US Child Population Characteristic Trends

Compiled by AAP Research Staff

January 2024

American Academy of Pediatrics

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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 December 2023

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

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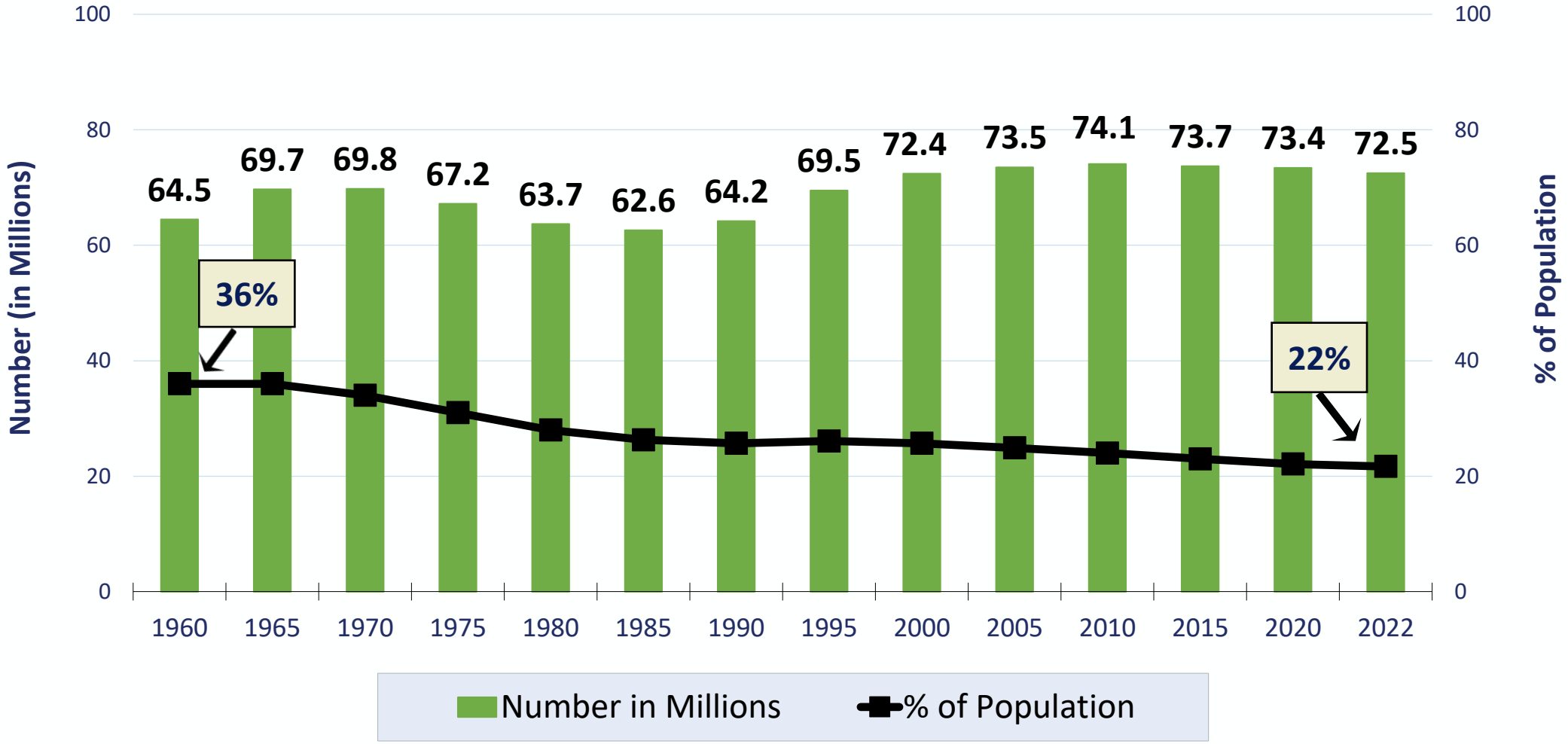
US Child (under 18) Population: Number and % of Overall Population, 1960-2022



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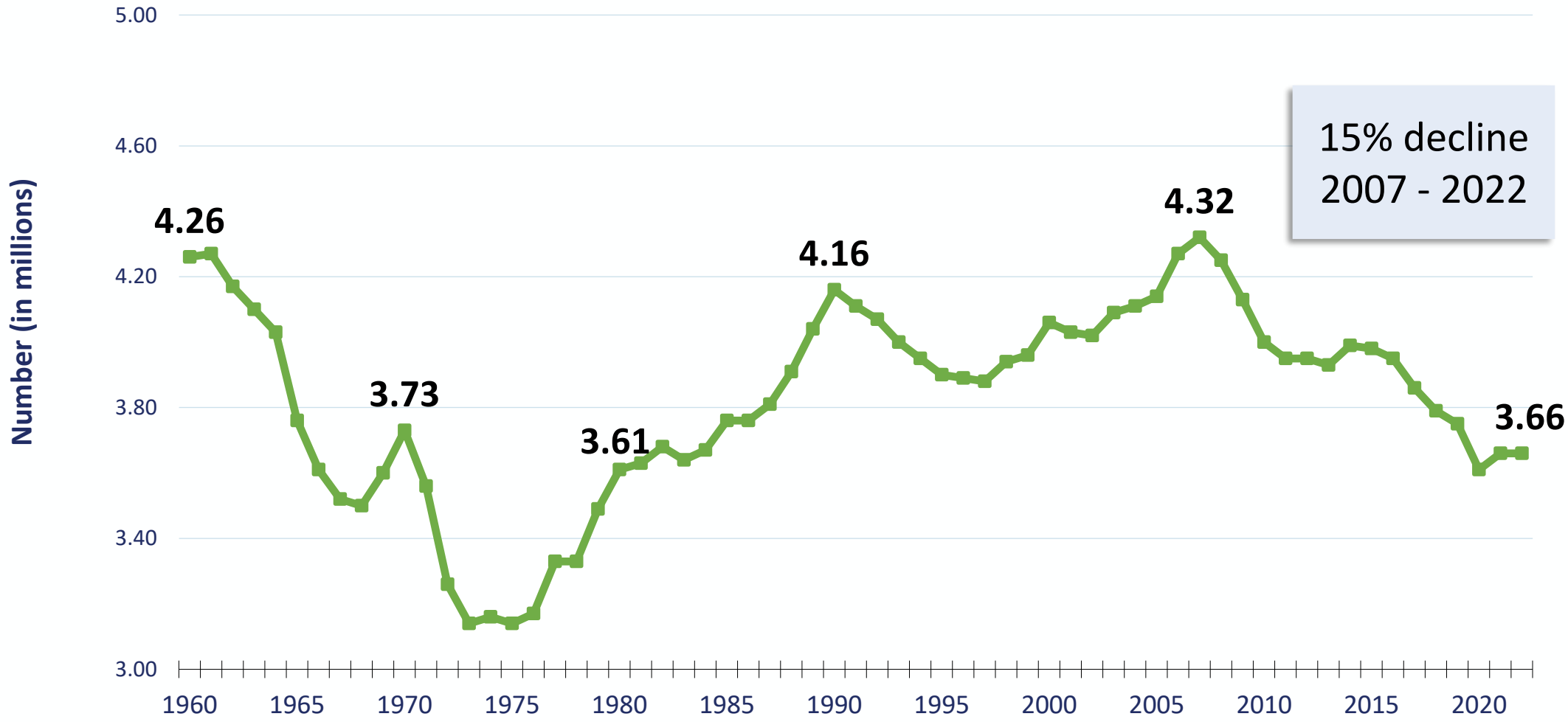
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports (http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop1.asp and http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop2.asp)

Number of US Births (in Millions of Children Born), 1960-2022*



**Provisional data for 2022*

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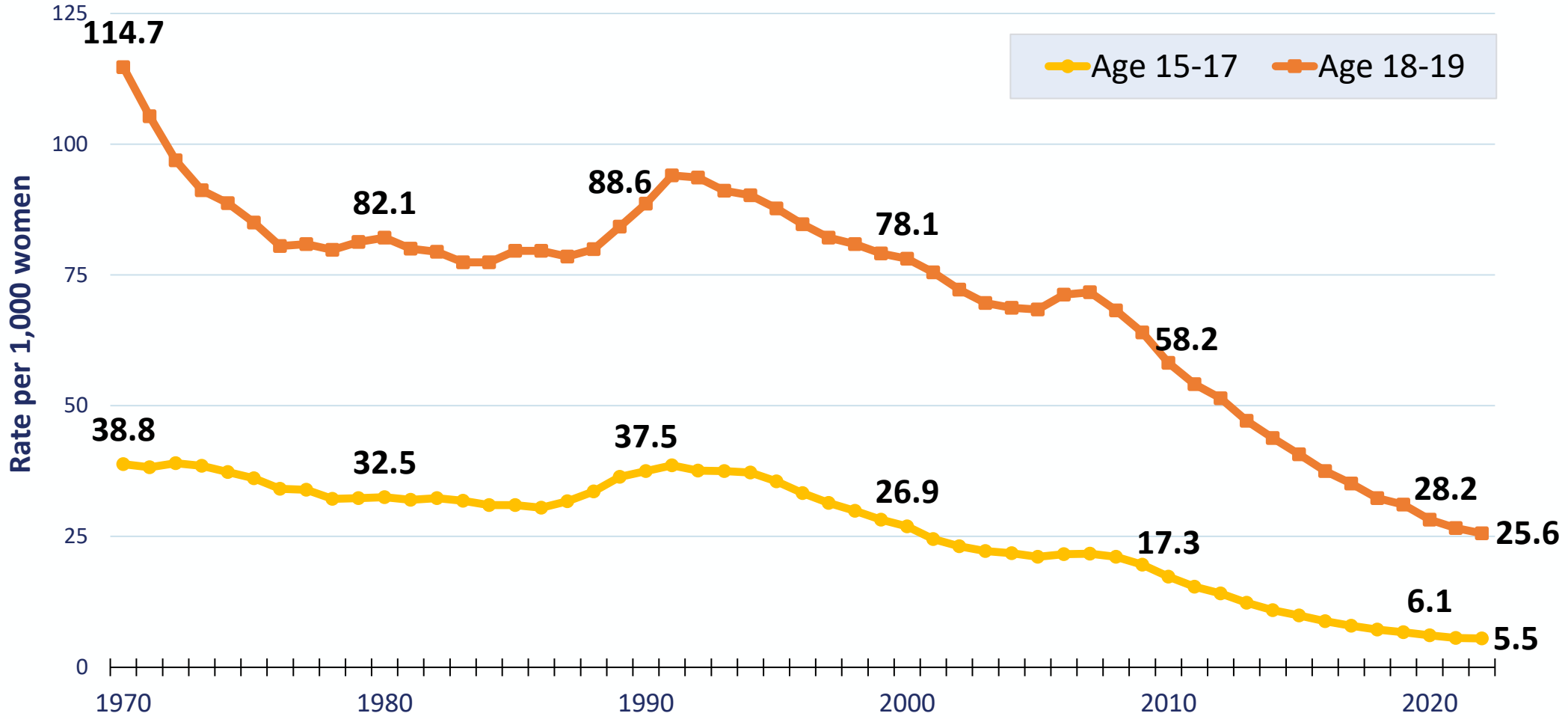
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1960-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2021: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr72/nvsr72-01.pdf; and 2022: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr028.pdf)

US Adolescent Birth Rates (per 1,000 Women) by Age Group, 1970-2022*



**Provisional data for 2022*

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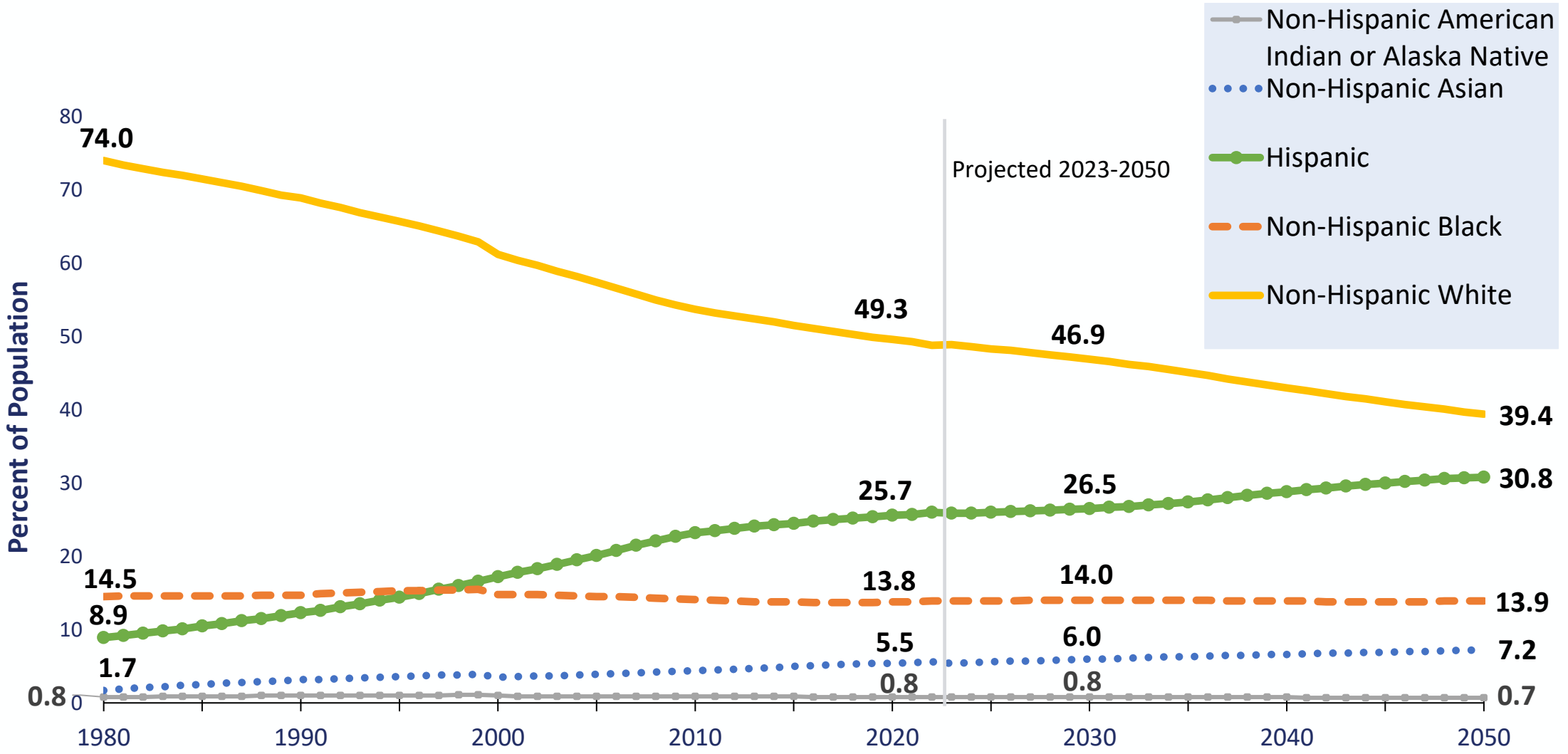
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1970-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2021: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr72/nvsr72-01.pdf; and 2022: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr028.pdf)

Race and Ethnicity of US Children (under 18), Recorded (1980-2022) and Projected (2023-2050)



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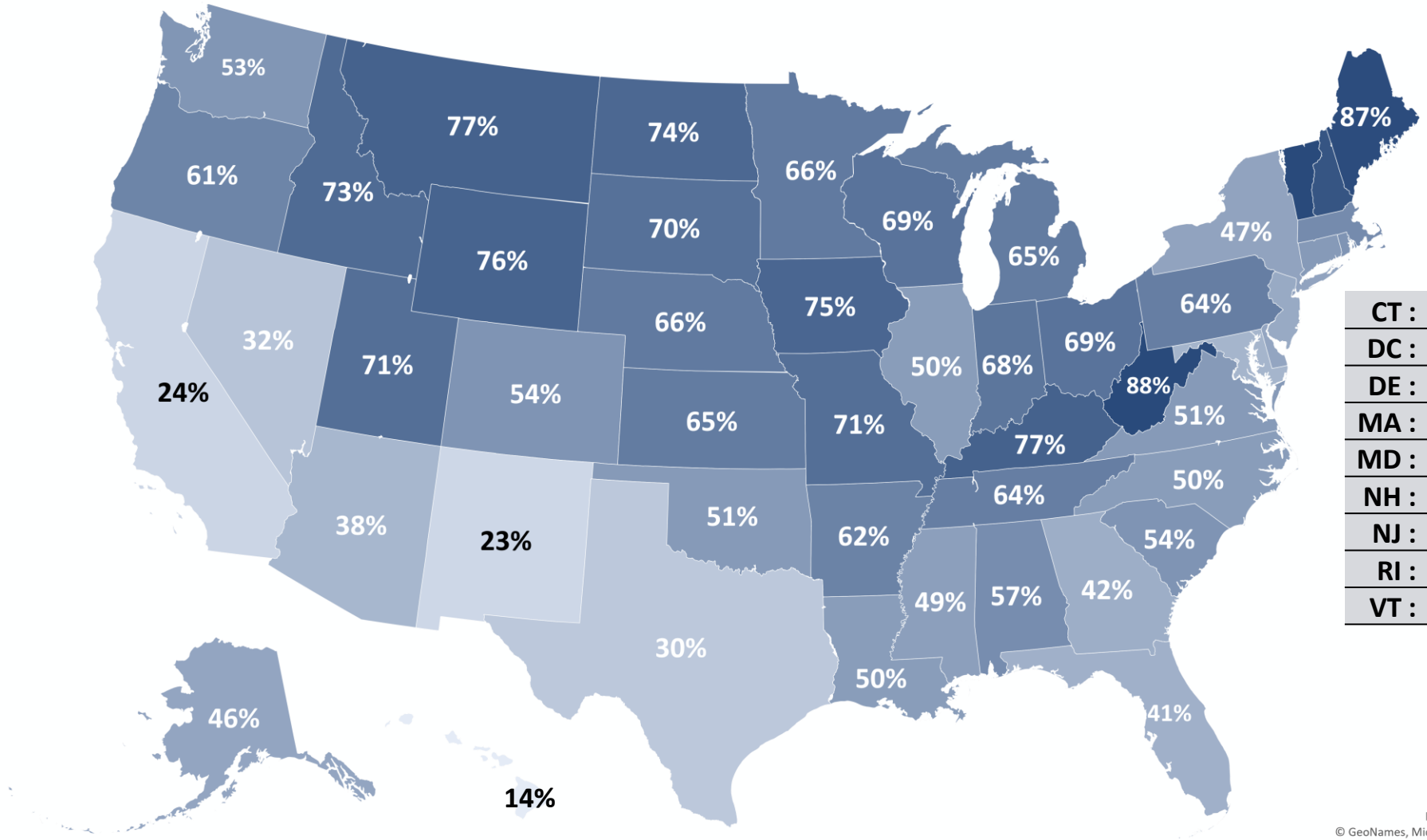
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division (http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/pop3.asp)

Percent of US Non-Hispanic White Children (under 18) by State, 2022



CT :	51%
DC :	24%
DE :	46%
MA :	58%
MD :	39%
NH :	83%
NJ :	44%
RI :	54%
VT :	88%

Percent
88%
14%

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Percent of US Non-Hispanic White Children (under 18) US Population: 49%

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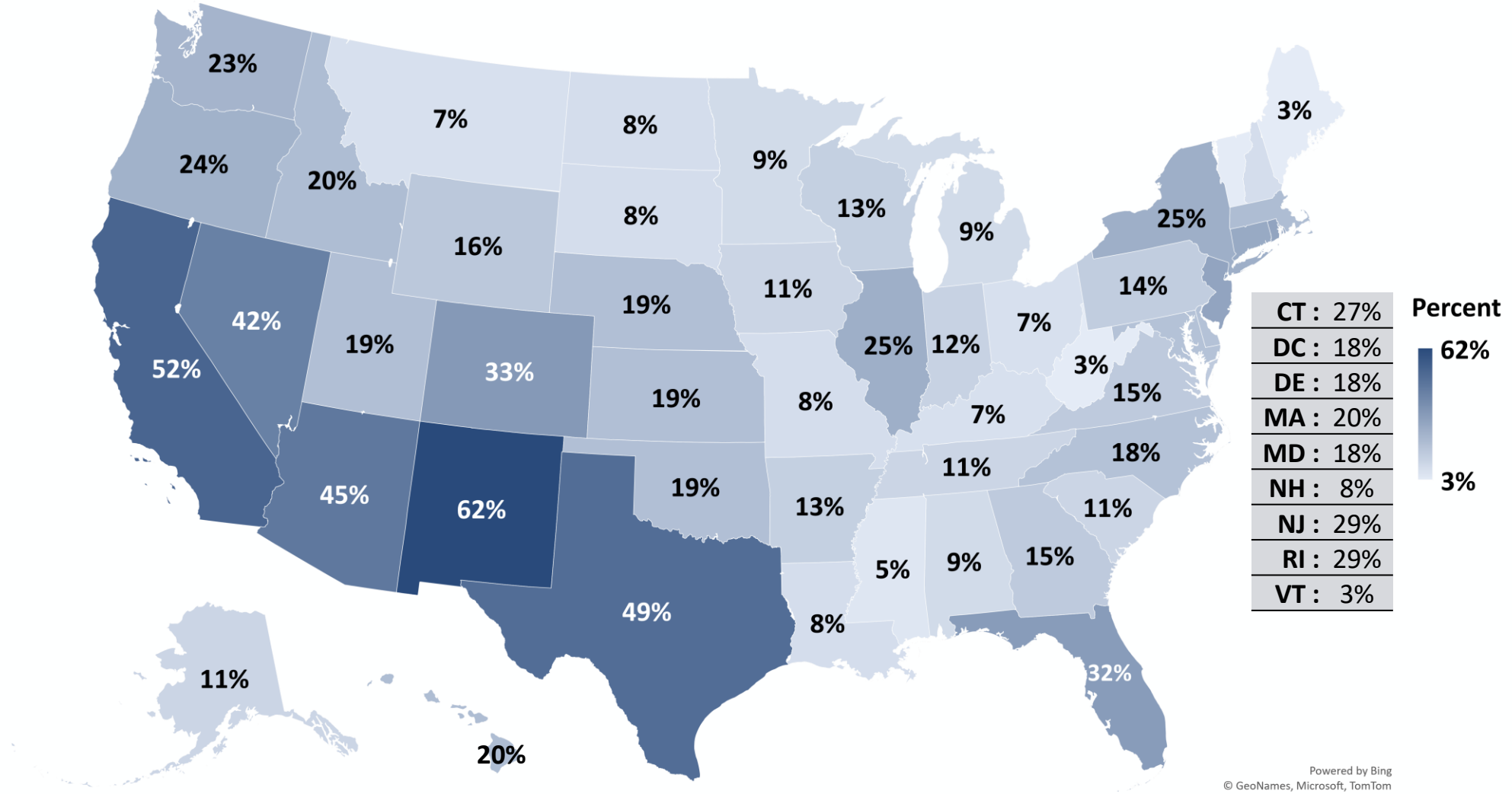
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org)

Percent of US Hispanic or Latino Children (under 18) by State, 2022



CT :	27%
DC :	18%
DE :	18%
MA :	20%
MD :	18%
NH :	8%
NJ :	29%
RI :	29%
VT :	3%

Percent
62%
3%

Percent of US Hispanic or Latino Children (under 18) US Population: 26%

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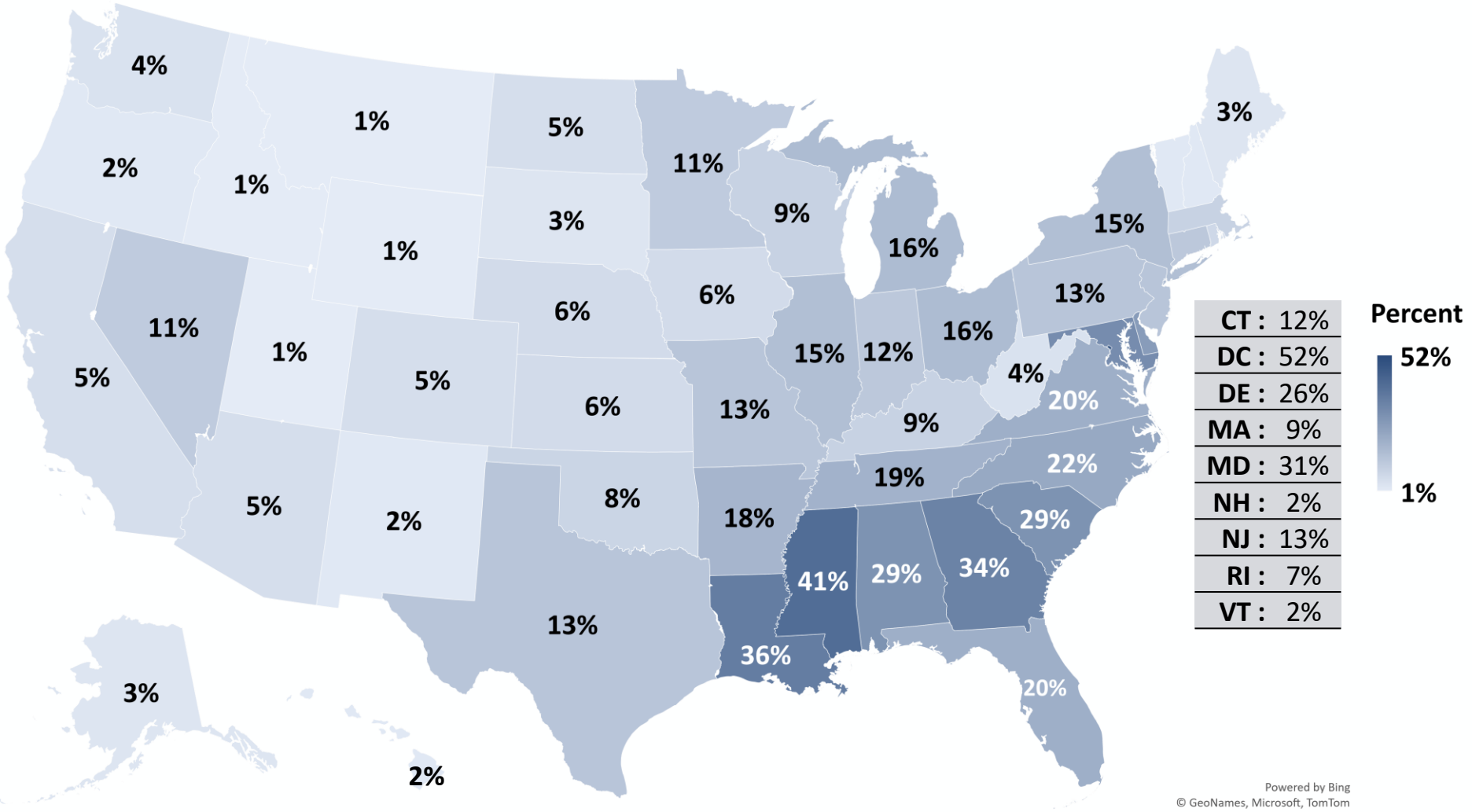
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org)

Percent of US Non-Hispanic Black Children (under 18) by State, 2022



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

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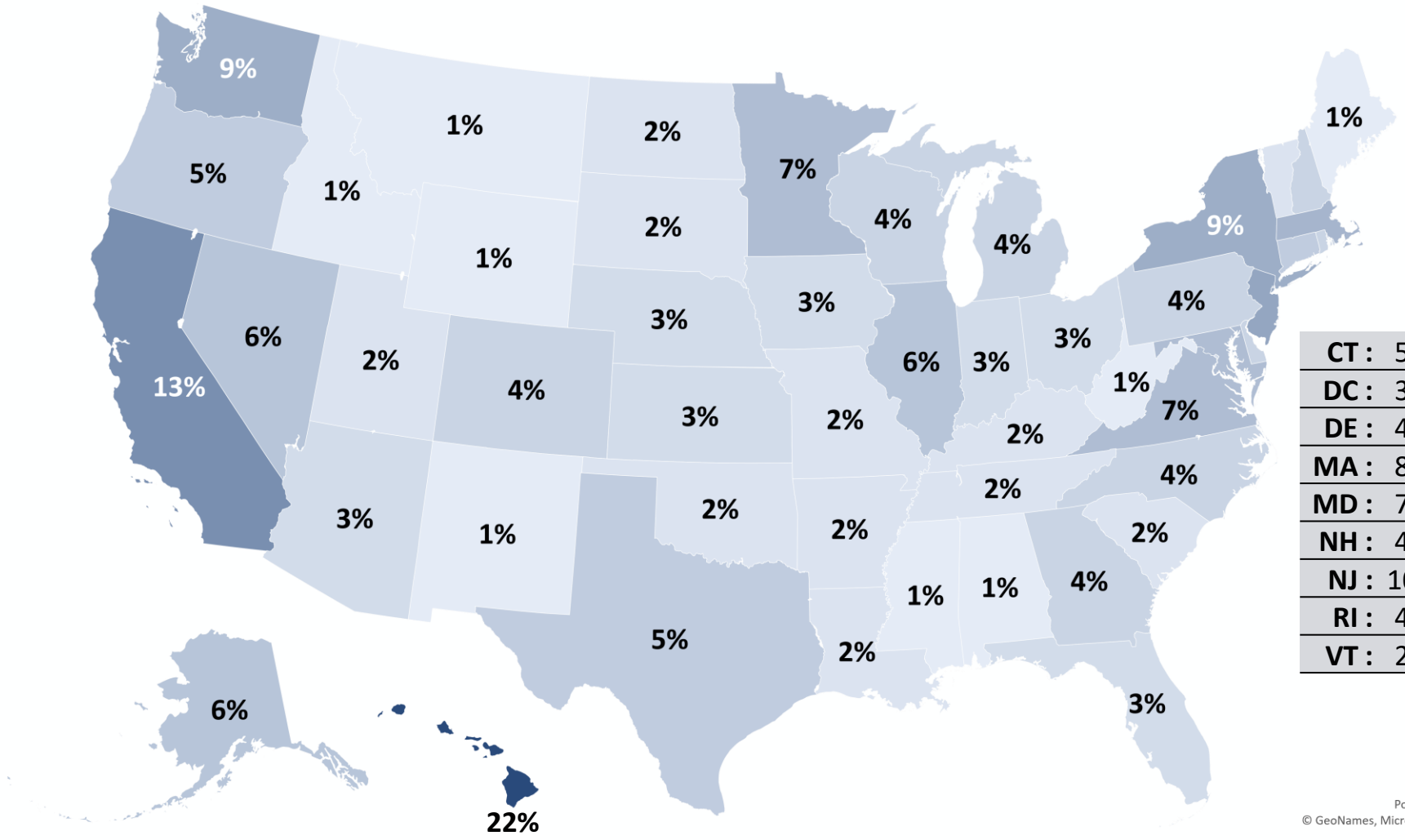
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org)

Percent of US Non-Hispanic Asian Children (under 18) by State, 2022



CT :	5%
DC :	3%
DE :	4%
MA :	8%
MD :	7%
NH :	4%
NJ :	10%
RI :	4%
VT :	2%

Percent
22%
1%

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

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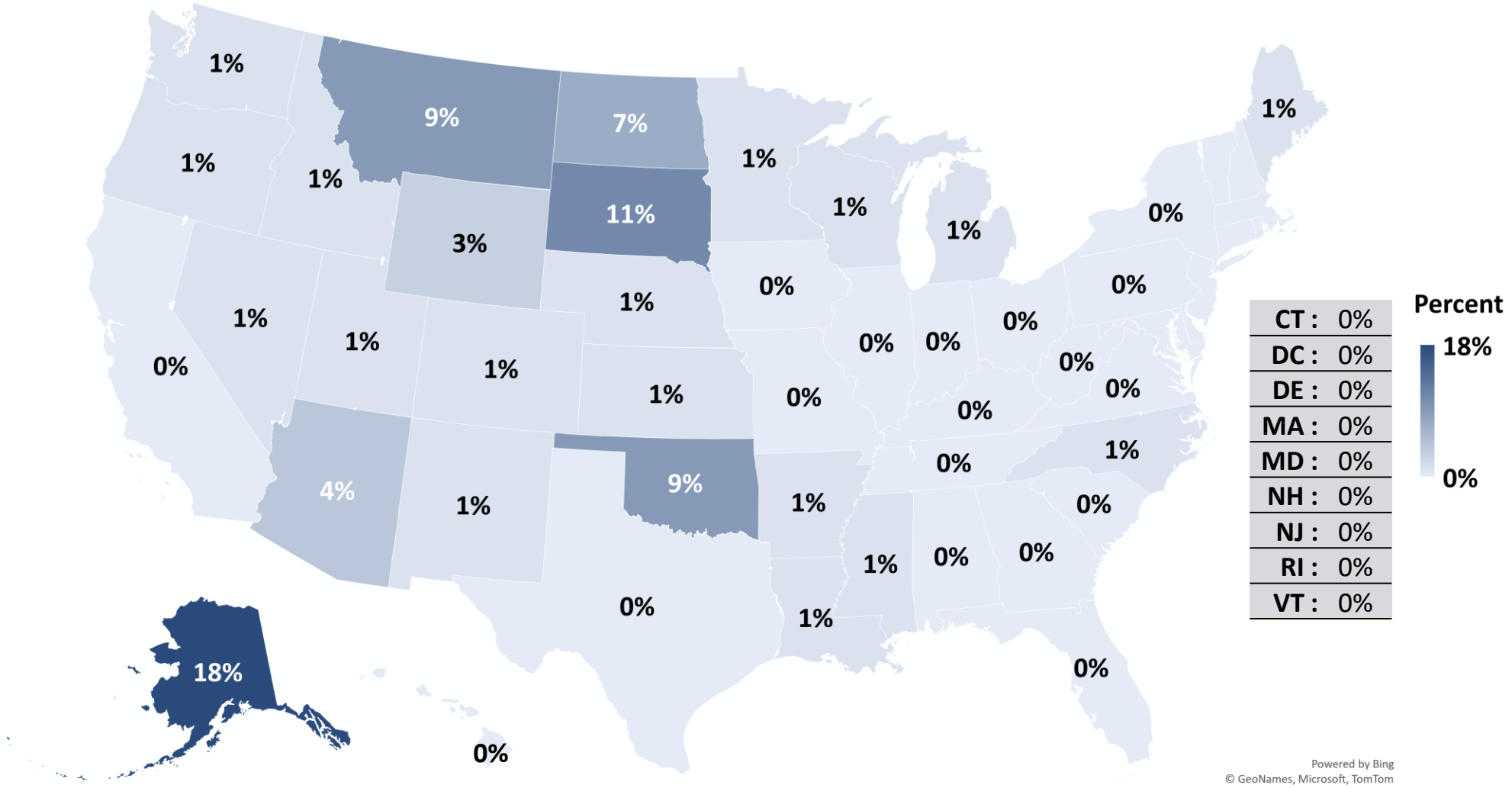
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org)

Percent of US Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native Children (under 18) by State, 2022



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

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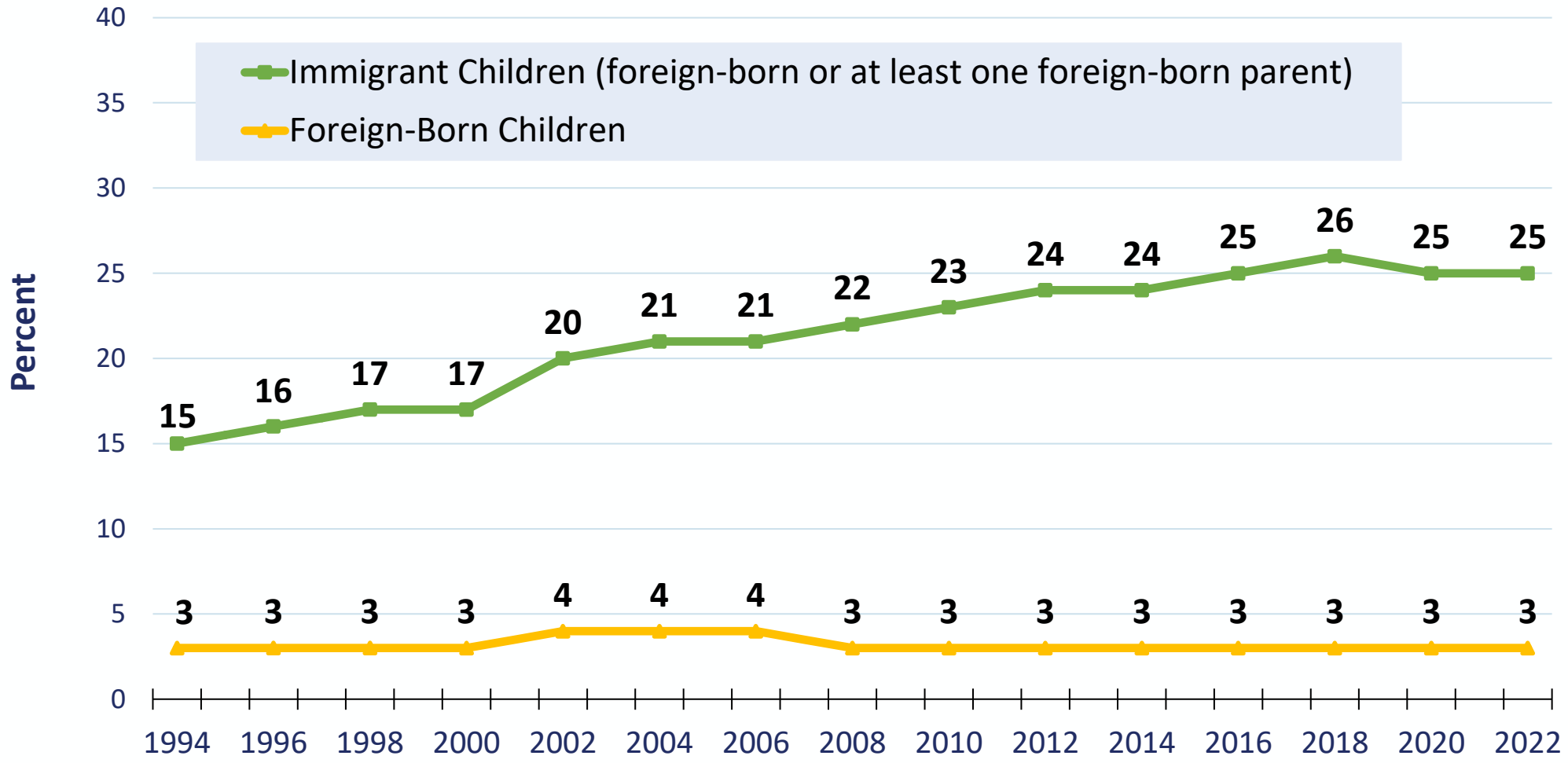
Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org)

% of US Children (under 18) Who Are Immigrants, 1994-2022



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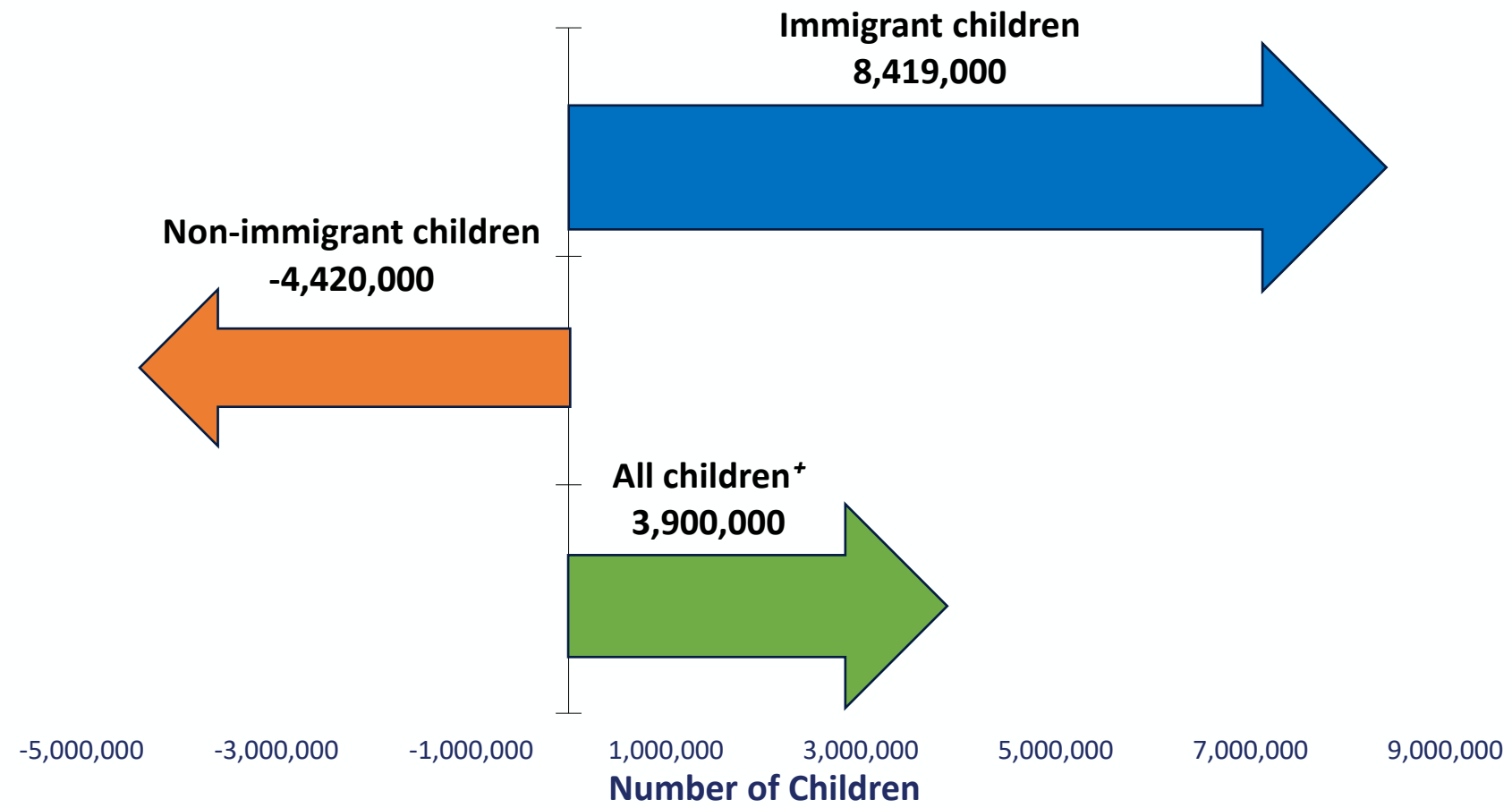
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam4.asp)

Growth in the Number of US Children* (under 18) by Immigrant Status, 1994-2022



** 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 around 100,000 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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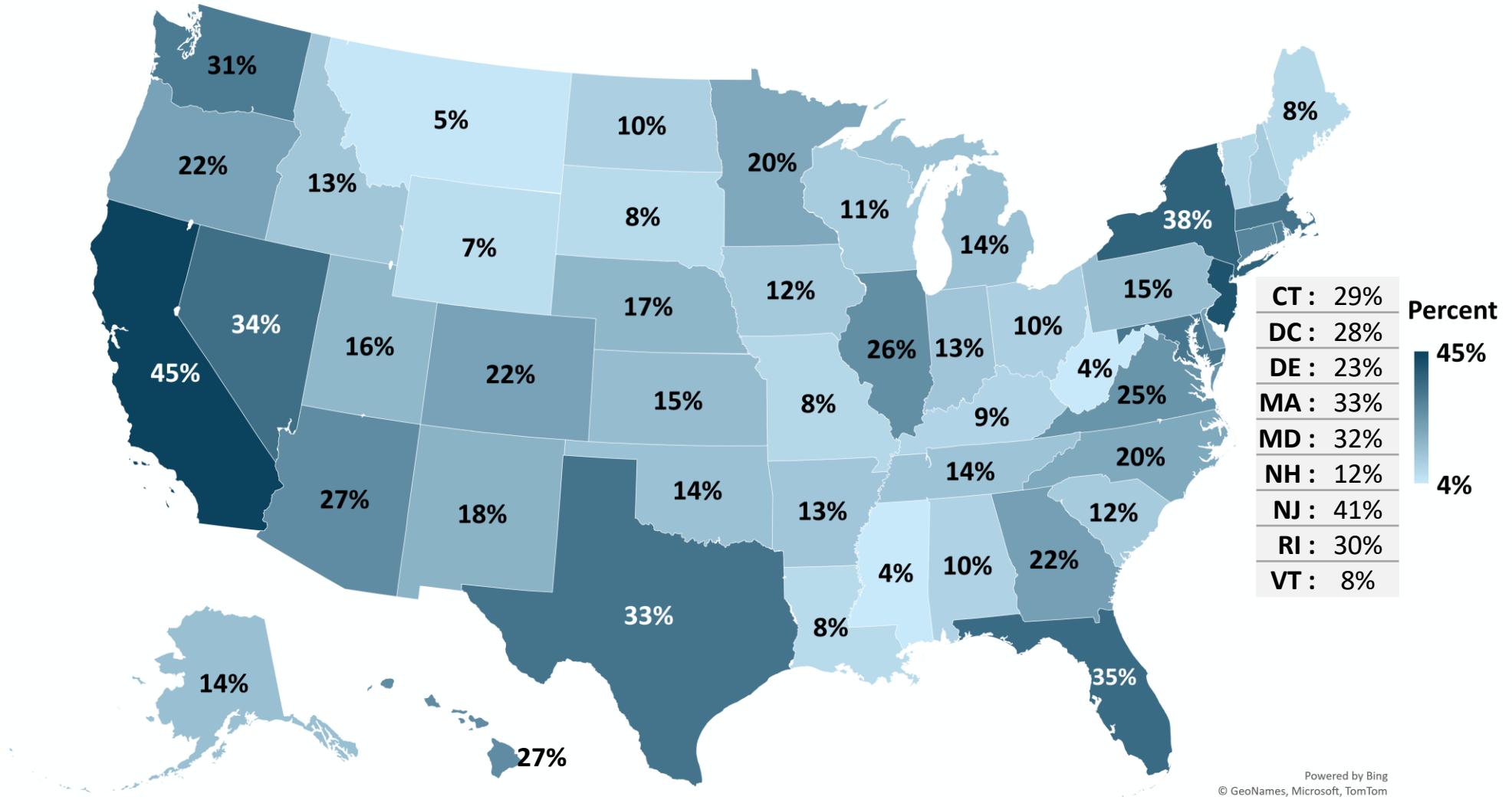
Percent of US Children (under 18) in Immigrant* Families by State, 2022



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

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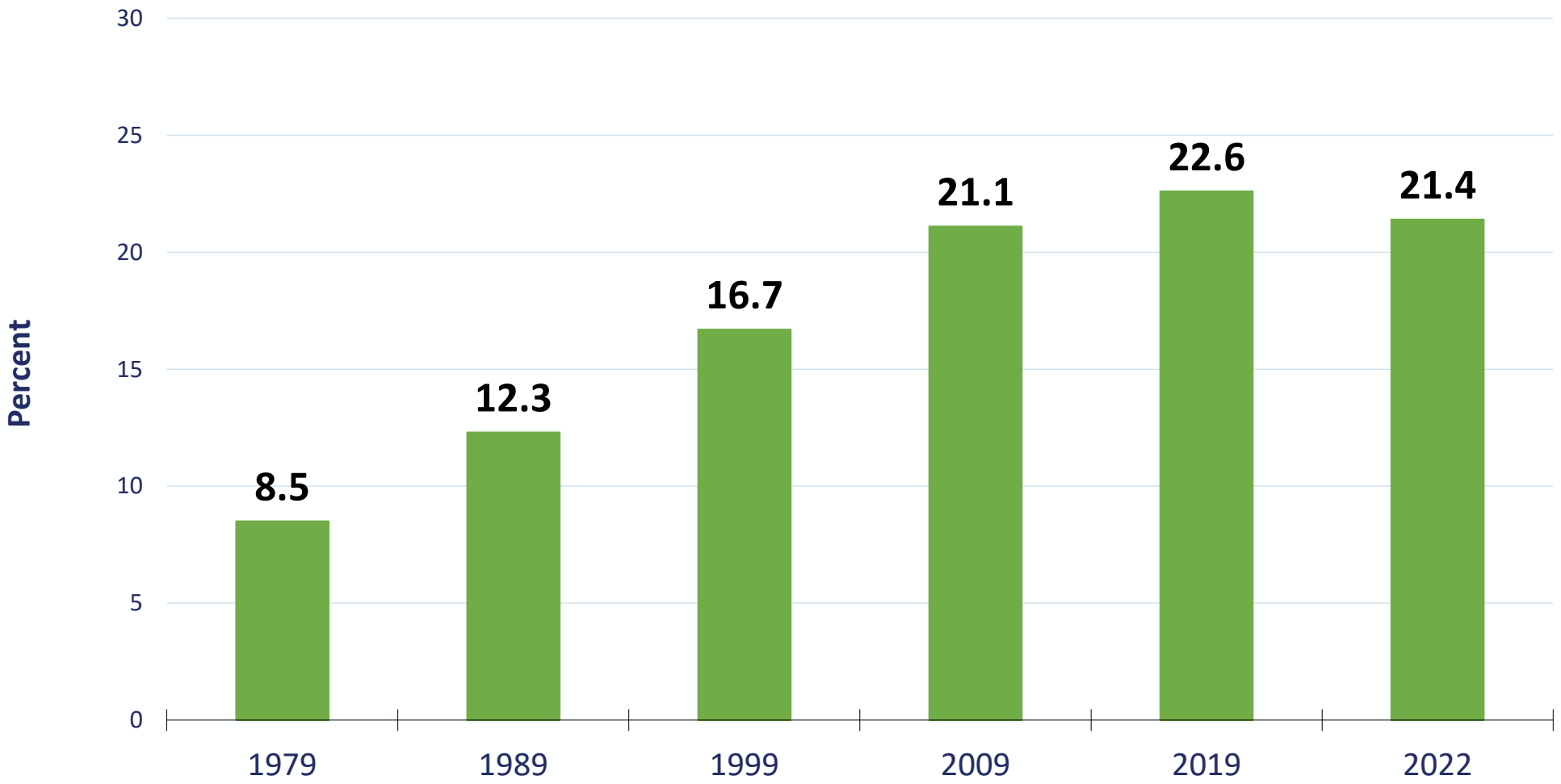
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (https://data.census.gov/table)

% of US Children (Ages 5-17) Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, 1979-2022



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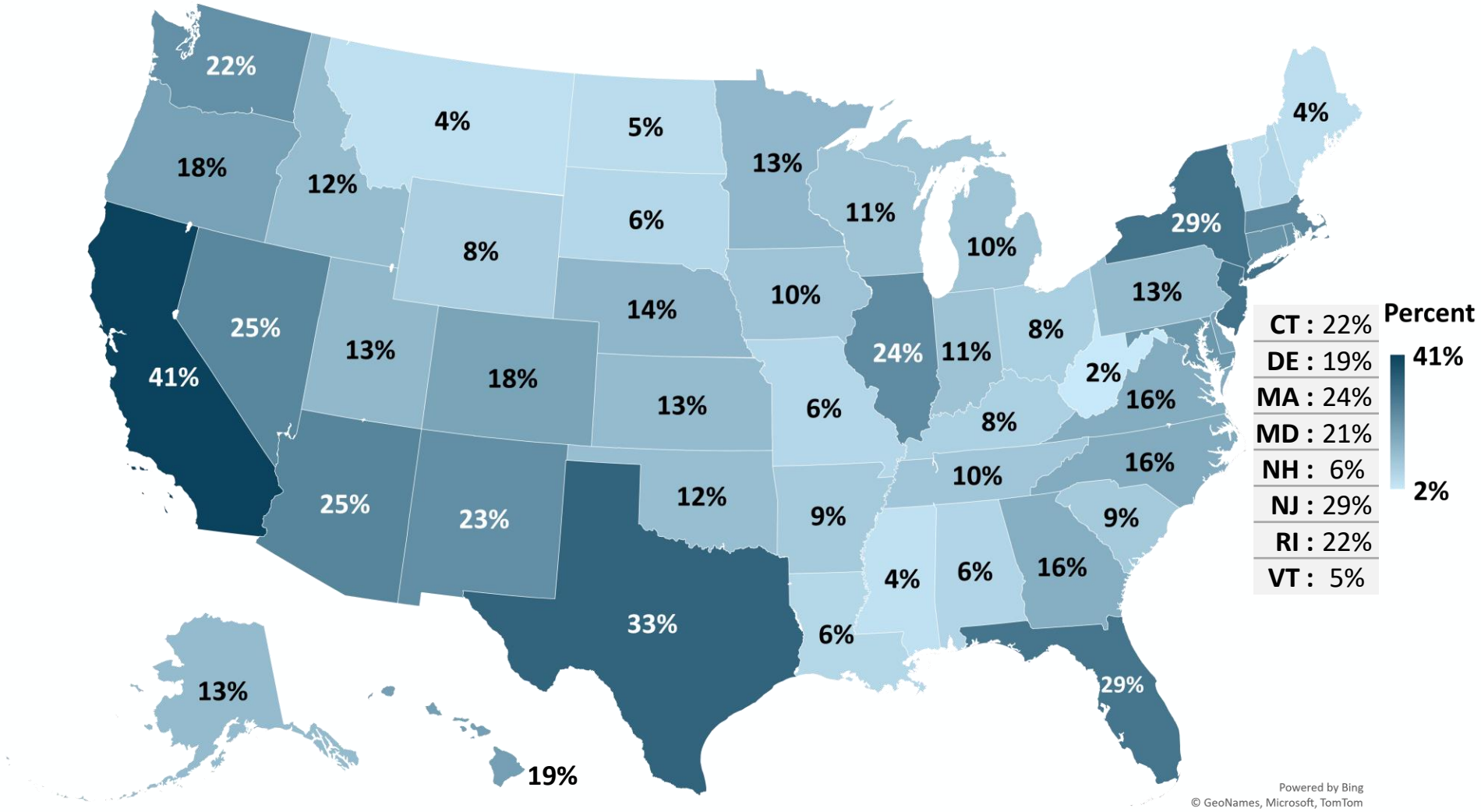
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey and American Community Survey (http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/fam5.asp)

Percentage of US Children (ages 5-17) Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by State, 2021



Source: US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, 1-Year estimates (https://data.census.gov)

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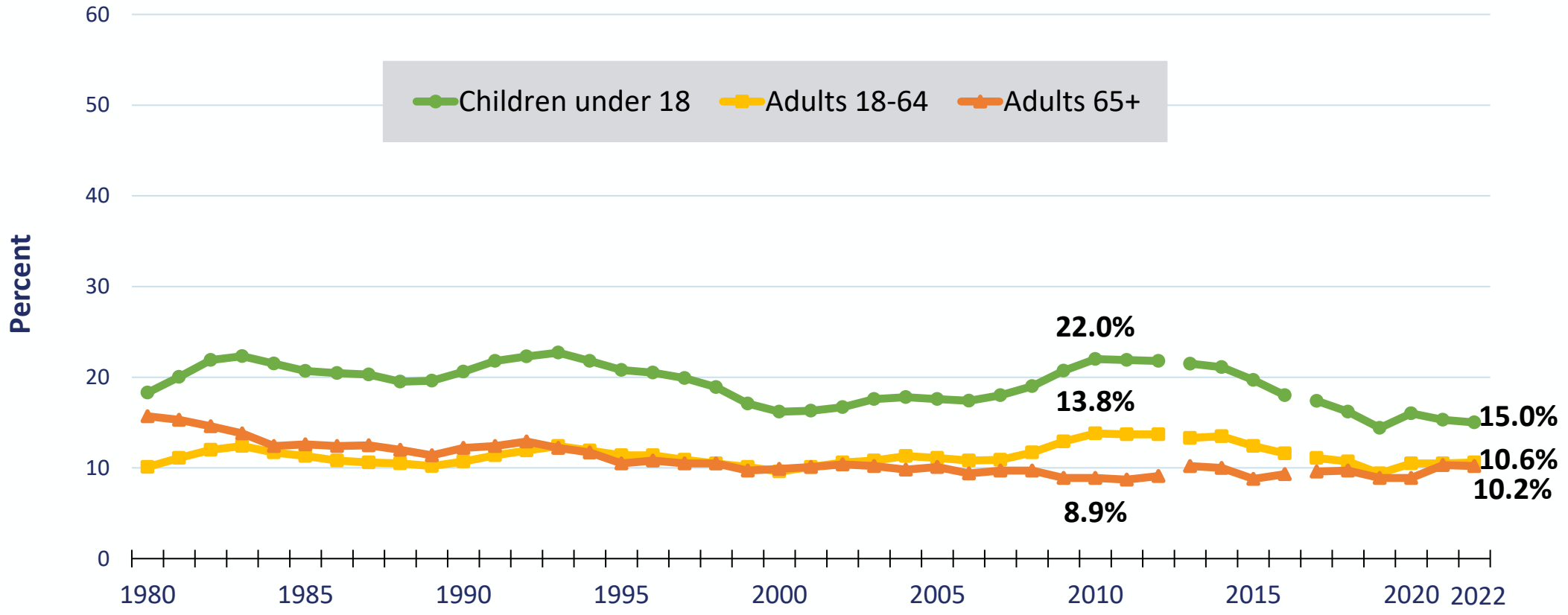
% of Persons in the US Living Below the Official Poverty Level by Age Group, 1980-2022*



**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 2022: $29,678
(family of 4 with 2 children)

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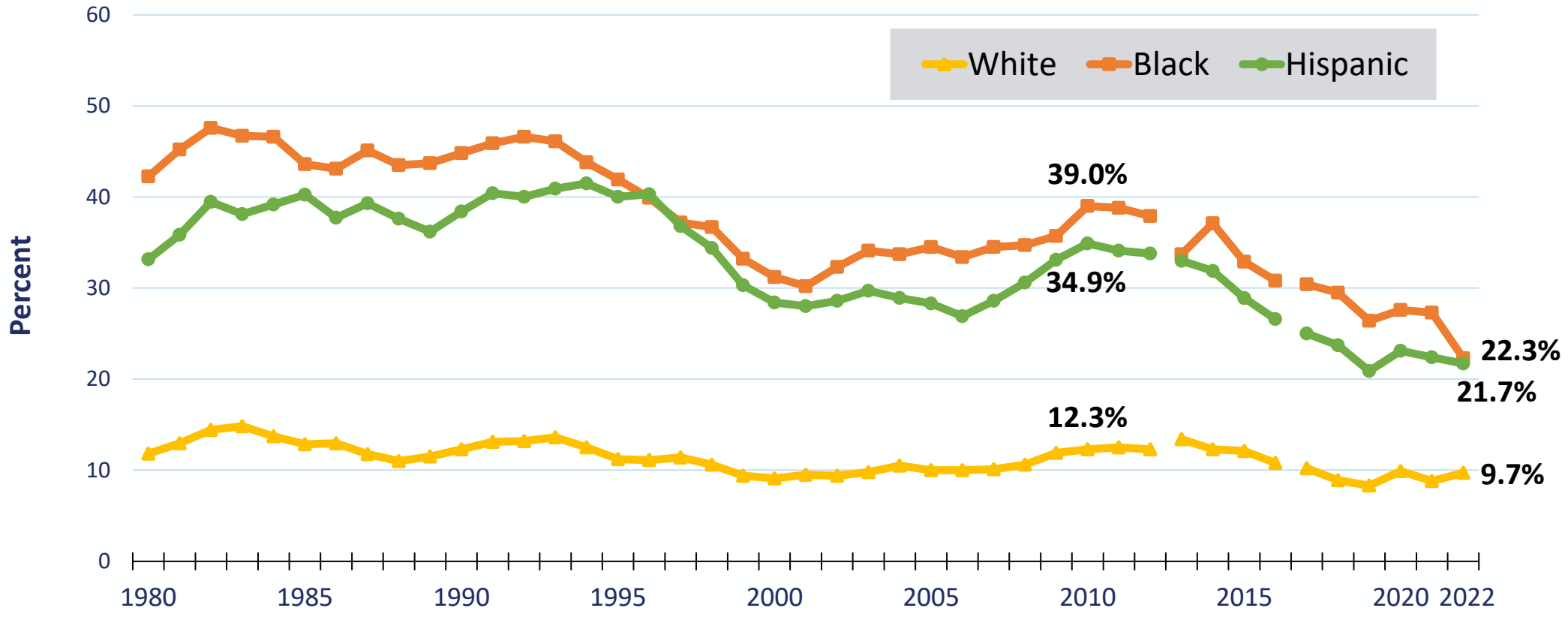
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.pdf)

% of US Children (under 18) Living Below the Poverty Level by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-2022*



**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 2022: $29,678
(family of 4 with 2 children)

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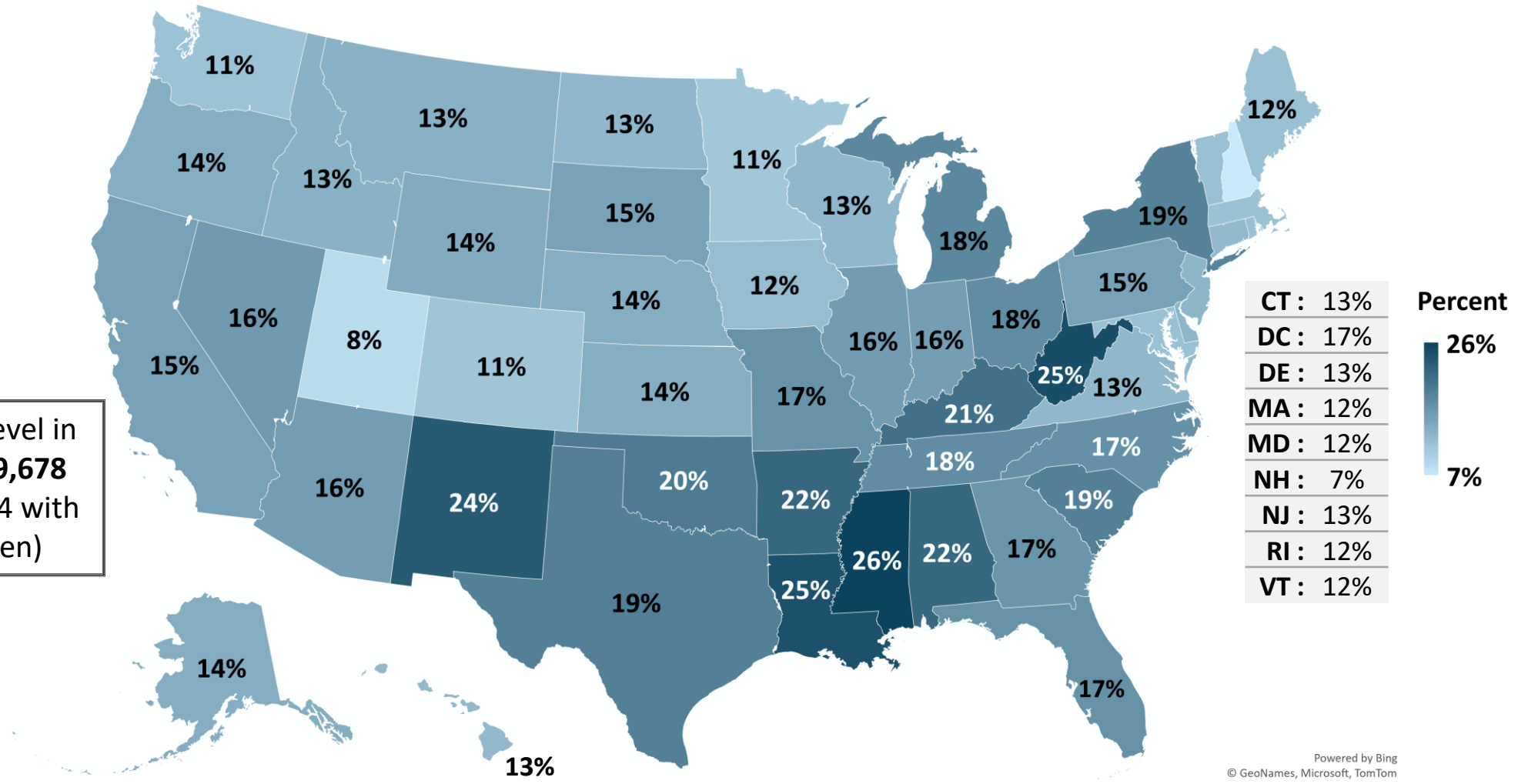
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.pdf)

Percent of US Children (under 18) in Poverty by State, 2022



CT :	13%
DC :	17%
DE :	13%
MA :	12%
MD :	12%
NH :	7%
NJ :	13%
RI :	12%
VT :	12%

Percent
26%
7%

Poverty Level in 2022: **$29,678** (family of 4 with 2 children)

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (https://data.census.gov/table)

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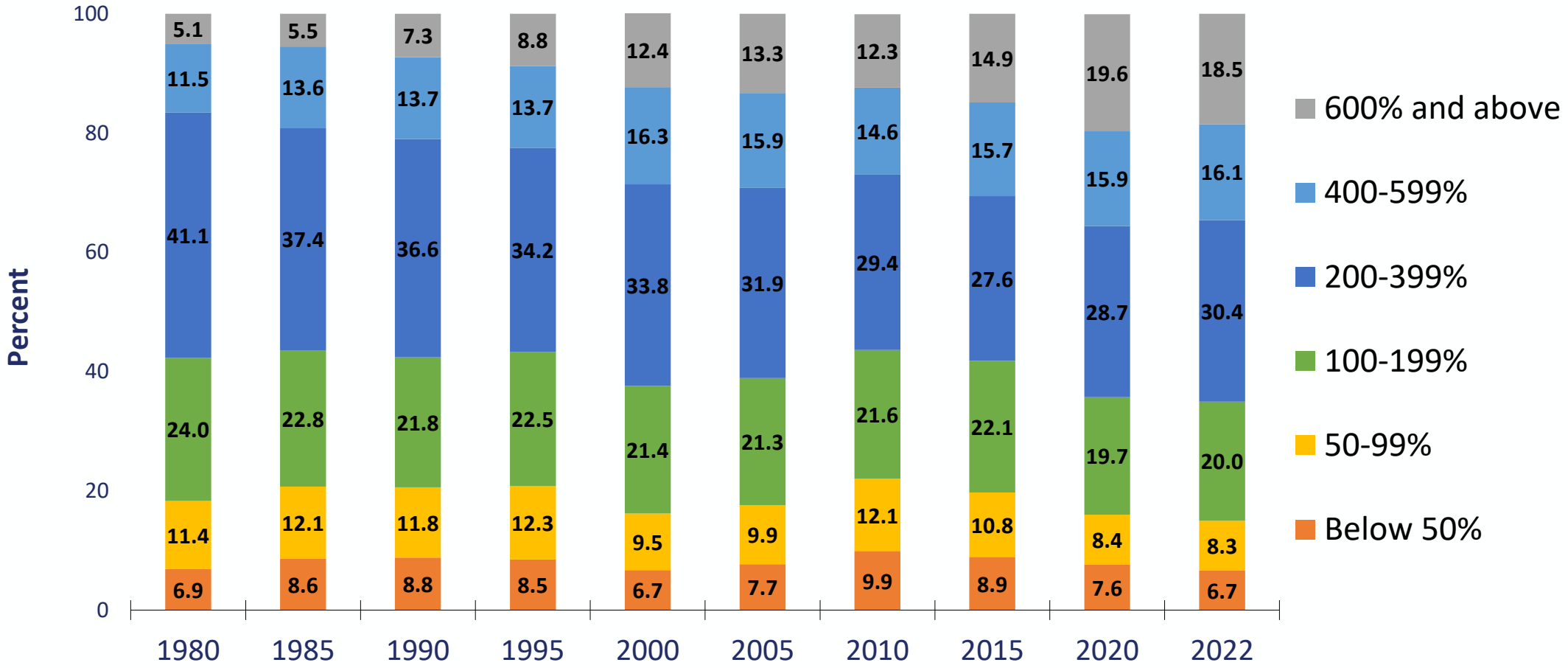
% of US Children (under 18) by Family Income Relative to the Official Poverty Level, 1980-2022



Poverty Level in 2022: $29,678 (family of 4 with 2 children)

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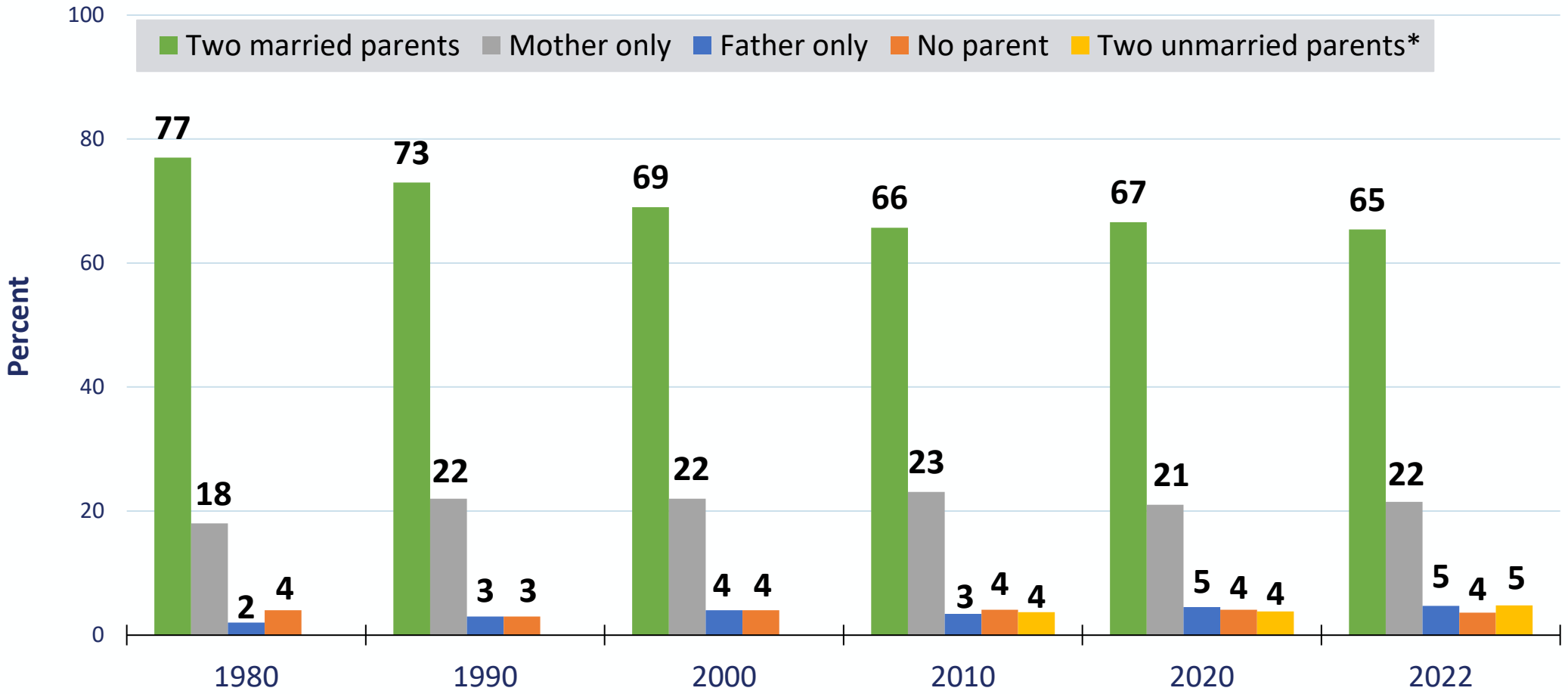
Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/econ1b.asp and https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec.html)

Living Arrangements of US Children (under 18), 1980-2022



**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)

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Population Characteristic Takeaways

- The number of US children has marginally declined the last couple of years
- Children are a shrinking portion of the population
- The adolescent birth rate continues to decline
- % of Hispanic and Asian 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 but is leveling off

For more information, please contact

Dave Prentice, MS

in Research

Slides are posted on the intranet
(Online Documents → Research → General Documents)

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