

Demographics and Living Arrangements: 2013

Household Economic Studies

Current Population Reports

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WAVE 1 OF THE 2014 SIPP PANEL

SIPP provides valuable data on the demographics and living arrangements of Americans. While these characteristics often serve as background information for researchers examining data on other topics available in SIPP, this brief provides an overall profile of the sample in terms of demographics and basic living arrangements.¹ In addition, it illustrates the longitudinal nature of the data by showing the percentage of people who experienced a change in their household composition over the course of the reference year.

Race, Age, and Sex

Table 1 displays the number of survey participants by their sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin.² Approximately 62 percent of respondents are white, non-Hispanic. Seventeen percent are of Hispanic origin (of any race). As expected, at older ages, women outnumber men (aged 75 and up).³

Living Arrangements

SIPP collects information on how each person is related to everyone else in the household, rather than how

¹ Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements.html>.

² Estimates may differ from other surveys, such as American Community Survey or Current Population Survey, due to differences in sample design, the survey universe, and differences in the way they are collected.

³ All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing, unless otherwise noted, and all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level.

WHAT IS SIPP?

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau that collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility and participation in government assistance programs. It is a leading source of information on specific topics related to economic well-being, family dynamics, education, wealth and assets, health insurance, child care, and food security. Each SIPP panel follows individuals for several years, providing monthly data that measure changes in household and family composition and economic circumstances over time. For more information, please visit the SIPP Web site at <www.census.gov/sipp>.

each person is related to a central “householder” who owns or rents the home. Table 2 provides estimates of people who live with particular types of relatives. This is different from, and provides more information than, the way relationship is shown in American Community Survey or Decennial Census data. About 12 percent of the population lives alone and 39 percent live with a spouse. Thirty-seven percent live with their parent and/or child. Respondents may also live with other family members (e.g., grandparents, in-laws, or siblings), as well as nonrelatives such as roommates. These categories, although not mutually exclusive, highlight some of the relationships shown in the SIPP.

Table 1.

Total Population by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Margin of error ¹	White alone		Black alone	Asian alone	All remaining races and combinations	Hispanic (any race)
			Total	Non-Hispanic				
Total population	311,936	20.54	242,425	193,419	40,430	16,892	12,189	53,889
Male								
Age								
Under 18 years.	36,831	1,220	27,051	19,058	5,458	1,863	2,460	9,024
18 to 24 years.	15,428	1,449	11,422	8,467	2,404	913	688	3,266
25 to 34 years.	20,662	986	15,933	11,852	2,538	1,436	755	4,407
35 to 44 years.	19,389	1,001	15,153	11,442	2,338	1,356	542	3,943
45 to 54 years.	21,088	980	16,942	14,025	2,481	995	670	3,234
55 to 64 years.	19,097	857	15,810	14,118	2,027	814	446	1,795
65 to 74 years.	12,061	975	10,372	9,524	998	462	229	897
75 to 84 years.	5,895	800	5,044	4,615	520	241	90	455
85 years and over.	1,982	479	1,803	1,679	100	64	15	124
Female								
Age								
Under 18 years.	35,415	1,023	25,702	17,969	5,433	1,809	2,471	8,654
18 to 24 years.	15,048	1,148	11,170	8,434	2,385	745	747	3,078
25 to 34 years.	21,212	1,026	15,800	12,226	3,046	1,527	840	3,985
35 to 44 years.	20,242	860	15,191	11,498	2,871	1,554	627	3,995
45 to 54 years.	21,906	990	17,146	14,301	2,940	1,122	699	3,119
55 to 64 years.	20,634	881	16,655	14,818	2,486	988	506	1,969
65 to 74 years.	13,785	1,329	11,500	10,467	1,480	582	224	1,110
75 to 84 years.	7,603	1,256	6,518	5,916	686	263	137	629
85 years and over.	3,658	635	3,212	3,009	243	160	44	204

¹ This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, provides the 90 percent confidence interval.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 Panel, Wave 1.

Table 2.

Living Arrangements in December of 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Total population	311,936	100
Lives alone	36,086	11.6
Lives with spouse	122,241	39.2
Opposite-sex spouses	121,715	39.0
Same-sex spouses	526	0.2
Lives with unmarried partner	19,124	6.1
Opposite-sex partners	17,808	5.7
Same-sex partners.	1,317	0.4
Lives with parent/child	116,725	37.4
Lives with grandparent/grandchild	2,881	0.9
Lives with sibling	2,814	0.9
Lives with other relative, e.g. aunt/uncle, parent-in-law	2,908	0.9
Other nonrelative.	9,157	2.9

Note: People are shown in the living arrangement that reflects their relationship to the first rostered person other than themselves.

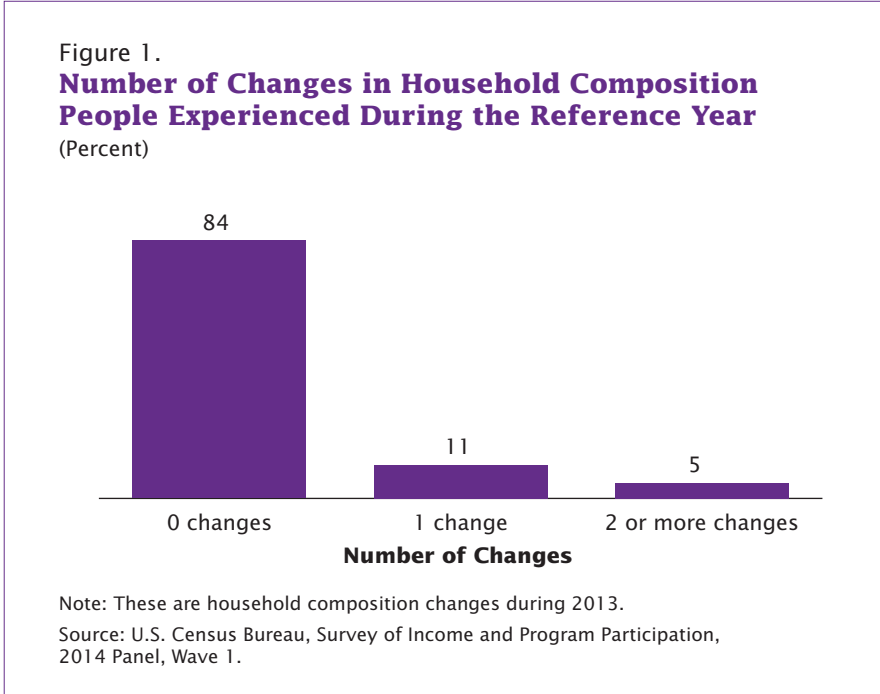
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 Panel, Wave 1.

The SIPP 2014 Panel implemented a relationship question, which lists specific categories for “opposite-sex spouses” and “same-sex spouses” as well as parallel categories for unmarried partners. This change was made based on a long-term research effort to improve measurement of same-sex couple households. Publications describing that work can be found on the Census Bureau Web site by searching for “same-sex couples.”⁴

Changes in Household Composition

SIPP is a valuable source of data on the changes in household composition for Americans. Using SIPP, we can count the number of changes in household composition people may experience during a 12-month period. The vast majority of Americans maintained their household size and composition throughout the year (see Figure 1). These people experienced no change in who was living in their household from month to month. However, about 11 percent of Americans had one change in their household composition in the 12-month period. This means that there may have been a birth or death in the family or someone moving in or out, for example. A small percentage of the

⁴ Estimates of same-sex couples, particularly spouses, should be used with caution, given the relatively smaller sample size of the SIPP.



population, 5 percent, had two or more changes in their household composition during the 12-month period. Data on household changes are a unique and valuable resource provided by SIPP and can be useful for research on household stability and well-being, as well as blended families, and union formation and dissolution.

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