

## 4.14 Who's Raising the Kids?

**W**E DEPEND ON A FUTURE generation of workers and citizens to take care of us in our old age and help repay our public debt. But participation in the task of raising this generation varies substantially across racial/ethnic groups.

In 2003, fewer than half of all white families included individuals under age

18, compared with 56% of black families and 63% of Hispanic families. White families include a higher proportion of elderly members.

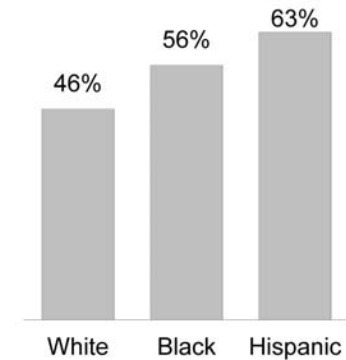
Taxpayers don't like to pay for "other people's children." In communities with a high level of racial/ethnic diversity, elderly voters are less supportive of spending on schools. Public programs in the

U.S. provide better income security and benefits for the elderly than for children.

Parents who are not citizens, as well as many of those who have been convicted of a felony, are not allowed to vote.



Families with children under 18 as a percentage of all families in 2003, by race and Hispanic origin



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