

# America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2012

## Population Characteristics

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### INTRODUCTION

Families and living arrangements in the United States have changed over time, just as they have developed distinct regional trends because of factors such as local labor markets and migration patterns. As a result, it is difficult to talk about a single kind of family or one predominant living arrangement in the United States. The goals of this report are to provide an updated picture of the composition of families and households and to describe trends in living arrangements in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The report also describes how families and households have changed in recent years, notably during the latest economic recession, which lasted from 2007–2009.<sup>2</sup>

This report uses data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the American Community Survey (ACS).<sup>3</sup> It capitalizes on the strengths of both data sets, using CPS detailed information about family structure and characteristics over time, along with ACS

data about how basic family and household characteristics vary across states.<sup>4</sup>

The report contains five sections: (1) a review of some data sources for studying family life in the United States; (2) households and living arrangements of adults; (3) family groups; (4) spouses, partners, and couples; and (5) the economic well-being of families before and after the 2007–2009 recession, focusing on children's perspective.

Some highlights of the report are:

- Sixty-six percent of households in 2012 were family households, down from 81 percent in 1970.
- Between 1970 and 2012, the share of households that were married couples with children under 18 halved from 40 percent to 20 percent.
- The proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage points between 1970 and 2012, from 17 percent to 27 percent.
- Between 1970 and 2012, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to 2.6.

<sup>1</sup> The 8.0 million people living in group quarters (rather than households) in 2011, 2.8 percent of whom were under the age of 18, are not included in this report. See Table S2601A accessible on American FactFinder at <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_S2601A&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S2601A&prodType=table)>.

<sup>2</sup> For periods of recession in the United States, see the National Bureau of Economic Research, <[www.nber.org/cycles.html](http://www.nber.org/cycles.html)>. The most recent recession began December 2007 and ended June 2009.

<sup>3</sup> The data in this report are from the CPS ASEC, collected in February, March, and April of 2012 and earlier supplements, and the 2011 ACS. The CPS represents the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States, and the ACS represents the population in households.

<sup>4</sup> For more details on the ACS, including its sample size and questions, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)>. Further information on the CPS is available at <[www.census.gov/cps/](http://www.census.gov/cps/)>.

For a comparison of households and families estimates in ACS and CPS, see Martin O'Connell and Gretchen Gooding, 2005, "Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Households and Families: 2004," Census Bureau Working Paper accessible online at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/library/2006/2006\\_OConnell\\_01.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/library/2006/2006_OConnell_01.pdf)>.

- Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of men aged 65 and over lived with their spouse compared with less than half (45 percent) of women.
- Married couples made up most (63 percent) of the family groups with children under the age of 18.
- Partners in married opposite-sex couples were less likely (4 percent) to be different races than partners in either unmarried opposite-sex couples (9 percent) or same-sex couples (12 percent).<sup>5</sup>
- Black children (55 percent) and Hispanic children (31 percent) were more likely to live with one parent than non-Hispanic White children (21 percent) or Asian children (13 percent).<sup>6</sup>
- During the latest recession, the percentage of stay-at-home mothers declined and did not

<sup>5</sup> Note that unmarried opposite-sex couples were not statistically different from same-sex couples.

<sup>6</sup> 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 2010 Census Brief, "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010" (C2010BR-02) at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf)>. 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 2012 CPS ASEC, 19 percent of the White population was Hispanic, as was 7 percent of the Black population, 4 percent of Asians, and 23 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.

## Households

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 child 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 children who have never been married, are under the age of 18 (unless otherwise specified), and are not themselves a family reference person. Foster children are not included as own children since they are not related to the householder.

return to its prerecession level until 2012.

- During the latest recession, homeownership among households with their own children under the age of 18 fell by 15 percent. These households saw a 33 percent increase in parental unemployment.

## DATA SOURCES FOR STUDYING AMERICAN FAMILIES

Because the family interacts with many aspects of social life, surveys typically opt for depth over breadth by concentrating data collection on a handful of related family topics. Appendix Table A highlights the variety of data sources available for studying families, households, and living arrangements in the United States.

The various designs and topics of the surveys provide an array of perspectives for studying America's families and living arrangements. For example, the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a panel study that follows the same respondents over time. It collects detailed information on household relationships, assets, and participation in government transfer programs, which researchers can use to study disadvantaged families as well as the living arrangements, support, and economic well-being of children. Other data sources, such as the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies and National Survey of Adoptive Parents, focus specifically on the cognitive, physical, and mental development of children. The National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth follow the same birth cohort over time, collecting data

on educational, family, and work experiences through young adulthood and into middle age, while the Health and Retirement Study follows the life course experiences of older Americans. Other surveys focus on ties between the family and specific experiences such as incarceration and substance abuse (e.g., the Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health).

This report features data from the ACS and CPS to describe America's families and living arrangements. The ACS provides statistics about the nation's people, housing, and economy at various geographic levels including the nation, state, and county. The CPS collects detailed information about the economic characteristics of households, including employment patterns, work hours, earnings, and worker occupation. Because the survey began in 1940, researchers can use the CPS to examine change in families and households over the last half century.<sup>7</sup>

## AMERICA'S HOUSEHOLDS AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Many factors affect the number, type, and size of households. These include patterns of population growth such as fertility and mortality, decisions individuals make about their living arrangements, and changes in social norms, health, and the economy that influence how individuals organize their lives. In turn, individual decisions produce aggregate societal changes in household and family composition. This section of the report highlights several historical

<sup>7</sup> For more information on the history of the CPS, see Chapter 2 of Technical Paper 66 at <[www.census.gov/cps/files/Technicalpaper66chapter2history.pdf](http://www.census.gov/cps/files/Technicalpaper66chapter2history.pdf)>.

changes in America's households and living arrangements:

- Households and families have gotten smaller over time.
- Married households tended to be older and made up a smaller share of all households.
- Living alone has become more widespread as the rising number of one-person households offset the shrinking number of married households with children.
- The increase in living alone and the decline in married households reflect a rising age at first marriage for men and women.

### **In 2011, there were 56 million married-couple households and 32 million one-person households (Table 1).**

The United States had about 115 million households in 2011 (Table 1). Family households numbered 76 million, which included about 56 million married-couple households and 5 million male and 15 million female householders with no spouse present.<sup>8</sup> Nonfamily households numbered 39 million and represented one-third of all households in the United States. Of these nonfamily households, 32 million consisted of one person living alone. Twelve million nonfamily households were maintained by individuals 65 years and older.

Over time, the proportion of households headed by older individuals

<sup>8</sup> 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.

has increased.<sup>9</sup> Twenty-two percent of households in 2011 had a householder 65 or older, up from 20 percent in 2007, when the U.S. Census Bureau last reported on this topic in detail. Householders in married-couple family households also tended to be older than those in other family households (Table 1). In 2011, 41 percent of married-couple family householders were at least 55 years old; in comparison, about 24 percent of other male family householders and 26 percent of other female family householders were in this age range. The difference partly results from the way these families are defined. When a married couple with children becomes empty nesters, they are still counted as a married-couple family. But when children move out of a one-parent family household, a parent living alone is counted as a nonfamily household. Because parents with children still at home tended to be younger, other family householders tended to be younger.

### **Fewer family households with a Hispanic or Black householder were maintained by a married couple (Table 1).**

In 2011, married-couple households made up 81 percent of the family households that an Asian householder maintained and 80 percent that a White, non-Hispanic householder maintained. The corresponding proportion among Hispanic and Black householders was smaller: 62 percent and 44 percent, respectively. Likewise, other family households were more common among Hispanic or Black householders than they were among Asian or non-Hispanic White householders.

<sup>9</sup> See Table 1, Rose M. Kreider and Diana Elliott, 2009, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007," *Current Population Reports*, P20-561, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Table 1.

**Households by Type and Selected Characteristics: ACS 2011**

Characteristic	All households		Family households				Nonfamily households		
	Number	Margin of error <sup>1</sup>	Total	Married couple	Other families		Total	Male householder	Female householder
					Male householder	Female householder			
<b>All households</b> . . . . .	<b>114,991,725</b>	<b>179,541</b>	<b>76,084,006</b>	<b>55,519,648</b>	<b>5,457,141</b>	<b>15,107,217</b>	<b>38,907,719</b>	<b>18,030,888</b>	<b>20,876,831</b>
<b>Age of Householder</b>									
15 to 24 years . . . . .	4,704,541	44,095	2,058,709	791,259	386,058	881,392	2,645,832	1,311,058	1,334,774
25 to 34 years . . . . .	17,704,876	60,479	11,834,989	7,547,784	1,145,249	3,141,956	5,869,887	3,434,054	2,435,833
35 to 44 years . . . . .	21,065,572	48,364	16,560,256	11,440,262	1,321,452	3,798,542	4,505,316	2,801,769	1,703,547
45 to 54 years . . . . .	24,351,960	50,700	17,651,283	13,008,878	1,308,663	3,333,742	6,700,677	3,617,182	3,083,495
55 to 64 years . . . . .	21,760,211	51,095	14,293,163	11,643,837	731,021	1,918,305	7,467,048	3,333,840	4,133,208
65 years and over . . . . .	25,404,565	61,226	13,685,606	11,087,628	564,698	2,033,280	11,718,959	3,532,985	8,185,974
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder</b>									
White alone . . . . .	89,716,881	118,696	58,946,781	45,982,567	3,802,675	9,161,539	30,770,100	14,173,114	16,596,986
Non-Hispanic . . . . .	80,686,965	98,050	51,980,137	41,500,162	3,060,572	7,419,403	28,706,828	13,082,329	15,624,499
Black or African American alone . . . . .	13,879,391	46,747	8,726,419	3,804,021	836,460	4,085,938	5,152,972	2,312,473	2,840,499
American Indian and Alaska Native alone . . . . .	814,468	15,555	557,425	315,753	61,588	180,084	257,043	133,593	123,450
Asian alone . . . . .	4,644,197	24,448	3,446,258	2,787,491	219,358	439,409	1,197,939	591,684	606,255
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone . . . . .	130,399	4,921	100,674	67,105	11,180	22,389	29,725	15,795	13,930
Some Other Race alone . . . . .	3,841,498	29,836	3,026,253	1,759,462	404,534	862,257	815,245	472,839	342,406
Two or More Races . . . . .	1,964,891	34,711	1,280,196	803,249	121,346	355,601	684,695	331,390	353,305
Hispanic (any race) . . . . .	13,637,150	56,416	10,541,142	6,528,120	1,212,573	2,800,449	3,096,008	1,673,986	1,422,022
<b>Size of Household</b>									
1 person . . . . .	31,886,794	114,173	X	X	X	X	31,886,794	14,119,225	17,767,569
2 people . . . . .	38,635,170	115,300	32,882,461	24,712,814	2,171,427	5,998,220	5,752,709	3,069,470	2,683,239
3 people . . . . .	18,044,529	75,552	17,225,354	11,006,882	1,611,009	4,607,463	819,175	533,053	286,122
4 people . . . . .	15,030,350	58,958	14,710,713	11,290,906	903,885	2,515,922	319,637	218,093	101,544
5 people . . . . .	6,940,508	46,062	6,854,293	5,268,439	440,483	1,145,371	86,215	59,209	27,006
6 people . . . . .	2,704,873	26,971	2,674,980	2,003,798	186,396	484,786	29,893	22,465	7,428
7 or more people . . . . .	1,749,501	22,103	1,736,205	1,236,809	143,941	355,455	13,296	9,373	3,923
Average size . . . . .	2.64	Z	3.34	3.28	3.50	3.49	1.28	1.35	1.22
<b>Number of Related Children Under 18</b>									
No related children . . . . .	77,844,222	158,791	38,936,503	31,462,882	2,372,577	5,101,044	38,907,719	18,030,888	20,876,831
With related children <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	37,147,503	78,916	37,147,503	24,056,766	3,084,564	10,006,173	X	X	X
1 child . . . . .	15,902,634	66,375	15,902,634	9,325,508	1,714,744	4,862,382	X	X	X
2 children . . . . .	13,414,048	58,604	13,414,048	9,368,291	889,656	3,156,101	X	X	X
3 children . . . . .	5,430,075	38,142	5,430,075	3,774,744	334,647	1,320,684	X	X	X
4 or more children . . . . .	2,400,746	27,581	2,400,746	1,588,223	145,517	667,006	X	X	X
<b>Presence of Own Children Under 18</b>									
No own children . . . . .	81,228,585	150,547	42,320,866	32,958,335	2,805,085	6,557,446	38,907,719	18,030,888	20,876,831
With own children <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	33,763,140	78,715	33,763,140	22,561,313	2,652,056	8,549,771	X	X	X
With own children under 12 . . . . .	24,346,074	69,573	24,346,074	16,523,483	1,854,578	5,968,013	X	X	X
With own children under 6 . . . . .	14,307,333	64,326	14,307,333	9,855,286	1,117,335	3,334,712	X	X	X
With own children under 3 . . . . .	8,086,757	60,155	8,086,757	5,697,549	644,262	1,744,946	X	X	X
With own children under 1 . . . . .	2,782,662	28,518	2,782,662	1,984,657	242,226	555,779	X	X	X
<b>Tenure</b>									
Owned home . . . . .	74,264,435	230,440	54,627,945	44,808,444	2,929,038	6,890,463	19,636,490	8,511,414	11,125,076
Rented home . . . . .	38,515,453	103,548	20,313,830	10,027,501	2,405,146	7,881,183	18,201,623	8,972,270	9,229,353
Occupied without payment . . . . .	2,211,837	24,889	1,142,231	683,703	122,957	335,571	1,069,606	547,204	522,402

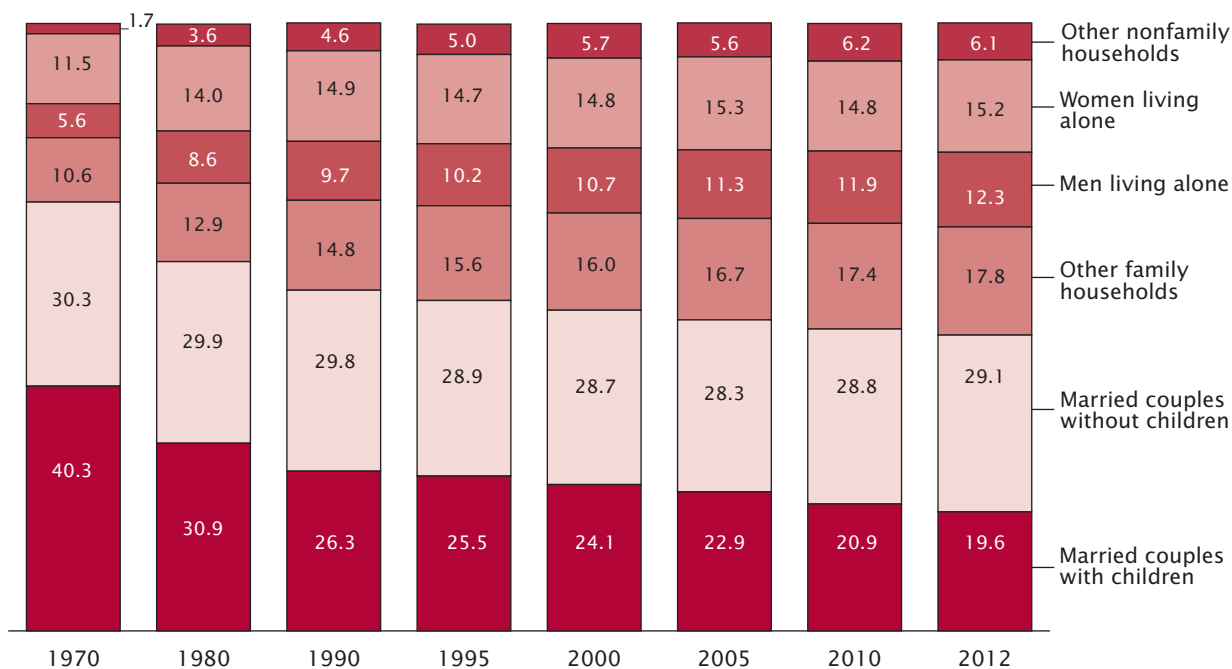
X Not applicable.

Z Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.Note: See <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf)> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011.

Figure 1.  
**Households by Type, 1970 to 2012: CPS**  
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1970 to 2012.

**The share of households that married couples maintained has fallen since 1970, while the share of nonfamily households has increased (Figure 1).**

Figure 1 shows households by type from 1970 to 2012. Family households predominated in 1970, when they made up 81 percent of all households. This proportion dropped to around 66 percent by 2012. Note, however, that most of this change occurred between 1970 and 1990. Changes in household type since 1990 have been smaller.

The most noticeable trend in Figure 1 is the decline of married-couple households with their own children, from 40 percent of households in 1970 to 20 percent in 2012. As of 1970, married couples with children outnumbered married couples

without children but by 2012 the opposite was true. Indeed, the number of married couples without children has grown in recent years, from 28 percent of households in 2005 to 29 percent in 2012. This change is likely related to the aging of householders, noted earlier, as well as delays in childbearing.<sup>10</sup>

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 households in 1970

to 18 percent in 2012.<sup>11</sup> Since 1992, however, the proportion of households that are one-parent families (included in the other family households category) has stabilized at about 9 percent.<sup>12</sup>

The growth in one-person households (people living alone) is responsible for most of the increase in nonfamily households over time—and the corresponding decrease in family households. The proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage

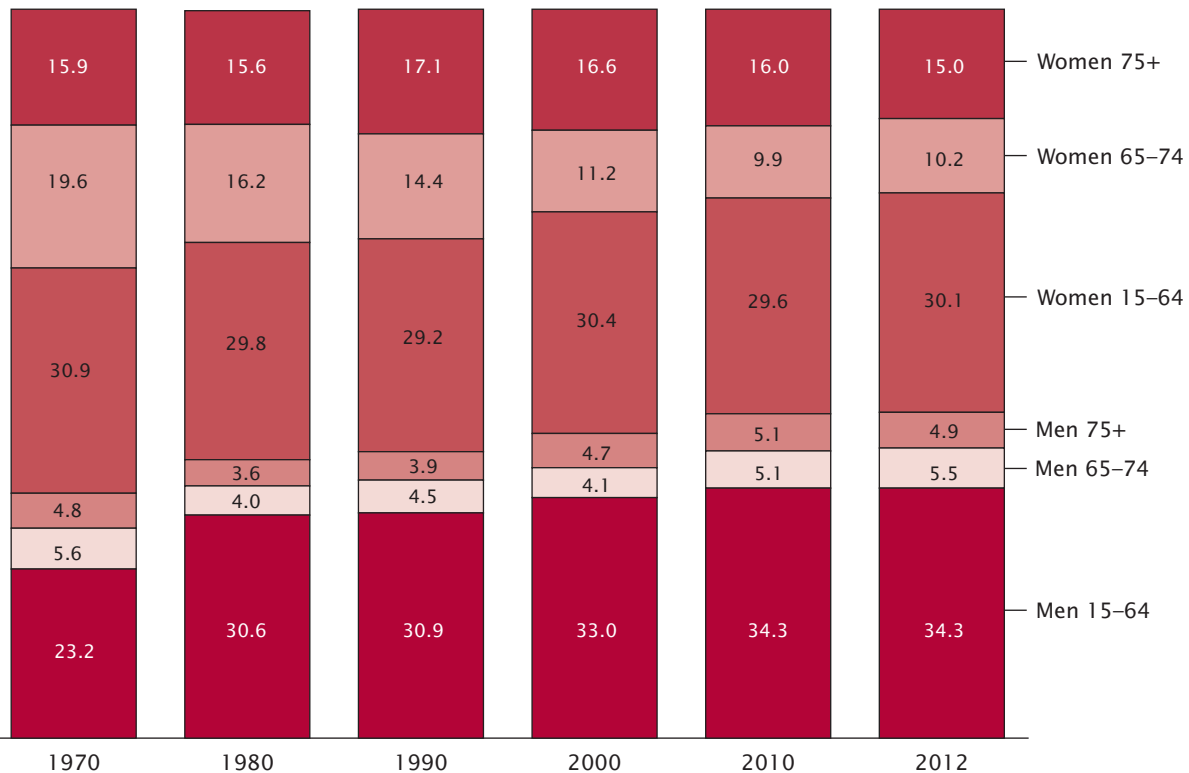
<sup>11</sup> Although a spouse is not present, an unmarried partner of the parent may or may not be present.

<sup>12</sup> See historical Tables HH-1 and FM-1, accessible on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/hh1.xls> and <www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/fm1.xls>. Although the proportion of one-parent families remained around 9 percent throughout this period, the 2012 value is significantly higher than in 2008 through 2010, 2000 through 2005, and 1992 through 1993.

<sup>10</sup> Between 1970 and 2006, the average age of first-time mothers increased from 21.4 years to 25.0 years. See T. J. Mathews and Brady E. Hamilton, 2009, “Delayed Childbearing: More Women are having their First Child Later in Life,” *NCHS Data Brief*, No. 21, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

Figure 2.  
**One-Person Households by Age and Sex, 1970 to 2012: CPS**

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1970 to 2012.

points between 1970 and 2012 (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 (Figure 1). In 2012, women represented more than half (55 percent) of one-person households, although men have been closing this gap over time.

**More one-person households were headed by men aged 15 to 64 in 2012 than in 1970 (Figure 2).**

Figure 2 highlights changes in one-person households, by age and sex, from 1970 to 2012. It shows a decline in the share of older women living alone, which fell by half over the 40-year period, from 20 percent to 10 percent,

among 65- to 74-year-old women. The decrease for the oldest women (aged 75 and older) was much smaller, dipping by 1 percent across the same period.

The share of one-person households maintained by men aged 65 and older did not change between 1970 and 2012. However, one-person households headed by men aged 15 to 64 did rise, from 23 percent in 1970 to 34 percent in 2012. This pattern could result from changes in divorce rates, which increased sharply between 1970 and 1980.<sup>13</sup> However, one-person households among women of the same age did not increase between 1970 and 2012. This may

<sup>13</sup> See Joshua R. Goldstein, 1999, "The Leveling of Divorce in the United States," *Demography*, 36:409-414.

be explained by living arrangements following divorce. Because mother-only custody is the dominant living arrangement for children following divorce, men more often than women live alone following a divorce.<sup>14</sup>

**Households and families have become smaller over time (Figure 3).**

Between 1970 and 2012, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to about 2.6.<sup>15</sup> But the most profound changes in household size occurred among the largest and smallest

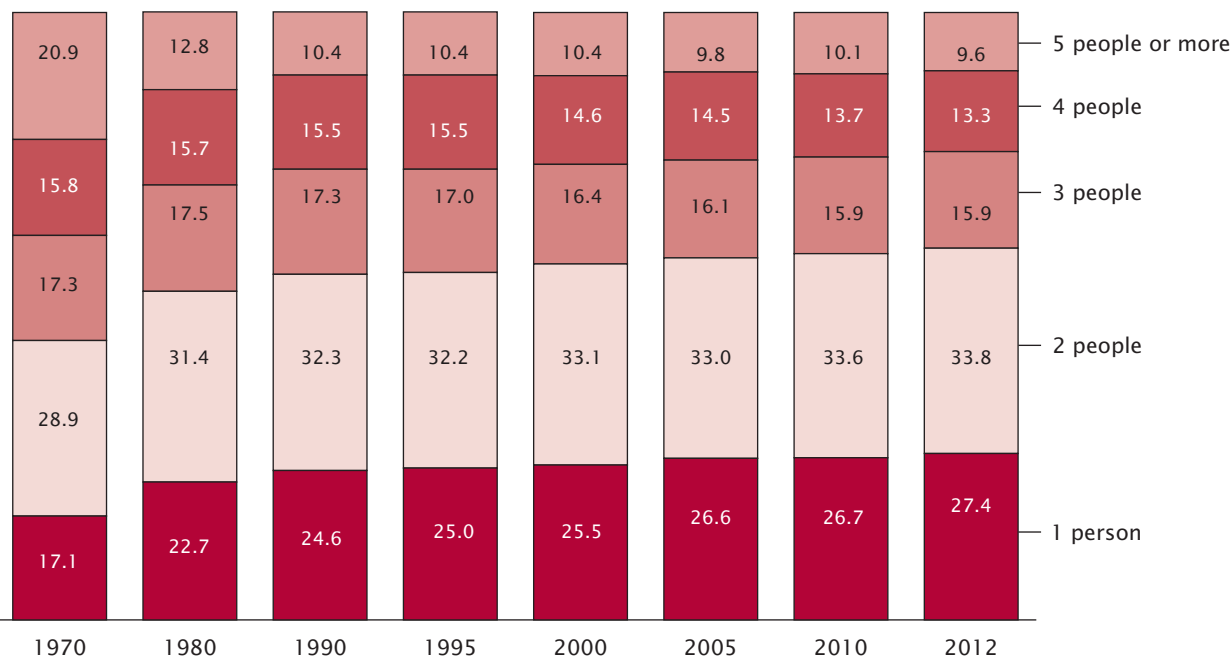
<sup>14</sup> See Maria Cancian and Daniel R. Meyer, 1998, "Who Gets Custody?" *Demography*, 35:147-157.

<sup>15</sup> See historical Tables HH-4 and HH-6, accessible on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/hh4.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/hh4.xls)> and <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/hh6.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/hh6.xls)>.



Figure 3.  
**Households by Size, 1970 to 2012: CPS**

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, selected years, 1970 to 2012.

households (Figure 3). Households with five or more people decreased by half, from 21 percent to 10 percent of households, between 1970 and 2012 while the share of households with only one or two people increased from 46 percent to 61 percent. Consistent with trends in Figure 1 for household type, changes in more recent decades have been small. There was no significant difference, for example, in households with five or more people between 2005 and 2012.

**Multigenerational households were less common among White, non-Hispanic householders (Table 2).**

The term multigenerational refers to family households consisting of three or more generations.

These include families with either a householder with both a parent and a child, a householder with both a child and grandchild, a householder with both a grandchild and a parent, or a four-generation household (i.e., a householder with a parent, child, and grandchild present). In 2012, multigenerational households made up 5 percent of family households, although this percentage differed by race and Hispanic origin (Table 2).<sup>16</sup> Multigenerational households made up 3 percent of family households with a White,

<sup>16</sup> The comparable figure from the ACS was 6 percent. See Tables B11017 and B11001, accessible on American FactFinder at [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_B11017&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B11017&prodType=table) and [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_B11001&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B11001&prodType=table).

non-Hispanic householder compared with 6 percent of those with an Asian reference person and 8 percent of those with a Black or Hispanic reference person.<sup>17</sup>

The most common type of multigenerational household was one in which a householder lives with a child and a grandchild (64 percent). This pattern was especially pronounced among multigenerational households with a White, non-Hispanic householder. The next most common type was one in which a householder lives with a child and a parent (34 percent). This pattern was predominant among multigenerational households with an Asian householder.

<sup>17</sup> The share of family households that were multigenerational did not differ statistically for Black and Hispanic householders.

Table 2.

### Multigenerational Households by Race and Hispanic Origin of Reference Person: CPS 2012

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total all family households	Total multigenerational households	Race of family reference person				
			White alone	White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)
<b>Total all family households</b> .....	<b>80,506</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>64,614</b>	<b>54,146</b>	<b>9,651</b>	<b>4,149</b>	<b>11,585</b>
<b>Total multigenerational households</b> .....	<b>3,726</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>970</b>
<b>Percent multigenerational households</b> .....	<b>4.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Number</b> .....	<b>80,506</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>970</b>
Type of multigenerational household <sup>1</sup>							
Householder with child and grandchild .....	2,390	2,390	1,690	1,187	544	91	539
Householder with child and parent .....	1,274	1,274	798	425	245	164	412
Householder with grandchild and parent or four-generation household .....	62	62	44	25	9	6	19
Presence of foreign-born persons in household							
No foreign-born persons .....	63,829	2,519	1,716	1,463	671	30	286
Householder is foreign-born .....	3,010	105	81	18	18	4	68
Other person beside householder is foreign-born .....	13,667	1,102	736	157	109	228	616
Poverty status							
Below 100 percent of poverty .....	9,486	694	414	206	209	40	229
100 to 199 percent of poverty .....	6,572	514	362	196	100	20	183
200 percent of poverty and above .....	64,448	2,518	1,756	1,236	489	202	558
Presence of children under 18 <sup>2</sup>							
No children under 18 .....	45,522	2,252	1,591	1,157	493	105	458
At least one child under 18 .....	34,984	1,474	942	481	306	157	512
At least one child under 15 .....	30,413	1,222	776	372	244	138	448
At least one child under 12 .....	25,596	990	621	299	199	115	360
At least one child under 6 .....	15,342	581	366	161	110	68	228
At least one child under 3 .....	8,606	296	192	79	58	27	126
At least one child under 1 .....	2,802	106	75	25	17	7	54
<b>Percent</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Type of multigenerational household <sup>1</sup>							
Householder with child and grandchild .....	3.0	64.1	66.7	72.5	68.1	34.7	55.6
Householder with child and parent .....	1.6	34.2	31.5	25.9	30.7	62.6	42.5
Householder with grandchild and parent or four-generation household .....	0.1	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.1	2.3	2.0
Presence of foreign-born persons in household							
No foreign-born persons .....	79.3	67.6	67.7	89.3	84.0	11.5	29.5
Householder is foreign-born .....	3.7	2.8	3.2	1.1	2.3	1.5	7.0
Other person beside householder is foreign-born .....	17.0	29.6	29.1	9.6	13.6	87.0	63.5
Poverty status							
Below 100 percent of poverty .....	11.8	18.6	16.3	12.6	26.2	15.3	23.6
100 to 199 percent of poverty .....	8.2	13.8	14.3	12.0	12.5	7.6	18.9
200 percent of poverty and above .....	80.1	67.6	69.3	75.5	61.2	77.1	57.5
Presence of children under 18 <sup>2</sup>							
No children under 18 .....	56.5	60.4	62.8	70.6	61.7	40.1	47.2
At least one child under 18 .....	43.5	39.6	37.2	29.4	38.3	59.9	52.8
At least one child under 15 .....	37.8	32.8	30.6	22.7	30.5	52.7	46.2
At least one child under 12 .....	31.8	26.6	24.5	18.3	24.9	43.9	37.1
At least one child under 6 .....	19.1	15.6	14.4	9.8	13.8	26.0	23.5
At least one child under 3 .....	10.7	7.9	7.6	4.8	7.3	10.3	13.0
At least one child under 1 .....	3.5	2.8	3.0	1.5	2.1	2.7	5.6

<sup>1</sup> For total all family households, categories do not add to total or 100 percent, as there is no category for nonmultigenerational households.<sup>2</sup> Excludes ever-married children under 18 years, as well as householders.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.



**Multigenerational households were more likely to contain foreign-born persons (Table 2).**

Table 2 shows that 79 percent of family households had no foreign-born persons, compared with 68 percent of multigenerational households. Multigenerational households with an Asian or Hispanic householder were substantially more likely to include the foreign-born than those with a White, non-Hispanic or a Black householder. Eighty-nine percent of multigenerational households headed by White, non-Hispanics and 84 percent headed by Blacks contained no foreign-born persons, compared with 29 percent of those with a Hispanic householder and 11 percent with an Asian householder. These patterns are not surprising when considering that half (53 percent) of all foreign-born persons in the United States come from Latin America and the Caribbean, and over one-quarter (28 percent) come from Asia.<sup>18</sup>

**Multigenerational households were more likely to be in poverty (Table 2).**

In 2012, 19 percent of multigenerational households were below 100 percent of poverty compared with 12 percent of all family households (Table 2). Poverty was especially pronounced for multigenerational households with a Black (26 percent) or Hispanic reference person (24 percent).<sup>19</sup> Forming a multigenerational household may be a strategy for coping with

poverty and could offer a financial safety net for some families.<sup>20</sup>

**Women aged 25 to 34 were more likely to live with a spouse than men were; men in this age group were more likely than women were to live alone or in their parents' home (Table 3).**

The last part of this section discusses the living arrangements of men and women and of younger and older adults (Table 3 and Figure 4). Gender differences in the age at first marriage and cohabitation drive the living arrangements of young men and women. Table 3 shows that 59 percent (9 million) of men 18 to 24 years old lived in their parents' home in 2012, compared with 51 percent (7.6 million) of women the same age.<sup>21</sup> It is important to note that the CPS counts students living in dormitories as living in their parents' home.<sup>22</sup> In contrast, women 18 to 24 years old were more likely to live with a spouse or unmarried partner. Among this age group of young adults, 11 percent of women and 6 percent of men were married

and living with their spouse. An additional 12 percent of women and 8 percent of men cohabited with an unmarried partner. These differences reflect a trend in which women typically marry at younger ages than men do.<sup>23</sup>

This gender pattern was also present at older ages. Although living with a spouse was the most prevalent type of living arrangement among 25- to 34-year-olds, a greater proportion of women in this age group lived with a spouse than men (48 percent versus 40 percent, respectively). And although some 25- to 34-year-olds were living in their parents' home, this arrangement was more common among men than women (16 percent versus 10 percent).

**Men aged 65 or older were more likely to live with their spouse; women in this age group were more likely to live alone (Table 3).**

Differences in living arrangements among older adults most likely reflect women's longer life expectancy, their higher rate of widowhood, and lower rate of remarriage.<sup>24</sup> Shown in Table 3, older men were more likely to live with their spouse while older women were more likely to live alone. For example, 36 percent of women 65 and over lived alone, compared with only 19 percent of men.

Table 3 highlights some notable differences among older adults as well. Living with one's spouse was more common for 65- to 74-year-old men and women than it was for adults aged 75 or older. For example, 75 percent of men and

<sup>18</sup> See Elizabeth M. Grieco et al., 2012, "The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2010," *American Community Survey Reports*, ACS-19, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

<sup>19</sup> The share of multigenerational households in poverty did not differ statistically between those with a Black and Hispanic householder.

<sup>20</sup> See Rakesh Kochhar and D'Vera Cohn, 2011, "Fighting Poverty in a Tough Economy, Americans Move in with their Relatives," Pew Research Center, Washington, DC, <[www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf)>.

<sup>21</sup> For more information on young adults living at home, see Laryssa Mykyta and Suzanne Macartney, 2012, "Sharing a Household: Household Composition and Economic Well-Being: 2007–2010," *Current Population Reports*, P60-242, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. See also, Rose M. Kreider, 2007, "Young Adults Living in their Parents' Home," a working paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 11–14, 2007, <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/young-adults-in-parents-home.pdf](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/young-adults-in-parents-home.pdf)>.

<sup>22</sup> Estimates from ACS data show that about 7.8 percent of young adults aged 18 to 24 lived in college/university housing. See Tables S2601B and B01001, accessible on American FactFinder at <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_S2601B&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S2601B&prodType=table)> and <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_B01001&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B01001&prodType=table)>.

<sup>23</sup> In 2012, the median age at first marriage was 28.6 for men and 26.6 for women. See historical Table MS-2, accessible on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/ms2.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/ms2.xls)>.

<sup>24</sup> See Elizabeth Arias, 2012, "United States Life Tables, 2008," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 61(3), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

Table 3.

**Living Arrangements of Younger and Older Adults by Age: CPS 2012**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>YOUNGER ADULTS</b>				
<b>Total, 18 to 34 Years</b>				
Total .....	<b>35,612</b>	<b>35,714</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Living alone .....	2,976	2,482	8.4	7.0
Living with spouse .....	9,163	11,625	25.7	32.5
Living with an unmarried partner .....	4,139	4,627	11.6	13.0
Child of the householder—not living with a spouse or partner <sup>1</sup> .....	12,254	9,639	34.4	27.0
Other living arrangement .....	7,079	7,341	19.9	20.6
<b>18 to 24 Years</b>				
Total .....	<b>15,154</b>	<b>14,971</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Living alone .....	653	724	4.3	4.8
Living with spouse .....	925	1,592	6.1	10.6
Living with an unmarried partner .....	1,151	1,765	7.6	11.8
Child of the householder—not living with a spouse or partner <sup>1</sup> .....	9,008	7,626	59.4	50.9
Other living arrangement .....	3,417	3,265	22.6	21.8
<b>25 to 34 Years</b>				
Total .....	<b>20,458</b>	<b>20,743</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Living alone .....	2,323	1,758	11.4	8.5
Living with spouse .....	8,238	10,033	40.3	48.4
Living with an unmarried partner .....	2,988	2,862	14.6	13.8
Child of the householder—not living with a spouse or partner <sup>1</sup> .....	3,247	2,014	15.9	9.7
Other living arrangement .....	3,662	4,076	17.9	19.6
<b>OLDER ADULTS</b>				
<b>Total, 65 Years and Over</b>				
Total .....	<b>18,333</b>	<b>23,160</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Living alone .....	3,462	8,355	18.9	36.1
Living with spouse .....	13,216	10,335	72.1	44.6
Living with an unmarried partner .....	430	305	2.3	1.3
Other living arrangement .....	1,225	4,164	6.7	18.0
<b>65 to 74 Years</b>				
Total .....	<b>10,980</b>	<b>12,393</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Living alone .....	1,829	3,369	16.7	27.2
Living with spouse .....	8,199	6,875	74.7	55.5
Living with an unmarried partner .....	274	230	2.5	1.9
Other living arrangement .....	678	1,920	6.2	15.4
<b>75 years and Over</b>				
Total .....	<b>7,353</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Living alone .....	1,633	4,987	22.2	46.3
Living with spouse .....	5,017	3,461	68.2	32.1
Living with an unmarried partner .....	156	75	2.1	0.7
Other living arrangement .....	548	2,244	7.5	20.8

<sup>1</sup> The CPS counts students living in dormitories as living in their parents' home.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

56 percent of women aged 65 to 74 resided with their spouse, compared with 68 percent of men and only 32 percent of women who were aged 75 or older.

**Fewer women 65 and over lived alone in 2012 than in 2003 (Table 3).**

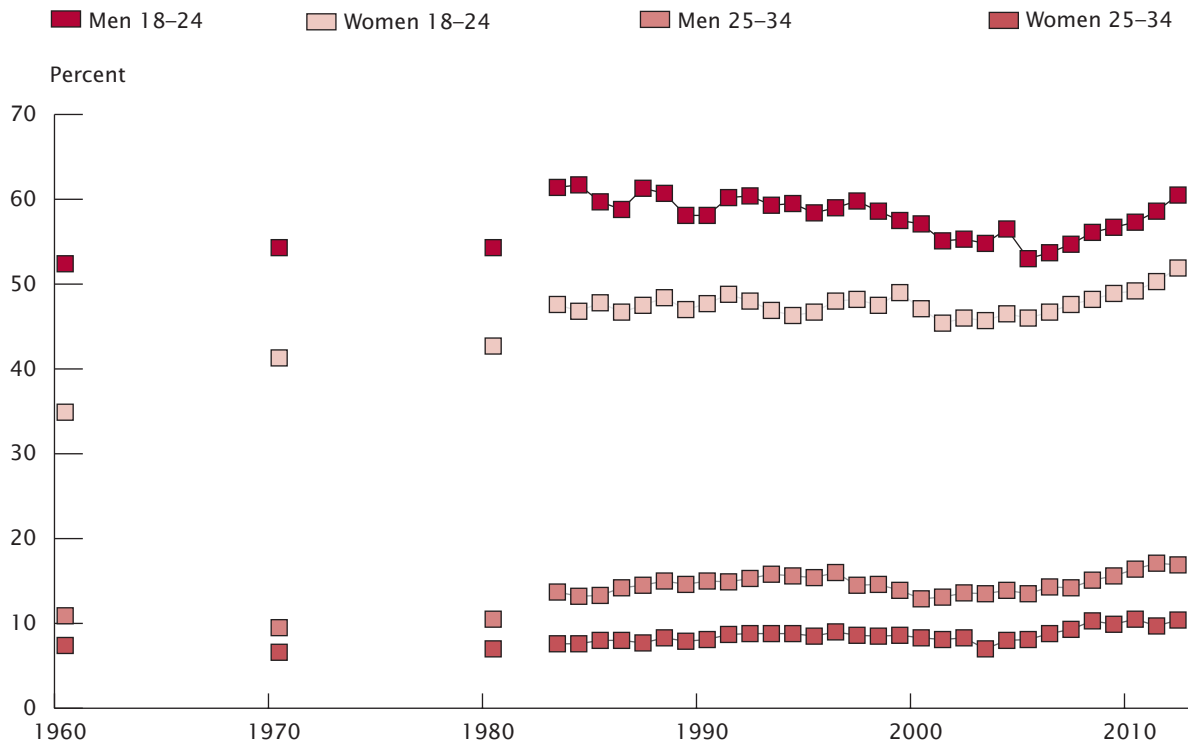
Consistent with trends shown in Figure 2, the percentage of women aged 65 or older who lived alone declined between 2003 and 2012,

from 40 percent to 36 percent.<sup>25</sup> During the same period, the percentage of older women who lived with a spouse rose from 41 percent to 45 percent. Nonetheless, the

<sup>25</sup> See Table 7, Jason Fields, 2003, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003," *Current Population Reports*, P20-553, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Figure 4.

**Young Adults Living in Their Parents' Home, 1960 to 2012: Census and CPS**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960, 1970, and 1980 Census, and Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1983 to 2012.

share of men in this age group who lived alone or with a spouse did not change during this period. These trends likely reflect the gradually closing gap between male and female life expectancy.<sup>26</sup>

**More men and women aged 18 to 34 lived in their parents' home in 2012 than in the early 2000s (Figure 4).**

Figure 4 shows the percentage of young adults who lived in their

<sup>26</sup> Between 1996 and 2008, the male-female gap in life expectancy at birth narrowed from 6 to 5 years. See Robert N. Anderson, 1998, "United States Abridged Life Tables, 1996," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47(13), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD; Elizabeth Arias, 2012, "United States Life Tables, 2008," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 61(3), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

parents' home between 1960 and 2012. Between 2000 and 2012, the trend has been for a rising share of young adult men and women to live in their parents' home, among both 18- to 24-year-olds and 25- to 34-year-olds. This living arrangement was much more common among 18- to 24-year-olds than among the older group of young adults. These trends in young adult living arrangements follow a broader pattern in the United States in which young adults are experiencing the traditional markers of adulthood, such as starting a family, leaving their parents' home, and establishing stable careers, later in life than previous recent

generations did.<sup>27</sup> Importantly, the CPS, but not the decennial census, counts students living in dormitories as living in their parents' home. A nontrivial number of young adults were enrolled in college or graduate school: 43 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds.<sup>28</sup> This difference in survey design helps account for the apparent increase in this living

<sup>27</sup> Francis Goldscheider and Calvin Goldscheider, 1999, "The Changing Transition to Adulthood: Leaving and Returning Home," Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage; Maria Lacovou, 2002, "Regional Differences in the Transition to Adulthood," *Annals of the American Academy of Political Social Science*, 580:40-69; Jeffrey Jensen Arnett, 2007, "Emerging Adulthood: What is it and what is it Good for?" *Child Development Perspectives*, 1:68-73.

<sup>28</sup> See Table B14004, accessible on American FactFinder at <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_B14004&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B14004&prodType=table)>.

arrangement between 1980 (decennial census data) and 1983 (CPS data).

## AMERICA'S FAMILIES

The family is a vital institution in American society and serves as a major source of support and socialization for individuals, especially children. The CPS can identify family units regardless of whether they include the householder. For example, if a mother and child live in the home of the mother's parents, then the mother and her child are considered a separate family group. This section of the report highlights several trends in America's families and family groups:

### Family Groups

Households can contain more than one married-couple family or one-parent family. Nonfamily households can contain families that are not related to the householder. 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 the subfamily.

Table 4.

### Family Groups by Race and Hispanic Origin of Reference Person: CPS 2012

(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)
<b>Number</b> .....	<b>85,463</b>	<b>68,080</b>	<b>56,299</b>	<b>10,459</b>	<b>4,621</b>	<b>13,046</b>
Married couple .....	61,047	51,545	44,264	4,521	3,666	7,889
With children under 18 <sup>1</sup> .....	24,445	20,035	15,760	1,961	1,779	4,655
Without children under 18 .....	36,602	31,510	28,505	2,560	1,888	3,234
Unmarried parent couple <sup>2</sup> .....	1,859	1,402	881	301	66	609
Mother only with children under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	10,322	6,566	4,521	3,035	265	2,381
Father only with children under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	1,956	1,489	1,185	324	56	345
Householder and other relative(s) <sup>4</sup> .....	10,277	7,078	5,448	2,279	568	1,822
Grandparent householder with grandchildren under 18 .....	1,249	791	590	376	33	222
Householder with adult children .....	5,747	4,067	3,406	1,337	193	734
Householder with young adult children aged 18 to 24 .....	2,371	1,607	1,294	615	71	361
Householder with parent .....	2,420	1,613	1,022	459	238	664
<b>Percent</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Married couple .....	71.4	75.7	78.6	43.2	79.3	60.5
With children under 18 <sup>1</sup> .....	28.6	29.4	28.0	18.7	38.5	35.7
Without children under 18 .....	42.8	46.3	50.6	24.5	40.9	24.8
Unmarried parent couple <sup>2</sup> .....	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.9	1.4	4.7
Mother only with children under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	12.1	9.6	8.0	29.0	5.7	18.3
Father only with children under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	2.3	2.2	2.1	3.1	1.2	2.6
Householder and other relative(s) <sup>4</sup> .....	12.0	10.4	9.7	21.8	12.3	14.0
Grandparent householder with grandchildren under 18 .....	1.5	1.2	1.0	3.6	0.7	1.7
Householder with adult children .....	6.7	6.0	6.0	12.8	4.2	5.6
Householder with young adult children aged 18 to 24 .....	2.8	2.4	2.3	5.9	1.5	2.8
Householder with parent .....	2.8	2.4	1.8	4.4	5.2	5.1

<sup>1</sup> Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.

<sup>2</sup> Includes unmarried opposite-sex couples who have at least one joint never-married child under 18 years.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Subcategories of "householder and other relative(s)" are not mutually exclusive.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

- Married families tended to be economically advantaged compared with other families, but the economic well-being of all families has worsened since 2007.
- Married families were still the most common family arrangement and tended to be prevalent in the Plains States, Midwest, and West.

**Married family groups have declined over time but remained the most common type of family group regardless of race or Hispanic origin (Table 4).**

Married couples, especially those with children under the age of 18, have made up a declining share of family groups over time, while other family groups have become more common (Table 4). In 2012, 71 percent of family groups were married couples, down from 74 percent in 2003.<sup>29</sup> Of these married couples, 40 percent had children under the age of 18, down from 45 percent in 2003.<sup>30</sup> Both the absolute number and relative size of all other types of family groups, except for unmarried mothers, have increased since 2007.<sup>31</sup> These groups include unmarried-parent couples,<sup>32</sup> unmarried fathers with children under the age of 18, and

<sup>29</sup> See Table 3, Jason Fields, 2003, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003," *Current Population Reports*, P20-553, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

<sup>30</sup> See Table 3, Jason Fields, 2003, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003," *Current Population Reports*, P20-553, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

<sup>31</sup> See Table 2, Rose M. Kreider and Diana Elliott, 2009, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007," *Current Population Reports*, P20-561, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

<sup>32</sup> CPS data can better identify these groups in 2007–2012 than in 2003. Beginning in 2007, the CPS added a direct question to measure cohabitation. See Rose M. Kreider, 2008, "Improvements to Demographic Household Data in the Current Population Survey: 2007," <[www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps08/twps08.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps08/twps08.pdf)>.

householders who live with other relatives.

Table 4 shows that the most common family group was married couples, regardless of race or Hispanic origin. The distribution of family groups varied depending on the race and Hispanic origin of the family reference person, however. Married family groups, for example, were more common among Whites and Asians (76 percent and 79 percent, respectively) than Blacks or Hispanics (43 percent and 61 percent, respectively). Blacks had the highest percentage of mother-only family groups and householders living with other relatives (29 percent and 22 percent, respectively), followed by Hispanics (18 percent and 14 percent, respectively). Unmarried-parent couples were most common among Hispanics, at 5 percent. Since 2007, householders living with other relatives have increased across all racial and ethnic groups; they now make up a larger share of family groups than they did 5 years ago.

**The percentage of mother-only and father-only family groups increased since 2007 (Table 5).**

Table 5 details characteristics of the nearly 39 million family groups with children under 18 years old and highlights three noteworthy trends. First, married parents were economically advantaged compared with other family groups with children under the age of 18. Second, father-only family groups were in better economic standing than mother-only family groups. And third, the economic welfare of all family groups with children under the age of 18 declined since 2007.

Overall, married couples made up the majority of family groups with children under the age of 18 (63 percent). This percentage decreased since 2007, however,

when they made up 67 percent of family groups with children. Across the same period, the percentage of mother-only family groups rose from 25 to 27 percent while that of unmarried couples with children and father-only family groups each rose from 4 to 5 percent.

**Married parents were the most economically advantaged of all the family groups with children under the age of 18 (Table 5).**

The economic advantage of married families is consistent with research showing that marriage is associated with greater wealth.<sup>33</sup> Married parents were more likely to be college educated and to be homeowners compared with unmarried parents and with mother-only and father-only families.<sup>34</sup> Nine percent of married-family groups were living below the poverty level and 9 percent were receiving food stamps compared with 4 times as many mother-only families who were living below poverty or receiving food stamps.

Not all one-parent family groups were similarly disadvantaged. Father-only groups were in better economic standing than mother-only groups, evidenced by their better educational attainment, higher rates of employment and homeownership, and lower rates of food stamp receipt (Table 5). Roughly 19 percent of these single fathers had a bachelor's degree, compared with 17 percent of the single mothers. Furthermore, over

<sup>33</sup> See, for example, Daniel Schneider, 2011, "Wealth and the Marital Divide," *American Journal of Sociology*, 177:627–667. See also, Jonathan Vespa and Matthew A. Painter II, 2011, "Cohabitation History, Marriage, and Wealth Accumulation," *Demography*, 48:983–1004. Scholars have found both that wealthier people are more likely to marry and married people accumulate more wealth.

<sup>34</sup> Note that the share of unmarried parents who were homeowners was not significantly different from the share of mother-only families who were homeowners.



Table 5.

**Family Groups With Children Under 18<sup>1</sup> by Selected Characteristics: CPS 2012**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number				Percent			
	Two parents		One parent		Two parents		One parent	
	Married parents	Unmarried parents <sup>2</sup>	Mom only	Dad only	Married parents	Unmarried parents <sup>2</sup>	Mom only	Dad only
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>24,445</b>	<b>1,859</b>	<b>10,322</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age of Reference Person</b>								
Under 20 years .....	18	26	225	11	0.1	1.4	2.2	0.6
20 to 24 years .....	466	237	1,278	76	1.9	12.7	12.4	3.9
25 to 29 years .....	1,901	484	1,559	200	7.8	26.0	15.1	10.2
30 to 34 years .....	3,790	402	1,890	320	15.5	21.6	18.3	16.4
35 to 39 years .....	4,763	246	1,858	367	19.5	13.2	18.0	18.8
40 to 44 years .....	5,064	230	1,507	358	20.7	12.4	14.6	18.3
45 years and over .....	8,442	235	2,006	624	34.5	12.6	19.4	31.9
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin of Reference Person</b>								
White alone .....	20,024	1,366	6,566	1,489	81.9	73.5	63.6	76.1
Non-Hispanic .....	15,751	832	4,521	1,185	64.4	44.8	43.8	60.6
Black alone .....	2,047	340	3,035	324	8.4	18.3	29.4	16.6
Asian alone .....	1,728	65	265	56	7.1	3.5	2.6	2.9
Other race .....	646	88	457	87	2.6	4.7	4.4	4.4
Hispanic (any race) .....	4,647	613	2,381	345	19.0	33.0	23.1	17.6
<b>Education of Male</b>								
Less than high school .....	2,786	476	X	268	11.4	25.6	X	13.7
High school graduate .....	6,335	780	X	793	25.9	42.0	X	40.5
Some college .....	6,143	462	X	519	25.1	24.9	X	26.5
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	9,180	141	X	376	37.6	7.6	X	19.2
<b>Education of Female</b>								
Less than high school .....	2,391	408	1,688	X	9.8	21.9	16.4	X
High school graduate .....	5,446	636	3,229	X	22.3	34.2	31.3	X
Some college .....	6,769	610	3,677	X	27.7	32.8	35.6	X
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	9,839	206	1,729	X	40.2	11.1	16.8	X
<b>Employment of Male</b>								
Not employed .....	2,625	428	X	446	10.7	23.0	X	22.8
Employed .....	21,820	1,432	X	1,510	89.3	77.0	X	77.2
<b>Employment of Female</b>								
Not employed .....	8,542	819	3,448	X	34.9	44.1	33.4	X
Employed .....	15,903	1,040	6,875	X	65.1	55.9	66.6	X
<b>Household Receives Food Stamps</b>								
Receives food stamps .....	2,263	607	4,010	366	9.3	32.7	38.8	18.7
Does not receive food stamps .....	22,182	1,252	6,312	1,590	90.7	67.3	61.2	81.3
<b>Tenure</b>								
Owned home .....	17,919	668	3,908	1,105	73.3	35.9	37.9	56.5
Rented home <sup>3</sup> .....	6,526	1,192	6,415	851	26.7	64.1	62.1	43.5
<b>Poverty Status<sup>4</sup></b>								
Below 100 percent of poverty .....	2,168	785	3,960	351	8.9	42.2	38.4	17.9
100 to 199 percent of poverty .....	4,159	530	2,945	522	17.0	28.5	28.5	26.7
200 percent of poverty and above .....	18,118	545	3,418	1,084	74.1	29.3	33.1	55.4

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.<sup>2</sup> Includes unmarried opposite-sex couples who have at least one joint never-married child under 18 years.<sup>3</sup> "No cash rent" is included with rented home.<sup>4</sup> For both primary families and subfamilies, poverty status of the primary family is shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.



half (57 percent) of the father-only groups were homeowners, compared with 38 percent of the mother-only groups.

One reason for these differences is that the fathers were older than the mothers, which reflects a common route to single parenthood for men and women in the United States. Most fathers who become single parents do so through divorce whereas single mothers are more often never married. Table 6 shows that of all the children who lived with their father only, 44 percent had a divorced father but 47 percent of children who lived with their mother only had a never-married mother.<sup>35</sup>

**The share of one-parent family groups that fathers maintained rose from 10 to 17 percent between 1980 and 2012 (Table 6).**

Table 6 reinforces the finding that one-parent family groups were concentrated in the South, as was shown in Figure 6. The table also reveals that regional variation depends on the parent's race and Hispanic origin. For example, Asian and Hispanic one-parent family groups lived predominantly in the West, while Black one-parent groups lived predominantly in the South. These patterns most likely reflect historical trends in residence and migration across the United States.<sup>36</sup> Table 6 also shows differences between father-only and mother-only family groups. For example, children in father-only family groups were more likely to live with the parent's cohabiting partner than children in mother-only family groups. In addition, more mother-only family groups

<sup>35</sup> See Table C3 accessible on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps2012.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps2012.html)>.

<sup>36</sup> See Karen R. Humes et al., 2011, "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010," *2010 Census Brief*, C2010BR-02, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

## Cohabitation

**Cohabitation.** This report uses the terms unmarried partner, cohabiting partner, and cohabiter interchangeably. Since 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 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. In the ACS, a relationship category for unmarried partner has been available since its inception in 2005.

had young children, under the age of 6, in the household as father-only family groups.

**Married households with their own children under the age of 18 were more prevalent in the Plains States, Midwest, and West (Figure 5).**

Following national trends in America's families, Figures 5–7 show geographic differences in the prevalence of family households. Research has shown that regional variations in married and unmarried households are related to the job opportunities of men and women and the availability of potential mates in a given area.<sup>37</sup>

Figure 5 shows the percentage of U.S. households with children under the age of 18 that married couples maintained (67 percent) and whether the estimate for each state was above or below the national average. The figure shows distinct regional differences. States with a percentage of married-parent households that was below the national estimate were concentrated near the Great Lakes and in

<sup>37</sup> See, for example, Daniel T. Lichter et al., 1991, "Local Marriage Markets and the Marital Behavior of Black and White Women," *American Journal of Sociology*, 96:843–867; R. Kelly Raley, 1996, "A Shortage of Marriageable Men? A Note on the Role of Cohabitation in Black-White Differences in Marriage Rates," *American Sociological Review*, 61:973–983; and Scott J. South and Kim M. Lloyd, 1992, "Marriage Opportunities and Family Formation: Further Implications of Imbalanced Sex Ratios," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 54:440–451.

the South and Southwest. These households were more prevalent in the Plains States, West, and parts of the Midwest. Washington, DC, had the lowest share (42 percent) while Utah had the highest (79 percent).

**One-parent households with children under the age of 18 were more prevalent in states near the Great Lakes and in the South and Southwest (Figure 6).**

Figure 6 forms nearly a mirror image of the previous figure. States with the smallest shares of married-parent households typically had the highest shares of one-parent households. States with percentages of one-parent households that were higher than the national estimate were concentrated near the Great Lakes and in the South and parts of the Southwest. States with the smallest shares included Utah (18 percent), Hawaii (20 percent), and Minnesota (20 percent).<sup>38</sup> Places with the largest shares included Washington, DC (49 percent), Mississippi (36 percent), and Louisiana (34 percent).

In addition to married parents and single parents, children may live in a household with two unmarried

<sup>38</sup> The proportion of one-parent households did not differ statistically for Utah versus Hawaii or Minnesota versus Hawaii.

Table 6.

**One-Parent Family Groups by Sex and Selected Characteristics: CPS 2012**

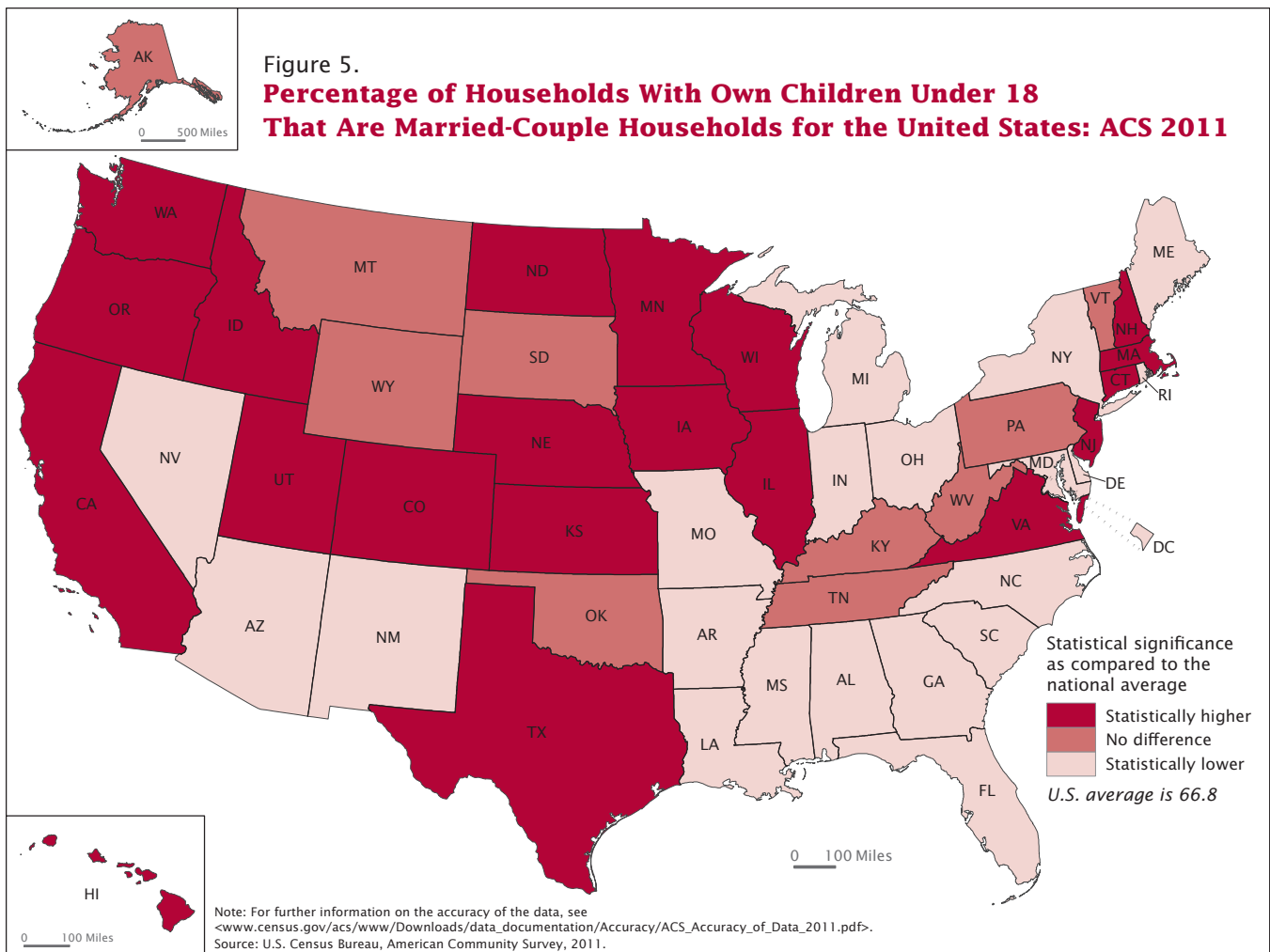
(In thousands)

Characteristic	Maintained by father							Maintained by mother						
	Total	Race and Hispanic origin						Total	Race and Hispanic origin					
		White alone	White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)	White alone		White alone, non-Hispanic	Black alone	Asian alone	Hispanic (any race)		
<b>All one-parent family groups . . .</b>	<b>14,473</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>12,020</b>	<b>7,642</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>3,545</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>2,643</b>	
<b>Region</b>														
Northeast . . . . .	2,500	396	319	277	62	7	49	2,104	1,400	1,014	614	52	515	
Midwest . . . . .	3,134	539	441	408	72	6	43	2,595	1,732	1,523	720	29	234	
South . . . . .	5,706	916	657	541	226	14	116	4,790	2,658	1,835	1,895	91	904	
West . . . . .	3,133	602	461	286	42	45	205	2,531	1,852	998	316	144	990	
<b>Living Arrangement</b>														
Parent is sole adult . . . . .	5,376	761	565	468	144	26	118	4,615	2,722	1,889	1,612	79	944	
Parent has cohabiting partner . . . . .	1,593	486	377	301	83	5	79	1,107	869	697	137	26	226	
Another adult age 18 or older is present . . . . .	7,504	1,206	937	742	176	40	217	6,298	4,052	2,784	1,795	212	1,473	
<b>Number of Own Children Under 25</b>														
1 child . . . . .	7,738	1,571	1,206	968	271	37	273	6,167	4,004	3,007	1,713	170	1,166	
2 children . . . . .	4,383	655	508	423	98	19	96	3,729	2,424	1,687	1,043	101	857	
3 children . . . . .	1,639	192	140	102	30	14	39	1,447	858	505	507	35	403	
4 or more children . . . . .	714	36	24	19	4	3	6	678	355	171	282	11	217	
<b>Number of Own Children Under 18</b>														
None . . . . .	2,197	497	389	327	79	16	69	1,700	1,078	851	510	52	263	
1 child . . . . .	6,871	1,255	969	762	209	31	235	5,615	3,662	2,672	1,549	151	1,155	
2 children . . . . .	3,603	531	398	333	83	19	77	3,072	1,967	1,329	883	82	749	
3 children . . . . .	1,281	147	106	77	28	5	30	1,134	679	391	391	22	326	
4 or more children . . . . .	523	23	15	12	4	2	3	499	256	128	212	9	151	
<b>Presence of Own Children Under 25<sup>1</sup></b>														
With own children under 25 . . . . .	14,473	2,453	1,878	1,512	403	72	414	12,020	7,642	5,371	3,545	317	2,643	
With own children under 18 . . . . .	12,277	1,956	1,489	1,185	324	56	345	10,321	6,564	4,520	3,035	265	2,381	
With own children under 12 . . . . .	8,645	1,211	880	690	225	40	215	7,434	4,650	3,080	2,257	191	1,818	
With own children under 6 . . . . .	4,837	525	381	282	102	12	108	4,312	2,667	1,671	1,346	97	1,143	
With own children under 3 . . . . .	2,415	200	146	102	32	7	50	2,215	1,378	852	694	46	608	
With own children under 1 . . . . .	747	52	37	30	9	Z	7	695	429	284	228	16	162	
<b>Education</b>														
Less than high school . . . . .	2,191	316	253	131	37	16	123	1,875	1,243	440	484	45	901	
High school graduate . . . . .	4,742	969	736	600	167	23	160	3,773	2,315	1,615	1,250	59	810	
Some college . . . . .	4,925	674	491	435	137	12	71	4,251	2,662	2,090	1,298	72	694	
Bachelor's degree or higher . . . . .	2,614	493	399	346	62	21	59	2,121	1,422	1,226	512	141	239	
<b>Marital Status</b>														
Never married . . . . .	5,926	651	425	286	181	14	151	5,275	2,669	1,649	2,262	86	1,211	
Divorced . . . . .	5,202	1,159	969	866	120	26	117	4,043	3,118	2,506	692	98	692	
Separated <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2,662	512	385	280	81	25	121	2,149	1,455	881	498	104	662	
Widowed . . . . .	684	131	99	79	21	8	24	553	400	335	94	29	78	
<b>Poverty Status in 2011<sup>3</sup></b>														
Below 100 percent of poverty . . . . .	4,646	402	283	204	89	9	84	4,243	2,454	1,473	1,524	60	1,148	
100 to 199 percent of poverty . . . . .	3,981	616	431	326	134	21	125	3,365	2,141	1,419	951	97	840	
200 percent of poverty and above . . . . .	5,846	1,435	1,164	981	180	42	204	4,412	3,047	2,478	1,069	160	655	

Z Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes ever-married children under 25 years.<sup>2</sup> Separated includes married spouse absent.<sup>3</sup> For both primary families and subfamilies, poverty status of the primary family is shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.



parents (Figure 7).<sup>39</sup> Although one-parent households were concentrated in the South (Figure 6), unmarried parents living with an unmarried partner were concentrated in the West and Southwest. States with estimates that were higher than the national average included Alaska (11 percent), Maine (11 percent), New Mexico (11 percent), and Wyoming (10 percent).<sup>40</sup> States with the lowest percentages included Utah (4 percent),

Arkansas (5 percent), and Alabama (5 percent).<sup>41</sup>

### AMERICA'S SPOUSES, PARTNERS, AND COUPLES

Intimate relationships form an integral element of adult life and are an important source of support and well-being. Indeed, about 86 percent of young men and 89 percent of young women are projected to marry at some point in their lives.<sup>42</sup> This report looks at three kinds of couples: (1) married spouses who are of the opposite

sex, (2) unmarried couples living together who are of the opposite sex, and (3) same-sex couples who are either married or living together unmarried. This section highlights several trends in America's spouses, partners, and couples:

- Cohabitation has rapidly expanded in recent decades, led primarily by changes in young adults' living arrangements.
- Married parents were older, better educated, and had higher earnings than cohabiting parents.
- Interracial relationships were more common among opposite-sex cohabiters and same-sex couples than among opposite-sex married couples.

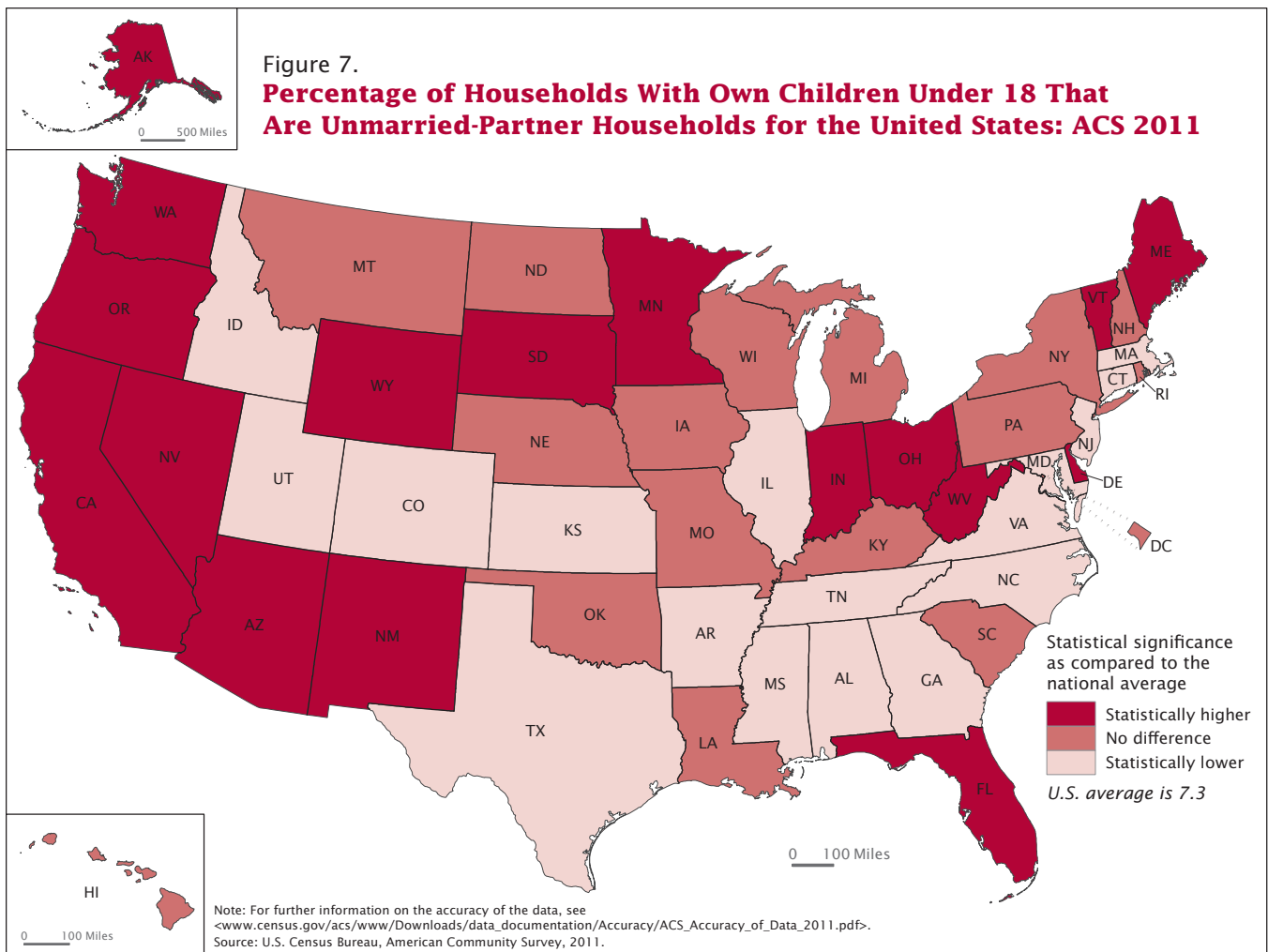
<sup>39</sup> In ACS data, only the relationship to householder is collected, so we cannot determine whether the unmarried partner of the householder is also the parent of the householder's child.

<sup>40</sup> Although all of these states had a high proportion of unmarried-parent households compared with the United States overall, they do not differ statistically from one another.

<sup>41</sup> The percentage of unmarried-parent households did not differ statistically for Arkansas versus Alabama.

<sup>42</sup> See Table 11, Rose M. Kreider and Jason Fields, 2002, "Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: 1996," *Current Population Reports*, P70-80, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.





at least \$50,000, compared with 21 percent of male cohabiters and 12 percent of female cohabiters. One reason for the discrepancy in employment is that spouses are older than cohabiters. Thus a higher proportion of married individuals may be retired and out of the labor force.<sup>44</sup>

In economic terms cohabiters are faring worse today than they were a decade ago. Although the percentage of female cohabiters with a bachelor's degree increased in the last decade, the percentage who were employed and had earnings declined. About 18 percent of

<sup>44</sup> Note, however, that the percentage of married men who were not in the labor force did not statistically differ from the percentage of cohabiting women who were not in the labor force.

male cohabiters and 27 percent of female cohabiters had no earnings in 2012, up from 11 percent and 20 percent respectively in 2003.<sup>45</sup>

**Married parents were older and better educated than cohabiting parents (Table 7).**

In general, the patterns observed for cohabiting partners and spouses also extended to parents, but cohabiting parents tended to be very young. About 23 percent of cohabiting women and 13 percent of cohabiting men who had children under the age of 18 were between 15 and 24 years old; the corresponding figures for male and female spouses were 2 percent and

<sup>45</sup> See Table 8, Jason Fields, 2003, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003," *Current Population Reports*, P20-553, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

4 percent, respectively. Married parents were also better educated. For example, 40 percent of married women with children under the age of 18 had a bachelor's degree, compared with 12 percent of their cohabiting counterparts.

**The majority of spouses in opposite-sex married couples were married to someone within 5 years of their own age (Table 8).**

People commonly marry someone who has similar characteristics as themselves. For example, college-educated people tend to marry other college-educated people, and members of one race tend to marry



Table 7.

**Characteristics of Male-Female Unmarried Partners and Spouses by Sex: CPS 2012**

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Unmarried partners				Married spouses			
	Total		With children under 18 <sup>1</sup>		Total		With children under 18 <sup>1</sup>	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>7,845</b>	<b>7,845</b>	<b>3,202</b>	<b>3,202</b>	<b>61,047</b>	<b>61,047</b>	<b>24,445</b>	<b>24,445</b>
<b>Age</b>								
15 to 24 years .....	1,124	1,723	402	721	933	1,618	485	885
25 to 34 years .....	2,850	2,723	1,386	1,401	8,238	10,033	5,692	7,320
35 to 44 years .....	1,562	1,402	858	796	12,256	12,731	9,828	10,113
45 to 54 years .....	1,176	1,102	419	251	13,914	14,207	6,752	5,410
55 to 64 years .....	755	646	111	26	12,491	12,123	1,447	608
65 years and over .....	378	249	26	7	13,216	10,335	243	109
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>								
White alone .....	6,242	6,672	2,413	2,651	51,592	51,347	20,024	19,987
Non-Hispanic .....	4,962	5,072	1,642	1,728	44,323	43,932	15,751	15,751
Black alone .....	1,094	920	545	456	4,652	4,373	2,047	1,884
Asian alone .....	197	253	84	95	3,528	3,985	1,728	1,897
Hispanic (any race) .....	1,468	1,446	906	897	7,875	8,115	4,647	4,757
<b>Education</b>								
Less than high school .....	1,152	1,012	691	583	6,865	5,728	2,786	2,391
High school graduate .....	3,062	2,474	1,379	1,110	17,656	17,887	6,335	5,446
Some college .....	2,130	2,622	840	1,124	15,047	16,551	6,143	6,769
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	1,501	1,737	293	385	21,480	20,882	9,180	9,839
<b>Employment Status</b>								
Employed .....	5,867	5,160	2,488	1,892	43,098	34,458	21,820	15,903
Unemployed .....	738	588	345	295	2,526	1,940	1,158	859
Not in labor force .....	1,240	2,096	369	1,015	15,424	24,650	1,467	7,684
<b>Earnings in 2011</b>								
Without earnings .....	1,385	2,130	456	1,015	15,319	24,041	1,725	7,483
With earnings .....	6,459	5,714	2,746	2,187	45,728	37,007	22,721	16,963
Under \$5,000 or less .....	335	504	153	268	1,446	2,525	429	1,282
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	381	535	177	255	1,373	2,617	495	1,256
\$10,000 to \$14,999 .....	527	629	229	267	1,926	3,136	791	1,554
\$15,000 to \$19,999 .....	554	605	260	260	2,033	3,160	1,004	1,408
\$20,000 to \$24,999 .....	619	583	280	237	2,629	3,469	1,336	1,521
\$25,000 to \$29,999 .....	612	484	283	176	2,330	2,779	1,147	1,168
\$30,000 to \$39,999 .....	1,041	925	458	304	5,898	5,461	3,023	2,489
\$40,000 to \$49,999 .....	756	502	330	154	5,370	4,081	2,778	1,891
\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	965	625	360	185	9,894	5,720	4,983	2,511
\$75,000 and over .....	670	322	214	80	12,829	4,059	6,733	1,885

<sup>1</sup> May be biological, step, or adopted children of either or both partners. Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

someone of the same race.<sup>46</sup> Tables 8 and 9 look at the three kinds of couples detailed in this study and

ask how similar spouses and partners are to each other.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Here, we show all same-sex couples as a group, rather than distinguish between same-sex married and unmarried couples. In the 2011 ACS, about 1 percent of all coupled households in the United States reported as same-sex couples, totaling about 605,000 households. About 28 percent reported themselves as spouses. See Tables 1 and 3 accessible on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <[www.census.gov/hhes/samesex/files/sssex-tables-2011.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/samesex/files/sssex-tables-2011.xls)>. For more information on same-sex couples, see also, Daphne Lofquist, 2011, "Same-Sex Couple Households," *American Community Survey Brief*, ACSBR/10-03, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Opposite-sex spouses were the most similar in age. About three-quarters (77 percent) had spouses whose ages were within 5 years of one another compared with two-thirds (68 percent) of opposite-sex cohabiters and 60 percent of same-sex couples. Same-sex couples were less similar in age: one-fifth of the couples (21 percent) had a partner who was at least 10 years older than the other, twice as high as opposite-sex married couples. This pattern differed by gender:

<sup>46</sup> Debra Blackwell and Daniel T. Lichter, 2005, "Homogamy among Dating, Cohabiting, and Married Couples," *The Sociological Quarterly*, 45:719-737; Christine R. Schwartz and Robert D. Mare, 2005, "Trends in Educational Assortative Marriage from 1940 to 2003," *Demography*, 42:621-646; and Zhenchao Qian, 1998, "Changes in Assortative Mating: The Impact of Age and Education, 1970-1990," *Demography*, 35:279-292.



about 25 percent of male same-sex couples had one partner at least 10 years older, compared with 18 percent of female same-sex couples. Same-sex couples face more restricted dating pools than opposite-sex couples, which may explain their wider age gaps between partners.<sup>48</sup>

**Interracial and interethnic couples were least common among opposite-sex spouses (Tables 8 and 9).**

In this report, the term interracial refers to couples where one partner is a different race than the other partner; interethnic refers to couples where one partner is Hispanic and the other is non-Hispanic. Interracial marriages among opposite-sex couples were relatively rare. Relationships in which both partners were the same race were the most prevalent among opposite-sex spouses, at 96 percent. This figure compared with 91 percent of opposite-sex cohabiting couples and 88 percent of same-sex couples.<sup>49</sup> Interethnic couples were equally rare among opposite-sex spouses: just 4 percent had one Hispanic and one non-Hispanic spouse. The corresponding figures for opposite-sex cohabiters and same-sex couples were over twice as high, at 9 percent and 10 percent respectively.

**More same-sex couples had two college-educated partners than opposite-sex married couples (Tables 8 and 9).**

Same-sex couples had the highest share (31 percent) of unions in

<sup>48</sup> See Michael J. Rosenfeld and Reuben J. Thomas, 2012, "Searching for a Mate: The Rise of the Internet as a Social Intermediary," *American Sociological Review*, 77:523–547; and Michael J. Rosenfeld, 2007, "The Age of Independence: Interracial Unions, Same-Sex Unions, and the Changing American Family," Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

<sup>49</sup> Note that the percentage of opposite-sex cohabiters who were in an interracial relationship was not statistically different from the percentage of same-sex couples.

which both partners had a bachelor's degree, followed by opposite-sex married couples (24 percent) and opposite-sex cohabiting couples (12 percent).

**Eighty-seven percent of married parents with children under 18 had only biological children of both spouses present, compared with 51 percent of cohabiting couples (Table 8).<sup>50</sup>**

Equal shares of opposite-sex cohabiters (41 percent) and opposite-sex spouses (40 percent) had children under the age of 18 present in the household. Far fewer same-sex couples (16 percent) had children under the age of 18 present. Among opposite-sex parents, however, almost 9 in 10 spouses had children who were the biological offspring of both spouses, compared with only 51 percent of cohabiting parents. Over one-third of these cohabiting couples (38 percent) had children who were the offspring of only one partner. Thus, more cohabiting adults lived with children who were not biologically related to them than did married spouses.<sup>51</sup> Among same-sex unions children were far more prevalent in female than male couples. Of all the same-sex couples who had children under the age of 18 in the household, 70 percent were female-female couples, and 30 percent were male-male couples.

**FAMILY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND THE 2007–2009 RECESSION**

This section of the report focuses on changes in children's living arrangements and economic well-being around the most recent recession, which began

<sup>50</sup> Table 8 does not show this percentage but it can be calculated from the numbers in the table.

<sup>51</sup> Note that opposite-sex cohabiters and same-sex couples were not statistically different from one another.

in December 2007 and officially ended in June 2009. The welfare of children concerns parents, policymakers, and researchers alike because social, economic, and developmental experiences during childhood may have lasting consequences through adulthood and later life.<sup>52</sup> This section highlights several trends in children's living arrangements and family economic well-being during the recession:

- Children living with two married parents resided in the most economically advantaged households, compared with children living in other family arrangements.
- The share of children living with one parent varied widely by race and Hispanic origin.
- The economic well-being of households with children declined during the recession, evidenced by a drop in homeownership and rise in unemployment rates among households with children.
- The percentage of stay-at-home mothers declined during the recession and did not return to its prerecession level until 2012.

**The majority of children in the United States lived with two married parents (Table 10).**

The most common family arrangement for the 74 million children in the United States in 2012 was living with two married parents (64 percent) (Table 10). This arrangement was less common than it was a decade ago, when 69 percent of children lived with two married

<sup>52</sup> See Susan L. Brown, 2006, "Family Structure Transitions and Adolescent Well-Being," *Demography*, 43:447–461; Wendy D. Manning and Susan Brown, 2006, "Children's Economic Well-Being in Married and Cohabiting Parent Families," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 68:345–362; R. Kelly Raley and Elizabeth Wildsmith, 2004, "Cohabitation and Children's Family Instability," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66:210–219.

Table 8.

**Characteristics of Male-Female Unmarried and Married Couples: CPS 2012**

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Unmarried couples			Married couples		
	Total	With children under 18 <sup>1</sup>	No children under 18	Total	With children under 18 <sup>1</sup>	No children under 18
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>7,845</b>	<b>3,202</b>	<b>4,642</b>	<b>61,047</b>	<b>24,445</b>	<b>36,602</b>
<b>Age Difference</b>						
Male 10 or more years older than female .....	852	389	462	4,576	1,816	2,759
Male 6 to 9 years older than female .....	1,010	465	545	6,935	2,911	4,024
Male 2 to 5 years older than female .....	2,237	980	1,257	20,516	8,156	12,360
Within 1 year of each other .....	2,234	833	1,401	20,344	8,209	12,135
Female 2 to 5 years older than male .....	830	321	508	5,981	2,497	3,486
Female 6 to 9 years older than male .....	364	123	242	1,682	585	1,097
Female 10 or more years older than male .....	318	91	227	1,013	272	742
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin Difference</b>						
Both White alone, non-Hispanic .....	4,472	1,471	3,001	41,996	14,684	27,312
Both Black alone, non-Hispanic .....	738	341	397	3,860	1,554	2,306
Both Other alone or any combination, non-Hispanic .....	244	112	133	3,616	1,761	1,855
Both Hispanic .....	1,103	746	358	6,730	4,037	2,693
Neither Hispanic, different groups .....	579	222	358	2,315	1,080	1,236
One Hispanic, other non-Hispanic .....	708	312	396	2,530	1,332	1,200
<b>Race Difference</b>						
Both White alone .....	5,942	2,303	3,639	50,240	19,421	30,819
Both Black alone .....	856	425	431	4,174	1,775	2,399
Both Asian alone .....	162	75	87	3,288	1,603	1,686
Both Other alone or any combination .....	167	97	70	685	366	319
Partners identify as different races .....	717	302	415	2,660	1,280	1,379
<b>Hispanic Origin Difference<sup>2</sup></b>						
Neither Hispanic .....	6,033	2,145	3,888	51,787	19,078	32,709
Both Hispanic .....	1,103	746	358	6,730	4,037	2,693
Male Hispanic, female not .....	365	160	205	1,146	610	535
Female Hispanic, male not .....	343	152	191	1,385	720	665
<b>Type of Children</b>						
Only her children .....	859	859	X	X	X	X
Only his children .....	357	357	X	X	X	X
His children and her children .....	1,986	1,986	X	24,445	24,445	X
Only biological children of both partners .....	1,626	1,626	X	21,383	21,383	X
<b>Education Difference</b>						
Neither has Bachelor's degree .....	5,571	2,654	2,917	33,034	12,247	20,787
Male has Bachelor's degree, female has less .....	537	163	374	7,132	2,359	4,773
Female has Bachelor's degree, male has less .....	773	255	517	6,533	3,018	3,516
Both have Bachelor's degree or higher .....	964	130	834	14,348	6,821	7,527
<b>Employment Status</b>						
Both in labor force, both employed .....	4,199	1,526	2,673	28,584	14,235	14,349
Both in labor force, only male employed .....	398	203	195	1,397	669	728
Both in labor force, only female employed .....	391	173	217	1,535	714	821
Both in labor force, both unemployed .....	102	54	49	287	134	154
Male in labor force, male employed .....	1,270	759	511	13,116	6,916	6,200
Male in labor force, male unemployed .....	245	118	127	704	310	393
Female in labor force, female employed .....	571	192	378	4,339	953	3,385
Female in labor force, female unemployed .....	88	39	49	256	56	200
Not in labor force, not employed .....	581	138	443	10,830	457	10,372

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.

**Characteristics of Male-Female Unmarried and Married Couples: CPS 2012—Con.**

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Unmarried couples			Married couples		
	Total	With children under 18 <sup>1</sup>	No children under 18	Total	With children under 18 <sup>1</sup>	No children under 18
<b>Earnings Difference in 2011<sup>3</sup></b>						
Male earns \$50,000+ more . . . . .	687	279	408	13,232	6,902	6,330
Male earns \$30,000 to \$49,999 more . . . . .	850	438	412	7,495	3,989	3,505
Male earns \$10,000 to \$29,999 more . . . . .	1,825	873	951	10,126	5,234	4,891
Male earns \$5,000 to \$9,999 more . . . . .	613	233	380	2,458	1,148	1,311
Within \$4,999 of each other. . . . .	1,912	666	1,246	15,495	2,731	12,764
Female earns \$5,000 to \$9,999 more . . . . .	409	180	228	1,780	729	1,051
Female earns \$10,000 to \$29,999 more . . . . .	1,000	369	631	5,230	1,898	3,332
Female earns \$30,000 to \$49,999 more . . . . .	303	89	214	2,508	897	1,612
Female earns \$50,000+ more . . . . .	246	73	172	2,723	917	1,807

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> May be biological, step, or adopted children of either or both partners. Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.<sup>2</sup> This difference does not consider race. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.<sup>3</sup> Includes people with no earnings or loss.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

parents.<sup>53</sup> Living with their mother only (24 percent) was the next most common arrangement in 2012. Together, these two arrangements described the living situation of almost 9 in 10 children in the United States (88 percent). The remaining 12 percent of children were split fairly evenly among three other types of living arrangements: two unmarried parents, father only, and no parents.<sup>54</sup>

**Children living with two married parents typically resided in economically advantaged households (Table 10).**

Seventy percent of the children who lived with two married parents were in households that were at least 200 percent above the poverty level (Table 10). But nearly 1 in 2 children who lived with their mother only, two unmarried parents, or no parents at all were

living below the poverty level.<sup>55</sup> Children living in these other family arrangements were also more likely than those living with two married parents to receive public assistance and food stamps, and to lack health insurance coverage.

This is not to say that marriage ensures economic security for children. Of the 16 million children who lived below the poverty level, 31 percent lived with two married parents—a share that is statistically unchanged compared with 2002. What is more, the percentage receiving food stamps more than doubled since 2002, from 4 percent to 11 percent, showing that children with two married parents were also vulnerable to economic distress.

Indeed, the economic welfare of family groups with children under the age of 18 has deteriorated since the latest recession began in 2007. Even 3 years after its official end in 2009, well-being has remained lower than it was before the recession began. For example,

more family groups of all types were receiving food stamps in 2012 than in 2007 (Table 5). For married family groups, the share receiving food stamps more than doubled during this 5-year period, from 4 percent to 9 percent,<sup>56</sup> while the share of unmarried-couple parents increased from 21 percent to 33 percent, mother-only family groups increased from 28 percent to 39 percent, and father-only family groups increased from 11 percent to 19 percent.

**Twenty-eight percent of children in the United States lived with one parent (Figure 8).**

Approximately 21 million children—or about 28 percent of children in the United States—lived with one parent in 2012 (Table 10). This percentage varied depending on the child's race and Hispanic origin, however. Figure 8 shows that Asian children had the smallest proportion that lived with one parent, at 13 percent. In contrast,

<sup>53</sup> See Table 7, Jason Fields, 2003, "Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics," March 2002, *Current Population Reports*, P20-547, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

<sup>54</sup> Note that the percentage of children living with two unmarried parents does not differ statistically from the share of children living with their father only.

<sup>55</sup> The percentage of children living below the poverty level was not statistically different between those living with two unmarried parents and with their mother only.

<sup>56</sup> For information on family groups with children under the age of 18 before the recession began in 2007, see Table 3, Rose M. Kreider and Diana Elliott, 2009, "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007," *Current Population Reports*, P20-561, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Table 9.

**Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: ACS 2011**

Characteristic	All same-sex couples		Male-male couples		Female-female couples	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>605,472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>284,295</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>321,177</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age Difference</b>						
One 10 or more years older than other .....	126,995	21.0	70,238	24.7	56,757	17.7
One 6 to 9 years older than other .....	114,662	18.9	53,243	18.7	61,419	19.1
One 2 to 5 years older than other .....	227,051	37.5	99,855	35.1	127,196	39.6
Within 1 year of each other .....	136,764	22.6	60,959	21.4	75,805	23.6
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin Difference</b>						
Both White alone, non-Hispanic .....	413,148	68.2	189,220	66.6	223,928	69.7
Both Black alone, non-Hispanic .....	31,861	5.3	11,350	4.0	20,511	6.4
Both Other alone or any combination, non-Hispanic .....	67,141	11.1	33,550	11.8	33,591	10.5
Both Hispanic .....	35,738	5.9	17,160	6.0	18,578	5.8
One Hispanic, other non-Hispanic .....	57,584	9.5	33,015	11.6	24,569	7.6
<b>Race Difference</b>						
Both White alone .....	470,634	77.7	221,594	77.9	249,040	77.5
Both Black alone .....	33,279	5.5	11,810	4.2	21,469	6.7
Both Asian alone .....	7,165	1.2	3,366	1.2	3,799	1.2
Both Other alone or any combination .....	20,649	3.4	8,605	3.0	12,044	3.7
One White alone, one Black alone .....	21,776	3.6	12,023	4.2	9,753	3.0
One White alone, one Asian alone .....	15,940	2.6	10,792	3.8	5,148	1.6
One White alone, one Other alone or any combination .....	36,029	6.0	16,105	5.7	19,924	6.2
<b>Hispanic Origin Difference<sup>1</sup></b>						
Neither Hispanic .....	512,150	84.6	234,120	82.4	278,030	86.6
Both Hispanic .....	35,738	5.9	17,160	6.0	18,578	5.8
One Hispanic, other non-Hispanic .....	57,584	9.5	33,015	11.6	24,569	7.6
<b>Presence of Own Children in the Household<sup>2</sup></b>						
Not present .....	506,231	83.6	254,526	89.5	251,705	78.4
Present .....	99,241	16.4	29,769	10.5	69,472	21.6
<b>Education Difference</b>						
Neither has Bachelor's degree .....	252,528	41.7	107,928	38.0	144,600	45.0
One has Bachelor's degree, one has less .....	164,995	27.3	84,205	29.6	80,790	25.2
Both have Bachelor's degree or higher .....	187,949	31.0	92,162	32.4	95,787	29.8
<b>Employment Status</b>						
Population 16 years and older						
Both in labor force, both employed .....	350,944	58.0	166,074	58.4	184,870	57.6
Both in labor force, only one employed .....	45,120	7.5	22,374	7.9	22,746	7.1
Both in labor force, both unemployed .....	5,723	0.9	2,046	0.7	3,677	1.1
One in labor force, employed .....	119,899	19.8	57,591	20.3	62,308	19.4
One in labor force, unemployed .....	11,881	2.0	6,360	2.2	5,521	1.7
Not in labor force, not employed .....	70,901	11.7	29,617	10.4	41,284	12.9
<b>Earnings Difference in 2011<sup>3</sup></b>						
Population 16 years and older						
One earns \$50,000+ more .....	144,620	23.9	81,366	28.6	63,254	19.7
One earns \$30,000 to \$49,999 more .....	97,760	16.1	47,429	16.7	50,331	15.7
One earns \$10,000 to \$29,999 more .....	164,762	27.2	72,811	25.6	91,951	28.6
One earns \$5,000 to \$9,999 more .....	58,166	9.6	25,487	9.0	32,679	10.2
Within \$4,999 of each other .....	139,160	23.0	56,969	20.0	82,191	25.6

<sup>1</sup> This difference does not consider race. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.<sup>2</sup> May be biological, step, or adopted children of the householder. Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.<sup>3</sup> Includes people with no earnings or loss.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011.

Table 10.

**Children's Economic Situation by Family Structure: CPS 2012<sup>1</sup>**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Living with two parents		Living with one parent		Not living with any parent
		Married	Unmarried	Mother only	Father only	
<b>Number</b> .....	<b>73,817</b>	<b>47,330</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>17,990</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>2,634</b>
<b>Family Income</b>						
Under \$15,000 .....	9,746	1,824	997	5,638	397	893
\$15,000 to \$29,999 .....	10,856	4,175	743	4,843	601	497
\$30,000 to \$49,999 .....	13,083	7,531	609	3,708	715	520
\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	12,600	9,157	346	2,085	684	328
\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	9,145	7,807	111	780	246	202
\$100,000 and over .....	18,387	16,836	134	938	286	193
<b>Poverty Status<sup>2</sup></b>						
Below 100 percent of poverty .....	16,397	5,155	1,344	8,152	586	1,160
100 to 199 percent of poverty .....	16,471	9,162	832	4,969	813	695
200 percent of poverty and above .....	40,949	33,012	761	4,869	1,527	780
<b>Household Receives Public Assistance</b>						
Receives assistance .....	3,497	835	218	2,031	102	310
Does not receive assistance .....	70,321	46,495	2,720	15,960	2,821	2,325
<b>Household Receives Food Stamps</b>						
Receives food stamps .....	15,673	5,230	1,016	8,037	633	759
Does not receive food stamps .....	58,144	42,100	1,921	9,954	2,292	1,876
<b>Household Tenure</b>						
Owned home .....	45,134	34,431	1,055	6,408	1,608	1,630
Rented home <sup>3</sup> .....	28,683	12,899	1,882	11,581	1,317	1,004
<b>Health Insurance Coverage</b>						
Covered by health insurance .....	66,930	43,760	2,590	16,004	2,486	2,089
Not covered by health insurance .....	6,887	3,570	348	1,987	437	546
<b>Parental Employment Status</b>						
Father only in labor force .....	18,272	14,839	896	X	2,536	X
Mother only in labor force .....	15,778	2,141	171	13,465	X	X
Both father and mother in labor force .....	30,624	28,903	1,720	X	X	X
No coresident parent in labor force .....	6,510	1,446	150	4,525	389	X
No parents present .....	2,634	X	X	X	X	2,634
<b>Percent.</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Family Income</b>						
Under \$15,000 .....	13.2	3.9	33.9	31.3	13.6	33.9
\$15,000 to \$29,999 .....	14.7	8.8	25.3	26.9	20.5	18.9
\$30,000 to \$49,999 .....	17.7	15.9	20.7	20.6	24.4	19.7
\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	17.1	19.3	11.8	11.6	23.4	12.5
\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	12.4	16.5	3.8	4.3	8.4	7.7
\$100,000 and over .....	24.9	35.6	4.6	5.2	9.8	7.3
<b>Poverty Status<sup>2</sup></b>						
Below 100 percent of poverty .....	22.2	10.9	45.8	45.3	20.0	44.0
100 to 199 percent of poverty .....	22.3	19.4	28.3	27.6	27.8	26.4
200 percent of poverty and above .....	55.5	69.7	25.9	27.1	52.2	29.6
<b>Household Receives Public Assistance</b>						
Receives assistance .....	4.7	1.8	7.4	11.3	3.5	11.8
Does not receive assistance .....	95.3	98.2	92.6	88.7	96.4	88.3

See notes at end of table.

Table 10.

**Children's Economic Situation by Family Structure: CPS 2012<sup>1</sup>—Con.**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Living with two parents		Living with one parent		Not living with any parent
		Married	Unmarried	Mother only	Father only	
<b>Household Receives Food Stamps</b>						
Receives food stamps . . . . .	21.2	11.1	34.6	44.7	21.6	28.8
Does not receive food stamps . . . . .	78.8	88.9	65.4	55.3	78.4	71.2
<b>Household Tenure</b>						
Owned home . . . . .	61.1	72.7	35.9	35.6	55.0	61.9
Rented home <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	38.9	27.3	64.1	64.4	45.0	38.1
<b>Health Insurance Coverage</b>						
Covered by health insurance . . . . .	90.7	92.5	88.2	89.0	85.0	79.3
Not covered by health insurance . . . . .	9.3	7.5	11.8	11.0	14.9	20.7
<b>Parental Employment Status</b>						
Father only in labor force . . . . .	24.8	31.4	30.5	X	86.7	X
Mother only in labor force . . . . .	21.4	4.5	5.8	74.8	X	X
Both father and mother in labor force . . . . .	41.5	61.1	58.6	X	X	X
No coresident parent in labor force . . . . .	8.8	3.1	5.1	25.2	13.3	X
No parents present . . . . .	3.6	X	X	X	X	100.0

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> All people under age 18, excluding group quarters, householders, subfamily reference people, and their spouses or unmarried partners.<sup>2</sup> For children in both primary families and subfamilies, poverty status of the primary family is shown.<sup>3</sup> "No cash rent" is included with rented home.

Note: Data based on the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the 2012 Current Population Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see &lt;www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf&gt;.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

approximately 1 in 5 White, non-Hispanic children (21 percent); 1 in 3 Hispanic children (31 percent); and 1 in 2 Black children (55 percent) lived with one parent. Again, except for Asian children, the percentage of children who lived with the boyfriend or girlfriend of their unmarried parent was not statistically different across racial and ethnic groups.

**The percentage of stay-at-home mothers declined during the recession and did not return to its prerecession level until 2012 (Figure 9).**

This report defines stay-at-home parents as those who had a spouse in the labor force all 52 weeks last year while they were out of the labor force during the same period to care for home and family.<sup>57</sup> Estimates of stay-at-home parents

<sup>57</sup> This is a restrictive definition of stay-at-home parents. We use this definition to approximate the often-called "traditional" arrangement that was more common in the mid-twentieth century.

caring for children under 15 are based not on the parents' activities as childcare providers but on their labor force status and the primary reason why they were not in the labor force during the previous 52 weeks. This labor force based measure is derived from the CPS ASEC and allows for consistent measurement of stay-at-home parent families over time.<sup>58</sup>

Figure 9 shows that a decline in stay-at-home mothers produced an overall decrease in stay-at-home parents during the recession; the percentage of married fathers who stayed at home did not change. Before the recession began in 2007, roughly 24 percent of married mothers with children under the age of 15 were stay-at-home parents. This percentage did not drop until 2009 but then remained below prerecession levels through

<sup>58</sup> See historical Table SHP-1 accessible on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/shp1.xls>.

2011. The percentage of married mothers who were stay-at-home parents returned to its prerecession level by 2012.<sup>59</sup>

Overall, the percentage of married fathers who were stay-at-home parents has been quite small, under 1 percent (Figure 9). Between 2006 and 2010, that percentage remained unchanged. Beginning in 2011 and 2012, however, the percentage of married fathers who were stay-at-home parents increased slightly (0.8 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively) compared with its level in 2007, before the recession began (0.7 percent).<sup>60</sup>

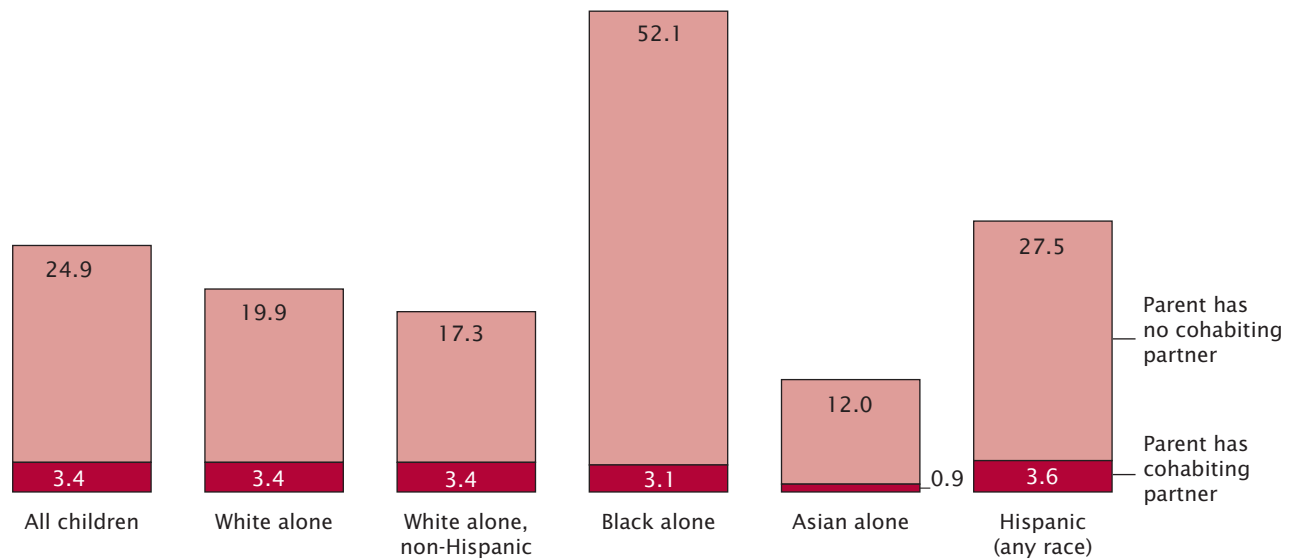
Disproportionately higher unemployment rates for men during the recession and the prolonged

<sup>59</sup> The years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2012 were not statistically different from 2005, nor were the years 2007 and 2008 different from one another, nor 2009 and 2010.

<sup>60</sup> The years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 were not statistically different from one another, nor were 2011 and 2012 different from one another.



Figure 8.  
**Children Living With One Parent by Race and Hispanic Origin: CPS 2012**  
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

jobless recovery may underlie the rise in stay-at-home fathers and the decline in stay-at-home mothers.<sup>61</sup> Research has found that in response to their husband's job loss during a recession, wives tended to enter or return to the labor force. Indeed, over the last 3 decades the single largest 1-year increase in a wife's contribution to family

earnings occurred between 2008 and 2009.<sup>62</sup>

**Homeownership among households with children fell by 15 percent nationally between 2005 and 2011 (Figure 10).**

Table 5 showed that the proportion of homeowners among all family groups with children under 18 declined between 2007 and 2012. Trends in homeownership and unemployment varied geographically because the recession affected states differently. Based on Figure 10, children living in the Plains States may have fared better during the recession than children living elsewhere in the Midwest or in the West, at least in terms of

homeownership. Between 2005 and 2011, the number of households with children under the age of 18 that owned a home fell by 15 percent nationally (Figure 10). In some states the decline was steeper, in particular California (–22 percent) and Arizona (–22 percent) in the West and Michigan (–23 percent), Ohio (–20 percent), and Illinois (–18 percent) in the Midwest. Along with New York (–17 percent), Florida (–19 percent), and New Hampshire (–19 percent), these states witnessed greater declines than the national average in homeownership rates among households with children under 18.<sup>63</sup>

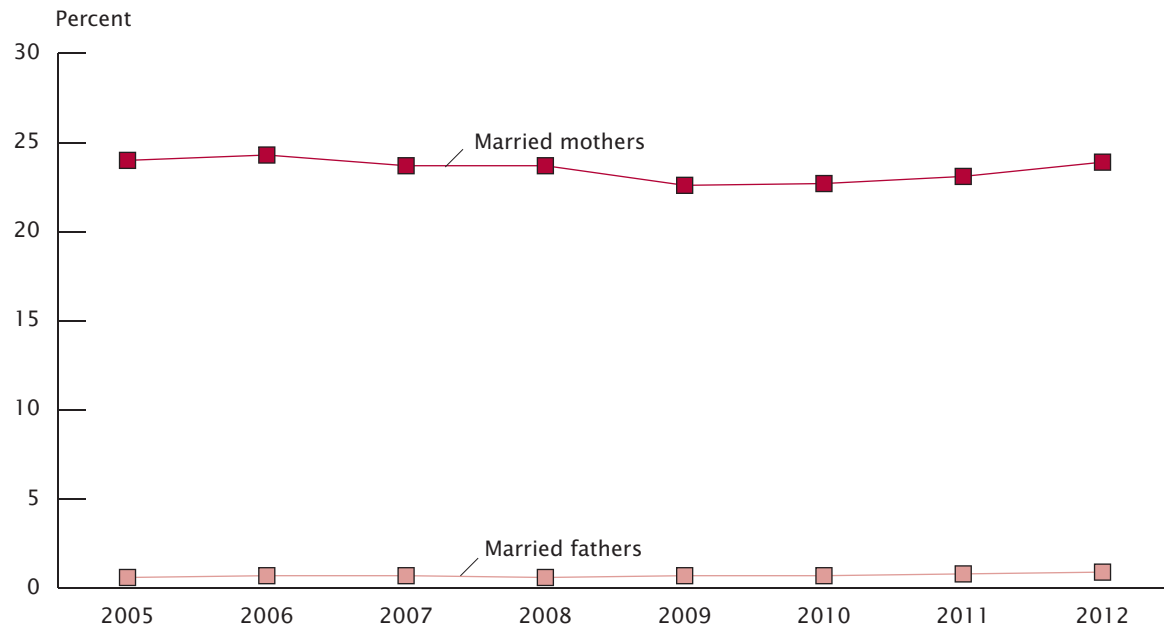
<sup>61</sup> See Aysegül Sahin et al., 2010, "The Unemployment Gender Gap during the 2007 Recession," Federal Reserve Bank of New York: Current Issues in Economics and Finance 16:1–7; Michael Hout et al., 2011, "Job Loss and Unemployment," pp. 59–81 in "The Great Recession," edited by David B. Grusky, Bruce Western, and Christopher Wimer, New York: Russell Sage Foundation; and Heather Boushey, 2009, "Job Prospects Remain Dim for Millions of Workers," Center for American Progress, Washington, DC, <[www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/employment1009.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/employment1009.html)>.

<sup>62</sup> See Kristin Smith, 2012, "Recessions Accelerate Trend of Wives as Breadwinners," Brief 56, Carsey Institute: Durham, NH, <<http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB-Smith-Breadwinners-2012-web.pdf>>.

<sup>63</sup> The change in home ownership did not differ statistically for the following comparisons: California versus Arizona, Michigan, Ohio, or New Hampshire; Arizona versus Michigan, Ohio, Florida, or New Hampshire; Michigan versus New Hampshire; Ohio versus Florida or New Hampshire; Illinois versus New York, Florida, or New Hampshire; New York versus New Hampshire; or Florida versus New Hampshire.

Figure 9.

**Percentage of Married-Couple Family Groups With Children Under 15 With a Stay-at-Home Parent by Sex, 2005 to 2012: CPS**



Note: Stay-at-home parents are out of the labor force for the entire year with the reason "taking care of home and family," and have a spouse in the labor force all of the previous year.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2005 to 2012.

**Households with at least one unemployed parent rose by one-third nationally between 2005 and 2011 (Figure 11).**

Between 2005 and 2011, the number of households with children under 18 that had at least one unemployed parent rose by one-third (33 percent) across the United States (Figure 11). States experiencing a larger than average increase included Hawaii (95 percent), California (61 percent), Nevada (148 percent), and Colorado (56 percent) in the West and Florida (93 percent), North Carolina (54 percent), New Jersey (63 percent), and Connecticut (65 percent) in

the East.<sup>64</sup> Some of the states with steep declines in homeownership also witnessed a larger rise than the national average in unemployment rates, notably California and Florida. Not all of the states overlapped with the ones that saw a decline in homeownership, however. Although homeownership declined in Michigan, Ohio, New York, and New Hampshire, households with children in these states saw a smaller than average increase in parental unemployment.

<sup>64</sup> The change in parental unemployment did not differ statistically for the following comparisons: Hawaii versus California, Nevada, Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, or Connecticut; California versus Colorado, North Carolina, New Jersey, or Connecticut; Colorado versus North Carolina, New Jersey, or Connecticut; Florida versus Connecticut; North Carolina versus New Jersey or Connecticut; or New Jersey versus Connecticut.

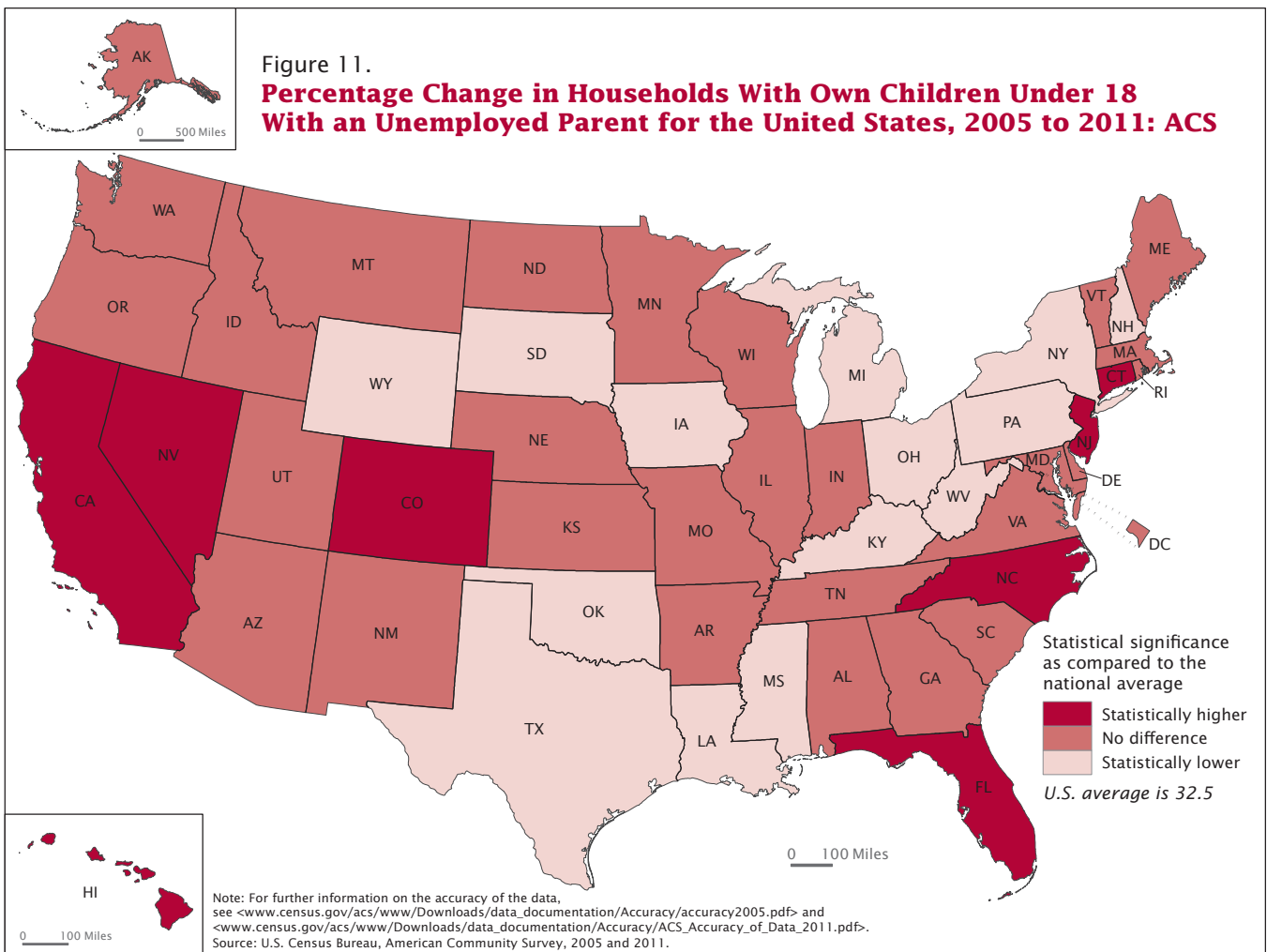
It is helpful to remember that these maps do not represent all households in the United States, but only those with children under the age of 18.

**SUMMARY**

This report uses data from the 2012 Current Population Survey and the 2011 American Community Survey to describe trends in living arrangements and the composition of families and households in the United States. The report highlights the complexity and variety of contemporary families and living arrangements and also illustrates how they have changed over time.

Over the last few decades the trend in the United States has been toward smaller households,





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 error

into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise indicated. 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 overall survey design, question wording, review of interviewers' and coders' work,

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; for example, 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.

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For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <[www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/aprd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf)> or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <[dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov](mailto: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 age, race, sex, 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 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 the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf)>.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Detailed tables from the 2012 Annual Social and Economic supplement to the CPS are available on the Internet at the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps2012.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps2012.html)>. To access ACS tables about households and families, see American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site at <<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>>.

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Appendix Table A.

**Summary of National Surveys for Studying Families, Households, and Living Arrangements in the United States**

Survey	Description	Family Topics	Uses for Family Research and Data
American Community Survey (ACS) <a href="http://www.census.gov/acs/www/">www.census.gov/acs/www/</a>	Provides cross-sectional data on social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. population at various geographic levels (nation, region, state, congressional district, census tract)	Household characteristics; marital and relationship information; data on number and type of children	Examine geographic variation in household characteristics; identify multigenerational households and examine changes in family events such as marriage and childbearing
Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) <a href="http://www.bls.gov/cex/">www.bls.gov/cex/</a>	Cross-sectional survey on the consumer habits of Americans; provides data on expenditures, income, and consumer unit (families and single consumers) characteristics	Household and family characteristics; work status of family members	Examine expenditures and income of families and single consumers including childcare costs, assistance to family members, and money spent on education and housing
Current Population Survey (CPS) <a href="http://www.bls.gov/cps/">www.bls.gov/cps/</a>	A monthly cross-sectional survey with data going back 50 years on the economic characteristics of U.S. households, including employment and earnings	Household characteristics; marital status; supplements on fertility and child support	Examine employment patterns of households including labor force participation, earnings, work hours, and industry and occupation of workers
Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) <a href="http://www.census.gov/sipp/">www.census.gov/sipp/</a>	Panel survey that collects information on income, employment, assets and liabilities, and participation in government transfer programs	Detailed household relationships; marital and fertility histories; child well-being, childcare and support, and child living arrangements	Examine household and family composition in relation to changes in income, labor force behaviors, and program participation
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study: Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K) <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/childergarten.asp">nces.ed.gov/ecls/childergarten.asp</a>	Longitudinal study on the school experiences and development of young children with data on teachers, schools, and parents	Household structure, parental marital history, and relationship to the child; childcare arrangements and well-being	Link children's early cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development with their home, family, and classroom experiences
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study: Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/birth.asp">nces.ed.gov/ecls/birth.asp</a>	Longitudinal panel survey on early childhood experiences from 9 months to kindergarten	Household characteristics and information about the primary caregiver, parenting practices, and social support; data from resident and nonresident fathers	Link children's health, development, care, and education with family experiences
Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study (FFCWB) <a href="http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu">www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu</a>	A panel study of a cohort of children born to mostly unmarried parents between 1998 and 2000; focuses on children's family experiences and the relationships of the parents	Information on parenting behavior and relationships, attitudes, and demographic characteristics; children's cognitive and emotional development; home environment characteristics	Study experiences and transitions of fragile families, changes in the parents' relationship and children's well-being, and father's interaction with his children and participation in family life
Health and Retirement Study (HRS) <a href="http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu">hrsonline.isr.umich.edu</a>	A panel study that began in 1992 of Americans who are at least 50 years old that examines older adults' experiences with retirement and aging	Event history information on marriage and cohabitation; transfers to family members; intergenerational relationships; caregiving support across generations	Study family lives and experiences of older Americans including living situations, intergenerational relationships and transfers, caregiving, and interactions with children and grandchildren
Integrated Fertility Survey Series (IFSS) <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/IFSS/">www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/IFSS/</a>	A harmonized data set of ten cross-sectional surveys on fertility dating from 1955 to 2002	Fertility intentions and pregnancy histories; infertility information; number and type of children; family planning; adoption	Examine family and fertility experiences across 6 decades using comparable measures from different surveys
Monitoring the Future (MTF) <a href="http://www.monitoringthefuture.org">www.monitoringthefuture.org</a>	Annual cross-sectional survey that began in 1975 on the values and attitudes of high school seniors	Attitudes toward interpersonal relationships; expectations for marriage and childbearing; family values	Study changes in family values and expectations of adolescents since 1975



Appendix Table A.

**Summary of National Surveys for Studying Families, Households, and Living Arrangements in the United States—Con.**

Survey	Description	Family Topics	Uses for Family Research and Data
National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) <a href="http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth">www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth</a>	Panel study that began in 1994 of adolescents who have been followed over four waves into young adulthood; focuses on health and health behaviors	Marriage and cohabitation event histories; fertility information for men and women; information on other romantic relationships and sexual partners	In conjunction with biomarkers and neighborhood and school characteristics, study the emotional content and quality of romantic, cohabiting, and marital relationships; examine sexual behavior and pregnancy histories
National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) <a href="http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy79.htm">www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy79.htm</a>	Longitudinal panel survey that began in 1979 that has followed the life course experiences, schooling, training, and employment of a birth cohort from youth into middle adulthood	Fertility outcomes and relationship event histories for marriage and cohabitation; fertility expectations and desires, and family attitudes; linked to cohort study of all children born to women of the NLSY79	Examine relationship and family experiences from youth into middle adulthood in conjunction with labor market experiences; the linked children's cohort allows for studying generational linkages of family and life course experiences
National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) <a href="http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm">www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm</a>	Longitudinal panel survey that began in 1997; examines the transitions of youth from school to work and into young adulthood	Fertility outcomes; relationship event histories for marriage and cohabitation (including transitions between survey waves); detailed rosters for the household, partner, and children; partner characteristics	Examine the labor market behavior and educational experiences of young adults over time in conjunction with marriage and family experiences
National Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP) <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/slaits/nsap.htm">www.cdc.gov/nchs/slaits/nsap.htm</a>	Nationally representative cross-sectional survey on the nation's adopted children, aged 0-17, and their adoptive families	Demographic characteristics; child well-being and mental health; child relationships with adoptive parents and siblings; parent's motivations for adoption	Link adopted children's health and school performance with family relationships in conjunction with parents' participation in adoption support services
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) <a href="http://nsduhweb.rti.org">nsduhweb.rti.org</a>	An annual survey providing information on the prevalence of and trends in drug use in the United States, including illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use; illegal activities and gang involvement; and substance abuse education	Household composition and demographics; pregnancy information; marital status and history; social support	Link household composition, marital histories, and social support with substance abuse and health issues
National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm">www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm</a>	Periodic cross-sectional survey on the nation's fertility and family experiences	Retrospective information on marriage, cohabitation, and sexual histories; information on pregnancies, births, contraception, infertility, and intendedness; fathering activities; family background	Examine fertility, contraceptive, and relationship experiences for women and men
National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH) <a href="http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/nsfh/">www.ssc.wisc.edu/nsfh/</a>	Periodic cross-sectional survey on family experiences, formation and change, and living arrangements	Life history information on living arrangements, marriage and cohabitation, and fertility	Study family transitions and experiences across 3 decades
Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) <a href="http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu">psidonline.isr.umich.edu</a>	A 4-decade household panel survey that collects information from families on employment, wages, wealth and debt, housing characteristics, and expenditures	Marital status and fertility information; measures on development and well-being	Examine how household and family composition vary across a spectrum of economic characteristics
Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF) <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/NACJD/guides/sisfcf.html">www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/NACJD/guides/sisfcf.html</a>	A series of cross-sectional panels on the demographic characteristics of inmates and their deviant and criminal behaviors, offenses and sentences, and criminal histories	Family background characteristics; relationship and contact with children; support to children prior to incarceration; children's living arrangements during incarceration	Examine linkages between incarceration and family composition, family criminal history, and contact with children

Appendix Table B.

### Margins of Error<sup>1</sup> for Table 1 Estimates—Households by Type and Selected Characteristics: ACS 2011

Characteristic	All households	Family households				Nonfamily households		
		Total	Married couple	Other families		Total	Male householder	Female householder
				Male householder	Female householder			
<b>All households</b> .....	<b>179,541</b>	<b>144,469</b>	<b>157,000</b>	<b>40,784</b>	<b>60,980</b>	<b>111,894</b>	<b>62,091</b>	<b>81,015</b>
<b>Age of Householder</b>								
15 to 24 years .....	44,095	25,425	16,653	10,947	15,489	30,043	20,917	16,989
25 to 34 years .....	60,479	57,610	50,969	18,757	33,370	40,148	29,160	28,221
35 to 44 years .....	48,364	44,834	43,877	22,735	33,365	34,197	27,324	21,187
45 to 54 years .....	50,700	52,643	49,924	19,136	30,544	41,426	26,750	25,118
55 to 64 years .....	51,095	45,268	39,463	12,748	22,847	39,553	27,635	27,814
65 years and over .....	61,226	42,173	36,620	12,401	18,139	55,337	22,323	42,214
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder</b>								
White alone .....	118,696	106,665	125,980	30,176	52,104	93,305	55,192	63,430
Non-Hispanic .....	98,050	92,017	108,566	28,408	44,111	85,449	49,123	57,908
Black or African American alone .....	46,747	37,848	28,426	19,534	25,469	42,789	27,560	30,655
American Indian and Alaska Native alone .....	15,555	12,176	9,620	3,996	6,083	8,839	5,897	5,510
Asian alone .....	24,448	19,133	22,537	8,622	11,703	17,737	14,549	11,769
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone .....	4,921	4,028	3,586	1,937	1,876	3,435	2,236	2,479
Some Other Race alone .....	29,836	22,566	20,595	11,654	14,250	17,430	12,974	10,296
Two or More Races .....	34,711	25,162	18,811	6,313	10,142	17,605	11,062	10,628
Hispanic (any race) .....	56,416	44,881	46,407	19,710	28,267	38,068	23,670	23,059
<b>Size of Household</b>								
1 person .....	114,173	X	X	X	X	114,173	61,645	76,918
2 people .....	115,300	109,137	96,421	25,130	37,668	42,852	32,156	31,850
3 people .....	75,552	77,037	62,889	21,701	40,438	16,542	14,840	8,482
4 people .....	58,958	60,910	54,558	18,652	28,853	10,005	7,916	5,209
5 people .....	46,062	46,223	41,067	12,556	23,168	4,693	4,056	3,084
6 people .....	26,971	26,969	22,729	7,706	12,733	3,219	2,845	1,523
7 or more people .....	22,103	21,986	17,257	7,337	11,487	1,551	1,436	921
Average size .....	Z	0.01	Z	0.02	0.01	Z	0.01	Z
<b>Number of Related Children Under 18</b>								
No related children .....	158,791	106,937	105,172	24,512	31,644	111,894	62,091	81,015
With related children .....	78,916	78,916	79,567	31,495	55,947	X	X	X
1 child .....	66,375	66,375	53,963	23,351	34,750	X	X	X
2 children .....	58,604	58,604	50,259	15,381	31,049	X	X	X
3 children .....	38,142	38,142	32,435	12,046	22,965	X	X	X
4 or more children .....	27,581	27,581	22,520	7,345	15,958	X	X	X
<b>Presence of Own Children Under 18</b>								
No own children .....	150,547	103,135	103,385	28,792	39,614	111,894	62,091	81,015
With own children .....	78,715	78,715	79,059	31,162	52,337	X	X	X
With own children under 12 .....	69,573	69,573	69,063	26,392	43,782	X	X	X
With own children under 6 .....	64,326	64,326	57,802	21,391	34,547	X	X	X
With own children under 3 .....	60,155	60,155	52,559	13,696	25,029	X	X	X
With own children under 1 .....	28,518	28,518	25,614	9,162	11,673	X	X	X
<b>Tenure</b>								
Owned home .....	230,440	169,066	155,085	26,946	42,706	99,922	50,979	68,258
Rented home .....	103,548	81,408	51,534	32,473	51,732	77,063	51,634	52,312
Occupied without payment .....	24,889	16,940	13,557	6,772	8,305	17,035	11,656	10,691

X Not applicable.

Z Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>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/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2011.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf)> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011.