



# US Child Population Characteristic Trends

Compiled by AAP Research Staff

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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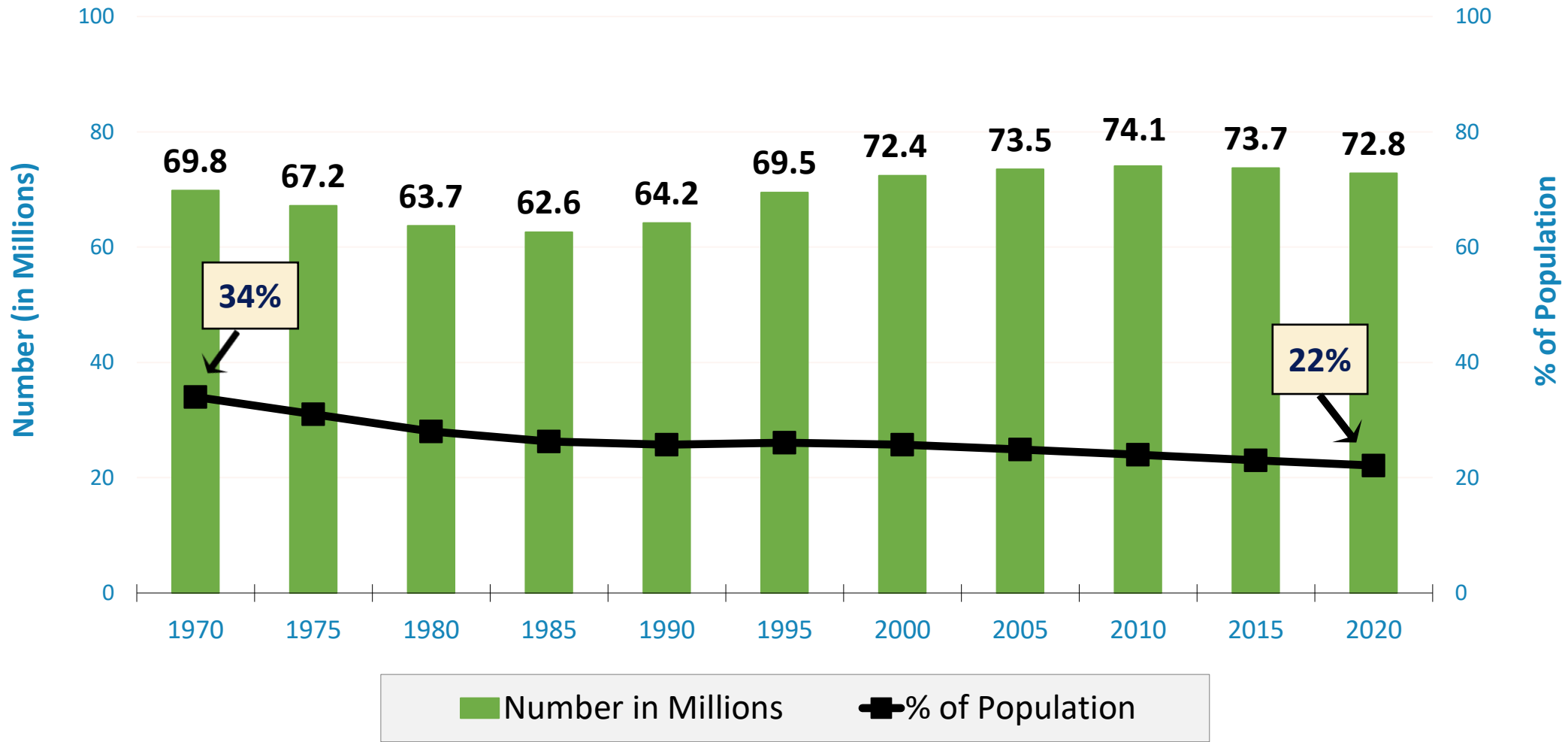


# Child Population Characteristic Trends

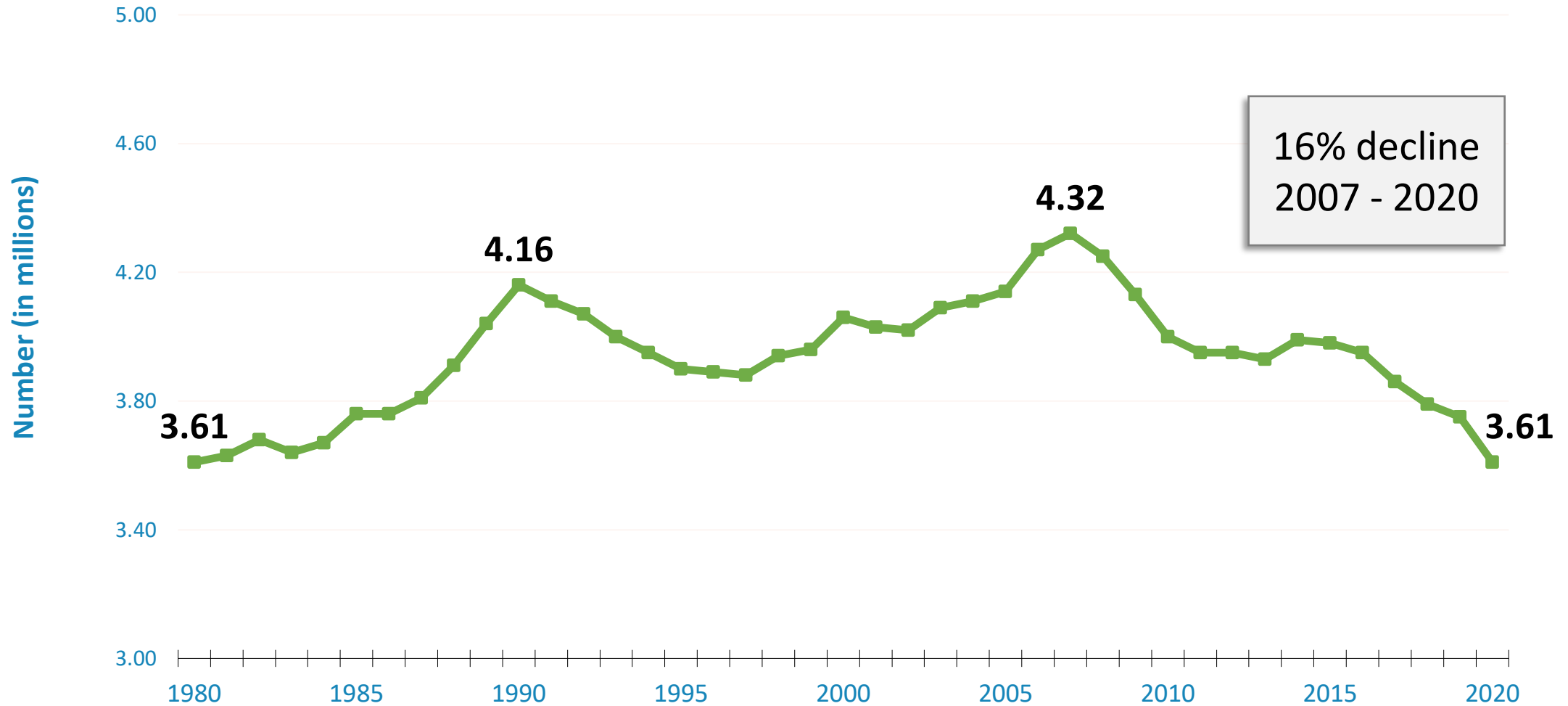
- US child population
- Birth rates - overall and adolescent
- Racial/ethnic composition
- Immigrant children
- Language other than English
- Poverty/low income
- Family structure



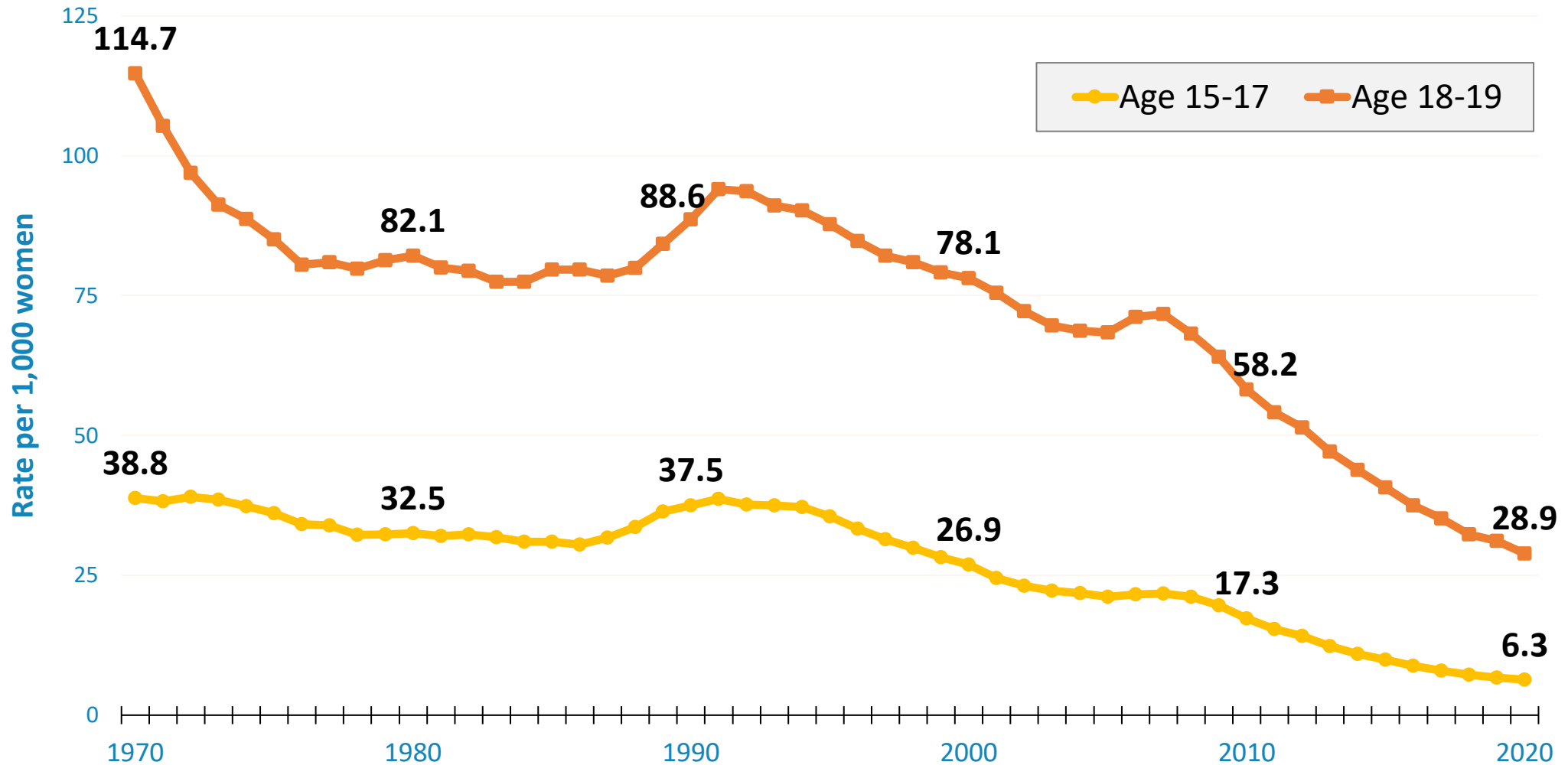
# US Child (under 18) Population: Number and % of Overall Population, 1970-2020



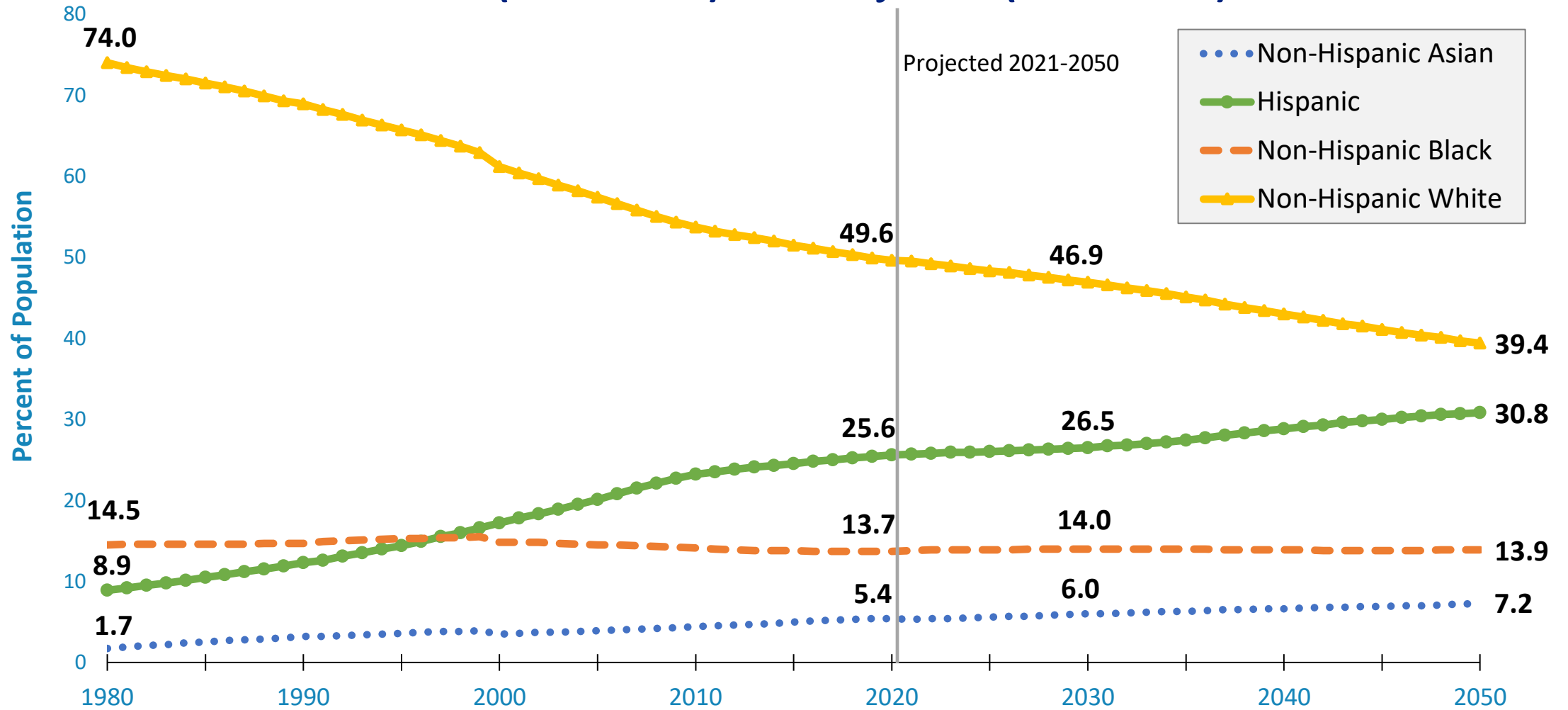
## Number of US Births (in Millions of Children Born), 1980-2020



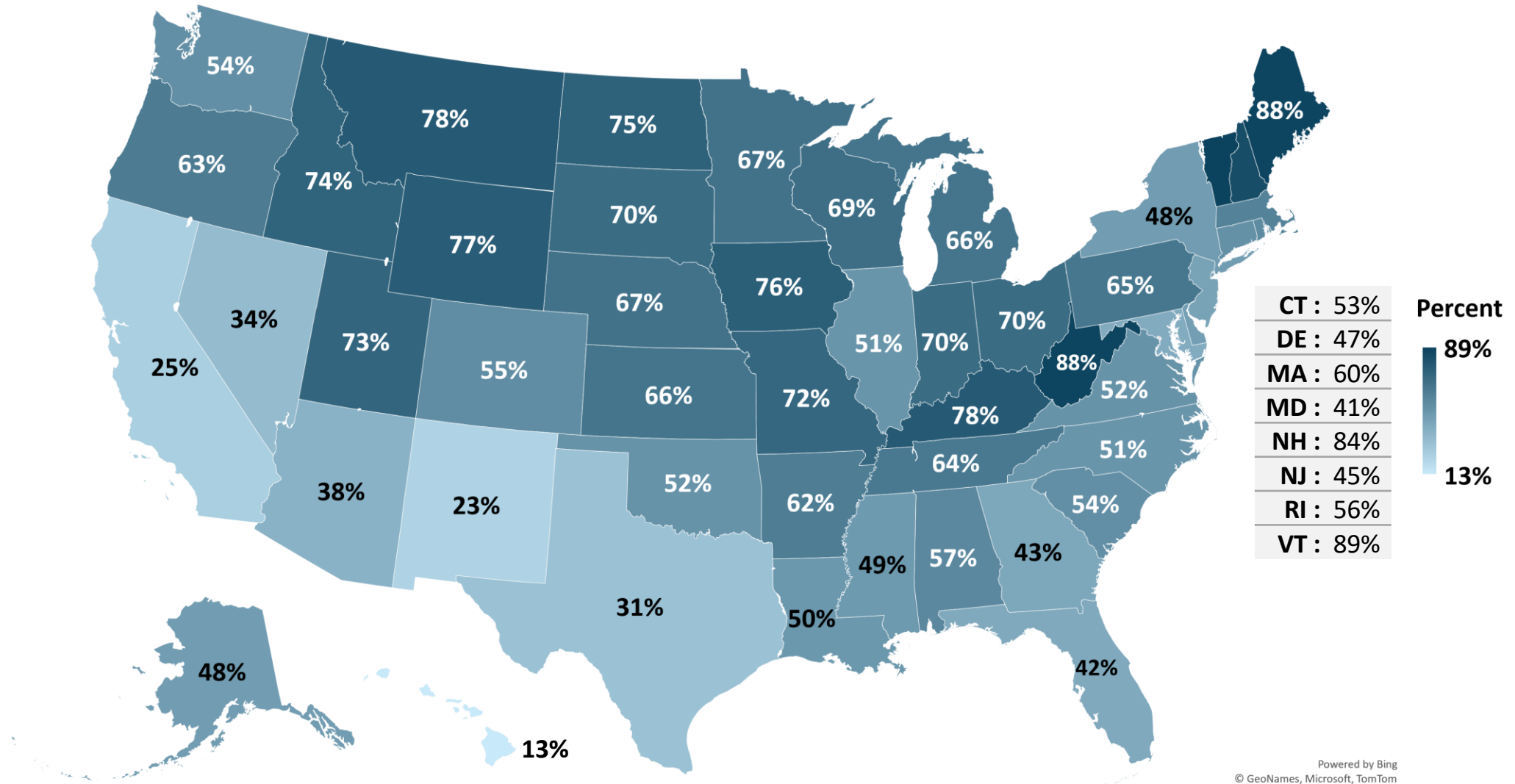
## US Adolescent Birth Rates (per 1,000 Women) by Age Group, 1970-2020



## Race/Ethnicity of US Children (under 18), Recorded (1980-2020) and Projected (2021-2050)



## Percent of US Non-Hispanic White Children (under 18) by State, 2020



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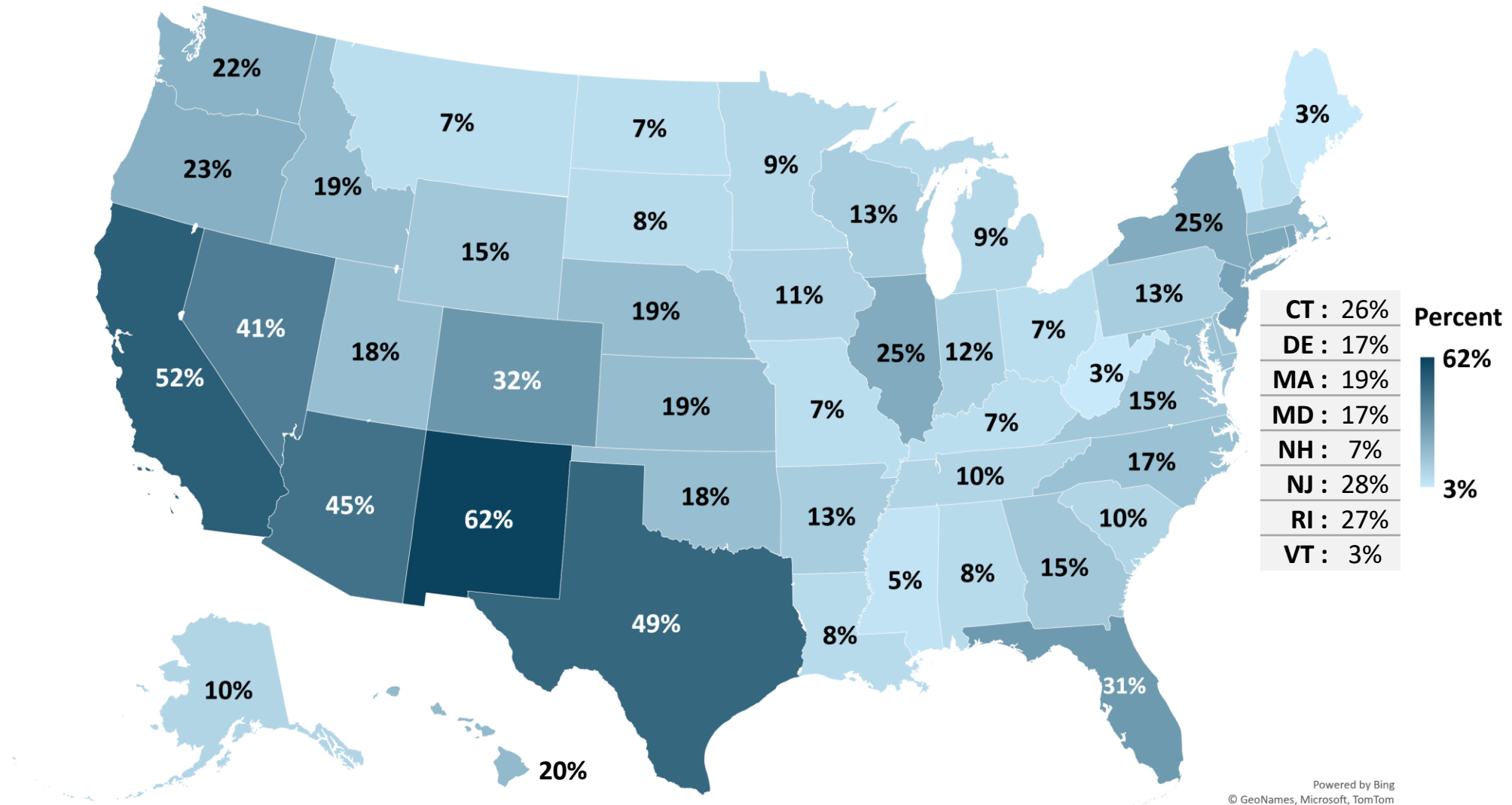
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## Percent of US Hispanic or Latino Children (under 18) by State, 2020



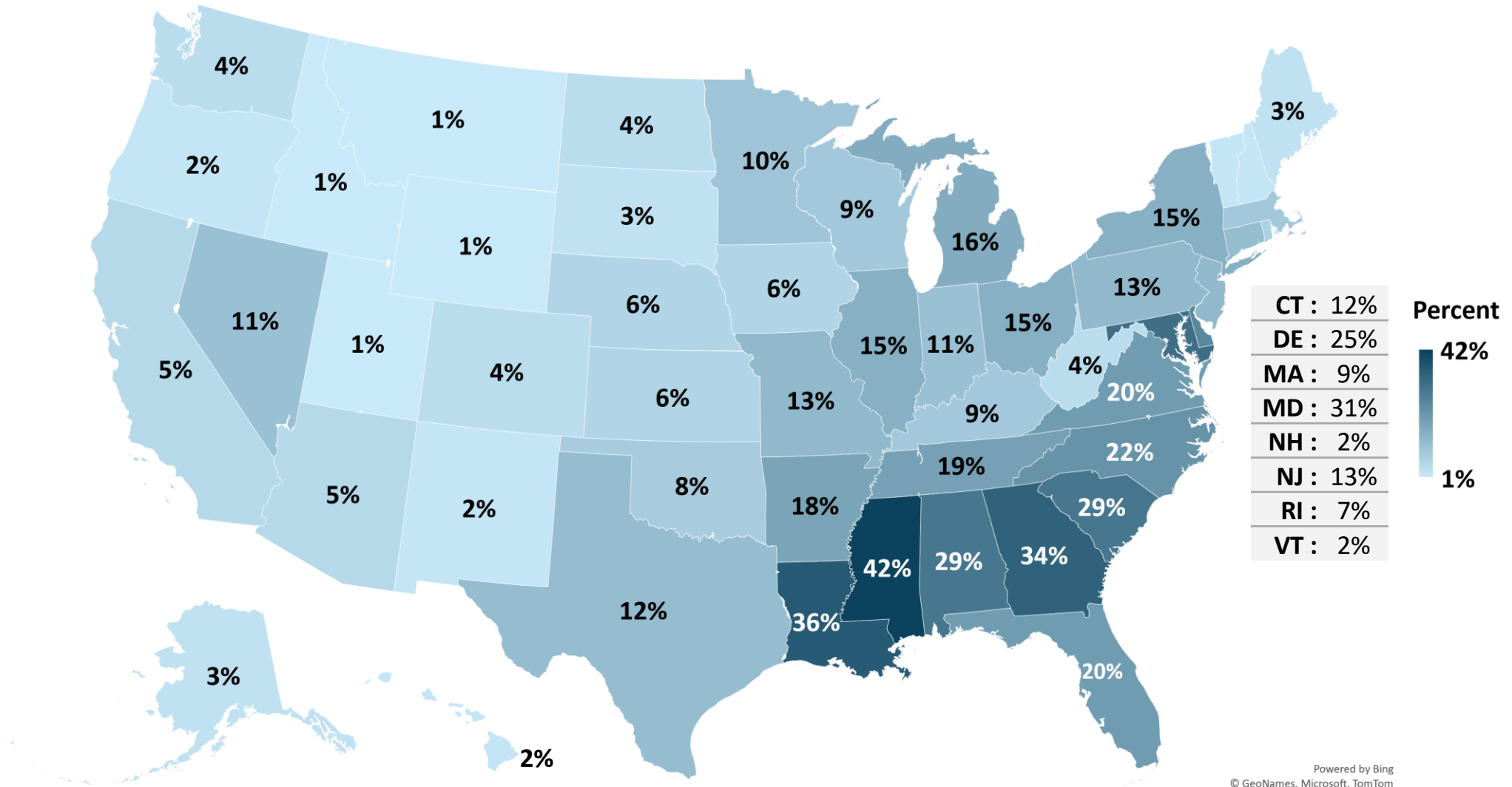
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## Percent of US Non-Hispanic Black Children (under 18) by State, 2020



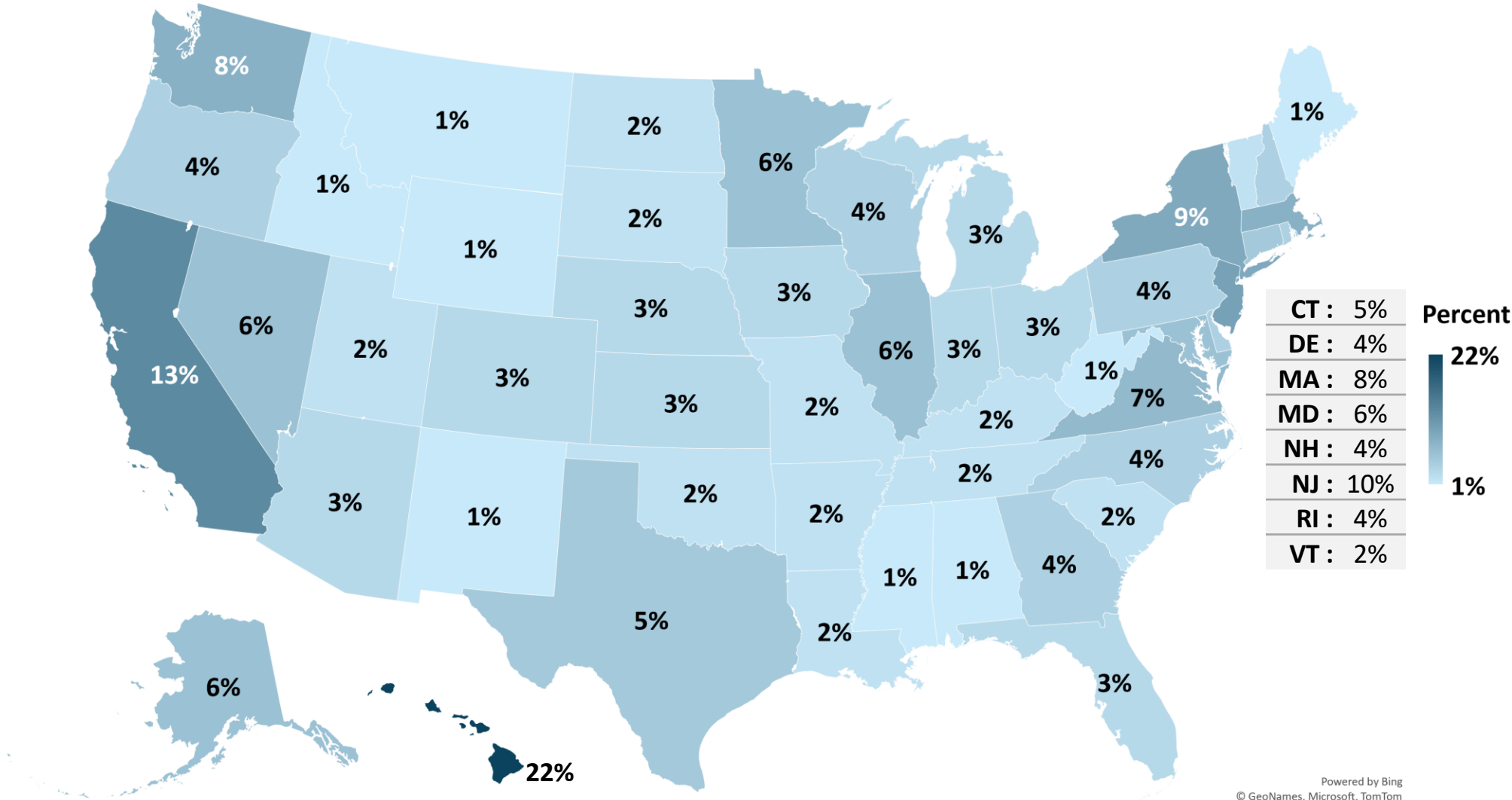
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# Percent of US Non-Hispanic Asian Children (under 18) by State, 2020

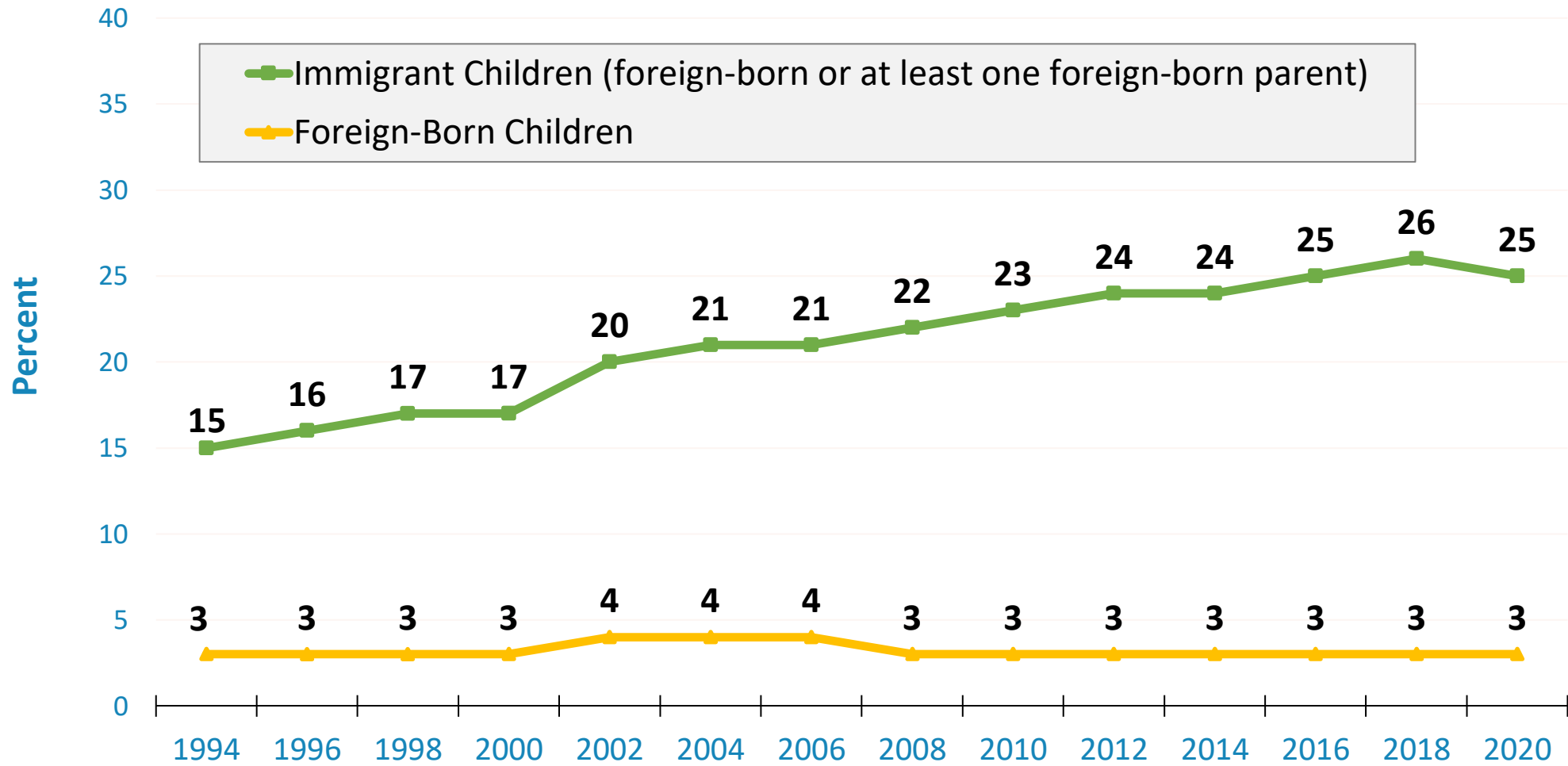


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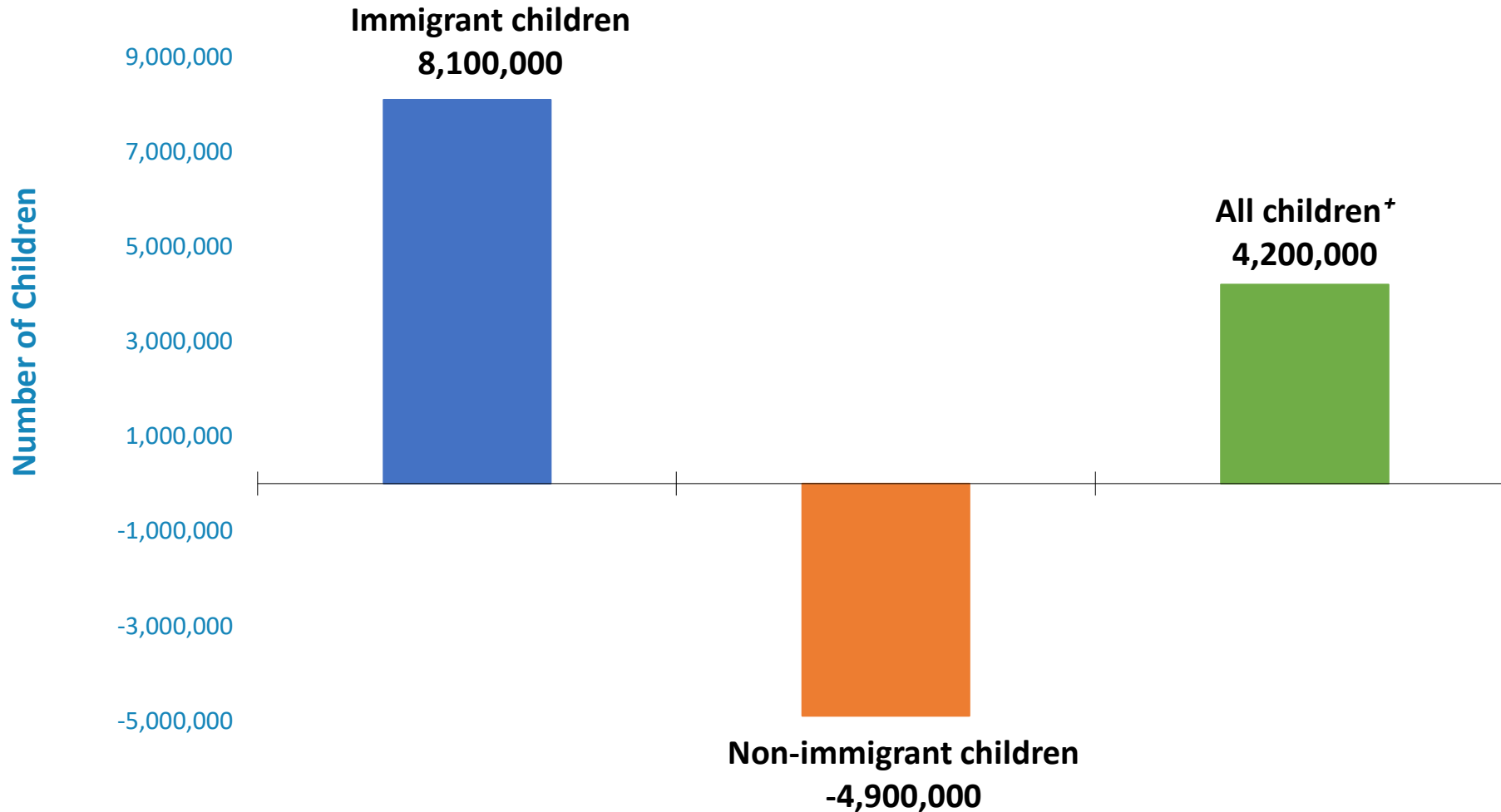
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center ([datacenter.kidscount.org](https://datacenter.kidscount.org))



## % of US Children (under 18) Who Are Immigrants, 1994-2020



## Growth in the Number of US Children\* (under 18) by Immigrant Status, 1994-2020



\* Children who are foreign-born or reside with at least one foreign-born parent are considered immigrant children  
Foreign-born children with native-born parents are considered non-immigrant children

+ Includes one million children without an immigrant status (i.e., children living in households with no parents present, etc.)

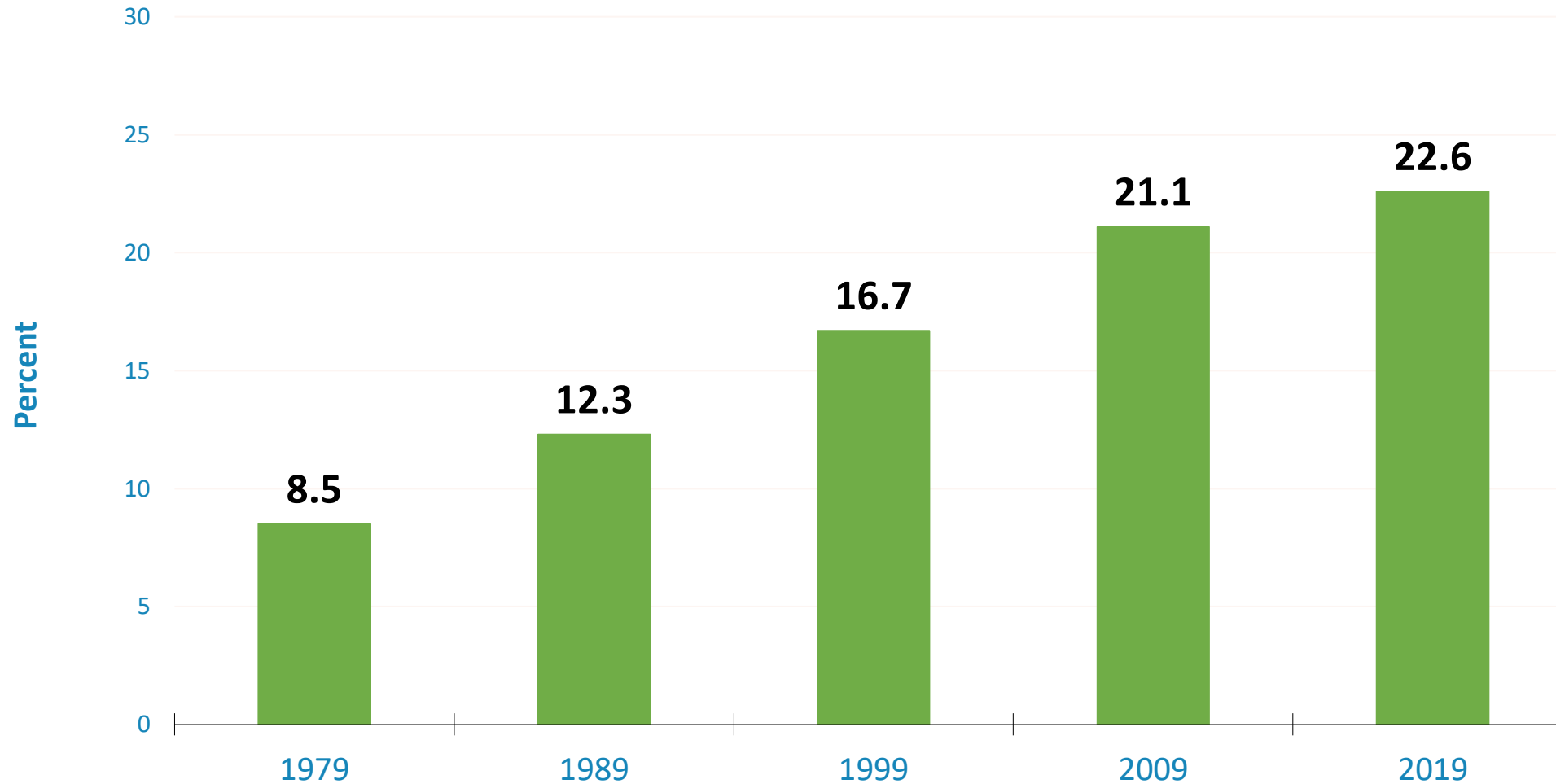
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey - Annual Social and Economic Supplement and Current Population Reports  
(<https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam4.asp> and <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop1.asp>)

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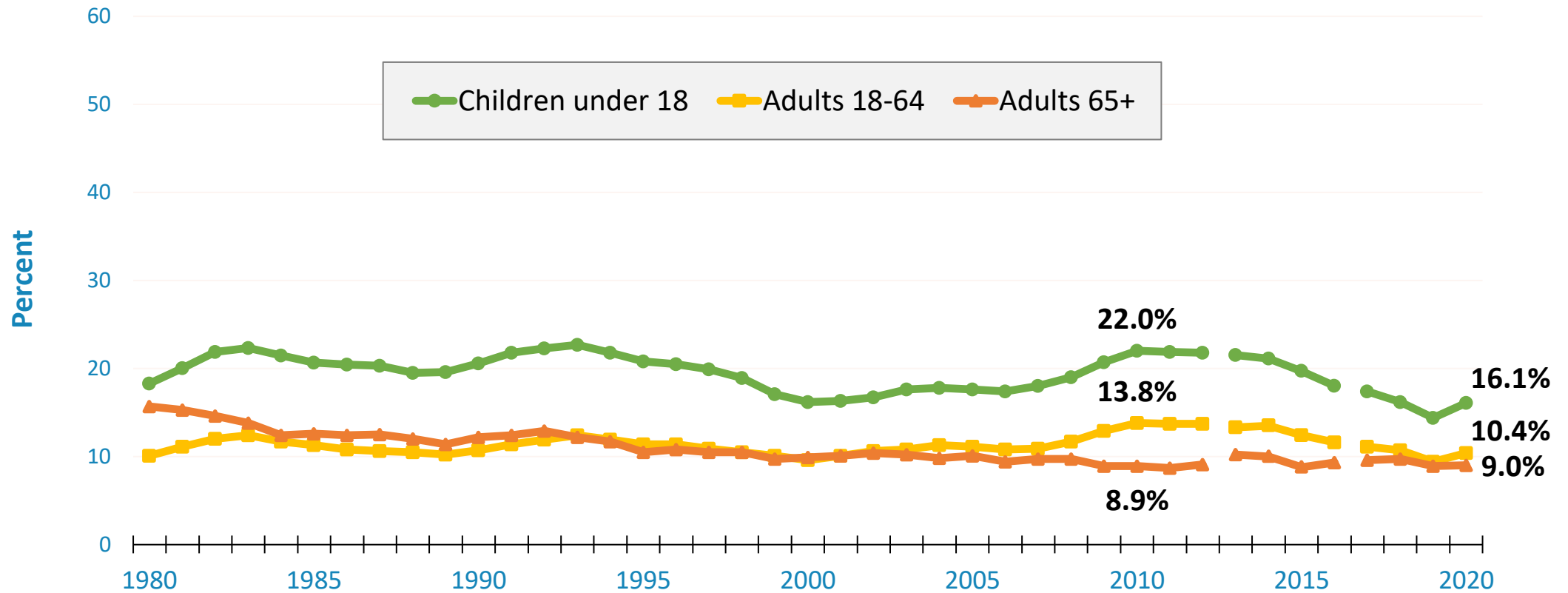
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## % of US Children (Ages 5-17) Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, 1979-2019



## % of Persons in the US Living Below the Poverty Level by Age Group, 1980-2020\*

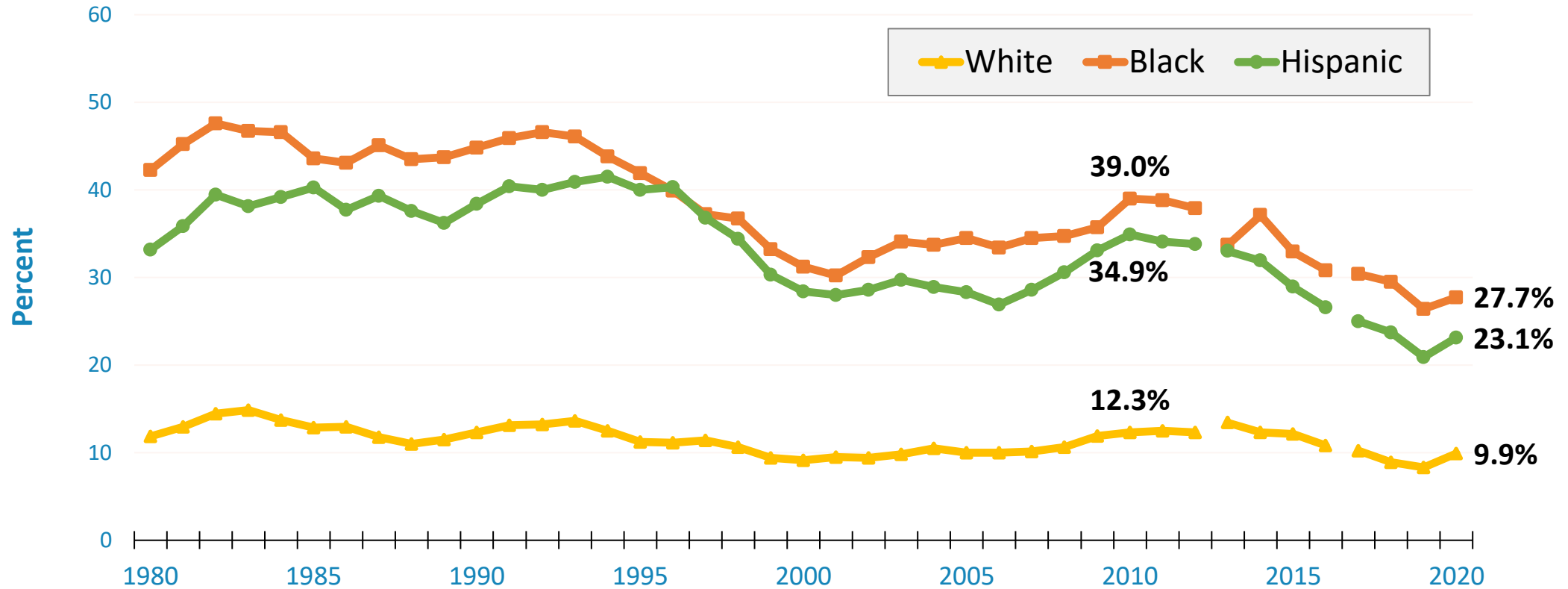


\*Estimates for 2013 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a re-design of the income questions. Estimates for 2017 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to the implementation of an updated CPS ASEC processing system.

**Poverty Level in 2020: \$26,246  
(family of 4 with 2 children)**



## % of US Children (under 18) Living Below the Poverty Level by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-2020\*



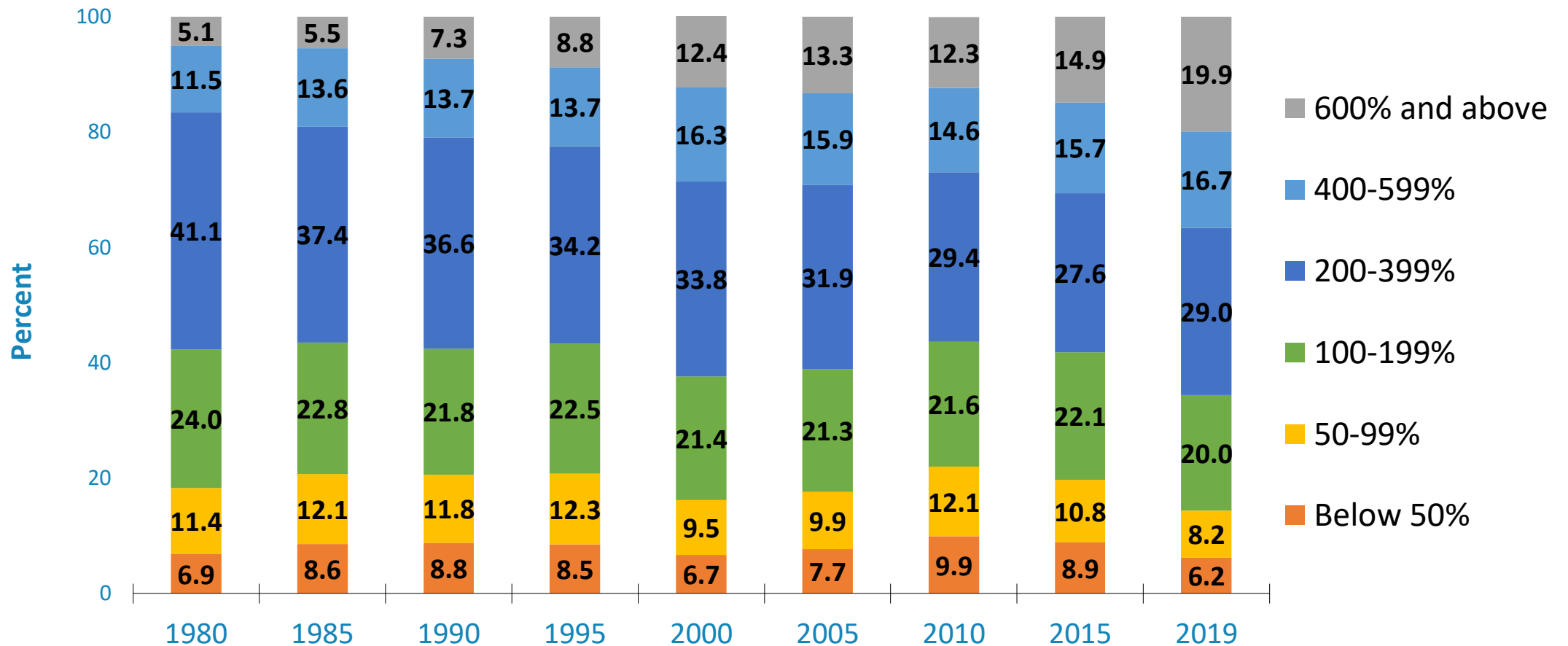
*\*Estimates for 2013 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a re-design of the income questions. Estimates for 2017 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to the implementation of an updated CPS ASEC processing system.*

**Poverty Level in 2020: \$26,246  
(family of 4 with 2 children)**





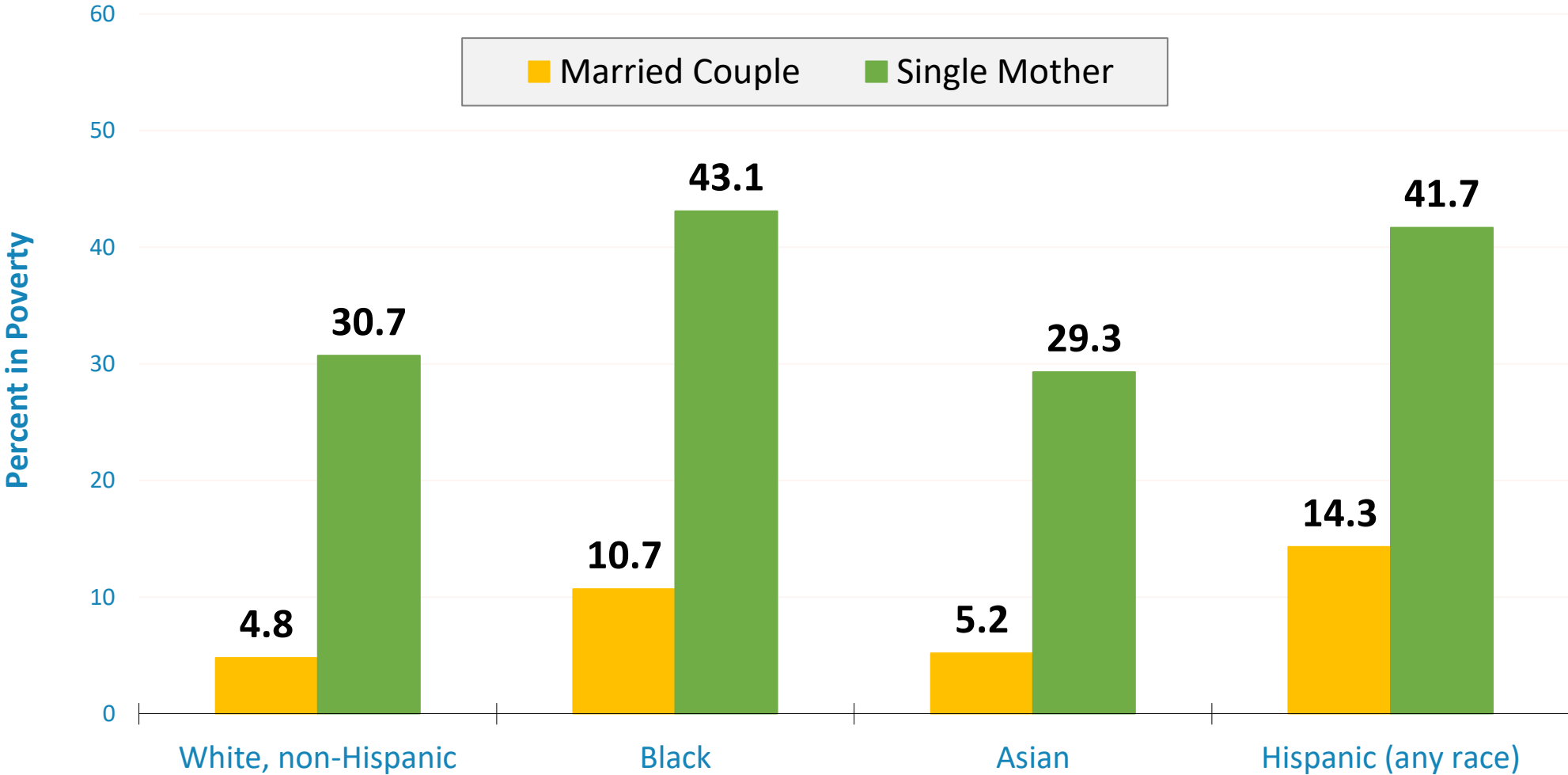
## % of US Children (under 18) by Family Income Relative to the Poverty Line, 1980-2019\*



Poverty Level in 2019: \$25,926 (family of 4 with 2 children)

\*Data for 2019 were collected during the global pandemic in 2020. As a result, the response rate was negatively impacted. The Census Bureau creates weights to adjust for nonresponse, but non-respondents in 2020 are less similar to respondents from prior years. In general, respondents in 2020 tend to have relatively higher income and were more educated than non-respondents.

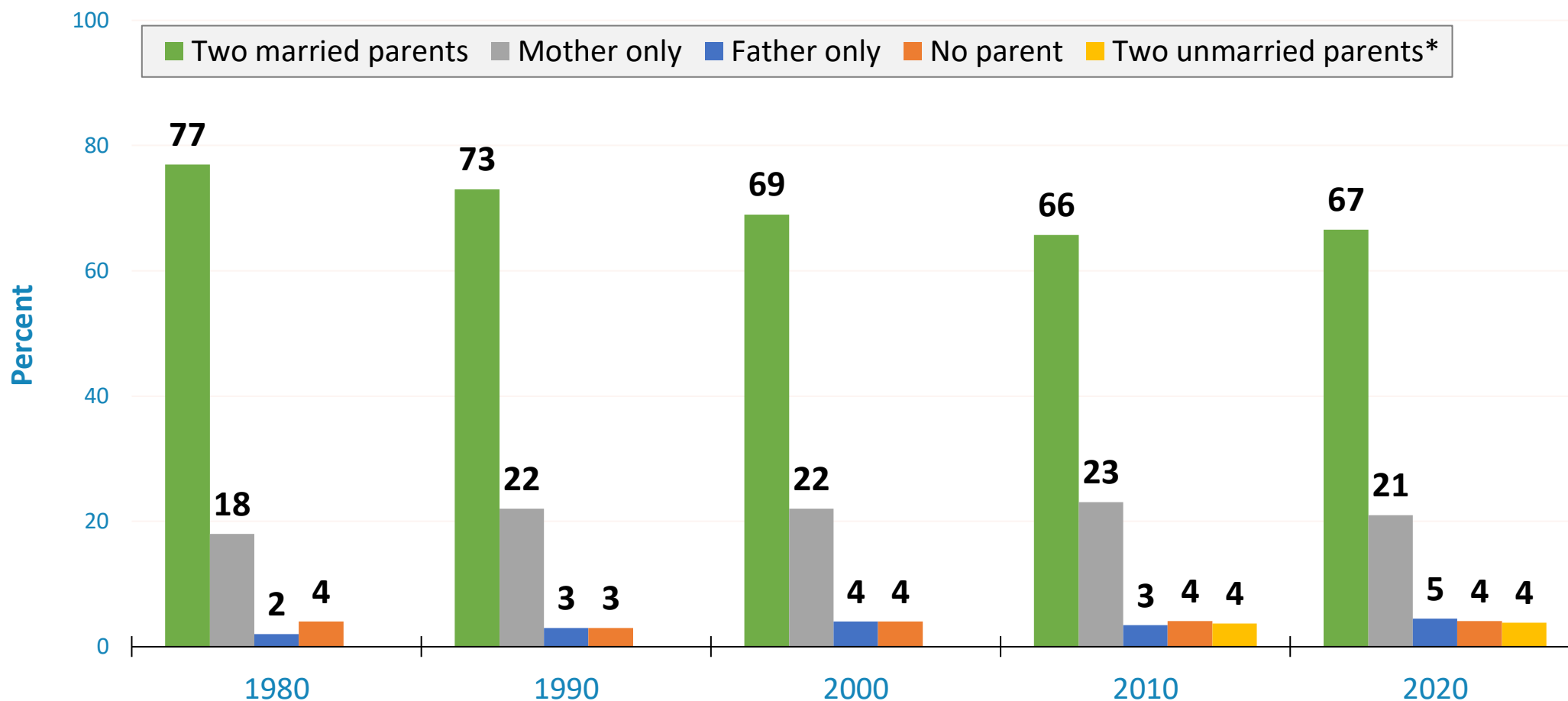
# % of US Children (under 18) in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity and Family Structure, 2020



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-02.html>)



## Living Arrangements of US Children (under 18), 1980-2020



\*Prior to 2007, children with two unmarried parents in the household may be identified as "mother only" or "father only." Starting in 2007, a second parent identifier permits identification of two co-resident parents, even if the parents are not married to each other.

Note: Estimates for 2019 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to data collection and processing changes resulting in shifts in estimates of the number of parents with whom children live and the type of relationship (biological, step, or adoptive) between children and their parent(s).



# Population Characteristic Takeaways

- The number of US children is not increasing
- Children are a shrinking portion of the population
- The adolescent birth rate has gone down
- % of Hispanic children has gone up, whereas % of White children has declined
- % of children in immigrant families increased but is stabilizing around 25%
- % of children who speak a language other than English has gone up
- % of children in poverty remains high, higher than adults
- % of children in two married parent homes has declined but is stabilizing



For more information, please contact  
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in AAP Research.

