

Who are infants, toddlers, and their families?

11.6 million children under age 3 live in the United States

- Roughly half are White, non-Hispanic, 26 percent are Hispanic or Latino, 13 percent are Black, and 4 percent are Asian
- 24 percent live in immigrant families in which one or more parents was born outside of the United States

Infants, toddlers, and families have high rates of economic hardship

- 2.3 million or 20 percent of children under age 3 live below the poverty threshold (\$19,078 for a family of three with one child)
- An additional 2.5 million live in households earning between 100 and 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) (\$38,156 for a family of three with one child)
- One in five young parents (under 30)—many of whom are parents of infants and toddlers—is poor

Most parents of infants and toddlers are working, but they are held back by low levels of education and poor quality jobs

- 62 percent of mothers with an infant or toddler participate in the labor force, and a majority work full-time
- 36 percent of parents with an infant or toddler have a high school diploma or less; 23 percent completed college coursework but have not earned a degree
- One in five mothers with an infant or toddler works in low-wage jobs, typically earning \$10.50 or less per hour

Children of color are a growing population and are overrepresented among children in poverty

- Between 2000 and 2010, people of color accounted for more than 90 percent of the U.S. population growth
- 69 percent of Black and 63 percent of Hispanic infants and toddlers live in low-income families, compared to just 33 percent of White infants and toddlers
- Women of color face significant wage gaps and are less likely to have access to paid family leave and paid sick leave

Source: CLASP analysis of 5-year ACS estimates (2011-2015); CLASP analysis of 2016 Current Population Survey, March Supplement; Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Table 6. Employment status of mothers with own children under 3 years old by single year of age of youngest child and marital status, 2015-2016 annual averages," U.S. Census Bureau, 2017, www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.t06.htm; Author's analysis of IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org; Karen Schulman, Jasmine Tucker, and Julie Vogtman, *Nearly One in Five Working Mothers of Very Young Children Work in Low-Wage Jobs*, National Women's Law Center, 2017, <https://nwl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Nearly-One-in-Five-Working-Mothers-of-Very-Young-Children-Work-in-Low-Wage-Jobs-2017.pdf>; Jeffrey S. Passel, Gretchen Livingston, and D'Vera Cohn, *Explaining Why Minority Births Now Outnumber White Births*, Pew Research Center, 2012, <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/05/17/explaining-why-minority-births-now-outnumber-white-births/>; Zoe Ziliak Michel and Liz Ben-Ishai, *Good Jobs for All: Racial Inequities in Job Quality*, CLASP, 2016, http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/Race-and-Job-Quality-Brief-3_30ar.docx-FINAL.pdf; ZERO TO THREE, *National Baby Facts*, 2015, <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/369-national-baby-facts>.