



Child Population

Children constitute 25 percent of our nation's population—almost 74 million children, a number that has increased steadily for the past four decades. There are almost twice as many children as seniors. By 2050, the number of seniors will more than double while the number of children will grow more slowly; 23 percent of the population will be children, 20 percent will be seniors. Almost 44 percent of our nation's children are racial or ethnic minorities, who typically lag behind others on many indicators of well-being. In 15 years it is projected that minorities will constitute more than half our nation's child population.

- Of the almost 74 million children in America: 42 million (56.2%) are White, non-Hispanic; 16 million (21.8%) are Hispanic; 11 million (15.2%) are Black; 3 million (4.4%) are Asian/Pacific Islander; and 936,000 (1.3%) are American Indian/Alaska Native.
- Already the majority of children in the District of Columbia and seven states – Hawaii, New Mexico, California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada and Florida – are children of color.
- More than half of our children live in nine states: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.
- More than one in four children are under five and more than one in five are teenagers 14–17.
- Vermont has the lowest proportion of children (20.8%); Utah has the highest (31.0%).

The child population in the U.S. is becoming majority minority.

Where Children Live

States where the majority of children in each group live:

	All Children	White, non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic	American Indian, Alaska Native	Asian, Pacific Islander
Arizona					X	
California	X	X	X	X	X	X
Florida	X	X	X	X		
Georgia	X	X	X			
Illinois	X	X	X			
Maryland		X				
Michigan	X	X				
New Jersey					X	
New Mexico				X		
New York	X	X	X			X
North Carolina		X				
Ohio	X	X				
Oklahoma				X		
Pennsylvania	X	X				
Texas	X	X	X	X	X	
Washington				X		

States Where a Majority of Children Are Racial or Ethnic Minorities, 2008

	Total number of children	Minority children	
		Number	Percent of total
Hawaii	285,243	231,898	81.3%
District of Columbia	112,016	89,661	80.0
New Mexico	502,450	357,673	71.2
California	9,364,530	6,540,398	69.8
Texas	6,725,771	4,249,231	63.2
Arizona	1,707,221	974,399	57.1
Nevada	667,801	376,018	56.3
Florida	4,004,271	2,016,462	50.4

More than one in four of the nearly 74 million children in the U.S. are preschoolers.

Child Population, by Age, 2008

	Total under age 18	Under age 5	Ages 5–13	Ages 14–17	Ages 5–17
Alabama	1,121,877	310,504	552,339	259,034	811,373
Alaska	179,876	52,083	85,640	42,153	127,793
Arizona	1,707,221	515,910	828,669	362,642	1,191,311
Arkansas	702,481	202,070	343,207	157,204	500,411
California	9,364,530	2,704,659	4,499,890	2,159,981	6,659,871
Colorado	1,207,135	358,280	587,154	261,701	848,855
Connecticut	812,213	211,637	403,658	196,918	600,576
Delaware	206,229	59,319	99,496	47,414	146,910
District of Columbia	112,016	36,352	50,439	25,225	75,664
Florida	4,004,271	1,140,516	1,938,695	925,060	2,863,755
Georgia	2,548,841	740,521	1,250,460	557,860	1,808,320
Hawaii	285,243	87,207	134,025	64,011	198,036
Idaho	412,640	121,746	201,192	89,702	290,894
Illinois	3,179,260	894,368	1,558,919	725,973	2,284,892
Indiana	1,584,681	443,089	780,199	361,393	1,141,592
Iowa	712,613	201,321	345,409	165,883	511,292
Kansas	700,485	202,529	342,134	155,822	497,956
Kentucky	1,008,064	284,601	493,536	229,927	723,463
Louisiana	1,107,973	310,716	542,341	254,916	797,257
Maine	274,867	71,459	133,656	69,752	203,408
Maryland	1,340,583	371,787	651,923	316,873	968,796
Massachusetts	1,427,033	383,568	701,752	341,713	1,043,465
Michigan	2,390,198	625,526	1,179,503	585,169	1,764,672
Minnesota	1,254,644	358,471	606,802	289,371	896,173
Mississippi	766,720	220,813	371,502	174,405	545,907
Missouri	1,421,469	399,450	690,476	331,543	1,022,019
Montana	220,358	61,114	106,088	53,156	159,244
Nebraska	446,995	132,092	215,265	99,638	314,903
Nevada	667,801	199,175	325,650	142,976	468,626
New Hampshire	293,358	75,297	144,235	73,826	218,061
New Jersey	2,047,582	557,421	1,011,656	478,505	1,490,161
New Mexico	502,450	148,323	241,326	112,801	354,127
New York	4,408,016	1,208,495	2,141,490	1,058,031	3,199,521
North Carolina	2,243,677	652,823	1,097,890	492,964	1,590,854
North Dakota	143,048	41,896	67,358	33,794	101,152
Ohio	2,730,377	743,750	1,340,492	646,135	1,986,627
Oklahoma	906,035	266,547	438,926	200,562	639,488
Oregon	867,575	243,483	424,167	199,925	624,092
Pennsylvania	2,762,004	737,462	1,345,341	679,201	2,024,542
Rhode Island	228,540	60,934	111,408	56,198	167,606
South Carolina	1,066,227	303,024	517,803	245,400	763,203
South Dakota	198,309	58,566	94,438	45,305	139,743
Tennessee	1,478,594	416,334	725,948	336,312	1,062,260
Texas	6,725,771	2,027,307	3,277,946	1,420,518	4,698,464
Utah	849,635	268,916	413,034	167,685	580,719
Vermont	128,930	32,635	62,538	33,757	96,295
Virginia	1,823,201	522,672	887,525	413,004	1,300,529
Washington	1,541,175	433,119	750,274	357,782	1,108,056
West Virginia	386,158	105,435	189,649	91,074	280,723
Wisconsin	1,314,412	362,277	640,286	311,849	952,135
Wyoming	128,457	38,253	60,890	29,314	90,204
United States	73,941,848	21,005,852	36,004,639	16,931,357	52,935,996

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico: July 1, 2008," at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/tables/SC-EST2008-01.xls>>. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia have a minority child population of 40 percent or more. California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois and Georgia together have the majority of minority children.

Child Population, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2008

	One Race Only			
	White	Black	American Indian, Alaska Native	Asian, Pacific Islander
Alabama	737,864	344,543	5,571	11,558
Alaska	111,989	9,400	34,106	9,205
Arizona	1,405,353	90,232	110,419	43,723
Arkansas	529,060	137,406	7,607	9,224
California	7,160,874	653,791	118,951	1,014,190
Colorado	1,045,645	63,899	17,510	34,315
Connecticut	648,348	104,144	4,085	31,581
Delaware	140,590	51,668	1,012	6,521
District of Columbia	30,744	74,462	430	2,949
Florida	2,895,790	865,965	26,108	100,163
Georgia	1,558,119	843,633	10,449	73,535
Hawaii	71,123	13,009	2,134	112,559
Idaho	379,475	6,977	8,056	5,415
Illinois	2,397,703	560,966	12,561	129,465
Indiana	1,336,322	179,704	5,199	22,711
Iowa	645,997	29,820	4,777	13,174
Kansas	596,390	53,690	8,583	16,368
Kentucky	872,628	97,141	2,715	11,469
Louisiana	638,880	422,134	7,726	16,656
Maine	256,850	5,771	2,146	3,433
Maryland	784,644	439,021	5,196	65,743
Massachusetts	1,167,533	134,195	5,302	77,602
Michigan	1,822,923	413,585	16,389	63,143
Minnesota	1,041,446	85,309	22,810	61,549
Mississippi	407,270	334,776	4,838	6,726
Missouri	1,147,076	203,031	7,868	22,956
Montana	185,956	3,142	21,808	1,865
Nebraska	390,138	27,546	7,607	8,783
Nevada	519,955	63,112	12,400	37,838
New Hampshire	272,720	6,189	901	6,915
New Jersey	1,472,337	347,305	7,914	164,187
New Mexico	396,279	20,462	61,953	7,825
New York	3,047,793	894,911	28,487	304,463
North Carolina	1,555,645	546,696	32,391	50,281
North Dakota	121,689	2,594	13,500	1,360
Ohio	2,191,921	408,094	7,378	44,773
Oklahoma	652,001	89,302	90,696	15,373
Oregon	750,259	24,465	15,847	35,457
Pennsylvania	2,212,755	393,053	8,539	77,891
Rhode Island	190,407	20,088	2,337	7,705
South Carolina	668,236	353,620	5,369	14,703
South Dakota	158,723	3,878	27,671	1,866
Tennessee	1,107,706	308,647	5,228	22,197
Texas	5,442,860	849,492	52,231	221,983
Utah	771,880	15,436	13,806	22,279
Vermont	121,432	2,091	457	1,929
Virginia	1,248,946	411,454	6,901	89,713
Washington	1,230,859	73,486	36,268	106,306
West Virginia	355,366	18,676	799	2,780
Wisconsin	1,102,239	117,622	18,501	39,715
Wyoming	115,610	2,910	4,912	1,184
United States	56,114,348	11,222,543	936,449	3,255,304

* Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

** Includes all children except White, non-Hispanic children.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and One Group with Two or more Race Groups) by Age, Sex, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008," at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2008-alldata6-ALL.csv>>. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Child Population, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2008

Two or more races	Hispanic*	White, non-Hispanic	Minority**	Minority children as a percent of all children	
22,341	55,544	688,483	433,394	38.6%	Alabama
15,176	15,830	100,925	78,951	43.9	Alaska
57,494	733,290	732,822	974,399	57.1	Arizona
19,184	65,478	469,567	232,914	33.2	Arkansas
416,724	4,654,983	2,824,132	6,540,398	69.8	California
45,766	354,228	721,905	485,230	40.2	Colorado
24,055	140,526	528,501	283,712	34.9	Connecticut
6,438	23,385	120,484	85,745	41.6	Delaware
3,431	12,499	22,355	89,661	80.0	District of Columbia
116,245	1,013,196	1,987,809	2,016,462	50.4	Florida
63,105	298,594	1,289,528	1,259,313	49.4	Georgia
86,418	42,158	53,345	231,898	81.3	Hawaii
12,717	64,584	320,596	92,044	22.3	Idaho
78,565	691,902	1,747,588	1,431,672	45.0	Illinois
40,745	128,467	1,219,463	365,218	23.0	Indiana
18,845	52,130	598,838	113,775	16.0	Iowa
25,454	99,706	505,959	194,526	27.8	Kansas
24,111	39,897	838,108	169,956	16.9	Kentucky
22,577	45,400	600,872	507,101	45.8	Louisiana
6,667	6,182	251,504	23,363	8.5	Maine
45,979	127,270	683,449	657,134	49.0	Maryland
42,401	187,254	1,021,481	405,552	28.4	Massachusetts
74,158	152,950	1,689,111	701,087	29.3	Michigan
43,530	88,366	968,599	286,045	22.8	Minnesota
13,110	24,143	386,552	380,168	49.6	Mississippi
40,538	73,289	1,082,597	338,872	23.8	Missouri
7,587	11,140	177,025	43,333	19.7	Montana
12,921	58,444	337,728	109,267	24.4	Nebraska
34,496	251,847	291,783	376,018	56.3	Nevada
6,633	12,679	261,663	31,695	10.8	New Hampshire
55,839	424,217	1,113,037	934,545	45.6	New Jersey
15,931	274,405	144,777	357,673	71.2	New Mexico
132,362	937,772	2,315,841	2,092,175	47.5	New York
58,664	271,104	1,311,569	932,108	41.5	North Carolina
3,905	5,097	117,580	25,468	17.8	North Dakota
78,211	113,751	2,097,618	632,759	23.2	Ohio
58,663	111,634	557,459	348,576	38.5	Oklahoma
41,547	165,025	599,947	267,628	30.8	Oregon
69,766	223,874	2,034,896	727,108	26.3	Pennsylvania
8,003	43,821	154,066	74,474	32.6	Rhode Island
24,299	70,483	610,386	455,841	42.8	South Carolina
6,171	9,509	151,786	46,523	23.5	South Dakota
34,816	93,119	1,029,452	449,142	30.4	Tennessee
159,205	3,116,203	2,476,540	4,249,231	63.2	Texas
26,234	134,018	648,778	200,857	23.6	Utah
3,021	2,659	119,084	9,846	7.6	Vermont
66,187	179,711	1,093,604	729,597	40.0	Virginia
94,256	256,992	1,010,050	531,125	34.5	Washington
8,537	6,999	349,095	37,063	9.6	West Virginia
36,335	111,729	1,003,124	311,288	23.7	Wisconsin
3,841	15,054	102,375	26,082	20.3	Wyoming
2,413,204	16,092,537	41,563,836	32,378,012	43.8	United States

By 2050 the number of children will increase by more than one-third and the number of seniors will more than double; there will be almost as many seniors as children.

Population of Children and Seniors, 1960–2050

	Total, all ages (in 1,000s)	Children		Seniors	
		Number (in 1,000s)	Percent of population	Number (in 1,000s)	Percent of population
Actual population					
1960	180,676	64,561	35.7%	16,659	9.2%
1970	204,879	69,702	34.0	20,085	9.8
1980	227,738	63,683	28.0	25,713	11.3
1990	248,718	63,923	25.7	31,080	12.5
2000	281,422	72,294	25.7	34,992	12.4
2008	304,060	73,942	24.3	38,870	12.8
Projected population					
2020	341,387	81,685	23.9	54,804	16.1
2030	373,504	87,815	23.5	72,092	19.3
2040	405,655	93,986	23.2	81,238	20.0
2050	439,010	101,574	23.1	88,547	20.2

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years, and "Projections of the Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States: 2008 to 2050," at http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/tablesandcharts/table_1.xls. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

In every state at least one in five residents is a child. In 11 states there are at least twice as many children as seniors.

Population, 2008 Children and Seniors

	Total, all ages	Children		Seniors	
		Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Alabama	4,661,900	1,121,877	24.1%	641,667	13.8%
Alaska	686,293	179,876	26.2	50,277	7.3
Arizona	6,500,180	1,707,221	26.3	862,573	13.3
Arkansas	2,855,390	702,481	24.6	407,205	14.3
California	36,756,666	9,364,530	25.5	4,114,496	11.2
Colorado	4,939,456	1,207,135	24.4	511,094	10.3
Connecticut	3,501,252	812,213	23.2	478,007	13.7
Delaware	873,092	206,229	23.6	121,688	13.9
District of Columbia	591,833	112,016	18.9	70,648	11.9
Florida	18,328,340	4,004,271	21.8	3,187,797	17.4
Georgia	9,685,744	2,548,841	26.3	981,024	10.1
Hawaii	1,288,198	285,243	22.1	190,067	14.8
Idaho	1,523,816	412,640	27.1	182,150	12.0
Illinois	12,901,563	3,179,260	24.6	1,575,308	12.2
Indiana	6,376,792	1,584,681	24.9	813,839	12.8
Iowa	3,002,555	712,613	23.7	444,554	14.8
Kansas	2,802,134	700,485	25.0	366,706	13.1
Kentucky	4,269,245	1,008,064	23.6	565,867	13.3
Louisiana	4,410,796	1,107,973	25.1	540,314	12.2
Maine	1,316,456	274,867	20.9	199,187	15.1
Maryland	5,633,597	1,340,583	23.8	679,565	12.1
Massachusetts	6,497,967	1,427,033	22.0	871,098	13.4
Michigan	10,003,422	2,390,198	23.9	1,304,322	13.0
Minnesota	5,220,393	1,254,644	24.0	650,519	12.5
Mississippi	2,938,618	766,720	26.1	371,598	12.6
Missouri	5,911,605	1,421,469	24.0	805,235	13.6
Montana	967,440	220,358	22.8	137,312	14.2
Nebraska	1,783,432	446,995	25.1	240,847	13.5
Nevada	2,600,167	667,801	25.7	296,717	11.4
New Hampshire	1,315,809	293,358	22.3	169,978	12.9
New Jersey	8,682,661	2,047,582	23.6	1,150,941	13.3
New Mexico	1,984,356	502,450	25.3	260,051	13.1
New York	19,490,297	4,408,016	22.6	2,607,672	13.4
North Carolina	9,222,414	2,243,677	24.3	1,139,052	12.4
North Dakota	641,481	143,048	22.3	94,276	14.7
Ohio	11,485,910	2,730,377	23.8	1,570,837	13.7
Oklahoma	3,642,361	906,035	24.9	490,637	13.5
Oregon	3,790,060	867,575	22.9	503,998	13.3
Pennsylvania	12,448,279	2,762,004	22.2	1,910,571	15.3
Rhode Island	1,050,788	228,540	21.7	147,646	14.1
South Carolina	4,479,800	1,066,227	23.8	596,295	13.3
South Dakota	804,194	198,309	24.7	116,100	14.4
Tennessee	6,214,888	1,478,594	23.8	819,626	13.2
Texas	24,326,974	6,725,771	27.6	2,472,223	10.2
Utah	2,736,424	849,635	31.0	246,202	9.0
Vermont	621,270	128,930	20.8	86,649	13.9
Virginia	7,769,089	1,823,201	23.5	940,577	12.1
Washington	6,549,224	1,541,175	23.5	783,877	12.0
West Virginia	1,814,468	386,158	21.3	285,067	15.7
Wisconsin	5,627,967	1,314,412	23.4	750,146	13.3
Wyoming	532,668	128,457	24.1	65,614	12.3
United States	304,059,724	73,941,848	24.3	38,869,716	12.8

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "State Single Year of Age and Sex Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 – RESIDENT," at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2008-AGESEX-RES.csv>>. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

State Overview of Child Population Data

States	States where a majority of all children in the U.S. live (A-2)	States where a majority of White, non-Hispanic children in the U.S. live (A-2)	States where a majority of Black children in the U.S. live (A-2)	States where a majority of Hispanic children in the U.S. live (A-2)	States where a majority of American Indian, Alaska Native children in the U.S. live (A-2)	States where a majority of Asian, Pacific Islander children in the U.S. live (A-2)	State where the majority of children are racial/ethnic minorities (A-2)	States where 40% or more of children are racial/ethnic minorities (A-5)
Alabama								
Alaska								X
Arizona					X		X	X
Arkansas								
California	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado								X
Connecticut								
Delaware								X
District of Columbia							X	X
Florida	X	X	X	X			X	X
Georgia	X	X	X					X
Hawaii							X	X
Idaho								
Illinois	X	X	X					X
Indiana								
Iowa								
Kansas								
Kentucky								
Louisiana								X
Maine								
Maryland		X						X
Massachusetts								
Michigan	X	X						
Minnesota								
Mississippi								X
Missouri								
Montana								
Nebraska								
Nevada							X	X
New Hampshire								
New Jersey					X			X
New Mexico				X			X	X
New York	X	X	X			X		X
North Carolina		X						X
North Dakota								
Ohio	X	X						
Oklahoma				X				
Oregon								
Pennsylvania	X	X						
Rhode Island								
South Carolina								X
South Dakota								
Tennessee								
Texas	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Utah								
Vermont								
Virginia								X
Washington				X				
West Virginia								
Wisconsin								
Wyoming								