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This is an overview of major demographic findings reported by the Census Bureau since January 1995. 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.

The number of currently divorced persons has quadrupled since 1970.

In 1994, there were 75 million unmarried¹ adults in the Nation, compared with 38 million in 1970. Unmarried persons represented 39 percent of all adults (ages 18 and older) in 1994, up from 28 percent in 1970.

Divorced persons were the fastest growing segment of the unmarried population; these persons quadrupled in number from 4 million in 1970 to 17 million in 1994. Divorced persons who had not remarried represented 9 percent of all adults in 1994 (figure 1).

Never-married persons, who represented the largest segment of the unmarried in 1994 (59 percent), more than doubled in size from 21 million in 1970 to 44 million in 1994. In fact, during this period, the proportion of persons ages 30 to 34 who had never married tripled from 6 to 20 percent for women and from 9 to 30 percent for men. Never-married persons represented 23 percent of all adults in 1994.

In 1994, the estimated median age at first marriage was 24.5 years for women and 26.7 years for men.² The median age at first marriage has risen more

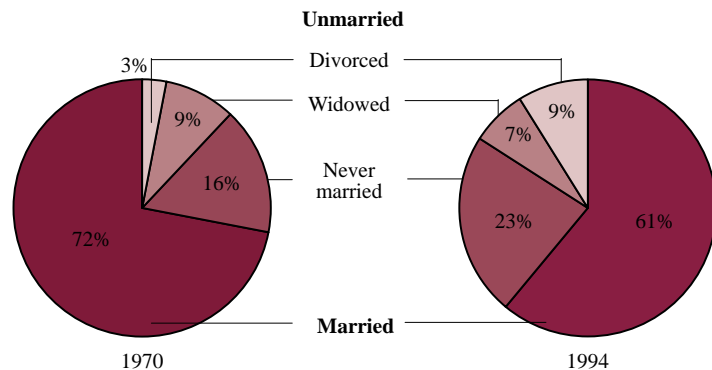
¹ "Unmarried" includes those who have never married plus those who are currently divorced or widowed.

² Median age at first marriage is the age by which half of the people who will ever marry have married.

How We're Changing

Demographic State of the Nation: 1996

Figure 1.
Marital Status of Persons 18 Years and Older: 1970 and 1994



than 3 years for men and women since 1975.

The percent foreign born³ in the United States is at its highest level since before World War II.

Foreign-born persons (i.e., immigrants) represented 9 percent (23 million) of the United States population in 1994. During this century, the percent foreign born has ranged from a high of 15 percent in 1910 to a low of 5 percent in 1970. Since 1970, however, the percent foreign born has steadily increased. In the past 5 years, on average, more immigrants came to the United States per year than came per year during the entire 1980's.

Among the foreign born in 1994, 68 percent were White, 7 percent were Black, and 21 percent were Asian and Pacific Islander. Nearly half (46 percent) of all immigrants were Hispanic.⁴ Mexicans comprised the largest group of im-

³ Natives are persons born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or an outlying area of the United States, such as Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands, and persons who were born in a foreign country but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen. Foreign-born persons are all others born outside of the United States.

⁴ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. These data do not include persons living in Puerto Rico.

migrants (6 million) and Filipinos the second largest (1 million).

California was the State with the largest immigrant population in 1994 (8 million). These immigrants comprised over one-third of all immigrants to the United States and nearly one-fourth of all California residents. The States with the second and third largest immigrant populations were New York (3 million) and Florida (2 million).

Americans are not moving as often as they were in the mid-1980's.

Between March 1993 and March 1994, 43 million Americans, or 17 percent of persons 1 year old and over, moved from one residence to another. This was not significantly different from the 1992-93 mobility rate, but was well below the mobility rate of 20 percent during 1984-85.

Local movers (persons who moved within the same county) numbered 27 million, representing 62 percent of all movers between March 1993 and March 1994. Longer-distance movers (persons who moved from one county to another within the United States) amounted to 15 million, representing 35 percent of all movers. Among the longer-distance

movers, 8 million moved between counties in the same State, and 7 million moved from one State to another. Movers into the United States from abroad numbered 1 million.

Typically, among persons 20 years and over, as age increases moving rates decline. In 1994, the highest moving rate was for persons ages 20 to 24 (36 percent). The lowest moving rate was for persons ages 75 to 84 (5 percent), but this was not significantly different from the rate for persons ages 85 and older (6 percent).

Moving rates also varied by race and Hispanic origin. Whites had lower overall moving rates (16 percent) than either Blacks (20 percent) or Hispanics (22 percent). The age structure of these populations contributed to these differences. The median age of Blacks (28.6) and Hispanics (26.4) was lower than that for Whites (34.9).

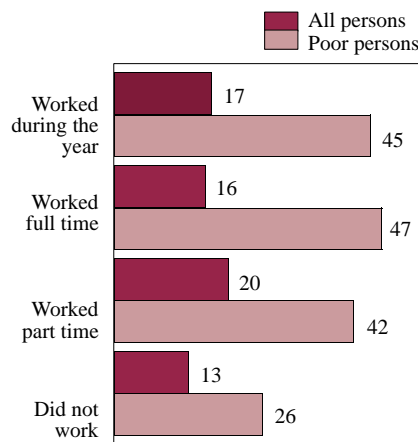
About 40 million people do not have health insurance.

In 1994, 40 million persons, or 15 percent of the population, did not have some type of health insurance. The proportion of poor persons without coverage (29 percent) was almost double that of the total population.

Seventy percent of all persons were covered by a private insurance plan for some or all of calendar year 1994. Insured persons also were covered by Medicaid (12 percent), Medicare (13 percent), or military health care (4 percent). Since many persons carry coverage from more than one type of health insurance plan, the figures for the insured add up to more than the 85 percent of the population that are, in fact, covered by some health insurance.

In 1994, 20 percent of part-time workers did not have health insurance coverage, compared with 16 percent of full-time workers and 13 percent of persons who did not work. Full-time workers were more likely than part-time workers to be covered through their employer; nonworkers were more likely than workers to be covered by government health programs such as

Figure 2.
Percent of Persons Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Work Status: 1994



Medicaid and Medicare. For each of these groups, the percent uninsured was much higher for poor persons (figure 2).

Single-parent families spend less on child care than married-couple families, but they spend a larger proportion of their monthly income on child care.

In fall 1993, there were 9.9 million children under age 5 who needed child care while their mothers worked.⁵ Families paid an average of \$74 per week for child care for their preschool-age children in 1993 (8 percent of their monthly family income).

Single-parent families spent about \$61 per week on child care for their preschoolers, compared with \$78 for married-couple families. Single-parent families, however, spent a larger share of their family income on child care (12 percent) than married-couple families (7 percent). Similarly, poor families paid less per week for child care than nonpoor families (\$50 versus \$76), but they spent a larger proportion of their income on child care (18 versus 7 percent).

Care for these preschoolers was provided primarily by relatives (41 percent); organized facilities, such as nursery schools and preschools (30 percent); and family day care providers⁶ (17 percent). The average weekly cost

per arrangement paid by families was \$42 for relatives, about \$65 for in-home babysitters and organized facilities, and \$52 for family day care providers.

Custodial mothers receive more child support than custodial fathers but are still more likely to be poor.

In spring 1992, there were 12 million custodial parents of children under age 21 (whose other parent was not living in the household) — 10 million were custodial mothers and 2 million were custodial fathers. As of the survey date (spring 1992), child support was awarded to 6 million (54 percent) of these custodial parents. A larger proportion of custodial mothers had child support awards than custodial fathers (56 percent compared with 41 percent).

Of the 6 million custodial parents with child support awards in 1992, 5 million were supposed to receive child support payments in 1991. About 76 percent of the women and 63 percent of the men received full or partial payment; only about one-half (52 percent of mothers and 43 percent of fathers) received the full amount due.

On average, custodial mothers received \$3,011 in child support in 1991, constituting 17 percent of their income. The comparable figure for custodial fathers was \$2,292, comprising only 7 percent of their income. Although child support payments to mothers were larger on average than payments to fathers, mothers had lower average incomes (\$18,144 versus \$33,579) and higher poverty rates (35 versus 13 percent) than fathers.

Median household income is unchanged in 1994.⁷

Median household income was \$32,264 in 1994, not different in real terms from 1993 (\$32,041), but about \$2,200 less than the 1989 prerecessionary median income of \$34,445 (in 1994

⁵ Children of unmarried fathers are excluded from these data.

⁶ Family day care providers are nonrelatives caring for children in the provider's home.

⁷All 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.

dollars). The South experienced a 2.9 percent increase in real median household income from \$29,169 in 1993 to \$30,021 in 1994 (the first annual increase since 1986). Even with this increase, the South still had the lowest median of the four regions in 1994. The median income for households was \$34,926 in the Northeast; \$32,505 in the Midwest; and \$34,452 in the West.⁸

From 1993 to 1994, the real median earnings of males ages 15 and older who worked year-round, full-time declined from \$31,186 to \$30,854. This was the second consecutive year that real median earnings for men declined. Median earnings for comparable females was \$22,205 in 1994, unchanged from 1993.

In 1994, the share of aggregate household income received by the top quintile⁹ was 49.1 percent, up from 43.5 percent in 1974 (but not different from 1993). Since 1974, the share of aggregate household income received by the four lower quintiles has declined (figure 3).

Both the number and percentage of poor persons dropped in 1994.

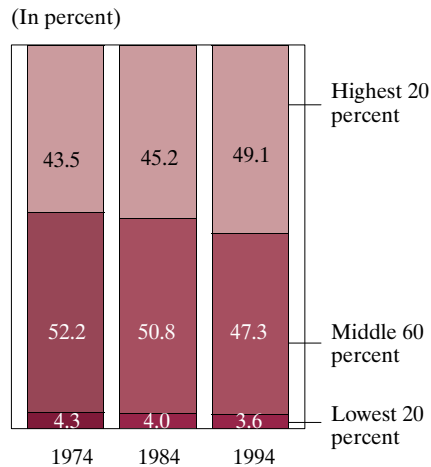
The number of persons below the official government poverty level dropped from 39.3 million in 1993 to 38.1 million in 1994. In addition, the poverty rate decreased from 15.1 to 14.5 percent. This is the first time since 1983-84 that both the number and the percentage of poor persons declined from one year to the next.

The number and percentage of poor persons varied by race and Hispanic origin. While the number of poor Hispanics increased from 8.1 million in 1993 to 8.4 million in 1994, the number of poor Blacks decreased from 10.9 to 10.2 million. The number of poor Whites and poor Asians and Pacific Islanders, however, showed no change (25.4 million and 974,000, respectively). The poverty rate decreased for Whites and Blacks,

⁸ The difference between the median household incomes of the Northeast and West regions was not statistically significant.

⁹ Households are ranked from lowest to highest according to household income, then divided into five equally-sized groups.

Figure 3.
Share of Aggregate Household Income,
by Quintile: 1974, 1984, and 1994



but did not change significantly for Hispanics¹⁰ and Asians and Pacific Islanders during this period (figure 4).

The poverty rate for related children under age 6 varied widely by type of family. Overall, the poverty rate for these children was 24.5 percent in 1994. However, almost two-thirds (63.7 percent) of related children under age 6 in families maintained by women with no husband present were poor, compared with only 12.3 percent of comparable children in married-couple families.

The homeownership rate is unchanged in 1994.

In 1994, 64 percent of occupied housing units were owner occupied, unchanged from the revised 1993 rate. The homeownership rate ranged from a low of 15 percent for householders under age 25, to a high of about 80 percent for householders ages 60 to 74.¹¹ For persons ages 75 and older, the rate was 74 percent.

Married-couple families were much more likely to own their own homes than other types of family or nonfamily households. The homeownership rate for married-couple families in 1994 was 79 percent, compared with 53 percent for male householders (no wife

¹⁰ The 1994 Black and Hispanic poverty rates were not statistically different.

¹¹ "Householder" refers to the person (or one of the persons) who owns or rents this house or apartment.

present) and 44 percent for female householders (no husband present).

In 1994, about 50 percent of one-person households owned their own homes. Among persons living alone, the homeownership rate was 43 percent for men and 55 percent for women.

There were 111 million housing units in the United States in 1994; 63 million were owner occupied; 36 million were renter occupied, and 12 million were vacant.

Although our homes are getting older, they are in better condition than in the past.

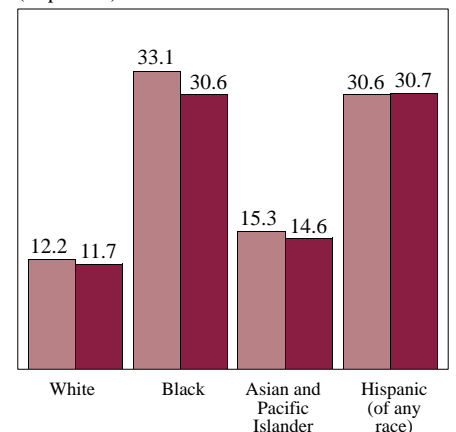
In 1993, the median age of the Nation's housing units was 28 years, an increase of 6 years since 1973. In 1993, our housing units were more likely to have complete kitchen facilities than in 1973 (99 versus 98 percent), complete plumbing facilities (98 versus 96 percent), central heat (90 versus 85 percent), and central air conditioning (44 versus 17 percent). They were less likely to be crowded (3 versus 6 percent having more than one person per room), to have peeling paint (4 versus 5 percent), and to have open cracks (5 versus 6 percent).

In 1973, 55 percent of occupied homes were heated by piped gas, 25 percent by fuel oil, and 10 percent by electricity. By 1993, gas still heated most homes (51 percent), but a higher percentage of homes were heated by electricity (27 percent) than by fuel oil (12 percent). The installation of heat pumps in many homes is the main reason for this reversal.

Housing also has become less affordable. Median family income (in 1993

Figure 4.
Poverty Rates, by Race and
Hispanic Origin: 1993 and 1994

(In percent)



dollars) of homeowners, for example, declined 2 percent to \$36,500 from 1973 to 1993; at the same time, home values rose 10 percent to \$86,500.¹² Renters experienced the same patterns in their family incomes and monthly gross rents (figure 5).

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Figure 5a.
Median Family Income and Median Home Value for Homeowners: 1973 and 1993

(In 1993 dollars)

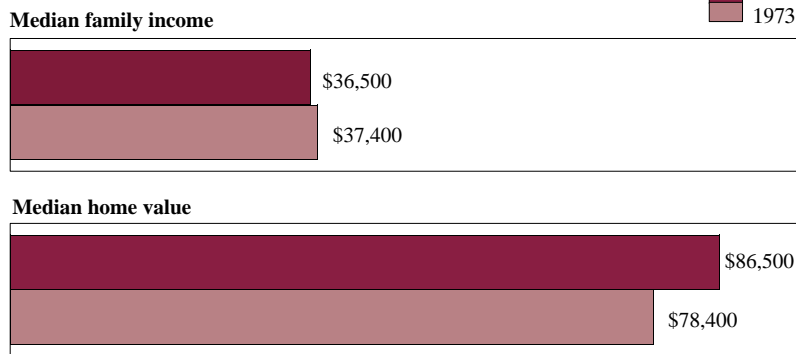
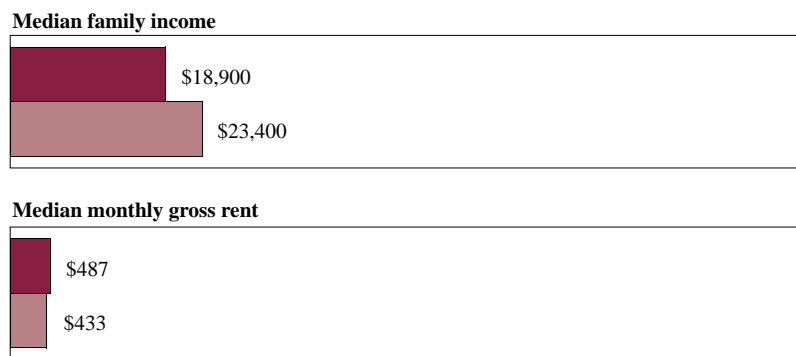


Figure 5b.
Median Family Income and Median Monthly Gross Rent for Renters: 1973 and 1993

(In 1993 dollars)



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 Census Bureau statistical standards. Further information can be found in detailed reports.

¹² Family income is shown because data for household income were not available from the American Housing Survey in 1973.

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