

# Living Arrangements of Children: 2009

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*Household Economic Studies*

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## INTRODUCTION

This report examines the diversity of children's living arrangements in households in the United States. The data are from the household relationship module of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) collected in early 2009.<sup>1</sup> This is an update of an earlier report based on data from the 2004 SIPP Panel.<sup>2</sup>

Detailed information was obtained on each person's relationship to every other person in the household *at the time of interview*, permitting the identification of various types of relatives and parent-child and sibling relationships. This report includes descriptions of extended family households with relatives and non-relatives, 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.

Various factors influence the diversity of children's living arrangements, including

<sup>1</sup> The data in this report were collected from January through April 2009 in the second wave (interview) of the 2008 SIPP Panel. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in households with children under 18 years old in the United States. Detailed tables for this report can be accessed on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/la-child.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/la-child.html)>. The items asked in the household relationship topical module, which include detailed relationships of all household members to all others, are also available on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/sipp/core\\_content/2008/questswave2/2008w2core.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/core_content/2008/questswave2/2008w2core.pdf)>.

<sup>2</sup> Kreider, Rose M., "Living Arrangements of Children: 2004," *Current Population Reports*, P70-114, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2008, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p70-114.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p70-114.pdf)>.

*Children* are defined in this report as all individuals under 18 years old. The survey asks respondents to identify the child's mother and/or father if they are present in the household. A separate question asks respondents to identify the type of relationship between each child and parent, whether biological, step, or adoptive. All living arrangements are as of the time of the interview.

*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.

*Half siblings* share one biological parent.

*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.

*Grandchildren* are identified either by the respondent reporting the child as the grandchild of the householder, or because the child's mother or father reports that their mother or father is present in the household.

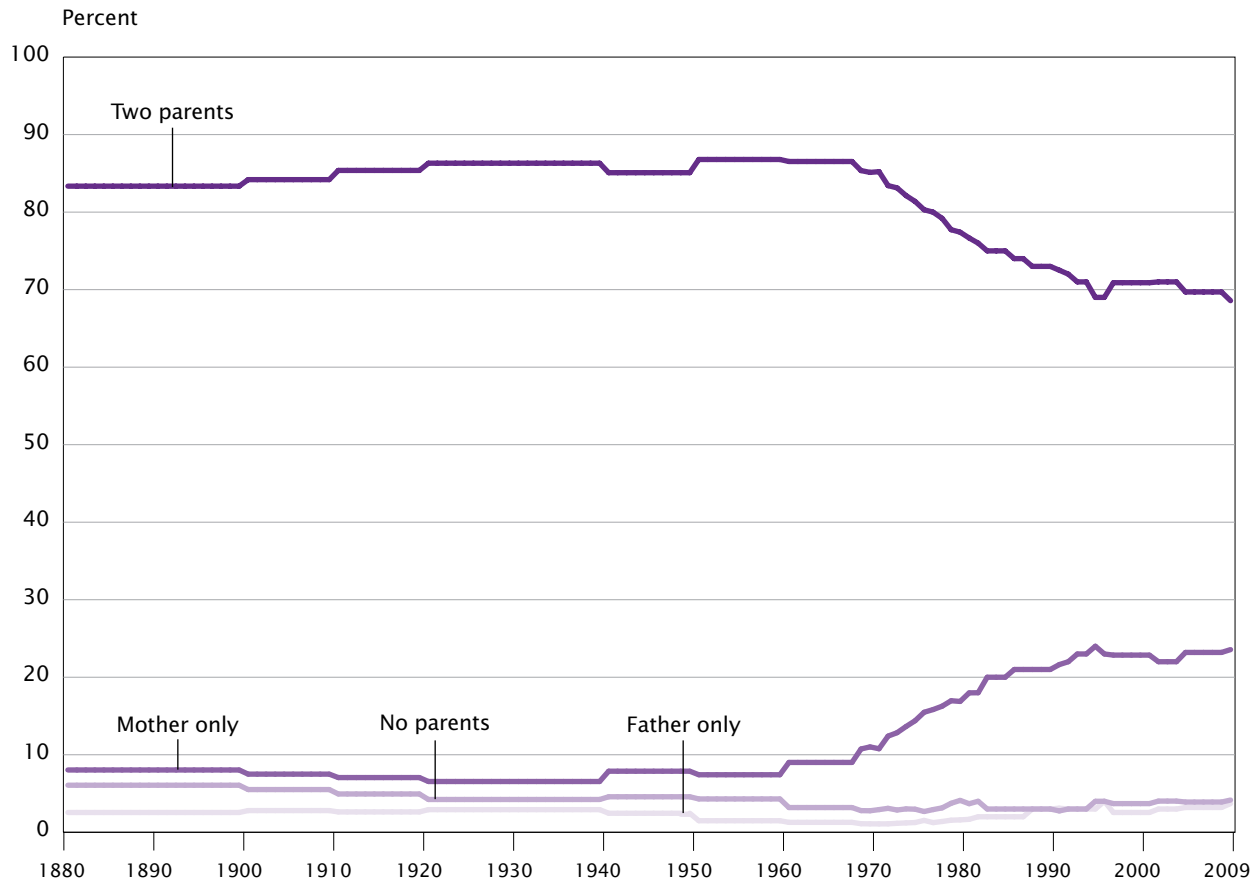
*Blended families* are formed when remarriages occur or when children living in a household share only one or no biological parents. The presence of a stepparent, stepsibling, or half sibling designates a family as blended.

*—Continued on page 2.*

## Current Population Reports

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Figure 1.  
**Historical Living Arrangements of Children: Selected Years, 1880 to 2009**



Source: 1880–1940: Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series: Version 2.0 1 percent microdata files made available by the Historical Census Projects. For 1880–1940, children in group quarters are included (1 percent or less of all children). For more information, see <<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml>>; 1970–1990: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement 1970, 1975, 1980, and 1990. For more information about CPS, see <<http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html>>; 1996–2009: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1986, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

parental death, divorce, remarriage, births to unmarried women, cohabitation of unmarried parents, and multigenerational families. Forty percent of births today are to unmarried mothers, and these children may grow up in single-parent families or spend significant portions of their lives with other

*Continued from page 1.*

*Extended households* are those that contain a child under 18 years old who has a relative present who is not his or her parent or sibling, or who has a nonrelative present.

*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 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.

relatives or stepparents.<sup>3</sup> 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. Hispanics constitute a large component of new immigrants to the United States, and this factor is evident in these children's living situations.<sup>4</sup>

## HISTORICAL LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN

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, 1910, and 1940 using data from the Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series, the 1970, 1980 through 1995 Current Population Survey (CPS), and the 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 SIPP panels, Figure

1 presents long-term trends in parent-child living arrangements.<sup>5</sup>

The data from 1880 to 1970 at 30-year intervals (the approximate length of a generation most closely conforming to census years) show small but important changes in the distribution of children's living arrangements.<sup>6</sup> 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 mother without their father present

increased from 8 percent to 11 percent.<sup>7</sup> Eighty-three percent of children lived with two parents in 1880 and 85 percent lived with two parents from 1910 to 1970.

Major shifts in living arrangements occurred between 1970 and 1990, when the proportion of children living with their mother without their father present doubled from 11 percent to 22 percent (an 11 percent increase). This period corresponds to sharp increases in births to unmarried women, from 11 percent of all births in 1970 to 28 percent in 1990.<sup>8</sup> The percentage of children living with two parents declined from 85 percent in 1970 to 73 percent in 1990 (a 12 percent decrease).<sup>9</sup>

Since 1990, the changes in children's living arrangements have continued, but at much slower rates than the period between 1970 and 1990. The SIPP allows us to look at detailed changes in living arrangements since 1990. Table 1 shows changes in children's living arrangements from 1991 to 2009. The percentage of children living with two parents declined less between 1990 and 2009 than it had between 1970 and 1990; 73 percent of children lived in two-parent households in 1991 compared to 69 percent in 2009 (a 4 percent decline compared to a 13 percent decline between 1970 and 1990). Children living with their mother without their father present

<sup>3</sup> Martin, Joyce A., M.P.H.; Brady E. Hamilton, Ph.D.; Paul D. Sutton, Ph.D.; Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A.; T.J. Mathews, M.S.; Sharon Kirmeyer, Ph.D.; and Michelle J.K. Osterman, M.H.S.; "Births: Final Data 2007," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2010, Vol. 58, No. 24.

Kennedy, Sheela and Larry Bumpass, "Cohabitation and Children's Living Arrangements: New Estimates from the United States," *Demographic Research*, 2008, Vol. 19, pp. 1663-1692.

<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 years old in the 2008 SIPP panel, Wave 2, 26 percent of the White-alone population, 9 percent of the Black-alone population, and 2 percent of the Asian-alone population were also Hispanic.

Grieco, Liz, "Race and Hispanic Origin of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2007," *American Community Survey Reports*, ACS-11, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2010, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-11.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-11.pdf)>.

<sup>5</sup> Sources: 1880-1940: Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series: Version 2.0 one percent microdata files made available by the Historical Census Projects. For 1880-1940, children in group quarters are included (1 percent or less of all children). For more information, see <<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml>>; 1970-1990: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 1970, 1975, 1980, 1990. For more information about the CPS, see <[www.census.gov/apcd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html](http://www.census.gov/apcd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html)>; 1996-2009: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 1986, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>; Ruggles, Steven and Matthew Sobek et al., Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series: Version 2.0, Minneapolis: Historical Census Projects, University of Minnesota, 1997. For more information, see <[www.ipums.umn.edu](http://www.ipums.umn.edu)>. See Internet Table 2, <[www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/children/data/sipp/living2009/tab02.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/children/data/sipp/living2009/tab02.xls)>.

Race and Hispanic origin were collected differently in earlier years compared with 2004 and 2009. In 2004 and later, respondents could mark all race groups they chose, while in earlier years they had to choose just one group. In 1986, 1996, and 2001, Asian includes Pacific Islanders, while in 2004 and 2009 it does not. In 2004 and 2009, Black, White, and Asian include those who marked only the category indicated.

<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> Living with mother only refers to households with no father present, other relatives or nonrelatives may be present.

<sup>8</sup> "Health, United States: 2009," *National Center for Health Statistics*, Hyattsville, MD, 2010.

<sup>9</sup> See detailed Table 2 on the Web site, available at: <[www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/children/data/sipp/living2009/tab02.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/children/data/sipp/living2009/tab02.xls)>.

Table 1.

**Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s) and Race and Hispanic Origin: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2009<sup>1</sup>**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	2009, total	2004, total	2001, total	1996, total	1991, total <sup>2</sup>	2009, White alone	2004, White alone	2001, White	1996, White	1991, White
Children . . . . .	74,129	73,227	72,501	71,494	65,727	56,117	55,901	56,652	56,212	51,944
Percent . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living with:										
Two parents . . . . .	68.6	69.7	70.5	70.9	72.8	74.7	76.0	76.6	77.3	78.9
Married parents . . . . .	64.7	66.6	67.6	68.8	71.7	70.8	73.2	73.9	75.3	(NA)
Unmarried parents . . . . .	3.9	3.0	2.9	2.1	1.0	3.9	2.8	2.6	2.0	(NA)
One parent . . . . .	27.3	26.4	25.5	25.4	24.0	22.1	21.1	20.5	19.8	19.1
Mother only . . . . .	23.6	23.2	22.5	22.9	21.2	18.5	18.0	17.5	17.1	16.4
Father only . . . . .	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.6	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.7
No parent . . . . .	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	1.9
Grandparents only . . . . .	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9
At least 1 biological parent . . .	93.8	94.4	94.5	94.7	96.7	95.2	95.7	95.8	(NA)	(NA)
At least 1 stepparent . . . . .	7.5	7.6	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.9	8.0	7.4	7.2	7.6
At least 1 adoptive parent . . . .	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

increased from 21 percent to 24 percent (a 2 percent increase compared to the 11 percent increase between 1970 and 1990).

Living arrangements of children vary by race and Hispanic origin.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</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 text 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.

Figures 2 through 4 show children's living arrangements for White, Black, and Hispanic children. The percentage of children living with two parents declined 4 percentage points for White children and 5 percentage points for Black children between 1991 and 2009, and increased by 3 percentage points for Hispanic children.<sup>11</sup>

What is most striking during this time period is the persistent differences in the patterns of living arrangements by race and origin. While the percentage of White children living with their mother without their father present ranged from 16 percent in 1991 to 19 percent in 2009, the corresponding percentage for Hispanic children ranged from 29 percent in 1991 to 26 percent in 2009. However, 47 percent of Black children lived with only their mother in 1991 and about half lived with only their mother in 2009.

<sup>11</sup> The proportions of White children and Black children living with two parents are not significantly different between 1991 and 2009.

In 1991, 79 percent of White children lived with two parents compared to 64 percent of Hispanic children and 42 percent of Black children. By 2009, 75 percent of White children lived with two parents compared to 67 percent of Hispanic children and 37 percent of Black children.

Figure 5 shows the percentage of children who lived in a household that contained grandparents between 1991 and 2009 by race and origin. In 1991, 5 percent of White, 15 percent of Black, and 12 percent of Hispanic children lived with at least one grandparent. By 2009, 9 percent of White, 17 percent of Black, and 14 percent of Hispanic children lived with at least one grandparent.<sup>12</sup> Most of these children also lived with at least one parent.

Some children who do not live with a parent live with a grandparent. In 1991, about 1 percent of White and Hispanic children lived with a

<sup>12</sup> The percentages for Black and Hispanic children for 1991 and 2009 do not differ significantly.

Table 1.

**Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s) and Race and Hispanic Origin: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2009<sup>1</sup>—Con.**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	2009, Black-alone	2004, Black-alone	2001, Black	1996, Black	1991, Black	2009, Hispanic (any race)	2004, Hispanic (any race)	2001, Hispanic (any race)	1996, Hispanic (any race)	1991, Hispanic (any race)
Children . . . . .	11,272	11,354	11,766	11,631	10,571	16,347	13,984	12,611	10,428	7,525
Percent . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living with:										
Two parents . . . . .	36.6	37.6	39.5	37.8	41.7	67.4	68.0	69.4	68.2	64.1
Married parents . . . . .	32.6	33.9	35.4	35.5	(NA)	61.3	63.4	64.6	63.6	(NA)
Unmarried parents . . . . .	4.0	3.7	4.1	2.3	(NA)	6.0	4.6	4.8	4.7	(NA)
One parent . . . . .	54.7	53.6	51.1	54.3	49.2	28.6	27.6	26.3	27.5	31.1
Mother only . . . . .	50.4	50.3	47.7	52.3	46.7	25.7	25.6	24.2	25.8	28.5
Father only . . . . .	4.3	3.3	3.3	2.0	2.4	3.0	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.6
No parent . . . . .	8.7	8.8	9.4	7.9	9.2	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.8
Grandparents only . . . . .	5.5	5.4	5.2	4.9	5.4	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.3
At least 1 biological parent . . . . .	88.5	88.9	88.7	(NA)	(NA)	94.7	94.3	94.9	(NA)	(NA)
At least 1 stepparent . . . . .	6.6	6.1	6.5	5.6	4.1	7.5	6.6	6.4	5.4	5.6
At least 1 adoptive parent . . . . .	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.9

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Race and Hispanic origin were collected differently in earlier years compared with 2004 and 2009. In 2004 and later, respondents could mark all race groups they chose, while in earlier years they had to choose just one group. In 1996 and 2001, Asian includes Pacific Islanders, while in 2004 and 2009 it does not. In 2004 and 2009, Black, White, and Asian include those who marked only the category indicated.

<sup>2</sup> In 1991, children living with a foster mother and father are included in the total.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

grandparent and no parent compared to about 5 percent of Black children. By 2009, about 2 percent of White and Hispanic children lived with a grandparent and no parent, while the percentage of Black children remained about 5 percent (see Table 1).<sup>13</sup>

During 1991 through 2009, change in the number of parents children lived with was relatively slow, compared with the pace of change from 1970 to 1990. Perhaps the most interesting pattern during this time period was the continuing difference among race and ethnic groups. Cultural factors, demographic characteristics, and family formation

patterns underlie differences in current and future family structure.<sup>14</sup>

### CHILDREN'S LIVING ARRANGEMENTS 2009

When the first SIPP children's report was published based on data collected in 1991, 73 percent of children lived with both parents.<sup>15</sup> The earlier section of this report examined historical changes in the living arrangements of children. This section will describe the living arrangements of children in

2009—almost 20 years after the first report.<sup>16</sup>

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

Not all children live in two-parent households. Some children may live with only one or even no parents because of divorce, separation, or the death of one or both parents. In 2009, 69 percent of the 74.1 million children under age 18 lived with two parents, down from 73 percent

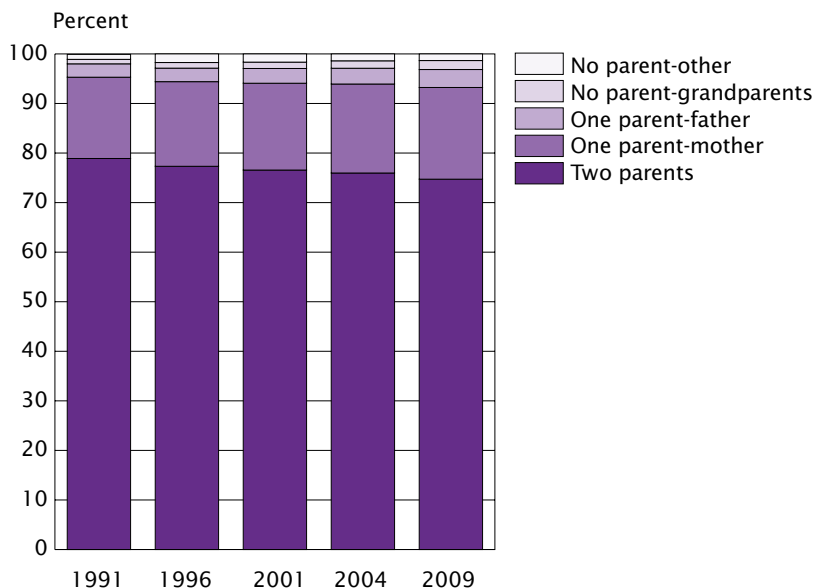
<sup>16</sup> The data in this report were collected from January through April 2009 in the second wave (interview) of the 2008 SIPP Panel. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in households with children under 18 years old in the United States. Detailed tables for this report can be accessed on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/1a-child.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/1a-child.html)>. The items asked in the household relationship topical module, which include detailed relationships of all household members to all others, are also available on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/sipp/core\\_content/2008/quests/wave2/2008w2core.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/core_content/2008/quests/wave2/2008w2core.pdf)>.

<sup>14</sup> Morgan, S. Philip et al., "Racial Differences in Household and Family Structure at the Turn of the Century," *American Journal of Sociology*, January 1993, Vol. 98, pp. 798–828.

<sup>15</sup> Furukawa, Stacy, "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.

<sup>13</sup> The proportion of White children and Hispanic children that do not live with a parent but live with a grandparent are significantly different in 2009.

Figure 2.  
**Children's Living Arrangements for WHITE  
 Children: Selected Years, 1991 to 2009**

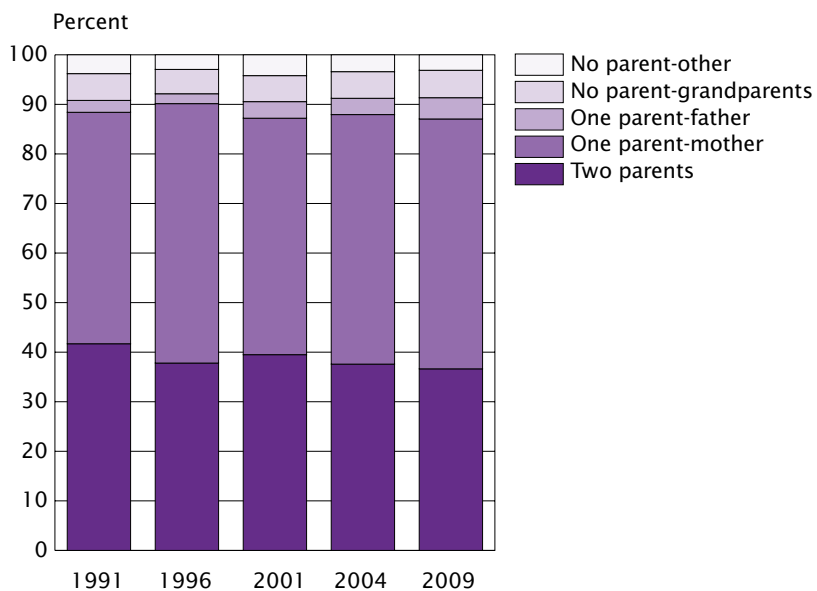


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004 and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>

in 1991 (see Table 2). Twenty seven percent (20.2 million) lived with one parent in 2009, up from 24 percent in 1991. The majority (86 percent) of these children lived with their mother. The remaining 4 percent of children in 2009 lived with no parent. Figure 6 illustrates the distribution of all children across the number and type of parents with whom they lived, while Table 2 details the living arrangements of children by race groups and Hispanic origin.

A large majority of White non-Hispanic (75 percent) and Asian (86 percent) children lived with two parents. This is higher than the proportion for Hispanic children (67 percent) and about twice as high as the proportion for Black children (37 percent). A higher proportion of Black children than White, non-Hispanic or Hispanic children lived with one parent in 2009: 55 percent compared with 21 percent and 29 percent, respectively.

Figure 3.  
**Children's Living Arrangements for BLACK  
 Children: Selected Years, 1991 to 2009**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

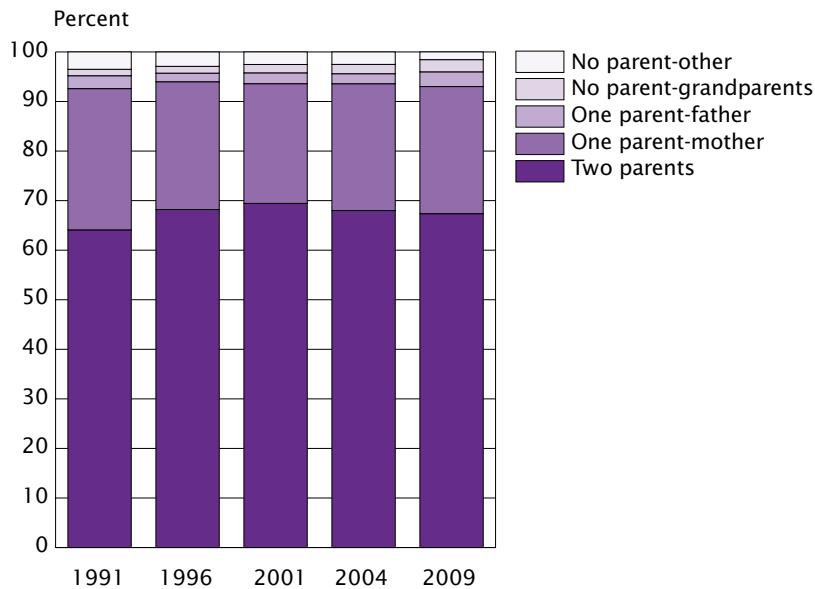
In 2009, 5.6 million children lived with at least one stepparent.<sup>17</sup> In addition, 3.1 million children lived with no parents; this figure included 274,000 children living with one or more foster parents. Over half (59 percent) of the children living with no parents were living with grandparents. Sixty-four percent of Black children, 55 percent of White, non-Hispanic children, 35 percent of Asian children, and 61 percent of Hispanic children without a parent present lived with grandparents.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Stepchildren are identified by the survey respondent and their stepparent may not be currently married to the child's other coresidential parent.

<sup>18</sup> The percentage of White, non-Hispanic children and Hispanic children living with no parents who lived with their grandparents do not differ significantly. The percentage of Hispanic children and Black children living with no parents who lived with their grandparents do not differ significantly.

Figure 4.

### Children's Living Arrangements for HISPANIC Children: Selected Years, 1991 to 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

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

Living arrangements of children are often dichotomized by whether children live with one or two parents. However, 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. The previous section described the presence or absence of parents living with children; this section describes the types of parents children live with in two-parent households. Because families break up and then re-form not all children who live with two parents live with both biological parents. 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.

Of the 50.8 million children who lived with two parents in 2009, 87 percent (44.5 million) lived with their biological mother and biological father (Table 2).<sup>19</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 two parents (1.1 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>19</sup> In cases where children pointed to two parents, but these parents were not reported as married to each other or cohabiting with each other, the children are shown as living with cohabiting parents. This affected 259,000 children (weighted). In the tables, these children are shown as living with cohabiting parents.

Roughly 1 in 8 children living with two parents lived with a stepparent or adoptive parent. In 2009, 5.4 million children lived with one biological parent and either a 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 2004 and 2001, and 10 percent in 1996.<sup>20</sup>

In 2009, 91 percent of Asian children living with two parents lived with both biological parents, higher than any of the other groups shown in Table 2. Black children had the lowest percentage (79 percent) living with both biological parents of those living with two parents.

In 2009, 210,000 children lived with one adoptive parent and a nonadoptive parent (biological or step). Sixty-seven 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>21</sup>

### Children Living With Unmarried Parents

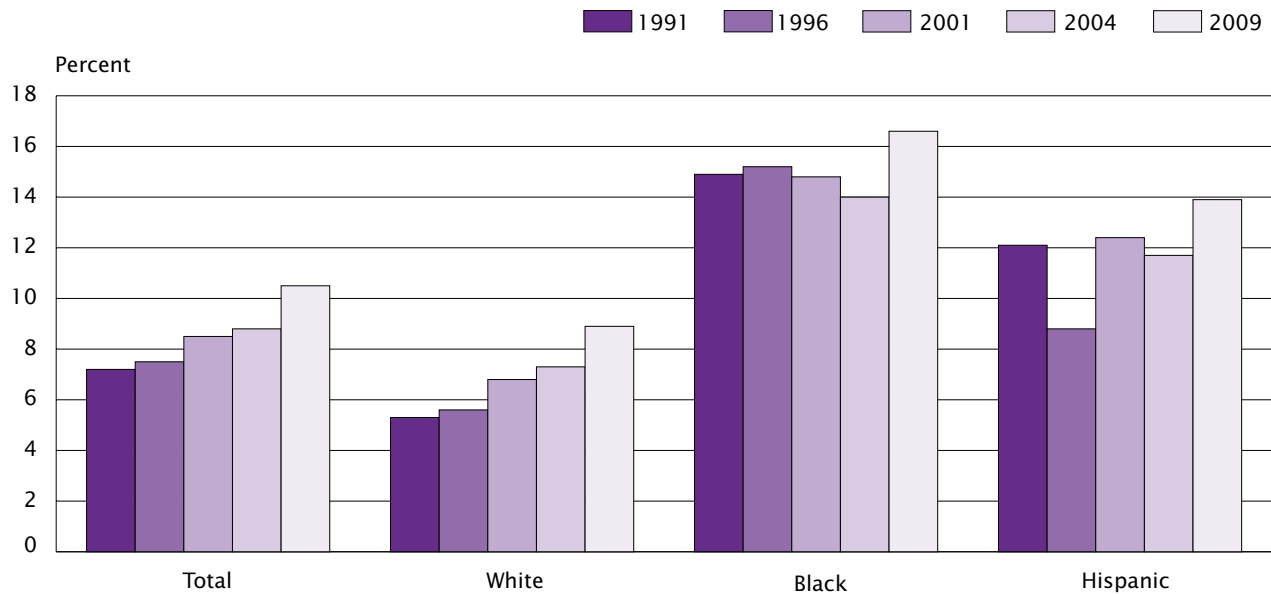
Numerous factors, including non-marital childbearing, death, and divorce, affect whether children live with an unmarried parent for some portion of their childhood.

For the purpose of this report, parents that are separated or married but their spouse is not present in the household are included in the unmarried category along with

<sup>20</sup> The percentages for 2004 and 1996 differ statistically.

<sup>21</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: "How Many Children Were Adopted in 2000 and 2001?," *Child Welfare Information Gateway*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC, 2004. This report can be accessed at: <[www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s\\_adopted/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_adopted/index.cfm)>.

Figure 5.  
**Percentage of Children Living With at Least One Grandparent: Selected Years, 1991 to 2009**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

widowed, divorced, or never-married parents.

This is because this report is focused on the existing living arrangements, because the data only show coresidential parents, and because separated and married spouse absent parent categories are too small to be shown separately.

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. About 1 in 5 children are born to unmarried cohabiting

parents<sup>22</sup> and 2 in 5 are expected to live in a cohabiting family by the time they are aged 12.<sup>23</sup> Figure 7 shows the number of children living with both biological parents, one biological and one step- or adoptive parent, biological mother only, and biological father only by race and Hispanic origin.

Table 3 shows that in 2009, 23.1 million children (31 percent of all children) lived with at least one *unmarried* parent. This varied by

<sup>22</sup> Manlove, Jennifer, Suzanne Ryan, Elizabeth Wildsmith, and Kerry Franzetta, "The Relationship Context of Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States," *Demographic Research*, 2010, Vol. 23, pp. 615–654.

<sup>23</sup> Kennedy, Sheela and Larry Bumpass, "Cohabitation and Children's Living Arrangements: New Estimates From the United States," *Demographic Research*, 2008, Vol. 19, pp. 1663–1692.

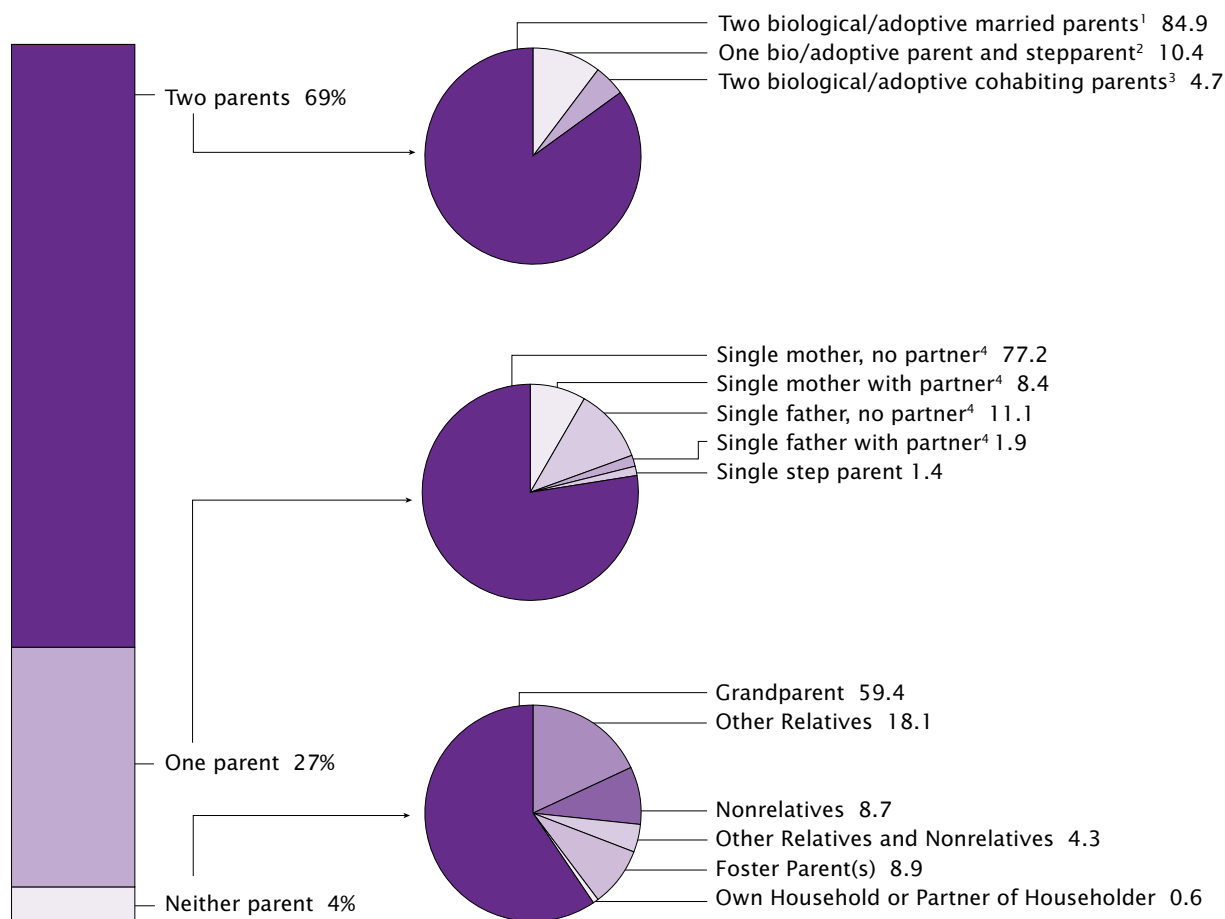
race and Hispanic origin, with 12 percent of Asian children living with one or two *unmarried* parents, compared with 24 percent of White, non-Hispanic children, 35 percent of Hispanic children, and 59 percent of Black children. Four percent (2.9 million) of all children lived with both a mother and father who were not married to each other. Asian children were least likely to live with two parents who were not married to each other (2 percent), compared with 3 percent of White, non-Hispanic, 4 percent of Black, and 6 percent of Hispanic children.

Based on children's living arrangements in the 1990s, Heuveline et al. estimated that about half of children under age 16 would live in a single-parent household at



Figure 6.

**Percentage of Children Aged 0–17 Living in Various Family Arrangements: 2009**



<sup>1</sup> Child points to two parents, who are married to each other—either two biological, two adoptive, or one biological and one adoptive.

<sup>2</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.

<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 one parent, biological or adoptive.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

Table 2.

### Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s) and Race and Hispanic Origin: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2009

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	2009							
	Total			Race and Hispanic origin				
	Number	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	White alone	White alone, non- Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
Children . . . . .	74,129		787	56,117	41,503	11,272	2,629	16,347
Percent . . . . .		100.0						
Living with:								
Two parents <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	50,835	68.6	0.6	41,934	31,784	4,129	2,250	11,012
Married parents . . . . .	47,925	64.7	0.6	39,755	30,475	3,678	2,208	10,027
Unmarried parents . . . . .	2,908	3.9	0.2	2,179	1,309	452	42	985
Biological mother and father . . . . .	44,455	60.0	0.6	37,031	28,004	3,277	2,047	9,719
Married parents . . . . .	42,060	56.7	0.6	35,241	26,955	2,910	2,013	8,877
Biological mother and stepfather . . . . .	4,061	5.5	0.3	3,238	2,396	568	37	971
Biological father and stepmother . . . . .	1,195	1.6	0.2	959	785	111	28	188
Biological mother and adoptive father . . . . .	141	0.2	0.1	106	96	3	12	11
Biological father and adoptive mother . . . . .	42	0.1	—	30	20	4	—	10
Adoptive mother and father . . . . .	906	1.2	0.1	539	464	167	125	103
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	34	—	—	31	19	—	3	11
One parent . . . . .	20,211	27.3	0.5	12,416	8,519	6,166	283	4,679
Mother only . . . . .	17,468	23.6	0.5	10,384	6,907	5,683	213	4,194
Biological . . . . .	17,051	23.0	0.5	10,135	6,690	5,572	187	4,139
Father only . . . . .	2,743	3.7	0.2	2,032	1,612	484	70	485
Biological . . . . .	2,588	3.5	0.2	1,941	1,541	445	61	451
No parent . . . . .	3,083	4.2	0.2	1,768	1,201	976	96	656
Grandparents only . . . . .	1,830	2.5	0.1	1,016	656	624	34	402
Other relatives only . . . . .	632	0.9	0.1	371	251	202	30	147
Nonrelatives only . . . . .	545	0.7	—	338	276	121	31	81
Other arrangement . . . . .	75	0.1	0.3	42	19	30	—	26
At least 1 biological parent . . . . .	69,535	93.8	0.3	53,440	39,531	9,979	2,370	15,488
At least 1 stepparent . . . . .	5,582	7.5	0.3	4,420	3,355	748	79	1,221
At least 1 adoptive parent . . . . .	1,395	1.9	0.2	845	729	254	163	168
At least 1 foster parent . . . . .	274	0.4	0.1	166	136	69	4	49

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.

### Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s) and Race and Hispanic Origin: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2009—Con.

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	Percent				Number			
	2004, total	2001, total	1996, total	1991, total <sup>2</sup>	2004, total	2001, total	1996, total	1991, total
Children . . . . .	73,227	72,501	71,494	65,727	73,227	72,501	71,494	65,727
Percent . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living with:								
Two parents <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	69.7	70.5	70.9	72.8	51,013	51,113	50,685	47,826
Married parents . . . . .	66.6	67.6	68.8	71.7	48,787	48,987	49,186	47,138
Unmarried parents . . . . .	3.0	2.9	2.1	1.0	2,227	2,126	1,499	688
Biological mother and father . . . . .	60.8	62.2	62.5	61.7	44,541	45,103	44,708	40,553
Married parents . . . . .	58.3	59.7	60.7	(NA)	42,727	43,287	43,401	(NA)
Biological mother and stepfather . . . . .	5.7	5.6	5.2	5.6	4,149	4,050	3,723	3,672
Biological father and stepmother . . . . .	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	1,106	815	1,004	830
Biological mother and adoptive father . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.7	<sup>4</sup> (NA)	407	445	479	(NA)
Biological father and adoptive mother . . . . .	0.1	0.1	0.1	<sup>4</sup> (NA)	49	56	37	(NA)
Adoptive mother and father . . . . .	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	668	605	702	582
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	0.1	0.1	—	3.0	95	39	32	1,994
One parent . . . . .	26.4	25.5	25.4	24.0	19,336	18,472	18,165	15,748
Mother only . . . . .	23.2	22.5	22.9	21.2	16,973	16,297	16,340	13,955
Biological . . . . .	22.6	22.0	22.5	(NA)	16,574	15,980	16,051	(NA)
Father only . . . . .	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.7	2,363	2,175	1,825	1,793
Biological . . . . .	3.1	2.9	2.4	(NA)	2,280	2,082	1,737	(NA)
No parent . . . . .	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.3	2,878	2,917	2,644	2,153
Grandparents only . . . . .	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7	1,598	1,407	1,266	1,099
Other relatives only . . . . .	0.9	1.2	1.0	(NA)	641	889	688	(NA)
Nonrelatives only . . . . .	0.8	0.7	0.9	(NA)	558	520	622	(NA)
Other arrangement . . . . .	0.1	0.1	0.1	(NA)	81	101	69	(NA)
At least 1 biological parent . . . . .	94.4	94.5	94.7	96.7	69,105	68,531	67,739	63,574
At least 1 stepparent . . . . .	7.6	7.0	6.9	7.0	5,532	5,081	4,902	4,594
At least 1 adoptive parent . . . . .	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.6	1,504	1,372	1,484	1,062
At least 1 foster parent . . . . .	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	308	260	313	207

— Represents or rounds to zero.

NA Not available.

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

<sup>2</sup> In 1991, children living with a foster mother and father are included in the total.

<sup>3</sup> In the Survey of Income and Program Participation, 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.

<sup>4</sup> In 1991 only, children living with one biological parent and one adoptive parent were shown in a biological parent/stepparent category.

<sup>5</sup> Includes children living with one adoptive parent and one stepparent or with two stepparents. Estimates for 1991 include children for whom the type of relationship with the parent was not specified and not imputed.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2008 Panels, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html)>.

Table 3.

**Children by Parent's Cohabitation Status and Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	Total		Race and Hispanic origin									
	Number	Percent	Percent					Number				
			White alone	White alone, Non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)	White alone	White alone, Non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
Children . . . . .	74,129	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	56,117	41,503	11,272	2,629	16,347
Living with married parents . . .	47,925	64.7	70.8	73.4	32.6	84.0	61.3	39,755	30,475	3,678	2,208	10,027
Living with no parent . . . . .	3,083	4.2	3.1	2.9	8.7	3.6	4.0	1,768	1,201	976	96	656
Living with an unmarried parent <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	23,119	31.2	26.0	23.7	58.7	12.3	34.6	14,595	9,827	6,618	324	5,664
Living with unmarried mother and father . . . . .	2,908	3.9	3.9	3.2	4.0	1.6	6.0	2,180	1,309	452	42	986
Living with unmarried mother only . . . . .	17,468	23.6	18.5	16.6	50.4	8.1	25.7	10,384	6,907	5,683	213	4,194
Living with unmarried father only . . . . .	2,743	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.3	2.7	3.0	2,032	1,612	484	70	485
Parent has an unmarried partner . . . . .	4,828	6.5	6.5	5.8	6.6	2.0	8.6	3,639	2,416	743	53	1,398
Biological mother and father . . . . .	2,396	3.2	3.2	2.5	3.3	1.3	5.2	1,790	1,049	367	34	842
One biological parent, one step- or adoptive parent . . . . .	515	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.9	390	260	85	8	144
Biological mother or father, partner . . . . .	1,802	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.3	2.4	1,382	1,041	266	8	393
Step- or adoptive parent, partner . . . . .	116	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	77	66	26	3	20
Parent has no unmarried partner . . . . .	18,293	24.7	19.5	17.9	52.1	10.3	26.1	10,956	7,411	5,875	271	4,266
Biological mother . . . . .	15,600	21.0	16.1	14.2	47.4	6.8	23.2	9,035	5,891	5,343	179	3,796
Living with other adult relative <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3,735	5.0	4.1	3.3	9.9	2.3	6.6	2,317	1,378	1,111	60	1,073
Living with opposite sex adult nonrelative <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	318	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.6	222	157	63	2	90
Biological father . . . . .	2,239	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.6	2.3	2.5	1,657	1,298	407	60	401
Living with other adult relative <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	489	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.8	1.0	306	166	130	22	163
Living with opposite sex adult nonrelative <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	54	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	–	0.1	41	30	11	–	12
Stepparent or adoptive parent . . . . .	455	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.2	0.4	263	222	124	32	70

– Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Unmarried includes married, spouse absent; widowed, divorced, separated, and never married.<sup>2</sup> The category "other adult relative" does not include the child's siblings.<sup>3</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, 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

Table 4.

**Children Living With Siblings by Type of Relationship and Presence of Parent: 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Presence of siblings	Total			Two parents		Mother only		Father only		No parents	
	Number	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Children . . . . .	74,129	100.0	787	50,835	100.0	17,468	100.0	2,743	100.0	3,083	100.0
Living with:											
At least one sibling . . . . .	57,743	77.9	0.5	42,289	83.2	12,734	72.9	1,680	61.2	1,039	33.7
Only full siblings . . . . .	47,624	64.2	0.6	34,917	68.7	10,337	59.2	1,492	54.4	877	28.5
At least one stepsibling . . . . .	1,267	1.7	0.2	861	1.7	273	1.6	115	4.2	19	0.6
At least one adopted sibling . . . . .	1,231	1.7	0.2	1,056	2.1	132	0.8	18	0.7	24	0.8
At least one half sibling . . . . .	7,987	10.8	0.4	5,777	11.4	2,029	11.6	61	2.2	120	3.9
Living with:											
No siblings . . . . .	16,385	22.1	0.5	8,546	16.8	4,734	27.1	1,063	38.8	2,043	66.3
1 sibling . . . . .	28,166	38.0	0.6	20,292	39.9	6,148	35.2	1,088	39.7	637	20.7
2 siblings . . . . .	17,853	24.1	0.5	13,349	26.3	3,822	21.9	410	14.9	272	8.8
3 siblings . . . . .	7,754	10.5	0.4	5,677	11.2	1,849	10.6	144	5.2	85	2.8
4 or more siblings . . . . .	3,970	5.4	0.3	2,972	5.8	915	5.2	38	1.4	45	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 age 18. Their siblings may be any age.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see &lt;www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&amp;A08\_W1toW3(S&amp;A-12).pdf&gt;.

some time before reaching age 16.<sup>24</sup> Twenty-four percent of all children lived with their *unmarried* mother without their father present (17.5 million), while 4 percent (2.7 million) lived with their *unmarried* father without their mother present. The percentage of children living with their *unmarried* mother without their father present varied widely among race and origin groups, from 8 percent for Asian children to 50 percent for Black children. Seventeen percent of White, non-Hispanic children and 26 percent of Hispanic children also lived with their *unmarried* mother without their father 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 19.9 million children living with their *unmarried* biological mothers, 4.3 million (21 percent) had mothers who were living with *unmarried* partners. In comparison, of the 5.1 million children living with their *unmarried* biological fathers, 2.7 million (54 percent) were living with fathers who were living with an *unmarried* partner, of whom 2.4 million were also the child's biological mother. Indeed, 94 percent of all fathers who lived with their children under age 18 also lived with the child's mother.<sup>25</sup>

Seven percent of all children under age 18 lived with an *unmarried* parent that was cohabiting. The percentage of all children who lived with a cohabiting parent ranged from 2 percent for Asian children to 9 percent for Hispanic children. Six percent of White, non-Hispanic children and 7 percent of Black children lived with a

cohabiting parent.<sup>26</sup> The proportion of children living with cohabiting parents who lived with both biological parents varied across race and origin. About half of White, non-Hispanic children and Black children living with cohabiting parents lived with both biological parents. A majority of Hispanic children (60 percent) living with cohabiting parents were living with both biological parents.

**Children With Siblings**

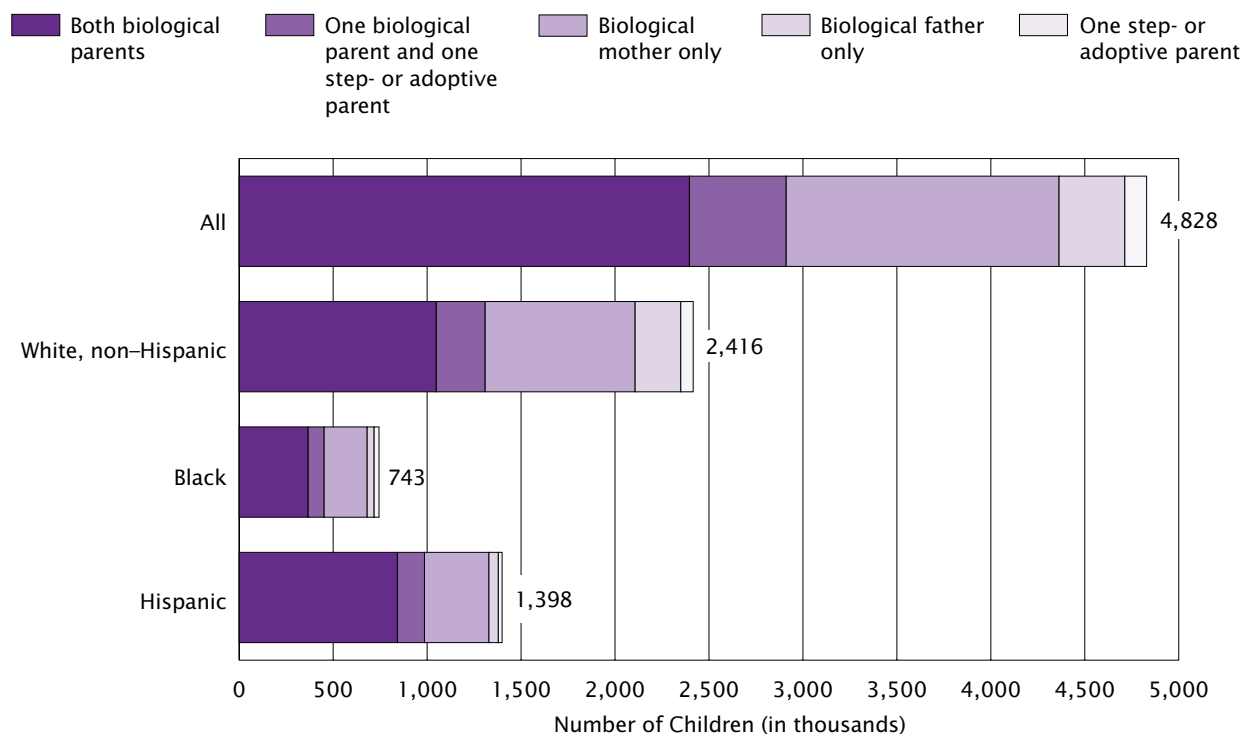
In addition to the number and types of parents with whom children live, another aspect of growing up is the presence of brothers and sisters (Table 4). Most children lived with at least one sibling (78 percent). About 22 percent of children (16.4 million) in 2009 were currently living with no siblings in the household. Another 28.1 million children (38 percent) lived with only one sibling, while the

<sup>24</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*, 2003, Vol. 29:1, pp. 47-71.

<sup>25</sup> Kreider, Rose M. and Diana B. Elliott, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007," *Current Population Reports*, P20-561, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2009.

<sup>26</sup> The percentage of Black children who lived with a cohabiting parent was not statistically different from the overall percentages of children living with a cohabiting parent or the White, non-Hispanic children who lived with a cohabiting parent.

Figure 7.  
**Children Living With Cohabiting Parents by Number and Type of Parents: 2009**



Note: Base less than 75,000 for Asian children, so this group cannot be shown in this figure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

remaining 29.6 million (40 percent) lived with two or more siblings. The majority (62 percent) lived with one or two siblings, while 16 percent lived with three or more siblings.

Of the 57.7 million children living with siblings, 47.6 million lived only with full siblings (children who had the same biological mother and father). Eleven percent of all children lived with at least one half sibling (sharing only one biological parent), 2 percent with at least one stepsibling (having no common biological parent), and another 2 percent with at least one adopted

sibling.<sup>27</sup> A larger proportion of children living with two parents had siblings (83 percent) than was the case for children living with their mother only (73 percent) or their father only (61 percent). These differences could result from siblings being split up after divorce or separation. Among the 3.1 million children living with no parents, 34 percent lived with siblings.

<sup>27</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.

### Children With Half Siblings

In addition to living with siblings, some children live in blended families with half siblings present.

Recent research suggests that living with a half sibling is associated with lower well-being.<sup>28</sup> SIPP is one of the few data sources that

<sup>28</sup> Wood Strow, Claudia, and Brian Kent Strow, "Evidence That the Presence of a Half Sibling Negatively Impacts a Child's Personal Development," *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 2008, Vol. 67:2, pp. 177–206.

GINther, Donna K. and Robert A. Pollak. "Family Structure and Children's Educational Outcomes: Blended Families, Stylized Facts, and Descriptive Regressions," *Demography*, 2004, Vol. 41:4, pp. 671–696.

Halpern-Meehin, Sarah and Laura Tach, "Heterogeneity in Two-Parent Families and Adolescent Well-Being," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2008, Vol. 70, pp. 435–451.

Table 5.

**Children Living With Half Siblings by Number of Coresident Biological Parents: 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	Total	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	White alone	White-alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic
Children . . . . .	74,129	787	56,117	41,503	11,272	2,629	16,347
Living with half siblings . . . . .	7,987	293	5,930	4,103	1,329	112	2,068
Living with two parents . . . . .	5,777	251	4,588	3,128	735	80	1,573
Living with two biological parents . . . . .	3,465	195	2,719	1,820	474	54	955
At least one parent ever divorced . . . . .	1,331	121	1,087	842	149	11	256
Only mother ever divorced . . . . .	804	94	681	520	76	4	165
Only father ever divorced . . . . .	527	76	406	322	73	7	91
Both ever divorced . . . . .	569	79	503	405	15	13	102
Neither ever divorced . . . . .	1,565	131	1,129	574	309	31	597
Living with one biological parent . . . . .	2,312	159	1,869	1,307	261	26	617
At least one parent ever divorced . . . . .	937	102	783	597	83	7	199
Only biological parent divorced . . . . .	695	88	604	484	37	5	126
Only nonbiological parent divorced . . . . .	242	52	179	113	46	2	73
Both ever divorced . . . . .	435	69	396	338	6	11	61
Neither ever divorced . . . . .	941	102	690	372	173	9	357
Living with one parent . . . . .	2,090	152	1,289	931	565	15	482
Mother never married . . . . .	946	102	423	268	425	3	232
Mother married once . . . . .	700	88	501	347	102	6	199
Mother married 2 or more times . . . . .	383	65	313	279	31	4	37
Living with father . . . . .	61	26	51	38	7	3	13
Living with no parents . . . . .	120	36	54	45	29	16	13

<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 age 18. Their siblings may be any age.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

can provide detailed information about the presence of half siblings for all children, rather than only those living with two parents. This is because the SIPP directly asks about each person's relationship to all other household members, while other surveys usually only identify sibling relationships indirectly by their relationship to a household reference person. Table 5 provides an overall distribution of children who lived with half siblings by the number of coresident parents. Given the relatively high prevalence of divorce in the United States, and the sense that multipartner fertility may be increasing, Table 5 also includes several marital history characteristics of the parents.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Guzzo, Karen B. and Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr., "Multipartnered Fertility Among American Men," *Demography*, 2007, Vol. 44:3, pp. 583-601.

Of the 8.0 million children (11 percent) under age 18 who lived with a half sibling, 5.8 million (72 percent) lived with two parents (biological, step, and adoptive), while 2.1 million (26 percent) lived with one parent. This distribution varied by race, with a lower percentage of Black children (55 percent) who lived with half siblings living with two parents than children of other groups: 71 percent of Asian children and 76 percent of both White, non-Hispanic and Hispanic children (76 percent).<sup>30</sup> Overall, 60 percent of the 5.8 million children living with two parents and a half sibling lived with

<sup>30</sup> Percentages of White, non-Hispanic, Asian, and Hispanic children living with two parents and half siblings do not differ significantly. Percentages of Asian children living with two parents and half siblings are not significantly different from the overall percentage of children living with two parents and half siblings.

two biological parents, while the remainder lived with one.

Children can live with half siblings because their parents divorced, remarried and had subsequent children in the new marriage; through their parents' multipartnered fertility outside of marriage; or a combination of remarriage and fertility outside of marriage. The marital history characteristics of the children's parents in Table 5 shed some light on variation by race and Hispanic origin. Higher proportions of White, non-Hispanic children than Black children and Hispanic children who lived with two parents and half siblings, lived with at least one previously divorced parent (70 percent, 34 percent, and 39 percent,

Table 6.

### Children Living in Blended Families by Composition of Family and Child's Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Numbers in thousands)

Relationships in household	All races		White alone		Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>2</sup>	Total	Non-Hispanic			
Children . . . . .	74,129	787	56,117	41,503	11,272	2,629	16,347
Children living in a blended family . . . . .	11,687	353	8,774	6,372	1,898	186	2,743
Percentage of all children . . . . .	15.8	0.4	15.6	15.4	16.8	7.1	16.8
Percentage of children living in a blended family, of those living with 2 parents . . . . .	17.6	0.6	16.9	16.2	28.1	6.3	19.4
Percentage of children living in a blended family, of those living with 1 parent . . . . .	12.9	0.8	13.2	14.0	11.2	9.9	12.6
<b>TYPE OF BLENDED FAMILY</b>							
Stepparent only . . . . .	2,715	173	2,064	1,627	411	56	528
Stepsibling only . . . . .	277	55	178	122	74	14	56
Half sibling only . . . . .	5,624	247	4,020	2,760	1,063	83	1,441
Stepparent and stepsibling . . . . .	682	87	582	503	81	5	88
Stepparent and half sibling . . . . .	1,924	146	1,559	1,065	241	19	541
Stepsibling and half sibling . . . . .	42	22	36	31	5	–	9
Stepparent, stepsibling, and half sibling . . . . .	261	54	216	160	15	–	64
One biological parent and one adoptive parent, and step-, adopted, or half siblings . . . . .	162	42	120	104	7	10	16
Total living with a stepparent . . . . .	5,582	246	4,421	3,355	748	80	1,221
Percentage of children living in a blended family . . . . .	100.0	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Stepparent only . . . . .	23.2	1.3	23.5	25.5	21.7	30.1	19.2
Stepsibling only . . . . .	2.4	0.5	2.0	1.9	3.9	7.5	2.0
Half sibling only . . . . .	48.1	1.5	45.8	43.3	56.0	44.6	52.5
Stepparent and stepsibling . . . . .	5.8	0.7	6.6	7.9	4.3	2.7	3.2
Stepparent and half sibling . . . . .	16.5	1.1	17.8	16.7	12.7	10.2	19.7
Stepsibling and half sibling . . . . .	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	–	0.3
Stepparent, stepsibling, and half sibling . . . . .	2.2	0.5	2.5	2.5	0.8	–	2.3
One biological parent and one adoptive parent, and step-, adopted, or half siblings . . . . .	1.4	0.4	1.4	1.6	0.4	5.4	0.6
Percentage living with a stepparent . . . . .	47.8	1.5	50.4	52.7	39.4	43.0	44.5

– Represent or rounds to zero.

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</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.

<sup>2</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 (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.



Table 7.

**Adopted Children by Race and Hispanic Origin and Living Arrangements: 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics of children	Number		Percent
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	
Adopted children . . . . .	1,395	124	100.0
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>			
White alone . . . . .	845	97	60.6
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	729	90	52.2
Black alone . . . . .	254	53	18.2
Asian alone . . . . .	163	42	11.7
Hispanic (any race) . . . . .	168	43	12.0
<b>LIVING ARRANGEMENTS</b>			
Two parents . . . . .	1,115	111	79.9
Two adoptive parents . . . . .	906	100	64.9
One adoptive and one biological . . . . .	184	45	13.2
Other (one adoptive and one stepparent) . . . . .	25	17	1.8
One parent . . . . .	280	56	20.1
Mother only . . . . .	243	52	17.4
Father only . . . . .	37	20	2.7

<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 (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

respectively).<sup>31</sup> Higher percentages of White, non-Hispanic children living with two parents and half siblings, also had both parents who had experienced a divorce (24 percent) than either Black children (3 percent) or Hispanic children (10 percent).

The majority of Black and Hispanic children, 66 percent and 61 percent, respectively, had neither parent divorced (including couples where neither had ever married) among those living with two parents and half siblings.<sup>32</sup>

For children living with one parent and half siblings, Table 5 shows only the number of times their

<sup>31</sup> Percentages of White, non-Hispanic children and Black children that lived with two parents that had not divorced and had a half sibling were not significantly different.

<sup>32</sup> Percentages of Black children living with two parents, at least one previously divorced, and half siblings are not significantly different from percentages of Hispanic children living with two parents, at least one previously divorced, and half siblings.

mother had married, since few of these children lived with their father (3 percent). Seventy percent of White, non-Hispanic children who lived with a half sibling and just their mother lived with an ever-married mother, compared to 24 percent of Black children and 50 percent of Hispanic children. Higher proportions of Black children (75 percent) and Hispanic children (48 percent) lived with a never-married mother than White, non-Hispanic children (29 percent). Thirty percent of White, non-Hispanic children lived with a mother who had been married two or more times, compared with 5 percent of Black children, and 8 percent of Hispanic children.<sup>33</sup> These differences highlight the fact that marriage and remarriage are

<sup>33</sup> Percentages of Black children living with a mother who had been married two or more times are not significantly different from percentages of Hispanic children living with a mother who had been married two or more times.

more important factors in creating living situations where children coreside with a half sibling for White, non-Hispanic children than for Black or Hispanic children.

**Children in Blended Families**

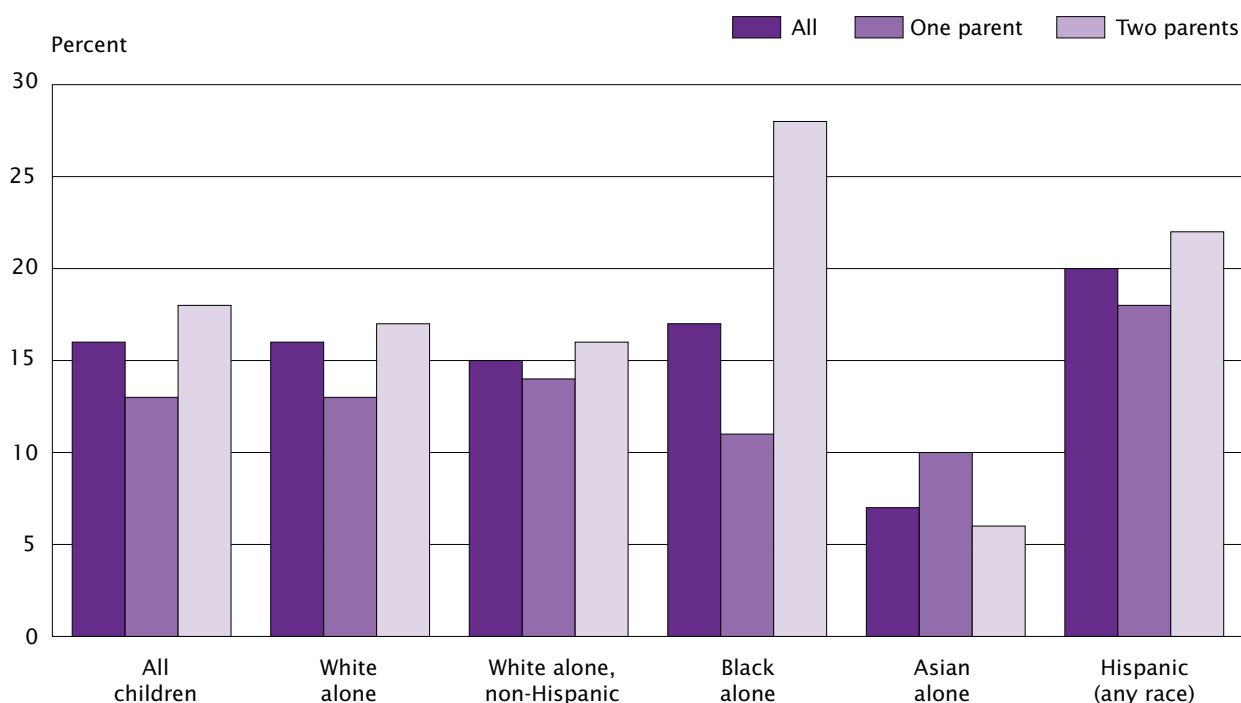
In addition to living with half siblings, children live in other types of blended families. Blended families include those that contain stepchildren and their stepparents, half siblings, or stepsiblings. Blended families can be formed when couples remarry or live with new partners who bring children from previous unions, or who combine children from previous and current unions. The complexity of family arrangements is illustrated in Table 6. Overall, 16 percent (11.7 million) of all children lived in blended families. In 2009, 8.0 million children lived with at least one half sibling (Table 5), representing 11 percent of all children and 68 percent of children in blended families.

Table 6 shows the proportion of children who were in blended families in 2009 by the child's race and Hispanic origin.<sup>34</sup> Seven percent of Asian children lived in blended families, lower than for any of the other race or Hispanic groups. Lower rates of births to unmarried women and divorce may contribute to lower

<sup>34</sup> Table 5 differs in several ways from Table 4 in the report on "Living Arrangements of Children: 1996" that it updates. In 2001, 2004, and 2009, 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 sibling 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.

Figure 8.

**Children Living in Blended Families by Race and Hispanic Origin and Number of Parents: 2009**



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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

rates of Asian children living in blended families.<sup>35</sup>

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 48 percent of children in blended families lived with a stepparent. In

<sup>35</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 Martin, Joyce A. et al., "Births: Preliminary Data for 2007," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2010, Vol. 58, No. 24.

For data on divorce by race, see Figure 5 in the following report: Kreider, Rose M. and Renee Ellis, "Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 2009," *Current Population Reports*, P70-125, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2011.

blended families, stepparents were more commonly found living with White, non-Hispanic children (53 percent) than with Black children or Hispanic children (39 percent and 45 percent, respectively). This is expected since White women have been found to remarry more often than Black or Hispanic women.<sup>36</sup>

Figure 8 details the percentage of children living in blended families, by race and number of parents. Overall, 16 percent of children lived in a blended family—13 percent of those living with one parent and

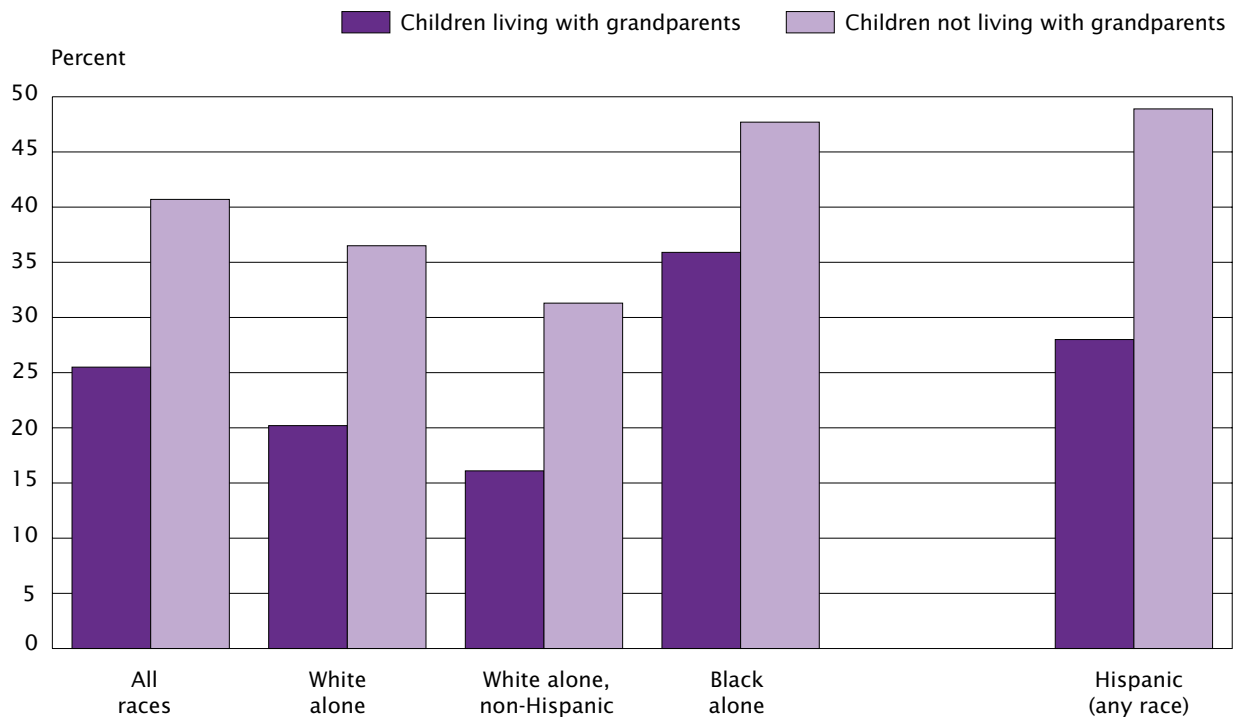
<sup>36</sup> Bramlett, Matthew and William Mosher, "Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the United States," *Vital Health Statistics*, National Center for Health Statistics, 2002, Vol. 23, No. 22.

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 (6 percent).

**Adopted Children**

The number of adopted children is difficult to estimate accurately. The SIPP estimates rely on the relationships reported by the respondent—administrative records are not

Figure 9.  
**Children Below the Poverty Level, for Those Living With Mother Only,  
 by Presence of Grandparents and the Child's Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>These children do not have a father present in the household.

Note: 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 (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

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 in the SIPP, Table 7 only presents basic information on adopted children. The number of adopted children rose from 1.1 million in 1991 to 1.4 million in 2009.<sup>37</sup> In 1991, the majority (88 percent) of adopted children lived with two parents and

12 percent lived with one parent. In 2009, 80 percent of adopted children lived with two parents and 20 percent lived with one parent, compared with 27 percent of all children. While in 1991, 76 percent of adopted children were White, this decreased to 61 percent in 2009. The percentage of adopted children who were Hispanic increased from 6 percent in 1991 to 12 percent in 2009. This shift is due in large part to the increase in international adoption by U.S. citizens that took place from the mid-1990s through the mid-2000s. The popularity of adoptions from China and Guatemala among U.S. parents during this time period

resulted in an increasing proportion of internationally adopted children who were Asian or Hispanic.<sup>38</sup>

#### **Children Living With Grandparents: Living Arrangements and Poverty Status**

Grandparents play an important role in providing care for children—they are the most frequently mentioned care providers for children under

<sup>37</sup> Furukawa, Stacy, "The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991," *Current Population Reports*, P70-38, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1994.

<sup>38</sup> Selman, Peter, "The Rise and Fall of Intercountry Adoption in the 21st Century," *International Social Work*, 2009, Vol. 52(5), pp. 575–594.

Table 8.

### Children Below the Poverty Level by Presence of Parents and Grandparents, Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	All races		White alone	White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>					
Children .....	74,129	787	56,117	41,503	11,272	2,629	16,347
Children living with at least one grandparent. . .	7,785	290	4,968	2,932	1,876	380	2,270
Percentage of all children .....	10.5	0.4	8.9	7.1	16.6	14.5	13.9
<b>PRESENCE OF PARENTS</b>							
Two parents .....	2,545	167	1,850	979	240	287	934
Grandparent is householder .....	1,024	106	776	430	91	58	387
Mother only .....	3,013	182	1,857	1,139	900	40	824
Grandparent is householder .....	2,312	159	1,379	930	722	26	529
Father only .....	397	66	245	159	113	18	110
Grandparent is householder .....	269	55	188	126	58	6	77
Neither parent .....	1,830	142	1,016	656	623	34	402
Grandparent is householder .....	1,724	138	955	642	595	27	346
<b>PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL</b>							
All children .....	19.9	0.5	17.2	12.7	33.9	12.1	30.9
Two parents .....	13.3	0.5	12.7	8.6	18.0	10.4	25.7
Mother only .....	38.1	1.2	33.6	28.8	45.9	31.1	44.8
Father only .....	19.9	2.5	18.0	16.0	30.8	(B)	24.5
Neither parent .....	27.8	2.7	26.8	22.8	33.2	17.9	34.6
Children living with grandparents .....	22.5	1.6	19.2	17.5	34.0	12.1	23.0
Two parents .....	14.2	2.3	14.4	13.2	20.0	11.1	16.9
Mother only .....	25.5	2.6	20.2	16.1	35.9	12.5	28.0
Father only .....	12.6	5.5	13.1	18.2	15.0	(B)	9.1
Neither parent .....	31.2	3.6	27.7	26.2	40.1	(B)	30.6
Children living in grandparent's household . . .	25.2	2.0	21.1	19.5	37.1	17.1	24.8
Two parents .....	19.0	4.1	19.7	21.9	23.1	(B)	18.6
Mother only .....	24.4	3.0	18.1	13.9	37.5	(B)	26.5
Father only .....	15.6	7.4	14.4	21.4	24.1	(B)	7.8
Neither parent .....	31.5	3.7	27.7	25.7	40.0	(B)	32.9
Children not living with grandparents .....	19.6	0.5	17.0	12.3	33.9	12.0	32.2
Two parents .....	13.2	0.5	12.6	8.5	17.9	10.2	26.5
Mother only .....	40.7	1.4	36.5	31.3	47.7	35.5	48.9
Father only .....	21.1	2.8	18.6	15.8	35.6	(B)	29.1
Neither parent .....	22.8	3.9	25.7	18.9	21.0	(B)	40.9

(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, 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

Table 9.

**Children Living With Relatives by Type of Relative, and Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	Total		Race and Hispanic origin				
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	White alone	White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
Children . . . . .	74,129	787	56,117	41,503	11,272	2,629	16,347
Presence of other relatives and nonrelatives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	15,381	402	10,269	6,109	3,380	611	4,695
Other relatives only . . . . .	11,087	344	7,162	3,936	2,670	532	3,592
Other relatives and nonrelatives . . . . .	841	96	546	265	201	15	347
Nonrelatives only . . . . .	3,453	194	2,561	1,908	509	64	756
<b>SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF RELATIVE<sup>3</sup></b>							
Living with grandparent(s): . . . . .	7,785	290	4,968	2,932	1,876	380	2,270
Grandmother and grandfather . . . . .	3,167	186	2,280	1,392	432	190	954
Grandmother only . . . . .	3,890	206	2,207	1,266	1,290	152	1,105
Grandfather only . . . . .	728	90	481	274	154	38	211
Uncle . . . . .	2,577	168	1,809	580	465	114	1,350
Aunt . . . . .	2,312	159	1,480	586	590	87	994
Nephew . . . . .	520	76	348	122	120	17	241
Niece . . . . .	576	80	319	112	168	48	245
Brother-in-law . . . . .	96	33	74	23	11	6	57
Sister-in-law . . . . .	113	35	87	20	13	4	66
All other relatives . . . . .	4,296	217	2,673	1,254	1,144	193	1,578

<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> The child's parents, siblings, and children are not included in other relatives.<sup>3</sup> These categories are independent and not mutually exclusive. Relationship listed is to the child, i.e., the child's grandmother, aunt, etc.Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

age 5 among all types of relatives.<sup>39</sup> In 2009, 7.8 million children lived in households with at least one grandparent present (11 percent of all children) (Table 8). Seven percent of White, non-Hispanic children, 17 percent of Black children, 14 percent of Asian children, and 14 percent of Hispanic children lived with a grandparent.<sup>40</sup>

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

grandparent. In 2009, 76 percent of children (6 million) living with a grandparent were also living with a parent in the household, and 61 percent of these children (3.6 million) were in a household where their grandparent was the householder.

This characteristic differs by the number of parents. Forty percent of children living with a grandparent and two parents were living in households maintained by the grandparent, while 77 percent of children living with a single mother and a grandparent were living in the grandparent's household. Among the 1.8 million children living in households with grandparents but no parents present, the grandparent was the householder 94 percent of the time. This suggests that the absence of one or both parents places the grandparent who is living with the

grandchild as the primary provider and caretaker of the child.

Children living with grandparents more often lived in families in poverty than children living in households with no grandparents present (22 percent and 20 percent, respectively).<sup>41</sup> The association between children's coresidence with their grandparent and poverty 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. Among children living with their grandparents, 14 percent of those living in households with two parents present were in poverty, not statistically different

<sup>39</sup> Laughlin, Lynda, "Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005/Summer 2006," *Current Population Reports*, P70-121, Table 1, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2010.

<sup>40</sup> The percentage of Asian children who lived with a grandparent was not statistically different from the percentage of Black children or Hispanic children who lived with a grandparent.

<sup>41</sup> Poverty is calculated for children in families by dividing the family's average monthly income by the family's average monthly poverty threshold.

from the 13 percent of those living with their father only who were in poverty. Thirty-one percent of those who lived with their grandparents when neither parent was present were in poverty.

Children living with neither parent were more often in poverty when they lived with a grandparent (31 percent) than when they did not (23 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. Figure 9 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, 25 percent of children living with a single mother and a grandparent were in poverty compared with 41 percent for those living with a single mother and no grandparent. This pattern appears for all race groups and Hispanics. Variations in the frequency of parents living in grandparent-grandchild households by the race of the child illustrate the different dynamics of extended household formation for different race groups and Hispanics in the United States.

### 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 9 presents data on the different types of relatives living with children. The estimates of specific relationship

Table 10.

### Children Whose Coresident Parent's Marital Status Changed During 2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Marital event	Number		Percent
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	
Children living with their mother <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	68,303	765	100.0
Mother had marital event during 2008 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	2,618	170	3.8
Mother married in 2008 . . . . .	1,760	139	2.6
First marriage . . . . .	1,236	117	1.8
Married the child's biological father and still married . . . . .	955	103	1.4
Average age of the child (in years) . . . . .	4.8	(X)	(X)
Mother divorced in 2008 . . . . .	870	98	1.3
Divorce from first marriage . . . . .	696	88	1.0
Mother changed residence in 2008 . . . . .	311	59	0.5
Mother widowed in 2008 . . . . .	49	23	0.1
Children living with their father <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	53,578	698	100.0
Father had marital event during 2008 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	2,013	149	3.8
Father married in 2008 . . . . .	1,685	136	3.1
First marriage . . . . .	1,183	114	2.2
Married the child's biological mother and still married . . . . .	955	103	1.8
Average age of the child (in years) . . . . .	4.8	(X)	(X)
Father divorced in 2008 . . . . .	326	60	0.6
Divorce from first marriage . . . . .	226	50	0.4
Father changed residence in 2008 . . . . .	86	31	0.2
Father widowed in 2008 . . . . .	36	20	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. Events happened during calendar year 2008.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

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>42</sup> The largest group of children living with an other relative were living with a grandparent—7.8 million children were living with one or both grandparents. Another 2.6 million children lived with their uncle, while 2.3 million lived with their aunt. The category of other relatives includes more distant relatives. Although comprising 4.3 million children overall, these responses did not contain enough cases to allow them to be shown

with more specificity. Children were more likely to live with extended household members who were other relatives only (15 percent), rather than nonrelatives only (5 percent), or a mixture of relatives and nonrelatives (1 percent). About 9 percent of White, non-Hispanic children lived with extended other relatives only, compared with 24 percent of Black children, 20 percent of Asian children, and 22 percent of Hispanic children.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>42</sup> Among the three subcategories of grandparents in Table 9, a child is tabulated in only one of these categories.

<sup>43</sup> Asian and Hispanic children living with extended other relatives do not significantly differ from each other.

Table 11.  
**Composition of Households With Children: 2009**  
 (Numbers in thousands)

Living arrangements of children	Households with children under age 18			Percentage of households below the poverty level <sup>2</sup>	Percentage of households receiving public assistance
	Number		Percent		
	Estimate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>			
Households with children under age 18 .....	39,694	618	100.0	16.2	45.6
Households containing:					
Parent and child present <sup>3</sup> .....	38,382	609	96.7	16.0	44.7
No parent and child .....	1,312	120	3.3	28.7	78.9
Biological parent, biological child present .....	37,564	603	94.6	16.1	44.8
Stepparent, stepchild present .....	3,685	201	9.3	15.1	52.9
Adoptive parent, adopted child present .....	1,296	120	3.3	9.6	39.4
Foster parent, foster child present .....	192	46	0.5	11.5	79.2
Blended household (stepchild, stepparent, half-sibling or stepsibling present) <sup>4</sup> .....	5,287	240	13.3	14.3	54.3
Adoptive household (adoptive parent, adopted child, or adopted siblings) <sup>5</sup> .....	1,475	128	3.7	8.9	42.2
Grandparent-grandchild households .....	4,444	220	11.2	18.2	72.6
Child, grandparent present, parent(s) present .....	3,407	193	8.6	15.9	71.3
Child, grandparent present, no parent(s) present .....	1,037	107	2.6	25.8	77.0
Extended households <sup>6</sup> .....	8,033	294	20.2	19.8	70.4
Other relatives only .....	5,674	248	14.3	18.7	71.3
Other relatives and nonrelatives .....	358	63	0.9	26.3	83.5
Nonrelatives only .....	2,001	148	5.0	22.0	65.6

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.

<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 since using the official family poverty measure would exclude unrelated children. The new supplemental poverty measure will include everyone related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption, as well as any cohabiting partner and their relatives. The new measure will also include any cohabiting partners of those related to the householder, and that cohabiting partner's relatives.

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

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>.

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

Because the marital history of a 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 10 shows that about 2.6 million children lived with a mother who experienced a marital event in the last year.<sup>44</sup> Of these children, 1.8 million lived with mothers who married in the last year, and for 955,000 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.

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. For years, NCHS has not received 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>45</sup> An estimated 299,000 children were 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 one million through 1984, when the rate was a bit higher, at 17.2 per 1,000 children.

Table 10 shows an estimated 1.2 million children were living with either their mother or father who divorced in calendar year 2008, or a rate of 15 per 1,000 children. Seventy-three percent of these children lived with their mother (870,000).

## COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS CONTAINING CHILDREN: 2009

While most of the tables in this report are shown from the child's point of view, Table 11 shows the living arrangements of children at the household level. In 2009, 39.7 million households included children under age 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 3 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 both a biological parent and a stepparent. There were 5.3 million households with blended families and 1.5 million households with adoptive families. Eleven percent of households with children under age 18 (4.4 million) had grandparents and grandchildren present, with 77 percent of these composed of a child, his or her parent(s), and the child's grandparent(s). An additional 23 percent, or 1.0 million, included a child and at least one grandparent but not the child's parents. About 1 in 5 households with children included nonrelatives or relatives of the child other than his or her parents or siblings.

While 16 percent of all households with a child under age 18 were

below the poverty level, the percentage for blended households was lower, at 14 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.

Overall, 46 percent of households with children received some type of public assistance.<sup>46</sup> A higher percentage of grandparent-grandchild households and extended family households received public assistance (about 7 in 10).<sup>47</sup> Among family extended households, 84 percent of those that included children living with both other relatives and nonrelatives received public assistance compared to households with other relatives only (71 percent) or nonrelatives only (66 percent).<sup>48</sup>

## SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2008 SIPP 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 January through April 2009 in the second wave (interview) of the 2008 SIPP. The data come primarily from the main survey and the household relationship topical module. The

<sup>44</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 their mother and father, they will not appear in both estimates. Marital events happened during calendar year 2008.

<sup>45</sup> London, Kathryn A., "Children of Divorce," *Vital Health Statistics*, National Center for Health Statistics, Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1989, Series 21, No. 46, DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 89-1924.

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

<sup>46</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.

<sup>47</sup> Extended households include those that contain a child under 18 years old who has a relative present who is not his or her parent or sibling, or who has a nonrelative present.

<sup>48</sup> The overall percentage of extended households receiving public assistance was not significantly different than the percentage of extended households with other relatives only receiving public assistance.



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institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population 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.

The population represented (the population universe) in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off-post or with their families on-post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000). Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April).

The Census data 1880–1940: Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series: Version 2.0 one percent microdata files were made available by the Historical Census Projects. For further information on the Census data, see <<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml>>.

## 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. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, the review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The CPS and SIPP weighting procedures use 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 statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <[www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html](http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html)> for CPS; for SIPP, go to <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08\\_W1toW3\(S&A-12\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW3(S&A-12).pdf)>; or e-mail Stephen Mack of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division 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.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.census.gov/sipp/)> (main SIPP Web site), <[www.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf)> (SIPP Quality Profile), and <[www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide.html](http://www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide.html)> (SIPP User's Guide).

## MORE INFORMATION

A copy of this report, along with additional tables, is available on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. Data about children can be accessed by clicking on the "C" in the "Subjects A–Z" index and selecting "Children." The previous reports based on 2004, 2001, 1996, and 1991 data are also available at this site.

## CONTACTS

Contact the Census Bureau's Customer Services Center at 800-923-8282 (toll-free) or visit <[ask.census.gov](http://ask.census.gov)> for further information.

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