Diverse Families – Read Around

25 percent or almost 19 million children in the U.S. live with a grandparent or other relative in their home.

3.2 million children or about 5 percent live with fathers as their primary caregiver.

2.2 million children are adopted. Almost 35 percent of adopted children are of a different race, culture or ethnicity from their parents.

Half of the children in the U.S. under age 18 are Hispanic, Black, Asian-American, Native American, or mixed-race.

4 million children identify as being of more than one race.

Over 6 million American children and adults have an LGBTQ parent.

Latinx and African American same-gender couples are about twice as likely to be raising children as white non-Hispanic same-gender couples.

Idaho, Utah, Oklahoma and Arkansas are the states with the highest rates of LGBTQ people having children.
LGBT Demographic Data Interactive (2019) The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.
Among LGBTQ Millennials, 77% already are parents or are considering having children compared to 33% of LGBTQ people 55 years and older. LGBTQ Family Building Survey (2019) Family Equality Council.

Over 20% of school-age children speak a language other than English at home. The vast majority of these children are multilingual, speaking English and at least one other language well. American Community Survey (2017) U.S. Census Bureau.


17% of children under 18 live in households classified by USDA as "food insecure," while 39% live in households with physically inadequate housing, crowded housing or housing that costs more than a third of household income. America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being (2019) ChildStats.gov.

According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control, Black fathers were more involved with children whether they lived with them or not compared with white fathers.

More Black fathers fed or ate meals with children daily; bathed, diapered or dressed children daily; read to children daily; and checked on or helped with homework daily. National Health Statistics Report # 71 (2013) Centers for Disease Control.

One in three children under the age of 18 has suffered at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE) in their lifetime and 14 percent have experienced two or more, such as: divorced parents, a deceased parent, a parent who served time in jail, seeing or hearing parental violence, and witnessing neighborhood violence. National Survey of Children’s Health (2019) Health Resources & Services Administration.

(updated 01/2020)