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# the family of four project

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## one: demographics

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This chapter examines the ethnic and social characteristics of a family of four. Much of this information is publicly available from the Bureau of the Census, and other data are derived from Heritage tabulations from the March Current Population Survey published by the Bureau of the Census. The purpose of this chapter is to provide background information on "Who is the typical American family?"

Racial characteristics are based on designations from the Bureau of the Census. Hispanic families are families who call themselves descendants of Hispanics. Numbers are given in thousands. In this chapter, families of four include single-families with three children so that these families can be compared to husband-and-wife families with two children.

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## Demographic Breakout of The Family of Four

	Number (in thousands)	Percentage of All Families	Percentage of All Families of Four
<b>All Families</b>			
Married, 2 Children	9,316,050	88	88
Single Parent, Three Children	1,280,883	12	12
Total Families of Four	10,596,933	100	100
<b>White</b>			
Married, 2 Children	8,065,451	89	76.1%
Single Parent, Three Children	761,447	11	7.2%
Total Families of Four	8,826,898	100	83.3%
<b>Black</b>			
Married, 2 Children	712,631	62	6.7%
Single Parent, Three Children	458,449	38	4.3%
Total Families of Four	1,171,080	100	11.1%
<b>Hispanic</b>			
Total Hispanic Families	1,189,146	77	11.2%
Married, 2 Children	254,049	23	2.4%
Single Parent, Three Children	1,443,195	100	13.6%

**Notes:** Hispanics may be of any race. Thus the race and ethnicity totals will exceed the overall count of families.

**Source:** Heritage Calculations from March Current Population Survey, 2002.



## Regions of Residence of Families of Four

Region	Number of Families	Percentage
Northeast	2,036,992	19
Midwest	2,494,084	24
South	3,703,134	35
West	2,362,723	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,596,933</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Current Population Survey, March 2002  
Heritage Calculations.

## Where Families of Four Reside

	Total Number of Families (in thousands)	Metro Area		Non-Metro Area	
		Number (in thousands)	Percentage	Number (in thousands)	Percentage
<b>All Families of Four</b>					
Married, 2 Children	9,039,236	7,403,856	81.91	1,635,380	18.09
Female-Headed, 3 Children	284,570	229,610	80.69	54,960	19.31
Male-Headed, 3 Children	1,273,127	1,077,469	84.63	195,658	15.37
<b>Total Families of Four</b>	<b>10,596,933</b>	<b>8,710,935</b>	<b>82.20</b>	<b>1,885,998</b>	<b>17.80</b>
<b>White</b>					
Married, 2 Children	7,564,163	6,118,008	80.88	1,446,155	19.12
Female-Headed, 3 Children	1,034,804	863,877	83.48	170,927	16.52
<b>Total White Families</b>	<b>8,598,967</b>	<b>6,981,885</b>	<b>81.00</b>	<b>1,617,082</b>	<b>19.00</b>
<b>Black</b>					
Married, 2 Children	1,015,006	878,541	86.56	136,465	13.44
Female-Headed, 3 Children	127,466	115,076	90.28	12,390	9.72
<b>Total Black Families</b>	<b>1,142,472</b>	<b>993,617</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>148,855</b>	<b>0.13</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>					
Married, 2 Children	1,224,793	1,105,680	90.27	119,113	9.73
Female-Headed, 3 Children	181,309	168,412	92.89	12,897	7.11
<b>Total Hispanic Families</b>	<b>1,406,102</b>	<b>1,274,092</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>132,010</b>	<b>0.09</b>

**Notes:** Hispanics may be of any race.

**Source:** Heritage Calculations from 2002 March Current Population Survey.