America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007

Population Characteristics

Issued September 2009

P20-561

Current Population Reports

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents basic trends in household and family composition and living arrangements. Previous U.S. Census Bureau reports in this series were based only on the Annual Social and Economic supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS ASEC).[1] With the full implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS) and due to its large sample size, there now exist annual data to examine household and family characteristics for geographic areas below the national level (3 million addresses).[2] While the CPS contains detailed information about family structure and characteristics over time, the ACS provides information about how basic family and household characteristics vary across geographic areas, such as states and counties.[3]

This report is organized into four sections: households, families, parents, and children. The first section looks at America's households, tracking changes in family and nonfamily households, household size over time, as well as the state-by-state variation in the living arrangements of households with own children under 18. The second section details family groups by type, including married couples, single-parent families, and other family groups. The third section looks at America's parents and compares the characteristics of stay-at-home mothers with non-stay-at-home mothers. The last section considers America's children and describes their living arrangements, including the state-by-state variation in the percentage of children living in married-couple households with two parents in the labor force.

Some highlights of the report are:

- Sixty-eight percent of households in 2007 were family households, compared with 81 percent in 1970.
- The proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage points between 1970 and 2007, from 17 percent to 27 percent.
- Between 1970 and 2007, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to 2.6.
- Most family groups with children under 18 (67 percent) were maintained by married couples.
- The vast majority of fathers who lived with their child under 18 also lived with the child's mother (94 percent). In comparison, 74 percent of mothers living with their child under 18 also lived with the child's father.

[1] The data in this report are from the CPS ASEC, collected in February, March, and April 2007 and earlier supplements, and the 2007 ACS. The population represented by the CPS (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The population represented by the ACS is the population in households that live in the United States.

[2] For more details on the ACS, including its sample size and questions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

[3] For a comparison of households and families estimates in the ACS and CPS, see O'Connell, Martin and Gretchen Gooding. 2005. *Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Households and Families: 2004*, U.S. Census Bureau Working Paper, accessible online at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS.ASEC.Comp.Report.Apr11.doc>.

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

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- Stay-at-home mothers were younger and had younger children than other mothers.
- Stay-at-home mothers were more likely to be Hispanic than non-stay-at-home mothers. Stay-at-home mothers were more likely to be foreign born than non-stay-at-home mothers.[4]
- Among children living with a parent, younger children were more likely than older children to live with two unmarried parents. So, while 10 percent of infants under age 1 lived with two unmarried parents, 1 percent of children 12 to 17 lived with two unmarried parents.
- Among children living with unmarried parents, older children were more likely than younger children to live with their father only, with no other adult present. Only about 2 percent of children under 3 lived with their father who was the sole adult, while 11 percent of teens 12 to 17 did.

Definition Box 1.

A *household* contains one or more people. Everyone living in a housing unit makes up a household. One of the people who owns or rents the residence is designated as the *householder*. For the purposes of examining family and household composition, two types of households are defined: *family* and *nonfamily*.

A *family household* has at least two members related by birth, marriage, or adoption, one of whom is the householder.

A *nonfamily household* can be either a person living alone or a householder who shares the housing unit only with nonrelatives; for example, boarders or roommates. The nonrelatives of the householder may be related to each other.

Family households are maintained by married couples or by a man or woman living with other relatives—children may or may not be present. In contrast, nonfamily households are maintained only by men or women with no relatives at home.

Own children are a subset of all *children*—they are the biological, step-, or adopted children of the householder or family reference person (in the case of subfamilies) for the universe being considered, whether household, family, or family group. Own children are also limited to those children who have never been married and are under 18 and, in the case of the Current Population Survey, also are not themselves a family reference person. Foster children are not included as own children since they are not related to the householder.

AMERICA'S HOUSEHOLDS

Changes in the number and type of households are influenced by patterns of population growth, shifts in the age composition of the population, and the decisions individuals make about their living arrangements. Demographic trends in marriage, cohabitation, divorce, fertility, and mortality also affect family and household composition. Moreover, shifts in social norms, values, laws, and the economy and improvements in health care also influence how people organize their lives. Individual decisions produce aggregate societal changes in household and family composition.

As Table 1 shows, there were over 112 million households in the United States in 2007. Seventy-five million were family households, including 56 million married-couple households, 5 million with male householders with no spouse present, and 14 million with female householders with no spouse present.[5] In 2007, there were 37 million nonfamily households in the United States, representing one-third of all households. Of these nonfamily households, 31 million consisted of one person living alone. Eleven million nonfamily households were maintained by individuals 65 years and older.[6]

[4] Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. For further information, see the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (C2KBR/01-1) at <www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>. This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone-non-Hispanic population as White, non-Hispanic. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on the 2007 CPS ASEC, 18 percent of the White population was Hispanic, as was 4 percent of the Black population, 2 percent of Asians, and 25 percent of others who reported only one race. Since the ACS sample is much larger than the CPS, we are able to show additional categories for race groups in Table 1.

[5] The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

[6] The 8.1 million people living in group quarters in 2007, 3.1 percent of whom were under 18, are not included in this report.

Table 1.

Households by Type and Selected Characteristics: 2007

Characteristic	All households		Family households				Nonfamily households		
					Other families				
	Number	Margin of error[1]	Total	Married couple	Male house-holder	Female house-holder	Total	Male house-holder	Female house-holder
All households	**112,377,977**	**144,356**	**75,119,260**	**55,867,091**	**5,208,231**	**14,043,938**	**37,258,717**	**17,311,243**	**19,947,474**
Age of Householder									
15 to 24 years	5,272,168	36,535	2,412,856	1,032,811	432,914	947,131	2,859,312	1,498,217	1,361,095
25 to 34 years	17,994,353	53,749	12,401,621	8,268,306	1,148,871	2,984,444	5,592,732	3,375,048	2,217,684
35 to 44 years	22,780,724	48,979	17,706,306	12,655,622	1,323,364	3,727,320	5,074,418	3,181,397	1,893,021
45 to 54 years	24,371,368	45,761	17,732,762	13,432,098	1,220,128	3,080,536	6,638,606	3,539,731	3,098,875
55 to 64 years	18,923,772	35,775	12,608,488	10,489,266	590,587	1,528,635	6,315,284	2,710,019	3,605,265
65 years and over	23,035,592	48,672	12,257,227	9,988,988	492,367	1,775,872	10,778,365	3,006,831	7,771,534
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder									
White alone	87,486,191	90,775	57,921,125	46,062,058	3,520,505	8,338,562	29,565,066	13,586,789	15,978,277
White alone, non-Hispanic	80,690,054	77,261	52,678,325	42,527,367	2,975,321	7,175,637	28,011,729	12,735,808	15,275,921
Black or African American alone	13,247,930	44,321	8,463,809	3,787,030	804,587	3,872,192	4,784,121	2,171,574	2,612,547
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	787,328	13,605	537,496	314,635	59,073	163,788	249,832	125,840	123,992
Asian alone	4,182,621	24,463	3,118,102	2,532,763	205,078	380,261	1,064,519	540,157	524,362
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	122,106	5,024	93,748	62,701	8,731	22,316	28,358	15,564	12,794
Some Other Race alone	5,029,193	35,292	4,003,022	2,477,448	520,177	1,005,397	1,026,171	611,764	414,407
Two or more races	1,522,608	25,459	981,958	630,456	90,080	261,422	540,650	259,555	281,095
Hispanic (any race)	12,311,308	43,179	9,585,261	6,203,200	1,108,316	2,273,745	2,726,047	1,534,949	1,191,098
Size of Household									
1 person	30,645,140	81,159	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	30,645,140	13,503,106	17,142,034
2 people	37,431,760	88,770	32,010,072	24,216,690	2,098,437	5,694,945	5,421,688	2,985,304	2,436,384
3 people	17,822,974	63,841	17,052,676	11,150,020	1,542,327	4,360,329	770,298	519,243	251,055
4 people	15,350,166	58,861	15,053,279	11,922,128	859,420	2,271,731	296,887	211,289	85,598
5 people	7,110,486	36,038	7,024,110	5,561,333	417,489	1,045,288	86,376	65,204	21,172
6 people	2,514,461	25,706	2,491,164	1,918,937	168,661	403,566	23,297	17,038	6,259
7 or more people	1,502,990	18,231	1,487,959	1,097,983	121,897	268,079	15,031	10,059	4,972
Average size	2.61	0.01	3.28	3.25	3.37	3.36	1.26	1.34	1.20
Number of Related Children Under 18									
No related children	74,325,814	103,667	37,067,097	30,416,731	2,249,585	4,400,781	37,258,717	17,311,243	19,947,474
With related children	38,052,163	86,010	38,052,163	25,450,360	2,958,646	9,643,157	(X)	(X)	(X)
1 child	16,172,607	57,961	16,172,607	9,766,692	1,673,624	4,732,291	(X)	(X)	(X)
2 children	13,951,879	52,022	13,951,879	10,056,101	866,221	3,029,557	(X)	(X)	(X)
3 children	5,619,485	32,602	5,619,485	4,043,841	291,878	1,283,766	(X)	(X)	(X)
4 or more children	2,308,192	22,857	2,308,192	1,583,726	126,923	597,543	(X)	(X)	(X)
Presence of Own Children Under 18									
No own children	77,378,393	103,077	40,119,676	31,780,788	2,643,221	5,695,667	37,258,717	17,311,243	19,947,474
With own children	34,999,584	89,168	34,999,584	24,086,303	2,565,010	8,348,271	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 12	25,157,759	82,096	25,157,759	17,702,694	1,763,239	5,691,826	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 6	14,933,718	66,597	14,933,718	10,758,792	1,038,560	3,136,366	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 3	8,724,619	52,665	8,724,619	6,395,333	628,793	1,700,493	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 1	3,123,384	29,596	3,123,384	2,276,565	248,524	598,295	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tenure									
Owned home	75,515,104	227,236	56,131,865	46,337,300	2,964,726	6,829,839	19,383,239	8,341,031	11,042,208
Rented home	34,674,969	114,886	17,811,123	8,805,707	2,129,733	6,875,683	16,863,846	8,461,664	8,402,182
Occupied without payment	2,187,904	22,916	1,176,272	724,084	113,772	338,416	1,011,632	508,548	503,084

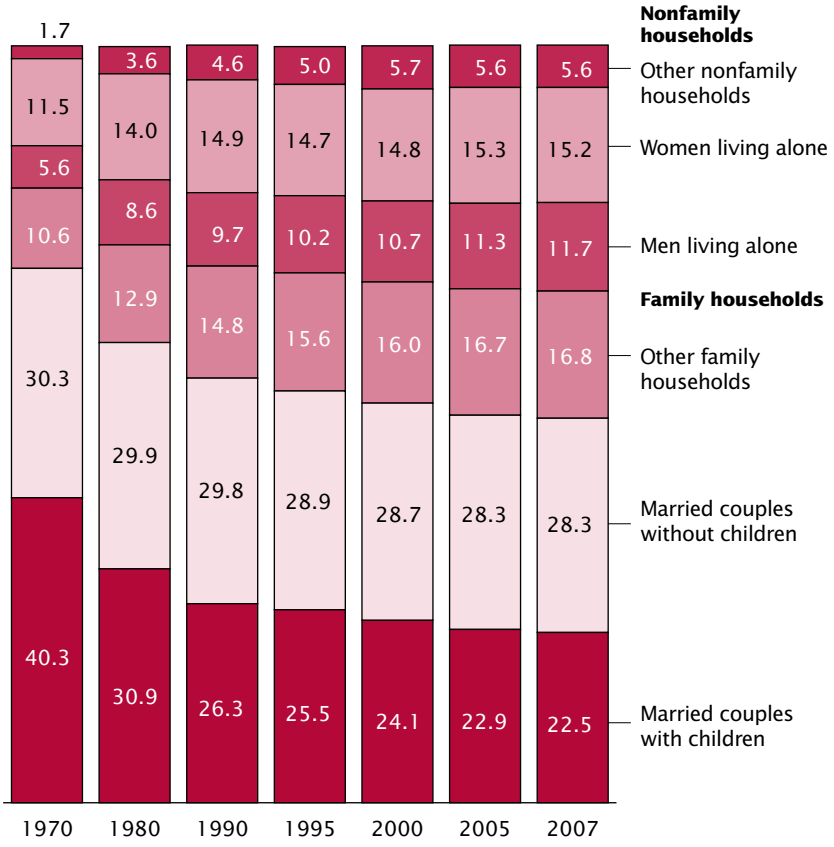
(X) Not applicable.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimated total number of households in each category or the average household size, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.

Figure 1.
Households by Type: 1970 to 2007
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1970 to 2007.

Nonfamily households were more common in 2007 than in 1970.

Since the CPS has been collected for decades, these data can be used to examine changes over time in household type in the United States. Family households predominated in 1970, when they constituted 81 percent of all households, but the proportion dropped to 68 percent by 2007.

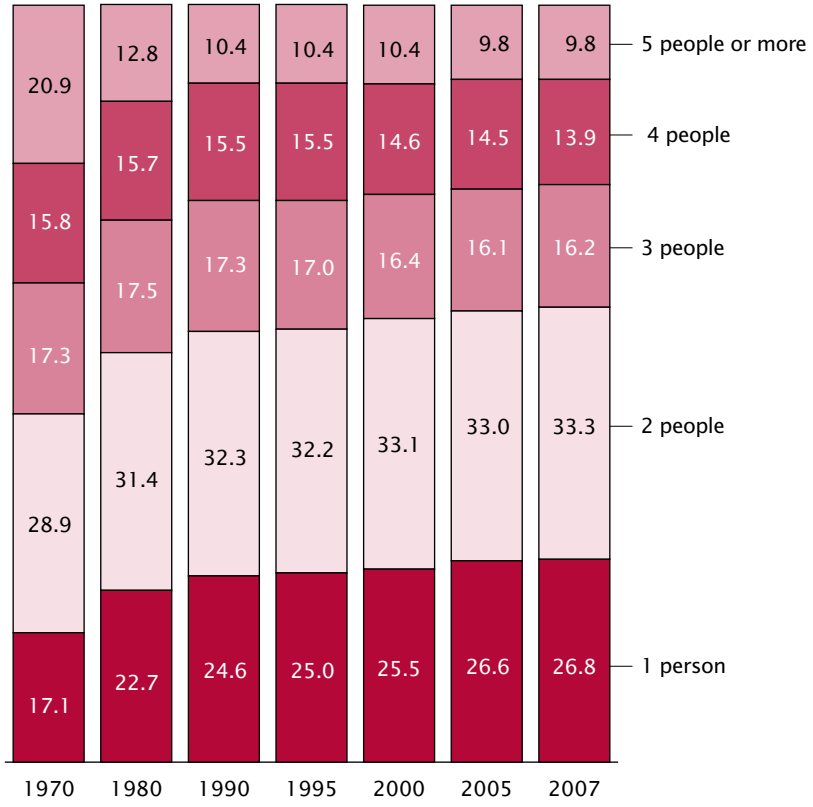
Figure 1 divides family and nonfamily households into various categories: married couples with and without children, other family households, men and women living alone, and other nonfamily households. The most noticeable trend is the decline in the proportion of married-couple households with their own children—from 40 percent of all households in 1970 to 23 percent in 2007. In contrast, the proportion of households that were made up of married couples without children dropped only slightly over the same time period—from 30 percent in 1970 to 28 percent in 2007.

The other family households shown in Figure 1—families whose householder was living with children or other relatives but had no spouse present—increased from 11 percent of all households in 1970 to 17 percent in 2007. However, since 2002, the proportion of households that are single-parent families (included in the other family households category) has stabilized at about 9 percent.

The top three segments of the graph in Figure 1 represent all nonfamily household types. The figure shows that the majority of the increase in nonfamily households was due to the growth in one-person households; that is, people living alone. The proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage points between 1970 and 2007 (from 17 percent to 27 percent), compared with an increase of 4 percentage points in other nonfamily households (from 2 percent to 6 percent) during the same period. Cohabiting households, that is, householders with unmarried partners, were included in this category if no relatives of the householder were present. Women living alone represented 67 percent of one-person households in 1970. In 2007, men were closing this gap, but women still represented more than half (57 percent) of one-person households. Although the percentage of all one-person households that were women decreased over this time period, the percentage of women 65 years and older who lived alone was higher in 2007 than in 1970 (39 percent compared with 34 percent). The difference was greater for women 75 years and older, with 37 percent of them living alone in 1970 and 49 percent living alone in 2007.

Married-couple households decreased from 71 percent to 51 percent of all households from

Figure 2.
Households by Size: 1970 to 2007
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1970 to 2007.

1970 to 2007. During the same period, other family households and nonfamily households increased from 29 percent to 49 percent of all households. This increase was spread across other family households, men and women living alone, and other nonfamily households, with all of these groups having an increase of less than 7 percentage points.

Households and families have become smaller over time.

Households have decreased in size, with the most profound changes occurring among the largest and smallest households (Figure 2). Between 1970 and 2007, households with five or more people decreased from 21 percent to 10 percent of all households. During the same period, the share of households with only one or two people increased from 46 percent to 60 percent. In addition, between 1970 and 2007, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to 2.6.[7]

[7] See historical tables HH-4 and HH-6, accessible on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/hh4.xls> and <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/hh6.xls>.

Married couples maintained a smaller portion of family households in 2007 than in 1970.

In 2007, married-couple family households represented 75 percent of family households; in 1970, they were 87 percent of all family households.[8]

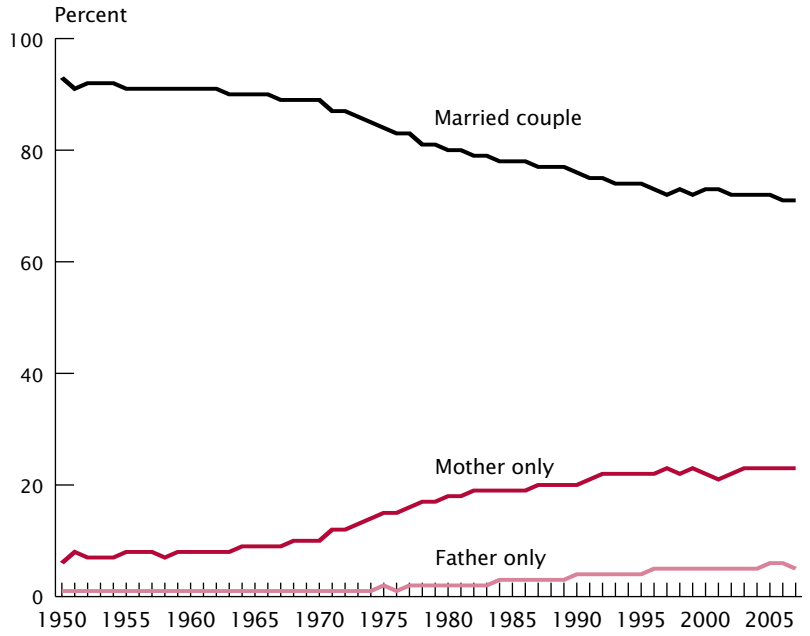
Using the CPS data, Figure 3 provides a historical look at changes in household type for family households with children under 18. Over the period 1950 through 2007, the proportion of family households with children that were maintained by a married couple decreased from 93 percent to 71 percent. There was a corresponding increase in the percentage of family households with children that were maintained by a mother with no spouse present (6 percent to 23 percent) and those maintained by a father with no spouse present (1 percent to 5 percent).

Householders in married-couple family households were older than those in other family households in 2007.

Examining some of the characteristics of households using ACS data, householders in married-couple family households were older than those in other family households in 2007 (Table 1). Thirty-seven percent of married-couple family householders were at least 55 years old, while about 21 percent of other male family householders and 24 percent of other female family householders were this age.

[8] See historical table HH-1, accessible on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/hh1.xls>.

Figure 3.
Family Households With Children Under 18 by Type: 1950 to 2007



Note: In 2007, it is possible to identify unmarried householders who have a child and live with the second parent of the child. This represents 3.8 percent of family households with children under 18. These households are shown in either mother only or father only in this graph.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1950 to 2007.

In 2007, 81 percent of family households maintained by an Asian householder or maintained by a White, non-Hispanic householder were married-couple households. A smaller proportion of family households with a Hispanic householder were married-couple households (65 percent), and less than one-half (45 percent) of family households with a Black householder were married-couple households.

Household type varies by state for households with own children under 18.

ACS data can provide a look at geographic variations in whether households with own children under 18 are maintained by a married couple, an unmarried couple, or one parent without a spouse or partner present. Figures 4, 5, and 6 are national maps that show the state-by-state variation in household type for households with own children under 18 in 2007. Figure 4 shows the percentage of U.S. households with own children under 18 that are maintained by a married couple (69 percent) and shows whether the estimate for each state is above or below the U.S. average. Most of the states with estimates below the national average were east of the Mississippi. The only states west of the Mississippi with below-average percentages were Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona. The District of Columbia had the lowest percentage of households with own children under 18 maintained by married couples (42 percent). In contrast, Utah had the highest percentage of households with own children under 18 maintained by married couples (82 percent).

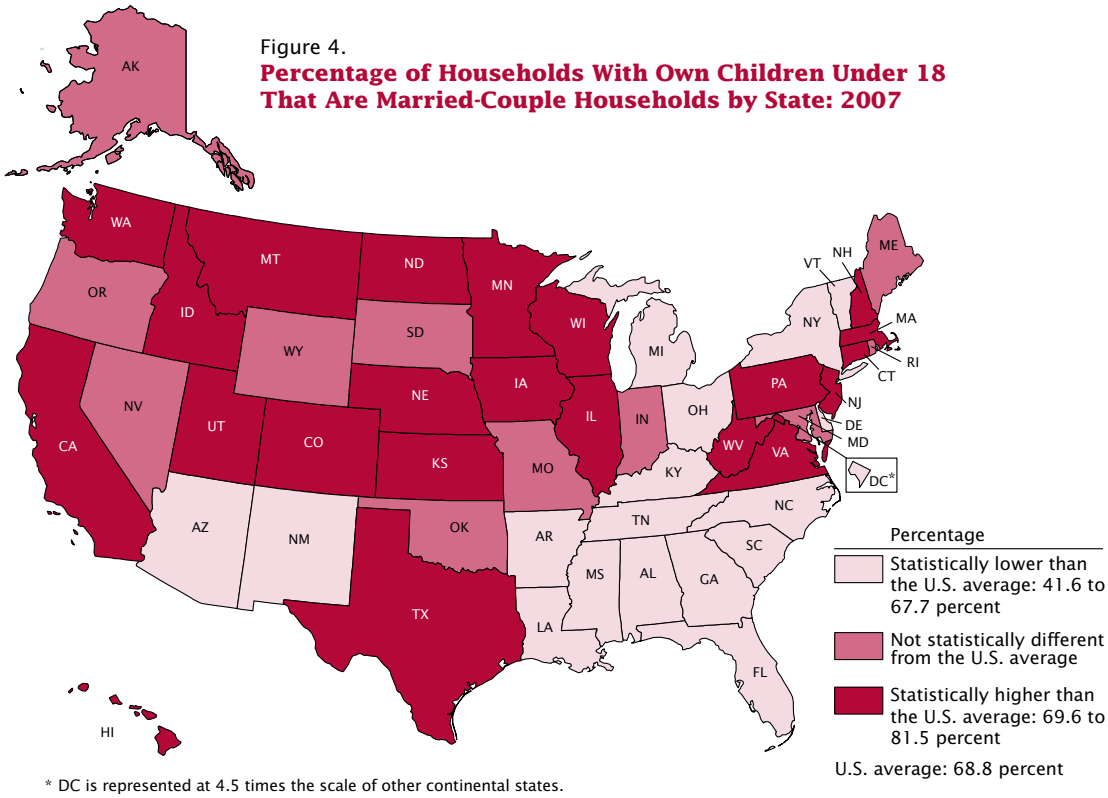
Overall, single parents maintained 25 percent of U.S. households with own children under 18, excluding parents living with an unmarried partner. As Figure 5 shows, most of the states with estimates that were higher than the national average were in the South, with the exceptions of New Mexico, Michigan, Ohio, and New York. The area with the highest percentage of single-parent households was the District of Columbia (54 percent), while the state with the lowest percentage of single-parent households was Utah (15 percent).

Figure 6 shows the state-by-state variation in the percentage of households with own children under 18 maintained by unmarried partners compared with the national average of 6 percent.[9] Regionally, the states with percentages higher than the national average tended to be in the West and the North, with the exception of Florida. Among the states with the highest percentage of households with own children under 18 maintained by unmarried partners were New Mexico and Maine. The state with the lowest percentage of households with own children under 18 maintained by unmarried partners was Utah (4 percent).[10]

[9] The comparable percentage in the CPS is 5.1 percent of family households with own children under 18 that are maintained by an unmarried couple.

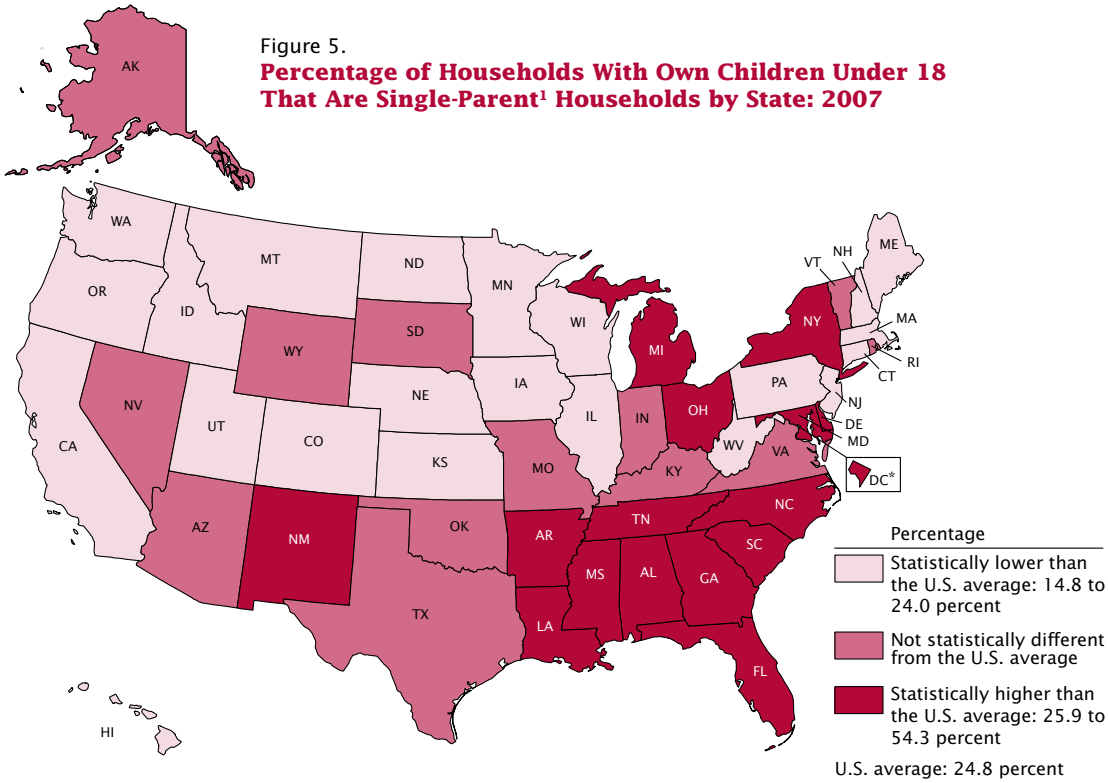
[10] Utah was not statistically different from the District of Columbia (4 percent).

Figure 4.
Percentage of Households With Own Children Under 18 That Are Married-Couple Households by State: 2007



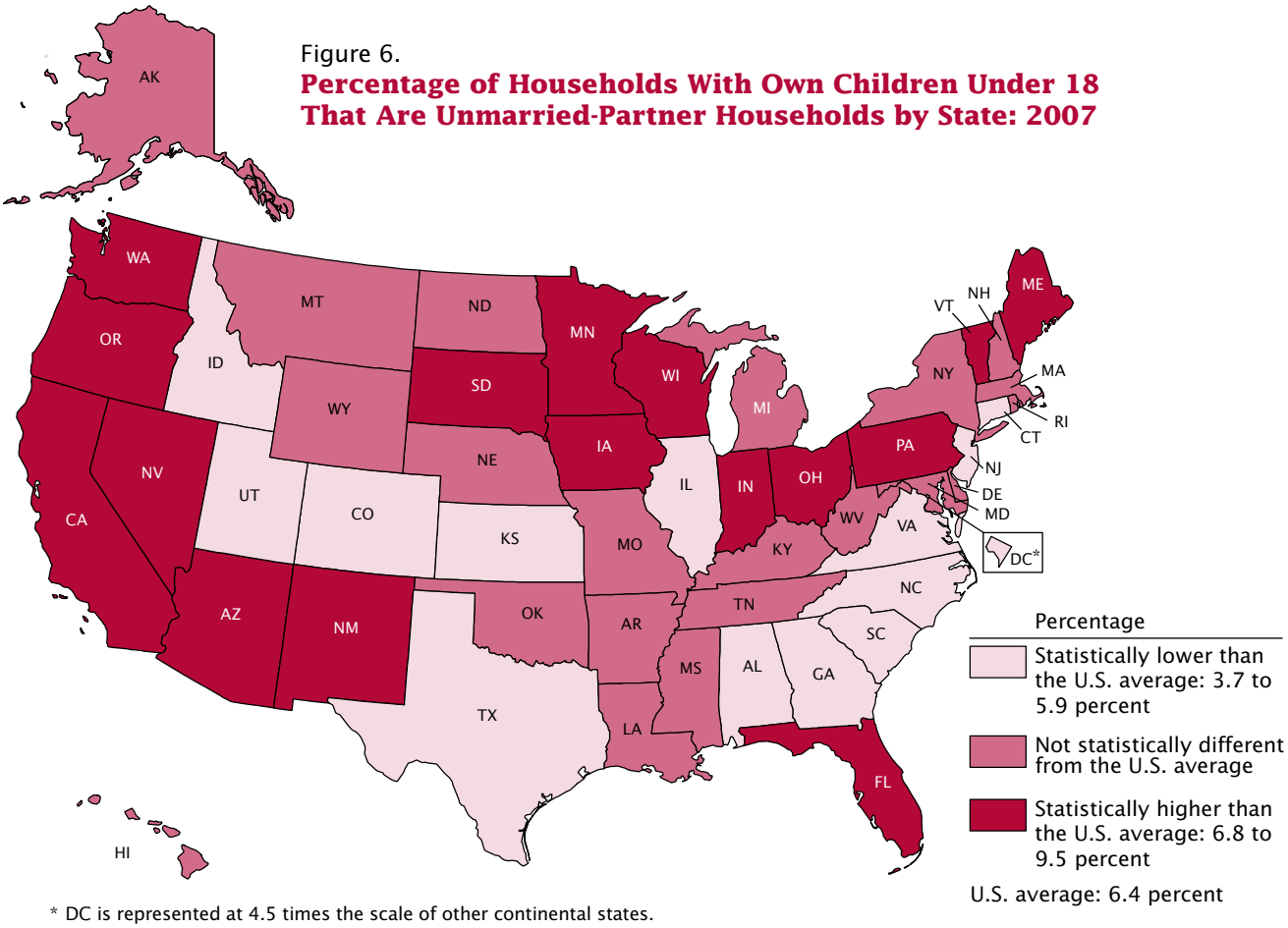
* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.

Figure 5.
Percentage of Households With Own Children Under 18 That Are Single-Parent[1] Households by State: 2007



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.
[1] Excludes single parents living with unmarried partners.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.

Figure 6.
Percentage of Households With Own Children Under 18 That Are Unmarried-Partner Households by State: 2007



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.

AMERICA'S FAMILIES

The family is a vital institution in American society and often serves as the major source of support for individuals. The detailed data collected on family relationships in the CPS allows us to look at family units regardless of whether they include the householder. For example, if a mother and child live in the mother's parents' home, the mother and her child are considered a separate family group. When referring to households that contain a relative of the householder, the Census Bureau usually uses the term "families." The term "family groups" is used when referring to all family units, whether or not they include the householder.

Definition Box 2.

Households can contain more than one married-couple or single-parent family, and nonfamily households can contain families that are not related to the owner or renter. In 1970, the Census Bureau developed the concept of the *family group* to count all of these types of families.

Family groups include family households plus all family groups that do not include the householder (subfamilies). These subfamilies may consist of either married couples or parent-child units. An individual may be counted in two different family groups. For example, the householder and her adult daughter and granddaughter form one family group. The adult daughter and her child form a second family group, a mother-child subfamily.

Reference people are the members of a household around whom family units are organized. In family households, the householder is always the reference person for the primary family, while another member of the household would be the reference person for a subfamily.

Table 2.

Family Groups by Race and Hispanic Origin of Reference Person: 2007

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of family group	Total	Race of family reference person				
		White alone	White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
Total	**82,746**	**67,120**	**56,613**	**10,081**	**3,669**	**11,280**
Number						
Married couples	60,676	52,020	45,124	4,512	2,995	7,284
With children under 18	26,802	22,519	18,152	2,182	1,519	4,628
Without children under 18	33,874	29,500	26,972	2,330	1,477	2,656
Unmarried parent couple[1]	1,474	1,127	804	222	49	356
Mother only with children under 18[2]	9,965	6,358	4,586	3,068	184	1,988
Father only with children under 18[2]	1,742	1,354	1,154	289	42	221
Householder and other relative(s)[3]	8,888	6,262	4,944	1,990	399	1,431
Grandparent householder with grandchildren under 18	1,126	698	520	390	11	194
Householder with adult children	4,785	3,483	2,923	1,080	123	595
Householder with young adult children aged 18 to 24	1,956	1,382	1,138	474	59	267
Householder with parent	2,072	1,411	1,016	421	173	435
Percent						
Married couples	73.3	77.5	79.7	44.8	81.6	64.6
With children under 18	32.4	33.6	32.1	21.6	41.4	41.0
Without children under 18	40.9	44.0	47.6	23.1	40.3	23.5
Unmarried parent couple[1]	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.3	3.2
Mother only with children under 18[2]	12.0	9.5	8.1	30.4	5.0	17.6
Father only with children under 18[2]	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.9	1.1	2.0
Householder and other relative(s)[3]	10.7	9.3	8.7	19.7	10.9	12.7
Grandparent householder with grandchildren under 18	1.4	1.0	0.9	3.9	0.3	1.7
Householder with adult children	5.8	5.2	5.2	10.7	3.4	5.3
Householder with young adult children aged 18 to 24	2.4	2.1	2.0	4.7	1.6	2.4
Householder with parent	2.5	2.1	1.8	4.2	4.7	3.9

[1] These couples have at least one joint never-married child under 18.

[2] Parent may have a cohabiting partner, but none of his or her children are also identified as the child of his or her cohabiting partner.

[3] Subcategories of "householder and other relative(s)" are not mutually exclusive—915,000 family groups overlap among the subcategories; and 1,844,000 family groups fall under "householder and other relative(s)" but not in the subcategories listed.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

Seventy-three percent of the 83 million family groups in the United States in 2007 were married couples.

In 2007, there were 83 million family groups (Table 2). Seventy-three percent of the family groups were married couples and 44 percent of them had children under 18. So, nearly one-third (32 percent) of all family groups were married couples with children under 18. Twelve percent of family groups were mothers with no spouse present living with their children under 18, while 2 percent were fathers with no spouse present with children under 18. An additional 2 percent were unmarried parent couples with joint children under 18.[11] Another substantial group of families consisted of a householder and another relative who was neither the householder's spouse nor child under 18. Eleven percent of all family groups fell into this group. Under this category, 6 percent of all family groups contained a householder and his or her adult children.

The distribution of family groups by type varied by the race and Hispanic origin of the family reference person. While a high percentage of White, non-Hispanic and Asian family groups were married couples (80 percent and 82 percent, respectively), the corresponding percentages for Blacks (45 percent) and Hispanics (65 percent) were lower. Family groups maintained by Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be mothers with children under 18 (30 percent and 18 percent, respectively) than were family groups maintained by White, non-Hispanics and Asians (8 percent and 5 percent, respectively). Blacks (20 percent), Asians (11 percent), and Hispanics (13 percent) had higher proportions of family groups that consisted of a householder and some other relative than did White, non-Hispanics (9 percent).

Table 3 details some characteristics of the 40 million family groups with children under 18. For the first time in 2007, CPS data show family groups that consist of children living with two parents who are

[11] A joint child was identified by the respondent as a child of both of the unmarried partners.

Table 3.

Family Groups With Children Under 18 by Selected Characteristics: 2007

Characteristic	Number (in thousands)				Percent			
	Two parents		One parent		Two parents		One parent	
	Married parents	Unmarried parents[1]	Mom only	Dad only	Married parents	Unmarried parents[1]	Mom only	Dad only
Total	**26,802**	**1,474**	**9,965**	**1,742**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Age of Reference Person								
Under 20 years	48	51	287	3	0.2	3.5	2.9	0.2
20 to 24 years	858	326	1,125	80	3.2	22.1	11.3	4.6
25 to 29 years	2,767	394	1,689	158	10.3	26.7	16.9	9.1
30 to 34 years	4,354	261	1,614	220	16.2	17.7	16.2	12.6
35 to 39 years	5,643	178	1,751	342	21.1	12.1	17.6	19.6
40 to 44 years	5,515	124	1,663	377	20.6	8.4	16.7	21.6
45 years and over	7,617	141	1,837	562	28.4	9.6	18.4	32.3
Race and Hispanic Origin of Reference Person								
White alone	22,519	1,127	6,358	1,354	84.0	76.5	63.8	77.7
White alone, non-Hispanic	18,152	804	4,586	1,154	67.7	54.5	46.0	66.2
Black alone	2,182	222	3,068	289	8.1	15.1	30.8	16.6
Asian alone	1,519	49	184	42	5.7	3.3	1.8	2.4
Other race	582	76	356	58	2.2	5.2	3.6	3.3
Hispanic (any race)	4,628	356	1,988	221	17.3	24.2	19.9	12.7
Education of Father								
Not high school graduate	3,185	407	(X)	259	11.9	27.6	(X)	14.9
High school graduate	7,584	638	(X)	726	28.3	43.3	(X)	41.7
Some college	6,638	313	(X)	478	24.8	21.2	(X)	27.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	9,395	117	(X)	279	35.1	7.9	(X)	16.0
Education of Mother								
Not high school graduate	2,864	348	1,750	(X)	10.7	23.6	17.6	(X)
High school graduate	6,854	564	3,395	(X)	25.6	38.3	34.1	(X)
Some college	7,479	438	3,343	(X)	27.9	29.7	33.5	(X)
Bachelor's degree or higher	9,605	124	1,478	(X)	35.8	8.4	14.8	(X)
Employment of Father								
Not employed	2,074	297	(X)	354	7.7	20.1	(X)	20.3
Employed	24,729	1,177	(X)	1,388	92.3	79.9	(X)	79.7
Employment of Mother								
Not employed	8,735	581	2,898	(X)	32.6	39.4	29.1	(X)
Employed	18,068	893	7,067	(X)	67.4	60.6	70.9	(X)
Household Food Stamp Receipt								
Yes	1,125	313	2,760	184	4.2	21.2	27.7	10.6
No	25,677	1,161	7,205	1,557	95.8	78.8	72.3	89.4
Tenure								
Owned home	21,017	608	4,367	1,070	78.4	41.2	43.8	61.4
Rented[2] home	5,785	866	5,599	672	21.6	58.8	56.2	38.6
Household Income in 2006								
Income under $10,000	388	82	1,541	100	1.4	5.6	15.5	5.7
$10,000 to $14,999	376	82	966	84	1.4	5.6	9.7	4.8
$15,000 to $19,999	615	104	930	68	2.3	7.1	9.3	3.9
$20,000 to $24,999	718	122	785	96	2.7	8.3	7.9	5.5
$25,000 to $29,999	814	84	807	110	3.0	5.7	8.1	6.3
$30,000 to $39,999	2,172	228	1,318	292	8.1	15.5	13.2	16.8
$40,000 to $49,999	2,413	198	944	231	9.0	13.4	9.5	13.3
$50,000 to $74,999	5,993	283	1,413	362	22.4	19.2	14.2	20.8
$75,000 to $99,999	4,660	152	614	165	17.4	10.3	6.2	9.5
$100,000 and over	8,654	140	648	233	32.3	9.5	6.5	13.4

(X) Not applicable.

[1] Includes unmarried opposite sex couples who have at least one joint child.
[2] "No cash rent" is included with rent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

unmarried. Previously, children living with two unmarried parents were shown as living with a mother or father only. Overall, Table 3 shows that the majority of family groups with children under 18 were maintained by married couples (67 percent). One-quarter were maintained by mothers with no spouse present (25 percent), while 4 percent were unmarried couples with children and 4 percent were fathers with no spouse present.

The family reference people in married-couple and father-only family groups were older, with 49 percent and 54 percent 40 years old and over, respectively, compared with 18 percent of unmarried parents and 35 percent of mother-only family groups. While 68 percent of married couples with children were White, non-Hispanic, this was the case for 46 percent of the mother-only family groups. A higher percentage of mother-only family groups (31 percent) were maintained by a Black reference person than were married-couple family groups (8 percent). Asians made up 6 percent of the married-couple family groups with children but just 2 percent of the mother-only families. One-quarter (24 percent) of the unmarried-parent family groups were maintained by Hispanics, and they made up one-fifth (20 percent) of the mother-only family groups with children.[12]

A higher proportion of married parents had at least a bachelor's degree (35 percent of the men and 36 percent of the women) than unmarried parents (8 percent) or parents in mother-only (15 percent) or father-only (16 percent) family groups.[13] Unmarried parents were more likely to have less than a high school diploma (28 percent of men and 24 percent of women), compared with married parents (12 percent of men and 11 percent of women) and parents in mother-only (18 percent) and father-only (15 percent) family groups.[14]

Married fathers were more likely to be employed (92 percent) than fathers in unmarried-parent family groups or father-only groups (80 percent each).[15] Mothers in mother-only family groups were the most likely to be employed (71 percent) compared to married mothers (67 percent).

Over one-quarter (28 percent) of mother-only family groups received food stamps, while about one-fifth (21 percent) of the unmarried-parent family groups did, along with about one-tenth (11 percent) of the father-only family groups. A lower percentage (4 percent) of married-couple family groups with children received food stamps.

Married parents were the most likely to own their home (78 percent), while over half (61 percent) of father-only family groups owned their home. Less than half of the unmarried-parent and mother-only family groups lived in homes they owned (41 percent and 44 percent, respectively).

Married parents had the highest household income, which is connected to the fact that they had, on average, more adult earners present than the other types of family groups and were, on average, older than the family groups with two unmarried parents. Half of the married-parent family groups had household incomes of at least $75,000. In contrast, 20 percent of the unmarried-parent groups, 13 percent of the mother-only groups, and 23 percent of the father-only groups had household incomes that high. At the opposite end of the spectrum, one-quarter of the mother-only family groups had household incomes less than $15,000, a statistically higher proportion than for any of the other types of family groups. Eleven percent of father-only and unmarried-parent family groups and 3 percent of married-couple family groups had household incomes this low.[16]

Overall, socioeconomic indicators show that family groups with children under 18 maintained by

[12] The percentage of father-only family groups that were maintained by White, non-Hispanic fathers was not statistically different from the percentage of father-only family groups maintained by Hispanics.

[13] The percentages of parents in mother-only and father-only family groups with at least a bachelor's degree were not statistically different.

[14] The percentages of parents in mother-only and father-only family groups with less than a high school diploma were not statistically different.

[15] The percentages of fathers in unmarried-parent family groups and father-only family groups that are employed were not statistically different.

[16] The percentage of father-only family groups with household incomes less than $15,000 was not statistically different from the percentage of unmarried-parent family groups with household incomes this low.

Definition Box 3.

Changes in the collection of data on cohabitation. For some months in 1995 and in the historical tables since 1996, a category of relationship to the householder has been available from the Current Population Survey for use in the direct measurement of cohabitation. This category allows respondents to identify an individual in the household as the "unmarried partner" of the householder. Beginning in 2007, a question was also asked of adults who lived with adult nonrelatives to find out if they had a boyfriend, girlfriend, or partner living in the household.

married parents were more likely to own their homes, have higher household incomes, be employed, and have at least a bachelor's degree. They were less likely to receive food stamps than other family types.

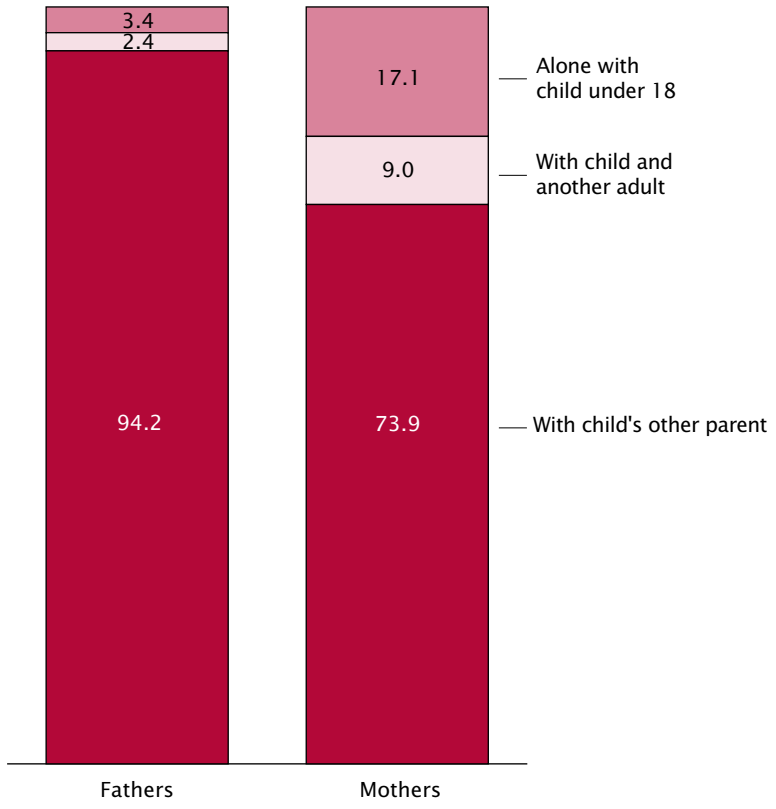
AMERICA'S PARENTS

Often, when families with children are discussed, attention is focused primarily on children. This section highlights parents' living situations and their characteristics. Overall in the United States, more family groups with children under 18 had a mother present than a father (Table 3). Parents who are not living with their children's other parent may be living with a boyfriend or girlfriend, a relative, or a nonrelative who may contribute resources to the household and be available for child care.

Ninety-four percent of fathers who lived with their child under 18 also lived with the child's mother.

Figure 7 uses CPS data to contrast the living arrangements of fathers and mothers, showing the percentage of fathers and mothers who lived with their child's other parent, lived with their child and another adult, or lived alone with their child. An overwhelming majority of fathers (94 percent) lived with their child and the child's mother, compared with 74 percent of mothers who lived with their child and the child's father. Mothers were more likely than fathers to live with their children on their own. While 17 percent of mothers lived alone with their child, only 3 percent of fathers did. Fathers who lived with their children under 18 were more often than not also living with the child's mother.

Figure 7.
Living Arrangements of Fathers and Mothers With Children Under 18: 2007
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

Stay-at-home mothers numbered 5.6 million in 2007.

Recently, much interest has focused on married couples with children and a "stay-at-home" parent. This term typically describes a family where the father or mother stays home to care for the children while the other spouse is employed. For this report, stay-at-home mothers are those who have a husband who was in the labor force all 52 weeks last year, while she was out of the labor force during the same 52 weeks to care for the home and family. The characteristics of these women are compared with those of other mothers in married-couple family groups with children under 15. This comparison group of other mothers includes those who were in the labor force at least 1 week in the last year, had husbands who were out of the labor force at least 1 week last year, or did not report the primary reason they were out of the labor force as "to care for home and family."

In this report, estimates of the number of stay-at-home mothers and fathers caring for children under 15 are based not on the parents' activities as child care providers but rather on the basis of their responses to the primary

Table 4.

Stay-At-Home Mothers Compared With Other Mothers in Married-Couple Family Groups With Children Under 15: 2007

Characteristic	Stay-at-home mothers		Other mothers	
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Number (in thousands)	Percent
Total	**5,563**	**100.0**	**17,944**	**100.0**
Age of Mother				
15 to 24 years	393 *	7.1	892	5.0
25 to 34 years	2,046 *	36.8	5,953	33.2
35 to 44 years	2,383 *	42.8	8,078	45.0
45 years and over	742 *	13.3	3,020	16.8
Age of Youngest Child				
0 to 1 year	1,549 *	27.8	3,689	20.6
2 to 4 years	1,637 *	29.4	4,095	22.8
5 years and over	2,377 *	42.7	10,160	56.6
Average age gap between mother and youngest child (in years)	31.0	(X)	30.9	(X)
Educational Attainment of Mother				
Less than high school	1,041 *	18.7	1,495	8.3
High school diploma	1,499 *	26.9	4,373	24.4
Some college	1,246 *	22.4	5,275	29.4
Bachelor's degree	1,364	24.5	4,659	26.0
Master's degree or higher	414 *	7.4	2,141	11.9
Race and Hispanic Origin of Mother				
White alone	4,802 *	86.3	14,927	83.2
White alone, non-Hispanic	3,359 *	60.4	12,296	68.5
Black alone	239 *	4.3	1,529	8.5
Asian alone	412 *	7.4	1,093	6.1
Other race	111	2.0	395	2.2
Hispanic (any race)	1,484 *	26.7	2,811	15.7
Nativity of Mother				
Native	3,673 *	66.0	14,560	81.1
Foreign born	1,890 *	34.0	3,384	18.9
Family Income in 2006				
Under $10,000	89	1.6	315	1.8
$10,000 to $14,999	166 *	3.0	209	1.2
$15,000 to $19,999	290 *	5.2	320	1.8
$20,000 to $24,999	308 *	5.5	404	2.3
$25,000 to $29,999	307 *	5.5	472	2.6
$30,000 to $39,999	750 *	13.5	1,283	7.2
$40,000 to $49,999	595 *	10.7	1,571	8.8
$50,000 to $74,999	1,113 *	20.0	4,179	23.3
$75,000 to $99,999	600 *	10.8	3,362	18.7
$100,000 and over	1,345 *	24.2	5,829	32.5
Poverty Status in 2006				
Below poverty level	687 *	12.3	915	5.1
At or above poverty level	4,877 *	87.7	17,028	94.9

* Asterisk indicates a significant difference at the 90 percent confidence level in the percentages for the two groups of mothers.
(X) Not applicable.

Note: Stay-at-home family groups are married-couple family groups with children under 15 where one parent is in the labor force all of the previous year and his or her spouse is out of the labor force for the entire year with the reason "taking care of home and family."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

reason why they were not in the labor force during the previous 52 weeks. The labor-force-based measure is an item asked on the CPS ASEC and allows consistent measures of stay-at-home parent families over time.[17] Census Bureau estimates are shown for married-couple family groups with own children under 15.

Journalists and academics alike have debated the existence of an "opt-out revolution," or highly educated, high-earning mothers leaving the labor force to raise their children.[18] Rather than engaging in this debate, this section provides basic characteristics of stay-at-home mothers compared with other married mothers with children under 15. Table 4 provides a snapshot of the age, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, nativity, and family income for stay-at-home and non-stay-at-home mothers. In 2007, 24 million married-couple family groups included children under 15 years old. Table 4 shows that 5.6 million (24 percent) of these family groups included a stay-at-home mother.[19]

Stay-at-home mothers were younger and had younger children than other mothers.

Stay-at-home mothers were somewhat younger than other moms, with 44 percent under 35 years old, compared with 38 percent of the other mothers. These differences in the age structure between the two groups of mothers should be kept in mind when examining other social and economic characteristics that may be influenced by age. A higher percentage of the stay-at-home mothers had an infant in the household—28 percent compared with 21 percent. Fifty-seven percent had a preschool-aged child (under 5), compared with 43 percent of the other mothers.

Stay-at-home mothers were less educated than other mothers.

While 19 percent of the stay-at-home mothers had less than a high school diploma, 8 percent of the other mothers had this level of educational attainment. Thirty-two percent of the stay-at-home mothers had at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 38 percent of the other mothers.

Stay-at-home mothers were more likely to be Hispanic and more likely to be foreign born than other mothers.

More than one-quarter (27 percent) of stay-at-home mothers were Hispanic, compared with 16 percent of the other mothers. Correspondingly, stay-at-home mothers, were less likely to be White, non-Hispanic (60 percent compared with 69 percent) and Black (4 percent compared with 9 percent).[20] About one third (34 percent) of stay-at-home mothers were foreign born, while less than one-fifth (19 percent) of the other mothers were foreign born.

Stay-at-home mothers had lower family incomes and were more likely to be in poverty than other mothers.

Stay-at-home mothers had lower family incomes than other mothers, as might be expected since, by definition, they were out of the labor force. While half of the other mothers had family incomes of at least $75,000, this is true for one-third (35 percent) of the stay-at-home mothers. Twelve percent of stay-at-home mothers were below the poverty level, compared with 5 percent of the other mothers.

In 2007, 66 percent of married couples with children under 18 had both spouses in the labor force.

Despite press and academic attention, stay-at-home parents are a small proportion of married parents. Annual CPS estimates provide a look at changes over time in the labor force participation of married couples with children under 18.[21] In 1986, 59 percent of married couples with children under 18 had both spouses in the labor force. This percentage rose to 68 in 2000 and was slightly lower, at 66 percent, in 2007. The percentage of couples where only the husband was in the labor force correspondingly decreased between 1986 and 2007, as did the percentage of couples with neither the husband nor the wife in the labor force. There was an increase in the percentage of couples where only the wife was in the labor force. This was a small percentage of couples but rose from 2 percent to 3 percent from 1986 to 2007.

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[17] To access a historical table showing married-couple family groups with stay-at-home parents, see <www.census.gov /population/socdemo/hh-fam/shp1.xls>.

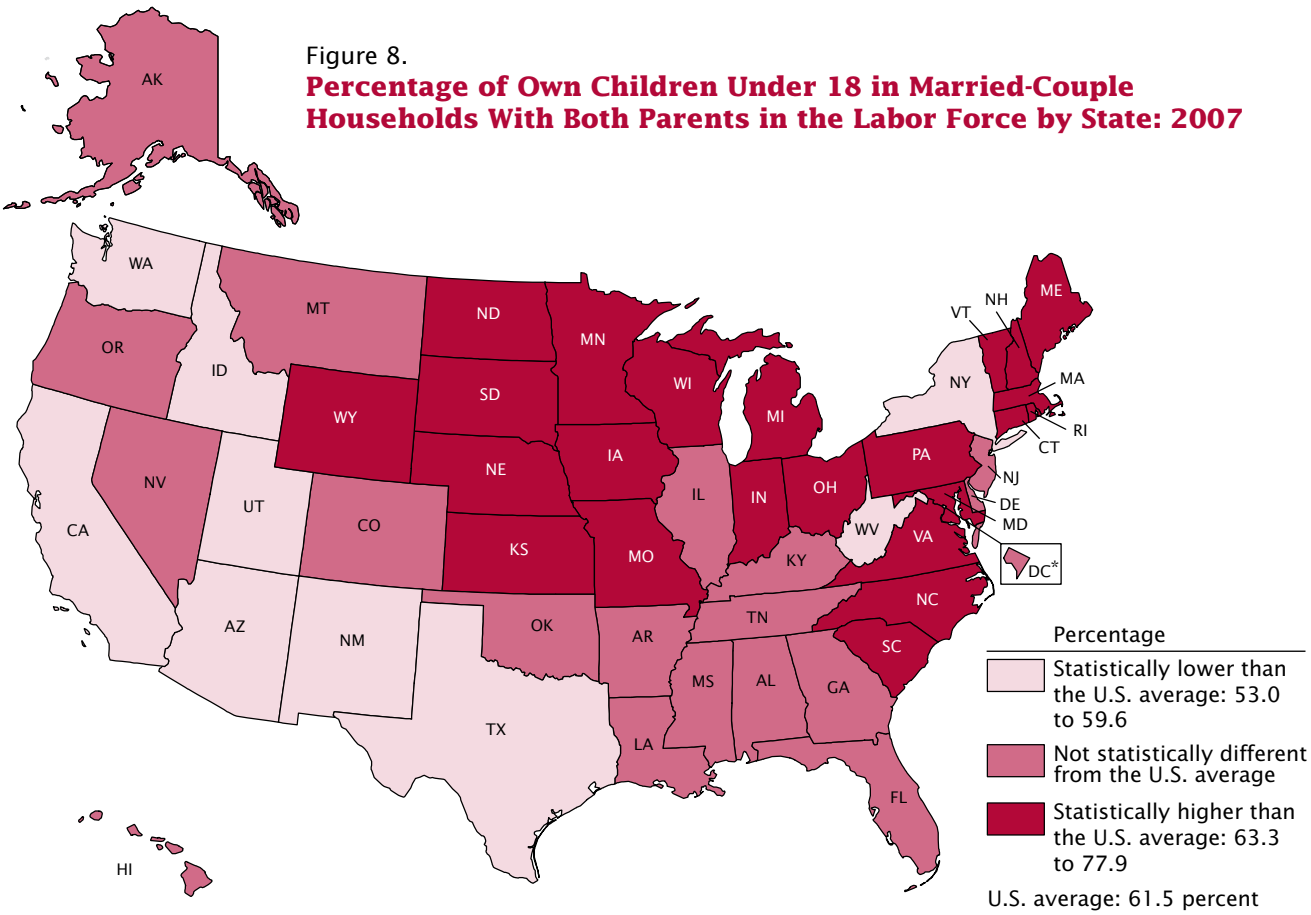
[18] Belkin, Lisa. October 26, 2003. "The Opt-Out Revolution," *New York Times*; Graff, E.J. 2007. "The Opt-Out Myth," *Columbia Journalism Review*, Vol. 45, No. 6, p.51; Williams, Joan C., Jessica Manvell, and Stephanie Bornstein. 2006. "Opt Out or Pushed Out? How the Press Covers Work/Family Conflict: The Untold Story of Why Women Leave the Workforce," The Center for Worklife Law, University of California, Hastings College of Law. <www.uchastings.edu/site_files/WLL /OptOutPushedOut.pdf>.

[19] The estimated number of stay-at-home fathers in 2007 was 165,000.

[20] The percentage of stay-at-home mothers who were other race was not statistically different from the percentage of other mothers who were other race.

[21] See Table MC-1 at <www.census.gov /population/socdemo/hh-fam/mc1.xls>.

Figure 8.
Percentage of Own Children Under 18 in Married-Couple Households With Both Parents in the Labor Force by State: 2007



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.

AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Children occupy an important place in American society. Their welfare is a concern to both parents and the public at large. The previous section provided a look at family living situations from the parents' perspective, while this section considers living arrangements from the child's perspective. For example, in the last section, CPS data were used to look at changes over time in the labor force participation of married parents, while in this section, ACS data are used to examine the proportion of own children in each state with married parents who are both in the labor force. This section also uses CPS data to investigate variation in the living arrangements of children of different ages.

The percentage of own children living with married parents, for whom both parents are in the labor force, varied regionally.

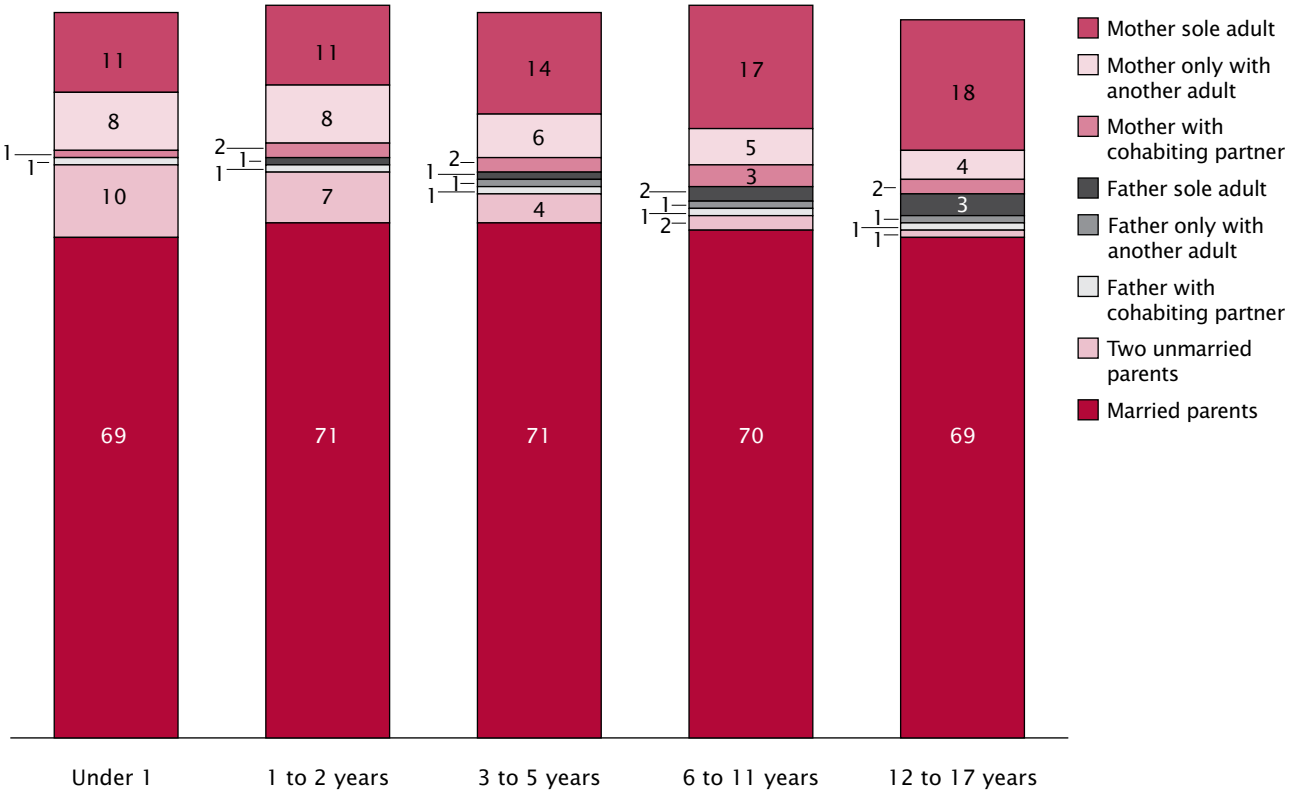
While the CPS data discussed in the previous section provided a historical look at changes in the percentage of married couples with own children under 18 in which both spouses were in the labor force, the ACS can provide a look at this from the child's point of view. Figure 8 shows a state map of the percentage of own children under 18 with both parents in the labor force. Nationally, 62 percent of own children in married-couple households have both parents in the labor force. Western states are characterized by lower-than-average percentages of own children in married-couple households with both parents in the labor force, while Northern and Eastern states are characterized by higher-than-average percentages. The states with the highest percentages include South Dakota, Vermont, and North Dakota. In contrast, Arizona (53 percent) and Utah (53 percent) had the lowest percentages.[22]

Living arrangements of children varied by age and race and Hispanic origin.

CPS data contain additional detail about children living with two unmarried parents that is not present in the ACS. This section looks

[22] Arizona and Utah were not statistically different from West Virginia (55 percent).

Figure 9.
Living Arrangements of Children by Age: 2007
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

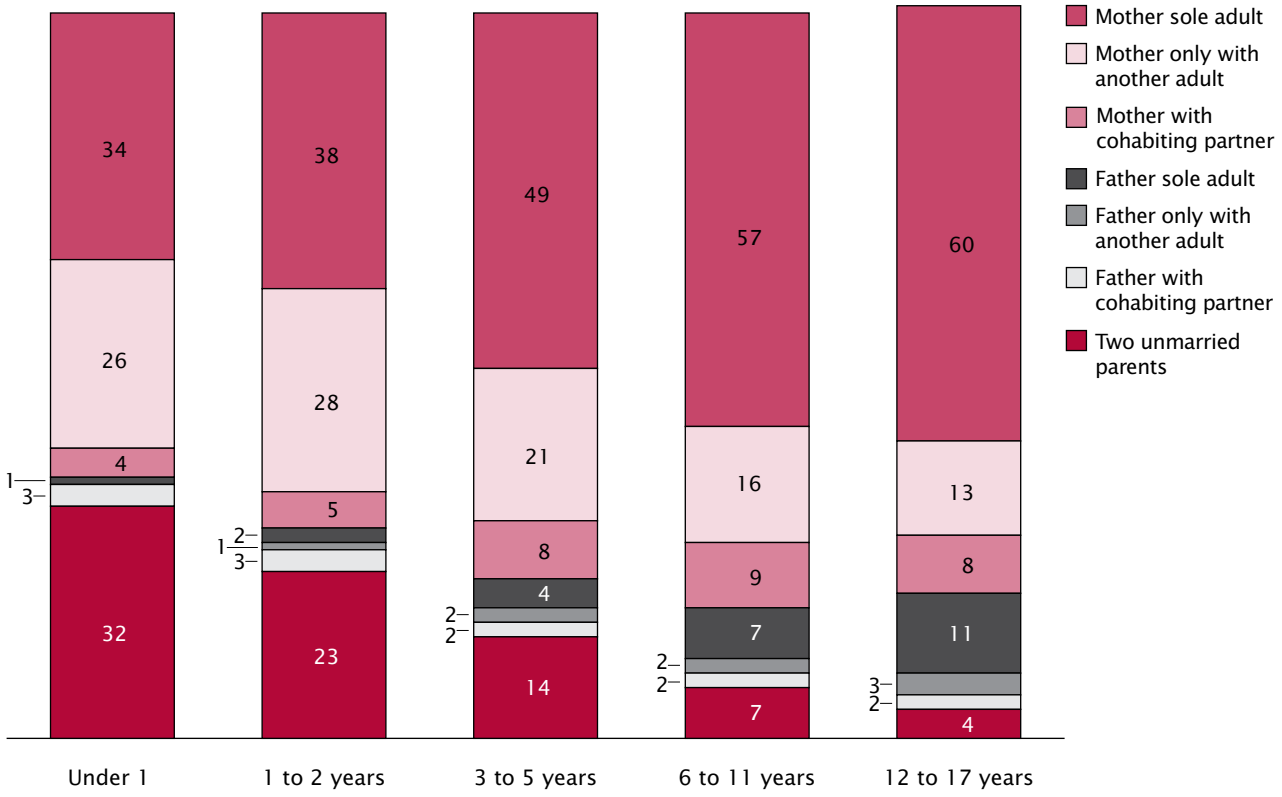
at differences in children's living arrangements by age. CPS data do not follow the same people over time, but by looking at characteristics by age of the child, we can approximate changes in children's living arrangements throughout their childhood.

Figure 9 shows that, regardless of the age of the child, roughly 70 percent of children lived with married parents. This included children who lived with two biological parents, as well as those who lived with a biological parent and a stepparent or with two adoptive parents. For example, a child may live with two biological parents while he or she is under 6 years old and may later experience the divorce of his or her parents. This child may then spend several years in a mother-only family before his or her mother remarries. This example illustrates the fact that in this cross-sectional look at children's living arrangements, it is important to keep in mind that as children age, they may spend time in several of the arrangements listed. Even though about 70 percent of children at each age lived with married parents, any given child may not have always lived with married parents and may later live in a mother-only family or another arrangement.

Infants under age 1 had the highest percentage that lived with two unmarried parents (10 percent). For children 12 to 17, just 1 percent lived with two unmarried parents. This difference may indicate both the fact that the prevalence of cohabitation has risen over the last 10 to 15 years and the fact that cohabiting couples have high rates of dissolution, so they may not remain together for 12 to 17 years after the child's birth.[23] The percentage of children living with their mother only, whether the mother lived with another adult or on her own, was highest for children 12 to 17 years old. So, while 20 percent of children aged 1 lived with their mother only (11 percent with a mom who was the sole adult), 25 percent of children 12 to 17 lived with their mother only (18

[23] Osborne, Cynthia, Wendy D. Manning, and Pamela J. Smock. 2007. "Married and Cohabiting Parents' Relationship Stability: A Focus on Race and Ethnicity," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Vol. 69:1345–1366.

Figure 10.
Living Arrangements of Children by Age for Children Living With Unmarried Parents: 2007
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

percent with a mom who was the sole adult).[24]

The youngest children were most likely to live with two unmarried parents.

Figure 10 shows household living arrangements for children living with unmarried parents, excluding the 70 percent of children who lived with married parents. This figure shows more clearly the differences across age groups in the living arrangements for these children. One-third of infants under 1 living with unmarried parents lived with two unmarried parents, but 4 percent of children 12 to 17 did so. Conversely, while about another one-third (34 percent) of infants lived with their mother who was the sole adult, 60 percent of children 12 to 17 living with unmarried parents lived in this arrangement.[25] The percentage of children who lived with their father who was the sole adult is also higher for older age groups. Only about 1 percent of infants lived in this arrangement, while 11 percent of teens lived with their father who was the sole adult.

Black children lived with a sole parent more often than Hispanic children or children of other races.

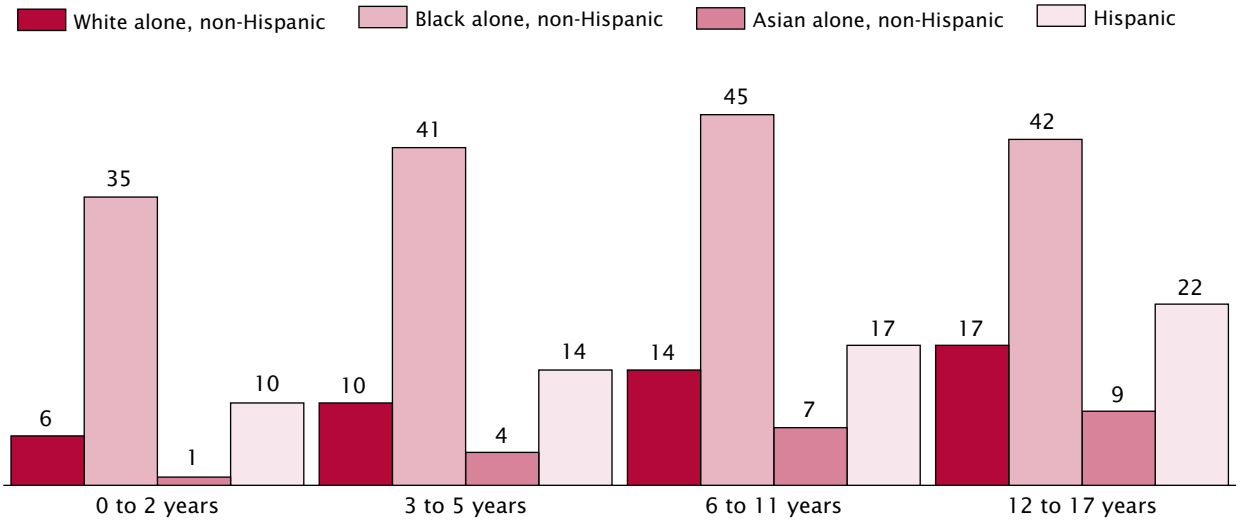
The proportion of children who lived with a sole adult parent varied by the race and Hispanic origin of the child. While 35 percent of Black children 0 to 2 years and 42 percent of Black teens 12 to 17 lived with a sole adult parent, this was true for just 1 percent of Asian children 0 to 2 years and 9 percent of Asian teens (Figure 11).[26] In

[24] The percentage of children living with their mother only does not differ for children under 1 and those aged 1 to 2, and the percentage of children living with their mother only does not differ for those aged 6 to 11 and 12 to 17.

[25] The percentages of children under age 1 and those aged 1 to 2 living with their mother who was the sole adult were not statistically different.

[26] The percentages of Black children who lived with a sole adult parent for ages 3 to 5, 6 to 11, and 12 to 17 were not statistically different. The percentage of Asian children aged 0 to 2 who lived with a sole adult parent was not statistically different from zero. The percentages of Asian children aged 3 to 5 and 6 to 11 who lived with a sole adult parent were not statistically different.

Figure 11.
Children Living With Sole Adult Parent by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2007
(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

contrast, 6 percent of White, non-Hispanic children and 10 percent of Hispanic children 0 to 2 years lived with a sole adult parent, while 17 percent of White, non-Hispanic teens and 22 percent of Hispanic teens did so.[27]

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The data in this report are from the 2007 CPS ASEC and ACS. The population represented (the population universe) in the ASEC is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000). Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2007. For annual time series from the CPS, data collected in the 2007 ASEC may be compared with data collected in the March supplement to the CPS in prior years.

This report also presents data from the 2007 ACS. The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is the population living in both households and group quarters (that is, the resident population). The group quarters' population consists of the institutionalized population (such as people in correctional institutions or nursing homes) and the noninstitutionalized population (most of whom are in college dormitories). For tabulation purposes in this report, ACS data are shown only for the population living in households since relationship data are not collected for the group quarters' population.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling

[27] Just because sole parents do not have a coparent present in the household does not mean that the other parent is uninvolved. Census Bureau surveys only include household members and cannot show links to parents living outside the household. Using other data sources, researchers have found that noncoresidential parents are often involved in their children's lives. Edin, Kathryn, Laura Tach, and Ronald Mincy. 2009. "Claiming Fatherhood: Race and the Dynamics of Paternal Involvement Among Unmarried Men," *Annals, AAPSS*, Vol. 621, pp.149–177. See also, Mincy, Ronald B. and Helen Oliver. 2003. *Age, Race, and Children's Living Arrangements: Implications for TANF Reauthorization*, The Urban Institute, Series B, No. B-53. <www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=310670>.

error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports, to minimize these errors.

The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar07.pdf> or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over- or undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables from the 2007 CPS ASEC are available on the Census Bureau's Web site <www.census.gov> Once on the site, click "Subjects A to Z," select "F," then select "Data" under "Families and Households Data." From the "Families and Living Arrangements" page, under "2007 March CPS," select from the list of options.

To access ACS tables about households and families, visit the American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

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SUGGESTED CITATION

Kreider, Rose M. and Diana B. Elliott. 2009. *America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007*. Current Population Reports, P20-561. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Appendix Table A.

Comparison of Census Bureau Data Sources for Families and Households

Survey characteristics	American Community Survey (ACS)	Current Population Survey (CPS)
Geographic scope	Annual estimates of the nation, regions, states, congressional districts, and geographies of 65,000 or more. Three-year estimates for places of 20,000 or more (available starting in 2008). Five-year estimates of areas as small as census tracts (available starting in 2010).	National estimates and estimates of selected characteristics for regions and states.
Periodicity of collection	Every year.	Every year.
Timeliness	Released year after collection cycle.	Released year after collection cycle.
Sample size	Annual sample of about 3 million addresses. Data are collected from about one-twelfth of the sample each month.	The data come from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), which is based on a sample of about 99,000 households.
Data collection method	Mail, telephone, and personal-visit interviews for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. About half of the responses are obtained by mail. The ACS is a mandatory survey.	Telephone and personal-visit interviews for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The CPS is a voluntary survey.
Questionnaire item(s)	Relationship asked of all people to the householder. Asked of all people in households.	Relationship asked of all people to the householder. Also asks if both parents are present and if anyone lives with anyone else as a partner/boyfriend/girlfriend.
Unique measures/data	Can produce estimates of foster children, biological, adopted, and stepchildren.	Only survey to produce estimates of unrelated subfamilies and most complete estimate of unmarried partner couples.
Technical issues	None.	Most reliable survey for identifying children living with unmarried parents.
Population universe	The ACS includes the resident population of the United States, including household and group quarter's populations.	The CPS includes the civilian noninstitutionalized population and Armed Forces personnel living off post or with their families on post.
Tables available/detail	Detailed tables showing a range of socioeconomic characteristics.	Detailed tables showing a range of socioeconomic characteristics.
Sampling error information	Only for published tables.	Can be computed by data user.
Historical data	The ACS began in 1996 in a limited number of test sites and began national implementation in 2000.	Household and family data in various detail available since 1947.
Public-use file	Yes.	Yes.
Electronic accessibility	Tables through American FactFinder; Public-use files through Data Ferrett.	Public-use files through Data Ferrett.

Appendix Table B.

Margins of Error[1] for Table 1 Estimates—Households by Type and Selected Characteristics: 2007

Characteristic	All households	Family households				Nonfamily households		
		Total	Married couple	Other families		Total	Male householder	Female householder
				Male householder	Female householder			
All households	**144,356**	**150,790**	**163,903**	**39,567**	**55,811**	**79,752**	**59,771**	**64,752**
Age of Householder								
15 to 24 years	36,535	29,063	23,158	11,257	18,713	24,606	18,458	18,929
25 to 34 years	53,749	52,910	57,092	20,434	29,921	36,231	27,344	22,598
35 to 44 years	48,979	45,403	47,393	21,461	33,127	30,307	28,423	24,234
45 to 54 years	45,761	50,365	46,168	15,428	25,773	39,225	26,597	24,125
55 to 64 years	35,775	37,470	33,233	10,858	17,019	34,737	21,501	26,698
65 years and over	48,672	39,441	34,761	9,792	18,322	38,219	20,148	31,337
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder								
White alone	90,775	109,440	123,717	30,337	44,031	73,713	53,928	55,416
White alone, non-Hispanic	77,261	93,678	107,371	26,893	38,176	71,041	49,027	52,179
Black alone	44,321	34,685	30,053	14,883	30,532	38,826	25,947	26,843
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	13,605	10,880	8,671	3,874	5,000	7,180	5,367	4,830
Asian alone	24,463	20,297	21,649	7,404	8,947	18,507	12,138	11,572
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	5,024	4,435	4,126	1,486	2,508	2,688	2,077	1,872
Some Other Race alone	35,292	31,232	26,757	12,673	16,231	19,863	13,986	12,068
Two or more races	25,459	18,186	15,718	5,203	8,063	12,512	9,196	8,517
Hispanic (any race)	43,179	40,437	40,474	17,902	22,585	27,331	18,713	17,618
Size of Household								
1 person	81,159	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	81,159	53,721	65,269
2 people	88,770	90,483	81,220	23,986	34,543	35,414	26,838	23,367
3 people	63,841	64,743	56,058	22,596	34,254	14,724	12,578	8,608
4 people	58,861	59,396	55,384	14,781	28,574	9,658	8,620	4,187
5 people	36,038	35,758	35,661	11,362	14,565	5,784	4,807	2,380
6 people	25,706	25,616	20,466	7,785	12,786	2,806	2,535	1,317
7 or more people	18,231	17,865	16,062	6,709	7,722	2,261	1,844	1,269
Average size	0.01	–	–	0.01	0.01	–	–	–
Number of Related Children Under 18								
No related children	103,667	95,196	91,223	20,092	29,591	79,752	59,771	64,752
With related children	86,010	86,010	92,739	32,796	50,224	(X)	(X)	(X)
1 child	57,961	57,961	52,601	25,735	32,817	(X)	(X)	(X)
2 children	52,022	52,022	48,971	15,922	30,598	(X)	(X)	(X)
3 children	32,602	32,602	30,313	9,331	21,970	(X)	(X)	(X)
4 or more children	22,857	22,857	18,627	6,315	14,810	(X)	(X)	(X)
Presence of Own Children Under 18								
No own children	103,077	96,590	93,794	22,638	33,494	79,752	59,771	64,752
With own children	89,168	89,168	93,744	30,360	43,810	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 12	82,096	82,096	81,792	25,814	40,031	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 6	66,597	66,597	64,542	18,513	32,171	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 3	52,665	52,665	48,512	15,854	23,961	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 1	29,596	29,596	26,212	10,783	13,717	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tenure								
Owned home	227,236	184,436	166,949	25,500	36,928	76,508	41,934	54,166
Rented home	114,886	70,391	41,304	32,262	46,252	69,942	50,696	47,241
Occupied without payment	22,916	14,889	12,748	4,659	8,809	17,393	14,454	10,666

– Represents or rounds to zero.

(X) Not applicable.

[1] This number, when added to or subtracted from the corresponding estimate in Table 1, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.