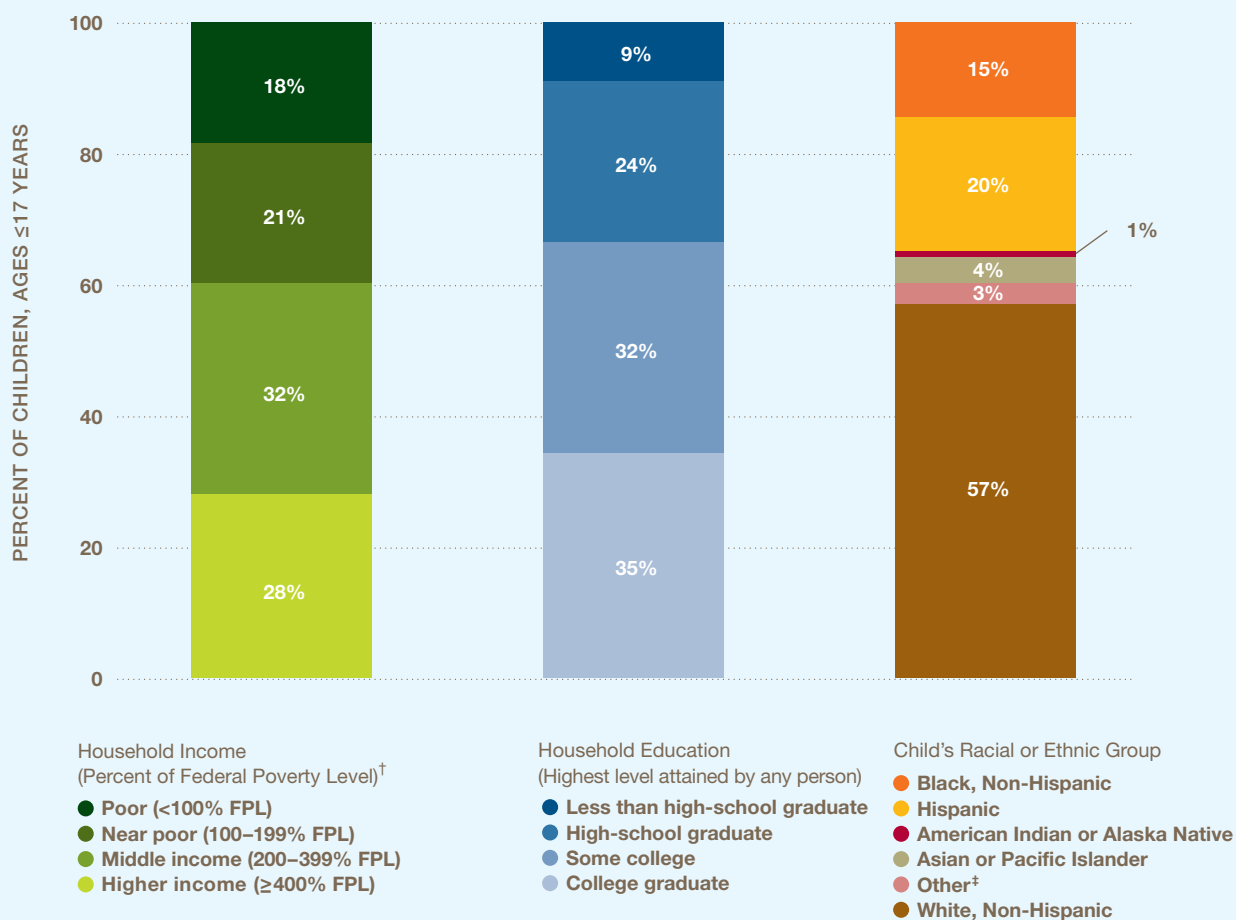


UNITED STATES: Social Factors Affecting Children's Health

Health during childhood is powerfully linked with social factors such as the income and education levels of a child's family and his or her racial or ethnic group. This national snapshot of children ages 17 years or younger shows that:

- Two fifths of children nationwide live in poor or near-poor households, one third live in middle-income households and more than one fourth live in higher-income households.
- One third of children live in households where no one has schooling beyond high school, one third live with at least one person who has attended but not completed college and one third live with at least one college graduate.
- 57 percent of children nationwide are non-Hispanic white, 20 percent are Hispanic, 15 percent are non-Hispanic black, 4 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander, 1 percent are American Indian or Alaska Native and 3 percent are in another or more than one racial or ethnic group.



Prepared for the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America by the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco.

Source: 2006 American Community Survey (for data on income and racial or ethnic group); 2005-2007 Current Population Survey (for education data).

[†] Guidelines set by the U.S. government for the amount of income providing a bare minimum of food, clothing, transportation, shelter and other necessities. In 2006, the U.S. FPL was \$16,079 for a family of three and \$20,614 for a family of four.

[‡] "Other" includes children in any other racial or ethnic group or in more than one group.