



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

## Illinois Birth to Three Demographics Fact Sheet

### How many infants and toddlers live in Illinois?

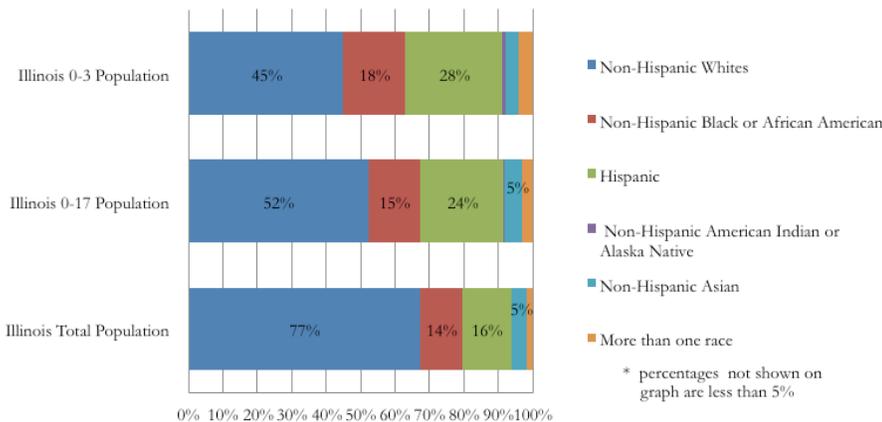
In Illinois, of the total population of about 12,859,995, there are approximately 1,546,543 families with 2,967,564 children. Of this population, **474,588** are infants and toddlers under the age of 3.

### Young children in Illinois are more diverse than the population as a whole in the state.

Source: U.S. Census 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; National Center for Children in Poverty (nccp.org) Illinois Early Childhood Profiles

Illinois Infants and Toddlers		
	Number	Percentage
Non-Hispanic White	213,566	45%
Non-Hispanic Black	85,426	18%
Hispanic	132,885	28%
Non-Hispanic Asian	18,983	4%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	4,745	1%
More than one race	18,983	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>474,588</b>	<b>100%</b>

Illinois Population



Source: U.S. Census 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; National Center for Children in Poverty (nccp.org) Illinois Early Childhood Profiles

### How many infants and toddlers are poor? 1 in 5.

**20%** of Illinois babies and toddlers —95,000—live in poverty.

Our youngest children are the poorest segment of the population. The poverty rate for all Illinois residents is much lower at 12.7%. The poverty rate for people aged 65 and older is even lower, at 8.8%. In Illinois, 0-3 year olds make up 3.6% of the total population, but they are almost 6% of the poor population.

The federal poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was \$24,008 in 2014, and for a single parent with one child, the threshold was \$15,379.

**43%** of Illinois babies and toddlers, **209,000**, live in low-income families, with family income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Almost 1 in 10 babies and toddlers live in deep poverty, in families whose income is below 50% of the federal poverty threshold.**

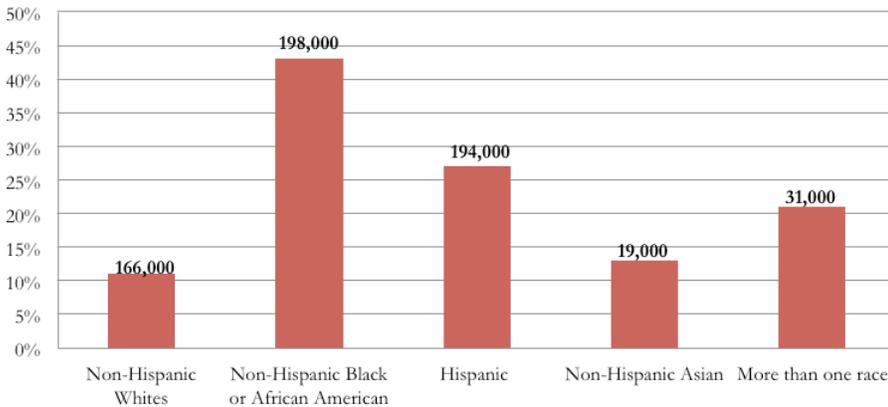
The composition of the family into which a child is born plays a part in the odds the child will be poor.

For 2015, poverty rates are higher for families with a female householder, at 28.2%, than for families with a male householder, at 14.9%. Married-couple families have a much lower poverty rate, at 5.4%.

**All racial and ethnic groups experience child poverty, but some are disproportionately impacted.**

Hispanic children are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as their white counterparts and African-American children are more than three times as likely.

Percentage and Number of Children 0-18 in Illinois in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity 2014



Source: Population Reference Bureau. Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; KIDS COUNT data center ([datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)) Children in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

**The fight against racism is at the heart of the fight against poverty in America.**

It is more important than ever for equal justice advocates to understand and address issues of race, implicit bias, and how to affirmatively advance racial equity.

The ramifications of our nation's past and present racial injustices are evident in the over-representation of communities of color among the poor. To get to a better future, young families in those communities must be able to access effective programs that support children's healthy development and parents' economic opportunity.

Today, we know that only a fraction of the need for home visiting, early intervention, and quality child care is being met, but the percentages presented in this report are only estimates. Data on program participation by race and ethnicity, age, language spoken, and income level is not always collected and reported. Without this data, there is the risk that racial and other disparities will remain invisible and hard to address, and agencies will lack information they need to ensure that services are reaching those who most need them.

Fortunately, state agencies are engaged in promising initiatives to collaborate in collecting information across systems about the people served in key programs. Funding for these efforts, and development of coordinated, cross-system data policies will help Illinois become a place of fair opportunity for the next generation.