



2008 Fact Sheet on

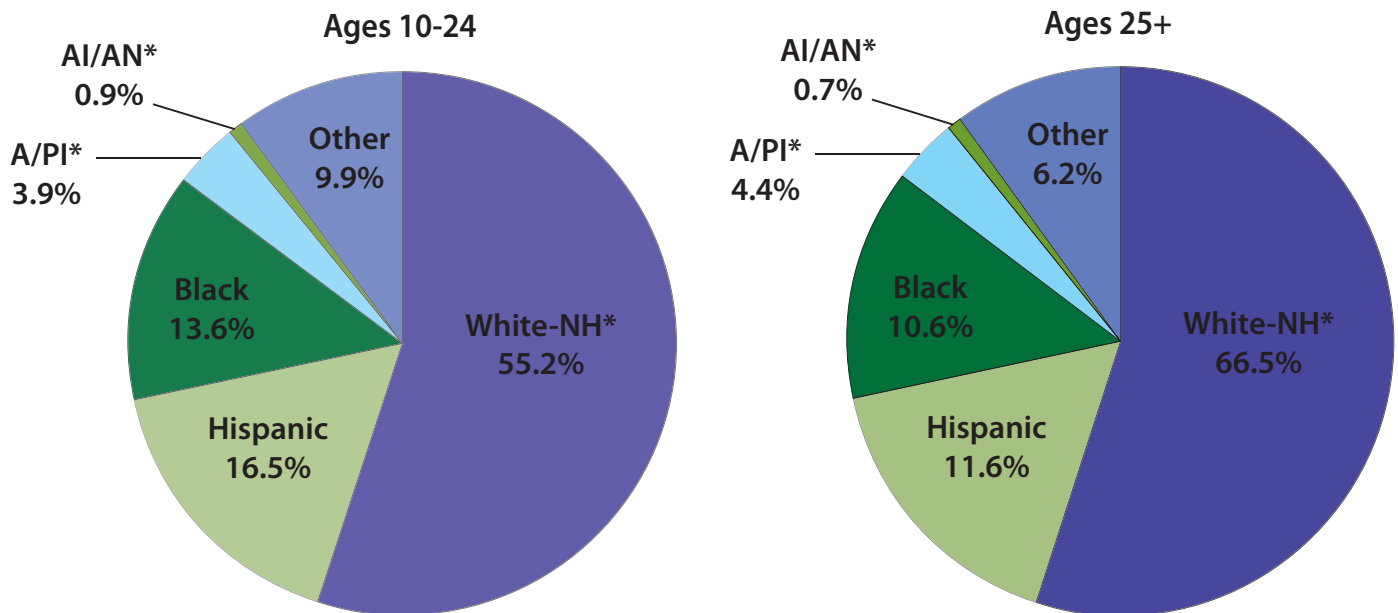
Demographics: Adolescents & Young Adults

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.

▶ The adolescent and young adult population is more diverse than the adult population.

U. S. Population by Age Group & Race/Ethnicity*, 2006¹



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).¹ 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.² Over one in ten (10.6%) adolescents and young adults (ages 15-24) was foreign-born in 2006.³ The overall number of adolescents and young adults is expected to increase from 63.3 million in 2006 to 64.1 million in 2020.^{1,3}

* These abbreviations apply to all graphs and text throughout the fact sheet:

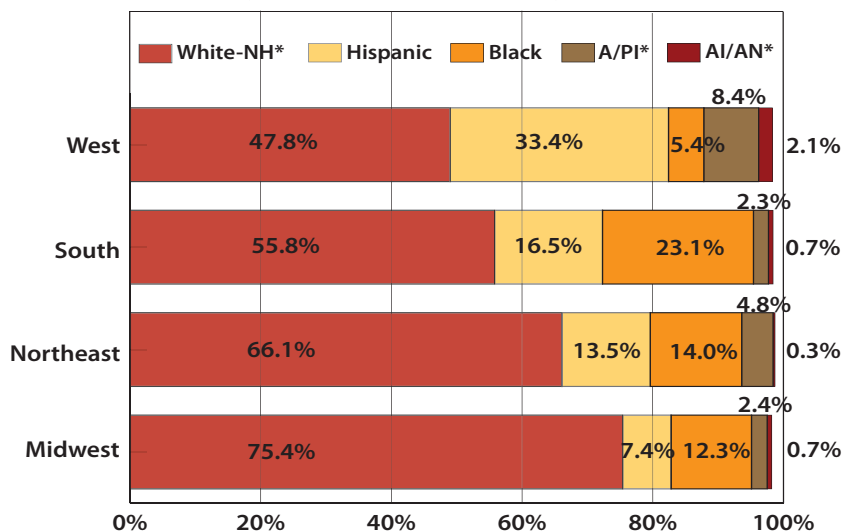
NH(s)=non Hispanic(s)

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.**

Population by Region^a & Race/Ethnicity*, Ages 10-24, 2006¹



The adolescent and young adult population (ages 10-24) varies racially/ethnically by region^a (see figure). The West has the highest proportion of Hispanics in this age group (e.g., California, 43.5%). The South has the highest proportion of Black young people (e.g., Florida, 21.2%). The highest proportion of White-NH* young people is in the Midwest (e.g., Michigan, 73.5%). Overall, the South has the largest proportion of 10-24-year-olds (36.2%), followed by the West (23.8%), Midwest (22.3%) and Northeast (17.7%).¹

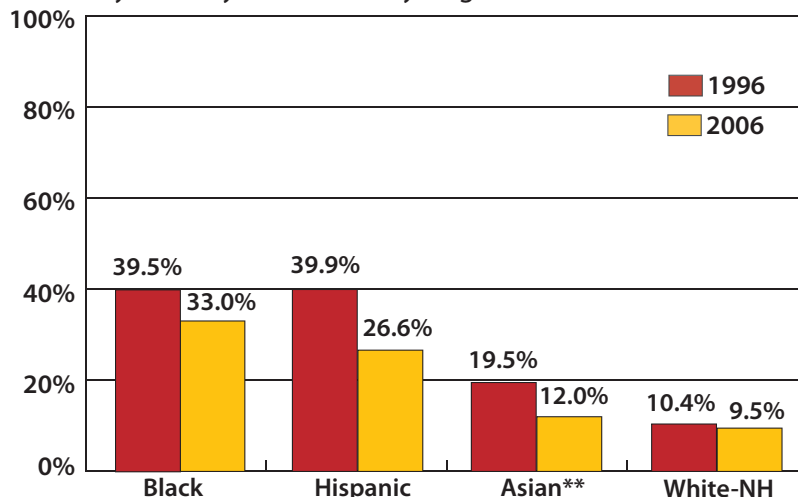
Note: The population distribution for each region does not add up to 100% because the "Other" category is not included.

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

The poverty rate for children and adolescents (ages 17 and under) in families fell slightly from 19.9% in 1996 to 17.0% in 2006. Poverty rates for this age group remained highest for Blacks and Hispanics in 1996 & 2006 (see figure). Among all young adults (ages 18-24), overall poverty rates held steady (17.9% in 1996 vs. 17.8% in 2006). While poverty rates decreased for Black and Hispanic young adults, these groups continue to have the highest rates.^{4,5}

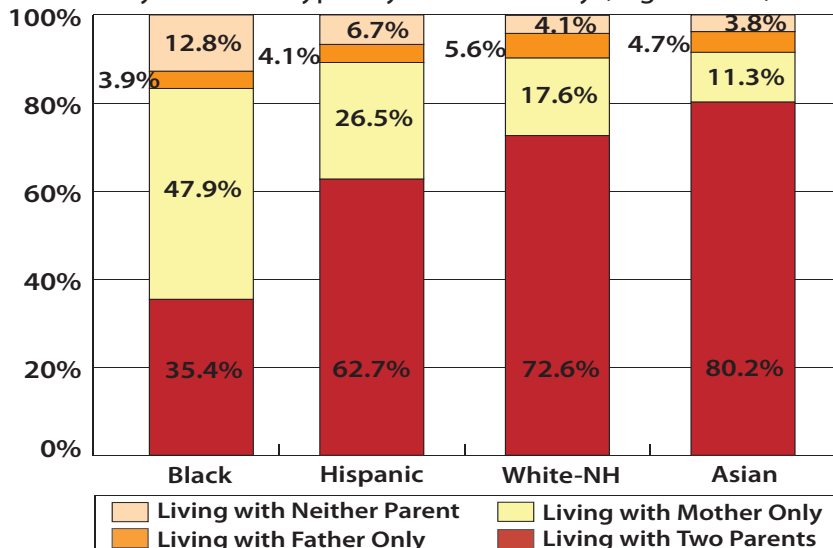
**Asian/Pacific Islander in 1996; Asian only in 2006.
Note: The poverty threshold was \$15,911 in 1996 and \$20,444 in 2006 for a family of four.^{4,5}

Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity*, Ages 17 and Under, 1996 & 2006^{4,5}



► **Family structure varies by racial/ethnic group.**

Family Structure Types by Race/Ethnicity*, Ages 12-17, 2006⁶



Among all racial/ethnic groups, Black adolescents (ages 12-17) were least likely to live with two parents in 2006 (see figure).⁶ The overall percentage of adolescents living with two parents has remained steady over the past decade: (64.3% in 1996; 64.9% in 2006).^{6,7} Data also show little change in the percentage of young people who live in a family household (i.e., people who are not head of their own households). Almost all adolescents live in a family household (98.5% in 1999; 97.4% in 2006), as do about half of young adults ages 20-24 (59.6% in 1999; 57.2% in 2006).^{6,8}

Note: Young people who live in a family household are the children/relatives of those who are head of the household.^{6,8}

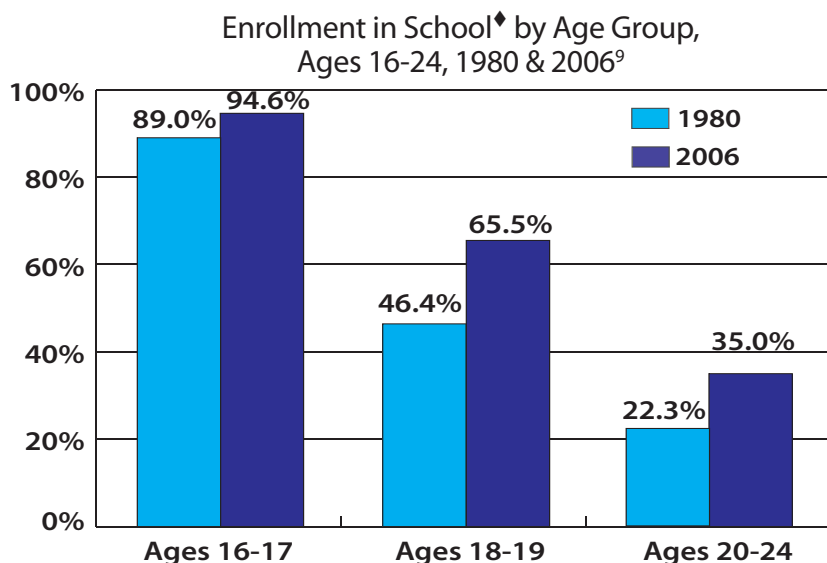
* These abbreviations apply to all graphs and text throughout the fact sheet:

NH(s)=non Hispanic(s)

AI/AN=American Indian/Alaskan Native

A/PI=Asian/Pacific Islander

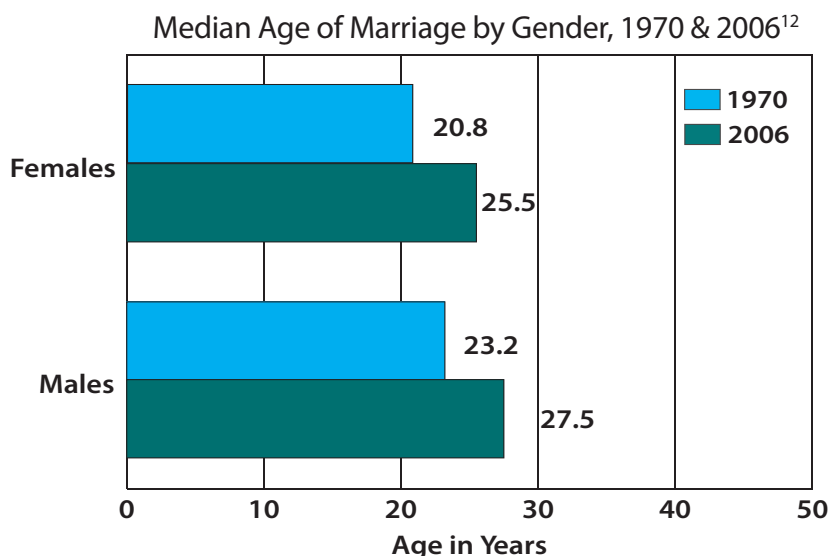
► **School enrollment rates have increased in the past few decades.**



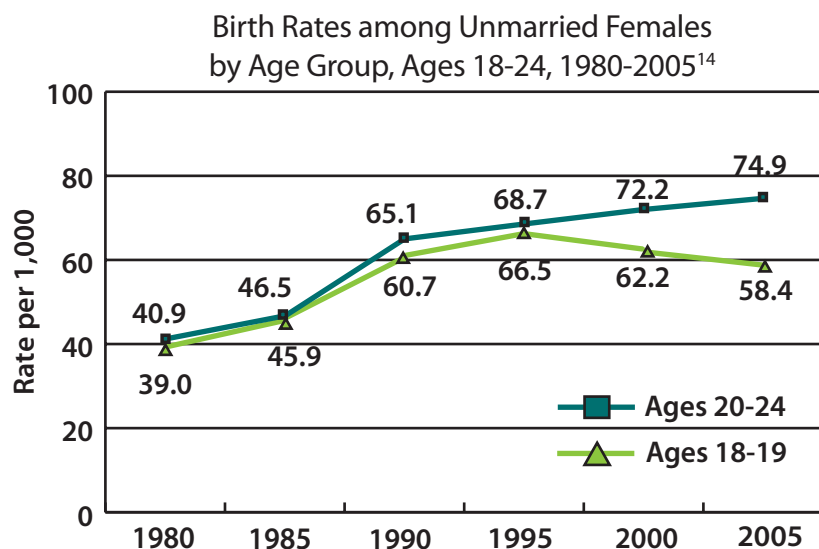
School enrollment rates for adolescents and young adults (ages 16-24) increased between 1980 and 2006 (see figure).⁹ More females were enrolled in school than males. High school dropout rates were higher among Hispanics (22.5%) and Black-NHs (10.8%) than White-NHs (6.0%) (2005 data).¹⁰ Among all young adults (ages 18-24), enrollment in a degree-granting institution increased from 25.7% in 1980 to 37.3% in 2006.⁹ 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.¹¹

► **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).¹² 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%).¹³



► **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.¹⁴ 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).¹⁵

[♦]Schools: includes enrollment in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private schools. Includes high schools, colleges, universities, & professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night.⁹

[•]Unemployed = persons looking for work; Not in labor force = persons who are neither employed nor unemployed, includes discouraged workers—persons who want work, but are not currently looking because they believe there are no jobs available or none for which they would qualify. See reference 11 for full definition.

Data and Figure Sources & Other Notes:

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). American FactFinder, 2006 American Community Survey [Detailed Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://factfinder.census.gov/>]
2. U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). National Population Projections. Annual Projections of the Resident Population by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1999 to 2100 (NP-D1-A Middle Series). [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/natdet-D1A.html>]
3. U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). The Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008 Edition. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2008edition.html>]
4. U.S. Census Bureau. (1997). Current Population Survey, Annual Demographic Survey March Supplement, 1997 [Detailed Poverty Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/031997/pov/tochtm>]
5. U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007 [Detailed Poverty Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/tochtm>]
6. U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). Current Population Survey, America's Families and Living Arrangements, 2006 [Online Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2006.html>]
7. Saluter, A. (1997). Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996 (Update). Current Population Reports, P20-495. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>]
8. U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Current Population Survey, America's Families and Living Arrangements, 1999 [Online Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>]
9. National Center for Education Statistics. (2008). Digest of Education Statistics: 2007. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d07/>]
10. Child Trends Databank. (2006). High School Dropout Rates. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.childtrends.databank.org/indicators/1HighSchoolDropout.cfm>]
11. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2008). College Enrollment and Work Activity of High School Graduates [Economic News Release]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.bls.gov/cps/>]
12. U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2006 and earlier [Marital Status Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>]
13. U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation Reports [Detailed Tables]. [Available at URL (6/08): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/marr-div.html>]
14. Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Sutton, P.D., et al. (2007). Births: Final Data for 2005. [Available at URL (6/08): http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_06.pdf]
15. Mincieli, L., Manlove, J., McGarrett, M., Moore, K., & Ryan, S. (2007). The Relationship Context of Births Outside of Marriage: The Rise of Cohabitation [Research Brief]. Washington, DC: Child Trends. [Available at URL (6/08): http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2007_05_14_RB_OutsideBirths.pdf]

^aThe 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]¹

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 of the data sources used. For any questions regarding data presented, please contact NAHIC.

National Adolescent Health Information Center

Division of Adolescent Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics &
Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies,
School of Medicine,
University of California, San Francisco
UCSF Box 0503
San Francisco, CA 94143-0503
T: 415.502.4856
F: 415.502.4858
Email: nahic@ucsf.edu
Web site: <http://nahic.ucsf.edu/>

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.

Contributing Faculty & Staff

Charles E. Irwin, Jr., MD
Claire D. Brindis, DrPH
Sally H. Adams, RN, PhD
M. Jane Park, MPH
Tina Paul Mulye, MPH
Michael Berlin, MA
Chelsea D. Nelson, BA

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/



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

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