

## Who are infants, toddlers, and their families?

### 11.6 million children under age 3 live in the United States

- Roughly half are White, non-Hispanic, 26 percent are Hispanic or Latino, 13 percent are Black, and 4 percent are Asian
- 24 percent live in immigrant families in which one or more parents was born outside of the United States

### Infants, toddlers, and families have high rates of economic hardship

- 2.3 million or 20 percent of children under age 3 live below the poverty threshold (\$19,078 for a family of three with one child)
- An additional 2.5 million live in households earning between 100 and 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) (\$38,156 for a family of three with one child)
- One in five young parents (under 30)—many of whom are parents of infants and toddlers—is poor

### Most parents of infants and toddlers are working, but they are held back by low levels of education and poor quality jobs

- 62 percent of mothers with an infant or toddler participate in the labor force, and a majority work full-time
- 36 percent of parents with an infant or toddler have a high school diploma or less; 23 percent completed college coursework but have not earned a degree
- One in five mothers with an infant or toddler works in low-wage jobs, typically earning \$10.50 or less per hour

### Children of color are a growing population and are overrepresented among children in poverty

- Between 2000 and 2010, people of color accounted for more than 90 percent of the U.S. population growth
- 69 percent of Black and 63 percent of Hispanic infants and toddlers live in low-income families, compared to just 33 percent of White infants and toddlers
- Women of color face significant wage gaps and are less likely to have access to paid family leave and paid sick leave

Source: CLASP analysis of 5-year ACS estimates (2011-2015); CLASP analysis of 2016 Current Population Survey, March Supplement; Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Table 6. Employment status of mothers with own children under 3 years old by single year of age of youngest child and marital status, 2015-2016 annual averages," U.S. Census Bureau, 2017, [www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.t06.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.t06.htm); Author's analysis of IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org); Karen Schulman, Jasmine Tucker, and Julie Vogtman, *Nearly One in Five Working Mothers of Very Young Children Work in Low-Wage Jobs*, National Women's Law Center, 2017, <https://nwl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Nearly-One-in-Five-Working-Mothers-of-Very-Young-Children-Work-in-Low-Wage-Jobs-2017.pdf>; Jeffrey S. Passel, Gretchen Livingston, and D'Vera Cohn, *Explaining Why Minority Births Now Outnumber White Births*, Pew Research Center, 2012, <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/05/17/explaining-why-minority-births-now-outnumber-white-births/>; Zoe Ziliak Michel and Liz Ben-Ishai, *Good Jobs for All: Racial Inequities in Job Quality*, CLASP, 2016, [http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/Race-and-Job-Quality-Brief-3\\_30ar.docx-FINAL.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/Race-and-Job-Quality-Brief-3_30ar.docx-FINAL.pdf); ZERO TO THREE, *National Baby Facts*, 2015, <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/369-national-baby-facts>.