



US Child Population Characteristic Trends

Compiled by AAP Research Staff

August 2025



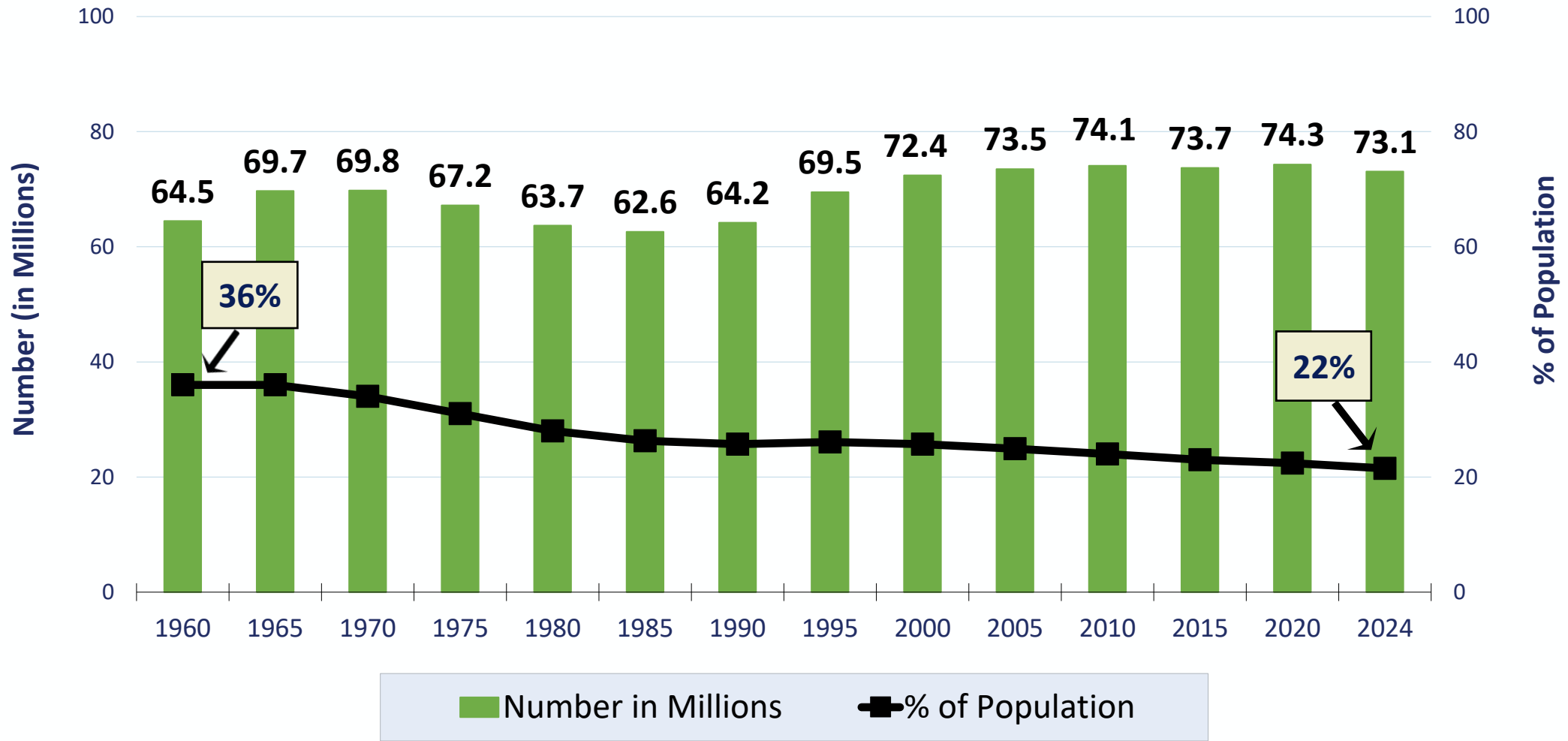
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- No permissions are required.
- The graphics are developed from publicly available federal data sources.
- The categories and terms expressed in each graphic are based on what is available from these public data sources
- At the bottom of each slide, the data source is given, and a link is provided for those seeking more information about the data source and possible data limitations.
- Based on data available as of August 2025

Child Population Characteristic Trends

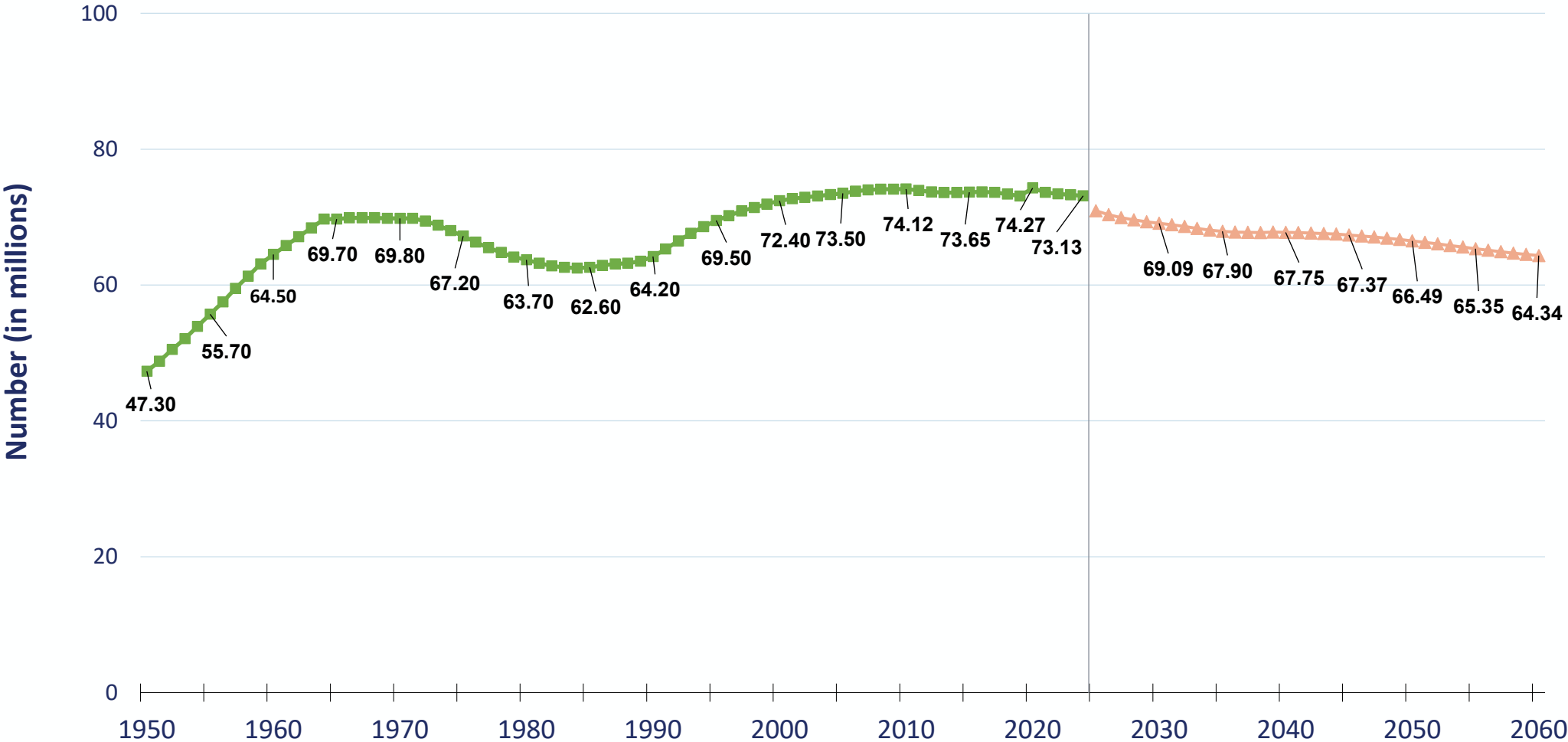
- US child population
- Birth rates - overall and adolescent
- Racial and ethnic composition
- Immigrant children
- Language other than English
- Poverty/low income
- Family structure

US Child (under 18) Population: Number and % of Overall Population, 1960-2024



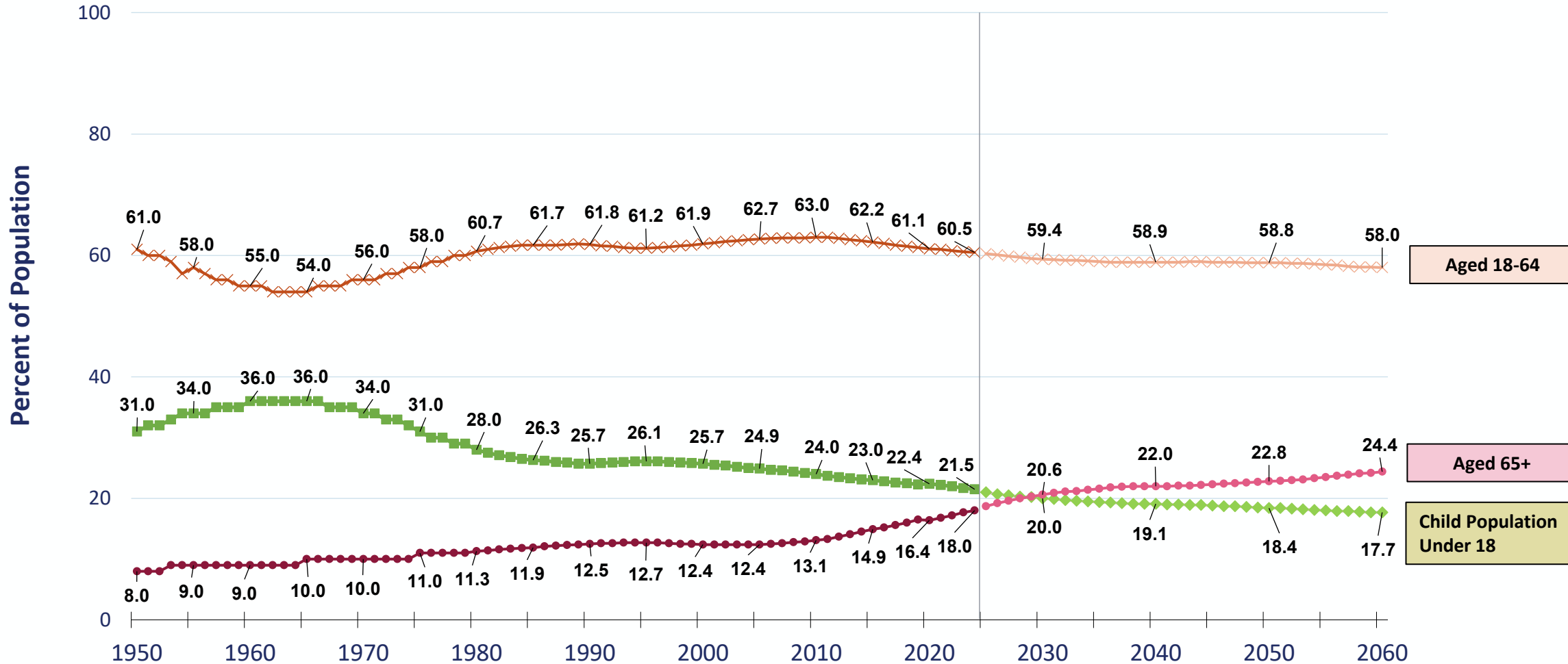
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports (data for 1960-2020: <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop1.asp> and <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop2.asp>; and 2024: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-detail.html>)

US Child (under 18) Population Estimates Recorded (1950-2024) and Projected (2025-2060)

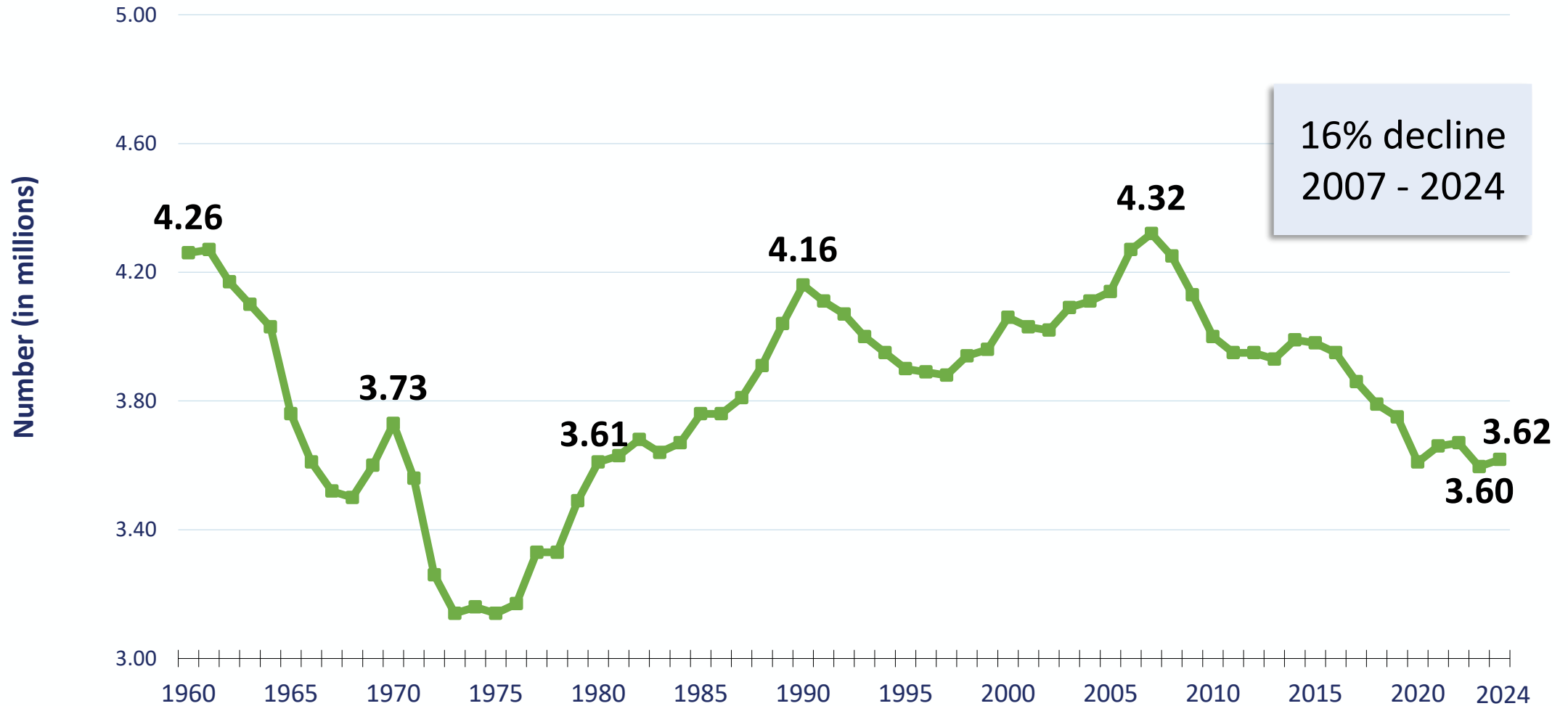


Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports (data for 1950-2019: <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop1.asp>;
2020-2024: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-detail.html>; and 2025-2060: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/demo/popproj/2023-summary-tables.html>)

US Population: % of Overall Population by Age Group, Recorded (1950-2024) and Projected (2025-2060)



Number of US Births (in Millions of Children Born), 1960-2024*

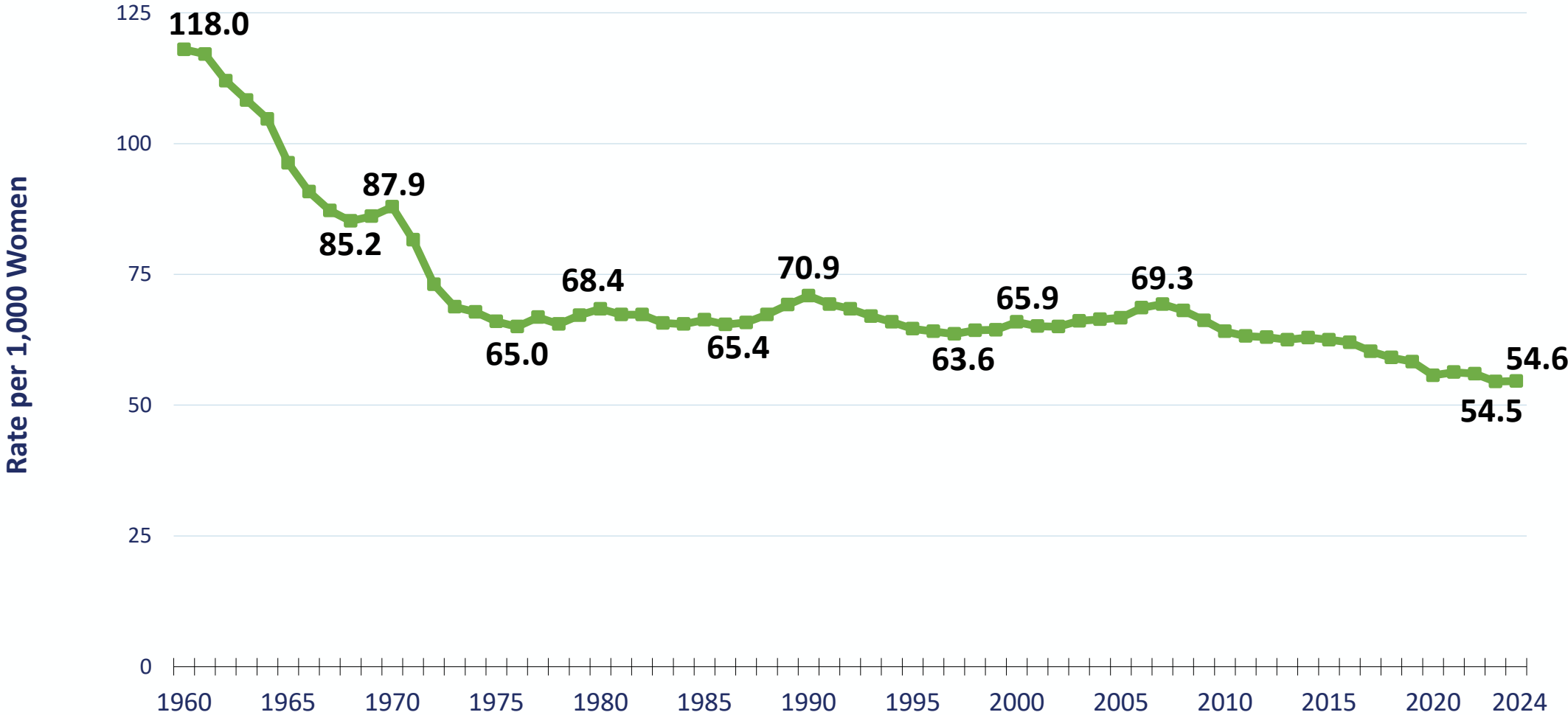


*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1960-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2023: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr74/nvsr74-1.pdf>; and 2024: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr038.pdf>)



US Birth Rates (per 1,000 Women Aged 15-44), 1960-2024*

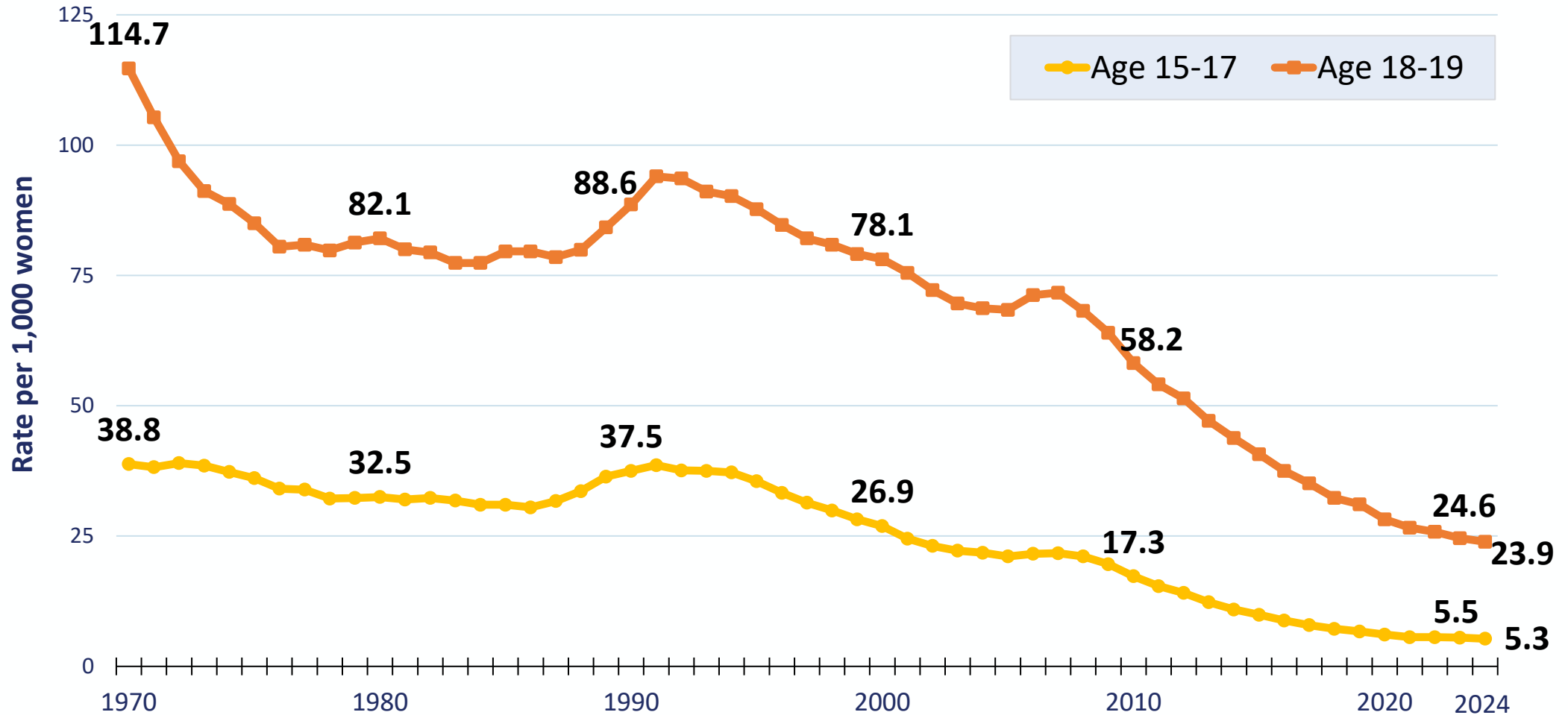


*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1960-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2023: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr74/nvsr74-1.pdf>; and 2024: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr038.pdf>)



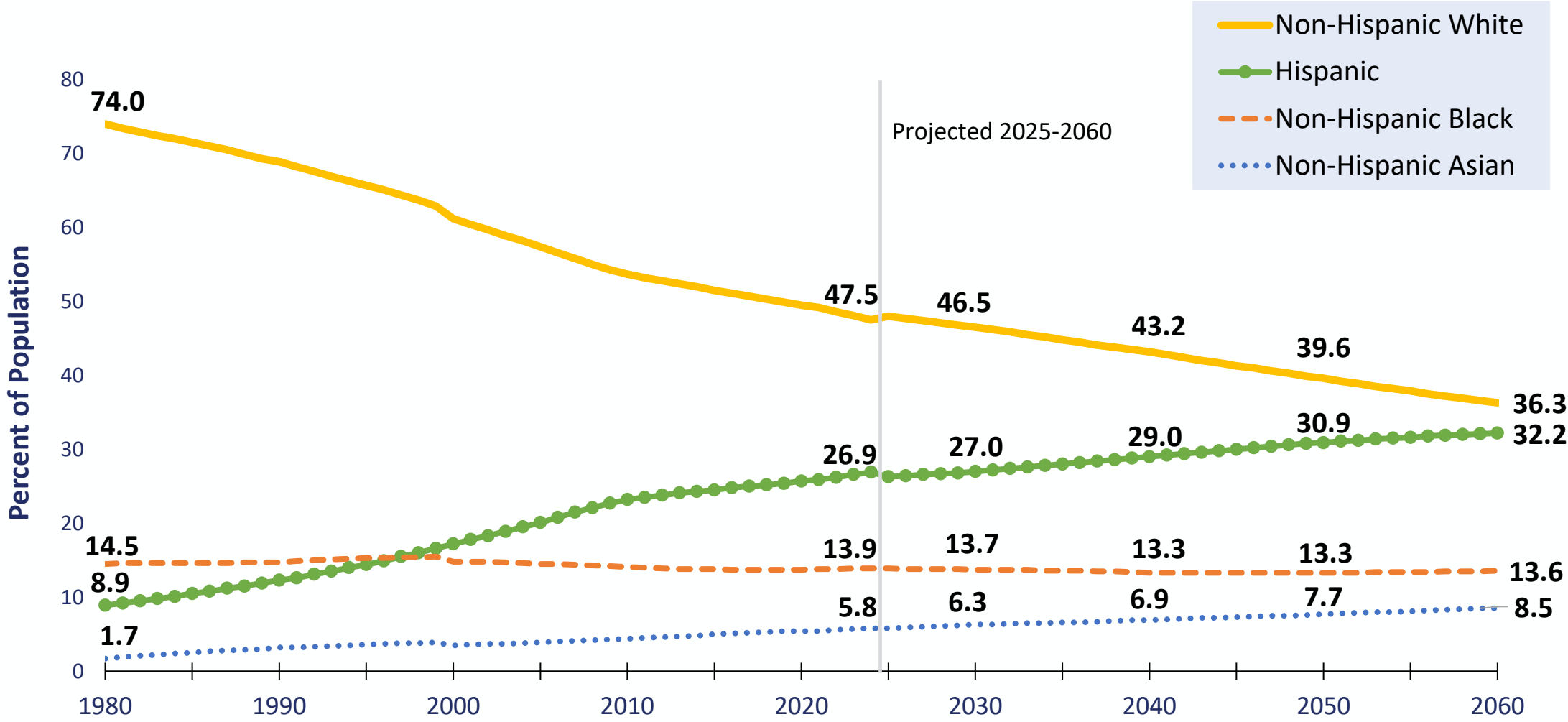
US Adolescent Birth Rates (per 1,000 Women) by Age Group, 1970-2024*



*Provisional data for 2024

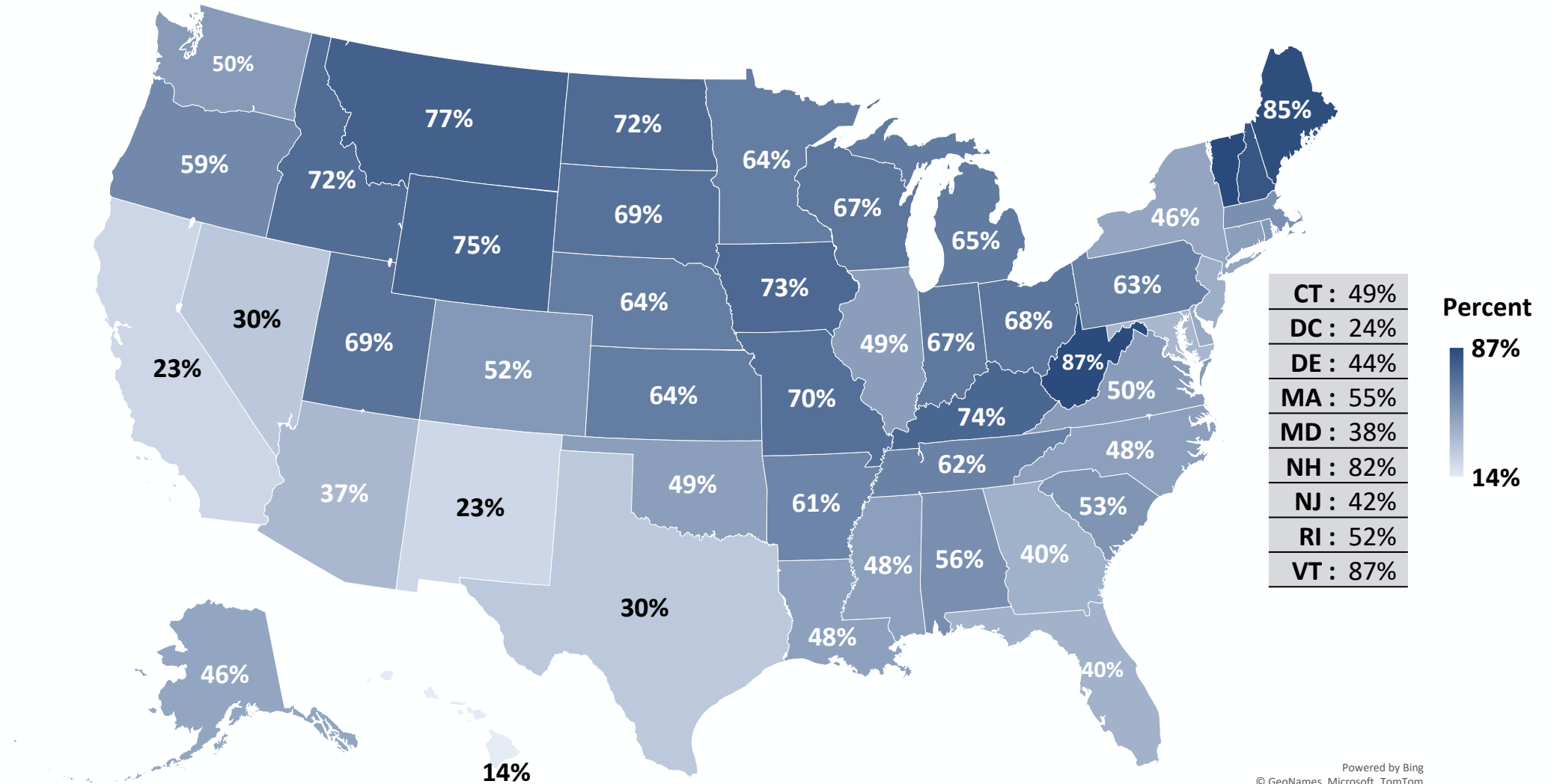
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1960-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2023: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr74/nvsr74-1.pdf>; and 2024: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr038.pdf>)

Race and Ethnicity of US Children (under 18), Recorded (1980-2024) and Projected (2025-2060)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division (data for 1980-2019 and 2025-2060: <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop3.asp>; and 2020-2024: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-detail.html>)

Percent of US Non-Hispanic White Children (under 18) by State, 2024



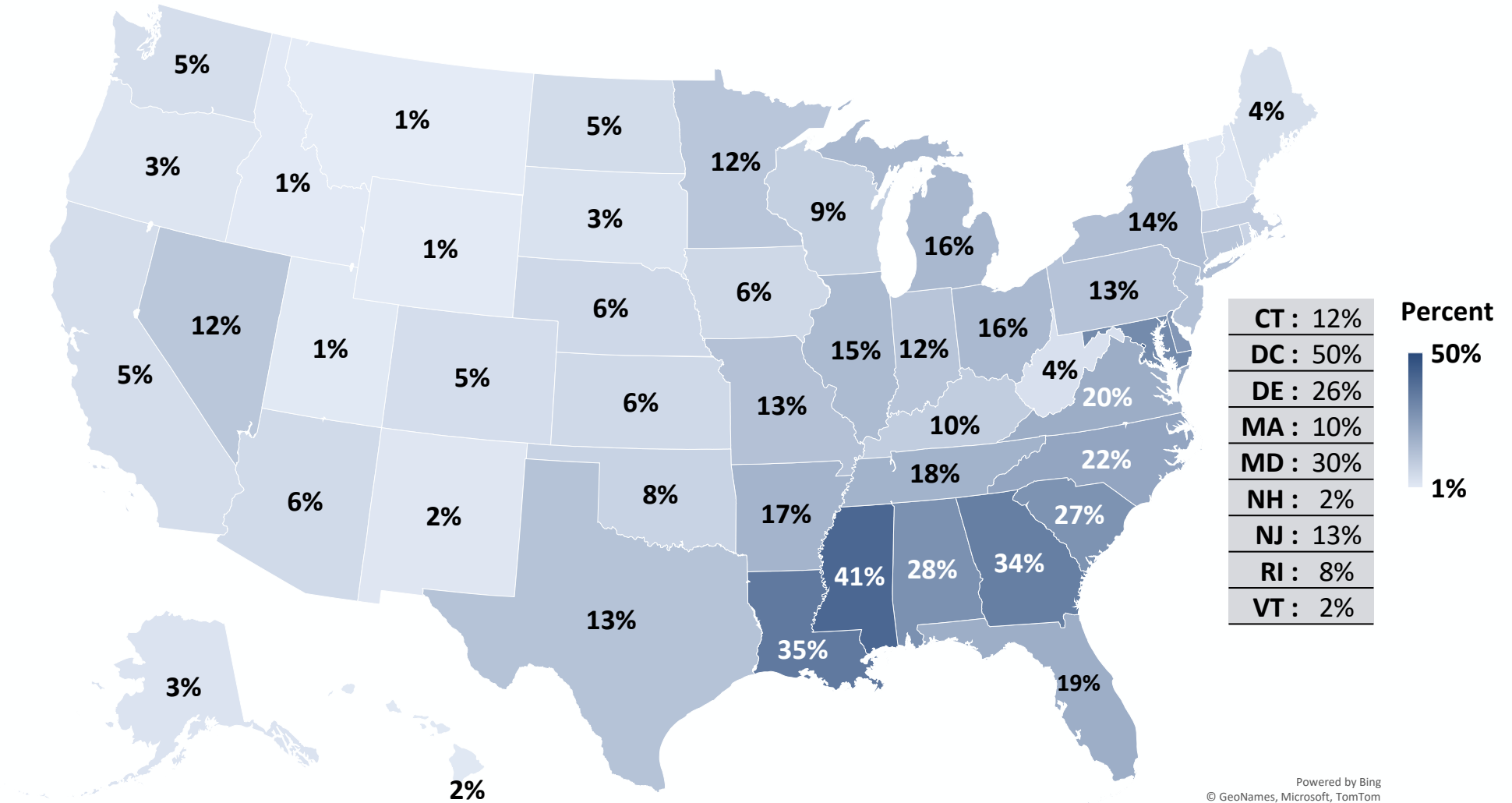
Percent of US Non-Hispanic White Children (under 18) US Population: 48%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>

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Percent of US Non-Hispanic Black Children (under 18) by State, 2024



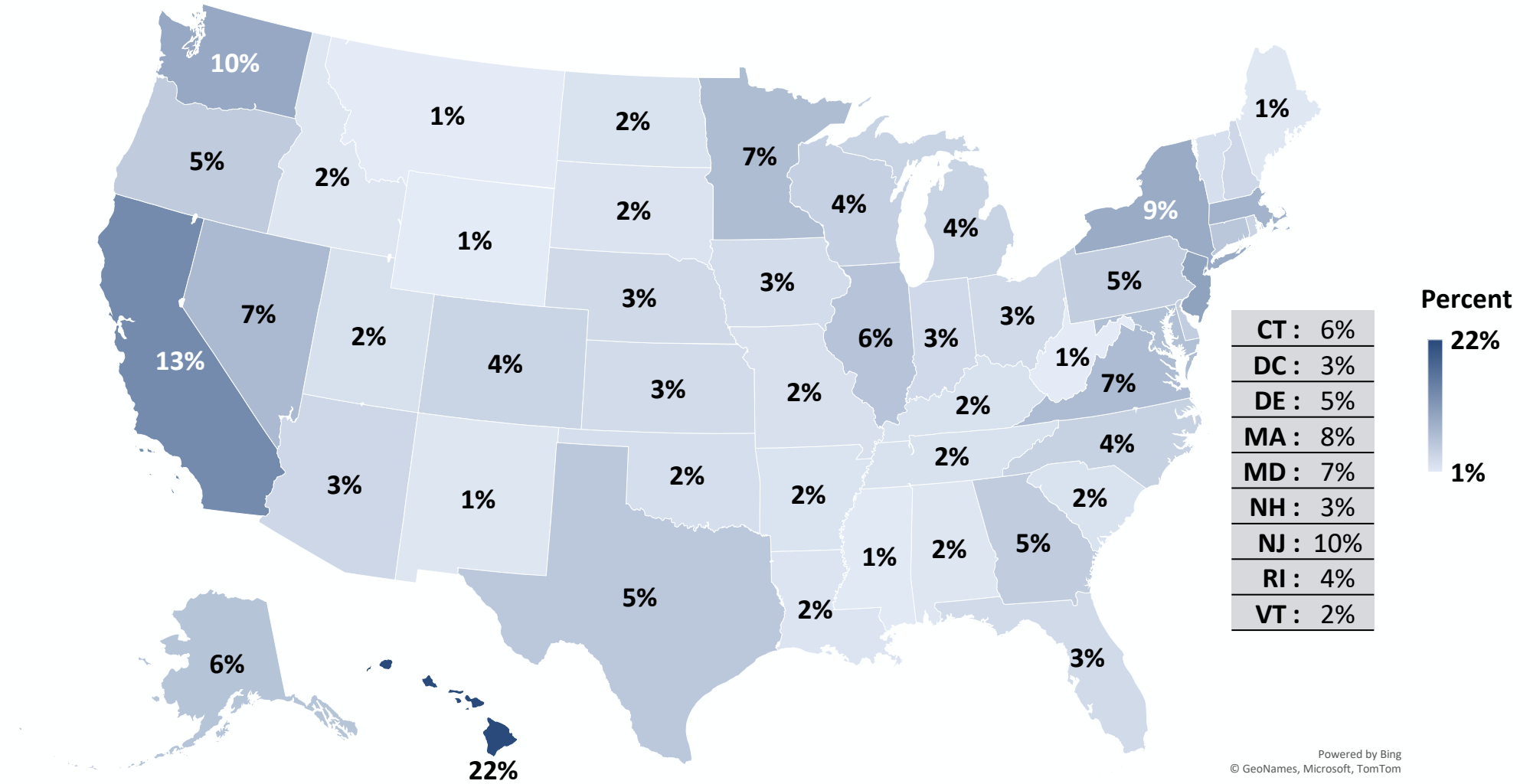
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Percent of US Non-Hispanic Black Children (under 18) US Population: 14%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>

Percent of US Non-Hispanic Asian Children (under 18) by State, 2024



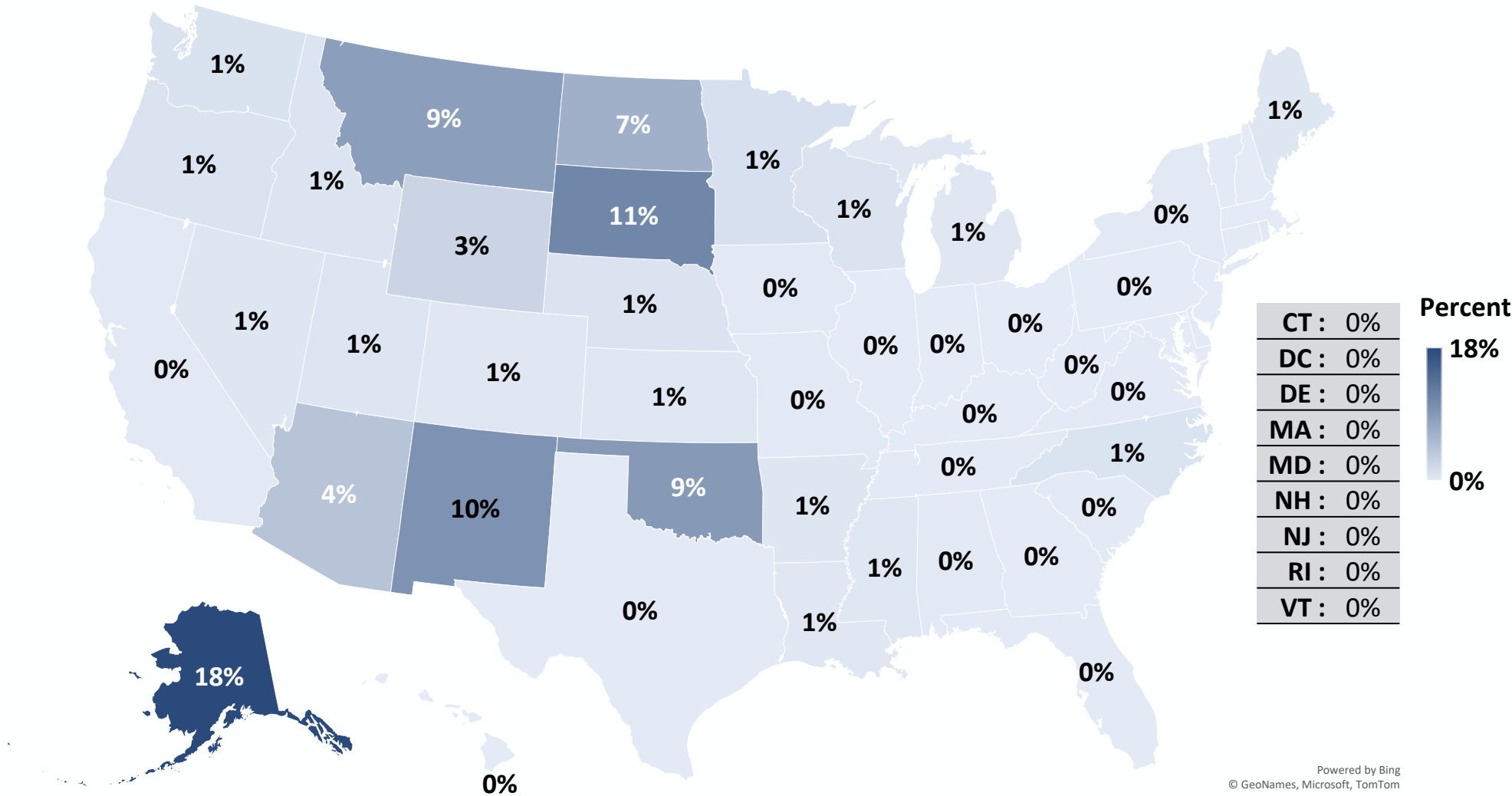
Percent of US Non-Hispanic Asian Children (under 18) US Population: 6%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>

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Percent of US Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native Children (under 18) by State, 2024



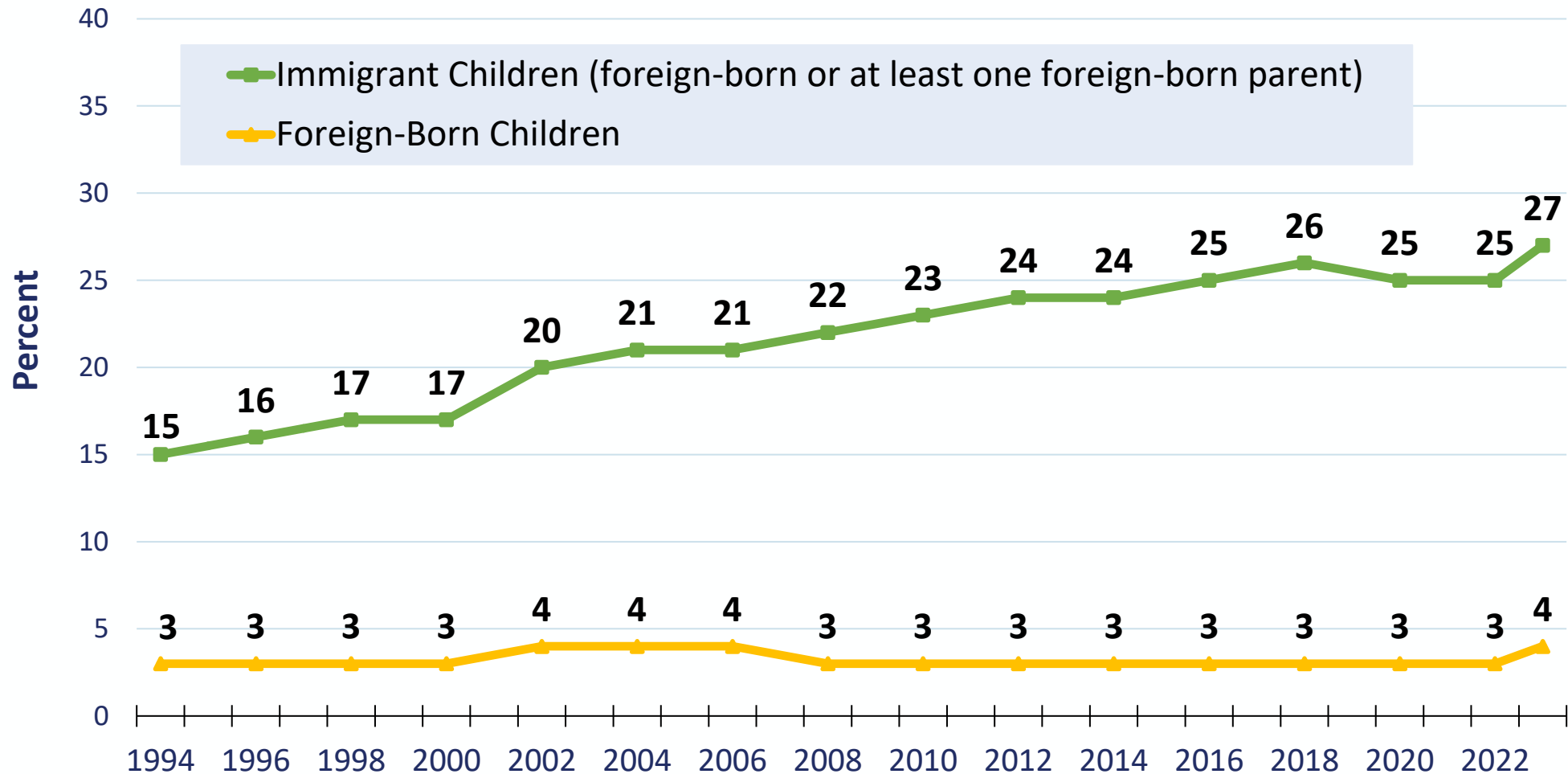
Percent of US Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native Children (under 18) US Population: 1%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division
<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>

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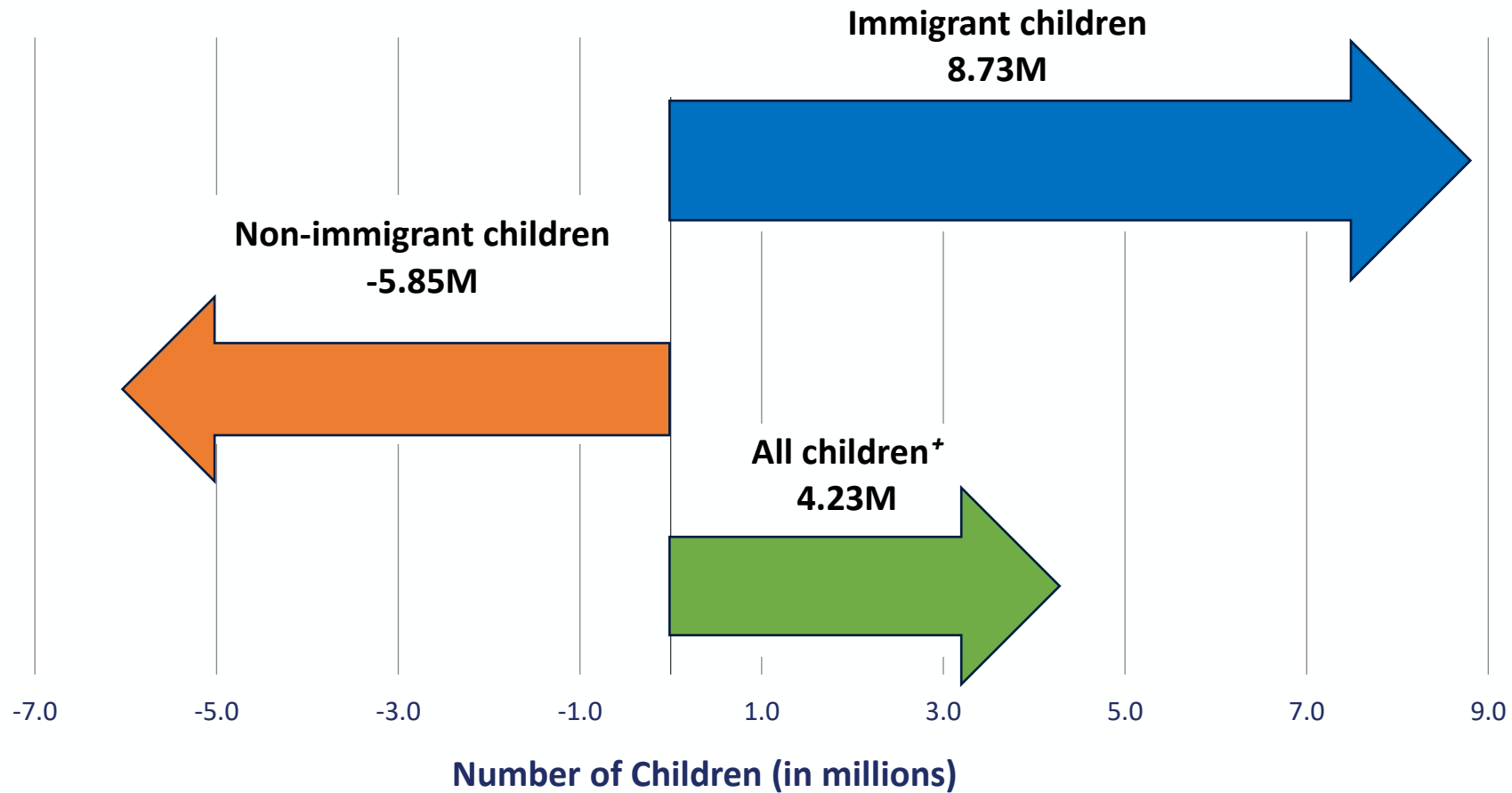


Percent of US Children (under 18) Who Are Immigrants, 1994-2023



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement
(<https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam4.asp>, and <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec.html>)

Growth in the Number of US Children* (under 18) by Immigrant Status, 1994-2023

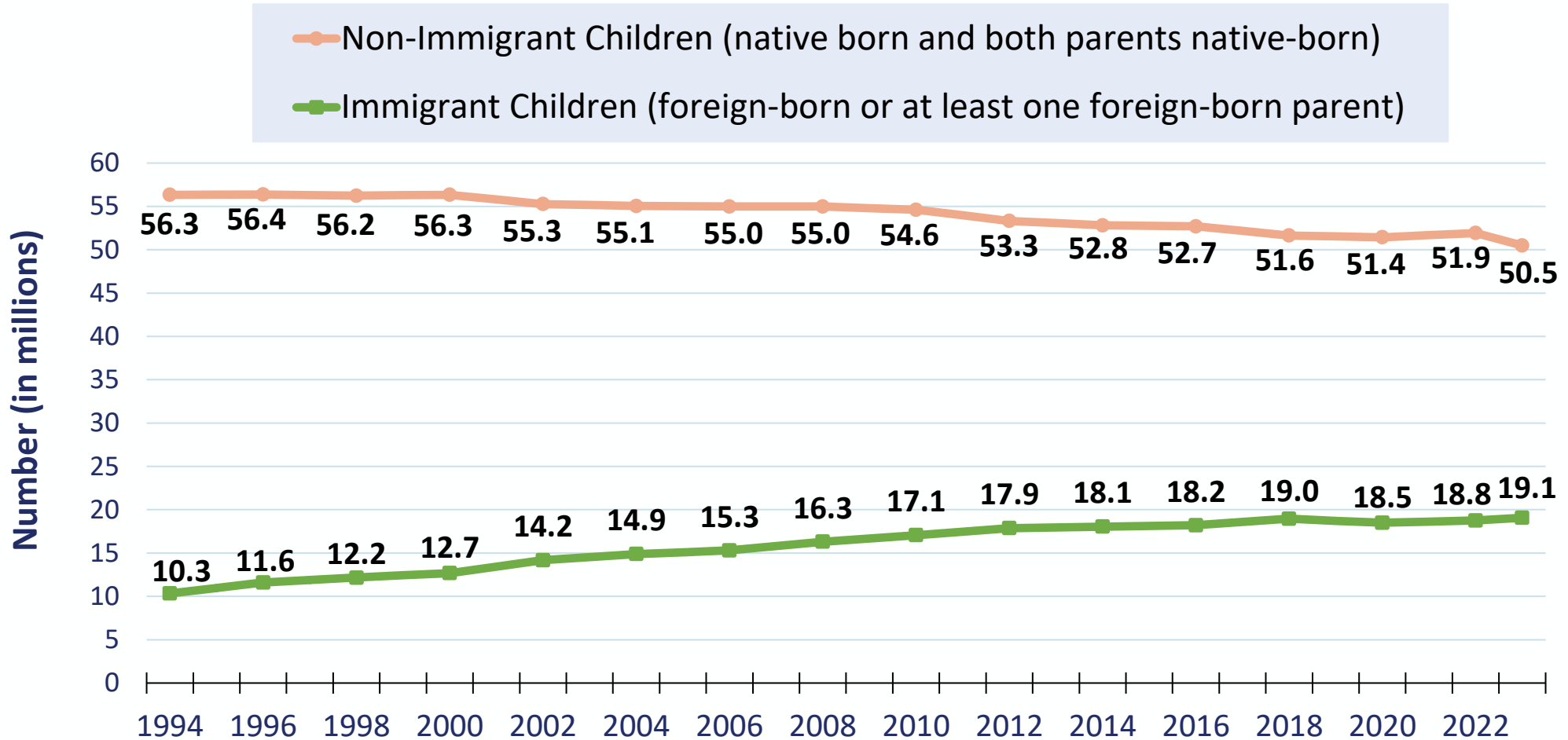


* Children who are foreign-born or reside with at least one foreign-born parent are considered immigrant children
Foreign-born children with native-born parents are considered non-immigrant children

* Includes children not assigned an immigrant status (i.e., household residents under 18 listed as family reference person or spouses)

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>)

Number of US Children* (under 18) by Immigrant Status, 1994-2023



* Children who are foreign-born or reside with at least one foreign-born parent are considered immigrant children

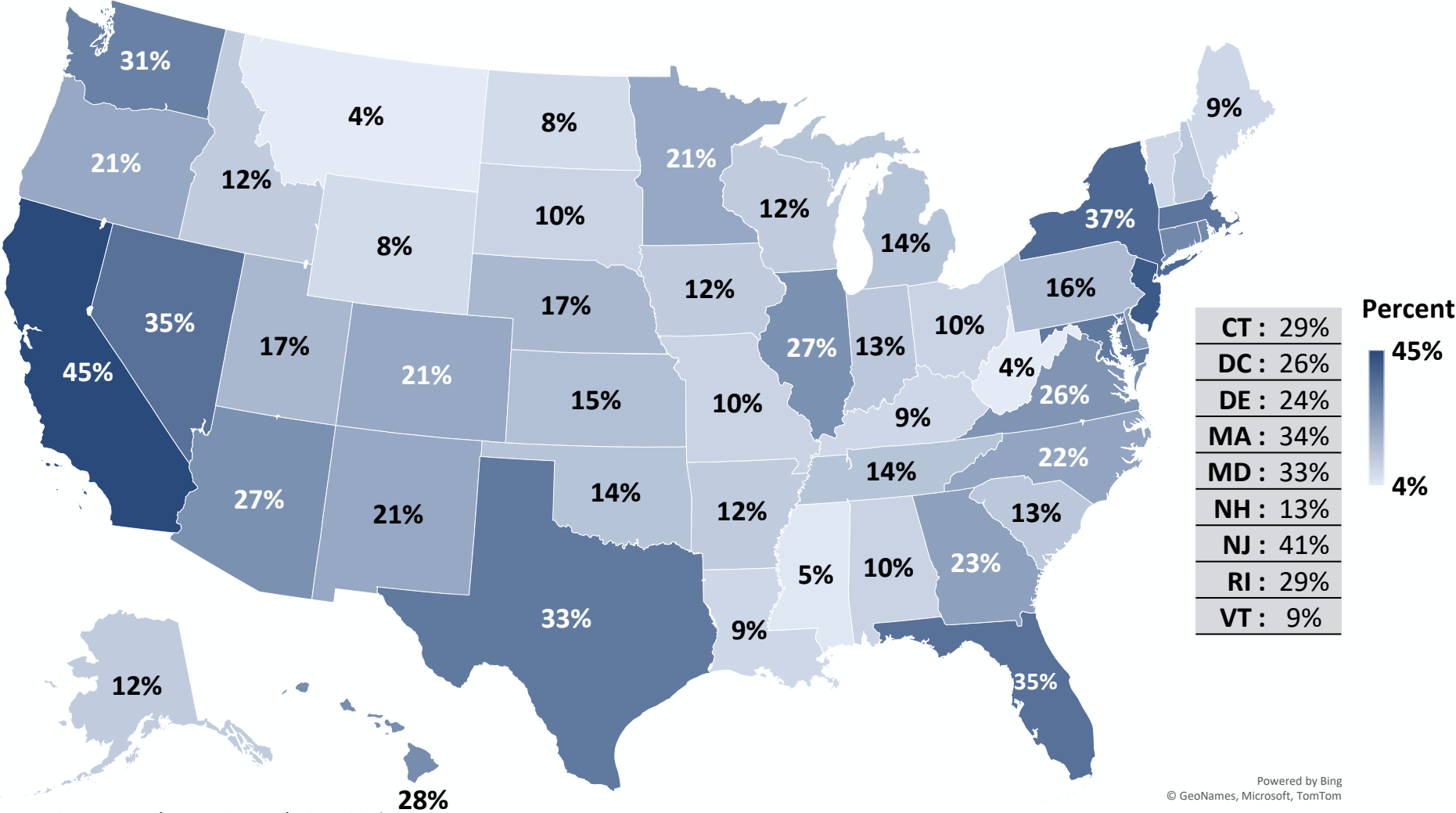
Foreign-born children with native-born parents are considered non-immigrant children

Does not include children not assigned an immigrant status (i.e., household residents under 18 listed as family reference person or spouses) ~ 3.2M in 2023

Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

(<https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam4.asp> and <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop1.asp>)

Percent of US Children (under 18) in Immigrant* Families by State, 2023



Percent of US Children (under 18) in Immigrant Families -- US Population: 26%

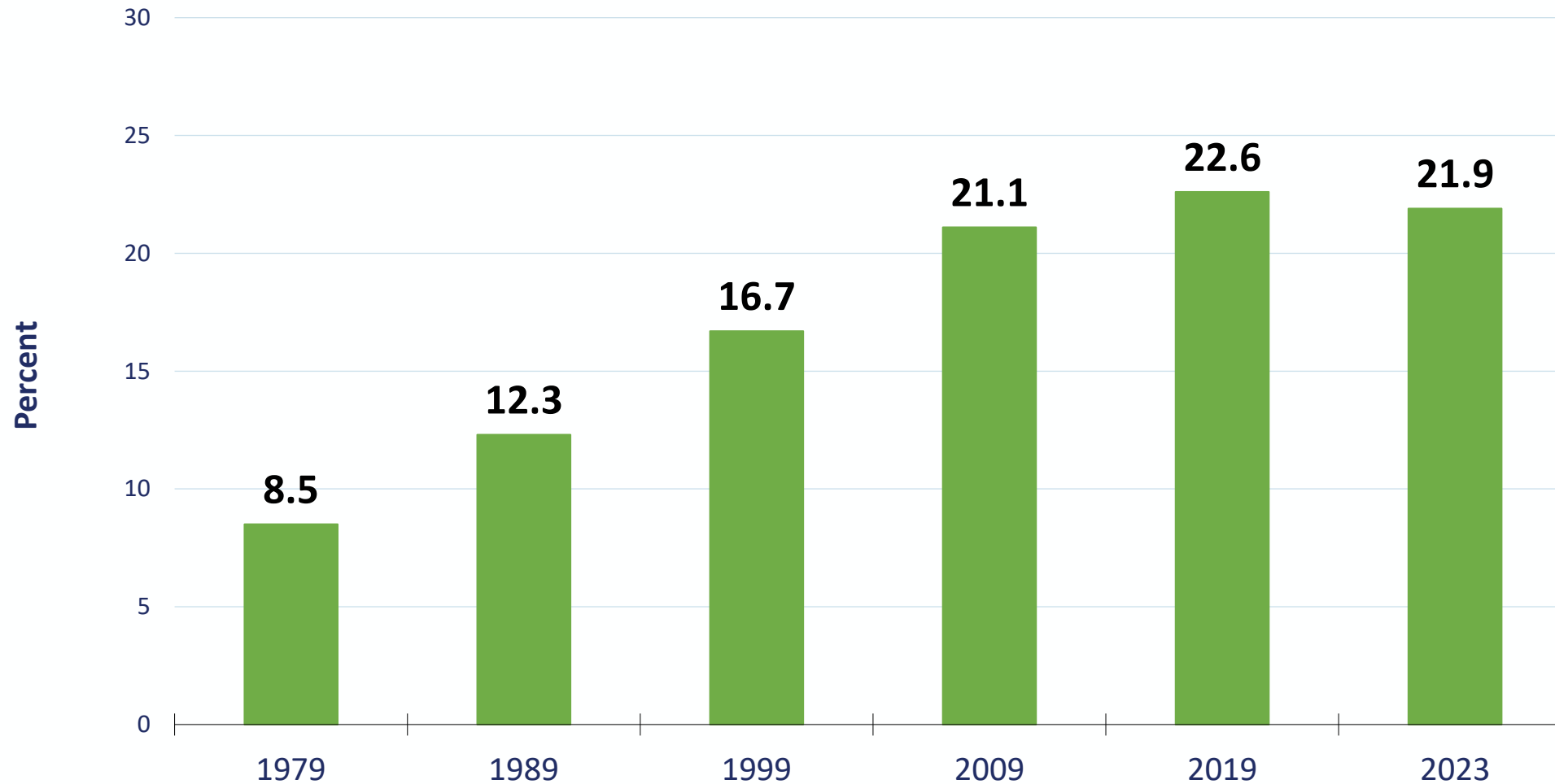
*Children who are foreign-born or reside with at least one foreign-born parent

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey
[https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.B05009?q=immigrant%20children&g=010XX00US,\\$0400000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.B05009?q=immigrant%20children&g=010XX00US,$0400000)

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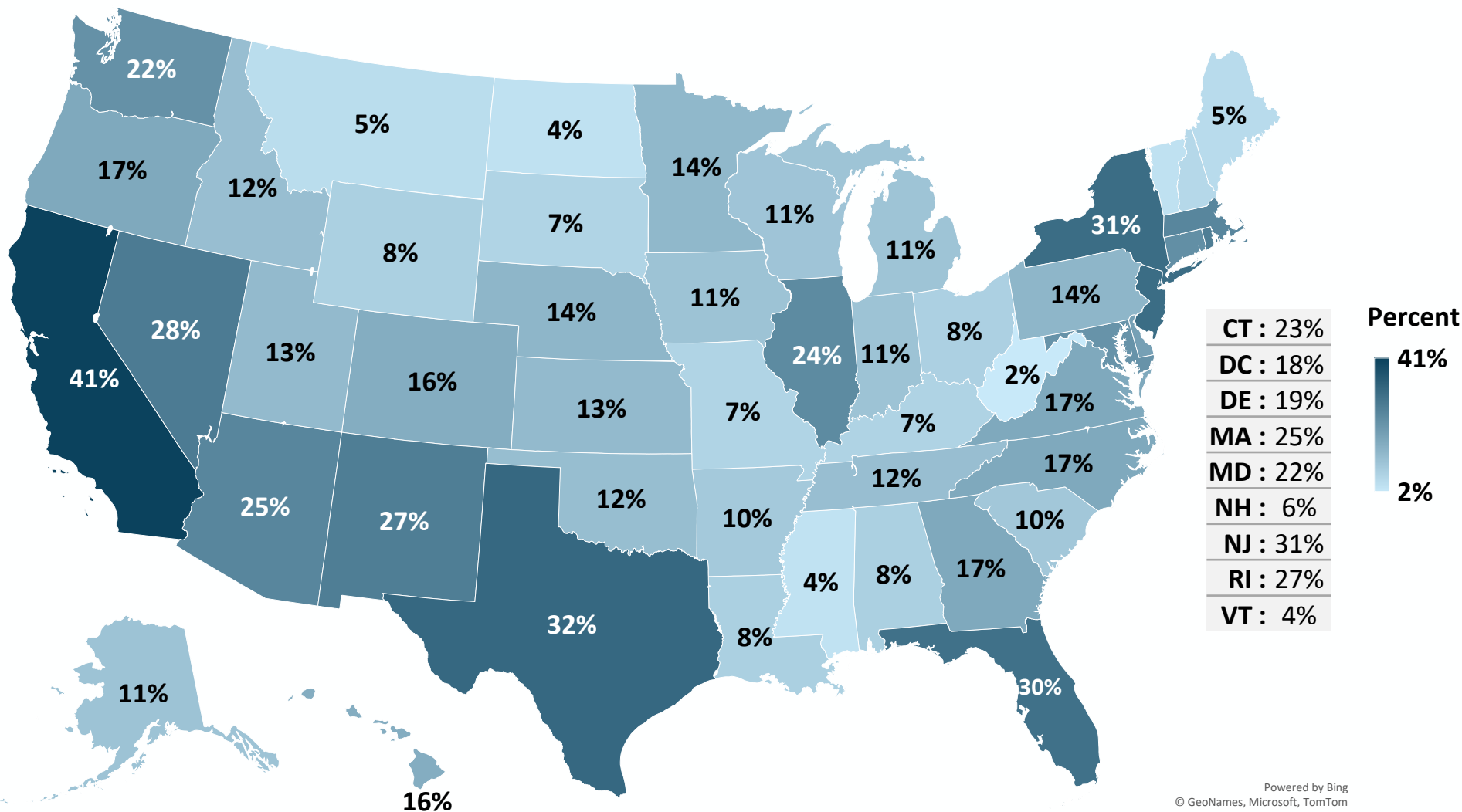


Percent of US Children (Ages 5-17) Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, 1979-2023



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey and American Community Survey
(<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam5.asp> and <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023>)

Percentage of US Children (Ages 5-17) Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by State, 2023

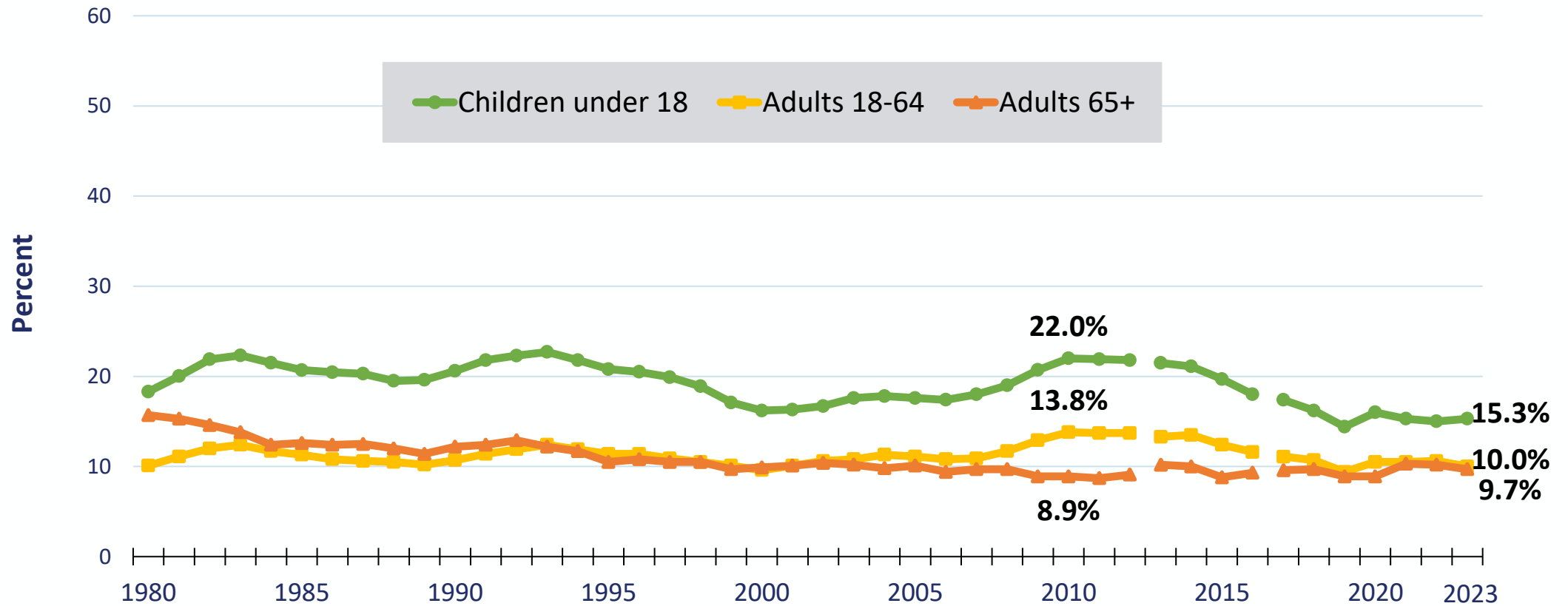


Percent of US Children (ages 5-17) Who Speak Language Other Than English at Home -- US Population: 22%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year estimates
[https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1603?q=language%20spoken%20at%20home&g=010XX00US,\\$0400000&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1603?q=language%20spoken%20at%20home&g=010XX00US,$0400000&moe=false)

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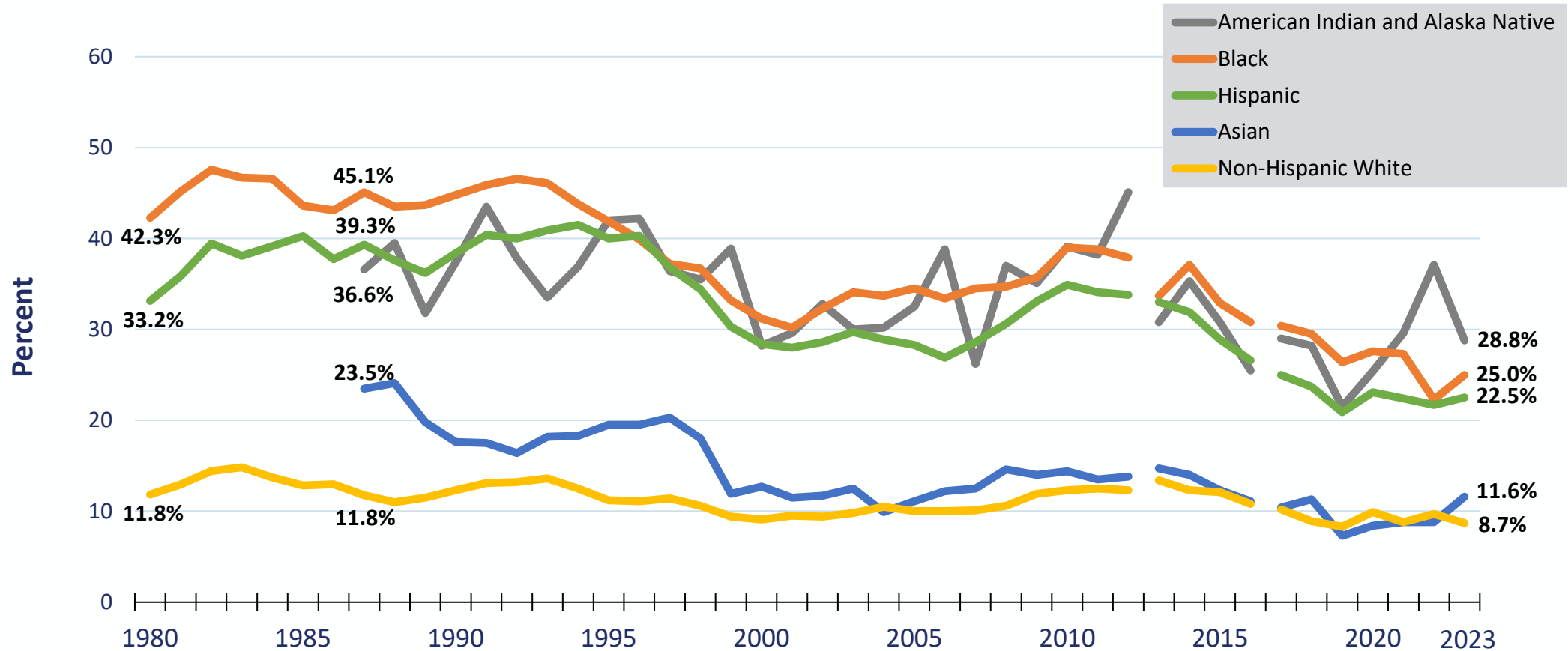
Percent of Persons in the US Living Below the Official Poverty Level by Age Group, 1980-2023*



*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 2023: \$30,900
(family of 4 with 2 children)

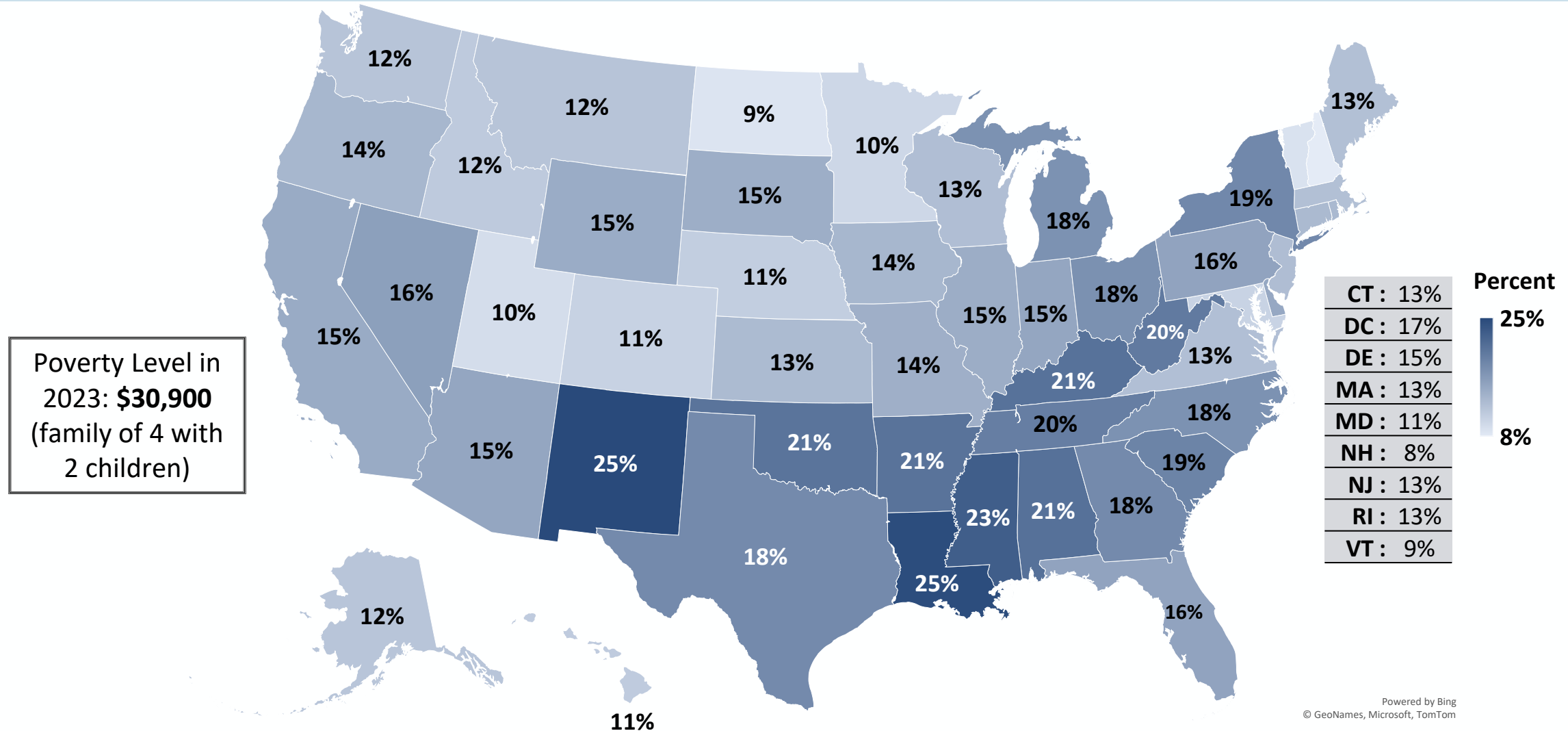
Percent of US Children (under 18) Living Below the Official Poverty Level by Race and Ethnicity, 1980-2023*



*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 2023: \$30,900
(family of 4 with 2 children)

Percent of US Children (under 18) in Poverty by State, 2023

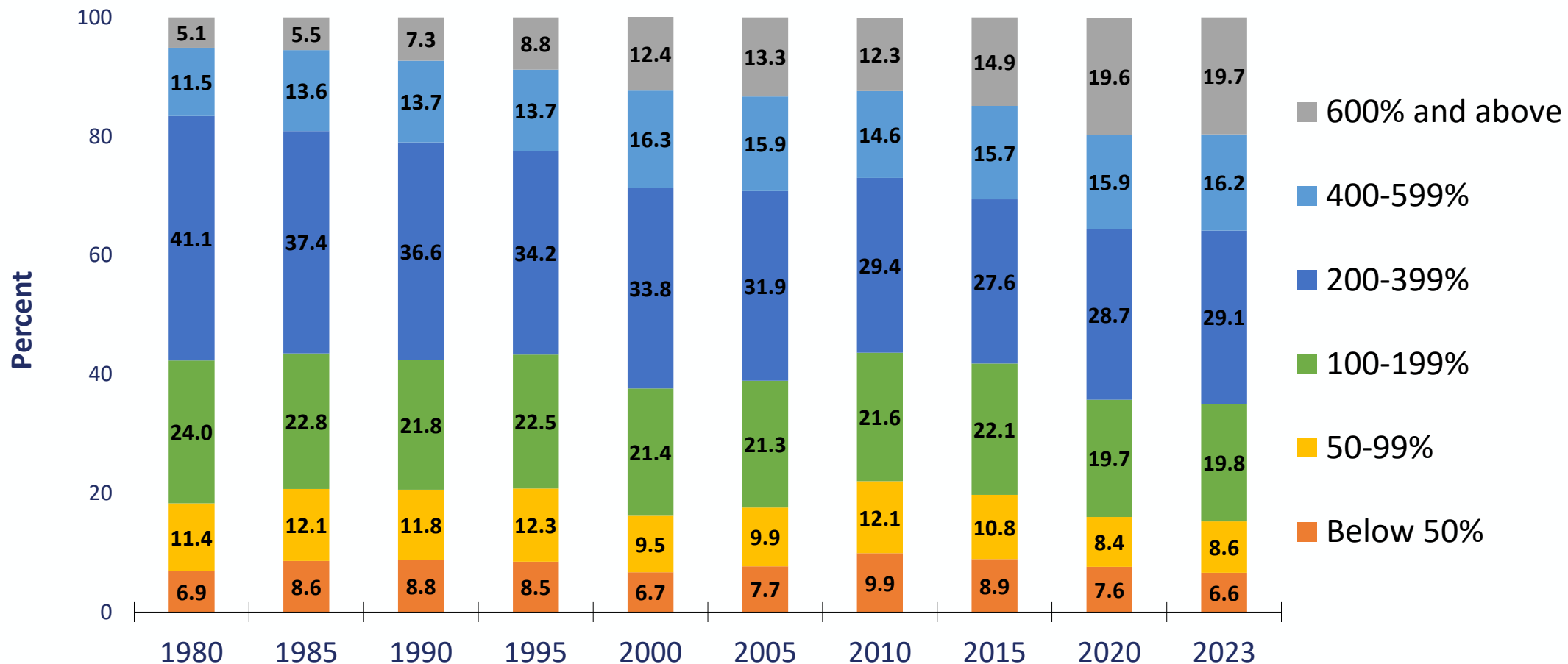


Percent of US Children (under 18) in Poverty -- US Population: 16%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey, 1-Year estimates (<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1701>)

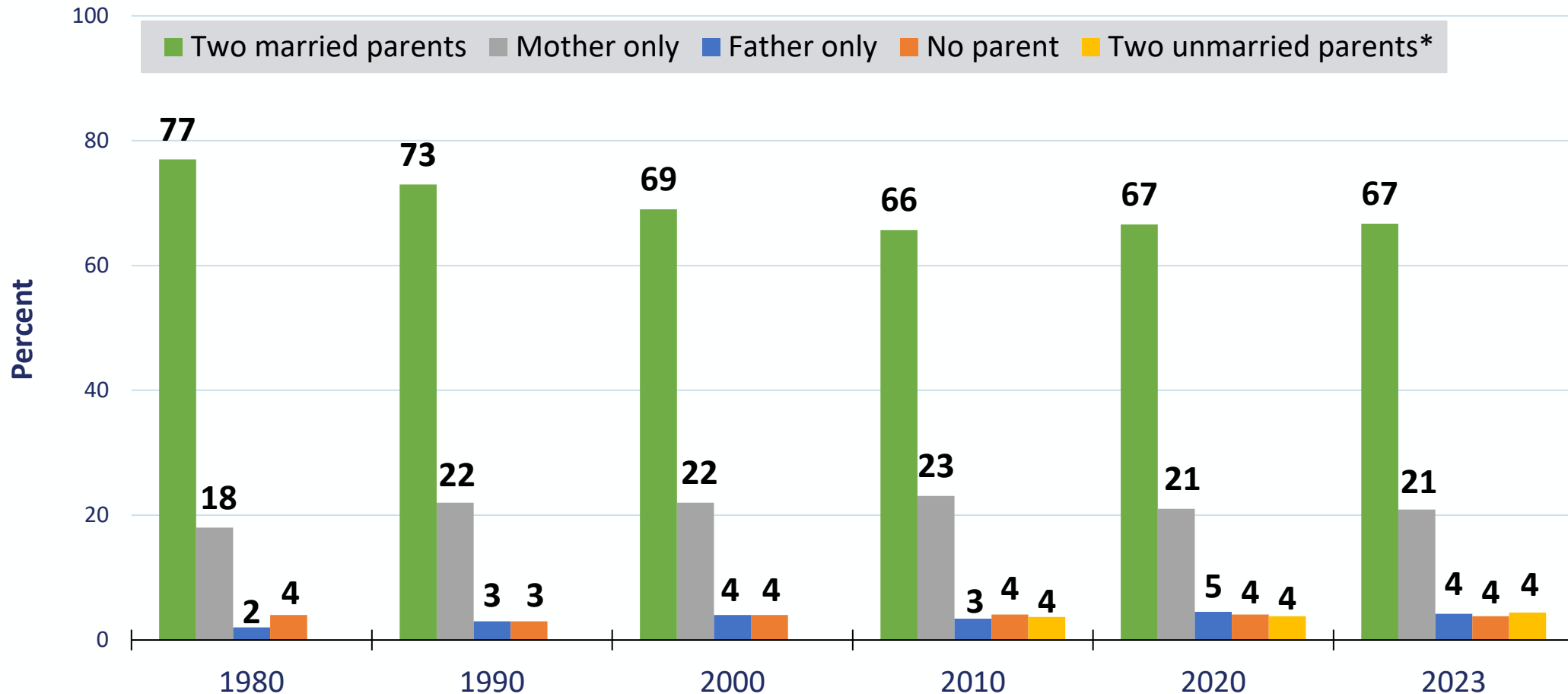
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Percent of US Children (under 18) by Family Income Relative to the Official Poverty Level, 1980-2023



Poverty Level in 2023: \$30,900 (family of 4 with 2 children)

Living Arrangements of US Children (under 18), 1980-2023



*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).

Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

(<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam1a.asp>)

Population Characteristic Takeaways

- The number of US children has declined the last four years
- Children are a shrinking portion of the population and projected to be only 20% of population by 2030
- The adolescent birth rate continues to decline
- % of Hispanic and Asian children has gone up, whereas % of White children has declined
- % of children living in immigrant families continues to increase
- % of children who speak a language other than English has gone up but is leveling off



For more information, please contact

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in Research