

the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 2

Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. 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 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>) 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 level of parental education has increased for children in the past 20 years, though the parents of Black and Hispanic children continue to have less education than their White peers.

A child's family environment affects many aspects of that child's life, including achievement in school. From 1979 to 2001, the educational attainment of children's parents increased. The percentage of 5- to 17-year-olds whose parents had at least completed high school increased from 76 percent in 1979 to 88 percent in 2001, and the percentage of children whose parents had a bachelor's degree or higher increased from 19 percent to 31 percent. The parents of Black children had the largest increase in the percentage completing high school or higher, and the parents of White children had the largest increase in the percentage attaining a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2001, the parents of White children were more likely to have completed high school or higher than their Black and Hispanic peers, and the parents of Black children were more likely to have completed high school or higher than the parents of Hispanic children.

The poverty rate of school-aged children in 2001 was about 17 percent, not statistically different from the percentage in 1976, despite changes throughout the period. The percentage of children classified as "nonpoor" (twice the poverty

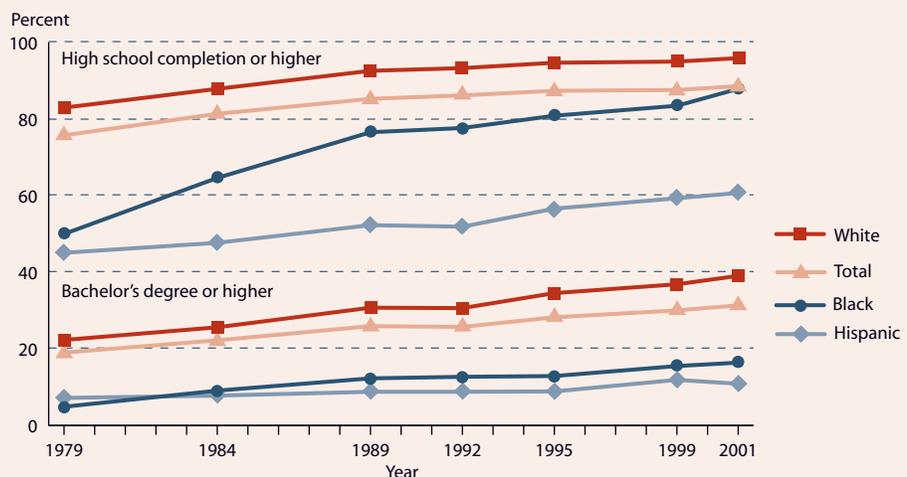
level or more) increased and the percentage classified as "near-poor" (100–199 percent of the poverty level) decreased from 1976 to 2001. There were smaller percentages of Black and White children in poverty in 2001 than in 1976. Black children experienced the largest decline in poverty, from 50 percent in 1976 to 31 percent in 2001. Black and Hispanic children in 2001 were more likely than White children to be impoverished.

The past 25 years have seen a decrease in the percentage of two-parent households, from 83 percent in 1976 to 68 percent in 2001. White and Hispanic children ages 5–17 in 2001 were more likely than their Black peers to be living in a two-parent household. The percentage of children speaking a language other than English at home increased from 8 percent in 1979 to 17 percent in 1999 (the last year for which data are available). This increase is due in part to the increased Hispanic population in the United States: 71 percent of Hispanic children ages 5–17 spoke a language other than English at home in 1999, compared with 4 percent of White and Black children (see supplemental table 2-1).

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. Information on parents' educational attainment is available only for those parents who lived in the same household with their child. See *supplemental note 2* for more information. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. Other race/ethnicities are included in the total but are not shown separately.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, various years, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS: Percentage of 5- to 17-year-olds whose parents had at least completed high school or attained a bachelor's degree or higher, by race/ethnicity: Selected years 1979–2001



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 2
Supplemental Table 2-1
NCES 93–699
Grissmer et al. 1994

Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

Table 2-1. Percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years 1976–2001

Selected family characteristics	1976	1979	1984	1989	1992	1995	1999	2001
Total U.S. population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	75.6	81.2	85.1	86.0	87.2	87.4	88.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	19.0	22.2	25.8	25.7	28.2	30.0	31.3
Family type ¹								
Two-parent household	83.2	74.8	71.0	71.8	70.1	68.5	67.2	68.3
Father-only household	1.1	2.2	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.5	4.3	4.2
Mother-only household	13.3	17.8	20.5	21.8	23.1	23.0	23.5	22.1
Poverty status ²								
Poor	16.1	14.7	19.7	18.5	20.6	20.8	18.8	16.7
Near-poor	27.3	19.3	21.3	20.9	22.0	21.8	20.7	20.7
Nonpoor	56.6	66.0	59.0	60.7	57.4	57.4	60.5	62.7
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	91.5	—	87.6	85.7	85.9	83.3	—
Language other than English	—	8.3	—	12.4	14.3	14.1	16.7	—
Total Black population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	49.9	64.5	76.4	77.5	80.7	83.3	87.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	4.9	9.1	12.3	12.7	12.9	15.5	16.4
Family type ¹								
Two-parent household	49.0	43.8	42.0	38.8	37.5	34.2	35.5	38.0
Father-only household	1.4 [!]	2.4	3.8	3.3	2.9	3.8	3.8	4.6
Mother-only household	38.5	43.7	42.9	48.3	50.5	49.7	49.7	46.2
Poverty status ²								
Poor	49.7	40.6	45.8	41.9	43.8	41.9	36.0	30.5
Near-poor	26.4	28.4	26.4	22.7	24.1	25.5	27.9	28.1
Nonpoor	24.0	31.1	27.9	35.4	32.1	32.5	36.0	41.3
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	—	—	—	95.7	97.0	95.5	—
Language other than English	—	—	—	—	4.3	3.0	4.5	—

See notes at end of table.

Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

Table 2-1. Percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years 1976–2001—Continued

Selected family characteristics	1976	1979	1984	1989	1992	1995	1999	2001
Total White population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	82.8	87.7	92.4	93.1	94.5	94.8	95.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	22.3	25.6	30.7	30.6	34.5	36.8	39.0
Family type ¹								
Two-parent household	86.7	80.7	77.7	79.9	78.3	77.2	75.3	76.4
Father-only household	1.1!	2.2	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	4.5	4.4
Mother-only household	10.7	13.2	15.6	15.1	16.4	16.3	17.0	16.0
Poverty status ²								
Poor	11.1	8.9	12.7	10.3	12.4	12.1	10.8	9.7
Near-poor	26.5	16.6	19.3	19.1	19.6	19.3	16.4	15.4
Nonpoor	62.4	74.5	68.1	70.5	68.0	68.6	72.7	74.9
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	—	—	—	96.2	96.4	96.1	—
Language other than English	—	—	—	—	3.8	3.6	3.9	—
Total Hispanic population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	45.0	47.6	52.2	51.8	56.5	59.2	60.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	7.2	7.8	8.8	8.8	8.9	11.9	10.9
Family type ¹								
Two-parent household	87.2	71.6	60.4	64.9	63.5	63.0	63.4	64.6
Father-only household	0.4!	2.1!	3.1!	2.8	3.3	4.3	3.8	3.6
Mother-only household	10.9	17.2	28.3	28.9	28.2	26.9	26.2	23.6
Poverty status ²								
Poor	24.0	26.9	34.9	34.5	38.3	39.8	33.6	28.2
Near-poor	35.7	31.9	33.0	29.4	33.0	30.7	31.8	33.5
Nonpoor	40.2	41.2	32.1	36.2	28.7	29.5	34.6	38.2
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	—	—	—	23.4	26.1	29.1	—
Language other than English	—	—	—	—	76.6	73.9	70.9	—

—Not available.

!Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

¹Detail 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.

²"Near-poor" is defined as 100–199 percent of the poverty level, and "nonpoor" is defined as twice the poverty level or more. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty.

NOTE: Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. Other race/ethnicities are included in the total but are not shown separately. Information on parents' highest level of education is available only for those parents who lived in the same household with their child. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for more information. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: McArthur, E.K. (1993). *Language Characteristics and Schooling in the United States, A Changing Picture: 1979 and 1989* (NCES 93–699), figure 2, and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March, October, and November Supplements, various years, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

Table S2. Standard errors for the percentage of 5- to 17-year-olds whose parents had at least completed high school or attained a bachelor's degree or higher, by race/ethnicity: Selected years 1979–2001

Parents' education	1979	1984	1989	1992	1995	1999	2001
	Total						
High school completion or higher	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
	Black						
High school completion or higher	1.4	1.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9
	White						
High school completion or higher	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
	Hispanic						
High school completion or higher	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, various years, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

Table S2-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years 1976–2001

Selected family characteristics	1976	1979	1984	1989	1992	1995	1999	2001
Total U.S. population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	0.44	0.46	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	0.40	0.48	0.32	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.36
Family type								
Two-parent household	0.65	0.44	0.51	0.33	0.31	0.33	0.34	0.35
Father-only household	0.18	0.15	0.19	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15
Mother-only household	0.59	0.39	0.46	0.30	0.29	0.29	0.31	0.32
Poverty status								
Poor	0.61	0.36	0.45	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29
Near-poor	0.76	0.40	0.47	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.31
Nonpoor	0.85	0.48	0.56	0.35	0.34	0.34	0.35	0.37
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	0.31	—	0.39	0.24	0.26	0.28	—
Language other than English	—	0.31	—	0.39	0.24	0.26	0.28	—
Total Black population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	1.38	1.60	0.81	0.80	0.76	0.76	0.70
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	0.59	0.94	0.68	0.62	0.64	0.73	0.85
Family type								
Two-parent household	2.78	1.34	1.56	0.92	0.87	0.87	0.92	1.01
Father-only household	0.57	0.42	0.60	0.33	0.31	0.34	0.37	0.41
Mother-only household	2.73	1.34	1.54	0.94	0.90	0.92	0.96	1.02
Poverty status								
Poor	2.79	1.33	1.56	0.92	0.89	0.90	0.92	0.93
Near-poor	2.45	1.21	1.36	0.78	0.77	0.80	0.86	0.92
Nonpoor	2.37	1.26	1.40	0.92	0.84	0.86	0.93	1.02
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	—	—	—	0.36	0.32	0.41	—
Language other than English	—	—	—	—	0.36	0.32	0.41	—

See notes at end of table.

Family Characteristics of 5- to 17-Year-Olds

Table S2-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of 5- to 17-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and selected family characteristics: Selected years 1976–2001—Continued

Selected family characteristics	1976	1979	1984	1989	1992	1995	1999	2001
Total White population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	0.44	0.44	0.22	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.19
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	0.49	0.58	0.39	0.37	0.40	0.42	0.46
Family type								
Two-parent household	0.67	0.46	0.54	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.37	0.39
Father-only household	0.21	0.17	0.21	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.18	0.19
Mother-only household	0.61	0.39	0.47	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.34
Poverty status								
Poor	0.57	0.33	0.43	0.25	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.28
Near-poor	0.86	0.42	0.51	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33
Nonpoor	0.94	0.50	0.61	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.38	0.40
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	—	—	—	0.15	0.16	0.17	—
Language other than English	—	—	—	—	0.15	0.16	0.17	—
Total Hispanic population								
Parents' education								
High school completion or higher	—	2.05	2.10	1.36	1.08	1.08	1.01	0.97
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	1.06	1.10	0.74	0.61	0.62	0.67	0.62
Family type								
Two-parent household	1.73	1.79	1.97	1.27	1.01	1.01	0.96	0.91
Father-only household	0.19	0.56	0.70	0.42	0.37	0.40	0.37	0.34
Mother-only household	1.65	1.49	1.80	1.21	0.94	0.92	0.87	0.81
Poverty status								
Poor	2.21	1.77	1.91	1.25	1.02	1.04	0.94	0.86
Near-poor	2.48	1.89	1.95	1.22	1.01	0.99	0.93	0.90
Nonpoor	2.56	1.98	1.87	1.29	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.93
Language spoken in the home								
English only	—	—	—	—	0.91	0.98	0.88	—
Language other than English	—	—	—	—	0.91	0.98	0.88	—

—Not available.

SOURCE: McArthur, E.K. (1993). *Language Characteristics and Schooling in the United States, A Changing Picture: 1979 and 1989* (NCES 93–699), figure 2, and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March, October, and November Supplements, various years, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).