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How We're Changing

Demographic State of the Nation: 1995

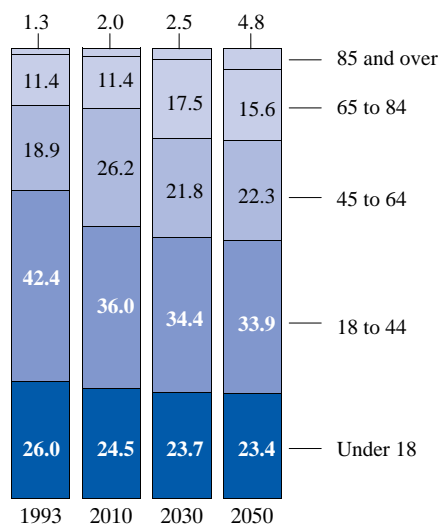
This is an overview of some major demographic findings reported by the Census Bureau since January 1994. Topics covered give an update on trends and attending issues facing America today and into the next century. If you are interested in additional information on the topics in this report, call one of our subject specialists listed on page 4.

United States population is projected to surpass 390 million in 2050.

The U.S. population would increase more than 50 percent, from 258 million in 1993 to 392 million in 2050, under the Census Bureau's middle series population projection. The population would grow to 276 million in 2000, 300 million in 2010, 350 million in 2030, and 372 million in 2040. The average annual growth rate, however, would decrease by half from 1.10 percent from 1990 to 1995 to 0.54 percent from 2040 to 2050. The middle series assumes that in 2050 there would be 2.1 births per woman, an 82.6-year life expectancy, and net immigration of 880,000.

In 1993, there were 33 million persons 65 and over representing 13 percent of the population, and projections for 2050 indicate that there will be over 80 million people 65 and over who would represent 20 percent of the population (figure 1). The 85 and over population is growing especially fast. It is projected to more than triple in size from 3 million (1 percent) in 1993 to 9 million (3 percent) in 2030 and to more than double in size from 2030 to 2050 (to 19 million people or 5 percent of the population).

Figure 1.
Percent Distribution of the Population, by Age: 1993 to 2050
(Middle series projections)



The rate of household growth has declined.

There were an estimated 96 million households in 1993, 722,000 more than in 1992. The average annual rate of growth in the number of households has decreased over the past 20 years from 2.4 percent in the 1970's, to 1.4 percent in the 1980's, to 1.1 percent from 1990 to 1993.

In 1993, there were 68 million family households: 78 percent (53 million) were married-couple families, 18 percent (12 million) were families maintained by a woman alone, and 4 percent (3 million) were maintained by a man alone. (A family has at least two members with at least one who is a relative of the householder.) There were 28 million nonfamily households, most of which contained only one person.

The proportion of all parent-child family groups maintained by single parents rose dramatically from 13 percent in 1970 to 30 percent in 1993.¹ Nearly 75 percent of these "single" parents either had never married (36 percent) or were divorced (38 percent) in 1993. The absent parent was usually the father (86 percent of single-parent situations).

A majority of Black family groups with children were maintained by single parents in 1993 (63 percent), compared with 25 percent among Whites. This is much larger than in 1970, when the percentages were 36 percent and 10 percent, respectively. More than 1 in 3 (35 percent) Hispanic family groups with children were maintained by single parents in 1993, compared with 26 percent in 1980 (comparable 1970 data are not available for Hispanics). (Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.)

In 1991, almost one-fourth of preschoolers were cared for primarily in an organized facility while their mothers were at work.

In fall 1991, there were 31 million children under 15 living with their employed mothers (55 percent of all children under 15). Of these 31 million children, 10 million were preschoolers under 5. Among these preschoolers, 23 percent (2 million) were in an organized child care facility, such as a nursery school; 36 percent (4 million) were cared for in their own home; and 31 percent (3 million) were cared for in another home.

¹ Parent-child family groups have at least one never-married own child under 18 living in them, and include family households, related subfamilies, and unrelated subfamilies.

The proportion of children of preschool age cared for in a nonrelative's home declined from 24 percent in 1988 to 18 percent in 1991. In 1991, 20 percent of preschoolers were cared for by their fathers while their mothers were at work, up from 15 percent in 1988.

Poor families with only preschoolers paid less for child care than their nonpoor counterparts: \$52 compared with \$70 per week. However, poor families with preschoolers spent a larger percentage of their family income on child care (20 percent) than similar nonpoor families (8 percent).

Nursery school enrollment has more than doubled since 1973.

In October 1993, 65 million persons were enrolled in regular schools, compared with 59 million in 1983 and 60 million in 1973. There were 7 million persons in nursery school and kindergarten, 31 million in elementary school, 14 million in high school, and 14 million in college. Nursery school enrollment has more than doubled from 1.3 million in 1973 to 3.0 million in 1993, due in part to the increasing educational levels and labor force participation rates of mothers.

High school graduation rates for persons 18 to 24 rose slightly from 81 percent in 1973 to 82 percent in 1993. The 1993 graduation figures were 83 percent for Whites, 75 percent for Blacks, and 61 percent for Hispanics. Of those recent graduates, 42 percent of Whites, 33 percent of Blacks, and 36 percent of Hispanics (not significantly different from Black) were enrolled in college.

The annual high school dropout rate² declined from 6.3 percent in 1973 to 4.2 percent in 1993. The 1993 rates were 4.1 percent for Whites, 5.4 percent for Blacks, and 6.4 percent for Hispanics (not significantly different from each other). The rate for men was 4.4 percent, not significantly different from the rate of 4.1 percent for women.

² The annual dropout rate is calculated as the proportion of persons 14 to 24 enrolled in grades 10-12 in Oct. 1992 who were no longer enrolled and had not graduated by Oct. 1993.

About 15 percent of the population received public assistance in at least 1 month in 1991.

In 1991, the average monthly number of persons participating in at least one major Federal public assistance program³ was 30.9 million (12.4 percent), up from 28.5 million (11.5 percent) in 1990. Persons participating at least 1 month in 1991 numbered 38.0 million (15.5 percent), an increase of 2.3 million since 1990. Public assistance recipients for all 24 months of 1990 and 1991 numbered 18.1 million, representing 7.6 percent of the Nation's total population. More persons participated in the Medicaid program (19.1 million) and the Food Stamp program (17.1 million) in an average month in 1990 than any other program.

In an average month in 1990, 48.9 percent of program participants received at least half of their income (including the value of food stamps) from programs, and 29.6 percent received all of their income from programs. Median monthly family benefits from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)/General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and food stamps were \$420 in 1990 and 1991.

Among persons in families maintained by a woman alone, 37.2 percent were program participants in an average month in 1990, compared with 6.1 percent of persons in married-couple families. Female householder families also were more likely to have longer median spells of program participation than persons in married-couple families in 1990, 11.4 months compared with 7.3 months.

NOTE: The 1993 estimates in the health insurance, income, and poverty sections are based on civilian noninstitutional population benchmarks established by the 1990 decennial census (adjusted for undercoverage). Previously published 1992 and 1989 data have been revised using the 1990 census population controls to improve comparability with the 1993 estimates.

³ Major means-tested assistance programs include public housing assistance, AFDC, General Assistance, SSI, Medicaid, food stamps, and Federal or State rent assistance.

More persons were without health insurance in 1993 than in 1992.

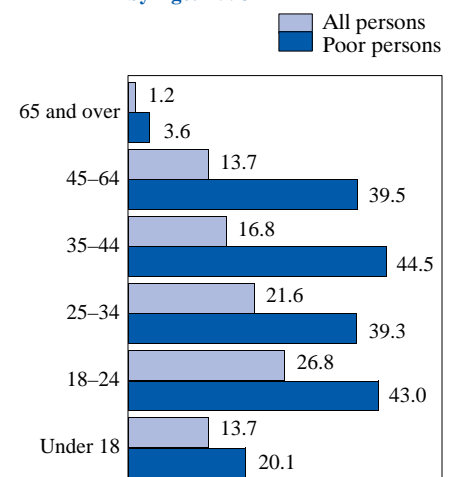
An estimated 39.7 million people were without health insurance coverage during the entire 1993 calendar year, 1.1 million more than in 1992. Among poor persons, 11.5 million were uninsured in 1993, up about 500,000 from 1992. The proportions of all persons (15.3 percent) and poor persons (29.3 percent) lacking coverage were statistically unchanged from 1992 to 1993.

Among all persons in 1993, 70.2 percent were covered by a private insurance plan for some or all of the year (57.1 percent were covered through a plan offered by an employer or union). The rest of the insured were covered by Medicaid (12.2 percent), Medicare (12.7 percent), and military health care (3.7 percent). (Some persons carry coverage from more than one type of plan.)

Among all age groups, persons 18 to 24 were the most likely to be uninsured in 1993 (26.8 percent), while only 1.2 percent of persons 65 and over lacked any coverage (figure 2). Among the poor, persons 18 to 64 had much higher noncoverage rates than persons under 18 or persons 65 and over.

In 1993, 51.9 percent of the 137.1 million workers had employer-provided health insurance policies in their own name. This proportion varied by size of employer. About 29.3 percent of workers employed by firms with less than 25 persons had

Figure 2.
Percent of Persons Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age: 1993



policies in their own name, compared with 66.9 percent of workers employed by firms with 1,000 or more workers.

Real median household income declined between 1992 and 1993.⁴

Median household income was \$31,241 in 1993, down 1.0 percent in real terms from 1992 (\$31,553). Although our most recent recessionary period ended in March 1991, household income has not recovered to the 1989 pre-recessionary level of \$33,585 (in 1993 dollars). From 1989 to 1993, real median household income declined by 7.0 percent.

In central cities of metropolitan areas of one million or more persons, the real median income of households declined 3.2 percent from \$27,498 in 1992 to \$26,622 in 1993. Since 1989, the income of these households has declined by 12.0 percent in real terms. In comparison, there was no change from 1992 to 1993 in the median income of households in the suburbs (outside central cities in these metropolitan areas) (\$41,211) and households located outside all metropolitan areas (\$25,309).

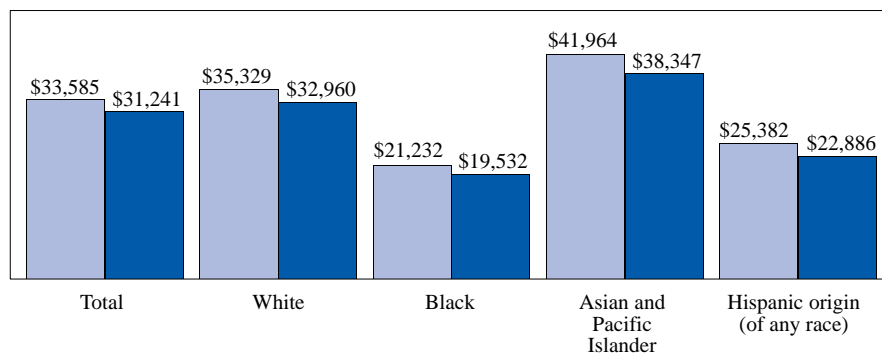
Real median household income by race and Hispanic origin showed no change from 1992 to 1993. However, household income for all of these groups declined from 1989 to 1993 (figure 3). Asian and Pacific Islanders had the highest median income in 1993 (\$38,347), while Blacks had the lowest (\$19,532). The median income of Hispanics was \$22,886 in 1993, and for Whites it was \$32,960.

From 1992 to 1993, real median earnings of year-round, full-time workers 15 and over declined by 2.2 percent for men, from \$31,101 to \$30,407, and 1.2 percent for women, from \$22,015 to \$21,747. (The difference between these declines is not statistically different.) The 1993 female-to-male earnings ratio for these workers was 0.72, comparable to the 1990 all-time high.

⁴ All changes in income and earnings refer to comparisons after adjusting for inflation. The income data in this section are based on money income from regularly received sources before taxes and exclude capital gains and the value of noncash benefits.

Figure 3.
Median Household Income, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1989 and 1993

(In 1993 dollars)



Poverty increased for the fourth consecutive year.

There were 39.3 million persons below the official government poverty level of \$14,763 for a family of four in 1993, up from 38.0 million in 1992 and 32.4 million in 1989. The 1993 poverty rate was 15.1 percent—not significantly different from the 1992 rate of 14.8 percent, but higher than the 1989 rate of 13.1 percent.

In 1993, about half of our Nation's poor were children under 18 or persons 65 and over, 40.1 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively. The poverty rate was 22.7 percent for all children under 18, 12.4 percent for persons 18 to 64, and 12.2 percent for the elderly. Over one-third (35.6 percent) of families maintained by a woman alone were poor, compared with only 6.5 percent of married-couple families (figure 4).

The poverty rates by race and Hispanic origin did not change from 1992 to 1993. Blacks had the highest rate in 1993 (33.1 percent), and Whites had the lowest rate (12.2 percent). The Hispanic poverty rate was 30.6 percent.

In nonmetropolitan areas, the 1993 poverty rate (17.2 percent) was higher than that in metropolitan areas (14.6 percent). The poverty rate in

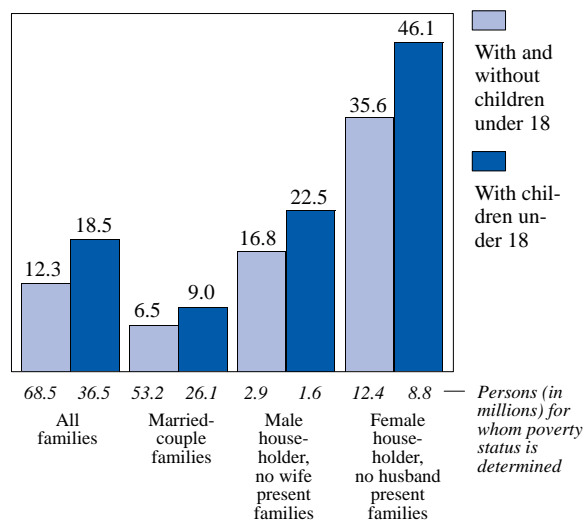
central cities was the highest of the metro/nonmetro residence types (21.5 percent). The percentage of poor persons living in central cities was 42.8 percent, compared with 30.2 percent of all persons.

Crowded living conditions were most prevalent among low-income or near low-income households in 1991.

In 1991, 13 million households (14 percent) of the Nation's 93 million households were low income, that is, those with incomes below the poverty level.⁵ An additional 5 million

Figure 4.
Poverty Rates, by Family Type: 1993

(In percent)



⁵ The data on the numbers of poor and near-poor households in this section come from the American Housing Survey. They should not be compared to the data in the earlier sections on income and poverty which come from the Current Population Survey, the official source of annual poverty estimates in the United States.

households (5 percent) were near low income, that is, those with incomes between 100 and 124 percent of the poverty line.

About 1 percent of all homeowners reported crowded living conditions (more than one person per room), compared with 4 percent each of low-income and near low-income owners. Among all renters, 5 percent lived in crowded homes, compared with 10 percent of low-income and 8 percent of near low-income renters.

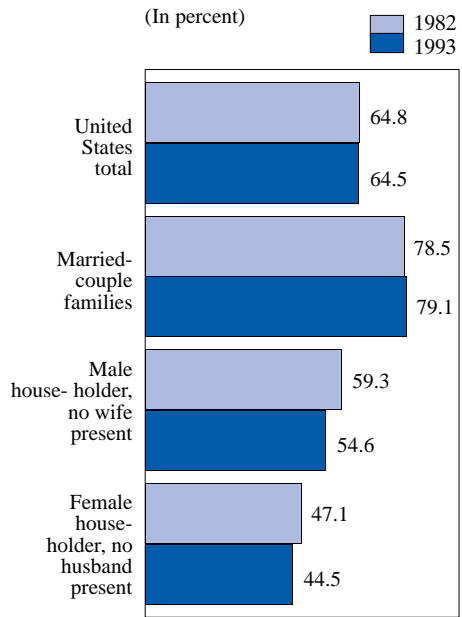
A smaller proportion of all homeowners with mortgages (28 percent) spent at least 30 percent of their income on housing costs than similar low-income (89 percent) and near low-income homeowners (72 percent). Low-income and near low-income householders owned homes with a median value of \$47,000, compared with \$80,000 for all owners.

The homeownership rate is at its highest level since 1985.

There were 110 million housing units in the United States in 1993: 63 million were owner occupied, 35 million were renter occupied, and 12 million were vacant.

In 1993, 65 percent of U.S. households were owner occupied, the highest homeownership rate since 1985. The rate for married-couple families in 1993 was 79 percent, its highest level since 1988. The 1993 rates for families maintained by men alone and women alone were 55 percent and 45 percent,

Figure 5. Homeownership Rates, by Family Type: 1982 and 1993



respectively (figure 5). Among one-person households, the homeowner-ship rate was 43 percent for men and 55 percent for women.

Inside metropolitan areas, the homeownership rate in 1993 was 62 percent, compared with 73 percent outside metropolitan areas. About 71 percent of units in suburbs were owner occupied, compared with 49 percent in central cities. Among States, homeownership rates ranged from 53 percent in Hawaii to 74 percent in Delaware. The homeownership rate in the District of Columbia was 36 percent.

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Source and Accuracy of Estimates

Data presented here are from the Current Population Survey, the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and the American Housing Survey. The survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as to survey design errors, respondent classification and reporting errors, and data processing errors. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and statistical statements have been tested and meet Bureau of the Census statistical standards. Further information can be found in detailed reports.