

Poverty
and Income

Financial
Support

**Parental
Employment**

Consumption

ES 3.1 Parental Labor Force Participation

Over the past three decades, the proportion of single-parent families has increased,¹ as has the proportion of mothers who work regardless of marital status.² These factors have reduced the percentage of children who have a parent at home full-time. Figure ES 3.1.A presents data on the percentage of children who have at least one parent in the labor force by family structure, while Figure ES 3.1.B shows the percentage of children with no resident parent in the labor force.

Differences by Family Type. Between 1985 and 2001, the percentage of children who have both parents or only the resident parent in the labor force increased from 59 percent to 68 percent (Table ES 3.1.A). Between 1990 and 1996, this percentage was similar for married-couple families and single-mother families; however, the rate for single-mother families increased sharply from 66 percent in 1996 to 79 percent in 2001, while the rate for married-couple families had little variation over the same time period (64 percent in 1996 and 64 percent in 2001). The rate for children in single-father families was much higher, at 91 percent in 2001. Between 1994 and 2001, there was a large decline in the proportion of children living in families in which no resident parent was attached to the labor force, as shown in Table ES 3.1.B.

Differences by Age of Child. Children under age 6 have been less likely than older children to have both parents or only the resident parent in the labor force (Table ES 3.1.A). In 2001, 65.5 percent of children under age 6 had both parents or only the resident parent in the labor force, compared with 70 percent for older children. However, the differences between these two age groups have lessened between 1985 and 2001.

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.³ Between 1985 and 1990, White children, Black children, and Hispanic children all became more likely to have both parents or only the resident parent in the labor force (Table ES 3.1.A). Between 1990 and 1996, the rates stayed virtually the same for Blacks and Hispanics and increased modestly for Whites. However, the rate for all three groups increased between 1996 and 2001, with especially large increases for Blacks and Hispanics. Between 1996 and 2001, the rate for Black children of all ages increased from 64 percent to 75 percent, and the rate for Black children under age 6 increased from 58 percent to 72 percent. Between 1996 and 2001, the rate for Hispanic children of all ages increased from 50 percent to 59 percent. In 2001, 68 percent of White children, 75 percent of Black children, and 59 percent of Hispanic children lived in families in which all resident parents were working.

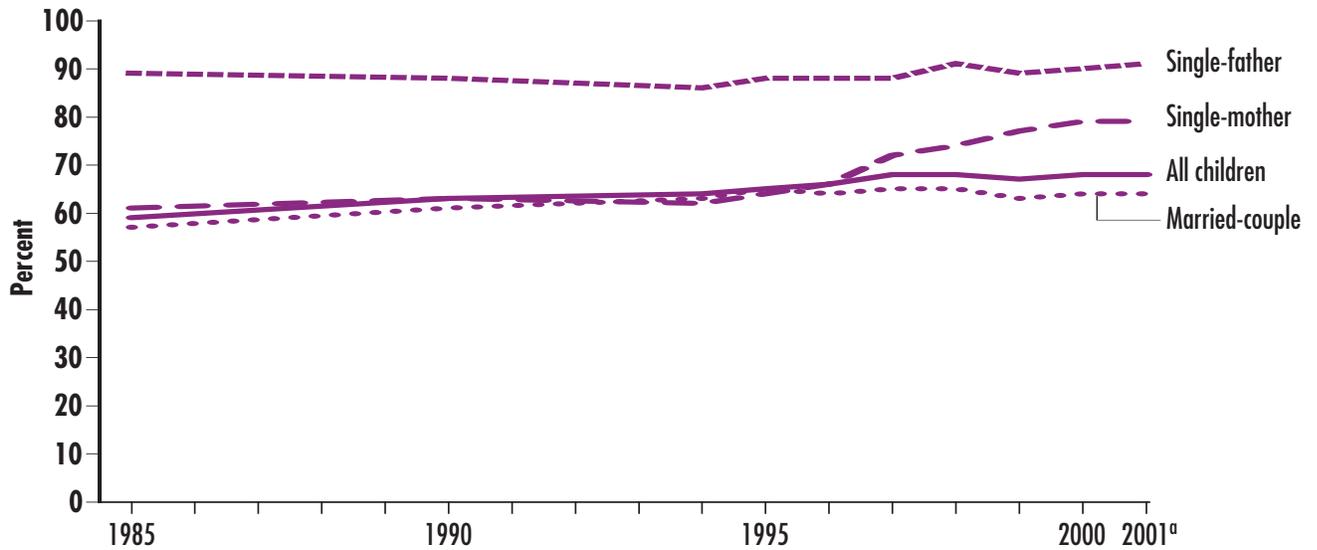
¹ See indicator PF 2.2 in this report.

² See indicator ES 3.2 in this report.

³ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

Figure ES 3.1.A

Percentage of children under age 18 with both parents or only resident parent in the labor force, by family structure: 1985-2001

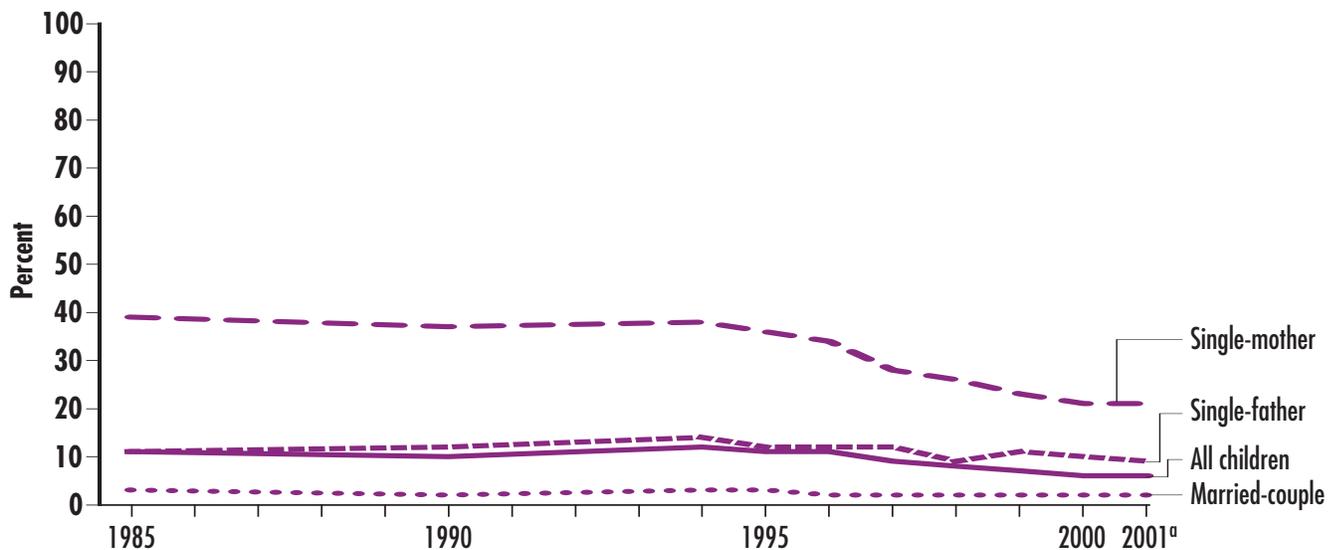


^a 2001 annual averages.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1996-2001). Unpublished work; U.S. Census Bureau. (1995). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1985, 1990, 1994, 1995). Unpublished work.

Figure ES 3.1.B

Percentage of children under age 18 with no resident parent in the labor force, by family structure: 1985-2001



^a 2001 annual averages.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1996-2001). Unpublished work; U.S. Census Bureau. (1995). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1985, 1990, 1994, 1995). Unpublished work.

Parental Employment

Table ES 3.1.A

Percentage of children with both parents or only resident parent in the labor force, by age, family structure, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1985-2001

	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^a
All children	59	63	65	66	68	68	67	68	68
Under age 6	51	55	59	58	61	62	61	62	66
Ages 6-17	63	67	69	70	71	71	71	71	70
Family structure									
Married-couple	57	61	65	64	65	65	63	64	64
Under age 6	51	54	59	58	58	58	56	57	57
Ages 6-17	61	65	68	67	69	68	67	67	68
Single-mother	61	63	64	66	72	74	77	79	79
Under age 6	49	51	54	56	65	67	71	73	73
Ages 6-17	67	70	69	72	76	77	79	81	81
Single-father	89	88	88	88	88	91	89	90	91
Under age 6	90	90	86	86	89	94	94	94	90
Ages 6-17	89	88	88	89	88	90	87	89	93
Race and Hispanic origin^b									
White	59	63	66	66	68	68	66	67	68
Under age 6	51	55	59	58	61	61	59	61	61
Ages 6-17	63	67	70	70	71	71	70	71	71
Black	60	63	64	64	71	73	75	74	75
Under age 6	54	55	57	58	68	71	74	72	72
Ages 6-17	63	67	67	68	73	75	76	74	77
Hispanic	45	50	50	50	54	58	57	59	59
Under age 6	40	44	44	43	49	52	51	53	53
Ages 6-17	48	54	54	55	57	62	60	63	62

^a 2001 annual averages.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1996-2001). Unpublished work; U.S. Census Bureau. (1995). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1985, 1990, 1994, 1995). Unpublished work.

Table ES 3.1.B

Percentage of children with no resident parent in the labor force, by age, family structure, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1985-2001

	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^a
All children	11	10	11	11	9	8	7	6	6
Under age 6	12	13	14	13	10	9	7	6	7
Ages 6-17	10	9	10	9	8	8	7	6	6
Family structure									
Married-couple	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Under age 6	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2
Ages 6-17	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Single-mother	39	37	36	34	28	26	23	21	21
Under age 6	51	49	46	44	35	33	29	27	27
Ages 6-17	33	30	31	28	24	23	21	19	19
Single-father	11	12	12	12	12	9	11	10	9
Under age 6	10	10	14	14	11	6	6	6	8
Ages 6-17	11	12	12	11	12	10	13	12	10
Race and Hispanic origin^b									
White	8	7	8	7	7	7	5	5	5
Under age 6	8	9	10	9	7	7	5	5	5
Ages 6-17	7	6	7	7	6	6	5	5	5
Black	27	26	27	25	20	17	15	14	14
Under age 6	33	34	33	32	23	20	17	15	15
Ages 6-17	24	21	23	21	18	15	15	13	13
Hispanic	19	17	19	17	14	13	11	9	9
Under age 6	20	19	21	20	15	14	11	9	9
Ages 6-17	19	16	17	15	13	13	11	9	9

^a 2001 annual averages.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1996-2001). Unpublished work; U.S. Census Bureau. (1995). Special tabulations of *Current Population Surveys* (1985, 1990, 1994, 1995). Unpublished work.

ES 3.2 Maternal Employment

Over the past several decades, the increasing proportion of mothers moving into employment has had substantial consequences for the everyday lives of families with children. Maternal employment adds to the financial resources available to families and is often the only source of income for families headed by single mothers—although if child-care services are purchased and unsubsidized, they may offset a substantial percentage of low-wage mothers' earnings.

Maternal employment rates for all mothers with children under age 18 increased steadily from 53 percent to 63 percent between 1980 and 1990 (Figure ES 3.2). From 1990 to 2001, rates increased at a slower pace from 63 percent to 70 percent. This pattern of increasing maternal employment was evident for all mothers, regardless of the age of their children.

Differences by Age of Youngest Child. The percentage of mothers who are employed increased with the age of the youngest child for all time periods presented in Table ES 3.2. In 2001, 57 percent of mothers with children under age 3 were employed, compared with 67 percent and 77 percent for mothers with youngest children ages 3-5 and 6-17, respectively.

Differences by Marital Status. Throughout the period between 1980 and 2001, divorced mothers had higher rates of employment than never-married or currently married mothers (Table ES 3.2). However, the gap narrowed with employment increasing from 62 percent to 69 percent for married mothers and from 40 percent to 64 percent for never-married mothers.

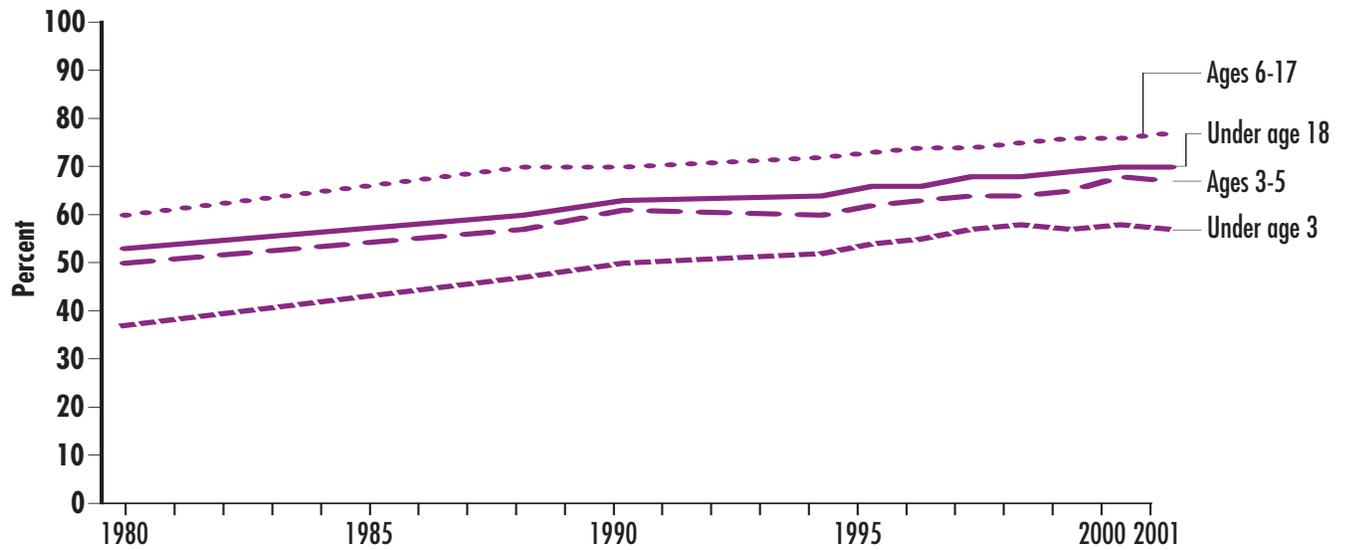
Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.¹ In 2001, 70 percent of White mothers, 73 percent of Black mothers, and 58 percent of Hispanic mothers were employed (Table ES 3.2). Black mothers were the most likely to be employed full-time (63 percent). All three groups have experienced a steady rise in the percentage of employment during the 1990s.

Differences by Employment Status. Among all employed mothers, 52 percent were working full-time in 2001 (Table ES 3.2). Employed mothers with older children were more likely to work full-time than those with young children, with rates ranging from 40 percent for mothers with children under age 3, to 60 percent for mothers with a youngest child between the ages of 6 and 17. Divorced mothers were more likely to work full-time (72 percent) than never-married mothers (52 percent) and married mothers (49 percent). Black mothers who were employed were more likely to work full-time (63 percent) than White mothers (49 percent) or Hispanic mothers (50 percent).

¹ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

Figure ES 3.2

Percentage of mothers with youngest child under age 18 who were employed, by age of youngest child:
1980-2001



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Special tabulations based on analyses of March *Current Population Surveys* (1980, 1988, 1990, 1994-2001). Unpublished work.

Parental Employment

Table ES 3.2

Percentage of mothers with youngest child under age 18 who were employed, full- and part-time, by age of youngest child, marital status, and race and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1980-2001

	1980 ^a	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All employed mothers	53	63	66	66	68	68	69	70	70
Working full-time	—	46	46	47	50	50	50	51	52
Working part-time	—	17	19	19	18	19	18	18	18
Age of youngest child									
Under age 3	37	50	54	55	57	58	57	58	57
Working full-time	—	34	35	36	38	39	37	38	40
Working part-time	—	16	19	19	19	19	20	19	18
Ages 3-5	50	61	62	63	64	64	65	68	67
Working full-time	—	43	42	43	47	46	46	50	48
Working part-time	—	18	20	20	18	18	19	18	19
Ages 6-17	60	70	73	74	74	75	76	76	77
Working full-time	—	53	53	55	56	57	58	58	60
Working part-time	—	17	19	19	18	18	18	18	17
Marital status									
Married, spouse present	62	66	67	68	69	68	68	69	69
Working full-time	—	44	45	46	48	48	48	49	49
Working part-time	—	19	22	21	20	20	20	20	19
Never-married	40	46	48	49	57	62	65	66	64
Working full-time	—	36	35	35	43	46	49	52	52
Working part-time	—	9	13	14	14	15	16	14	12
Divorced	75	74	77	79	77	78	80	83	84
Working full-time	—	66	64	66	65	66	69	70	72
Working part-time	—	9	13	13	12	12	12	13	12
Race and Hispanic origin^b									
White	52	63	67	67	69	68	69	69	70
Working full-time	—	44	46	47	48	48	49	49	50
Working part-time	—	19	21	21	20	20	20	20	20
Black	54	61	62	63	65	70	71	72	73
Working full-time	—	53	50	52	55	58	58	62	63
Working part-time	—	8	11	10	10	12	13	11	10
Hispanic	42	50	49	49	53	55	55	57	58
Working full-time	—	39	37	37	41	43	42	46	47
Working part-time	—	11	12	12	12	13	13	11	11

^a Percentages for 1980 are not presented separately by marital status and full-time versus part-time due to incompatibilities with definitions used in later years. Sums may not add to totals due to rounding.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races.

— Data not available.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Special tabulations based on analyses of March *Current Population Surveys* (1980, 1988, 1990, 1994-2001). Unpublished work.

ES 3.3 Child Care

Due to the increasing percentage of young children with two parents (or a single resident parent) participating in the labor force, finding adequate child care has become essential. The percentage of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in center-based early childhood care was 56 percent in 2001, up slightly from 1991 when the figure stood at 53 percent (Table ES 3.3.A). Between the years 1985 and 1999 a vast array of child care arrangements were used by families with working mothers. The four most commonly used provisions in 1999 were care by a relative (28.8 percent), parental care (21.5 percent), care by a nonrelative (20.3 percent), and use of an organized facility (22.1 percent) (Table ES 3.3.B).

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.¹ Hispanic families were less likely than Black, non-Hispanic or White, non-Hispanic families to use organized facilities such as day care centers and preschools. In 2001, 40 percent of Hispanic children of working mothers were cared for in day care centers and preschools, compared with 59 percent of White, non-Hispanic and 64 percent of Black, non-Hispanic children (Figure ES 3.3).

Differences by Poverty Status. In 2001, children of families at or above the poverty level were more likely to be enrolled in center-based care and education programs than children of families below poverty (59 percent versus 47 percent) (Table ES 3.3.A).

Differences by Mother's Educational Attainment. In 2001, mothers who graduated college were nearly twice as likely to enroll their children in center-based early childhood care and education programs than mothers who did not graduate from high school (70 percent versus 38 percent) (Table ES 3.3.A).

¹ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table ES 3.3.A

Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 who are enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs, by child and family characteristics: Selected years, 1991-2001

	1991	1993	1995	1996	1999	2001
All children	53	53	55	55	60	56
Sex						
Male	52	53	55	55	61	54
Female	53	53	55	55	59	59
Race and Hispanic origin^a						
White, non-Hispanic	54	54	57	57	60	59
Black, non-Hispanic	58	57	60	65	73	64
Hispanic	39	43	37	39	44	40
Poverty Status^b						
Below poverty	44	49	45	44	52	47
At or above poverty	56	53	59	59	62	59
Family Type						
Two parents	50	52	55	54	59	57
One or no parent	54	54	56	58	62	56
Mother's highest level of education^c						
Less than high school	32	33	35	37	40	38
High school	46	43	48	49	52	47
Some college	60	60	57	58	63	62
College degree	72	73	75	73	74	70
Mother's employment status^c						
Worked 35 hours or more per week	59	31	60	63	65	63
Worked less than 35 hours per week	58	57	62	64	64	61
Looking for work	43	48	52	47	55	47
Not in labor force	45	44	47	43	52	47

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

^b Poverty estimates for 1992 and 1993 are not comparable to later years because respondents were not asked exact household income.

^c Children without mothers in the home are not included in estimates dealing with mother's education or mother's employment status.

Note: Estimates are based on children who have yet to enter kindergarten. Center-based programs include day care centers, Head Start programs, preschool, nursery school, prekindergarten, and other early childhood programs.

Source: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2003). *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2003*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Parental Employment

Table ES 3.3.B

Percentage distribution of child care arrangements of children under age 5 with employed mothers:
Selected years, 1985-1999

	Winter 1985	Fall 1988	Fall 1990	Fall 1991	Fall 1993	Fall 1995 ^a	Spring 1997	Spring 1999
Number of children (in thousands)	8,168	9,483	9,629	9,854	9,937	10,047	10,116	10,587
Familial care	23.8	22.7	22.9	28.7	22.1	22.0	22.3	21.5
Mother while working	8.1	7.6	6.4	8.7	6.2	5.4	3.3	3.1
Father	15.7	15.1	16.5	20.0	15.9	16.6	19.0	18.5
Relatives	24.1	21.1	23.1	23.5	26.0	21.4	25.8	28.8
Grandparent	15.9	13.9	14.3	15.8	17.0	15.9	18.4	20.8
Sibling and other relative	8.2	7.2	8.8	7.7	9.0	5.5	7.4	8.0
Organized facility	23.1	25.8	27.5	23.1	29.9	25.1	21.7	22.1
Day care center	14.0	16.6	20.6	15.8	18.3	17.7	16.6	17.9
Nursery/ Preschool	9.1	9.2	6.9	7.3	11.6	5.9	4.2	3.8
Federal Head Start program ^b	—	—	—	—	—	1.5	0.9	0.4
Other non-relative care	28.2	28.9	25.1	23.3	21.6	28.4	22.1	20.3
Child's home	5.9	5.3	5.0	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.0	3.3
Provider's home	22.3	23.6	20.1	17.9	16.6	23.5	18.1	16.9
Family day care ^b	—	—	—	—	—	15.7	10.7	10.9
Other non-relative	—	—	—	—	—	7.8	7.4	6.0
Other	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.1	2.9	8.1	7.3
Self care	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other arrangement ^c	0.8	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.1	0.6	2.0	2.7
No regular arrangement	—	—	—	—	—	2.2	6.0	4.6

^a To make the 1995 data consistent with prior surveys, the 1995 distribution was proportionately redistributed to account for tied responses for the primary arrangement to make the percentage total to 100 percent.

^b 1995 was the first year for which family day care and Head Start were separate response categories.

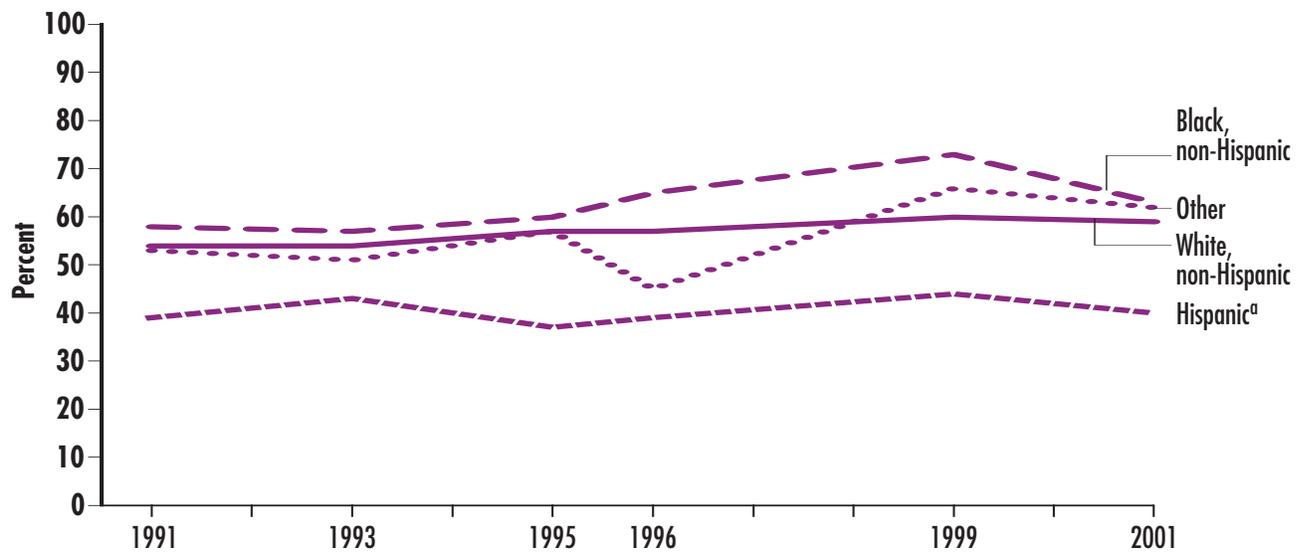
^c Includes children in kindergarten/grade school or in a school-based activity.

— Data not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Current Population Reports*, P70-70.

Figure ES 3.3

Percentage of children ages 3 to 5 who are enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs, by race and Hispanic origin: 1991-2001



^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Note: Estimates are based on children who have yet to enter kindergarten. Center based programs include day care centers, Head Start programs, preschool, nursery school, prekindergarten, and other early childhood programs.

Source: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2002). *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2002*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.