 63% of all children in 1999 to 54% by 2025.