Demography of childhood

Ernesto F. L. Amaral

February 25, 2020
Social Demography (SOCI 622)

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Outline

- Introduction
- Demography of children: United States
- Social demography of children
- Demography of childhood: International perspectives
- Conclusions

Introduction

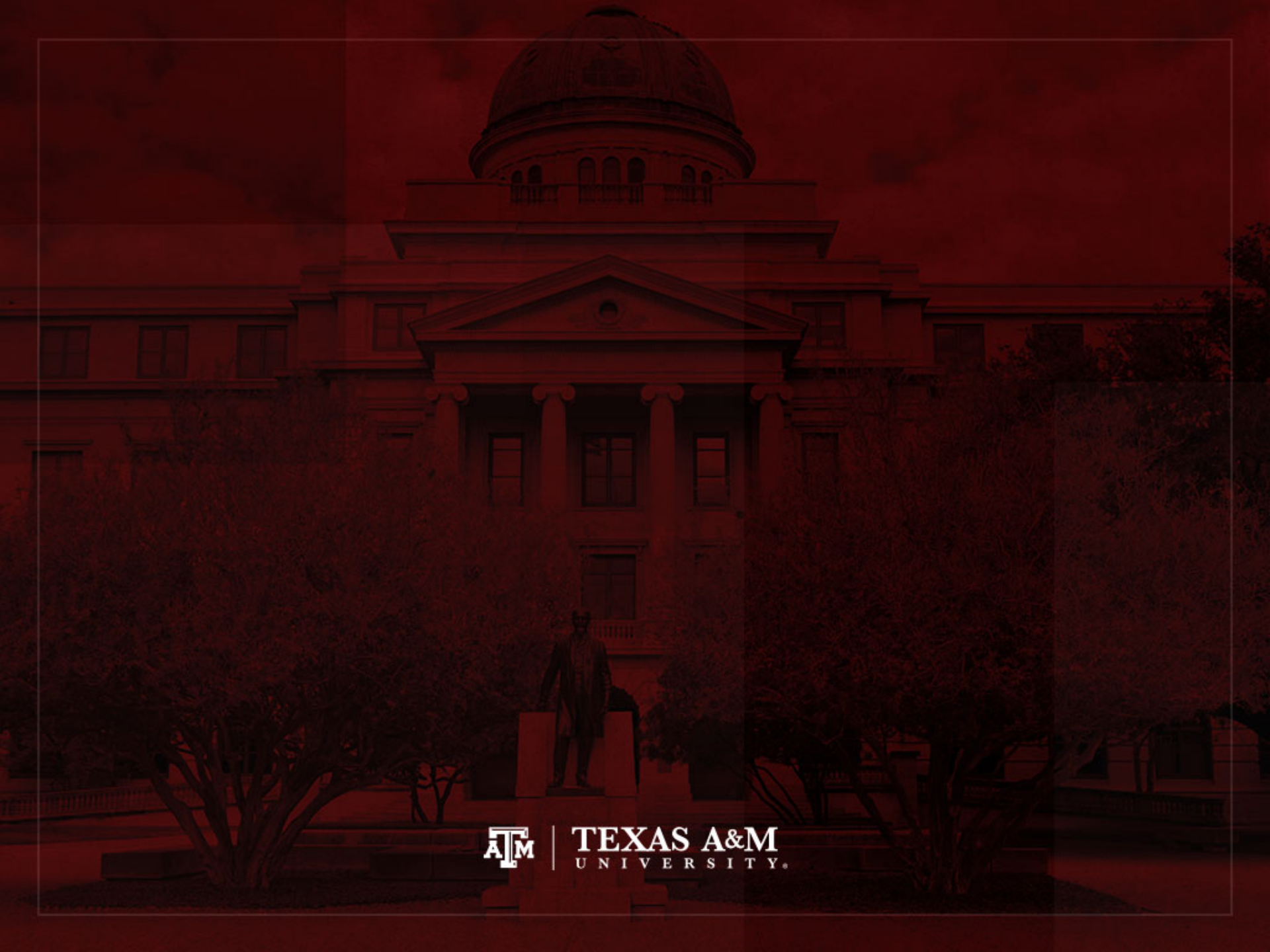
- Childhood extends from birth through age 17
  (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989)

- In many countries, many rights are provided to people once they reach age 18 (e.g., voting)

- Statistical data on children are often provided for people in this age range

Different definitions of childhood

- Childhood is determined differently across cultures by considering a combination of age, roles and events (Sorin 2005)
  - From birth to age six or seven when the child can articulate clearly
  - From birth to when the child can reproduce
  - From birth to when the child can work
  - From birth to when the child can live independently from parents (residential independence)
- They relate to specific roles in society that distinguish an adult from a child


TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

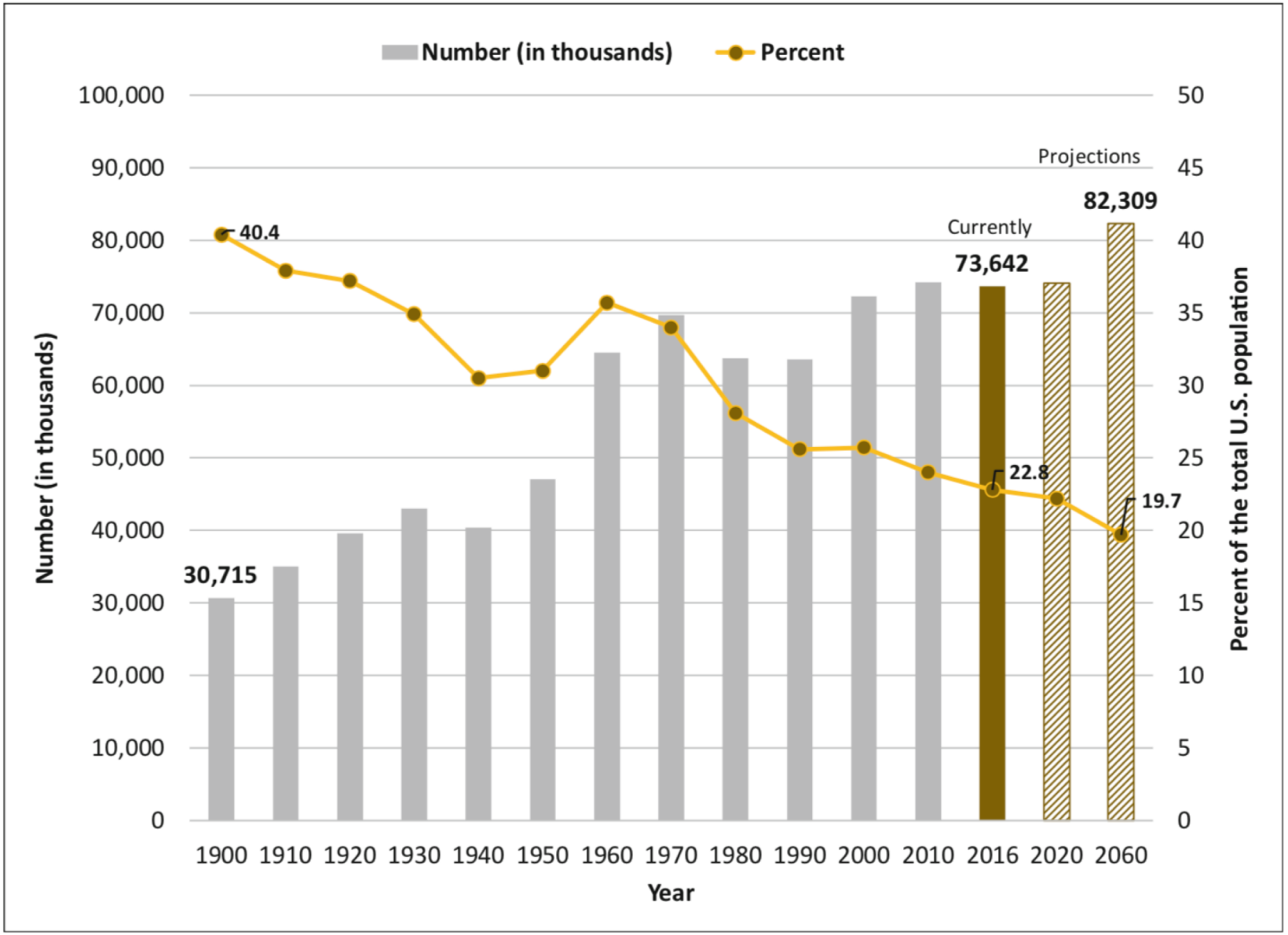
Demography of children: U.S.

- Discussion of children in the United States
- Most recent data, historical trends, and projections on U.S. children
- Changing geographic distribution of U.S. children
- Shifting race and Hispanic composition of the U.S. child population
- Several social-demographic aspects of childhood

Overall trends

- Over the last 50 years, the number of children has fluctuated greatly
- The U.S. reached 69.6 million children in 1970 due to the large baby boom generation born between 1946 and 1964
- The under-18 population fell to 62.8 million persons in 1984, once the children of the “baby bust” generation replaced the baby boomers (Hernandez 2001; U.S. Census Bureau 2001)
- There will be 82.3 million children in the U.S. by 2060, comprising 19.7% of the population (U.S. Census Bureau 2014).

Children in the United States



Source: Poston 2019.

Population aging & immigration

- The number of children has steadily risen since the mid-1980s
- But the percentage of children in the overall population has continued to decline over the last half-century
- This is partly due to population aging and increased immigration
  - Both have resulted in the adult population growing at a faster rate than the child population

Households with a child

- Another important issue is the percentage of households with a child
- The share of U.S. households with a child has declined from 49% in 1960 to 27% in 2017 (Russell 2017)
- Many important decisions, such as the kind of house to purchase, and the importance of local school systems, depend on whether there is a child in the household

Children per state of residence

- The state in which a child resides has important implications for the resources available to that child
- Federal government programs (Social Security, Medicare) are nearly identical from state to state for the elderly population
- However, resources to needy children vary considerably across the country...

Table 7.1 Change in number and percent of children between 2010 and 2016: states of the United States

State	Change in number	Change in percent	State	Change in number	Change in percent
Alabama	−33,717	−3.0	Montana	4266	1.9
Alaska	−712	−0.4	Nebraska	13,536	2.9
Arizona	5350	0.3	Nevada	13,999	2.1
Arkansas	−6517	−0.9	New Hampshire	−25,288	−8.8
California	−188,819	−2.0	New Jersey	−77,739	−3.8
Colorado	34,255	2.8	New Mexico	−27,831	−5.4
Connecticut	−61,303	−7.5	New York	−140,096	−3.2
Delaware	−1276	−0.6	North Carolina	17,214	0.8
District of Columbia	19,611	19.4	North Dakota	25,954	17.3
Florida	149,123	3.7	Ohio	−111,023	−4.1
Georgia	21,648	0.9	Oklahoma	30,051	3.2
Hawaii	4147	1.4	Oregon	2778	0.3
Idaho	7881	1.8	Pennsylvania	−111,657	−4.0
Illinois	−197,234	−6.3	Rhode Island	−14,886	−6.7
Indiana	−30,651	−1.9	South Carolina	18,021	1.7
Iowa	2639	0.4	South Dakota	10,053	4.9
Kansas	−12,619	−1.7	Tennessee	6830	0.5
Kentucky	−12,862	−1.3	Texas	417,319	6.1
Louisiana	−4018	−0.4	Utah	47,717	5.5
Maine	−18,672	−6.8	Vermont	−10,265	−8.0
Maryland	−3755	−0.3	Virginia	14,738	0.8
Massachusetts	−39,065	−2.8	Washington	47,054	3.0
Michigan	−142,868	−6.1	West Virginia	−12,208	−3.2
Minnesota	5092	0.4	Wisconsin	−49,308	−3.7
Mississippi	−32,266	−4.3	Wyoming	3411	2.5
Missouri	−37,079	−2.6	**Total USA**	**−481,041**	**−0.6**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2017a), Vintage 2016 population estimates. Each year the U.S. Census Bureau revises their post-2010 estimates. Therefore, data presented here may differ from previously published estimates

Increasing, decreasing children

- Between 2010 and 2016
  - 24 states, and Washington D.C., experienced an increase in the number of children
  - 27 states experienced a decrease
  - Two states with the largest increases: Texas (417,319) and Florida (149,123)
- Florida will likely show higher numbers of children in the next couple of years
  - Due to the entry of Puerto Rican children and their families escaping the devastation produced by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017

Texas and Florida

- Texas and Florida rank 40th and 41st in terms of overall child well-being (The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2017)

- The child population has been growing the fastest in states where the well-being of children is the lowest

Cities, suburbs, rural areas

- Having a child in the family often influences where parents decide to live
- The distribution of children across principal cities (32%), suburbs (55%), and rural areas (13%) follow the same pattern in every region

Table 7.2 Distribution of children in principal cities, suburbs and rural areas: United States: 2016

Figures in 1000s	Inside principal cities	Suburbs (in Metropolitan statistical area outside principal cities)	Rural (outside of metropolitan statistical area)
Northeast	3,712	7,275	724
Midwest	4,317	8,009	3,222
South	8,319	15,811	4,334
West	6,891	9,361	1,610
Total	**23,239**	**40,456**	**9,890**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2017c), Current Population Survey, 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Race, ethnicity, immigration

- The U.S. has experienced a growing racial and ethnic diversity of its population
- Racial and ethnic minorities are persons who did not identify as non-Hispanic White alone
  - In 2016, they comprised 39% of all U.S. residents
  - In 1980, they were 20% (The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2001; U.S. Census Bureau 2017)
- Children are at the forefront of this increased diversity
  - Minorities will comprise the majority of U.S. children by 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau 2015)

Table 7.3 Number (in thousands) and percent of children by race and hispanic origin: United States, 1980–2016

Race and Hispanic group	1980		1990		2000		2010		2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population under age 18	63,755	100.0	63,604	100.0	72,294	100.0	74,182	100.0	73,642	100.0
Non-hispanic white	47,036	73.8	43,807	68.9	44,027	60.9	39,717	53.5	37,648	51.1
Minorities	16,719	26.2	19,797	31.1	28,267	39.1	34,465	46.5	35,994	48.9
Non-hispanic minorities	11,092	17.4	12,040	18.9	15,925	22.0	57,051	23.4	55,297	24.0
Hispanic	5628	8.8	7758	12.2	12,342	17.1	17,131	23.1	18,346	24.9

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2017a), Vintage 2016 Population Estimates; U.S. Census Bureau (2017d), 2010 Census Summary File 1; U.S. Census Bureau (2001, 2000a, b)

Hispanic children

- Much of the change in the demographics of minority children is accounted for by Hispanics
  - From 9% in 1980 to 25% in 2016
  - Result of high immigration and high fertility levels among the Hispanic population
  - Hispanic or Latino people can be of any race
- In 1998, Hispanics surpassed non-Hispanic Blacks as the single largest minority group among children
  - Non-Hispanic Black children were 14% of all U.S. kids in 2016

Multiracial children

- Starting in 1997 the federal government allowed people to report more than one race in federal surveys and censuses
  - It permits distinguishing people who identify as a single race from those who identify as a combination of races
- Of the 8.4 million people who identified with more than one racial group in 2016, nearly half (3.9 million) were children
  - One-fifth of these multiracial children were Hispanic

Immigration

- Immigration, particularly from Latin America and Asia, is one reason the U.S. is becoming more diverse
  - In 2014, only 3% of children (2.6 million) were born outside the U.S., compared to 16% of adults
- About 25% of all children living in the U.S. are growing up in immigrant families (U.S. Census Bureau 2014)
  - Families with at least one foreign-born parent
- The number of births to foreign-born mothers is quite high
  - In 2015, it was 24% of all births (Martin et al. 2017)

Racial/ethnic mix by state

- The racial/ethnic mix of U.S. children varies widely across the states
- In DC and 12 states (Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Texas), a majority of children are members of minority groups
- Minorities comprise less than 10% of the child population in four states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, West Virginia)

Geographic concentration

- Hispanic children are highly concentrated in a few states, largely in the Southwest
  - Nearly half of all Hispanic children live in California (26%) and Texas (20%)
  - There are also concentrations elsewhere, such as in the urban Northeast, Florida, and in large cities such as Chicago and Denver
- Since the 1990s, Hispanics have become more prevalent in areas where they previously had not held much of a presence
  - In parts of the Southeast and the Great Plains

African American and others

- The majority of African-American children live in the South
  - They are also dispersed across states and have a substantial presence in large urban areas
- Asian and Pacific Islander children are concentrated in the West (California, Hawaii)
  - They have significant shares in other metropolitan areas (New York, Houston, Chicago)
- American Indian and Alaska Native children also live mainly in the West
  - 47% of them in five states: Alaska, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oklahoma

Fertility

- Circumstances surrounding the birth of a child can have a major influence on the child's life chances
- There were 4.0 million births in the U.S. in 2015, following a slight downward trend during the past couple of years
  - The number of births in 2015 is higher by over 800,000 than it was in 1973, during the midst of the "baby bust" period of the late 1960s and 1970s
  - In 2015, births to minority women represented 46% of all births

Low birth weight and preterm

- Of the total 4.0 million births in 2015, 8.1% were low birth weight
  - Babies weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth
- 9.6% were preterm births
  - Babies were born before completing 37 weeks of gestation
- Babies who weigh so little at birth, or are born very early, are at a significant risk
  - Experience early death, ill health, long-term developmental problems

Multiple births

- The proportion of low birthweight babies increased from 7.9% in 1970 to 8.1% in 2015
- This is due, at least in part, to a growing number of multiple births (twins, triplets)
  - Mostly related to fertility treatments
- Low birthweight among singlets has changed very little over the past 30 years

Birth weight by race/ethnicity

- In 2015, non-Hispanic White mothers had the lowest prevalence of low birthweight (6.9%)
- This is slightly below that of Hispanic women (7.2%)
- The highest prevalence was among Black women (13.3%)

Preterm by race/ethnicity

- The rate of preterm births for all women was 9.9% in 2016
- Non-Hispanic White mothers had the lowest rate of preterm births (8.9%)
- Hispanic mothers (9.1%)
- African-American mothers (13.4%)

Delaying childbearing

- Women have been delaying childbearing over the past few decades
- Birth rates for younger women (15–24) have been declining
- Birth rates for women in their 30s have been increasing
- Women in their 20s have the highest birth rates

U.S. teen birth rates

- Since 1990, teenage childbearing (15–19) has declined steadily, both overall and for all racial and ethnic groups
  - 61.8 births per 1,000 teens in 1991
  - 20.3 in 2016
- Teen birth rate in the United States is still much higher than the majority of developed countries

Births to unmarried mothers

- In 2015, 40.3% of babies were born to unmarried mothers
  - It was just 5% in 1960
- Unmarried mothers accounted for
  - Over 2/3 of births to Black and American Indian
  - Over 1/2 of births to Hispanic women
  - Less than 1/3 of births to non-Hispanic White women
  - 1/6 of births to Asian and Pacific Islander women

More on nonmarital births

- Many births to unmarried mothers are not first births
  - More than 50% of all nonmarital births between 1997 and 2001 were of second or higher order
- A growing share of births to unmarried mothers are to women who are cohabiting
  - In 1990–1994, about 11% of unmarried women under the age of 40 who gave birth were cohabiting
  - In 2010–2014, 26% of them were cohabiting

U.S. child mortality

- Major causes of death are those that primarily occur to older people (heart disease, cancer...)

- For children, the primary causes of death vary by age group
  - Under age one, major causes include problems related to low birthweight, congenital abnormalities, and sudden infant death syndrome
  - After the first year of life, accidents are the leading cause of death for children and youth

Infant mortality rate

- In 2014, more than 23,000 U.S. infants died before their first birthday
  - An infant mortality rate (IMR) of 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births (Kochanek et al. 2016)
  - This is less than half what it was in 1975

- Infants in the U.S. die at a higher rate than infants in many other industrialized countries

Parental education and IMR

- Higher parental educational attainment is a protective factor regarding infant mortality
  - In 2007, the IMR was 3.8 among the children of mothers with a college degree
  - IMR was 7.8 among the children of mothers without a high school diploma

- IMRs are also lower in large urban areas (5.4) than in rural areas (6.6)

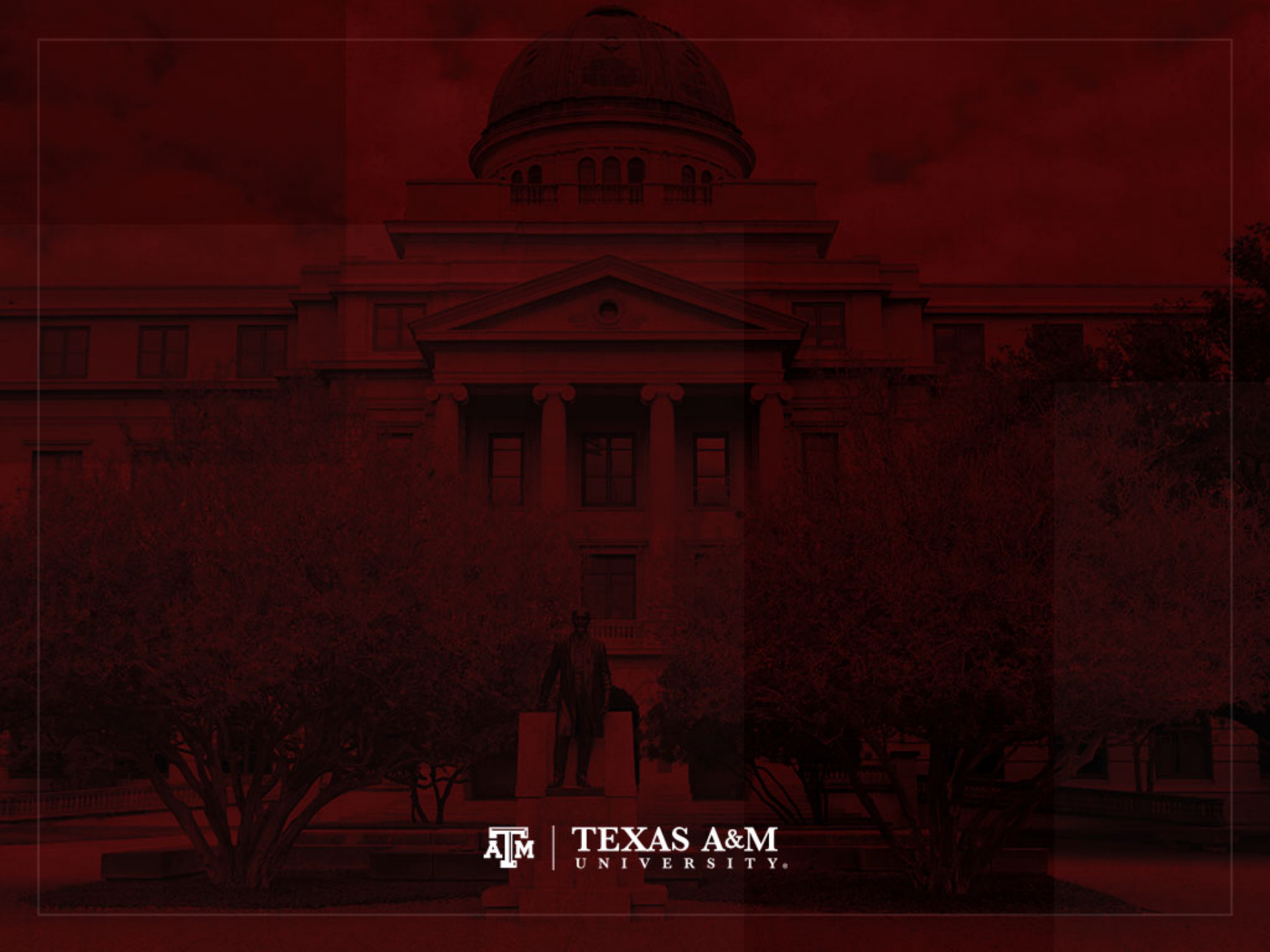
Race/ethnicity and IMR

- IMRs have declined during the past decade for most race and ethnic subgroups

- There are still vast differences across the groups
  - IMR among non-Hispanic Black women was 11.4 deaths per 1,000 births in 2014
  - This is more than twice the rate for non-Hispanic White women of 4.8 infant deaths per 1,000 births in 2015

Teenage mortality

- Death rate among teens (15–19)
  - 46 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2014
- Suicide and homicide are more prevalent
  - Accidents, suicides, and homicides accounted for 73% of all teen deaths in 2014
- Teen death rates vary by race/ethnicity
  - Asian and Pacific Islanders (23)
  - American Indian (50)
  - African American (62)


TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

Social demography of children

- Family structure and living arrangements
- Education and children
- Economic fortunes of children
- Future trends on U.S. children

Family structure and living arrangements

- The official U.S. Census Bureau definition of a family household is one with at least two people related by blood, marriage or adoption
- However, people may also consider other types of relationships as familial
- Arrangement of families with one or more children living with both parents has declined steadily since the mid-20th century

Legal and social changes

- The U.S. is facing legal and social changes that are impacting families in many ways
  - Rise of divorce, remarriage, cohabitation, nonmarital childbearing
  - Legalization of same-sex marriages
  - High incarceration rates
  - Increase in deportation levels of undocumented immigrants
- These trends have contributed to children's families becoming now more diverse

Second demographic transition

- Many of the changes in families and living arrangements occurring in developed countries constitute the second demographic transition (SDT) (Lesthaeghe 2010)
  - Sub-replacement levels of fertility
  - Delays in childbearing and marriage
  - Aging population
  - High levels of divorce, remarriage, and cohabitation
- Profound changes to household member configurations, affecting children's families

SDT in the U.S.

- The United States began going through the second demographic transition in the 1950s
- From 1960 to 2017, the share of children living with two parents declined from 88% to 67%
- Children have more positive outcomes living with married parents
  - Because they can provide increased resources, care, and stability to the children (Amato 2005)
  - Married couples on average have higher levels of education, delay childbearing, and divorce at lower levels (McLanahan 2004)

Cohabitation

- Many more children live in households where one parent is cohabiting with the other parent or with someone else
  - Currently 8% of all kids live with a parent and their unmarried partner
- Many cohabiting couples do end up getting married eventually
  - Particularly if the parents have high education
- But cohabiting couples are more likely to change partners, leading to changes in the children's living arrangements

Single-parent household

- The majority of children not living with two married parents are living with their mothers
  - In 2017, 23% of children lived with a mother who did not have a spouse present
  - 4% with a single father (U.S. Census Bureau 2017)
- Single-parent households are more likely to be poor and face more difficulties in moving ahead socioeconomically
- About 4% of children lived with neither parent
  - More than half of these children were in households headed by their grandparents

Household and race/ethnicity

- African-American and Hispanic children are less likely than non-Hispanic White children to live with both parents
  - In 2017, 74% of non-Hispanic White children lived with both parents
  - 67% of Hispanic children
  - 40% of Black children (it was 66% in 1960)

Diversity of families

- An emerging area in family studies focuses on the diversity of families
  - Many more families are blended
    - 22% of children who live with two biological parents have a half-sibling living with them or somewhere else (Monte 2017)
  - Adoptions are on the rise
  - Same-sex couples
  - Other relatives in the household
  - More contact with grandparents
  - Non-relatives: partners, roomers and housemates
  - Imprisonment, migration

Education and children

- Children with higher education tend to have
  - Higher earnings later in life
  - Healthier livelihoods
  - Improved decision-making
- Children are starting school earlier
- More children are staying in school longer
- Fewer teens are without a high school diploma or general educational degree (GED)
- Larger share of students have been scoring above the proficient level (National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP)

Economic fortunes of children

- The percentage of children in poverty is perhaps the most global and widely used indicator of child well-being
  - Associated with health, education, emotional welfare, and delinquency
- Poverty status: family income is compared to a set of thresholds which vary by family size and composition
  - In 2016, a family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income was below $24,339 (Semega et al. 2017)

Child poverty

- Children have a higher poverty level than any other age group
- In 2016, the poverty rate of 18% for children was
  - 55% greater than the rate for working-age 18–64 year-old adults
  - 93% greater than the rate for older people age 65+
- Among the 65+, poverty has been much alleviated by government programs such as Social Security and Medicare (Semega et al. 2017)

Social policies

- Knowing how many children live in poor and near-poor families is important for social policies
  - Much of the $400 billion the federal government spends each year on assistance programs is targeted to low-income families with children

- In 2015, 42% of all children were living in families with incomes less than 200% of the poverty line
  - Commonly referred to as low-income families

Child poverty rate

- The child poverty rate is higher in the U.S. than in most other rich countries
  - Relatively low levels of government support for U.S. poor families
- In 2014, the relative child poverty rate for the U.S. was 40% higher than the overall average among 41 high-income and middle-income countries (UNICEF 2017)
  - Only six countries in the study had relative child poverty rates higher than the U.S.

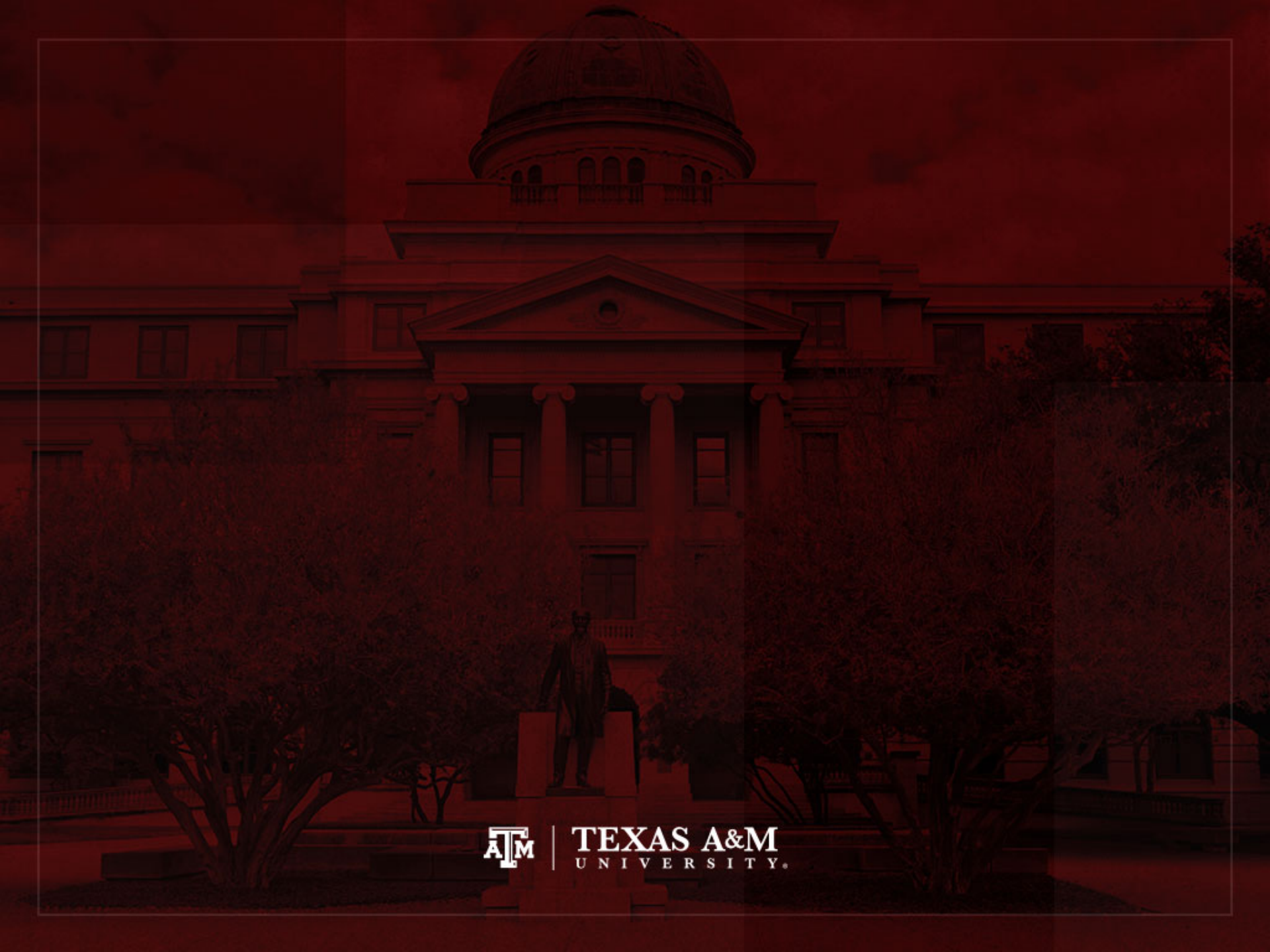
Variations in child poverty

- Poverty rate for children is higher in single-mother families (43%) than in married-couple families (10%) (Forum 2017)
- Poverty is more prevalent among children in immigrant families (Wight et al. 2011)
  - Children of recent immigrant parents (39%)
  - Children of established immigrants (27%)
  - Children of native-born parents (18%)
- Regional variation in child poverty: South (22%), Midwest (17%) (Forum 2017)

Table 7.4 Child poverty by race and hispanic origin, United States: 2016

Race and hispanic origin	Number (in thousands)	Percent
All groups	13,253	18.0
Non-hispanic white alone	4050	10.8
Black or African-American alone	3418	30.8
Asian alone	430	11.1
Hispanic	4890	26.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2017c), Current Population Survey, 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplement


TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

Demography of childhood: International perspectives

- First demographic transition
- Number of children if the world
- Regional distribution of children
- Health
- Education and children
- Economic issues of childhood
- Social demographic issues of childhood

First demographic transition

- Young children typically make up large proportions of populations in societies at the beginning of the first demographic transition
- In societies that have gone through this demographic transition
  - Children typically become a relatively small share of the population because fewer are born
  - Adults are plentiful because most people live longer

Number of children in the world

- Children accounted for
  - 44% of the world's population in 1950
  - 34% in 2016
  - 26% in 2070
- This change is due partly to
  - Smaller family size: fewer children are being born to each family
  - Longer life expectancy resulting in greater numbers of adults
- Total population of children is expected to slowly increase until 2060 to approximately 2.8 billion
  - But will then begin to decline

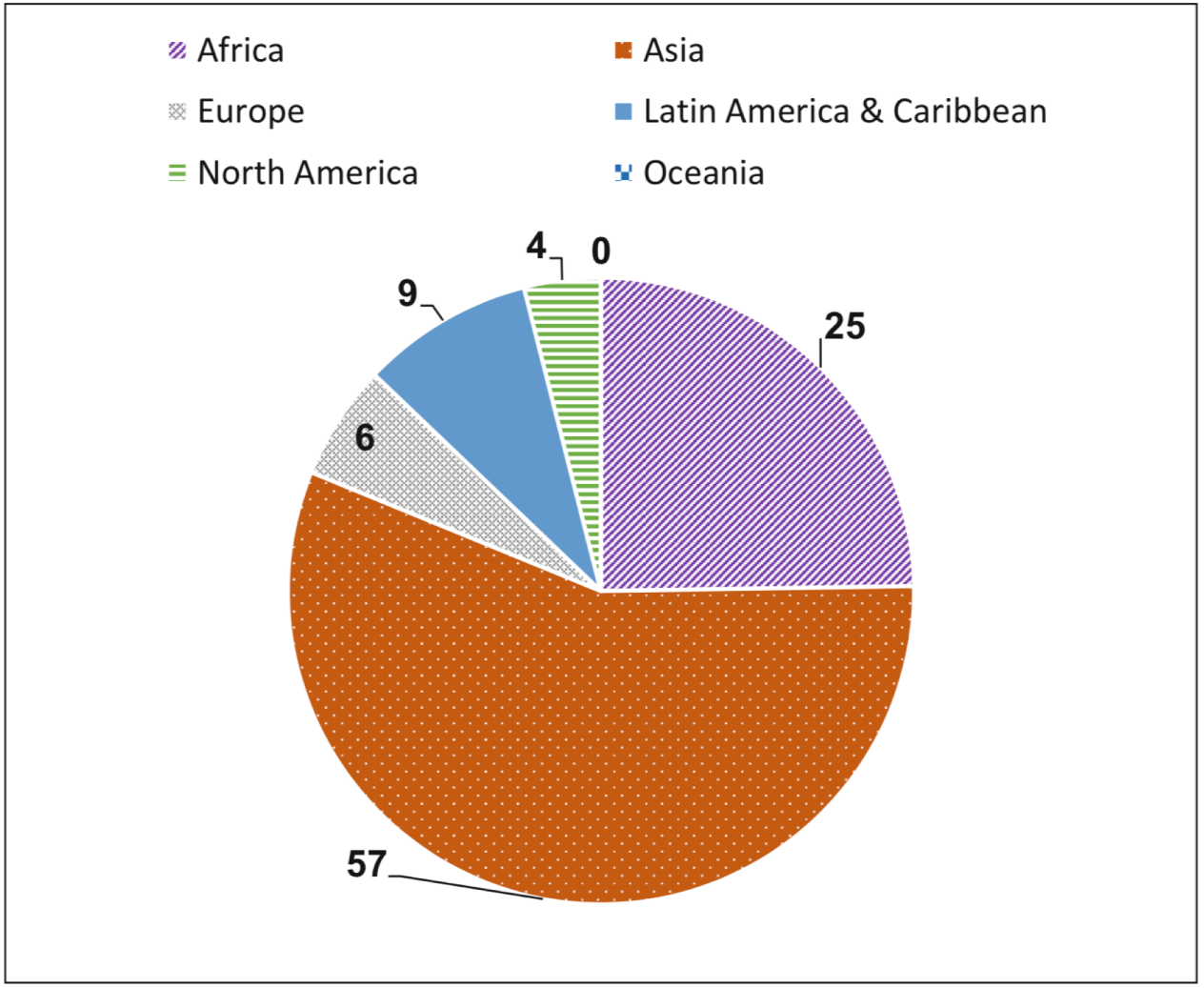
Table 7.5 Number of children (under age 20) (in millions): region of the world and year, 1950–2070

Time/Region	1950	1990	2010	2016	2020	2040	2060	2070
World								
Total population	2,536	5,331	6,958	7,467	7,795	9,210	10,223	10,576
Child population	1,108	2,270	2,469	2,539	2,597	2,714	2,782	2,768
Child percentage	44	43	35	34	33	29	27	26
Africa								0
Total population	229	635	1,049	1,225	1,353	2,100	2,964	3,394
Child population	118	349	545	628	683	936	1,143	1,211
Regional child percentage	51	55	52	51	51	45	39	36
Asia								
Total population	1,404	3,221	4,194	4,463	4,623	5,154	5,260	5,187
Child population	651	1,422	1,443	1,437	1,440	1,331	1,211	1,142
Regional child percentage	46	44	34	32	31	26	23	22
Europe								
Total population	549	722	737	741	743	729	699	681
Child population	191	199	157	155	156	144	142	137
Regional child percentage	35	28	21	21	21	20	20	20
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Total population	169	446	598	639	664	757	787	781
Child population	85	209	220	217	213	192	169	159
Regional child percentage	50	47	37	34	32	25	21	20
North America								
Total population	173	280	343	359	369	417	451	468
Child population	59	80	92	90	91	97	102	104
Regional child percentage	34	29	27	25	25	23	22	22
Oceania								
Total population	13	27	37	40	42	53	61	65
Child population	5	10	12	12	13	15	16	16
Regional child percentage	37	36	32	31	31	28	26	25

Source: United Nations (2017). "World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision"

Regional distribution of children

Fig. 7.2 Percentage distribution of children by region of the world, 2016 Source: United Nations. (2017). "World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision"



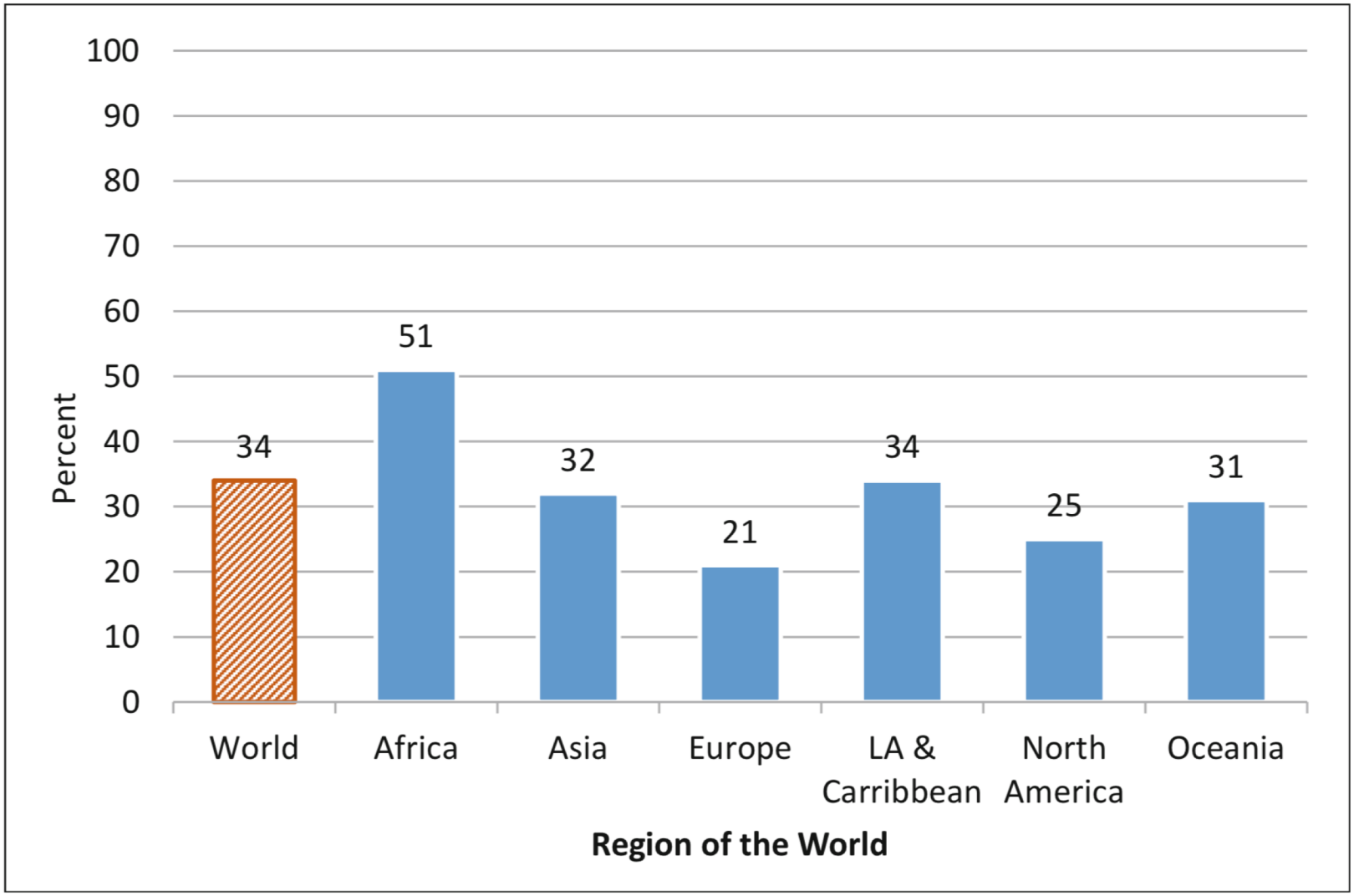


Fig. 7.3 Percentages of children in the population: regions of the world, 2016
Source: United Nations. (2017). "World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision"
Note: LA = Latin America

Children in countries

- In 2016, almost one-third of the world's children were living in China and India

- In 2016, over half of the world's children were living in just eight countries: India, China, Nigeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, the United States, Bangladesh, and Brazil

Health

- The infant mortality rate (IMR) indicates the number of children who die within the first year of life per 1,000 children born in the year
- Since the first year of life is so precarious, the IMR often reflects the general development stage of a society
- The IMR declined from 65 in 1990 to 35 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2010–2015 (United Nations 2017)
- But there are regional differences...

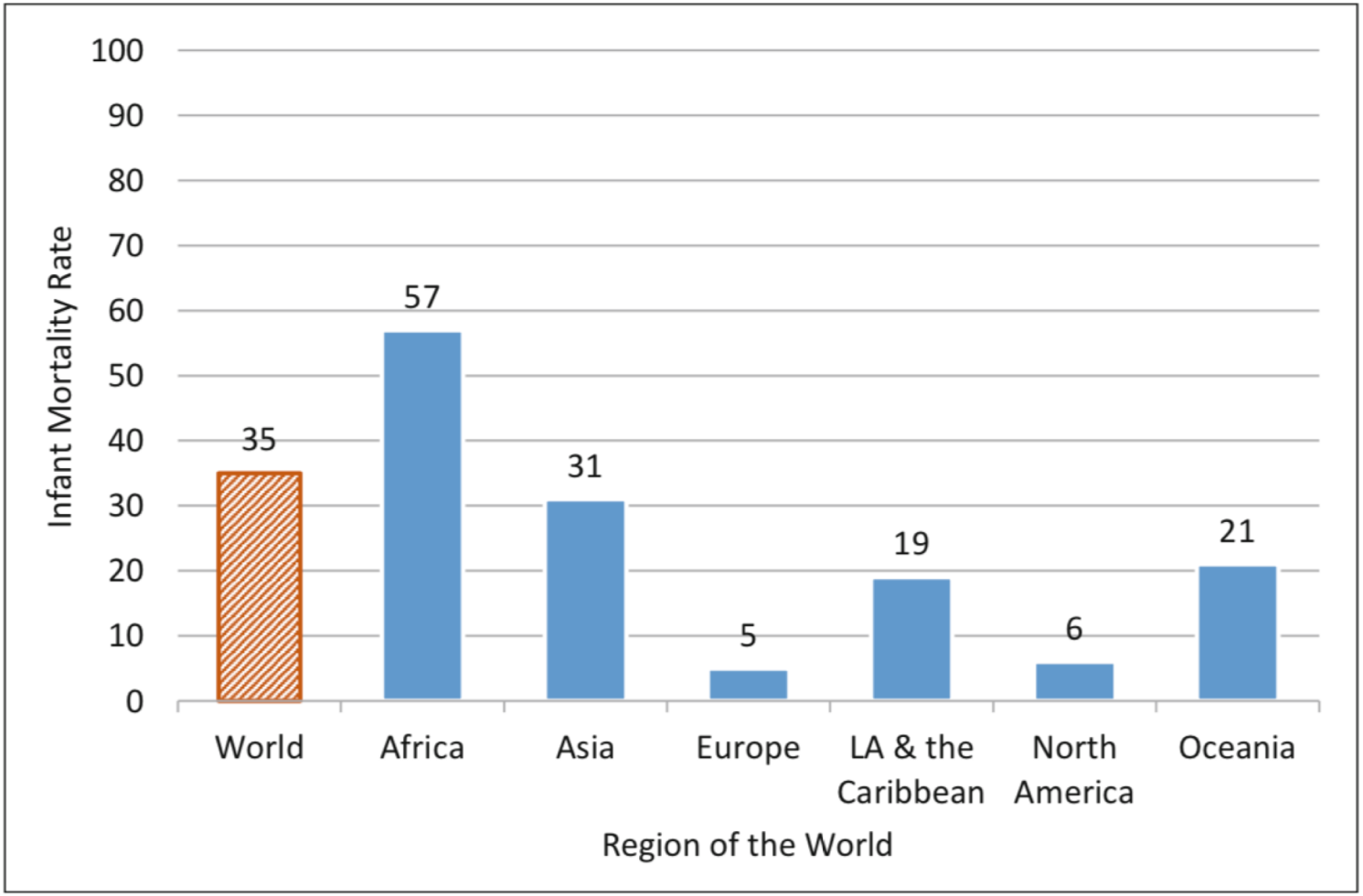


Fig. 7.4 Infant mortality rates: regions of the world, period of 2010–2015
Source: United Nations. (2017). "World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision"
Notes: LA = Latin America
Infant mortality rate equals the number of children under age 1 who die in the past year divided by the number of births in the past year

Mortality rate for children <5

- Another important measure of health is the mortality rate for children under age 5
  - In 1990, there were 93 deaths under age 5 for every 1,000 live births
  - Between 2010–2015, the rate was 48 (or 34 million)
- In many parts of the world, these young children are very vulnerable to social and environmental conditions

Reasons to mortality decline

- Reductions in deaths to children can be attributed to
  - Improvements in children's health, such as increases in immunizations
  - Increases in exclusive breastfeeding, vitamin A supplementation
  - Improvements in the treatment of malaria, pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, severe malnutrition, and pediatric HIV/AIDS

Leadings causes of death

- Leading causes of death worldwide in children under the age of 5 (World Health Organization 2017)
  - Preterm birth complications
  - Pneumonia
  - Birth asphyxia
  - Diarrhea
  - Malaria
- Malnutrition is likely the underlying cause of almost half of child deaths (Action Against Hunger 2017)

Education and children

- Education is a fundamental human right
  - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations 1948)
  - Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations 1989)
- Education enhances earning potential and skills development
- It allows people to participate more fully in modern societies, and improve their health and the health of their children

Education on national level

- On a national level, education is essential for
  - Reducing poverty
  - Improving and sustaining economic growth and development
  - Protecting the environment
  - Improving health, including the reduction and control of HIV/AIDS
  - Enhancing governance and equality

Table 7.6 Primary school attendance rates: region of the world, 2009–2015

Education measure	Primary attendance rate			Secondary attendance rate		
Sex	Both	Female	Male	Both	Female	Male
World	**85**	**84**	**86**	**61**	**59**	**63**
Sub-Saharan Africa	74	74	75	38	36	40
Eastern and Southern Africa	79	79	78	32	33	32
West and Central Africa	70	68	72	42	39	46
Middle East and North Africa	90	89	91	69	67	71
South Asia	81	79	83	53	48	57
East Asia and Pacific	97	97	97	83	83	82
Latin America and Caribbean	95	96	95	76	78	74
CEE/CIS	96	96	95	89	88	90
Least developed countries	75	75	76	37	36	39
North America[a,b]	94	94	94	78	79	76
United States[a]	97	97	97	89	90	88
European high income countries[a]	99	99	99	93	93	92

Source: UNICEF (2016), Global databases 2016 based on MICS, DHS and other national household surveys

[a]Source: The World Bank (2017a), DataBank on Education Statistics

[b]Estimates for Net Secondary Enrollment in North America exclude Canada because of missing values

Notes: Estimates combine information on school attendance and school enrollment due to differences in data collection across countries

CEE/CIS = Central Eastern Europe / Commonwealth of Independent States

Economic issues of childhood

- Poverty
- Child labor and youth unemployment

Poverty

- Economic well-being and economic opportunity are not equal around the globe
  - These inequalities often affect children the most
- Of the 2.5 billion children in the world, about 385 million live in extreme poverty, defined as less than US$1.90 a day (UNICEF, World Bank Group 2016)
- About 20% of kids under the age of five live in extreme poverty compared to 15% of 15–17 year-olds

Consequences of poverty

- Living in extreme poverty as a child is associated with
  - Inadequate nutrition
  - Lack of early stimulation and learning
  - Increased exposure to stress
  - Disadvantaged outcomes throughout the life course

Poverty around the world

- Extreme poverty is concentrated geographically
  - In 2013, 49% of the child population in Sub-Saharan Africa was living in extreme poverty
  - The figure for Southern Asia was 36%
  - Of all children living in extreme poverty, over half of them were kids in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Over 81% of all children living in extreme poverty live in rural areas
- In the past 30 years, the number of people living in extreme poverty has been cut in half (World Bank 2017)

Child labor

- Too many children are working in exploitive situations that are harmful to their health and development (ILO 2016)
  - Hazardous agricultural work
  - Commercial sexual exploitation
  - Bonded and slave labor
  - Domestic servitude
  - Trafficking

Child labor rates

- The largest proportion of working children ages 5–14 is in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNICEF 2016)
  - 28% of all sub-Saharan African children ages 5–14 are at work
  - This is followed by the Middle East and North Africa at 10%
  - East Asia and the Pacific also have a rate at 10%

Youth unemployment

- Too many youths are not working when they are of a legal age to work, and when a healthy work environment could have a positive impact on their growth
- Poverty, poor economic development, and lack of access to quality basic education all contribute to
  - Children entering exploitive work situations
  - Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment rates

- Between 1995 and 2015 the number of unemployed youth decreased from 74 to 71 million worldwide (ILO 2016)
  - South Asia: 14 million
  - Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia: 11 million each
- Youth unemployment rates in 2015
  - Middle East and North Africa: 30%
  - Northern, Southern and Western Europe: 21%
  - Central/Western Asia and Eastern Europe: 17%
  - Developed Economies: 15%

Social demographic issues

- Child marriage
- Children and migration

Child marriage

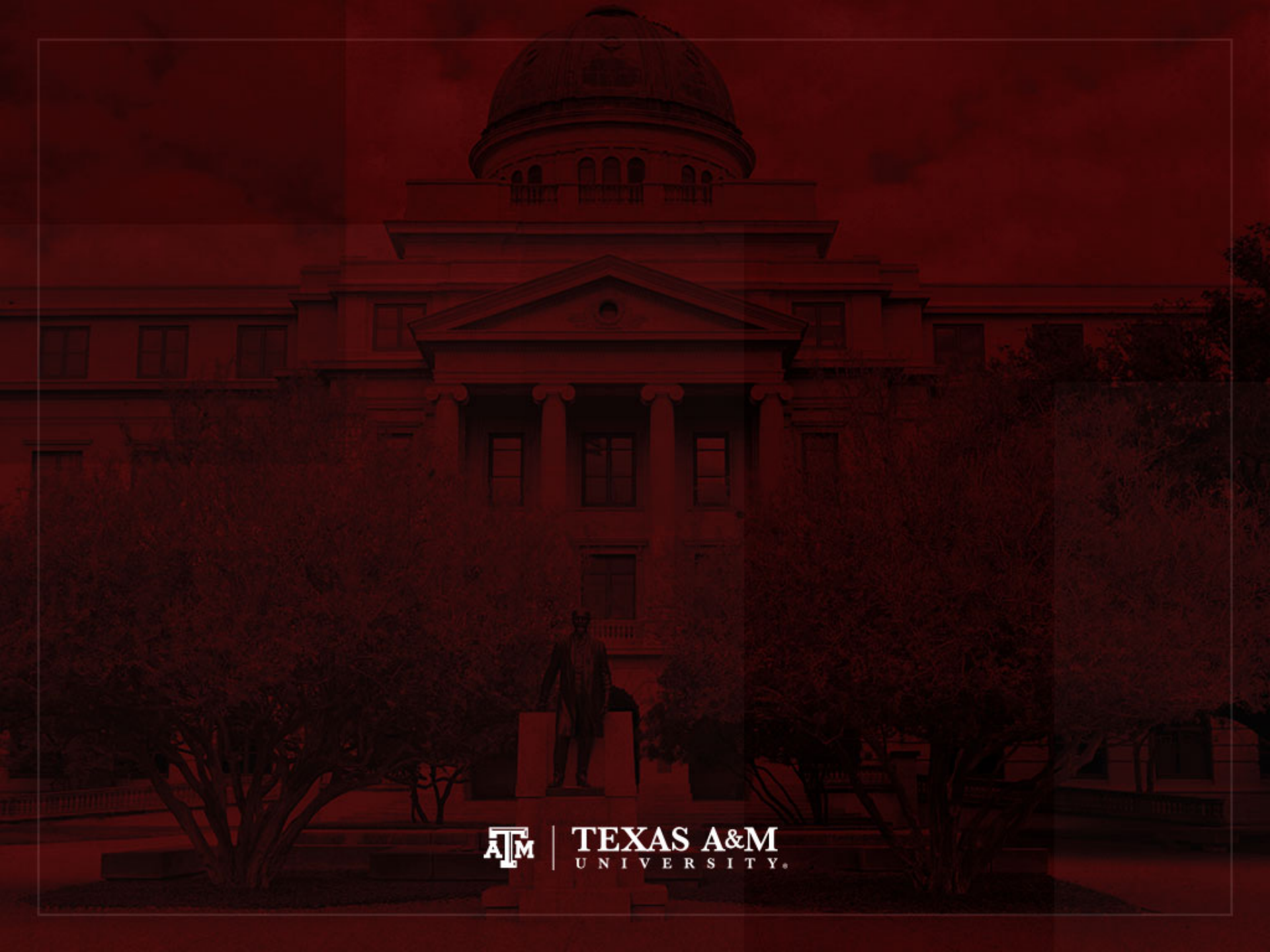
- Among girls, marrying before the age of 18 typically results in (UNICEF 2014)
  - Early pregnancy
  - Social isolation
  - Higher rates of sexually transmitted infections
  - Interruptions to schooling
  - Higher risks of domestic violence
  - Limited career opportunities later in life
- Globally, child marriage is considered a violation of human rights

Child marriage rates

- In 2008–2014, child marriage rates (UNICEF 2017)
  - 40% of girls marry before reaching the age of 18 in sub-Saharan Africa
    - 12.5% were married or cohabiting by the age of 15
  - 25% in Latin America and the Caribbean
  - 20% in the Middle East and North Africa
- Child marriage has been declining (UNICEF 2014)
  - In 2014, 25% young women were married as a child
  - In the 1980s, the rate was around 33%

Children and migration

- Due to economic migration, poverty, conflict, violence, and natural disasters, many children are travelling from their origin communities to other regions or countries of the world
- In 2015, 31 million children were living in a different place than their country of birth (UNICEF 2017)
  - 31% of all international migrants in the world
- An additional 17 million children were displaced within their countries of origin due to conflict and violence

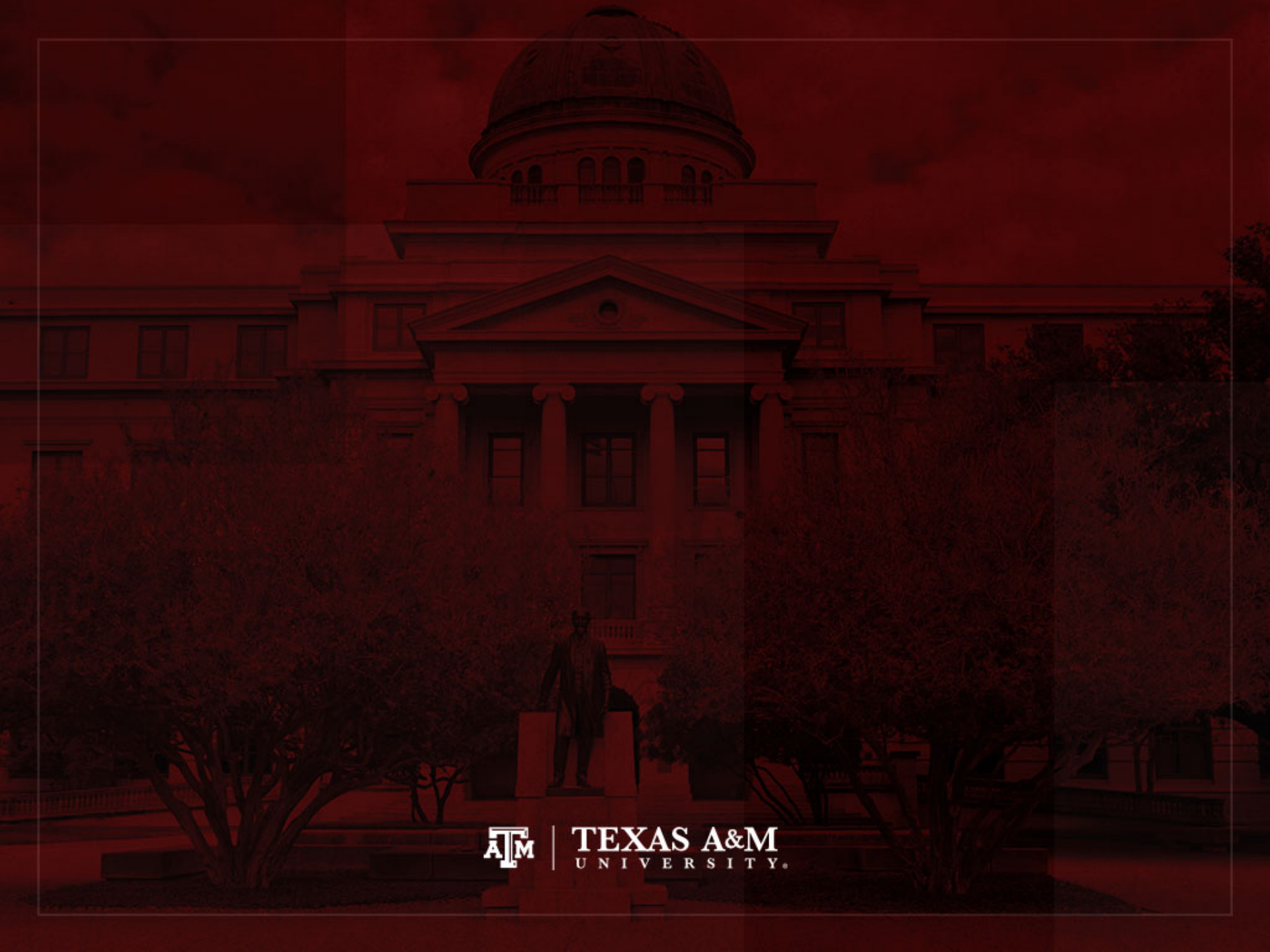

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

Conclusions

- The number of children around the world has more than doubled over the past half century, but the rate of growth is slowing
  - As more countries move into the final stage of the 1st demographic transition or into the 2nd demographic transition
- Knowledge about experiences and characteristics of today's children can help us anticipate the future
  - Countries will need to continue investing resources to ensure that their children fully develop and make the best use of the available opportunities

References

Poston, Dudley L. (Ed.). 2019. Handbook of Population. Cham: Springer. Chapter 7 (pp. 209–232).


TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY