

observed. Impoverished families suffer from poor nutrition, and without medical insurance, families have little access to preventive health care and services. More than 14 million children are underinsured, meaning that their parents report spending a significant amount of money on out-of-pocket expenses related to their children's health. Day-to-day needs for clothing, food, and lodging take precedence over health care as long as the ill person is able to perform his or her daily tasks. The passage of major health care legislation, both the Children's Health Insurance Plan Reauthorization Act and the Affordable Care Act, has expanded health insurance to 3.7 million children since 2008 ([Sommers and Schwartz, 2011](#)). Hopefully, this will lead to improved health of children and families.

Evolving Demographics in the United States

The United States has more racial and ethnic diversity than any other nation. By 2018, no one racial/ethnic group will be a majority group ([Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2014](#)). For example, the 2010 US Census revealed that more than 300 million people live in the United States. In 2010, individuals who identified as Hispanic made up over 16% of the population ([Humes, Jones, and Ramirez, 2011](#)); this will be one of the fastest-growing groups in the United States. Individuals who identify as Asian are expanding at an even faster rate in the United States ([Hoeffel, Rastogi, Kim, et al, 2012](#)). In addition, the 2010 Census data demonstrated that almost half of all 1-year-old children in the United States were from a racial ethnic minority ([Frey, 2011](#)). In light of these findings, it becomes even more important for pediatric nurses to care for children and families in an open, culturally humble manner.

Religious Influences

The family's religious orientation dictates a code of behavior and influences the family's attitudes toward education, male and female role identity, and their ultimate destiny. It may also influence the school that the children attend or the community in which the family embeds itself. Religious beliefs are such an integral part of many cultures that it is difficult to distinguish the culture from the