

# the condition of education 2008



## INDICATOR 6

# Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Elementary/Secondary Education

## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

*The percentage of 5- to 17-year-olds whose parents had completed a bachelor's degree or higher increased from 19 percent in 1979 to 35 percent in 2006.*

The percentage of school-age children (ages 5–17) whose parents had completed a bachelor's degree or higher increased from 19 percent in 1979 to 35 percent in 2006 (see supplemental table 6-1); this same measure increased for White children (from 22 to 44 percent), Black children (from 5 to 21 percent), and Hispanic children (from 7 to 15 percent). In 2006, a higher percentage of parents of White children had completed a bachelor's degree or higher than did parents of Black or Hispanic children.

The percentage of school-age children living in two-parent households decreased from 75 percent in 1979 to 67 percent in 2006; however, this percentage has remained between 67 and 69 percent since 1995. Another 23 percent of children lived only with their mother and 5 percent were in father-only households in 2006. Higher percentages of White (75 percent) and Hispanic (65 percent) children lived in two-parent households than did their Black (35 percent) peers in 2006. One-half of Black children lived in mother-only households, compared with about one-fourth of Hispanic children and 16 percent of White children.

The percentage of school-age children living in families below the poverty threshold increased from 15 percent in 1979 to 21 percent in 1995, and then decreased to 16 percent in 2002. In 2006, a larger percentage of children were living in poor households than in 1979 (17 vs. 15 percent), but both were lower than the high in 1995 of 21 percent. This same general pattern was evident across racial/ethnic groups. The percentage of White children in poor households increased from 9 percent in 1979 to 12 percent in 1995, and then decreased to 10 percent in 2006. The percentage of Black children in poor households increased from 41 percent in 1979 to 44 percent in 1992, and then decreased to 33 percent in 2006. Among Hispanics, this percentage increased from 27 percent in 1979 to 40 percent in 1995, and then decreased to 26 percent in 2006.

In 2006, some 95 percent of school-age children were born in the United States, not measurably different from the percentage in 1995 (when citizenship data were first collected). A higher percentage of Hispanics (86 percent) were born in the United States in 2006 than in 1995 (81 percent), but no measurable differences were detected for Whites or Blacks over this same period.

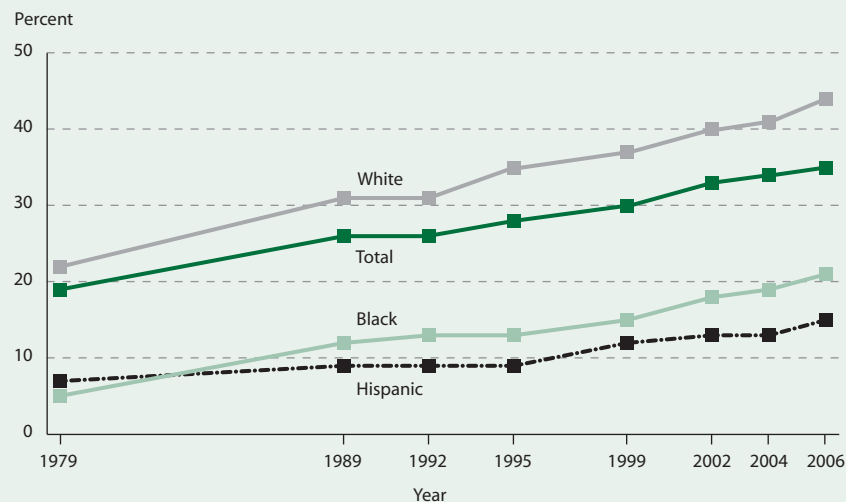
NOTE: Included in the totals but not shown separately are estimates for those from other racial/ethnic categories. In 1994, the survey instrument for the Current Population Survey (CPS) was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty levels. Some estimates are revised from previous publications. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years, 1979–2006.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 2  
Supplemental Table 6-1

**FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS: Percentage of 5- to 17-year-olds whose parents had attained a bachelor's degree or higher, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1979–2006**



## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

**Table 6-1. Percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years, 1979–2006**

Family characteristic	1979	1989	1992	1995	1999	2002	2004	2006
<b>Total U.S. population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	—	14.9	14.0	12.8	12.6	10.8	10.7	11.0
High school diploma	—	34.2	33.0	28.9	27.5	26.2	25.3	24.7
Some college	—	25.0	27.3	30.1	29.9	29.9	30.3	29.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	19.0	25.8	25.7	28.2	30.0	33.1	33.7	35.2
Family type <sup>1</sup>								
Two-parent household	74.8	71.8	70.1	68.5	67.2	68.1	66.9	66.8
Mother-only household	17.8	21.8	23.1	23.0	23.5	22.9	23.3	23.2
Father-only household	2.2	3.0	3.2	3.5	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.7
Poverty status <sup>2</sup>								
Poor	14.7	18.5	20.6	20.8	18.8	15.6	16.9	16.9
Near-poor	19.3	20.9	22.0	21.8	20.7	20.5	20.5	20.8
Nonpoor	66.0	60.7	57.4	57.4	60.5	63.9	62.6	62.3
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	—	—	—	95.6	96.0	95.3	95.3	95.0
Naturalized U.S. citizen	—	—	—	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8
Non-U.S. citizen	—	—	—	4.1	3.4	4.0	3.9	4.2
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia	—	—	—	5.5	5.1	5.6	5.5	5.9
First generation <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	12.7	14.6	15.5	16.3	18.0
Second generation or more <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	81.7	80.3	78.9	78.2	76.0
<b>Total White population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	—	7.6	6.9	5.5	5.2	4.5	3.8	4.0
High school diploma	—	34.8	32.6	28.5	26.2	24.2	23.1	22.0
Some college	—	26.9	29.9	31.4	31.8	31.3	31.8	30.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	22.3	30.7	30.6	34.5	36.8	39.9	41.3	43.7
Family type <sup>1</sup>								
Two-parent household	80.7	79.9	78.3	77.2	75.3	75.8	75.1	74.8
Mother-only household	13.2	15.1	16.4	16.3	17.0	16.6	16.5	16.4
Father-only household	2.2	3.0	3.2	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.0
Poverty status <sup>2</sup>								
Poor	8.9	10.3	12.4	12.1	10.8	9.5	9.7	9.9
Near-poor	16.6	19.1	19.6	19.3	16.4	16.1	16.1	15.4
Nonpoor	74.5	70.5	68.0	68.6	72.7	74.4	74.2	74.7
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	—	—	—	98.8	99.0	98.6	98.4	98.4
Naturalized U.S. citizen	—	—	—	#	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Non-U.S. citizen	—	—	—	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.2
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia	—	—	—	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.1
First generation <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	5.6	5.8	6.3	6.0	6.0
Second generation or more <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	92.4	92.5	91.6	91.9	91.9

See notes at end of table.

## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

**Table 6-1. Percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years, 1979–2006—Continued**

Family characteristic	1979	1989	1992	1995	1999	2002	2004	2006
<b>Total Black population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	—	23.6	22.5	19.3	16.7	14.0	13.6	13.3
High school diploma	—	39.4	40.6	35.3	36.1	35.3	34.9	33.0
Some college	—	24.6	24.3	32.5	31.7	32.8	33.0	32.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	4.9	12.3	12.7	12.9	15.5	18.0	18.5	21.2
Family type <sup>1</sup>								
Two-parent household	43.8	38.8	37.5	34.2	35.5	37.7	36.1	35.1
Mother-only household	43.7	48.3	50.5	49.7	49.7	47.8	48.3	50.2
Father-only household	2.4	3.3	2.9	3.8	3.8	5.3	5.0	4.2
Poverty status <sup>2</sup>								
Poor	40.6	41.9	43.8	41.9	36.0	29.0	33.4	33.3
Near-poor	28.4	22.7	24.1	25.5	27.9	26.8	27.3	26.8
Nonpoor	31.1	35.4	32.1	32.5	36.0	44.2	39.4	39.9
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	—	—	—	98.3	98.1	97.1	97.5	97.1
Naturalized U.S. citizen	—	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Non-U.S. citizen	—	—	—	1.5	1.6	2.7	2.1	2.5
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia	—	—	—	2.7	2.5	3.5	3.1	3.3
First generation <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	5.1	6.4	7.8	8.9	9.1
Second generation or more <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	92.1	91.1	88.8	88.1	87.6

See notes at end of table.

## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

**Table 6-1. Percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years, 1979–2006—Continued**

Family characteristic	1979	1989	1992	1995	1999	2002	2004	2006
<b>Total Hispanic population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	—	47.8	48.2	43.5	40.8	38.0	36.7	32.4
High school diploma	—	27.3	27.2	25.4	26.3	27.7	27.1	28.8
Some college	—	16.0	15.8	22.3	21.1	21.7	23.3	23.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	7.2	8.8	8.8	8.9	11.9	12.6	13.0	14.9
Family type <sup>1</sup>								
Two-parent household	71.6	64.9	63.5	63.0	63.4	64.4	63.6	65.3
Mother-only household	17.2	28.9	28.2	26.9	26.2	25.6	26.1	24.5
Father-only household	2.1	2.8	3.3	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.0
Poverty status <sup>2</sup>								
Poor	26.9	34.5	38.3	39.8	33.6	28.8	29.1	26.5
Near-poor	31.9	29.4	33.0	30.7	31.8	32.5	31.5	32.8
Nonpoor	41.2	36.2	28.7	29.5	34.6	38.7	39.3	40.7
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	—	—	—	81.4	86.3	83.5	85.4	85.9
Naturalized U.S. citizen	—	—	—	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.9	1.2
Non-U.S. citizen	—	—	—	17.5	12.6	14.9	13.8	12.9
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia								
First generation <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	21.2	16.6	18.5	16.4	16.4
Second generation or more <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	28.6	34.2	28.5	31.3	31.1

— Not available.

# Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Detail does not sum to total because a small percentage of respondents were not in the survey universe or had no parents present in the home.

<sup>2</sup> *Poor* is defined to include families below the poverty threshold, *near-poor* is defined to include families at 100–199 percent of the poverty threshold, and *nonpoor* is defined to include families at 200 percent or more than the poverty threshold. See *supplemental note 1* for more information.

<sup>3</sup> *First generation* describes an individual born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia with at least one parent born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

<sup>4</sup> *Second generation or more* describes an individual born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia whose parents were both born inside the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

NOTE: Prior to 1992, *high school completers* referred to those who completed 12 years of schooling, and *some college* meant completing 1 or more years of college; beginning in 1992, *high school completers* referred to those who received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, and *some college* meant completing any college at all. Included in the totals but not shown separately are estimates for those from other racial/ethnic categories. In 1994, the survey instrument for the Current Population Survey (CPS) was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion. Some estimates are revised from previous publications. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years, 1979–2006.

## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

**Table S6-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years, 1979–2006**

Family characteristic	1979	1989	1992	1995	1999	2002	2004	2006
<b>Total U.S. population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	†	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.11
High school diploma	†	0.34	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.26	0.25	0.25
Some college	†	0.25	0.27	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.29
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.40	0.26	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.33	0.34	0.35
Family type								
Two-parent household	0.75	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67
Mother-only household	0.18	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.23
Father-only household	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
Poverty status								
Poor	0.15	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.17
Near-poor	0.19	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.21
Nonpoor	0.66	0.61	0.57	0.57	0.61	0.64	0.63	0.62
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	†	†	†	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	0.95
Naturalized U.S. citizen	†	†	†	#	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Non-U.S. citizen	†	†	†	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia								
First generation	†	†	†	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.18
Second generation or more	†	†	†	0.82	0.80	0.79	0.78	0.76
<b>Total White population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	†	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04
High school diploma	†	0.35	0.33	0.29	0.26	0.24	0.23	0.22
Some college	†	0.27	0.30	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.30
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.49	0.31	0.31	0.35	0.37	0.40	0.41	0.44
Family type								
Two-parent household	0.81	0.80	0.78	0.77	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.75
Mother-only household	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16
Father-only household	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
Poverty status								
Poor	0.09	0.10	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.10	0.10
Near-poor	0.17	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.15
Nonpoor	0.75	0.71	0.68	0.69	0.73	0.74	0.74	0.75
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	†	†	†	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98
Naturalized U.S. citizen	†	†	†	†	#	#	#	#
Non-U.S. citizen	†	†	†	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia								
First generation	†	†	†	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Second generation or more	†	†	†	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92

See notes at end of table.

## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

**Table S6-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years, 1979–2006—Continued**

Family characteristic	1979	1989	1992	1995	1999	2002	2004	2006
<b>Total Black population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	†	0.24	0.22	0.19	0.17	0.14	0.14	0.13
High school diploma	†	0.39	0.41	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	0.33
Some college	†	0.25	0.24	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.33
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.59	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.21
Family type								
Two-parent household	0.44	0.39	0.38	0.34	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.35
Mother-only household	0.44	0.48	0.51	0.50	0.50	0.48	0.48	0.50
Father-only household	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.04
Poverty status								
Poor	0.41	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.36	0.29	0.33	0.33
Near-poor	0.28	0.23	0.24	0.26	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.27
Nonpoor	0.31	0.35	0.32	0.33	0.36	0.44	0.39	0.40
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	†	†	†	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.97
Naturalized U.S. citizen	†	†	†	#	#	#	#	#
Non-U.S. citizen	†	†	†	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia								
First generation	†	†	†	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.09
Second generation or more	†	†	†	0.92	0.91	0.89	0.88	0.88

See notes at end of table.

## Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

**Table S6-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years, 1979–2006—Continued**

Family characteristic	1979	1989	1992	1995	1999	2002	2004	2006
<b>Total Hispanic population</b>								
Parents' education								
Less than high school	†	0.48	0.48	0.44	0.41	0.38	0.37	0.32
High school diploma	†	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.27	0.29
Some college	†	0.16	0.16	0.22	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.24
Bachelor's degree or higher	1.06	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.15
Family type								
Two-parent household	0.72	0.65	0.64	0.63	0.63	0.64	0.64	0.65
Mother-only household	0.17	0.29	0.28	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.25
Father-only household	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Poverty status								
Poor	0.27	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.34	0.29	0.29	0.26
Near-poor	0.32	0.29	0.33	0.31	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33
Nonpoor	0.41	0.36	0.29	0.30	0.35	0.39	0.39	0.41
Citizenship								
U.S.-born	†	†	†	0.81	0.86	0.84	0.85	0.86
Naturalized U.S. citizen	†	†	†	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Non-U.S. citizen	†	†	†	0.17	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.13
Immigration status								
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia								
First generation	†	†	†	0.50	0.49	0.53	0.52	0.53
Second generation or more	†	†	†	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.31	0.31

† Not applicable.

# Rounds to zero.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years, 1979–2006.