The population of adolescents and young adults (ages 10-24) was more racially/ethnically diverse than the population of adults (ages 25 and over) in 2006 (see figure). The adolescent and young adult population will continue to become more diverse in the next decade: by 2020, it is projected that it will include 6.3% Asians/Pacific Islanders, 14.1% Blacks and 22.2% Hispanics. For adults, 2020 projections estimate 5.5% A/PIs*, 12.2% Blacks and 14.0% Hispanics. Over one in ten (10.6%) adolescents and young adults (ages 15-24) was foreign-born in 2006. The overall number of adolescents and young adults is expected to increase from 63.3 million in 2006 to 64.1 million in 2020.

Highlights:
- The adolescent and young adult population is more diverse than the adult population.
- Poverty rates among children and adolescents have decreased in the past decade.
- Family structure varies by racial/ethnic group.
- School enrollment rates have increased in the past few decades.
- The median age of first marriage has increased in the past few decades.

U.S. Population by Age Group & Race/Ethnicity*, 2006

- Ages 10-24:
  - White-NH*: 55.2%
  - Hispanic: 16.5%
  - Black: 13.6%
  - Other: 9.9%
  - A/PI*: 3.9%
  - AI/AN*: 0.9%

- Ages 25+:
  - White-NH*: 66.5%
  - Hispanic: 11.6%
  - Black: 10.6%
  - Other: 6.2%
  - A/PI*: 4.4%
  - AI/AN*: 0.7%

* These abbreviations apply to all graphs and text throughout the fact sheet:
  - NH(s)=non Hispanic(s)
  - AI/AN=American Indian/Alaskan Native
  - A/PI=Asian/Pacific Islander
The racial/ethnic make-up of the adolescent and young adult population varies by region.

Poverty rates among children and adolescents have decreased in the past decade.

Family structure varies by racial/ethnic group.

* These abbreviations apply to all graphs and text throughout the fact sheet:
  NH(s)=non Hispanic(s)  AI/AN=American Indian/Alaskan Native  A/PI=Asian/Pacific Islander
School enrollment rates have increased in the past few decades.

School enrollment rates for adolescents and young adults (ages 16-24) increased between 1980 and 2006 (see figure). More females were enrolled in school than males. High school dropout rates were higher among Hispanics (22.5%) and Black-NHs (10.8%) than White-NHs (6.0%) (2005 data). Among all young adults (ages 18-24), enrollment in a degree-granting institution increased from 25.7% in 1980 to 37.3% in 2006. Among young adults (ages 20-24) not enrolled in school in 2007, 74.8% were employed, 8.2% were unemployed and 17.0% were not in the labor force.

The median age of first marriage has increased in the past few decades.

Trends show an increase in the median age of first marriage for males and females (see figure). The percentage of young adults (ages 20-24) who were married in 2006 varies by region, from 9.3% in the Northeast to 41.6% in the South. Young adult marriage rates also vary by gender and race/ethnicity: in 2004, 26.7% of females were married vs. 16.0% of males; among females, Hispanics were most likely to be married (39.3%), followed by White-NHs (26.9%) and Blacks (11.9%).

Childbearing among unmarried young adult females has increased since 1980.

The childbearing rate among young unmarried females (ages 18-24) increased dramatically during the 1980s and early 1990s. Since the mid-1990s, the rate has decreased for females ages 18-19, while continuing to increase among 20- to 24-year-olds (see figure). Among all racial/ethnic groups of unmarried young adult females (ages 20-24) in 2005, Hispanics had the highest birth rate. Over half of the nonmarital births for females (ages 20-24) were within cohabiting unions (males and females living together in a marriage-like relationship).
Data and Figure Sources & Other Notes:


The Census Bureau defines the four geographic regions as: 1) Northeast-ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA; 2) Midwest-OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS; 3) West-MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV, WA, OR, CA, AK, HI; and 4) South-DE, MD, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, AR, LA, OK, TX, KY, TN, AL, MS. [Available at URL (6/08): http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/epss/glossary_r.html]

In all cases, the most recent available data were used. The category names presented are those of the data sources used (e.g., racial/ethnic data). Every attempt was made to standardize age ranges and other variables given variation in the data sources used. For any questions regarding data presented, please contact NAHIC.

### NAHIC Briefs & Fact Sheets

**A Health Profile of Adolescent & Young Adult Males**

- The Mental Health of Adolescents: A National Profile, 2008
- Fact Sheet on Demographics: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Health Care Access & Utilization: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Mortality: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Reproductive Health: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Substance Use: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Suicide: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Unintentional Injury: Adolescents & Young Adults
- Fact Sheet on Violence: Adolescents & Young Adults

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**National Adolescent Health Information Center**

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**Background on NAHIC**

The National Adolescent Health Information Center (NAHIC) was established with funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in 1993 (U45MC 00002) to serve as a national resource for adolescent health research and information and to assure the integration, synthesis, coordination and dissemination of adolescent health-related information.

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We’d like to thank Kristin A. Moore, PhD, at Child Trends for her review of this fact sheet.

We’d like to acknowledge Eileen Collins for her assistance in formatting all the previous editions of NAHIC fact sheets.

All listed Briefs & Fact Sheets can be downloaded at http://nahic.ucsf.edu/index.php/data/article/briefs_fact_sheets/

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**Suggested citation:** National Adolescent Health Information Center. (2008). Fact Sheet on Demographics: Adolescents & Young Adults. San Francisco, CA: Author, University of California, San Francisco.