

# Living Arrangements of Children: 2004

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## Highlights

This report provides a detailed overview of children's living arrangements in the United States in 2004. Data in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) that allow the identification of detailed relationships among all household members show a variety of living arrangements for children by their race and Hispanic origin, by the number of parents with whom they live, and other characteristics.

In 2004, 73.2 million children under age 18 lived in American households. The majority of these children (70 percent) lived with two parents. Most (87 percent) of the children who lived with two parents lived with their biological mother and father. Twenty-six percent of all children (19.3 million) lived with one parent. The majority (88 percent) of these children lived with their mother.

The number of parents children lived with varied by race and Hispanic origin—87 percent of Asian children lived with two parents, as did 38 percent of Black children. While 1 percent of White non-Hispanic children lived with their grandparents with no parent present, this was true for 5 percent of Black children.

Overall, 94 percent of children lived with at least one biological parent, while 8 percent lived with at least one stepparent and 2 percent lived with at least one adoptive parent.

From the point of view of the parents, 30.2 million fathers had their children under age 18 living with them, while

**Children** are defined in this report as all noninstitutionalized individuals under 18 years old.

**Adopted** children are identified by the survey respondent alone and not from any administrative records.

**Stepchildren** are identified by the survey respondent and their stepparent may not be currently married to the child's other coresidential parent.

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

**Foster** children are only identified in the relationship to householder item and not via the edited variables that identify if the child's mother/father is present in the household and whether the mother/father is the child's biological, step, or adoptive parent.

**Half siblings** share one biological parent.

37.8 million mothers lived with at least one of their children under age 18. A higher percentage of the mothers lived with their biological children (94 percent) than did the fathers (85 percent). A higher percentage of fathers than mothers lived with their stepchildren or adopted children.

## Current Population Reports

By  
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Most children lived with at least one sibling (79 percent). The majority (64 percent) lived with one or two siblings, while 5 percent lived with four or more siblings. Twelve percent of children under age 18 lived with at least one half sibling.

The presence of a half sibling resulted in the creation of a blended family for half (49 percent) of the children in blended families.

Seventeen percent of all children under age 18 (12.2 million) lived in blended families. Forty-six percent of the children in blended families, or 5.5 million, lived with at least one stepparent.

About 6.5 million children lived with at least one grandparent, and 1.6 million of these children had no parent present. Children living with grandparents were more often living in families in poverty than were children living in households with no grandparents present (22 percent and 17 percent, respectively). Among children living with their mother only, those living in households with a grandparent present were in poverty 23 percent of the time, lower than the percentage of children living with a single mother and no grandparent present (39 percent).

Approximately 2.2 million children were living with a mother who had a marital event in the year prior to the survey date. About 1.1 million children were living with a parent who had experienced a divorce in the last year.

At the household level, 40.0 million households included children under 18—95 percent had at least one child and his or her biological parent, 9 percent had at least one child and his or her stepparent, and 4 percent had at least one child and his or her adoptive parent.

**Parents** are defined in this report as a mother or father of the child who may be married or unmarried, biological, step, or adoptive.

**Unmarried partners** are people who are at least 15 years old, who are not currently living with a spouse, and who are sharing a close personal relationship with another adult in the household. This term and its definition were first developed by Arthur J. Norton of the U.S. Census Bureau for use in the 1990 Census of Population.

The partner may or may not be the parent of any children in the household.

**Blended families** are formed when remarriages occur or when children living in a household share only one or no biological parents. The presence of a stepparent, stepsibling, or half sibling designates a family as blended.

An **extended family household** is a household where a child lives with at least one parent and someone other than a parent or sibling, either relatives or nonrelatives.

## Introduction

Children live in a variety of family arrangements that usually reflect the marriage, divorce, and remarriage patterns of their parents. In addition, one-third of children today are born to unmarried mothers and may grow up in single-parent families or spend significant portions of their lives with other relatives or stepparents.<sup>1</sup> This report examines the diversity of children's living arrangements in American households.<sup>2</sup> The data are from the household relationship module of the SIPP collected in 2004 and they update an earlier

report based on data from the 2001 SIPP Panel.<sup>3</sup>

Detailed information was obtained on each person's relationship to every other person in the household, permitting the identification of various types of relatives and of parent-child and sibling relationships. This report describes extended family households with relatives and nonrelatives (whose presence may influence a child's development and contribute to the household's economic well-being). It also examines the degree to which children are living in single-parent families or with stepparents, adoptive parents, or no parents while in the care of another relative or a guardian.

The statistics in this report are based on national-level estimates of children and their living situations from June through September

<sup>1</sup> "The Council of Economic Advisers on the Changing American Family," *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 26, No. 3, 2000, pp. 617–628.

<sup>2</sup> The data in this report were collected from June through September of 2004 in the second wave (interview) of the 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population under 18 living in the United States. Detailed tables for this report can be accessed on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site, <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/la-child.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/la-child.html)>.

<sup>3</sup> Rose M. Kreider and Jason Fields, *Living Arrangements of Children: 2001*, Current Population Reports, P70-104, Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005.

2004. The findings pertain to all noninstitutionalized individuals under age 18, regardless of their marital or parental status.

Various factors influence the diversity of children's living arrangements, including parental death, divorce, remarriage, births to unmarried women, cohabitation (of unmarried parents), and multigenerational families. Immigration may also influence the type of household and family in which children grow up (when families provide housing for their immigrant relatives and friends, for instance). This factor is evident in the living arrangements of Hispanic children, and Hispanics constitute a large component of new immigrants to the United States.<sup>4</sup> Cultural factors, demographic characteristics, and family formation patterns underlie differences in current and future family structure.<sup>5</sup>

### Children Living With One, Two, or No Parents

In 2004, 70 percent of the 73.2 million children under age 18 lived with two parents, 26 percent lived with one parent, and the remaining 4 percent lived with no parent (see

Table 1).<sup>6</sup> Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of all children across the number and type of parents with whom they lived, while Table 1 details living arrangements of children by race groups and Hispanic origin.

A large majority of White non-Hispanic (78 percent) and Asian (87 percent) children lived with two parents, higher than the proportion for Hispanic children (68 percent) and more than twice as high as the proportion for Black children (38 percent).<sup>7</sup> A higher proportion of Black

<sup>6</sup> The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses of a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

<sup>7</sup> Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data for people who reported they were the single race White and not Hispanic, those who reported the single race White, those who reported the single race Black, and those who reported the single race Asian. Use of the single-race populations does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

For further information, see the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (C2KBR/01-1) at <[www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html)>. Hispanics may be any race. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population are not shown in this report because of their small sample size in the SIPP.

This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone non-Hispanic population as White non-Hispanic.

children than White non-Hispanic or Hispanic children lived with one parent in 2004 (54 percent compared with 20 percent and 28 percent, respectively).

In 2004, 5.5 million children lived with at least one stepparent. In addition, 2.9 million lived with no parents; this figure included 308,000 children living with one or more foster parents. Over half (56 percent) of the children living with no parents were living with grandparents. This proportion also varied by race and Hispanic origin—61 percent of Black children, 57 percent of White non-Hispanic children, and 43 percent of Hispanic children lived with grandparents, of those who had no parents present.<sup>8</sup>

### Children Living With Two Parents: Biological, Step, and Adoptive

In 2004, of the 51.0 million children who lived with two parents, 87 percent (44.5 million) lived with their biological mother and biological father (Table 1).<sup>9</sup> An additional 10 percent (5.3 million) lived with a biological parent and a stepparent, usually with a biological mother and a stepfather (4.1 million). About 2 percent of children living with

<sup>8</sup> The percentages of Black children and White non-Hispanic children living with no parents who lived with their grandparents do not differ statistically.

<sup>9</sup> One hundred ninety-three thousand weighted children's records were adjusted where they pointed to two parents, but these parents were not married and were not reported as cohabiting with each other. In the tables, these children are shown as living with cohabiting parents. Eight thousand weighted children's records were adjusted where they pointed to a married parent but pointed to another parent in the household who was not married to the first. These children were made to point to the married parents' spouse as their second parent.

<sup>4</sup> Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for the White, Black, and Asian populations. Based on the population under 18 in the 2004 SIPP, 23 percent of the White-alone population, 4 percent of the Black-alone population, and 2 percent of the Asian-alone population were also Hispanic.

Larsen, Luke J. *The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2003*, Current Population Reports, P20-551, Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004. Available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-551.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-551.pdf)>.

<sup>5</sup> S. Philip Morgan et al., "Racial differences in household and family structure at the turn of the century," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 98, January 1993, pp. 798-828.

Table 1.  
**Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s) and Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements	2004								2001, total	1996, total
	Total			Race and Hispanic origin						
	Num- ber	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	White alone	White alone, non- His- panic	Black alone	Asian alone	His- panic (any race)		
<b>Children .....</b>	<b>73,227</b>			<b>55,901</b>	<b>43,079</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>13,984</b>	<b>72,501</b>	<b>71,494</b>
Percent .....		100.0							100.0	100.0
Living with—										
Two parents <sup>2</sup> .....	51,013	69.7	0.7	42,469	33,518	4,268	1,987	9,508	70.5	70.9
Married parents .....	48,787	66.6	0.7	40,893	32,523	3,850	1,952	8,869	67.6	68.8
Unmarried parents .....	2,227	3.0	0.3	1,576	995	417	35	639	2.9	2.1
Biological mother and father .....	44,541	60.8	0.8	37,258	29,213	3,537	1,865	8,511	62.2	62.5
Married parents .....	42,727	58.3	0.8	35,968	28,409	3,198	1,834	7,980	59.7	60.7
Biological mother and stepfather .....	4,149	5.7	0.4	3,399	2,818	484	31	640	5.6	5.2
Biological father and stepmother .....	1,106	1.5	0.2	920	734	128	17	196	1.1	1.4
Biological mother and adoptive father .....	407	0.6	0.1	336	282	25	—	61	0.6	0.7
Biological father and adoptive mother .....	49	0.1	—	38	38	11	—	—	0.1	0.1
Adoptive mother and father .....	668	0.9	0.1	457	392	62	67	74	0.8	1.0
Other <sup>3</sup> .....	95	0.1	—	62	41	21	7	26	0.1	0.0
One parent .....	19,336	26.4	0.7	11,816	8,496	6,090	250	3,861	25.5	25.4
Mother only .....	16,973	23.2	0.7	10,037	6,953	5,717	201	3,578	22.5	22.9
Biological .....	16,574	22.6	0.7	9,829	6,803	5,545	198	3,500	22.0	22.5
Father only .....	2,363	3.2	0.3	1,779	1,542	373	49	283	3.0	2.6
Biological .....	2,280	3.1	0.3	1,721	1,494	359	46	273	2.9	2.4
No parent .....	2,878	3.9	0.3	1,616	1,066	996	43	614	4.0	3.7
Grandparents only .....	1,598	2.2	0.2	838	603	610	12	263	1.9	1.8
Other relatives only .....	641	0.9	0.1	328	200	252	12	144	1.2	1.0
Nonrelatives only .....	558	0.8	0.1	395	230	114	20	184	0.7	0.9
Other arrangement .....	81	0.1	—	56	33	20	—	23	0.1	0.1
At least 1 biological parent .....	69,105	94.4	0.4	53,501	41,382	10,090	2,157	13,182	94.5	94.7
At least 1 stepparent .....	5,532	7.6	0.4	4,499	3,661	691	56	917	7.0	6.9
At least 1 adoptive parent .....	1,504	2.1	0.2	1,034	880	244	79	187	1.9	2.1
At least 1 foster parent .....	308	0.4	0.1	231	135	60	4	96	0.4	0.4

— Represents or rounds to zero.

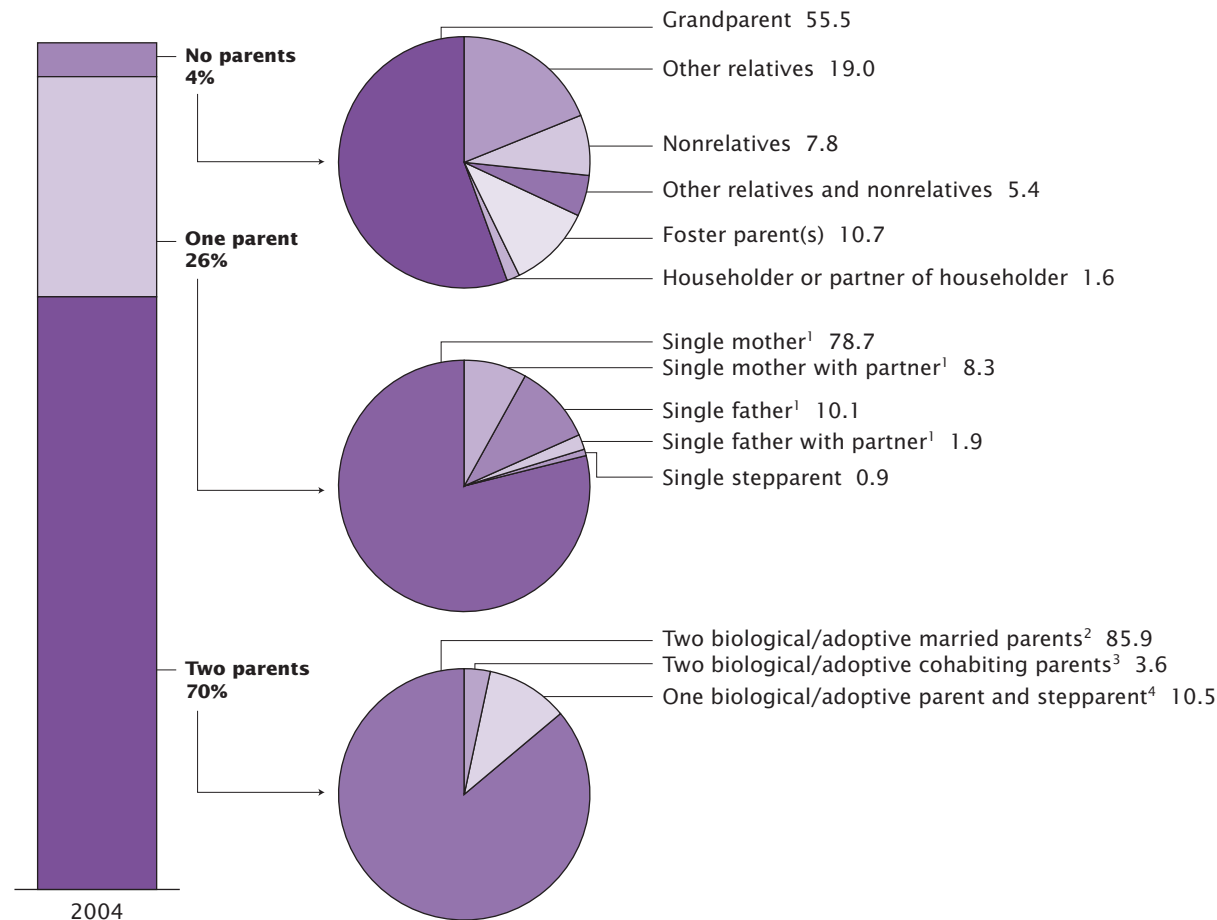
<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimated total number of children under 18 in each category, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> In the SIPP, two coresident parents can be identified regardless of their marital status. This means that both married and unmarried parents are included in this category in this table. This represents a difference from the Current Population Survey (CPS), where, up through 2006, only married parents are recorded in two-parent households. As a result, there are more children in two-parent households in the SIPP and more in single-parent households in the CPS.

<sup>3</sup> Includes children living with one adoptive parent and one stepparent or with two stepparents.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

Figure 1.  
**Percentage of Children Aged 0–17 Living in Various Family Arrangements: 2004**



<sup>1</sup> Child points to one parent, biological or adoptive.

<sup>2</sup> Child points to two parents, who are married to each other—either two biological, two adoptive, or one biological and one adoptive.

<sup>3</sup> Child points to two parents, who are not married to each other—either two biological, two adoptive, or one biological and one adoptive.

<sup>4</sup> Child points to two parents, either married or cohabiting—one is a biological or adoptive parent; one is a stepparent; or both are stepparents.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

two parents (1.2 million) lived with either two adoptive parents or a combination of an adoptive parent and a biological parent or an adoptive parent and a stepparent.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Estimates from the 2004 panel of the number of children living with adoptive parents and those living with stepparents differ from the 2001 panel estimates for several reasons. In the 2004 panel, if respondents reported that a child was their stepchild, they were also asked whether this child was now also their adopted child. The malfunction of this follow-up question resulted in

Roughly 1 in 10 children living with two parents lived with a stepparent or adoptive parent. In 2004, 5.7 million children lived with one biological parent and either a

the need to hold constant the type of relationship between the same child and parent from Wave 1 when the same child and parent were present in Wave 2. The 2001 data were longitudinally edited, and the type of relationship reported in Wave 4, or latest interview during Waves 1 through 4, was used for Waves 1 through 4.

stepparent or adoptive parent (11 percent of all those living with two parents). This percentage was statistically unchanged from 11 percent of children living with two parents in 2001 and 10 percent in 1996.

In 2004, 94 percent of Asian children living with two parents lived with both biological parents, higher than any of the other groups shown in Table 1. Black children had the

Table 2.  
**Children by Presence and Type of Parents by Poverty Status: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	Children		Percent of children below poverty level	
	Number	Percent	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>73,227</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Living with married parents .....	48,787	66.6	10.0	0.6
Living with no parent. ....	2,878	3.9	28.5	1.5
Living with an unmarried parent <sup>2</sup> .....	21,563	29.4	33.7	1.3
Living with unmarried mother and father .....	2,227	3.0	31.4	1.5
Living with unmarried mother only .....	16,973	23.2	36.5	1.4
Living with unmarried father only .....	2,363	3.2	16.6	1.5
Parent has an unmarried partner .....	3,857	5.3	31.8	3.2
Biological mother and father .....	1,814	2.5	32.4	4.6
Biological mother, step or adoptive father .....	324	0.4	26.9	10.4
Biological father, step or adoptive mother .....	87	0.1	28.7	20.4
Biological mother, partner .....	1,271	1.7	36.2	5.7
Biological father, partner .....	308	0.4	19.8	9.6
Step or adoptive parent, partner .....	51	0.1	(B)	(B)
Parent has no unmarried partner .....	17,705	24.2	34.2	1.5
Biological mother .....	15,303	20.9	36.6	1.6
Living with other adult relative <sup>3</sup> .....	3,197	4.4	23.9	3.2
Living with opposite sex adult nonrelative <sup>4</sup> .....	380	0.5	32.1	10.1
Biological father .....	1,972	2.7	15.8	3.5
Living with other adult relative <sup>3</sup> .....	375	0.5	15.5	7.9
Living with opposite sex adult nonrelative <sup>4</sup> .....	66	0.1	(B)	(B)
Stepparent or adoptive parent .....	429	0.6	31.9	9.5

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> Unmarried includes married spouse absent, widowed, divorced, separated, and never married.

<sup>3</sup> The category "other adult relative" does not include the child's siblings.

<sup>4</sup> Only includes adult nonrelatives who are not in the category "married spouse present."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

lowest percentage (83 percent) living with both biological parents, of those living with two parents.

In 2004, 538,000 children lived with one adoptive parent and a non-adoptive parent (biological or step). Seventy-six percent of these children were living with their biological mother and an adoptive father; it is possible that many of these adoptive fathers were initially stepfathers.<sup>11</sup> Often, living arrangements of children are dichotomized by

whether children live with one or two parents. Details in the SIPP data illustrate that even among children living with two parents, considerable variation exists in the combinations of parental types, whether biological, step, or adoptive parents.

### **Children Living With Unmarried Parents: Differences by Cohabitation Status, Poverty, and Race and Hispanic Origin**

Numerous factors, including non-marital childbearing, death, and divorce, affect whether children live with an unmarried parent for some portion of their childhood. Because this report is focused on living arrangements and because the data only show coresidential parents, "unmarried" parents

include those who are married spouse absent, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married.

Based on children's living arrangements in the 1990s, Heuveline, et al. estimated that about half of children under 16 might live in a single-parent household at some time before reaching age 16.<sup>12</sup>

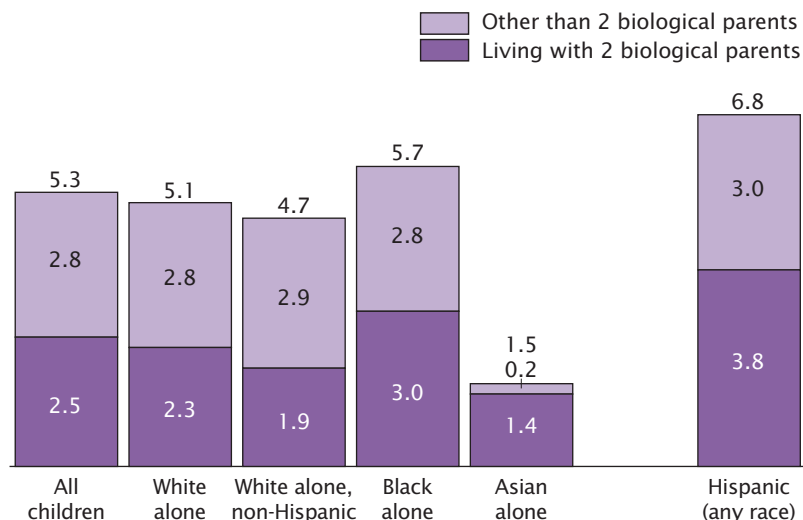
Table 2 shows that in 2004, 21.6 million children (29 percent of all children) lived with one or two unmarried parents. Three percent (2.2 million) of all children lived with both their mother and father

<sup>11</sup> In 1992, 42 percent of all adoptions in the United States, whether public, private, or intercountry, were stepparent adoptions. See the following report for further details: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004, *How many children were adopted in 2000 and 2001?* Washington, DC: Child Welfare Information Gateway. This report can be accessed at: <[www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s\\_adopted/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_adopted/index.cfm)>.

<sup>12</sup> Heuveline, Patrick, Jeffrey M. Timberlake and Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr. "Shifting Childbearing to Single Mothers: Results from 17 Western Countries," *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 29,1, 2003, pp. 47-71.

Figure 2.

### Percent of Children Living With a Cohabiting Parent: 2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

who were not married to each other.

Twenty-three percent of all children lived with their unmarried mother only (17.0 million), while 3 percent (2.4 million) lived with their unmarried father without their mother present.

The overall pattern of living arrangements of children with unmarried parents clearly indicates that women are the primary custodial parents of these children and that these children usually have unmarried mothers living without a partner present. Of the 18.7 million children living with their unmarried biological mothers, 3.4 million (18 percent) had mothers who were living with unmarried partners. In comparison, of the 4.2 million children living with their unmarried biological fathers, 2.2 million (53 percent) were living with fathers who were living with an unmarried partner, of whom

1.8 million were also the child's biological mother.

The percentage of children living below the poverty level varied by the number of parents with whom they lived. In 2004, 18 percent of children lived in families that were below the poverty level.<sup>13</sup> While one-tenth of children living with married parents were below the poverty level, this was the case for 29 percent of children living with no parents and 34 percent of those living with one or two unmarried parents. Among children living with two unmarried parents, 31 percent were living in poverty. Children living with their unmarried mother only were twice as likely to live in

<sup>13</sup> The SIPP poverty estimate compares well with the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey estimate of 17.3 percent of children under 18 living in families who were below the poverty level, based on 2004 income; see <[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032005/pov/new02\\_100\\_01.htm](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032005/pov/new02_100_01.htm)>. The two estimates do not differ statistically from each other.

poverty (37 percent) as children living with their unmarried father only (17 percent).

While children living with unmarried parents are sometimes thought of as living with a parent who is the only adult in the household, many unmarried parents are cohabiting—either with the other biological parent of the child or with another partner. Figure 2 shows children by race and Hispanic origin. For each group, a stacked bar shows the overall percentage of children living with an unmarried cohabiting parent, divided into the proportion of children living with both biological parents and those who were not living with both biological parents.

Five percent of all children under 18 lived with a cohabiting parent. The percentage of all children who lived with a cohabiting parent ranged from 2 percent for Asian children to 7 percent for Hispanic children. Five percent of White non-Hispanic children and 6 percent of Black children lived with a cohabiting parent.<sup>14</sup> The proportion of children living with cohabiting parents who lived with both biological parents varied across race groups and Hispanics. Thirty-nine percent of White non-Hispanic children living with cohabiting parents lived with both biological parents (2 of 5 percent). About the same proportion of Black children (3 of 6 percent) and Hispanic children (4 of 7 percent) living with cohabiting parents were living with both biological parents. Among Asian children, most (1.4 of 1.5 percent) who lived with cohabiting parents lived with both their biological mother and father.

<sup>14</sup> The percentages of White non-Hispanic children and Hispanic children who lived with a cohabiting parent were not statistically different from the percentage of Black children who lived with a cohabiting parent.

## Parents by Type of Relationship With Their Coresident Children

Table 3 shows estimates of the number of parents with coresident children in 2004 by type of relationship with their children. The data suggest that more fathers live in blended families that include children from their spouse's or partner's previous relationships. While 94 percent of the 37.8 million mothers with coresident children were living with biological children only, this was true for 85 percent of the 30.2 million fathers with coresident children. A higher percentage of fathers than mothers lived with both their biological and stepchildren and no other children (6 percent compared with 2 percent). The percentage of fathers who lived with their stepchildren only (4 percent) was also higher than that of mothers (1 percent). Fathers were more likely to live with any stepchildren (11 percent) or adopted children (4 percent) than were mothers, of whom 3 percent lived with any stepchildren and 2 percent lived with any adopted children. For both fathers and mothers, less than 1 percent living with children lived with foster children.

## Children With Siblings

In addition to the number of parents with whom children live, another aspect of growing up is the presence of brothers and sisters (Table 4). About 21 percent of children (15.5 million) in 2004 were currently living with no other siblings in the household. Another 28.4 million children lived with only one sibling, while the remaining 29.3 million lived with two or more siblings.

Of the 57.7 million children living with siblings, 51.8 million lived

Table 3.  
**Parents With Specified Types of Coresident Children: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands. Types of coresident children of any age for parents with at least one coresident child under 18)

Parent-child relationship	Number		Percent
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	
Fathers .....	30,231	683	100.0
Biological children only .....	25,622	636	84.8
Stepchildren only .....	1,302	152	4.3
Adopted children only .....	553	99	1.8
Foster children only .....	76	37	0.3
Biological children and stepchildren only .....	1,910	183	6.3
Biological children and adopted children only .....	564	100	1.9
Other combinations .....	203	60	0.7
Any biological children .....	28,209	663	93.3
Any stepchildren .....	3,355	242	11.1
Any adopted children .....	1,257	149	4.2
Any foster children .....	156	53	0.5
Mothers .....	37,786	748	100.0
Biological children only .....	35,673	731	94.4
Stepchildren only .....	349	79	0.9
Adopted children only .....	457	90	1.2
Foster children only .....	71	36	0.2
Biological children and stepchildren only .....	751	115	2.0
Biological children and adopted children only .....	364	80	1.0
Other combinations .....	121	46	0.3
Any biological children .....	36,883	741	97.6
Any stepchildren .....	1,128	141	3.0
Any adopted children .....	861	123	2.3
Any foster children .....	173	55	0.5

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Note: All of the parents in this table have at least one coresident child under 18. Some also have coresident children who are 18 and older, and the type of relationship between the parent and these older children is also reflected in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

only with full siblings (children who had the same biological mother and father). Twelve percent of all children lived with at least one half sibling, 2 percent with at least one stepsibling, and another 2 percent with at least one adopted sibling.<sup>15</sup> A larger proportion of children living with two parents had siblings (84 percent) than was the case for children living with their mother only (74 percent) or their father only (62 percent). Among the 2.9

million children living with no parents, 36 percent lived with siblings.

## Adopted Children

The number of adopted children is difficult to estimate accurately. SIPP estimates rely on the relationships reported by the respondent—administrative records are not used. This collection method could miss some legalized adoptions and include informal adoptions where no legal adoption exists.

Because of the small number of adopted children and potential difficulties in counting them accurately

<sup>15</sup> The percentage of children who lived with at least one stepsibling does not differ statistically from the percentage of children who lived with at least one adopted sibling.

Table 4.  
**Children Living With Siblings by Type of Relationship and Presence of Parent: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Presence of siblings	Total			Two parents		Mother only		Father only		No parents	
	Num- ber	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent
Children .....	73,227	940	100.0	51,013	100.0	16,972	100.0	2,363	100.0	2,878	100.0
Living with at least one sibling .....	57,703	875	78.8	42,730	83.8	12,486	73.6	1,463	61.9	1,024	35.6
Living with only full siblings .....	51,799	844	70.7	38,701	75.9	10,809	63.7	1,392	58.9	897	31.2
Living with at least one stepsibling ....	1,263	149	1.7	927	1.8	225	1.3	75	3.2	37	1.3
Living with at least one adopted sibling .....	1,128	141	1.5	853	1.7	222	1.3	49	2.1	3	0.1
Living with at least one half sibling ....	8,587	383	11.7	6,142	12.0	2,273	13.4	45	1.9	127	4.4
Living with—											
No siblings .....	15,524	507	21.2	8,283	16.2	4,487	26.4	900	38.1	1,854	64.4
1 sibling .....	28,368	664	38.7	21,004	41.2	5,917	34.9	863	36.5	584	20.3
2 siblings .....	18,145	545	24.8	13,201	25.9	4,276	25.2	393	16.6	275	9.6
3 siblings .....	7,493	359	10.2	5,686	11.1	1,524	9.0	162	6.9	121	4.2
4 or more siblings .....	3,697	254	5.0	2,839	5.6	769	4.5	45	1.9	44	1.5

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Note: Children are under 18. Their siblings may be any age.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

Table 5.  
**Adopted Children by Race and Hispanic Origin and Living Arrangements: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics of children	Number		Percent
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	
Adopted children .....	1,504	163	100.0
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>			
White alone .....	1,034	135	68.8
Non-Hispanic .....	880	125	58.5
Black alone .....	244	66	16.2
Asian alone .....	79	37	5.2
Hispanic (any race) .....	187	58	12.4
<b>Living Arrangements</b>			
Two parents .....	1,206	146	80.2
Two adoptive parents .....	668	109	44.4
One adoptive and one biological .....	456	90	30.3
Other (one adoptive and one stepparent) ..	82	38	5.5
One parent .....	298	73	19.8
Mother only .....	259	68	17.2
Father only .....	39	26	2.6

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

in the SIPP, only basic information is presented in Table 5. The number of adopted children rose from 1.1 million in 1991 to 1.5 million in 2004.<sup>16</sup> In 2004, 20 percent of adopted children lived with one parent, compared with 26 percent of all children. The majority (80 percent) of adopted children lived with two parents—44 percent lived with two adoptive parents, 30 percent lived with an adoptive parent and a biological parent, and 6 percent lived with an adoptive parent and a stepparent. Many children who live with one adoptive parent and one biological parent have been adopted by their stepparent.

<sup>16</sup> Stacy Furukawa, *The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991*, Current Population Reports, P70-38, Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 1994.

Table 6.  
**Children Living in Blended Families by Composition of Family and Child's Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Relationships in household	All races		White alone		Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	Total	Non-Hispanic			
<b>Children</b> .....	<b>73,227</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>55,901</b>	<b>43,079</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>13,984</b>
Children living in a blended family <sup>2</sup> .....	12,157	452	9,251	7,029	2,077	103	2,431
Percent of all children .....	16.6	0.6	16.5	16.3	18.3	4.5	17.4
<b>Type of Blended Family</b>							
Number							
Stepparent only .....	2,530	211	2,066	1,730	291	24	384
Stepsibling only .....	265	69	205	103	53	—	108
Half sibling only .....	5,951	321	4,225	2,992	1,295	43	1,350
Stepparent and stepsibling .....	702	111	586	502	89	6	99
Stepparent and half sibling .....	2,049	190	1,676	1,299	255	19	388
Stepsibling and half sibling .....	41	27	21	13	11	3	8
Stepparent, stepsibling, and half sibling .....	251	67	171	130	57	7	46
One biological parent and one adoptive parent, and step, adopted, or half siblings .....	369	81	301	260	26	—	48
Percent .....	100.0	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Stepparent only .....	20.8	1.6	22.3	24.6	14.0	(B)	15.8
Stepsibling only .....	2.2	0.6	2.2	1.5	2.6	(B)	4.4
Half sibling only .....	49.0	1.9	45.7	42.6	62.3	(B)	55.5
Stepparent and stepsibling .....	5.8	0.9	6.3	7.1	4.3	(B)	4.1
Stepparent and half sibling .....	16.9	1.4	18.1	18.5	12.3	(B)	16.0
Stepsibling and half sibling .....	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	(B)	0.3
Stepparent, stepsibling, and half sibling .....	2.1	0.5	1.8	1.8	2.7	(B)	1.9
One biological parent and one adoptive parent, and step, adopted, or half siblings .....	3.0	0.7	3.3	3.7	1.3	(B)	2.0

— Represents or rounds to zero.

X Not applicable.

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> Blended families are formed when remarriages occur or when children living in a household share only one or no biological parents. The presence of a stepparent, stepsibling, or half sibling designates a family as blended.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

## Children in Blended Families

Blended families include those that contain stepchildren and their stepparents, half siblings, or stepsiblings. Overall, 17 percent (12.2 million) of all children lived in blended families (Table 6). In 2004, 8.6 million children lived with at least one half sibling (Table 4), representing 12 percent of all children and 71 percent of children in blended families.

Table 6 shows the proportion of children who were in blended families in 2004 by the child's race and

Hispanic origin.<sup>17</sup> Five percent of Asian children lived in blended families, compared with 17 percent of all children and lower than any of the other race groups or Hispanics.

<sup>17</sup> Table 6 differs in several ways from Table 4 in the report *Living Arrangements of Children: 1996* that it updates. In 2001 and 2004, adopted siblings were not included with stepsiblings as they were in 1996 and 1991 but were coded separately. An additional category for children living with one biological and one adoptive parent and siblings who are the child's step, adopted, or half siblings is included. Many of these adopted children were first the stepchildren of their adoptive parent, and the adoption took place following the remarriage of the biological parent with whom they live.

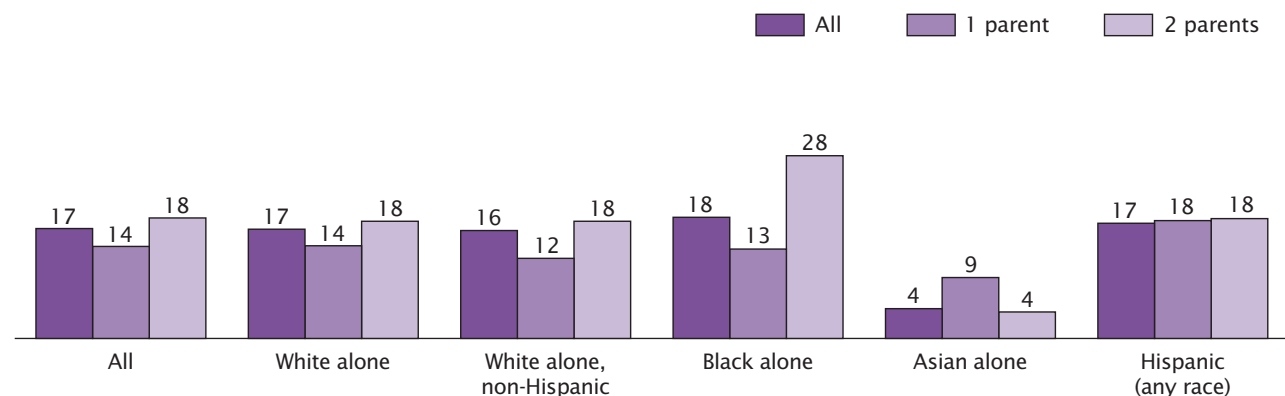
Lower rates of births to unmarried women and divorce may contribute to lower rates of Asian children living in blended families.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> See the National Vital Statistics Reports for data on births and trends in childbearing among unmarried women, teenagers, and the general population. For example, see Table A in Brady E. Hamilton et al., *Births: Preliminary Data for 2004*, National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol. 54, No. 8, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2005.

For data on divorce by race, see Figure 5 in the following report: Kreider, Rose M. and Jason M. Fields. *Number, Timing and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: Fall 1996*. Current Population Reports, P70-80, Washington, DC, U.S. Census Bureau: 2001.

Figure 3.

**Percent of Children Living in Blended Families by Race and Hispanic Origin and Number of Parents: 2004**



Note: The category for all children includes those living with no parents.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

After living with half siblings, living with a stepparent is the next-largest living arrangement that contributes to children living in a blended family—8 percent of all children and 46 percent of children in blended families lived with a stepparent. In blended families, stepparents were more commonly found living with White non-Hispanic children (52 percent) than with Black children or Hispanic children (33 percent and 38 percent, respectively). This is expected, since White women have been found to remarry more often than Black or Hispanic women.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Bramlett, Matthew and William Mosher. *Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the United States*. Vital Health Statistics 23(22), Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2002.

Figure 3 details the percentage of children living in blended families by race and number of parents. Overall, 17 percent of children lived in a blended family—14 percent of those living with one parent and 18 percent of those living with two parents were in blended families. Percentages are found to be higher for children living with two parents because of the higher potential for one of these parents to be a stepparent. Among children living with two parents, Black children had the highest percentage living in a blended family (28 percent), while Asian children had the lowest percentage (4 percent).

### Children Living With Grandparents

Grandparents play an important role in providing care for children—they

are the most frequently mentioned care providers for children under 5 among all types of relatives.<sup>20</sup> In 2004, 6.5 million children lived in households with at least one grandparent present (9 percent of all children, Table 7). Twelve percent of Hispanic children and 14 percent of Black children lived with a grandparent, while 6 percent of White non-Hispanic children lived with a grandparent.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Overturf Johnson, Julia. *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: 2002*, Current Population Reports, P70-101, Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005, Table 1.

<sup>21</sup> The percentage of Asian children who lived with a grandparent (15 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of Black or Hispanic children who lived with a grandparent.

Table 7.

# Children Below the Poverty Level by Presence of Parents and Grandparents and by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements	All races		White alone	White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>					
<b>Children</b> .....	<b>73,227</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>55,901</b>	<b>43,079</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>13,984</b>
Children living with at least one grandparent .....	6,471	334	4,108	2,592	1,590	301	1,643
Percent of all children .....	8.8	0.4	7.3	6.0	14.0	13.2	11.7
<b>Presence of Parents</b>							
Two parents .....	2,091	192	1,593	950	130	244	684
Grandparent is householder .....	825	121	614	407	85	56	229
Mother only .....	2,450	207	1,409	806	825	46	654
Grandparent is householder .....	1,925	184	1,126	662	641	27	503
Father only .....	331	77	268	233	25	—	43
Grandparent is householder .....	279	70	227	205	17	—	30
Neither parent .....	1,599	168	838	603	610	11	263
Grandparent is householder .....	1,563	166	819	587	597	11	260
<b>Percent of Children Below Poverty Level</b>							
All children .....	17.7	0.6	14.3	10.9	33.8	15.7	26.0
Two parents .....	10.9	0.6	10.1	7.4	17.5	14.6	20.1
Mother only .....	36.5	1.6	30.7	26.0	46.2	22.0	41.8
Father only .....	16.6	3.2	14.1	14.2	29.2	(B)	17.0
Neither parent .....	28.5	3.5	23.6	20.5	35.0	(B)	29.0
Children living with grandparents .....	22.0	2.2	18.4	16.4	30.3	22.6	22.0
Two parents .....	13.8	3.2	12.8	11.8	13.8	19.3	14.6
Mother only .....	23.0	3.6	19.1	15.6	28.5	(B)	24.6
Father only .....	16.3	8.6	16.4	18.9	(B)	—	(B)
Neither parent .....	32.5	4.9	28.5	23.7	36.9	(B)	38.0
Children living in grandparents' household .....	25.3	2.7	21.4	17.9	32.3	40.0	27.4
Two parents .....	17.1	5.5	16.1	14.0	15.3	(B)	18.8
Mother only .....	23.7	4.1	19.5	14.7	30.3	(B)	27.2
Father only .....	16.1	9.3	16.3	18.0	(B)	—	(B)
Neither parent .....	33.2	5.0	29.2	24.4	37.7	(B)	38.5
Children not living with grandparents .....	17.3	0.6	14.0	10.6	34.4	14.7	26.5
Two parents .....	10.8	0.6	9.9	7.2	17.6	13.9	20.5
Mother only .....	38.7	1.7	32.6	27.3	49.1	20.0	45.7
Father only .....	16.6	3.5	13.7	13.4	30.2	(B)	20.0
Neither parent .....	23.5	5.0	18.4	16.4	32.1	(B)	22.2

— Represents or rounds to zero.

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

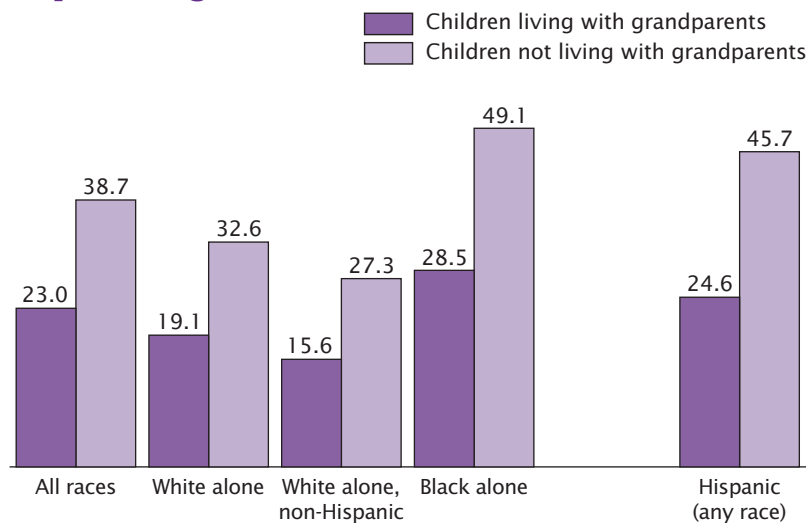
The arrangements when grandparents and grandchildren live in the same household vary. The child's parents are sometimes present and the household may be maintained either by the child's parents or grandparents. In 2004, 75 percent of children (4.9 million) living with a grandparent were also living with a parent in the household, and 62 percent of these children (3.0 million) were in a household where their grandparent was the householder.

This characteristic differs by the number of parents. Thirty-nine percent of children living with a grandparent and two parents were living in households maintained by the grandparent, while 79 percent of children living with a single mother and a grandparent were living in the grandparent's household. Among the 1.6 million children living in households with grandparents but no parents present, the grandparent was the householder 98 percent of the time.

Children living with grandparents more often lived in families in poverty than children living in households with no grandparents present (22 percent and 17 percent, respectively). The association between children's coresidence with their grandparent and the poverty level is not simple. A grandchild may live with a grandparent to alleviate financial hardship of a parent. Alternatively, the grandparent may move in with their child and grandchild if they need assistance.

Figure 4.

**Percentage of Children Below the Poverty Level for Those Living With Mother Only by Presence of Grandparents and the Child's Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004**



Note: These children do not have a father present in the household. Base less than 75,000 for Asian-alone children, so this group cannot be shown in this figure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

Among children living with their grandparents, 14 percent of those living in households with two parents present were in poverty, not statistically different from the 16 percent of those living with their father only who were in poverty. Twenty-three percent were in poverty among those who lived only with their mother, and 33 percent of those who lived with their grandparents when neither parent was present were in poverty.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> The percentage of children in poverty for those who lived with a grandparent and their mother did not differ statistically from the percentage of children in poverty for those who lived with a grandparent and their father.

Children living with neither parent were more often in poverty when they lived with a grandparent (33 percent) than when they did not (24 percent). Many states allow grandparents raising grandchildren to receive foster care or kinship care payments. However, some grandparents may be unable to supplement these payments with paid work if they are elderly or disabled. Others might be unaware of the availability of kinship care payments.

**Children Living With Grandparents: Differences in Arrangements by Race and Hispanic Origin**

Figure 4 illustrates that among children living with their mother but not their father, grandparents

may offer economic resources to reduce the proportion of children living in poverty. Overall, 23 percent of children living with a single mother and a grandparent were in poverty compared with 39 percent for those not living with a grandparent. This pattern appears for all race groups and Hispanics.

Overall, 6 percent of White non-Hispanic children lived with one or more grandparents, less than that of Black, Asian, or Hispanic children. Variations in frequency of parents living in grandparent-grandchild households by the race of the child illustrate the different dynamics of extended household formation for different racial groups and Hispanics in the United States.

About half (52 percent) of Black children who lived with grandparents lived in households with single mothers and grandparents, a larger proportion than for any of the other groups shown in Figure 5. Another 38 percent of Black children who lived with grandparents had no parents living with them, the highest percentage for any of the groups in Figure 5. These children lived with their grandparents under conditions often characterized by births to unmarried mothers, marital disruption, and the absence of both parents from their daily living arrangements.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> See the following report, page 14 for a note about how marital status is determined when births to unmarried women are calculated: Brady E. Hamilton et al., *Births: Preliminary Data for 2004*, National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol. 54, No. 8, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2005. In most states, a question on the birth certificate asks "Mother married? (At birth, conception, or any time between) (Yes or no)."

In contrast, the majority (81 percent) of Asian children who lived with grandparents also lived with both parents. Another 15 percent of these children lived with their mother and their grandparents, while 4 percent lived with grandparents and no parent present. Twenty-three percent of Asian children in grandparent-grandchild households with two parents present were living in households where the grandparent was the householder (Table 7).

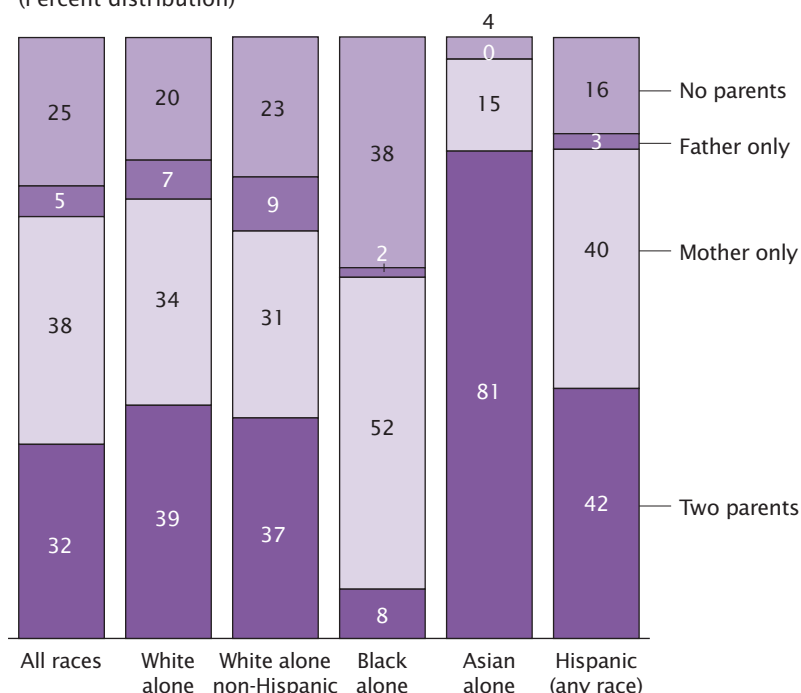
Thirty-seven percent of White non-Hispanic children living with their grandparents also lived with two parents and an additional 31 percent lived with grandparents and their mother (Figure 5).<sup>24</sup> Forty-three percent of the children living with two parents and grandparents lived in a household in which their grandparent was the householder.

Hispanic children were about as likely to live with both parents and a grandparent (42 percent) as they were to live with their mother only and a grandparent (40 percent). The grandparent was the householder for about one-third (33 percent) of Hispanic children who lived with two parents and grandparents.

<sup>24</sup> The percentage of White non-Hispanic children living with grandparents and two parents did not differ statistically from the percentage of White non-Hispanic children who lived with their grandparents and their mother.

Figure 5.  
**Percent Distribution of Children Living With Grandparents by Presence of Parents and Race and Hispanic Origin<sup>1</sup>: 2004**

(Percent distribution)



<sup>1</sup> Hispanics may be any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

### Relatives in Extended Families

Children may grow up living not only with their parents or grandparents but also with other relatives. When relatives other than the child's parents or siblings are living together, this type of family unit is called an extended family.

Table 8 presents data on the different types of relatives living with

children. The estimates of specific relationship categories are not mutually exclusive. A child living with a grandmother, an uncle, and an aunt is counted separately in each of those categories.<sup>25</sup> The largest group of children living

<sup>25</sup> Among the three subcategories of grandparents in Table 8, however, a child is tabulated in only one of these categories.

Table 8.  
**Children Living With Relatives by Type of Relative, Presence of Parents, and Whether Below Poverty Level: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements	Total		No parent present				Parent(s) present <sup>1</sup>			
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent	In poverty		Number	Percent	In poverty	
					Number	Percent			Number	Percent
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>73,227</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>70,349</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,157</b>	<b>17.3</b>
Presence of other relatives and nonrelatives <sup>3</sup> ....	13,446	474	2,741	95.2	780	28.5	10,705	15.2	2,493	23.3
Other relatives only.....	9,648	405	2,002	69.6	678	33.9	7,646	10.9	1,621	21.2
Other relatives and nonrelatives.....	779	117	181	6.3	55	30.4	598	0.9	127	21.2
Nonrelatives only.....	3,019	230	558	19.4	47	8.4	2,461	3.5	745	30.3
<b>Specific Category of Relative<sup>4</sup></b>										
Living with—										
Grandparent(s).....	6,472	334	1,598	55.5	519	32.5	4,873	6.9	907	18.6
Grandmother and grandfather.....	2,527	211	788	27.4	160	20.3	1,739	2.5	268	15.4
Grandmother only.....	3,371	243	751	26.1	338	45.0	2,621	3.7	533	20.3
Grandfather only.....	574	101	59	2.1	20	(B)	514	0.7	106	20.6
Uncle.....	2,327	202	287	10.0	90	31.4	2,040	2.9	520	25.5
Aunt.....	1,998	188	311	10.8	91	29.3	1,687	2.4	450	26.7
Nephew.....	517	96	64	2.2	35	(B)	453	0.6	156	34.4
Niece.....	494	94	68	2.4	30	(B)	426	0.6	170	39.9
Brother-in-law.....	121	46	28	1.0	14	(B)	94	0.1	13	13.8
Sister-in-law.....	87	39	27	0.9	11	(B)	61	0.1	15	(B)
Other relative.....	3,443	245	1,092	37.9	380	34.8	2,351	3.3	582	24.8

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup> Parents include biological, step, and adoptive parents.

<sup>2</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>3</sup> The child's parents, siblings, and children are not included in other relatives.

<sup>4</sup> These categories are independent and not mutually exclusive. Relationship listed is to the child, (the child's grandmother, aunt, etc.).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

with another relative were living with a grandparent—6.5 million children were living with one or both grandparents. While 2.3 million children lived with their uncles, 2.0 million lived with their aunts. The category of other relatives includes more distant relatives. These responses did not contain enough cases to allow them to be shown with more specificity.

About 20 percent of children living in extended families (2.7 million) were not living with a parent. A higher percentage of children in extended families with no parents present were in poverty (29 percent) than those who lived with at least one parent (23 percent). Children who lived with no parents but with both their grandmother and grandfather were less likely to

be in poverty than children who lived with no parents and their grandmother only (20 percent and 45 percent, respectively). The lower percentage of children in poverty when both grandparents were present may reflect the higher number of potential earners in these households.

## Children Whose Coresident Parent's Marital Status Changed in the Last Year

Because the marital history of the child's coresident parents is collected in the SIPP, it is possible to estimate the number of children who lived with a parent who married, divorced, or was widowed in the last year. Table 9 shows that about 2.2 million children lived with a mother who experienced a marital event in the last year.<sup>26</sup> Of these children, 1.4 million lived with their mothers who married in the last year. For 794,000 of these children, their biological father and mother married each other and both were still living with the child at the time of the survey (Table 9).

Estimates of the number of children whose parents divorced during a year were previously tracked by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) as part of its vital statistics program. Currently, NCHS does not receive information from enough states to make these estimates. Previous NCHS data estimated that the number of children affected by divorce had grown since 1950. Divorce rates increased in the late 1970s and into the 1980s and subsequently leveled off in the late 1980s and into the 1990s.<sup>27</sup> An estimated 299,000 children were

<sup>26</sup> The number of children experiencing their mother's or father's marriage in the last year is not exactly equal due to the fact that if the couple had separated by the time of the interview and the child is not currently living with both mother and father, they will not appear in both estimates.

<sup>27</sup> Kathryn A. London, *Children of Divorce*. Vital and Health Statistics. Series 21, No. 46. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1924, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 1989.

Joshua R. Goldstein, "The Leveling of Divorce in the United States," *Demography*, Vol. 36, 1999, pp. 409-414.

Table 9.  
**Children Whose Coresident Parent's Marital Status Changed in the Last Year: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Marital event	Number		Percent
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	
Children living with their mother <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	67,986	921	100.0
Mother had marital event in last year <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	2,214	197	3.3
Mother married in last year . . . . .	1,438	159	2.1
First marriage . . . . .	854	123	1.3
Married the child's biological father and still married . . . . .	794	119	1.2
Average age of the child (in years) . . . . .	3.2	(X)	(X)
Mother divorced in last year . . . . .	791	118	1.2
Divorce from first marriage . . . . .	637	106	0.9
Mother changed residence in last year . . . . .	304	73	0.4
Mother widowed in last year . . . . .	54	31	0.1
Children living with their father <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	53,376	852	100.0
Father had marital event in last year <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1,629	169	3.1
Father married in last year . . . . .	1,368	155	2.6
First marriage . . . . .	826	121	1.5
Married the child's biological mother and still married . . . . .	794	119	1.5
Average age of the child (in years) . . . . .	3.2	(X)	(X)
Father divorced in last year . . . . .	278	70	0.5
Divorce from first marriage . . . . .	214	62	0.4
Father changed residence in last year . . . . .	89	40	0.2
Father widowed in last year . . . . .	31	23	0.1

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> All of the children in the table live with at least one parent—biological, step, or adoptive.

<sup>3</sup> More than one marital event may have occurred in the last year, so individual event categories may add to more than the total.

Note: Sufficient data to measure incidence of separation are not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

involved in the divorces finalized in 1950, or a rate of 6.3 per 1,000 children. This number increased to a little over 1 million children by 1972 (at a rate of 14.7 per 1,000 children), and stayed just over 1 million through 1984, when the rate was a bit higher, at 17.2 per 1,000 children.

Table 9 shows an estimated 1.1 million children were living with either their mother or father who divorced in the year prior to the SIPP interview in 2004, or a rate of 15 per 1,000 children. Seventy-four percent of these children lived with their mother (791,000).

## Composition of Households With Children

While most of the tables in this report are shown from the child's point of view, Table 10 shows the living arrangements of children at the household level. In 2004, 40.0 million households included children under 18—95 percent had at least one child and his or her biological parent, 9 percent had at least one child and his or her step-parent, and 4 percent had at least one child and his or her adoptive parent. These categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, households can have children with

Table 10.  
**Composition of Households With Children: 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Households with children under 18			Percent of households below the poverty level <sup>2</sup>	Percent of households receiving public assistance
	Number		Percent		
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>			
Households with children under 18 . . . . .	40,011	766	100.0	14.0	43.7
<b>Households containing—</b>					
Parent and child present <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	38,777	756	96.9	13.8	42.8
No parent and child. . . . .	1,234	148	3.1	22.9	72.2
Biological parent, biological child present. . . . .	38,044	750	95.1	13.8	42.7
Stepparent, stepchild present . . . . .	3,642	252	9.1	10.8	46.1
Adoptive parent, adopted child present. . . . .	1,461	161	3.7	7.2	47.1
Foster parent, foster child present. . . . .	208	61	0.5	12.0	83.7
Blended household (stepchild, stepparent, half sibling, or stepsibling present) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	4,661	285	11.6	10.7	48.7
Adoptive household (adoptive parent, adopted child, or adopted siblings present) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	1,656	171	4.1	7.3	46.1
Grandparent-grandchild households . . . . .	3,316	241	8.3	15.5	70.0
Child, grandparent present, parent(s) present . . . . .	2,958	228	7.4	14.4	68.7
Child, grandparent present, no parent(s) present . . . . .	1,006	133	2.5	26.6	77.4
Extended households <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	7,203	352	18.0	18.8	70.4
Other relatives only . . . . .	5,125	298	12.8	17.6	70.6
Other relatives and nonrelatives. . . . .	340	78	0.8	19.7	83.8
Nonrelatives only . . . . .	1,738	175	4.3	22.2	67.2

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the poverty status of the householder.

<sup>3</sup> Includes biological, step, adoptive, and foster parents of children under 18.

<sup>4</sup> These households include a stepparent and stepchild. The stepchild may be any age; however, at least one child under 18 is in the household.

<sup>5</sup> These households include an adoptive parent and adopted child. The adopted child may be any age; however, at least one child under 18 is in the household.

<sup>6</sup> Extended households include those that contain a child under 18 who has a relative who is not his or her parent or sibling or who has a nonrelative present.

Note: Except for "parent and child present" plus "no parent and child," percents may add to more than 100 percent since categories are not mutually exclusive.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel, Wave 2.

both a biological parent and a stepparent. There were 4.7 million households with blended families and 1.7 million households with adoptive families.

Eight percent of households with children under 18 (3.3 million) had grandparents and grandchildren present, with 89 percent of these composed of a child, his or her parent(s), and the child's grandparent(s). An additional 3 percent, or 1.0 million, included a child and his or her grandparent(s) but not the child's parent(s). About 1 in 5 households with children included nonrelatives or relatives of the

child other than his or her parents or siblings.

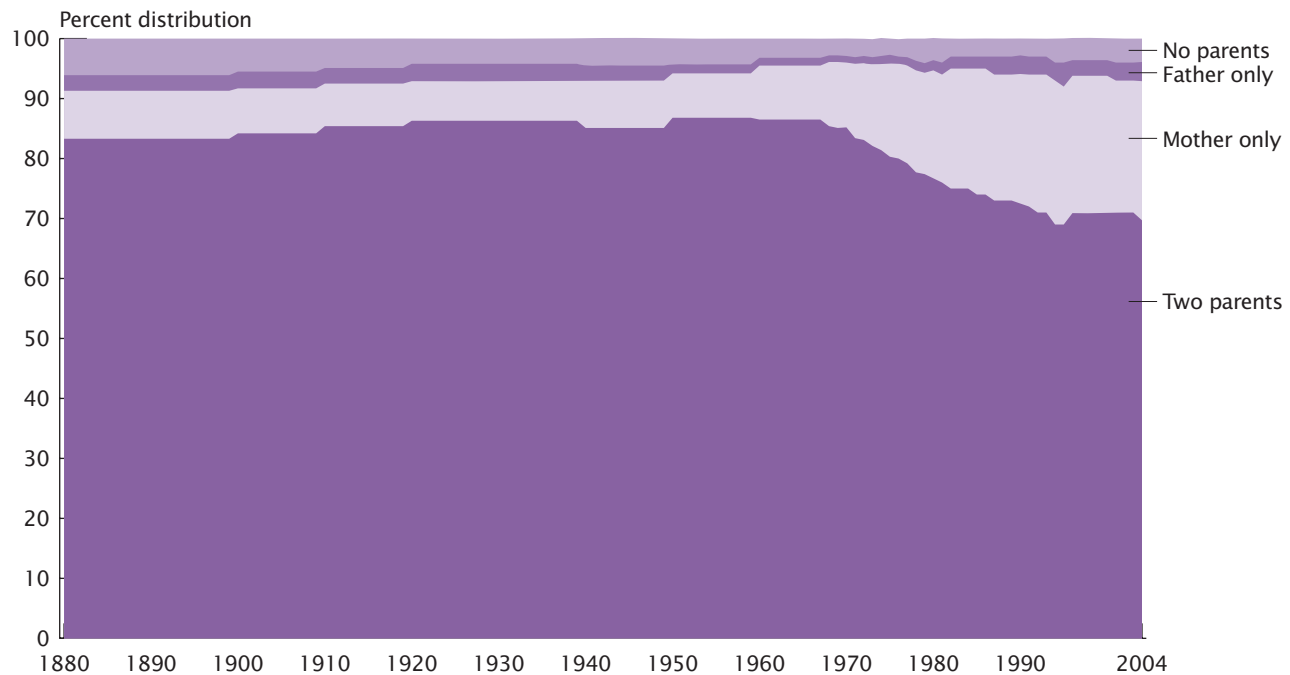
While 14 percent of all households with a child under 18 were below the poverty level, the percentages for blended households and households containing a child and his or her stepparent were lower, at about 11 percent. This difference likely reflects the fact that stepfamilies are often formed by remarriage, so these households are more likely to have two parents and two earners than households with children and biological parents, which include single parents. Households in which children lived without a

parent present had a poverty rate of 23 percent. Twenty-seven percent of households with children, their grandparent(s), and no parent(s) were below the poverty level.

Overall, 44 percent of households with children received some type of public assistance (Table 10).<sup>28</sup> A higher percentage of grandparent-grandchild households and

<sup>28</sup> Cash and noncash public assistance are included. Noncash benefits include food stamps; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Medicaid; rent for public housing; lower rent due to government subsidy; energy assistance; and free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts.

Figure 6.  
**Historical Living Arrangements of Children: Selected Years, 1880 to 2004**



Source: 1880–1960: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 2.0 made available by the Historical Census Projects; 1968–1995: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey; 1996–2004: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2. For 1880–1940, children in group quarters are included (1 percent or less of all children).

extended households received public assistance (about 70 percent). Among extended households, 84 percent of those that included children living with other relatives and nonrelatives received public assistance.<sup>29</sup>

### Historical Trends

Today's family and household structures may be placed in historical context by comparing them with family and household structures since the late nineteenth century. Based on decennial censuses for 1880 through 1960 using data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey

<sup>29</sup> The percentage of households including other relatives and nonrelatives that received public assistance does not differ statistically from the percentage of households including a grandparent and grandchild that received public assistance.

data for 1968 through 1995, and SIPP data from the 1996, 2001, and 2004 panels, Figure 6 presents long-term trends in parent-child living arrangements.<sup>30</sup>

The data from 1880 to 1970 show that the distribution of children's living arrangements changed little. The proportion of children who lived without parents declined from 6 percent in 1880 to about 3 percent in 1970. During this same period, the proportion of children who lived with their mothers only increased from 8 percent

to 11 percent. Between 83 percent and 85 percent of children lived with two parents during this entire period.

Major shifts in living arrangements occurred between 1970 and 1990, when the proportion of children living only with their mother doubled from 11 percent to 22 percent. Since 1990, the changes in children's living arrangements have leveled off.

### Source of the Data

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from June through

<sup>30</sup> Steven Ruggles and Matthew Sobek et al., *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 2.0*, Minneapolis: Historical Census Projects, University of Minnesota, 1997—[www.ipums.umn.edu](http://www.ipums.umn.edu). See Internet Table 2 [www.census.gov/population/socdemo/child/p70-114/tab02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/child/p70-114/tab02.pdf) for additional years of data not included in Figure 4. For 1880–1940, children in group quarters are included (1 percent or less of all children).

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September 2004 in the second wave (interview) of the 2004 SIPP. The data come primarily from the main survey and the household relationship topical module. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from population universe, is composed primarily of people in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000).

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 is also collected in topical modules on a rotating basis.

### Accuracy of the Data

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 noted. 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 was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures during all stages of the production process, including the design of

surveys, the wording of questions, the review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports.

The Survey of Income and Program Participation 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 undercoverage, but biases may still be present 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.

For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/2004sanda.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/2004sanda.pdf)> or contact Stephen Mack of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <[stephen.p.mack@census.gov](mailto:stephen.p.mack@census.gov)>.

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following Web sites:

<[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/)> (main SIPP Web site), <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf)>, (SIPP Quality Profile), and <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf)> (SIPP User's Guide).

### More Information

A copy of this report along with detailed tables is available on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. Children's data can be accessed by clicking on the "C" in the "Subjects A-Z" index, selecting "Children" and then "Living Arrangements of Children." The previous reports based on 2001 and 1996 data are also available at this site.

### Contacts

For additional living arrangements or children's family information, you may contact the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch at 301-763-2416. You may also contact the author of this report by e-mail at <[rose.kreider@census.gov](mailto:rose.kreider@census.gov)>.

### User Comments

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of users of its data and reports. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

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Economic Statistics Division  
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Washington, DC 20233

or send an e-mail inquiry to:  
<[hhes@census.gov](mailto:hhes@census.gov)>.

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