

Living Arrangements of Children: 2019

Household Economic Studies

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P70-174

February 2022

INTRODUCTION

The number and type of parents with whom children live, along with their parents' relationship status, is often associated with child development and the household's economic wellbeing.¹ Living arrangements of children are not experienced equally, as various factors—including parental death, divorce, remarriage, births to unmarried mothers, cohabitation of unmarried parents, and multigenerational families—can influence children's living arrangements. Today, 40 percent of births are to unmarried mothers, and these children may grow up in one-parent families or spend significant portions of their lives with other relatives or stepparents.² Immigration is another factor that may influence the type of

¹ Caroline Sanner, Luke Russell, Marilyn Coleman, and Lawrence Ganong, "Half-Sibling and Stepsibling Relationships: A Systematic Integrative Review," *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 10, 4, 2018, pp. 765-784. Also, Kelly R. Raley and Megan M. Sweeney, "Divorce, Repartnering, and Stepfamilies: A Decade in Review," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82, 1, 2020, pp. 81-99.

² Joyce A. Martin, Brady E. Hamilton, Michelle J. K. Osterman, and Anne K. Driscoll, "Births: Final Data for 2018," *National Vital Statistics Report*, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2019, pp. 1-47.

DATA SOURCES

Estimates of children and their living arrangements vary by survey. The surveys used in this report differ in their data collection methods, universes, editing, and weighting. More information about the surveys is available in the "Source of the Data" and "Accuracy of the Estimates" sections at the back of this report.

Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) 2007 and 2019: In order to improve data collection of household members and their relationships, the U.S. Census Bureau made changes to the CPS in 2007. The survey now uses the relationship to the reference person and specific questions about the presence of parents and spouses/cohabiting partners to describe children's living arrangements. This report compares recent CPS estimates to 2007 because that was the first year these changes were implemented. Data are available only at the national level.

2008 and 2018 American Community Survey (ACS): Uses the relationship to the reference person question to determine children's living arrangements. Data are available at the sub-national level. This report uses the 2008 and 2018 1-year ACS data.

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2014: In addition to questions regarding the relationship to the reference person and specific questions about the presence of parents, spouses, and cohabiting partners, the redesigned 2014 SIPP uses fertility history questions to determine children's relationship to their siblings, notably for those living with half siblings (those who share one biological parent). The first wave of interviews was conducted in 2014, collecting data about the previous year. SIPP estimates in this report therefore reflect living arrangements in December of 2013. Data are available only at the national level. Although the 2018 SIPP can be used to report more recent estimates, this report presents data from the 2014 SIPP because that was the first release of the redesigned survey.

households in which children grow up, as children move close to or away from their extended family. In addition, parents and grandparents moving from abroad could result in higher rates of multigenerational households among more recent immigrants.

This report explores the variation and changes of children's living arrangements in households in the United States,³ and serves as an update to an earlier report based on the household relationship module of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) collected in early 2009.⁴

CHILDREN'S LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2019

When the first children's report was published based on SIPP data collected in 1991, 72.8 percent of children lived with two parents.⁵ Nearly 30 years later, in the 2019 CPS, 70.1 percent of children lived with two parents (Table 1). Data from the 2007 CPS are shown for comparison since it is the first year that data collection changes allowed estimates of children living with two unmarried parents.

³ The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CBDRB-FY21-POP001-0143.

⁴ Rose M. Kreider and Renee Ellis, "Living Arrangements of Children: 2009," *Current Population Reports*, P70-126, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2011, <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2011/demo/p70-126.pdf>. More information is available in earlier reports in the series:

1991: <www2.census.gov/library/publications/1994/demographics/p70-38.pdf>, 1996: <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2001/demographics/p70-74.pdf>, 2001: <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2005/demo/p70-104.pdf>, 2004: <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2008/demo/p70-114.pdf>.

⁵ Stacy Furukawa, "The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991," *Current Population Reports*, P70-38, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1994.

DEFINITIONS

The CPS and SIPP ask the respondent to identify one or two parents of the child if those parents are present in the household (this includes children living with two mothers or two fathers). A separate question asks respondents to identify the type of relationship between each child and parent, whether biological, step, or adoptive. In the CPS and ACS, living arrangements are as of the time of interview, whereas the SIPP estimates used here reflect the preceding December.

Reference person is someone who is at least 15 years old and is usually someone whose name is on the lease or mortgage.

Stepchildren are identified by the survey respondent, and stepparents may or may not be currently married to the child's other co-residential parent. For the ACS, the stepparent/stepchild relationship is only visible between stepchildren and the reference person. Because the ACS records only the relationship of each household member to the reference person, stepchildren related to other household members may not be established.

Stepsiblings share a parent, but that parent is the biological parent of one child and the stepparent of the other child.

Half siblings share one biological parent.

Grandchildren are identified either by the respondent reporting the child as the grandchild of the reference person, or because the child's mother or father reports that their mother or father is present in the household (only available from the CPS and SIPP).

Multigenerational households are defined as a household consisting of three or more generations.

Unmarried partners are people who are at least 15 years old, who are not currently living with a spouse, and who are in an intimate relationship with another adult in the household. The partner may or may not be the parent of any children in the household. In the ACS, only cohabiting partners of the reference person are identified.

Between 2007 and 2019, there were several noticeable shifts: an increase in the percentage of children living with two unmarried parents, a decrease in those living with two biological parents, and an increase in those living with their father only. In 2007, 2.9 percent of children lived with two unmarried parents. This increased to 4.4 percent in 2019. While the percentage of children living with only their mother decreased from

22.6 percent in 2007 to 21.4 percent in 2019, the percentage living with only their father increased from 3.2 to 4.4 percent over the same period. The percentage of children living with grandparents (with no parents present) increased from 1.8 to 2.1 percent. Despite the increasing complexity of families, 93.2 percent of children lived with at least one biological parent in 2019, down from 94.8 percent in 2007.

Table 1.

Children¹ by Presence and Type of Parent(s): 2007 and 2019

(Numbers in thousands. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar19.pdf>>)

Characteristic	2007		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Children.....	73,750	100.0	73,520	100.0
Living with:				
Two parents.....	52,150	70.7	51,560	70.1
Married parents.....	50,000	67.8	48,360	65.8
Unmarried parents.....	2,154	2.9	3,203	4.4
Biological mother and father.....	46,680	63.3	45,920	62.5
Married parents.....	44,810	60.8	43,280	58.9
Biological mother and stepfather.....	3,312	4.5	2,817	3.8
Biological father and stepmother.....	994	1.3	1,227	1.7
Biological mother and adoptive father.....	214	0.3	148	0.2
Biological father and adoptive mother.....	32	Z	48	0.1
Adoptive mother and father.....	739	1.0	688	0.9
Other ²	182	0.2	708	1.0
One parent.....	19,050	25.8	19,000	25.8
Mother only.....	16,660	22.6	15,760	21.4
Biological.....	16,350	22.2	15,290	20.8
Father only.....	2,389	3.2	3,234	4.4
Biological.....	2,318	3.1	3,102	4.2
No parent.....	2,545	3.5	2,966	4.0
Grandparents only.....	1,306	1.8	1,577	2.1
Other relatives only.....	693	0.9	800	1.1
Nonrelatives only.....	455	0.6	492	0.7
Other arrangement.....	91	0.1	96	0.1
At least one biological parent.....	69,900	94.8	68,550	93.2
At least one stepparent.....	4,607	6.2	5,152	7.0
At least one adoptive parent.....	1,271	1.7	1,236	1.7

Z Entry is less than half of a unit of measurement from zero and there is a meaningful difference between an actual zero and a rounded zero for the particular statistics.

¹ Excludes children in group quarters, and those who are a family reference person or spouse.

² Includes children living with one adoptive parent and one stepparent, or two stepparents.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2007 and 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

The percentage of children living with at least one adoptive parent (1.7 percent) held steady, while the percentage living with at least one stepparent increased from 6.2 to 7.0 percent.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN BY AGE

This section of the report looks at differences in children's living arrangements by age. CPS data do not interview the same people over time, but by looking at characteristics by age of the child, we can approximate changes in

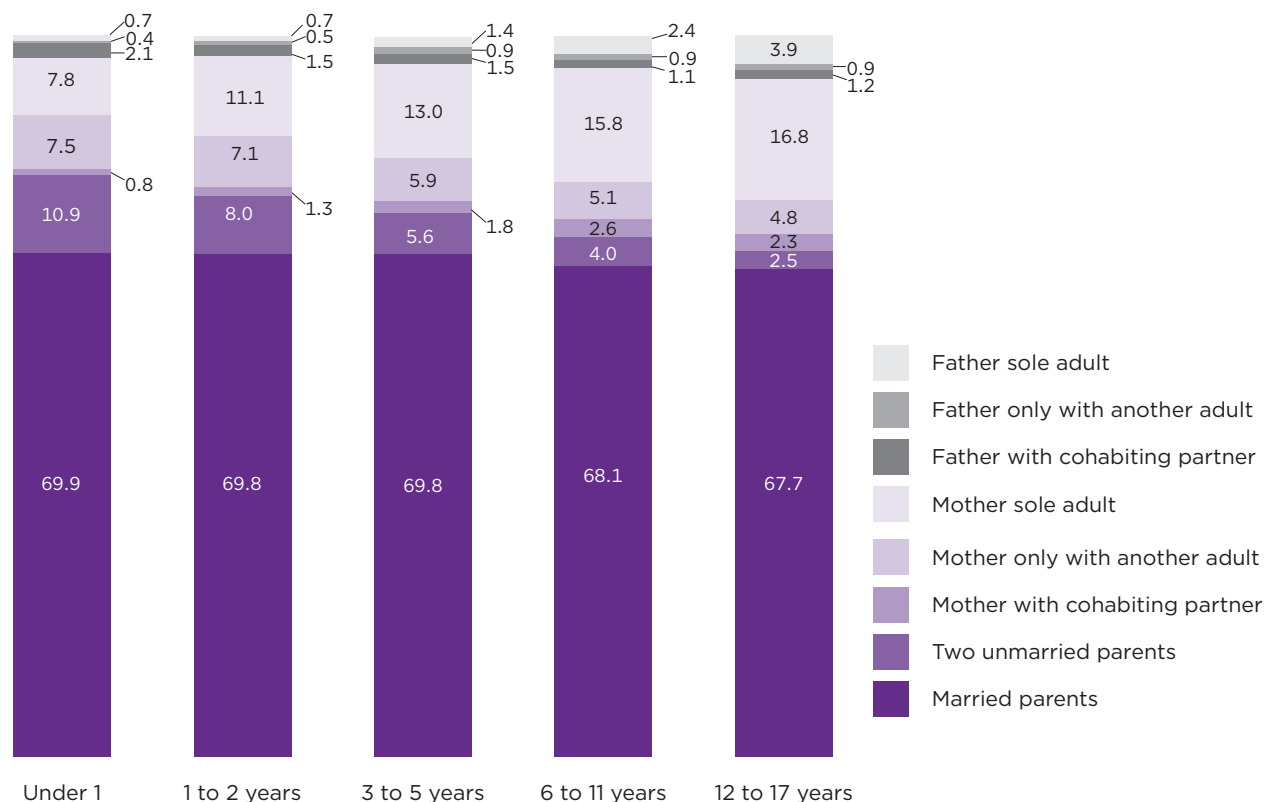
children's living arrangements throughout their childhood.

Figure 1 shows that, regardless of the age of the child, more than two-thirds of children lived with married parents in 2019. This included children who lived with two biological parents, as well as those who lived with a biological parent and a stepparent, or with two adoptive parents. For example, a child may live with two biological parents while he or she is under 6 years old and may later experience the divorce of his or her parents. This child may then spend several years in a mother-only family before his

or her mother remarries. This example illustrates the fact that in this cross-sectional look at children's living arrangements, it is important to keep in mind that as children age, they may spend time in several of the arrangements listed. Even though the majority of children at each age lived with married parents, any given child may not have always lived with married parents and may later live in a mother-only family or another arrangement.

Living with two unmarried parents was most common among infants under the age of 1 (10.9 percent), relative to children in

Figure 1.
Living Arrangements of Children by Age: 2019
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

other age groups. For children 12- to 17-years-old, 2.5 percent lived with two unmarried parents. This difference may indicate both the fact that the prevalence of cohabitation has risen and the fact that cohabiting couples often dissolve or transition to marriage after a birth, so these parents may not continue to cohabit for 12 to 17 years after the child's birth.⁶ The percentage of children living

⁶ Wendy D. Manning, "Cohabitation and Child Wellbeing," *The Future of Children*, 25, 2, 2015, pp. 51-66. Also, Daniel T. Lichter, Katherine Michelmore, Richard N. Turner, and Sharon Sassler, "Pathways to a Stable Union? Pregnancy and Childbearing Among Cohabiting and Married Couples," *Population Research and Policy Review*, 35, 2016, pp. 377-399.

with their mother only, whether the mother lived with a cohabiting partner, another adult, or on her own, was highest for children ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 17.⁷ So, while 16.1 percent of children under the age of 1 lived with their mother only (7.8 percent with a mother who was the sole adult in the household), 23.9 percent of children ages 12 to 17 lived with their mother only (16.8 percent with a mother who was the sole adult).

⁷ The percentage of 6- to 11-year-old children and the percentage of 12- to 17-year-old children who lived with their mother only did not significantly differ.

Children Living With One, Two, or No Parents

In 2019, the share of children under the age of 18 who lived with two parents (70.1 percent) did not significantly differ from the share who lived with two parents in 2007 (70.7 percent) (Table 1). Furthermore, the share (25.8 percent) and number (19.0 million) of children under the age of 18 who lived with one parent in 2007 and 2019 did not significantly differ. In both 2007 and 2019, the majority of children who lived with one parent lived with their mother. However, among children who lived with one parent,

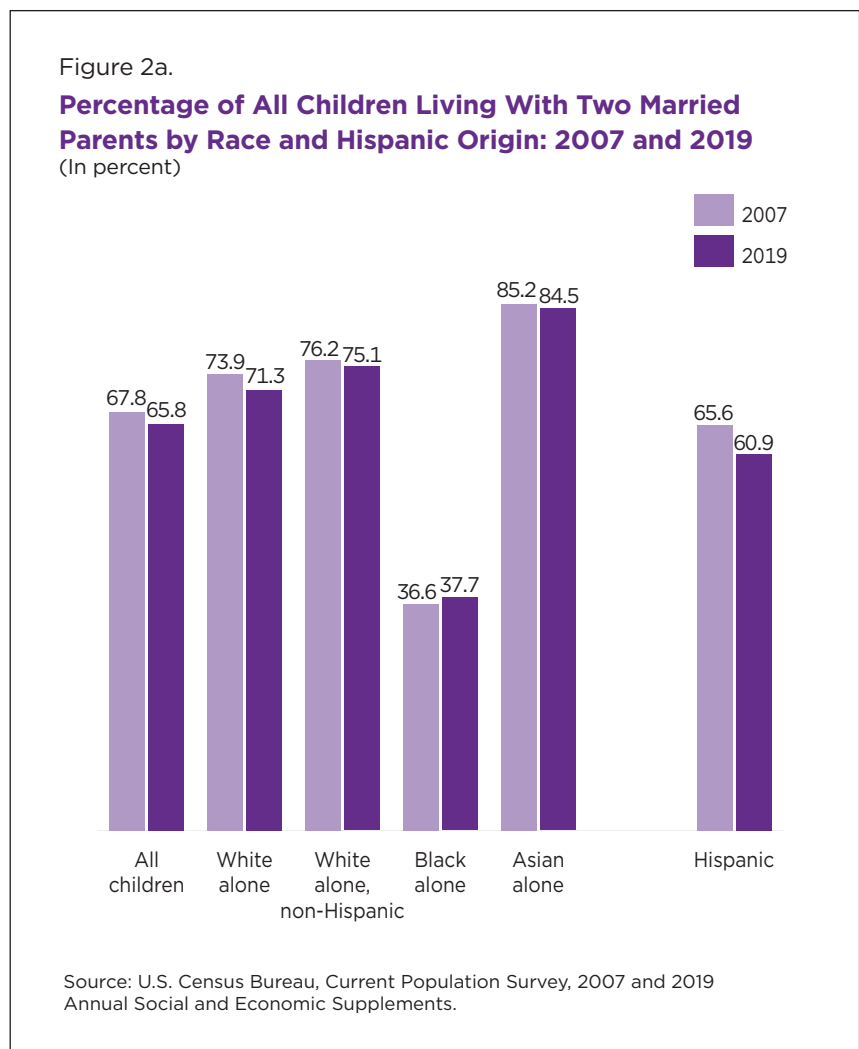
the percentage who resided with their father increased from 12.5 percent in 2007 to 17.0 percent in 2019. The remaining 4.0 percent of children lived with no parents (3.0 million), and over half (53.2 percent) of these children resided with a grandparent.

Children Living With Married and Unmarried Parents: Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin

As mentioned earlier, while the majority of children under the age of 18 living with two parents lived with married parents, an increasing percentage lived with two unmarried parents. The percentage who lived with two unmarried parents increased from 2.9 percent in 2007 to 4.4 percent (3.2 million) in 2019 (Table 1). Figure 2a uses CPS data to show the percentage of children under the age of 18 who lived with two married parents by race and Hispanic origin,⁸ while Figure 2b reports the percentage of children under the age of 18 living with two unmarried parents by race and Hispanic origin.

In 2019, fewer than two-thirds of children under the age of 18 lived with two married parents, a decrease from 67.8 percent in 2007. This varied by race and Hispanic origin, with the large majority of Asian children under the age of 18 (84.5 percent) living with two married parents, the highest percentage of the groups shown in Figure 2a. Three-quarters of White, non-Hispanic children; 60.9 percent of Hispanic children; and 37.7 percent of Black children lived with two married parents in 2019.

⁸ Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for the White, Black, and Asian populations.



Between 2007 and 2019, the percentage of children under the age of 18 living with two unmarried parents increased for each race and Hispanic origin group, except for Asian children (Figure 2b). The number of Hispanic children under the age of 18 living with two unmarried parents doubled between 2007 and 2019, from 650,000⁹ to 1.3 million (Table 2), reflecting the growing Hispanic

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, "C3. Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years and Marital Status of Parents, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin and Selected Characteristics of the Child for All Children: 2007," *America's Families and Living Arrangements, 2007*, Table C3, <www.census.gov/data/tables/2007/demo/families/cps-2007.html>.

share of the population.¹⁰ Hispanic children under the age of 18 had the highest percentage living with two unmarried parents in 2019, at 7.1 percent, up from 4.3 percent in 2007. Among Black children under the age of 18, 4.5 percent lived with two unmarried parents, compared to 3.1 percent of White, non-Hispanic children under the age of 18 and 1.2 percent of Asian children under the age of 18.

¹⁰ Jonathan Vespa, Lauren Medina, and David M. Armstrong, "Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060," *Current Population Reports*, P25-1144, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2020.

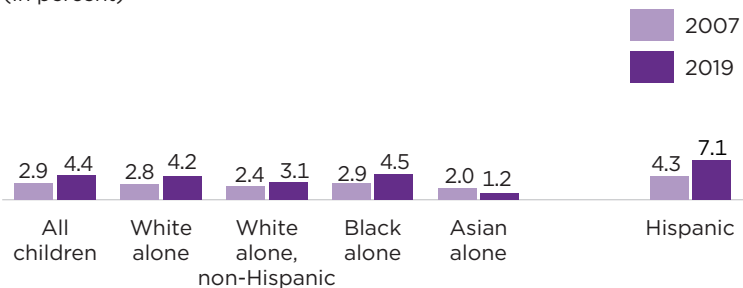
Children Living With Two Unmarried Parents

Between the periods from 1990–1994 to 2009–2013, the percentage of births to unmarried mothers who lived with a cohabiting partner more than doubled, from 11 percent of births to 25 percent.¹¹ Although births to unmarried parents have become more common, the age, race and Hispanic origin, and prevalence of poverty among children living with two unmarried parents differed from those whose parents were married. Table 2 reports that in the 2019 CPS, White, non-Hispanic children made up 35.2 percent of children living with two unmarried parents, and 57.2 percent of children who resided with married parents. Asian children also accounted for a smaller share of children living with two unmarried parents (1.6

¹¹ Wendy D. Manning, Susan L. Brown, and Bart Stykes, “Trends in Births to Single and Cohabiting Mothers, 1980–2013,” *Family Profiles*, FP-15-03, National Center for Family and Marriage Research, Bowling Green, OH, 2015.

Figure 2b.

Percentage of All Children Living With Two Unmarried Parents by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2007 and 2019 (In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2007 and 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

percent) than those who lived with two married parents (7.0 percent). Black and Hispanic children made up a larger share of children living with two unmarried parents than they did for children living with two married parents. Among children who resided with two unmarried parents, 15.5 percent were Black and 41.5 percent were

Hispanic. Conversely, among those living with two married parents, 8.7 percent were Black and 23.6 percent were Hispanic.

On average, children who lived with two unmarried parents were much younger than those living with two married parents. Specifically, 51.7 percent of children residing with two unmarried

Table 2.

Characteristics of Children Living With Two Parents (Unmarried and Married): 2019

(Numbers in thousands. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar19.pdf>>)

Characteristic	Children living with two unmarried parents		Children living with two married parents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,203	100.0	48,360	100.0
Race and Hispanic Origin				
White alone	2,241	70.0	37,730	78.0
White alone, non-Hispanic	1,126	35.1	27,650	57.2
Black alone	498	15.5	4,187	8.7
Asian alone	50	1.6	3,374	7.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1,330	41.5	11,420	23.6
Age of Child				
0–5 years old	1,657	51.7	15,990	33.1
6–11 years old	945	29.5	16,000	33.1
12–17 years old	601	18.8	16,370	33.8
Poverty Status				
Below poverty	1,220	38.1	3,616	7.5
100 to 199 percent of poverty	953	29.8	8,480	17.5
200 percent of poverty, or higher	1,030	32.1	36,260	75.0

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

parents were between the ages of 0 and 5, compared to 33.1 percent of those living with married parents. Children between the ages of 12 and 17 made up 18.8 percent of those living with two unmarried parents, but 33.9 percent of those living with two married parents.

Finally, children living with two unmarried parents were more likely to be in poverty. In 2019, 38.1 percent of children who resided with two unmarried parents were living below the poverty line, whereas 7.5 percent of children living with two married parents lived in poverty (Table 2). This gap appears to have widened over time: in 2001, an estimated 27.4 percent of children living with two unmarried parents were living in poverty, compared with 10.1 percent of children living with two married parents.¹² The larger gap in the percentage of children in poverty for these two groups likely reflects the fact that over time, adults who marry are increasingly those with higher educational attainment and higher earnings.¹³

Children Living With One Parent

Using the CPS, Figure 3 shows that more than one-quarter (25.8 percent) of children under the age of 18 lived with one parent in 2019.

¹² In 2019 CPS estimates, children living with two parents of the same sex are shown as living with two parents, while in the 2001 SIPP estimates, they were shown as living with one parent. This is a small number of children and does not affect the overall pattern here.

¹³ Kasey Eickmeyer, Paul Hemez, Wendy D. Manning, Susan L. Brown, and Karen Benjamin Guzzo, "Trends in Relationship Formation and Stability in the United States: Dating, Cohabitation, Marriage, and Divorce," Marriage Strengthening Research and Dissemination Center, 2020, pp. 1-17.

This share varied by race and Hispanic origin. Half of Black children (50.8 percent), for example, lived with one parent, compared to about 28.5 percent of Hispanic children. Among White, non-Hispanic children, 18.5 percent lived with one parent, whereas 12.3 percent of Asian children did so.

Although divorced parents have become more likely to share custody of their children since the 1980s and 1990s,¹⁴ most children who live with one parent continue to reside with their mother. In 2019, the CPS estimated that 83.0 percent of children who lived with one parent were living with their mother, and the remaining 17.0 percent lived with their father (Table 1).

Among children who lived with one parent in 2019, some lived with a parent who also had a cohabiting partner in the household. About 9.4 percent of children who were living with their mother only lived with a cohabiting mother (Figure 3). Living with a cohabiting mother was most common for White, non-Hispanic children, whereas Black and Asian children lived with their mother's cohabiting partner least often.¹⁵ Among children who lived with their father only, an estimated 27.9 percent lived with a cohabiting father. Living with a father's

¹⁴ Maria Cancian, Daniel R. Meyers, Patricia R. Brown, and Steven T. Cook, "Who Gets Custody Now? Dramatic Changes in Children's Living Arrangements After Divorce," *Demography*, 51, 4, 2014, pp. 1381-1396.

¹⁵ The percentage of Black and the percentage of Asian children who lived with a cohabiting mother did not significantly differ.

cohabiting partner was experienced by 38.0 percent of Asian children, 33.3 percent of Hispanic children, 28.0 percent of Black children, and 25.6 percent of White, non-Hispanic children living with their father only.¹⁶

Children Living With Half Siblings

The term "half siblings" refers to those who share one biological parent. Research suggests that children living with a half sibling can fare worse than children without half siblings by experiencing lower educational outcomes, poorer coping skills, increased aggressive behaviors, and a greater likelihood of drug and alcohol use.¹⁷ The SIPP is one of the few data sources that can provide detailed information about the presence of half siblings, since it collects a full fertility history from both men and women and asks parents to identify whether they had all of their children with

¹⁶ The percentage of Black children who lived with a cohabiting father did not significantly differ from the percentage of children in every other race and Hispanic origin group living with a cohabiting father. The percentage of Asian children who lived with a cohabiting father did not significantly differ from the percentage of Hispanic children who lived with a cohabiting father.

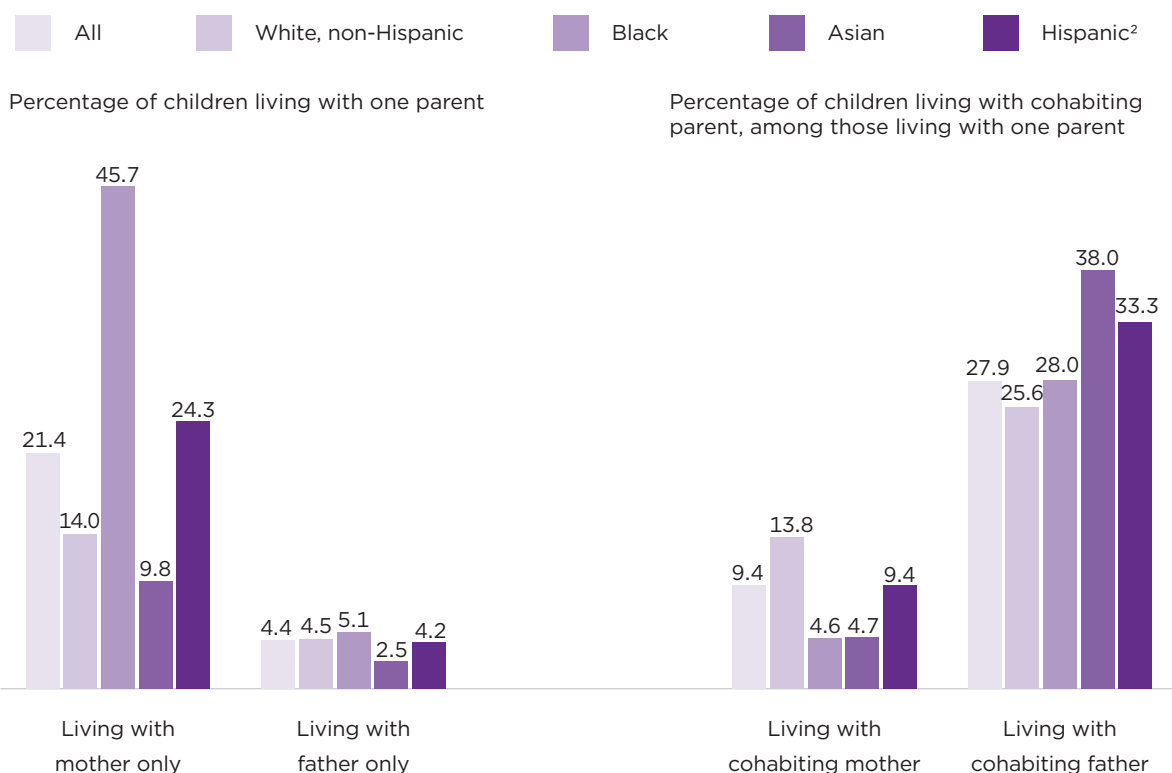
¹⁷ Paula Fomby, Joshua Goode, and Stefanie Mollborn, "Family Complexity, Siblings, and Children's Aggressive Behavior at School Entry," *Demography*, 53, 1, 2016, pp. 1-26. Also, Donna K. Ginther and Robert A. Pollak, "Family Structure and Children's Educational Outcomes: Blended Families, Stylized Facts, and Descriptive Regressions," *Demography*, 41, 4, 2004, pp. 671-696. Also, Kate Taylor Harcourt, Francesca Adler-Baeder, Stephen Erath, and Greg S. Pettit, "Examining Family Structure and Half-Sibling Influence on Adolescent Well-Being," *Journal of Family Issues*, 36, 2, 2015, pp. 250-272. Also, Caroline Sanner, Luke Russell, Marilyn Coleman, and Lawrence Ganong, "Half-Sibling and Stepsibling Relationships: A Systematic Integrative Review," *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 10, 4, 2018, pp. 765-784.

Figure 3.

Children Living With One Parent by Cohabitation Status and Race and Hispanic

Origin: 2019¹

(In percent)



¹ Excludes children in group quarters, and those who are a family reference person or spouse.

² Hispanics may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

the same person. Table 3 provides an overall distribution of children who lived with half siblings by the number of coresident parents.¹⁸

The first wave of the 2014 SIPP panel estimated that 12.5 million children (17.1 percent) under the age of 18 lived with at least one half sibling. This is notably higher than the earlier estimate of 8.0 million children (10.8 percent) published from the 2008 SIPP

panel.¹⁹ The 2008 estimates were derived from responses to questions asking how each household member was related to everyone else in the household. A technical term such as half sibling is seldom used in daily life and was likely reported less frequently than the other response categories listed for siblings. In the 2014 redesign of the SIPP instrument, deriving half sibling relationships from the fertility history information

¹⁹ Read this related America Counts story: <www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/01/more-children-live-with-half-siblings-than-previously-thought.html>. Also, refer to Table 5 in the report published based on the 2008 panel: <www2.census.gov/library/publications/2011/demo/p70-126.pdf>.

reported for coresident parents provides more detailed information than was previously available, yielding a higher estimate of children living with siblings with whom they share one biological parent. Some of the changes shown are a result of changes in measurement and do not reflect true changes in the underlying population.

In 2014, 6.3 million children (50.0 percent) who lived with at least one half sibling lived with two parents (biological, step, or adoptive), while 6.3 million (49.9

¹⁸ Note that for those children living with no parents present, we do not have information about whether they share a biological parent with any siblings with whom they live.

Table 3.

Children Living with Half Siblings, by Number of Coresident Biological Parents: 2014

(Numbers in thousands. Information on sampling and nonsampling error is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/2014/sipp-2014-source-and-accuracy-statement.pdf>)

Living arrangements of children	Total		Margin of error ¹		White alone		White alone, non-Hispanic		Black alone		Asian alone		Hispanic	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Children under 18 years.....	73,540	100.0	161	X	53,710	73.0	37,780	51.4	11,050	15.0	3,728	5.1	17,920	24.4
Living with half siblings.....	12,540	17.1	609	0.5	8,000	14.9	4,815	12.7	3,376	30.6	102	2.7	3,738	20.9
Living with two parents.....	6,275	100.0	480	X	4,839	100.0	3,240	100.0	873	100.0	S	B	1,787	100.0
Living with two biological parents.....	3,624	57.8	292	2.4	2,814	58.2	1,834	56.6	488	55.9	S	B	1,103	61.7
At least one parent ever divorced.....	1,823	29.1	201	2.2	1,500	31.0	1,050	32.4	180	20.6	S	B	516	28.9
Only mother ever divorced.....	825	13.1	149	1.6	677	14.0	447	13.8	76	8.7	S	B	263	14.7
Only father ever divorced.....	496	7.9	110	1.3	391	8.1	293	9.0	66	7.6	S	B	107	6.0
Both ever divorced.....	502	8.0	84	1.3	432	8.9	310	9.6	37	4.2	S	B	147	8.2
Neither ever divorced.....	1,801	28.7	214	2.2	1,314	27.2	784	24.2	308	35.3	S	B	586	32.8
Living with one biological parent.....	2,650	100.0	246	X	2,025	100.0	1,406	100.0	384	100.0	S	B	684	100.0
At least one parent ever divorced.....	1,535	57.9	229	3.6	1,248	61.6	931	66.2	151	39.3	S	B	341	49.9
Only biological parent divorced.....	1,258	47.5	208	3.7	1,047	51.7	788	56.0	92	24.0	S	B	283	41.4
Only non-biological parent divorced.....	813	30.7	186	3.4	646	31.9	487	34.6	98	25.5	S	B	161	23.5
Both ever divorced.....	536	20.2	160	3.0	444	21.9	344	24.5	39	10.2	S	B	103	15.1
Neither ever divorced.....	1,115	42.1	151	3.6	777	38.4	476	33.9	233	60.7	S	B	343	50.1
Living with one parent.....	6,261	100.0	454	X	3,161	100.0	1,575	100.0	2,503	100.0	S	B	1,951	100.0
Mother never married.....	3,329	53.2	324	2.4	1,264	40.0	496	31.5	1,718	68.6	S	B	969	49.7
Mother married once.....	2,013	32.2	247	2.2	1,217	38.5	621	39.4	648	25.9	S	B	708	36.3
Mother married two or more times.....	665	10.6	163	1.5	502	15.9	317	20.1	102	4.1	S	B	228	11.7
Living with father.....	253	4.0	99	0.9	177	5.6	141	9.0	34	1.4	S	B	46	2.4

X Not applicable.

B Base too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of derived figure.

S The estimate is withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards.

¹ This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Notes: Children are under 18. Their siblings may be any age. Some categories are not mutually exclusive, and children may contribute to estimates in multiple categories. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

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

percent) lived with one parent.²⁰ Among children living with a half sibling, the proportion of children living with one or two parents varied by race and Hispanic origin. A lower percentage of Black children who lived with half siblings (25.9 percent) lived with two parents than White, non-Hispanic (67.3 percent) and Hispanic (47.8 percent) children.²¹ Overall, 57.8 percent of the 6.3 million children living with two parents and a half sibling lived with two biological parents, while the remainder lived with one.

Given the relatively high prevalence of divorce in the United States, and that multiple partner fertility may be increasing, Table 3 also includes several marital history characteristics of the parents.²² Children may live with half siblings because: their parents divorced, remarried, and had subsequent children in the new marriage; through their parents' multiple partner fertility; or a combination of remarriage and multiple partner fertility. The marital history characteristics of the children's parents in Table 3 shed some light on variation by

²⁰ The number and percentage of children who lived with a half sibling and two parents did not significantly differ from the number and percentage of children who lived with a half sibling and one parent.

²¹ Note: Numbers and percentages for Asian children are omitted from the Table 3 discussion because of a small, weighted base (less than 150,000) for this group. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that estimates will reveal useful information when computed on a weighted base smaller than 150,000 <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements/2014/sipp-2014-wave-2-source-and-accuracy-statement.pdf>.

²² Karen B. Guzzo, "New Partners, More Kids: Multiple-Partner Fertility in the United States," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 654, 1, 2014, pp. 66–86. Also, Mariana Amorim and Laura Tach, "Multiple-Partner Fertility and Cohort Change in the Prevalence of Half-Siblings," *Demography*, 56, 6, 2019, pp. 2033–2061.

race and Hispanic origin. Among children who lived with two parents and half siblings, lower proportions of Black children than White, non-Hispanic children and Hispanic children lived with at least one previously divorced parent (20.6 percent, 32.4 percent, and 28.9 percent, respectively).²³ Similarly, lower percentages of Black children living with two parents and half siblings also had both parents who had experienced a divorce (4.2 percent) than either White, non-Hispanic children (9.6 percent) or Hispanic children (8.2 percent).²⁴ About one-third of Black and Hispanic children (35.3 and 32.8 percent, respectively) had neither parent divorced (including couples in which neither had ever married) among those living with two parents and half siblings.²⁵ Differences by race and Hispanic origin in the marital histories of the parents of children with half siblings reflect broader marital patterns across these groups. Black men and women's lower probability of having ever married relative to other race or Hispanic origin groups,²⁶ for example, reduces their overall chances of experiencing a divorce. Among those who have married, Black men and women tend to experience higher divorce rates than

²³ Among children living with a half sibling and two parents, the percentage living with at least one previously divorced parent did not significantly differ for White, non-Hispanic and Hispanic children.

²⁴ Among children living with a half sibling and two parents, the percentage living with two previously divorced parents did not significantly differ for White, non-Hispanic and Hispanic children.

²⁵ Among children living with a half sibling and two parents, the percentage living with no previously divorced parent did not significantly differ for Black and Hispanic children.

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, "S1201. Marital Status," 2019, Table S1201, <data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S1201&tid=ACSSTIY2019.S1201>.

adults in other race or Hispanic origin groups.²⁷

For children living with one parent and half siblings, Table 3 shows only the number of times their mother married, since few of these children lived with their father (4.0 percent). Among White, non-Hispanic children living with one parent, 9.0 percent lived with their father. Two-thirds (65.4 percent) of White, non-Hispanic children who lived with a half sibling and their mother only lived with an ever-married mother, compared to 30.4 percent of Black children and 49.1 percent of Hispanic children. Among those living with their mother only and a half sibling, higher proportions of Black children (69.6 percent) and Hispanic children (50.9 percent) than White, non-Hispanic children (34.6 percent) lived with a never-married mother. One-fifth (22.1 percent) of White, non-Hispanic children lived with a mother who had been married two or more times, compared with 4.1 percent of Black children and 12.0 percent of Hispanic children. These differences highlight that marriage and remarriage are more prevalent factors in creating living situations in which children reside with a half sibling for White, non-Hispanic children than for Black or Hispanic children.

Children Living in Multigenerational Households: Race and Hispanic Origin

Research using the decennial census and ACS finds the percentage of children living in multigenerational households nearly doubled between 1980 and 2018, from 5.0

²⁷ Kelly R. Raley, Megan M. Sweeney, and Danielle Wondra, "The Growing Racial and Ethnic Divide in U.S. Marriage Patterns," *The Future of Children*, 25, 2, 2015, pp. 89–109.

percent in 1980 to 9.9 percent in 2018. This increase was partially driven by an increase in single parents and the decrease of White children as a share of all children.²⁸ The ACS also suggests that from 2008 to 2018, the percentage of children living in a multigenerational household increased for all race and Hispanic origin groups (Figure 4). The share of children who lived in multigenerational households varied across race and Hispanic origin groups. In 2018, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific

²⁸ Natasha V. Pilkauskas, Mariana Amorim, and Rachel E. Dunifon, "Historical Trends in Children Living in Multigenerational Households in the United States: 1870-2018," *Demography*, 57, 6, 2020, pp. 2269-2296. Note that this citation may define children living in multigenerational households differently from the current report, which could lead to differing estimates across the sources.

Islander children had the highest percentage living in multigenerational households.²⁹ One-quarter (25.3 percent) of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander children lived in a multigenerational household in 2018, an increase from 17.8 percent in 2008. White, non-Hispanic children were the least likely to live in a multigenerational household, with 7.8 percent living in multigenerational households in 2018, up from 6.5 percent in 2008. Among Black children, 15.2 percent lived in a multigenerational household, while 19.4 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native children, 17.4 percent of

²⁹ The large sample size of the ACS yields reliable estimates for smaller racial/ethnic groups like Native Hawaiian Other Pacific Islander and American Indian and Alaska Native.

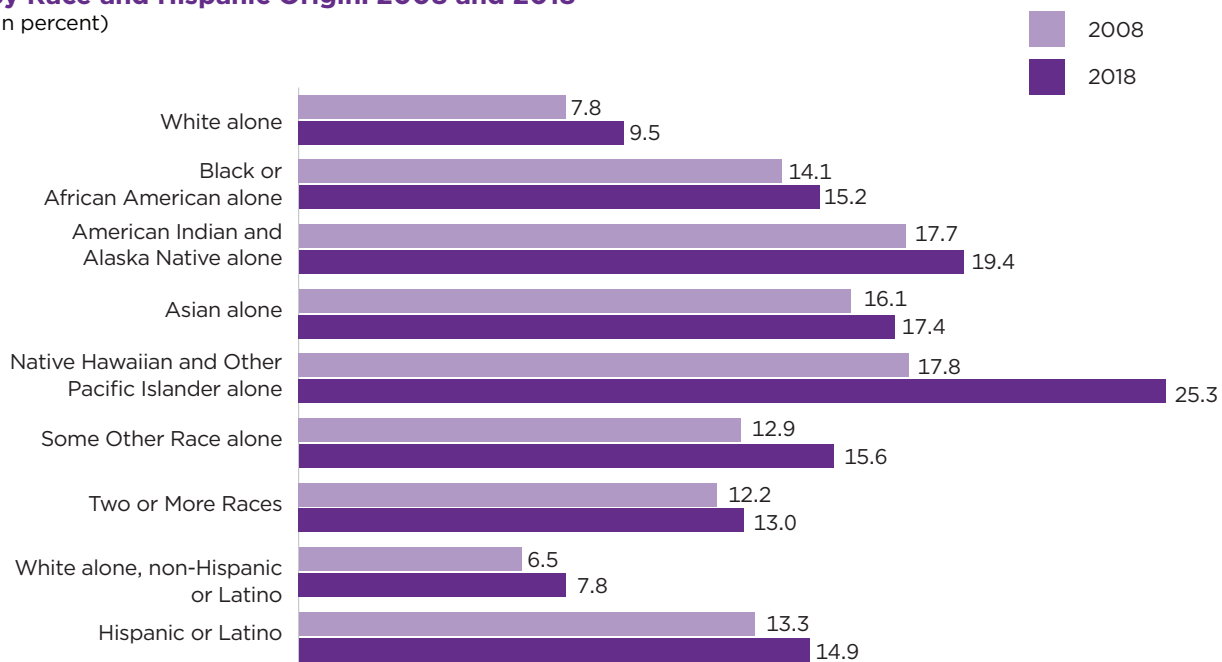
Asian children, 15.6 percent of Some Other Race children, 14.9 percent of Hispanic children, and 13.0 percent of children of Two or More Races lived in multigenerational households in 2018.³⁰

Children Living With Grandparents by Nativity Status

Some advantages of the CPS are its large sample size and parent identification questions, which can be used to examine whether a child's grandparent(s) is living in the household. The proportion of children who resided with a grandfather and/or grandmother

³⁰ The percentage of Black children who lived in a multigenerational household did not significantly differ from the percentage of Hispanic children or Some Other Race children who lived in a multigenerational household.

Figure 4.
Percentage of Children Under the Age of 18 Living in Multigenerational Households by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2008 and 2018
(In percent)



Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 and 2018 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

rose from 7.9 percent in 2001 to 8.3 percent in 2007.³¹ In 2019, 10.0 percent of children shared a home with a grandparent,

³¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "C4. Children with Grandparents by Presence of Parents, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Selected Characteristics: 2001," *America's Families and Living Arrangements*, 2001, Table C4, <www.census.gov/data/tables/2001/demo/families/families-living-arrangements.html>. Also, U.S. Census Bureau, "C4. Children with Grandparents by Presence of Parents, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Selected Characteristics: 2007," *America's Families and Living Arrangements*, 2007, Table C4, <www.census.gov/data/tables/2007/demo/families/cps-2007.html>.

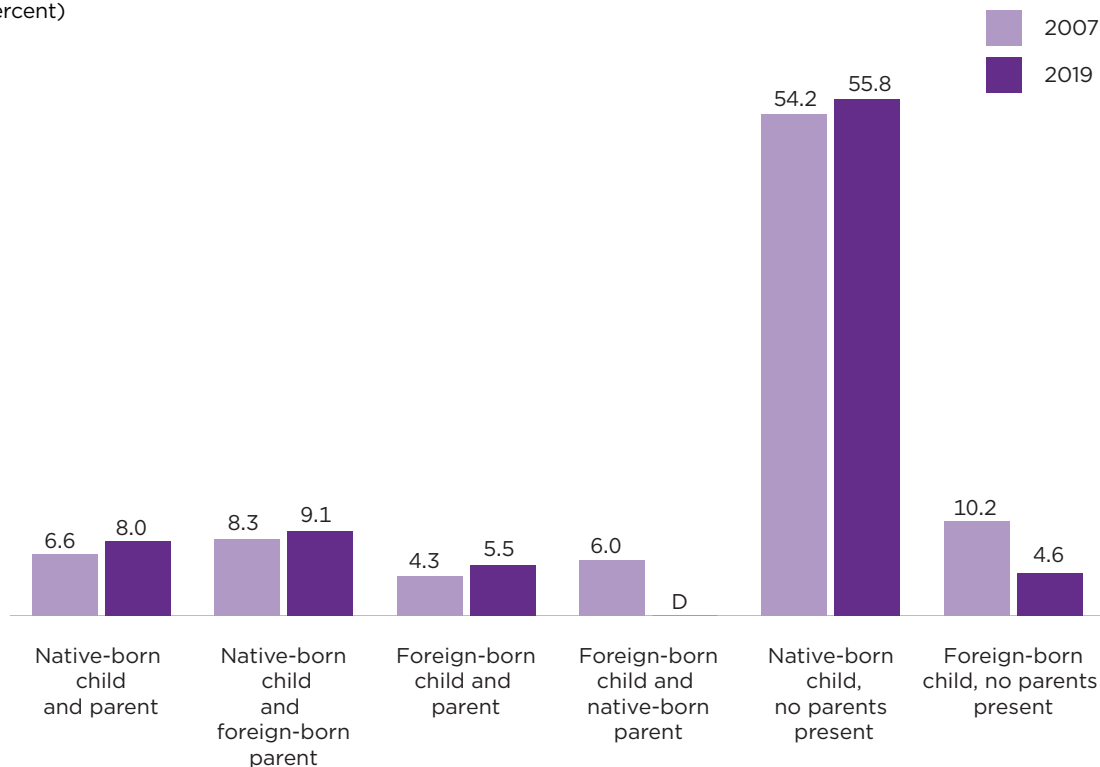
corresponding to 7.4 million children.³² The proportion of children living with one or more grandparents differed based on the child's and their parents' nativity status (Figure 5). Among native-born children living with two native-born parents, about 8.0 percent lived with a grandparent in 2019. This was slightly less than the share of native-born children living with at least one foreign-born parent, of whom 9.1 percent lived

³² U.S. Census Bureau, "C4. Children with Grandparents by Presence of Parents, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Selected Characteristics: 2019," *America's Families and Living Arrangements*, 2019, Table C4, <www.census.gov/data/tables/2019/demo/families/cps-2019.html>.

with a grandparent. Grandchildren living with grandparents was most common among native-born children living without parents in the household. CPS estimates indicate more than half (55.8 percent) of native-born children living without a parent in 2019 were residing with a grandparent, underscoring the important role that grandparents can play as caregivers.³³

³³ "Child Welfare and Aging Programs: HHS Could Enhance Support for Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers," *GAO Highlights*, GAO-20-434, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC, 2020.

Figure 5.
Percentage of Children Living With Grandparent(s) by Nativity of Child and Parents: 2007 and 2019
(In percent)



D Data withheld to avoid disclosure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2007 and 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Characteristics of Children by Nativity Status

Taking a more detailed look at children's demographic characteristics reveals differences among groups defined by the parent and child's nativity status. The CPS estimates that of the 73.5 million children who lived in the United States in 2019, the majority (69.5 percent) were native-born children whose parents were also native-born (Table 4). Regardless of their parents' nativity status, foreign-born children tended to be older than their native-born counterparts.³⁴ Among children with at least one foreign-born parent, 47.2 percent of foreign-born children were 12- to 17-years-old, whereas about one-third of native-born children were in that age group.

Regardless of parental nativity status, foreign-born children were less often White than native-born children.³⁵ Among children with native-born parents, 15.4 percent of native-born children were Black and 1.2 percent were Asian, whereas 28.0 percent of foreign-born children were Black and 36.7 percent were Asian.³⁶ The pattern of foreign-born children more often being Black or Asian than those who were native-born persists among children with at least one foreign-born parent: 11.2 percent of native-born children were Black and 15.9 percent were Asian, compared to 21.4 percent and 23.8 percent of foreign-born

children, respectively.³⁷ Finally, Hispanic children (of any race) made up a much larger percentage of children with at least one foreign-born parent (54.2 percent) than children with native-born parents (14.9 percent). Among those with native-born parents, the share of children who were Hispanic was not statistically different across nativity status. For children with at least one foreign-born parent, on the other hand, native-born children were more often Hispanic (56.2 percent) than foreign-born children (40.0 percent).

The number of parents in the home also differed according to parental nativity status. Although the majority of children (70.1 percent) lived with two parents,³⁸ those who lived with at least one foreign-born parent resided with two parents more often (82.6 percent) than children living with two native-born parents (69.5 percent).³⁹ Living with one parent was more common for children with native-born parents, as 25.2 percent of children with a native-born mother lived with one parent, compared to 14.7 percent of children living with a foreign-born mother.

Table 4 also shows that in 2019 the socioeconomic circumstances of children's families differed by nativity status. Living in poverty was more common for children living with a foreign-born parent, as 19.9 percent of children living

with at least one foreign-born parent resided in a household below the poverty line, compared to 14.1 percent of children with only native-born parents. Overall, about 93.8 percent of children were covered by health insurance in 2019. Health insurance coverage was more common among native-born children with only native-born parents (95.0 percent) than it was for foreign-born children living with at least one foreign-born parent (83.9 percent). Most children, regardless of their or their parents' nativity status, lived in households that did not receive public assistance. Finally, home ownership was more common among native-born families. About two-thirds (66.8 percent) of native-born children with only native-born parents lived in an owned home, compared to about one-third (31.9 percent) of foreign-born children living with at least one parent who was also foreign-born.

Parent's Educational Attainment by Children's and Parental Nativity Status

The educational attainment of parent(s) in 2019 was associated with the child's and the parents' nativity status. Nearly 1 in 5 (19.6 percent) children with at least one foreign-born parent lived in a household in which the most educated parent had less than a high school degree, whereas fewer than 1 in 20 (4.5 percent) children with only native-born parents lived in such a household (Table 4). At the other end of the educational spectrum, children with native-born parents were more likely to live with a parent who obtained a college degree than children living with at least one

³⁴ Foreign-born children with native-born parents are likely internationally adopted children.

³⁵ All racial groups include people of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin, while Hispanic origin includes people of any race.

³⁶ Among foreign-born children with native-born parents, the percentage who were Black did not significantly differ from the percentage who were Asian.

³⁷ Among foreign-born children with a foreign-born parent, the percentage who were Black did not significantly differ from the percentage who were Asian.

³⁸ Includes biological, step, and adopted children living with two parents, regardless of the parents' sex.

³⁹ The percentage of children with native-born parents who lived with two parents (69.5 percent) did not significantly differ from the overall percentage of children who lived with two parents (70.1 percent).

Table 4.

Children's and Parent's Nativity¹ and Selected Characteristics: 2019²(Numbers in thousands. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar19.pdf>>)

Characteristic	Total	Children with native-born parents			Children with at least one foreign-born parent			No parents present
		Total	Native-born child	Foreign-born child	Total	Native-born child	Foreign-born child	
Total (number)	73,520	51,250	51,080	168	19,310	16,930	2,386	2,966
Total (percent of all children)	100.0	69.7	69.5	0.2	26.3	23.0	3.2	4.0
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age of Child								
Under 6 years	32.3	33.0	33.0	14.2	31.1	32.9	18.2	27.6
6–11 years	33.3	33.0	33.0	34.5	34.2	34.1	34.6	33.8
12–17 years	34.4	34.1	34.0	51.3	34.7	33.0	47.2	38.6
Race and Hispanic Origin of Child								
White alone	72.0	75.5	75.7	33.4	64.5	66.2	52.7	60.2
White alone, non-Hispanic	50.1	63.6	63.8	19.2	15.5	15.3	16.9	40.5
Black alone	15.1	15.5	15.4	28.0	12.4	11.2	21.4	26.4
Asian alone	5.4	1.3	1.2	36.7	16.8	15.9	23.8	2.6
Hispanic (of any race)	25.5	14.9	14.9	15.3	54.2	56.2	40.0	22.6
Presence of Parents								
Two parents	70.1	69.5	69.4	83.2	82.6	83.2	78.5	X
Mother only	21.4	25.2	25.2	D	14.7	14.1	18.7	X
Father only	4.4	5.3	5.3	D	2.7	2.6	2.7	X
Neither parent	4.0	X	X	X	X	X	X	100.0
Grandparent(s) are present	10.0	8.0	8.0	D	8.7	9.1	5.5	53.2
Education of Most Educated Parent								
Less than high school	8.3	4.5	4.5	D	19.6	19.5	20.3	X
High school degree	19.2	18.5	18.5	D	24.1	24.4	22.1	X
Some college	25.0	29.6	29.6	18.3	16.6	17.3	11.7	X
Bachelor's degree or more	43.5	47.4	47.4	75.4	39.6	38.7	45.9	X
No parents present	4.0	X	X	X	X	X	X	100.0
Marital Status of Parent(s)								
Two married parents	65.8	65.0	64.9	83.2	77.9	78.2	75.9	X
Two unmarried parents	4.4	4.5	4.5	0.0	4.7	5.0	2.7	X
One parent								
Married, spouse absent	1.3	1.1	1.1	D	2.1	2.0	2.8	X
Widowed	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.5	X
Divorced	8.0	9.7	9.7	D	4.7	4.7	4.8	X
Separated	3.3	3.5	3.5	0.0	3.4	3.1	5.5	X
Never married	12.3	15.2	15.2	9.6	6.3	6.2	6.8	X
No parent present	4.0	X	X	X	X	X	X	100.0
Poverty Status								
Below 100 percent of poverty	16.7	14.1	14.1	9.0	19.9	19.3	24.2	41.6
100 to 199 percent of poverty	21.3	18.9	18.9	16.2	27.6	27.4	28.6	21.1
200 percent of poverty and above	62.0	67.0	67.0	74.8	52.5	53.2	47.2	37.2
Health Insurance Coverage								
Covered by health insurance	93.8	95.0	95.0	D	91.1	92.1	83.9	90.9
Not covered by health insurance	6.2	5.0	5.0	D	8.9	7.9	16.1	9.1
Household Receives Public Assistance								
Receives assistance	2.7	2.5	2.5	D	2.1	2.0	3.0	10.1
Does not receive assistance	97.3	97.5	97.5	D	97.9	98.0	97.0	89.9
Household Tenure								
Owns	62.6	66.9	66.8	79.9	51.4	54.1	31.9	62.9
Rents ³	37.4	33.1	33.2	20.1	48.6	45.9	68.1	37.1

X Not applicable.

D Data withheld to avoid disclosure.

¹ A child living with any foreign-born parents is included in the category for foreign-born parent(s). Children living with a single parent are assigned a category based on the nativity of the coresident parent. Children living with native-born parents are only living with native-born parents.² All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses.³ Includes those who occupy without cash payment.

Notes: The characteristics of the "parent" are usually that of the mother except in cases when the mother is not present, then it is of the father.

Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

foreign-born parent (47.4 percent and 39.6 percent, respectively).

Figure 6 uses the CPS to show that the distribution of children's most educated parent also varied when the nativity statuses of parents and children were considered jointly. Among children living with native-born parents, fewer than half (47.4 percent) of native-born children resided with a parent who obtained a college degree or more, whereas 75.4

percent of foreign-born children lived with such a parent (it should be noted that only 0.2 percent of children were foreign-born living with only native-born parents). These foreign-born children living with native-born parents are likely internationally adopted children, and prior research documents that adopted children are more likely to live in higher income households than biological or

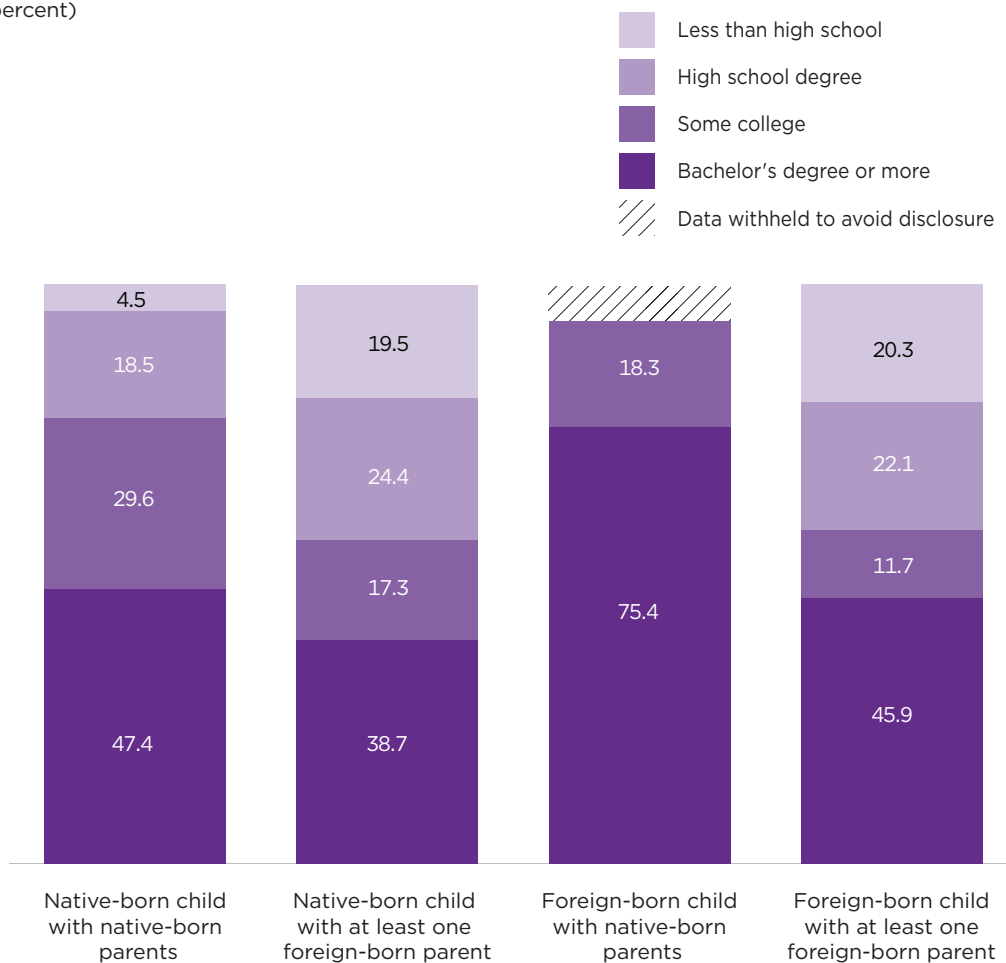
stepchildren.⁴⁰ Smaller differences exist between native-born and foreign-born children living with at least one foreign-born parent. Specifically, about 38.7 percent of native-born children living with foreign-born parents lived in a household in which the most educated parent had a bachelor's degree or more, whereas 45.9

⁴⁰ Rose M. Kreider and Daphne A. Lofquist, "Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2010," *Population Characteristics*, P20-572, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2014.

Figure 6.

Children's and Parents' Nativity by Highest Parental Education Level for Children Living With at Least One Parent: March 2019

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Table 5.

Race and Hispanic Origin Composition of Households With Children Under 18 Years

(Numbers in thousands. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>)

Race and Hispanic Origin	2008		2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households With Children Under 18 Years	38,480	100.0	36,880	100.0
Racial Composition of the Household				
All household members of same race	35,560	92.4	33,220	90.1
Multigenerational household	3,168	8.2	3,542	9.6
Mixed nativity household	5,361	13.9	5,903	16.0
Contains members of different races ¹	2,919	7.6	3,662	9.9
Multigenerational household	320	0.8	423	1.1
Mixed nativity household	561	1.5	672	1.8
Hispanic Origin Composition of the Household				
All household members Hispanic, or all non-Hispanic	37,030	96.2	35,100	95.2
Multigenerational household	3,324	8.6	3,744	10.2
Mixed nativity household	5,701	14.8	6,248	16.9
Contains some Hispanic and some non-Hispanic members ²	1,454	3.8	1,783	4.8
Multigenerational household	165	0.4	221	0.6
Mixed nativity household	221	0.6	327	0.9

¹ Defined as households in which members are of different races or at least one person is multiracial.

² Defined as households in which some members are Hispanic and some are non-Hispanic.

Notes: Multigenerational households are households consisting of three or more generations. Mixed nativity households are households in which some household members are native-born and some are foreign-born. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 and 2018 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

percent of foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent lived in such a household.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity Within Households With Children Under the Age of 18

In both the 2008 and 2018 ACS, the majority of households with children under the age of 18 were composed of members who were the same race and Hispanic origin (Table 5). However, the percentage of households with children under the age of 18 that were interracial⁴¹ increased from 7.6 percent of all households in 2008 to 9.9 percent of all households in 2018. Similarly, the percentage of households with children that

were interethnic⁴² also increased during that time, from 3.8 percent of households with children under the age of 18 in 2008 to 4.8 percent in 2018.

Geographic Diversity in Interracial or Interethnic Households With Children Under the Age of 18

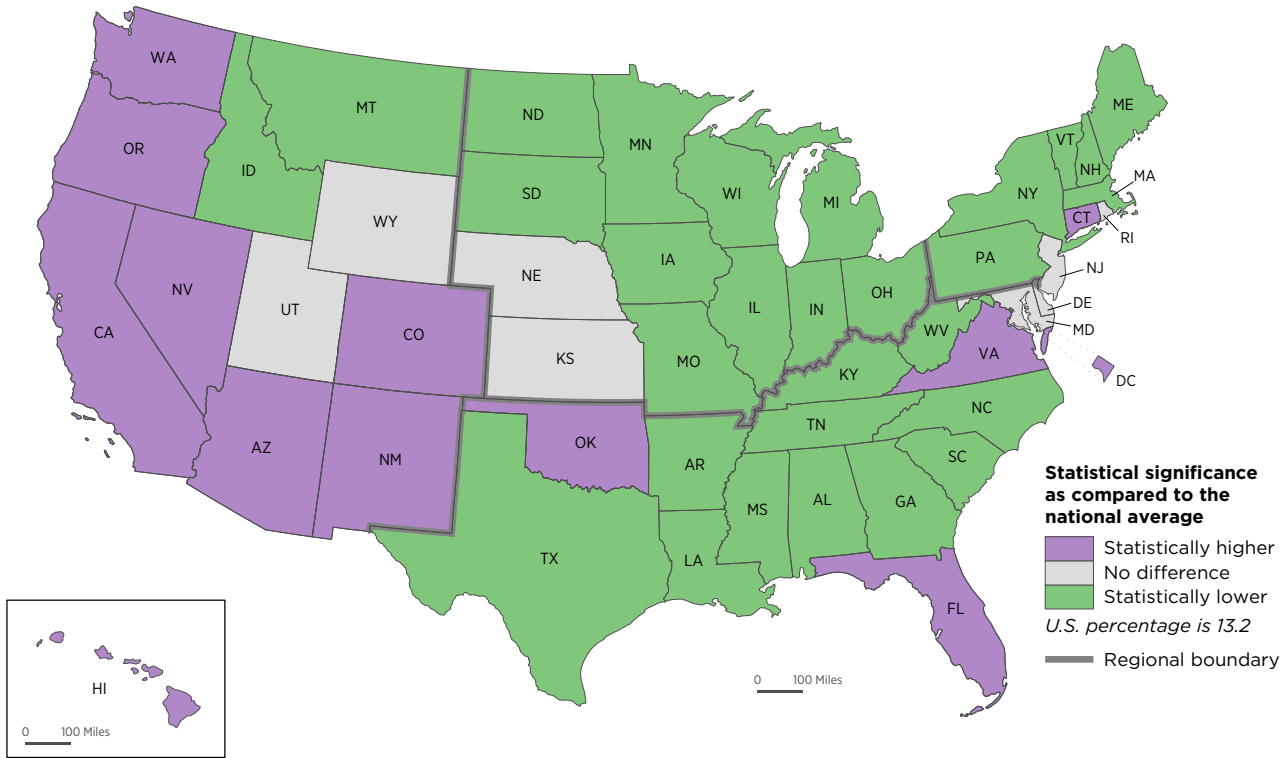
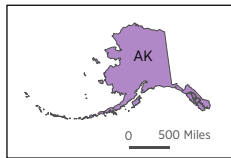
Figure 7 uses ACS data to map the percentage of households with children under the age of 18 that were interracial or interethnic by state compared to the national level. At the national level, 13.2 percent of households with children under the age of 18 contained members of different races or Hispanic origin. The percentage of households with children under the age of 18 that were interracial or interethnic was lowest in the

Midwest. The South and Northeast also had a low percentage of households with children under the age of 18 that contained members of different races or Hispanic origin, with Virginia, the District of Columbia, Florida, and Oklahoma being exceptions in the South, and Connecticut being an exception in the Northeast. The West had the most states with higher percentages of interracial and interethnic households with children under the age of 18 than the national average. Nine Western states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington) had a higher percentage of interracial or interethnic households with children under the age of 18 than the national average. Higher percentages of interracial and interethnic

⁴¹ Defined as households in which members are of different races or at least one person is multiracial.

⁴² Defined as households in which some members are Hispanic and some non-Hispanic.

Figure 7.
Percentage of Households With Children Under 18 That Contain Members of Different Races or Origin: 2018



Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions is available at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

married couple households in the West, as well as increases in the percentage of married couple households that were interracial or interethnic in the West between 2000 to 2012–2016, could help explain the higher percentages of households with children under the age of 18 that contained

members of different race or Hispanic origin groups.⁴³

⁴³ Tallese D. Johnson and Rose Kreider, "Mapping Interracial/Interethnic Married-Couple Households in the United States: 2010," poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA, April 12, 2013, www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2013/demo/sehsd-2013-19.html. Also, Brittany Rico, Rose Kreider, and Lydia Anderson, "Examining Change in the Percent of Married-Couple Households that are Interracial and Interethnic: 2000 to 2012–2016," poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Denver, CO, April 26, 2018, www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2018/demo/SEHSD-WP2018-11.html.

SUMMARY

The living arrangements of children continue to be diverse. Although most children lived with two married parents in 2019, the number and type of family members children live with often changes as they age. Living with unmarried parents, for example, is most common for children under the age of 1. As these children get older, their unmarried parents may decide to marry or dissolve their relationship, creating a new living arrangement for the child.

Living arrangements are important to study, as they can have implications for the household's economic well-being. Children living with two unmarried parents lived in households with an income below the poverty line more often than children living with married parents.

Finally, children's living arrangements have become more racially and ethnically diverse as the share (and number) of children living in interracial and interethnic households increased from 2008 to 2018. Likewise, living in a multi-generational or mixed nativity household became more common for children during this period, reflecting continued immigration to the United States.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The data in this report are from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the 2007 and 2019 Current Population Surveys (CPS), the 2008 and 2018 American Community Surveys (ACS), and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

The CPS is the longest-running survey conducted by the Census Bureau. The CPS is a household survey primarily used to collect employment data. The sample universe for the basic CPS consists of the resident civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States. People in institutions (such as prisons, long-term care hospitals) and nursing homes are not eligible to be interviewed in the CPS. Students living in dormitories are included in the estimates only if information about

them is reported in an interview at their parents' home. Because the CPS is a household survey, people who are homeless and not living in shelters are not included in the sample.

The CPS ASEC collects data in February, March, and April each year, asking detailed questions that categorize income into over 50 sources. The key purpose of the survey is to provide timely and comprehensive estimates of income, poverty, and health insurance and to measure change in these national-level estimates.

This report also presents data from the 2008 and 2018 American Community Surveys. The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is the population living in both households and group quarters—that is, the resident population. The group quarters population consists of the institutionalized population (such as people in correctional institutions or nursing homes) and the noninstitutionalized population (most of whom are in college dormitories). For tabulation purposes in this report, ACS data are shown only for the population living in households. This report uses the 2008 and 2018 1-year data.

Finally, the report includes data from the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The population represented (the population universe) in the SIPP is the civilian, noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Each SIPP panel follows individuals for several years, providing monthly data that measure changes in household and family composition and economic

circumstances over time. The data in this report were collected from the first wave of the 2014 SIPP Panel. Although the main focus of the SIPP is information on labor force participation, jobs, income, and participation in federal assistance programs, information on other topics related to the well-being of individuals and families is also collected.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise indicated. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process—including overall survey design, question wording, review of interviewers' and coders' work, and statistical review of reports—to minimize these errors.

The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for

bias due to under-coverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources. Additionally, CPS estimates are rounded to a maximum of four significant digits for disclosure protection purposes.

Further information about the CPS ASEC and the source and accuracy of the estimates is available at <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar19.pdf>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to be consistent with independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over- or under-coverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources. Additionally, ACS estimates are rounded to a maximum

of four significant digits for disclosure protection purposes.

More information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, is available in the 2018 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2018.pdf>.

The SIPP weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to under-coverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than the age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources. Additionally, SIPP estimates are rounded to a maximum of four significant digits for disclosure protection purposes.

More information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates including standard errors and confidence intervals is available at <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/complete-documents/2014/2014_SIPP_Wave_1_Nonresponse_Bias_Report.pdf> (2014 Panel Source and Accuracy Statements), or by contacting Mahdi Sundukchi of the U.S. Census Bureau's

Demographic Statistical Methods Division by e-mail at <mahdi.s.sundukchi@census.gov>.

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following websites: <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html> (main SIPP website) and <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/methodology/2014-SIPP-Panel-Users-Guide.pdf> (SIPP User's Guide).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Brittany Rico and Brian Knop for their assistance in the creation of this report.

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SUGGESTED CITATION

Anderson, Lydia R., Paul F. Hemez, and Rose M. Kreider, "Living Arrangements of Children: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P70-174, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2021.

Appendix Table.

Margins of Error for Table 5, Race and Hispanic Origin Composition of Households With Children Under 18 Years

(Numbers in thousands. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>)

Characteristic	2008		2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total households with children under 18	83	X	85	X
Racial composition of the household				
All household members of same race	78	0.1	79	0.1
Multigenerational household	28	0.1	32	0.1
Mixed nativity household	34	0.1	44	0.1
Contains members of different races ¹	30	0.1	36	0.1
Multigenerational household	8	Z	11	Z
Mixed nativity household	12	Z	15	Z
Hispanic origin composition of the household				
All household members Hispanic, or all non-Hispanic	83	0.1	83	0.1
Multigenerational household	28	0.1	34	0.1
Mixed nativity household	34	0.1	45.	0.1
Contains some Hispanic and some non-Hispanic members ²	20	0.1	22.	0.1
Multigenerational household	7	Z	8.	Z
Mixed nativity household	8	Z	10	Z

X Not applicable.

Z Entry is less than half of a unit of measurement from zero and there is a meaningful difference between an actual zero and a rounded zero for the particular statistics.

¹ Defined as households in which members are of different races or at least one person is multiracial.

² Defined as households in which some members are Hispanic and some are non-Hispanic.

Note: Multigenerational households are households consisting of three or more generations. Mixed nativity households are households where some household members are native-born and some are foreign-born.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 and 2018 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.