

Methodology

Most of this analysis is based on data from decennial censuses between 1970 and 2000 and the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) for 2010, 2019 and 2024. (The Census Bureau did not release standard [ACS 1-year data](#) for 2020 due to collection issues tied to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic.) Microdata files for merged 1% samples in 1970, 5% samples between 1980 and 2000, and the ACS are from [IPUMS USA](#).

Figures on the average number of lifetime births are based on the June [fertility supplement](#) of the Current Population Survey (CPS) using microdata files from [IPUMS CPS](#).

White, Black and Asian populations include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Immigrants, or the foreign-born population, are U.S. residents born in foreign countries to non-American parents.

Adults are individuals ages 18 and older. Children are under 18.

Multigenerational households include two or more adult generations or grandparents with grandchildren.

“Some college” includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree.

Median annual earnings do not include self-employed workers.

For shares of children living with two married parents, education and race/ethnicity are based on characteristics of the household head.

Income classes are set as a proportion of the national median: Middle-income households are those with incomes of two-thirds to double the median; lower-income households have less than two-thirds of the national median; and upper-income households have more than double the national median. Household incomes are adjusted for household size. In 2024, the national middle-income range was about \$63,500 to \$190,500 annually for a household of three.

The poverty rates shown are based on the IPUMS variable [POVERTY](#).