



Dedicated to crafting the vision and strategies to ensure Minnesota's young people have engaging opportunities to learn and develop in their non-school hours

**UNDERSTANDING  
 CURRENT SITUATION**



*A Fact Sheet Prepared for  
 the March, 2004 Commission Meeting*

## DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MINNESOTA

#### POPULATION

Approximately 1.3 million children and youth under the age of 18 live in Minnesota. The total youth population, including 0-19 year olds, is around 1.4 million. Some 821,647 children and youth are between the ages 8-18. <sup>1</sup>

Over the past ten years, middle and older youth experienced increases in population.

- Among 10-14 year olds, there was a 20% increase.
- Among 15 to 19 year olds, there was a 26% increase. <sup>2</sup>

Increases in the older child/youth population signals the need to determine whether current out-of-school time programs are able to serve the young people who would like to participate. These age groups are typically candidates for a range of out-of-school supports geared to offer a wide variety of choices, interest areas, and settings.

#### AGE DISTRIBUTION

Children and youth are almost equally divided in four categories before adulthood: early childhood (under 5 years); elementary age (5 to 9 years); adolescence (10-14 years); and young adult (15-19 years). <sup>3</sup>

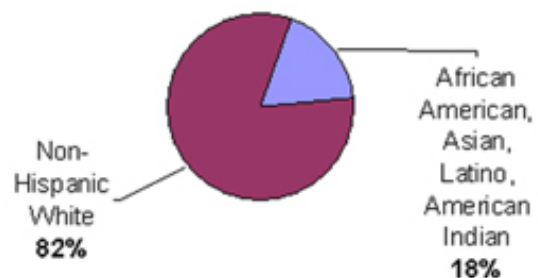
Age distribution is an important factor in developing policy for children and youth. Numbers in various age categories provide a guideline for judging the extent of potential need for investment by age. Age distribution also informs planning for supports and opportunities that are developmentally appropriate.

Children/Youth 0-18	Amount	Percent
Children/Youth under 5 years	329,594	25%
Children/Youth 5 to 9 years	355,894	28%
Youth 10 to 14 years	374,995	29%
Youth 15 to 18 years	226,411	18%
<b>TOTAL *</b>	<b>1,286,894</b>	
* Children/Youth 0-19		1,434,845

#### ETHNICITY

The Minnesota child and youth population reflects a richness in ethnic and racial diversity. Children and youth of multiple backgrounds live in every type of community and comprise 18% of the child/youth population under age eighteen.

**Ethnicity of Minnesota Children and Youth**



Source: *Children's Defense Fund Minnesota: All Kids Count*

\* Percents are proportion of total children of color.

<sup>1</sup> [2000Census of Population and Housing-Summary File 3 Minnesota State Data Center Primary Profile p.1]

<sup>2</sup> [[www.demography.state.mn.us/Cen2000profiles/cen00profage.html](http://www.demography.state.mn.us/Cen2000profiles/cen00profage.html)]

<sup>3</sup> [U.S. Census Bureau. (2000) "2000Census of Population and housing."]

It is important to recognize the variety of cultural orientations present among Minnesota minority children and youth. This factor influences planning for learning and development opportunities that fit cultural value systems with interests and variety in skill development. Data focused on children and youth of color reveals they tend to face more challenges in many areas. They lag behind their white peers in health, educational achievement, safety, and the economic status of their families. <sup>4</sup>

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Some 71% of Minnesota children live in urban or suburban areas, while 28% live in rural areas. <sup>5</sup>

The under 19 population is expected to stay large in the Twin Cities and the Suburbs, with continued growth in many rural counties due to growing immigrant populations. <sup>6</sup>

Children and Youth Population by Geographic Location		
Children under age 18 that are:	Amount	Percent
Urban or Suburban	914,988	71%
Rural	371,906	29%

Source: *Children's Defense Fund Minnesota: All Kids Count*

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Minnesota children and youth living in single parent families account for 21% of all households, with higher proportions in African American and Latino families. <sup>7</sup>

Minnesota has one of the highest percentages of working parents with school-aged children in the nation. <sup>8</sup>

The number of children living in single parent families is important to note because these families may have greater needs for supportive opportunities outside the home during non-school hours. Affordability and geographical location of programs may influence access for more of these families. The large proportion of working parents with school-age children raises similar concern about the needs of these children for engaging opportunities to learn and develop during the out-of-school hours.

## ECONOMIC CONDITION

About nine percent of Minnesota children and youth live in poverty. <sup>9</sup> The proportion of public school children from low-income families approved for free or reduced meals was 26.6% in 2002. <sup>10</sup>

Economic challenges may impact a family's ability to afford opportunities for learning and growth in the non-school hours. Access barriers, such as transportation, may also affect low-income children and youth more dramatically.

<sup>4</sup> Children's Defense Fund Minnesota: All Kids Count <http://www.cdf-mn.org/PDF/Publications/AllKidsCount.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Children's Defense Fund Minnesota: All Kids Count <http://www.cdf-mn.org/PDF/Publications/AllKidsCount.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Atlas of Minnesota 2nd edition, Social and Economic Characteristics of the north Star State. (2003) Center for Rural Policy and Development, p.11)

<sup>7</sup> [Children's Defense Fund Minnesota: All Kids Count. <http://www.cdf-mn.org/PDF/Publications/AllKidsCount.pdf>]

<sup>8</sup> [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2001). Families with own children: Employment status of parents by age of youngest child and family type, 2000-2001 annual averages. <http://www.gls.gov/news.release/famee.to4.htm>]

<sup>9</sup> [Small Area Poverty Estimates, 1999. <http://factfinder.census.gov>].

<sup>10</sup>[Children's Report Card: Low Income School Children: <http://server.admin.state.mn.us/children/indicator.hym?Id=108&G=31CI=31>]