

Changing Our Minds: 6 in 10 Said “Four or More” Kids is Ideal in 1959; 1 in 10 Say That Now

Question: What do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have?

	Ideal Number of Children					Ideal Number of Children			
	0-1	2	3	4 or more		0-1	2	3	4 or more
1996	4%	57%	22%	11%	1974	3%	44%	23%	19%
1994	4	53	22	11	1972	3	40	23	25
1993	3	55	20	9	1970	2	37	23	34
1991	4	52	22	12	1967	*	23	30	40
1990	3	54	23	12	1966	1	18	27	35
1989	4	53	21	14	1965	1	18	28	37
1988	4	50	26	14	1962	1	16	24	46
1986	3	51	25	16	1959	1	2	35	58
1985	4	55	22	15	1957	2	18	34	39
1983	3	51	23	14	1953	2	27	28	39
1982	4	55	20	17	1952	2	27	28	38
1978	3	51	24	17	1947	1	26	26	41
1977	3	49	23	19	1945	1	22	28	49
1975	3	48	23	16	1941	1	31	27	41

Unchanging: Pass On A Strong Individuality

Question: If you had to choose, which thing on this list would you pick as the most important for a child to learn to prepare him or her for life?

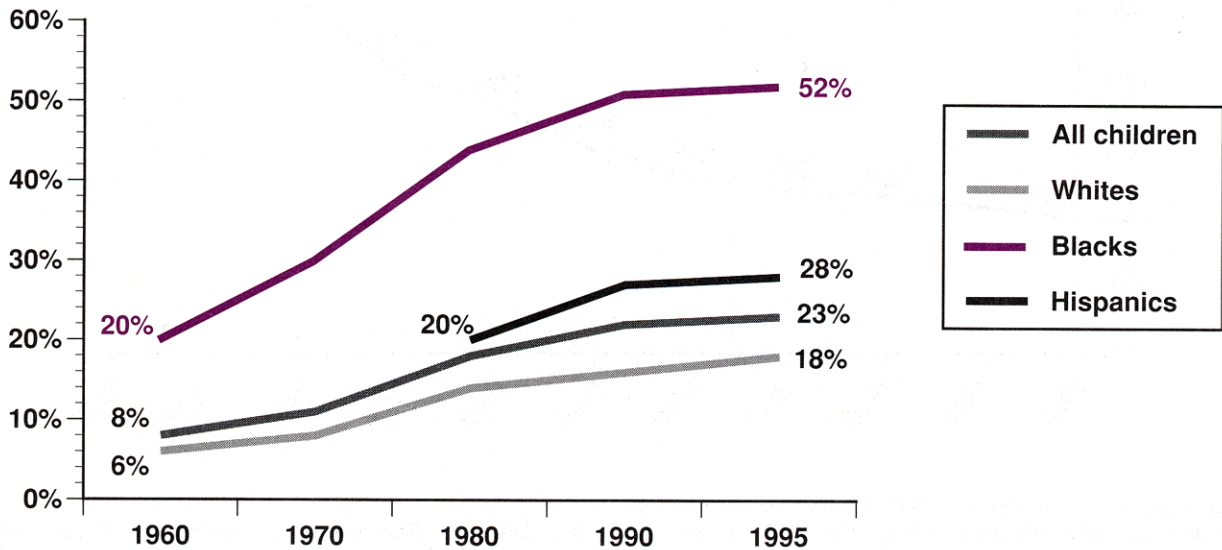
	To think for him/herself	To work hard	To help others when they need help	To obey	To be well-liked or popular
1996	51%	17%	13%	18%	1%
1994	54	15	13	18	1
1993	53	14	13	19	1
1991	52	15	13	20	*
1990	51	16	14	19	1
1989	53	14	12	20	1
1988	49	14	13	23	1
1987	55	12	12	21	1
1986	52	11	14	23	1

*less than 0.5%

Source: Surveys from 1972-1996 were by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey (GSS); and before 1972, by the Gallup Organization.

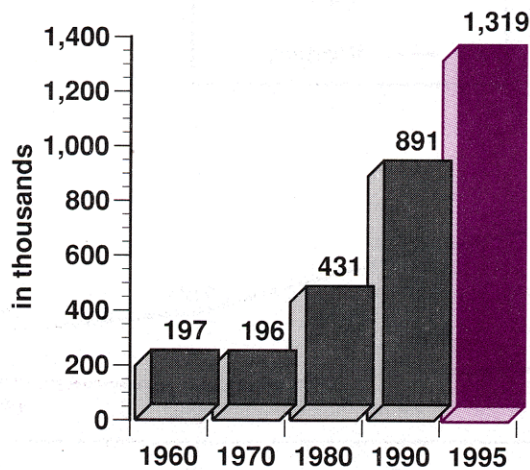
The Numbers of Children Raised In Other Than Two-Parent, Husband and Wife Families Has Increased Dramatically Since 1960

Percentage of Children Under 18 Years Old Living With Mother Only



Source: US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-484, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994," and earlier reports; and for 1970 Hispanic data, 1970 Census of Population, PC (2)-1C, "Persons of Spanish Origin," Table 4.

Unmarried-Couple Households, by Presence of Children (Under age 15)



Source: US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-484, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1994," and earlier reports; 1960 and 1970 data, 1960 Census of Population, PC(2)-4B, "Persons by Family Characteristics," Table 15 and Table 11.