

CHILD POPULATION

2020

THE YEAR CHILDREN OF COLOR
WILL BECOME THE MAJORITY

There were 73.6 million children in the United States in 2016, a number that has grown every year over the past 50 years. In 2016 children were 23 percent of our nation's population, but the proportion has been decreasing over the years, peaking at 36 percent in 1964. At that time adults 65 and older were 9 percent of the population, but their proportion increased to 15 percent by 2016. Given current trends, the share of seniors is expected to continue to grow. By 2040 there will be more seniors (22 percent) than children (21 percent).¹

To prepare our nation to support its aging population, we must plan ahead to ensure our increasingly diverse child population has a productive and successful future and the foundation necessary to assist future generations. Poverty and inequality pose significant challenges and contribute to opportunity gaps that must be overcome to level the playing field for all children and help them achieve success.

The U.S. is reaching a tipping point in racial and ethnic diversity.

- In 2016 children of color made up 49 percent of all children.
- More than half of the 19.9 million children under 5 in America in 2016 were children of color, making children under 5 “majority minority.”²
- The majority of children under 18 were children of color in 14 states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Texas—and the District of Columbia (see **Table 1**).
- In 2016, 37.6 million children were White (51 percent); 18.3 million were Hispanic (25 percent); 10.1 million were Black (14 percent); 3.6 million were Asian (5 percent); 3.1 million were two or more races (4 percent); 626,148 were American Indian/Alaska Native (1 percent); and 146,936 were Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (<1 percent).³
- By 2020 it is estimated the majority of all U.S. children will be children of color.⁴

Children and Youths in Immigrant Families⁵

Child Population

- During 2013-2015, nearly 1 in 4 children in the U.S.—18 million—were children of immigrants or immigrants themselves; 84 percent of them were children of color. Ninety-four percent of immigrant children and 79 percent of their parents had U.S. citizenship, lawful permanent residency or other legal status.
- An estimated 5 million children lived with undocumented parents, placing them at risk of detention or deportation. As many as 500,000 children were separated from parents through detention and deportation between 2008 and 2013.
- Six percent of immigrant children and 21 percent of their parents were unauthorized.
- Immigrant families live in every state but more than half lived in California, Florida, New York and Texas.

Child Poverty

- Thirty percent of all low-income children in the U.S. were children of immigrants.
- More than half of children living in immigrant families were low-income (below 200 percent of poverty) and 1 in 4 were poor. The median income for immigrant families with children was 20 percent less than that for U.S.-born families.

Child Health

- Only seven states and the District of Columbia had extended health coverage to all children regardless of their immigration status.
- Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia provided health coverage to lawfully residing immigrant children.

Education

- Seventy percent of children in immigrant families lived with a householder who had at least a high school diploma; 12 percent of parents of children in immigrant families had less than a ninth-grade education.
- Ninety-two percent of public school fourth graders who were English language learners could not read at grade level compared with 62 percent of those who were native English speakers.
- Ninety-five percent of public school eighth graders who were English language learners could not compute at grade level compared with 66 percent of those who were native English speakers.

Children of color made up 49 percent of the total U.S. child population in 2016 and more than half the child population in 14 states and the District of Columbia.

Table 1: Child Population by Age and Race/Ethnicity, 2016

	Percent of Children Who Are:									
	Number of Children		Children of Color	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Two or More Races	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
	Under 18	Under 5								
Alabama	1,096,823	292,565	41.8%	58.2%	7.3%	29.4%	1.4%	3.1%	0.5%	0.1%
Alaska	187,327	54,115	50.4	49.6	9.4	3.2	5.7	12.3	18.0	1.8
Arizona	1,631,492	439,319	60.3	39.7	43.8	4.7	2.7	3.8	5.1	0.2
Arkansas	705,053	190,277	36.3	63.7	12.0	18.0	1.5	3.6	0.7	0.4
California	9,092,863	2,487,372	74.0	26.0	52.0	5.2	11.3	4.7	0.4	0.4
Colorado	1,261,372	337,464	43.4	56.6	31.2	4.3	3.0	4.2	0.6	0.1
Connecticut	753,294	185,321	43.9	56.1	23.4	11.4	5.0	3.8	0.3	0.0
Delaware	204,274	54,834	50.1	49.9	15.5	25.2	3.8	5.2	0.3	0.0
District of Columbia	120,893	43,507	78.1	21.9	16.3	55.3	2.3	4.0	0.1	0.0
Florida	4,146,712	1,126,136	57.3	42.7	30.5	20.3	2.6	3.6	0.2	0.1
Georgia	2,511,544	660,839	55.6	44.4	14.3	33.6	3.8	3.6	0.2	0.1
Hawaii	308,016	91,535	86.1	13.9	18.0	1.9	24.0	30.8	0.2	11.4
Idaho	437,173	115,289	25.0	75.0	18.2	0.9	1.2	3.4	1.1	0.2
Illinois	2,926,109	772,511	48.4	51.6	24.6	15.3	5.0	3.3	0.1	0.0
Indiana	1,575,452	421,987	28.3	71.7	10.8	11.1	2.2	4.0	0.2	0.0
Iowa	730,731	199,415	21.7	78.3	9.9	4.9	2.6	3.8	0.4	0.1
Kansas	714,951	194,307	33.2	66.8	18.2	6.3	2.7	5.1	0.7	0.1
Kentucky	1,010,629	275,753	21.0	79.0	5.9	9.1	1.6	4.0	0.2	0.1
Louisiana	1,113,949	310,601	48.6	51.4	6.5	36.8	1.6	3.0	0.7	0.0
Maine	254,714	65,068	11.4	88.6	2.7	2.7	1.5	3.7	0.8	0.0
Maryland	1,348,728	367,095	57.2	42.8	14.5	31.1	6.2	5.0	0.2	0.0
Massachusetts	1,378,102	361,376	37.2	62.8	17.9	8.5	6.8	3.9	0.2	0.0
Michigan	2,191,057	574,423	32.6	67.4	8.2	16.0	3.2	4.6	0.6	0.0
Minnesota	1,288,333	352,504	30.0	70.0	8.7	8.8	6.0	4.9	1.4	0.1
Mississippi	721,288	188,701	50.8	49.2	4.4	42.4	0.9	2.4	0.6	0.0
Missouri	1,386,863	373,958	27.0	73.0	6.6	13.6	1.9	4.3	0.4	0.2
Montana	227,611	63,029	21.6	78.4	5.9	0.7	0.6	4.6	9.7	0.1
Nebraska	473,325	132,809	30.6	69.4	17.2	5.7	2.5	3.9	1.1	0.1
Nevada	677,427	184,462	64.1	35.9	40.9	9.6	5.9	6.3	0.8	0.7
New Hampshire	260,588	64,200	14.3	85.7	6.0	1.6	3.1	3.4	0.2	0.0
New Jersey	1,984,752	521,332	52.7	47.3	26.3	13.6	9.6	3.1	0.2	0.0
New Mexico	490,663	128,950	75.5	24.5	60.1	1.6	1.1	2.5	10.1	0.1
New York	4,180,559	1,160,057	51.8	48.2	24.6	15.4	8.0	3.5	0.3	0.0
North Carolina	2,298,720	606,310	47.2	52.8	15.8	22.9	3.1	4.1	1.2	0.1
North Dakota	176,311	55,236	23.2	76.8	6.1	3.7	1.4	4.1	7.9	0.1
Ohio	2,612,172	697,923	27.8	72.2	6.0	14.8	2.2	4.6	0.2	0.0
Oklahoma	961,628	266,910	46.2	53.8	16.6	8.0	2.0	9.5	9.8	0.2
Oregon	868,727	235,800	35.8	64.2	21.9	2.3	4.0	6.0	1.2	0.5
Pennsylvania	2,674,805	711,765	32.3	67.7	11.7	13.0	3.7	3.9	0.1	0.0
Rhode Island	208,381	54,708	40.6	59.4	24.6	7.3	3.5	4.6	0.6	0.1
South Carolina	1,097,621	293,134	45.1	54.9	9.0	30.3	1.5	3.8	0.3	0.1
South Dakota	213,287	61,369	27.7	72.3	6.3	2.6	1.6	4.4	12.8	0.0
Tennessee	1,501,795	407,599	34.3	65.7	9.2	19.3	1.8	3.7	0.2	0.1
Texas	7,294,587	2,019,171	68.0	32.0	49.3	11.7	4.1	2.5	0.2	0.1
Utah	921,773	253,450	25.8	74.2	17.4	1.2	1.7	3.5	1.0	1.0
Vermont	118,528	30,641	10.6	89.4	2.6	1.9	2.0	3.7	0.3	0.0
Virginia	1,870,123	510,501	45.8	54.2	13.3	20.2	6.5	5.6	0.2	0.1
Washington	1,629,498	455,339	42.8	57.2	21.0	4.3	7.4	7.9	1.4	0.9
West Virginia	375,068	101,019	10.9	89.1	2.4	3.7	0.7	3.9	0.2	0.0
Wisconsin	1,287,693	336,906	28.8	71.2	11.7	8.7	3.6	3.8	1.1	0.0
Wyoming	138,901	38,145	22.4	77.6	14.5	1.0	0.8	3.2	2.9	0.1
United States	73,642,285	19,927,037	48.9%	51.1%	24.9%	13.8%	4.9%	4.2%	0.9%	0.2%

Notes: Racial categories (White, Black, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races) exclude children of Hispanic ethnicity. Hispanic children can be of any race. Children of color include all categories except White. Racial/ethnic categories are presented in the order of their share in the child population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2017. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016, 2016 Population Estimates."