

U.S. Census Bureau

American FactFinder



United States

Selected Social Characteristics: 2004

Data Set: 2004 American Community Survey

NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

An * indicates that the estimate is significantly different (at a 90% confidence level) than the estimate from the most current year. A 'c' indicates the estimates for that year and the current year are both controlled; a statistical test is not appropriate.

Selected Social Characteristics	2004 Percent Distribution	2003 Percent Distribution		2002 Percent Distribution		2001 Percent Distribution		2000 Percent Distribution	
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT									
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	75,475,565	75,128,957	*	74,649,109	*	73,187,876	*	72,556,563	*
Nursery school, preschool	6.2%	6.1%		6.2%		6.0%	*	6.0%	*
Kindergarten	5.3%	5.3%		5.4%		5.4%		5.4%	
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	43.1%	43.5%	*	44.3%	*	45.3%	*	45.4%	*
High school (grades 9-12)	22.0%	22.1%		21.7%	*	21.7%	*	21.7%	*
College or graduate school	23.4%	22.9%	*	22.5%	*	21.7%	*	21.5%	*
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT									
Population 25 years and over	186,534,177	184,395,128	*	182,686,266	*	179,959,220	*	177,532,915	*
Less than 9th grade	6.3%	6.4%	*	6.7%	*	6.7%	*	7.0%	*
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	9.8%	9.9%	*	10.7%	*	11.2%	*	11.5%	*
High school graduate (including equivalency)	29.5%	29.8%	*	29.6%		29.6%		29.6%	
Some college, no degree	20.3%	20.3%		20.4%		20.4%		20.5%	*
Associate degree	7.1%	7.0%	*	6.8%	*	6.6%	*	6.5%	*
Bachelor's degree	17.2%	16.9%	*	16.6%	*	16.3%	*	16.0%	*
Graduate or professional degree	9.9%	9.7%	*	9.4%	*	9.2%	*	9.0%	*
Percent high school graduate or higher	83.9	83.6	*	82.6	*	82.1	*	81.6	*
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	27.0	26.5	*	25.9	*	25.5	*	25.0	*
MARITAL STATUS									
Males 15 years and over	108,732,377	107,432,675	*	106,102,671	*	104,352,108	*	102,807,473	*
Never married	30.6%	30.4%	*	30.1%	*	30.0%	*	30.1%	*
Now married, except separated	56.4%	56.6%		56.9%	*	57.0%	*	56.7%	*
Separated	1.7%	1.7%		1.8%	*	1.8%	*	1.8%	*
Widowed	2.4%	2.5%		2.4%		2.4%		2.5%	*
Divorced	8.9%	8.9%		8.8%		8.7%	*	8.8%	
Females 15 years and over	116,207,251	114,911,030	*	113,945,212	*	112,373,447	*	110,810,409	*
Never married	25.1%	24.8%	*	24.5%	*	24.3%	*	24.3%	*
Now married, except separated	51.4%	51.6%		51.8%	*	51.9%	*	51.7%	*
Separated	2.5%	2.6%		2.7%	*	2.7%	*	2.6%	*
Widowed	9.5%	9.7%	*	9.8%	*	9.9%	*	10.2%	*
Divorced	11.4%	11.3%	*	11.3%	*	11.2%	*	11.2%	*

Selected Social Characteristics	2004 Percent Distribution	2003 Percent Distribution	2002 Percent Distribution	2001 Percent Distribution	2000 Percent Distribution
FERTILITY					
Number of women 15 to 50 years old who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,088,512	3,966,840 *	4,255,235 *	4,287,391 *	4,272,782 *
Unmarried women (widowed, divorced, and never married)	28.6%	29.3%	28.5%	29.2%	29.4%
Per 1,000 unmarried women	34	34	36 *	37 *	38 *
Per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old	55	54 *	58 *	59 *	59 *
Per 1,000 women 15 to 19 years old	30	30	34 *	38 *	41 *
Per 1,000 women 20 to 34 years old	105	103	110 *	110 *	110 *
Per 1,000 women 35 to 50 years old	22	20 *	22	23 *	22
GRANDPARENTS					
Number of grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years in households	5,675,375	5,505,115 *	5,777,430	5,680,274	5,581,784
Responsible for grandchildren	41.8%	42.7%	42.7%	42.8% *	42.2%
Years responsible for grandchildren					
Less than 1 year	9.4%	9.5%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%
1 or 2 years	9.4%	9.7%	10.1% *	10.9% *	10.1%
3 or 4 years	6.8%	6.9%	6.8%	6.5%	7.5% *
5 or more years	16.3%	16.6%	16.3%	16.0%	14.9% *
Characteristics of grandparents responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years					
Who are female	62.8	63.3	61.7 *	62.5	62.1
Who are married	71.7	71.1	72.3	72.1	72.6
Who are in labor force	58.9	57.8	58.6	58.1	57.1 *
Who are in poverty	19.5	19.8	18.2 *	20.0	18.7
VETERAN STATUS					
Civilian population 18 years and over	212,052,116	209,628,197 *	207,348,585 *	204,113,872 *	201,045,200 *
Civilian veterans	23,756,268	24,008,355 *	24,625,877 *	24,774,105 *	25,060,077 *
DISABILITY STATUS of the civilian noninstitutionalized population					
Population 5 years and over	264,965,834	262,582,164 *	N	N	N
With a disability	14.3%	14.3%	N	N	N
Population 5 to 15 years	44,889,036	44,973,893	N	N	N
With a disability	6.3%	6.2%	N	N	N
Population 16 to 64 years	185,871,497	183,712,099 *	N	N	N
With a disability	11.6%	11.5%	N	N	N
Population 65 years and over	34,205,301	33,896,172 *	N	N	N
With a disability	39.6%	39.9%	N	N	N
RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO					
Population 1 year and over	281,761,953	279,117,736 *	276,956,477 *	273,446,689 *	270,185,904 *
Same house	84.3%	84.9% *	84.7% *	84.9% *	83.9% *
Different house in the U.S.	15.1%	14.5% *	14.7% *	14.4% *	15.3%
Same county	9.7%	9.4% *	9.5% *	9.2% *	9.6%
Different county	5.4%	5.1% *	5.2% *	5.2% *	5.7% *
Same state	3.0%	2.9% *	2.9% *	2.8% *	3.1% *
Different state	2.3%	2.2% *	2.3%	2.4%	2.6% *
Abroad	0.6%	0.6% *	0.6%	0.7% *	0.8% *
PLACE OF BIRTH					
Total population	285,691,501	282,909,885 c	280,540,330 c	277,017,622 c	273,643,273 c
Native	88.0%	88.1% *	88.2% *	88.6% *	88.9% *
Born in United States	86.8%	86.9% *	87.0% *	87.4% *	87.7% *

Selected Social Characteristics	2004 Percent Distribution	2003 Percent Distribution		2002 Percent Distribution		2001 Percent Distribution		2000 Percent Distribution	
State of residence	59.4%	59.6%		59.7%		59.8%	*	59.8%	*
Different state	27.4%	27.3%		27.3%		27.6%		27.9%	*
Born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island areas, or born abroad to American parent(s)	1.2%	1.2%		1.3%		1.3%	*	1.2%	
Foreign born	12.0%	11.9%	*	11.8%	*	11.4%	*	11.1%	*
U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS									
Foreign-born population	34,279,756	33,533,945	*	33,048,849	*	31,482,280	*	30,273,660	*
Naturalized U.S. citizen	42.0%	41.4%	*	41.0%	*	40.5%	*	40.5%	*
Not a U.S. citizen	58.0%	58.6%		59.0%	*	59.5%	*	59.5%	*
YEAR OF U.S. ENTRY									
Population born outside the United States	37,825,141	37,013,546	*	36,564,914	*	35,033,264	*	33,670,614	*
Native	9.4%	9.4%		9.6%		10.1%	*	10.1%	*
Foreign Born	90.6%	90.6%		90.4%		89.9%	*	89.9%	*
Native	3,545,385	3,479,601		3,516,065		3,550,984		3,396,954	*
Entered U.S. 2000 or later	11.1%	8.0%	*	5.7%	*	3.9%	*	1.6%	*
Entered U.S. before 2000	88.9%	92.0%	*	94.3%	*	96.1%	*	98.4%	*
Foreign Born	34,279,756	33,533,945	*	33,048,849	*	31,482,280	*	30,273,660	*
Entered U.S. 2000 or later	18.3%	15.0%	*	11.1%	*	7.8%	*	2.9%	*
Entered U.S. before 2000	81.7%	85.0%	*	88.9%	*	92.2%	*	97.1%	*
WORLD REGION OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN BORN									
Foreign-born population excluding population born "At sea"	34,279,584	33,533,945	*	33,048,849	*	31,482,090	*	30,271,370	*
Europe	14.3%	14.2%		14.7%	*	15.4%	*	15.7%	*
Asia	27.0%	27.3%	*	26.9%		26.9%		27.3%	*
Africa	3.3%	3.1%	*	3.1%	*	3.1%	*	2.8%	*
Oceania	0.6%	0.6%		0.6%		0.6%		0.6%	
Latin America	52.4%	52.3%		52.3%		51.3%	*	50.8%	*
Northern America	2.4%	2.5%		2.5%		2.7%	*	2.8%	*
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME									
Population 5 years and over	265,683,349	263,230,104	*	261,013,660	*	257,752,048	*	254,571,610	*
English only	81.3%	81.6%	*	81.7%	*	82.1%	*	82.5%	*
Language other than English	18.7%	18.4%	*	18.3%	*	17.9%	*	17.5%	*
Speak English less than "very well"	8.4%	8.4%		8.0%	*	7.8%	*	7.6%	*
Spanish	11.5%	11.3%	*	11.1%	*	10.8%	*	10.5%	*
Speak English less than "very well"	5.5%	5.5%		5.2%	*	5.0%	*	4.9%	*
Other Indo-European languages	3.6%	3.6%		3.7%		3.7%		3.7%	
Speak English less than "very well"	1.2%	1.2%		1.2%		1.2%		1.2%	
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	2.9%	2.8%		2.8%	*	2.7%	*	2.7%	*
Speak English less than "very well"	1.4%	1.4%		1.4%	*	1.3%	*	1.3%	*
Other languages	0.7%	0.7%		0.7%		0.7%		0.7%	
Speak English less than "very well"	0.2%	0.2%		0.2%		0.2%		0.2%	
ANCESTRY (TOTAL REPORTED)									
Total Population	285,691,501	282,909,885	c	280,540,330	c	277,017,622	c	273,643,273	c
American	7.0%	7.0%		7.1%		7.4%	*	7.3%	*
Arab	0.5%	0.4%		0.5%		0.5%		0.4%	
Czech	0.5%	0.5%		0.5%		0.5%		0.5%	
Danish	0.5%	0.5%		0.5%		0.5%		0.6%	*

Selected Social Characteristics	2004 Percent Distribution	2003 Percent Distribution	2002 Percent Distribution	2001 Percent Distribution	2000 Percent Distribution
Dutch	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
English	9.9%	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%
French (except Basque)	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%
French Canadian	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
German	16.9%	16.9%	17.2%	17.2%	17.0%
Greek	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Hungarian	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Irish	12.1%	12.0%	12.2%	12.1%	12.1%
Italian	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.8%
Lithuanian	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Norwegian	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Polish	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
Portuguese	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Russian	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%
Scotch-Irish	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Scottish	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Slovak	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Subsaharan African	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Swedish	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Swiss	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Ukrainian	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Welsh	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
West Indian (excluding Hispanic origin groups)	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

Estimates from two years are "significantly different" if their difference is large enough to infer that there was a less than 10 percent chance that the difference came entirely from random variation.

Notes:

- Ancestry listed in this table refers to the total number of people who responded with a particular ancestry; for example, the estimate given for Russian represents the number of people who listed Russian as either their first or second ancestry. This table lists only the largest ancestry groups; see the Detailed Tables for more categories. Race and Hispanic origin groups are not included in this table because official data for those groups come from the Race and Hispanic origin questions rather than the ancestry question (see Demographic Table).
- The Census Bureau introduced a new skip pattern for the disability questions in the 2003 ACS questionnaire. This change mainly affected two individual items -- go-outside-home disability and employment disability -- and the recode for disability status, which includes the two items. Accordingly, comparisons of data from 2003 or later with data from prior years are not recommended for the relevant questions. For more information, see the [ACS Subject Definitions](#) for Disability.
- Data for year of entry of the native population reflect the year of entry into the U.S. by people who were born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island Areas or born outside the U.S. to a U.S. citizen parent and who subsequently moved to the U.S.

Explanation of Symbols:

1. An '-' entry in an Estimate column indicates that no sample observations were available to compute an estimate.
2. An '-' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An '+' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An 'N' entry in an Estimate column indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.