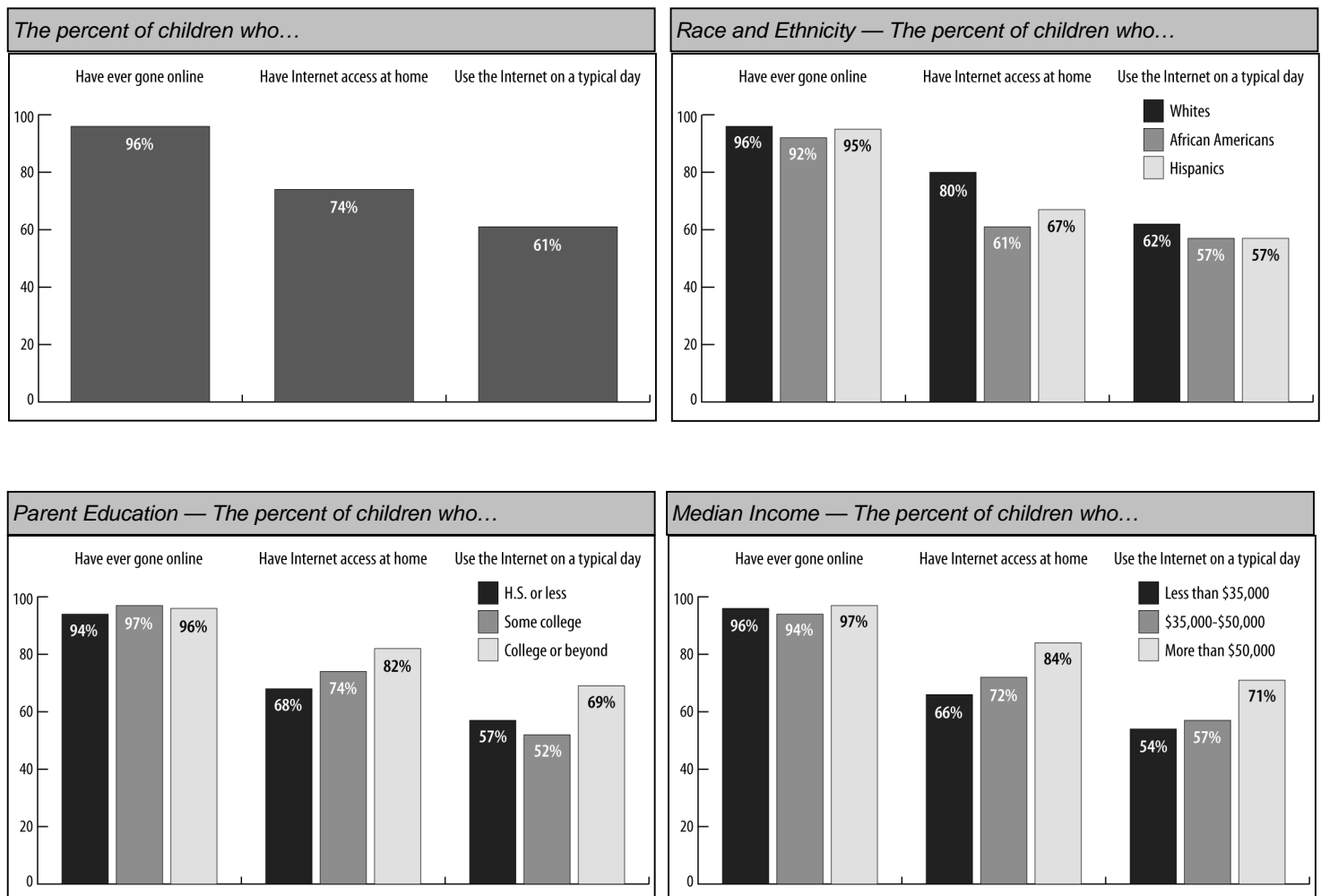


The Digital Divide

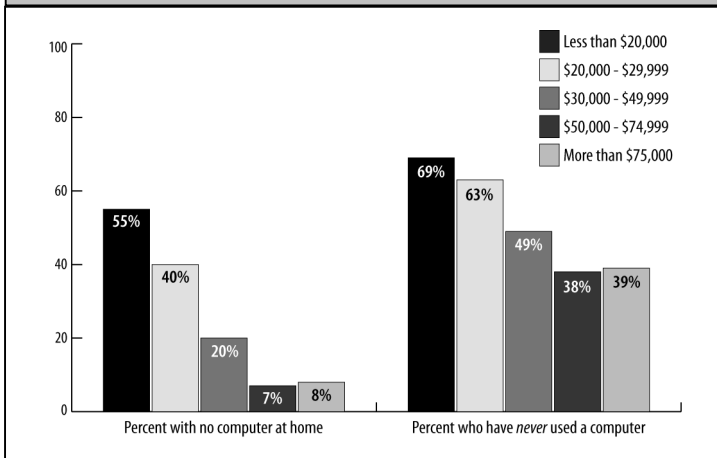
August 2004

This Survey Snapshot highlights previously unreleased data about young people's use of computers and the Internet, focusing on socio-economic issues such as race, income and parent education. The data are drawn from two Kaiser Family Foundation surveys conducted in 2003 and 2004. The data indicate that among children ages 8 to 18, nearly all young people have gone online at some point or another. But there are important differences in the proportion who have Internet access from home and in the proportion who use the Internet in a typical day, based on factors such as race, income and parent education. A study of children ages 6 months to 6 years old indicates that children from lower income homes are less likely than other children to have a computer at home, and those from minority homes are less likely to start using computers at an early age.

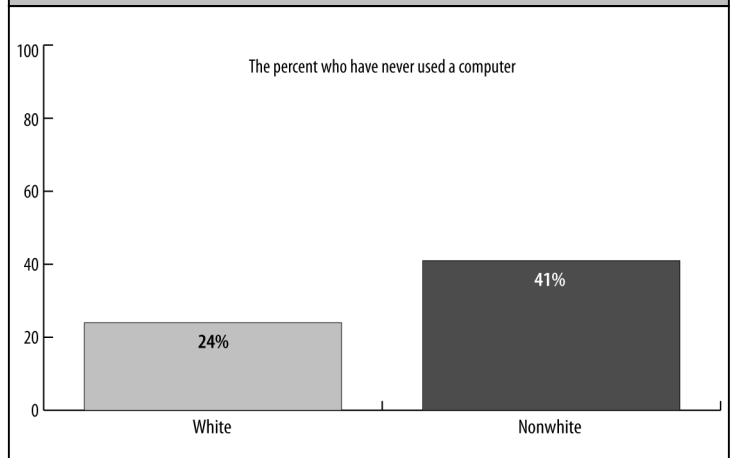
Internet Access and Use Among Children Ages 8 to 18, 2003-2004



Computer Access and Use Among Children Ages 6 Months to 6 Years, by income



Computer Use Among Children Ages 4 to 6, by race



Methodology

The data for children ages 8-18 are drawn from a nationally representative survey of 2,032 children in grades 3-12 who completed written questionnaires in school. The survey was designed and analyzed by staff at the Kaiser Family Foundation and experts from Stanford University, with fieldwork conducted by Harris Interactive from October 2003 through March 2004. Complete results of the survey will be released in early 2005. The survey's two primary indicators of socio-economic status—parent education and median income—are based on children's reports (education) or on federal estimates for the community where the child attends school (median income), and therefore should be interpreted cautiously. The margin of error is +/- 2% for the entire sample, and higher for subsets.

The data for children ages 6 months to 6 years were collected in the survey *Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers*. This survey was a nationally representative, random-digit dial telephone survey of 1,065 parents of children ages 6 months to 6 years old, conducted from April to June 2003. The survey was designed and analyzed by staff at the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Children's Digital Media Center, and fieldwork was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates. The margin of error is +/- 3% for the entire sample, and higher for subsets.

Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in these or any other public polls.

Additional copies of this publication (#7151) are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.