

America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003

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Population Characteristics

P20-553

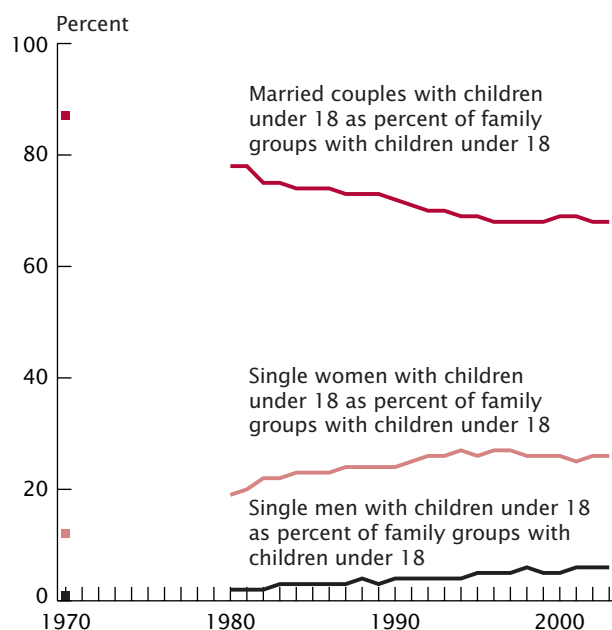
INTRODUCTION

The decades-long decline in the proportion of family groups with children that were married-couple families leveled off during the mid-1990s, at about 68 percent from 1996 to 2003 (Figure 1). This change reflects declining divorce rates and reduced non-marital fertility, especially among teens. Between 1970 and 1996, the median age at first marriage also increased but since 1996 has been fairly stable for both men and women.

Basic trends in household and family composition, living arrangements and marital status of adults, and characteristics of unmarried-couple households are presented in this report.¹ A new section is included that highlights married-couple families with a stay-at-home parent.

¹ The data in this report are from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The population represented (the population universe) in the ASEC is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household. Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2003.

Figure 1.
Family Groups with Children by Type of Family Group: 1970 to 2003



Note: *Family groups* are family households plus all related and unrelated subfamilies. These subfamilies may consist of either married couples or parent-child units, and the reference person of that family group may be either related or unrelated to the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.

Households

Changes in the number and type of households are influenced by patterns of population growth, shifts in the age composition of the population, and the decisions individuals make about their living arrangements. Demographic trends in marriage, cohabitation, divorce, fertility, and mortality also affect family

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By
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and household composition. Moreover, shifts in social norms, values, laws, the economy, and improvements in health also influence how people organize their lives. Individual decisions produce aggregate societal changes in household and family composition.

Number of households

In 2003, the number of households in the United States reached 111 million (Table 1), up from 63 million in 1970.² The increase in the average growth rate of households, however, declined between the 1970s and the year 2000. Between 1970 and 1980, the growth in the number of households was 1.7 million per year; during the 1980s it declined to 1.3 million per year, and in the 1990s to 1.1 million per year, not different from what it had been during the 1960s.³ Since 2000 the growth rate has increased.

Family and nonfamily households

Traditionally, family households have predominated—81 percent of all households in 1970 were family households, but the proportion dropped to 68 percent by 2003.

Figure 2 divides family and nonfamily households into various categories: married couples with and without children, other family households, men and women living alone, and other nonfamily households. The most noticeable trend is the decline in the proportion of

² The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

³ Annual estimates of family and nonfamily households are presented in Table HH-1, "Households by Type: 1940 to Present," at the following Internet address: <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabHH-1.pdf>.

Definition Box 1.

A *household* contains one or more people—everyone living in a housing unit makes up a household. One of the people who own or rent 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. Family households are maintained by married couples or by a man or woman living with other relatives—children may or may not be present. Family units that do not include the householder are called *subfamilies*—see Definition Box 2 for more information about subfamilies.

A *nonfamily household* can be either a person living alone or a householder who shares the housing unit only with his or her nonrelatives—for example, boarders or roommates. The nonrelatives of the householder may be related to each other (that is, they could be part of an *unrelated subfamily*).

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

Children include sons and daughters by birth, stepchildren, and adopted children of the householder regardless of the child's age or marital status. *Own children* are a subset of all children—they identify the householder or a family reference person as a parent in a household, family, or family group. In this report, own children are limited to those children who are never-married and under age 18.

married-couple households with their own children from 40 percent of all households in 1970 to 23 percent in 2003.

In contrast, the proportion of households that were made up of married couples without children dropped only slightly over the period—28 percent in 2003, compared with 30 percent in 1970. The third family household component—families whose householder was living with children or other relatives but had no spouse present—increased from 11 percent of all households in 1970 to 16 percent in 2003. However, since 1995 the proportion of households that are single-parent families

(included in the other-family households percentage) has been stabilizing (1995 and 2003 were not statistically different, 9 percent in both years). Figure 2 shows these groups as a proportion of all households; the trend parallels that shown in Figure 1 for family groups.

The top three segments of the graph in Figure 2 represent all nonfamily household types. The figure shows that the majority of the increase in nonfamily households was due to the growth in one-person households; that is, people living alone. The proportion of one-person households increased by

Table 1.
Households by Type and Selected Characteristics: 2003

(In thousands, except average size)

Characteristic	All households		Family households				Nonfamily households		
	Number	90-percent confidence interval (Standard error) (±) ¹	Total	Married couple	Other families		Total	Male householder	Female householder
					Male householder	Female householder			
All households	111,278	457	75,596	57,320	4,656	13,620	35,682	16,020	19,662
Age of householder									
15 to 24 years	6,611	141	3,551	1,379	789	1,383	3,060	1,507	1,552
25 to 34 years	19,056	234	13,438	9,536	1,011	2,892	5,617	3,343	2,274
35 to 44 years	24,069	261	18,741	14,001	1,087	3,652	5,328	3,278	2,051
45 to 54 years	22,623	253	16,863	13,297	922	2,644	5,760	2,971	2,789
55 to 64 years	16,260	217	11,261	9,543	413	1,305	4,999	2,023	2,976
65 years and over	22,659	254	11,741	9,565	434	1,743	10,918	2,898	8,020
Race and ethnicity of householder									
White only	91,645	438	62,297	49,915	3,500	8,881	29,349	13,070	16,278
Non-Hispanic	81,166	423	53,845	44,101	2,674	7,070	27,321	11,968	15,353
Black only	13,465	199	8,928	4,165	762	4,000	4,538	2,043	2,495
Asian only	3,917	109	2,845	2,286	223	337	1,073	526	547
Hispanic (of any race)	11,339	183	9,090	6,189	872	2,029	2,249	1,228	1,021
Size of households									
1 person	29,431	285	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	29,431	12,511	16,919
2 people	37,078	315	32,047	24,310	1,992	5,745	5,031	2,660	2,371
3 people	17,889	227	17,076	11,526	1,403	4,147	813	556	257
4 people	15,967	216	15,672	12,754	733	2,185	295	212	83
5 people	7,029	145	6,969	5,719	296	955	60	42	17
6 people	2,521	88	2,489	2,004	142	344	31	19	12
7 or more people	1,364	65	1,343	1,007	90	246	22	19	2
Average size	2.57	0.01	3.19	3.22	3.11	3.12	1.24	1.32	1.17
Number of related children under 18									
No related children	72,367	408	36,685	30,261	2,240	4,183	35,682	16,020	19,662
With related children	38,911	322	38,911	27,059	2,416	9,437	(X)	(X)	(X)
1 child	16,511	219	16,511	10,378	1,429	4,704	(X)	(X)	(X)
2 children	14,333	205	14,333	10,800	683	2,850	(X)	(X)	(X)
3 children	5,771	132	5,771	4,235	220	1,317	(X)	(X)	(X)
4 or more children	2,296	84	2,296	1,646	84	566	(X)	(X)	(X)
Presence of own children under 18									
No own children	75,310	413	39,628	31,406	2,741	5,481	35,682	16,020	19,662
With own children	35,968	311	35,968	25,914	1,915	8,139	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 12	26,251	271	26,251	19,168	1,295	5,788	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 6	15,584	213	15,584	11,743	729	3,111	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 3	9,081	165	9,081	7,014	451	1,615	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 1	2,917	94	2,917	2,255	181	481	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tenure									
Owner	75,909	414	57,092	47,676	2,721	6,695	18,817	7,742	11,075
Renter	33,799	303	17,604	9,007	1,873	6,724	16,195	7,951	8,244
Occupies without payment	1,570	69	900	637	62	201	670	327	343

X Not applicable.

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

Note: Data are not shown separately for the other race groups because of the small sample sizes in the Current Population Survey in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

9 percentage points between 1970 and 2003 (from 17 percent to 26 percent), compared with an increase of 4 percentage points in other nonfamily households (from 2 percent to 6 percent) during the same period. Women living alone represented 67 percent of one-person households in 1970. By 2003, men were closing this gap, but women still represented more than half (58 percent) of one-person households.

Household size

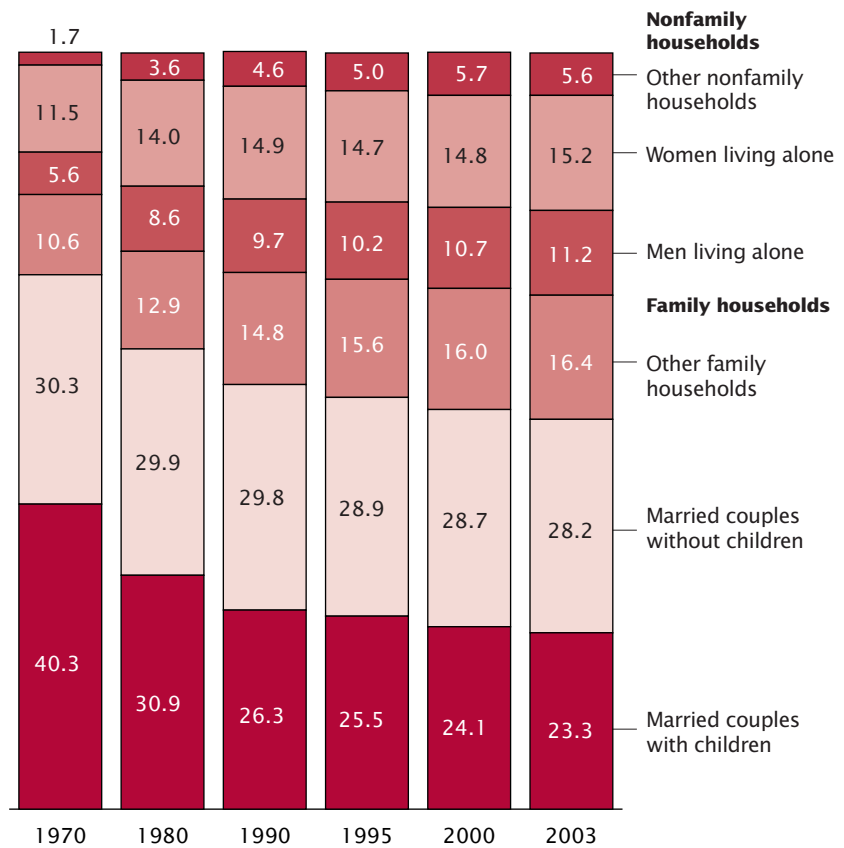
Households have decreased in size, with the most profound changes occurring at the extremes, the largest and smallest households (Figure 3). Between 1970 and 2003, households with five or more people decreased from 21 percent to 10 percent of all households. During the same period, the share of households with only one or two people increased from 46 percent to 60 percent. In addition, between 1970 and 2003, the average number of people per household declined from 3.14 to 2.57 (Table 1).⁴

Households with children

Households with their own children made up less than one-third of all households in 2003. The decline in the proportion of households with their own children under age 18 is an important component in the overall decline in household and family size over the last 30 years. Households with own children dropped from 45 percent of all households in 1970 to 35 percent in 1990, and 32 percent in 2003.

⁴ Table HH-4, "Households by Size: 1960 to Present," <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabHH-4.pdf>.

Figure 2.
Households by Type: 1970 to 2003
(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.

Married-couple households

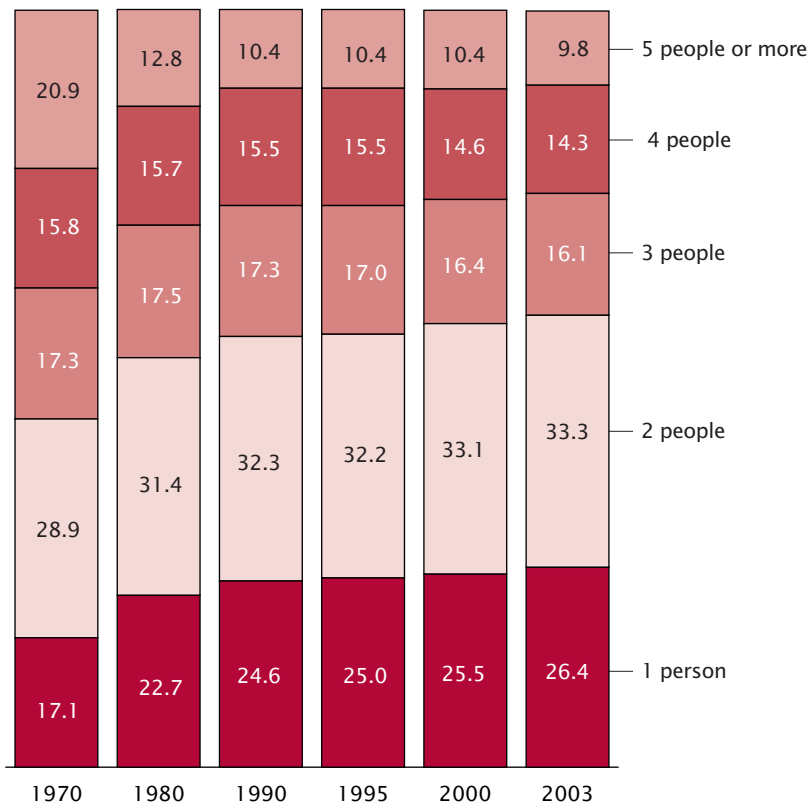
In 2003, 57 million married-couple households resided in the United States, representing 76 percent of family households (Table 1). Although married-couple households have increased since 1970, when they numbered 45 million, they grew at a far slower rate than other family households—by an average of 0.8 percent per year, compared with 3 percent per year for other types of family households.

Householders in married-couple households were older than those in other family households. Thirty-three percent of married-couple

householders were at least 55 years old, while about 21 percent of unmarried male and female family householders were this old.

In 2003, more than three-quarters of households maintained by an Asian-only householder and of those maintained by a non-Hispanic White-only householder were married-couple households (80 percent and 82 percent, respectively). However, a smaller proportion of family households with a Hispanic householder were married-couple households (68 percent), and less than one-half (47 percent) of family households

Figure 3.
Households by Size: 1970 to 2003
 (Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.

with a Black-only householder were married-couple households.⁵

⁵ Beginning January 2003, respondents to the Current Population Survey (CPS) were asked to report one or more races to indicate their racial identity. The main race groups discussed in this report are people who reported that they were White and no other race and not Hispanic, people who reported being Black and no other race, and people who reported being Asian and no other race. A fourth category, All Remaining Races, refers to people who were American Indian and Alaska Native only, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only, or any combination of two or more races. These populations have been included in the All Remaining Races category because the CPS sample of individuals reporting these races was not large enough to yield reliable results. Use of the single-race populations in this report does not imply that this is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The

Changes in fertility, marriage, divorce, and mortality have all

Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

For further information on each of the major race groups and the Two or More Races population, see the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (C2KBR/01-1) and other Census 2000 Briefs, available at <www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>. Note, however, that the decennial census included the category Some Other Race. The CPS uses only five categories to describe race: White, Black, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Hispanics may be any race and people of every race may be Hispanic. Based on the population 15 years and older in the 2003 CPS ASEC, 3 percent of those who reported only Black and 2 percent of those who reported only Asian were Hispanic.

contributed to declines in the size of American households. Between 1970 and 1990, the number of births to unmarried women relative to those to married women increased, raising the proportion of children living with a single parent. However, in recent years the rate of births to unmarried teenage women has been steadily declining, while the birth rate for all unmarried women aged 15-44 peaked in 1994 and has changed very little since 1995.⁶ Over this period, the proportion of women remaining childless and delaying childbearing also rose.⁷ Increases in divorce also reduced the size of households. Divorce generally separates one household into two smaller ones. The divorce rate rose rapidly through the 1970s and 1980s and leveled off during the 1990s.⁸ The cumulative effect of these trends was to reduce the average size of households.

Delays in marriage and improvements in the life expectancy and health of the elderly may have mixed effects on the average

⁶ Brady Hamilton, Paul Sutton, and Stephanie Ventura, *Revised Birth and Fertility Rates for the 1990s and New Rates for Hispanic Populations, 2000 and 2001: United States, 1990-97, and New Rates for 1998-99: United States*. NVSR Report 51, No. 12. 94 pp. (PHS) 2003-1120. Also see Amara Bachu, *Trends in Premarital Childbearing: 1930-1994*, Current Population Reports, P23-197, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 1999.

⁷ Barbara Downs, *Fertility of American Women: June 2002*, Current Population Reports, P20-548, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 2003; T.J. Matthews and Brady Hamilton, *Mean Age of Mother, 1970-2000*, NVSR Vol. 51, No. 1 (PHS) 2003-1120.

⁸ *National Vital Statistics Reports* data from the National Center for Health Statistics has included monthly estimates of the national divorce rate, which show the rise and leveling off of the overall divorce rate: <www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/nvsr/nvsr.htm>. Also, for survey-based estimates of marriage and divorce patterns see Rose Kreider and Jason Fields, *Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: Fall 1996*, Current Population Reports, P70-80, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 2001.

household size. Delays in marriage may increase the number of one-person households if young adults live independently for longer periods, but it may also increase the size of other households if young adults either return to or stay in their parents' households or live with roommates for longer periods before marrying. Better health status of the elderly could increase the number of married couples, if both men and women live longer, or could increase the number of one-person households, as survivors may live independently for longer periods of time.

Families and family groups

The family is a vital institution in American society. Families are often the first and frequently the last source of support for individuals. To measure the demographic changes and characteristics of families, the Census Bureau developed two different conceptual universes, family households and family groups. Family households are identified by members who are related to the householder. Family units (by marriage or parenthood) in the household that do not directly include the householder are called subfamilies, and they can be either related to the householder or not. An example of a related subfamily is a child and that child's spouse living in the child's parents' household. Married couples or parents and children who are not related to the householder would be unrelated subfamilies. The count of family units regardless of whether the householder is in that "family" is a count of "family groups." In 2003, there were 76 million family households and 79 million family groups (Table 2). The additional family groups were largely related subfamilies (3 million), with

Definition Box 2.

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

Family groups are family households plus all related and unrelated subfamilies. These subfamilies may consist of either married couples or parent-child units. The reference person of the subfamily group may be either related or unrelated to the householder, and if unrelated, live in either a family or nonfamily household. An individual may be counted in two different family groups. For example, a woman may be the daughter of a householder and also the mother of her own daughter living in the household, which would constitute a related mother-child subfamily.

525,000 additional unrelated subfamilies.

In 2003, 49 percent of the 79 million family groups in the United States included own children—45 percent of married-couple family groups and 60 percent of non-married-couple family groups included an own child under age 18 (Table 2). As was the case with households, much of the change in the composition of family groups occurred among larger families. For example, among family groups with children, the percentage with four or more children decreased from 17 percent in 1970, to 8 percent in 1980, to 5 percent in 1990 and in 2003. In 2003, 33 percent of married-couple family groups and 31 percent of those with a male reference person included own children under 12, while 48 percent of family groups with a female reference person included own children under 12.

Reference people in married-couple family groups also had higher levels of completed education than either male or female reference people in other family groups. In 2003, 31 percent of the reference people in married-couple family groups had graduated from

college, and 57 percent had attended college, compared with 14 percent and 43 percent, respectively, for the reference people in other family groups (Table 3). Reference people in married-couple family groups and male-maintained family groups were more likely to be employed (69 percent and 70 percent, respectively) than those in family groups maintained by women (63 percent). Thirty-one percent of reference people in male-maintained family groups and 34 percent of reference people in female-maintained family groups were divorced; another 46 percent in male-maintained, and 36 percent in female-maintained, family groups were never married.

Most married-couple family groups (83 percent) lived in households that were owned or being bought by the householder (Table 2). Much smaller proportions of other types of family groups lived in households that were owned or being bought by the householder (59 percent and 51 percent, respectively).

One-parent family groups

Another way of looking at family change is to examine the marital status of the parents with whom

Table 2.
Family Groups by Type and Selected Characteristics: 2003

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Married couple family groups	Other family groups		
			Total	Male reference person	Female reference person
All family groups	79,210	58,586	20,624	5,001	15,623
Family type					
Family household	75,596	57,320	18,285	4,665	13,620
Related subfamily	3,089	1,232	1,856	260	1,596
Unrelated subfamily	525	34	491	84	407
Size of family group					
2 people	36,084	25,254	10,830	2,885	7,945
3 people	17,454	11,831	5,623	1,269	4,354
4 people	15,457	12,887	2,571	531	2,040
5 people	6,703	5,721	982	174	808
6 or more	3,512	2,894	618	141	477
Number of own children under 18					
No own children	40,363	32,141	8,222	2,741	5,481
1 child	17,103	10,152	6,951	1,422	5,529
2 children	14,232	10,687	3,544	609	2,935
3 children	5,490	4,096	1,393	170	1,223
4 or more children	2,022	1,509	513	58	455
Presence of own children under 18					
No own children	40,363	32,141	8,222	2,741	5,481
With own children	38,847	26,445	12,402	2,260	10,142
With own children under 12	28,557	19,593	8,964	1,547	7,417
With own children under 6	17,127	12,014	5,112	878	4,234
With own children under 3	10,023	7,206	2,817	530	2,287
With own children under 1	3,255	2,318	937	203	734
Family income in 2002					
Under \$10,000	5,176	1,584	3,593	426	3,167
\$10,000-\$14,999	3,674	1,694	1,981	309	1,672
\$15,000-\$19,999	4,433	2,385	2,048	387	1,661
\$20,000-\$24,999	4,780	2,853	1,927	465	1,462
\$25,000-\$29,999	4,757	3,032	1,725	388	1,337
\$30,000-\$39,999	8,822	5,988	2,835	763	2,072
\$40,000-\$49,999	7,874	5,779	2,095	634	1,461
\$50,000-\$74,999	15,837	13,244	2,593	889	1,704
\$75,000-\$99,999	10,288	9,308	980	390	590
\$100,000 and over	13,567	12,720	847	349	498
Tenure					
Owner	59,525	48,632	10,892	2,950	7,942
Renter	18,743	9,297	9,446	1,988	7,458
Occupies without payment	942	657	285	62	223

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

children reside. In 2003, 39 million family groups in the United States included children (Table 2), up from 30 million in 1970. Single-mother families increased from 3 million in 1970 to 10 million in 2003, while the number of single-father families grew from

less than half a million to 2 million.

The number of two-parent family groups with children remained relatively stable at about 26 million over the same period, but their proportion of all family groups with children declined from 87 percent

in 1970 to 69 percent in 1995, and remained fairly level at about 68 percent from 1996 to 2003.⁹

⁹ Table FM-2, "All Parent/Child Situations, by Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin of Householder or Reference Person: 1970 to Present" at the following Internet address: <www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabFM-2.pdf>

Table 3.
**Family Groups by Type and Selected Characteristics of the Family Reference Person¹:
 2003**

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Married couple family groups	Other family groups		
			Total	Male reference person	Female reference person
All family groups	79,210	58,586	20,624	5,001	15,623
Age of reference person					
15 to 24 years	4,457	1,561	2,897	843	2,054
25 to 34 years	14,569	9,834	4,735	1,142	3,593
35 to 44 years	19,547	14,238	5,309	1,189	4,120
45 to 54 years	17,326	13,568	3,758	967	2,791
55 to 64 years	11,433	9,688	1,745	425	1,320
65 years and over	11,877	9,698	2,181	435	1,746
Race and ethnicity of reference person					
White only	64,815	50,865	13,949	3,752	10,197
Non-Hispanic	55,489	44,681	10,809	2,829	7,980
Black only	9,628	4,264	5,364	830	4,534
Asian only	3,083	2,454	629	236	393
Hispanic (of any race)	10,037	6,583	3,454	975	2,479
Marital status of reference person					
Married, spouse present	58,586	58,586	(X)	(X)	(X)
Married, spouse absent	886	(X)	886	276	610
Separated	2,174	(X)	2,174	401	1,773
Divorced	6,865	(X)	6,866	1,561	5,305
Widowed	2,707	(X)	2,707	456	2,251
Never married	7,992	(X)	7,991	2,306	5,685
Education of reference person					
Less than high school	12,362	7,809	4,554	1,176	3,378
High school graduate	24,605	17,334	7,272	1,857	5,415
Some college	21,164	15,161	6,003	1,279	4,724
Bachelor's degree or higher	21,078	18,282	2,796	689	2,107
Labor force status of reference person					
Employed	53,461	40,138	13,322	3,512	9,810
Unemployed	3,209	1,775	1,435	376	1,059
Not in labor force	22,539	16,673	5,867	1,113	4,754

X Not applicable.

¹A family reference person is the person in the household around whom a family unit is defined. This may be the householder, either the husband or wife in a married couple subfamily, or the parent in a parent-child subfamily.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

Meanwhile, from 1970 to 2003 the proportion of single-mother family groups grew to 26 percent from 12 percent and that of single-father family groups grew to 6 percent from 1 percent. As with married-couple family groups with children, since 1996, the percentages of both single-mother and single-father family groups have been fairly level.

Several demographic trends have affected the shift from two-parent to one-parent families. A larger

proportion of births occurred to unmarried women in the 1990s than in the 1960s and 1970s, increasing the proportion of never-married parents.¹⁰ A partial explanation is that the delay of marriage also increased the likelihood of a nonmarital birth. Another factor was the growth in

¹⁰ Stephanie Ventura and Christine Bachrach, "Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-99," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 16 (October 2000), Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 2000. (Table 1).

divorce among couples with children. These trends may have important implications for the well-being of children, and the programs and policies that relate to welfare, family leave, child care, and other areas of work and family life. Of the 12 million one-parent family groups, the 10 million maintained by women were more likely than the 2 million maintained by men both to include more than one child (45 percent compared with 37 percent) and

Table 4.
Single Parents by Sex and Selected Characteristics: 2003

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Single fathers					Single mothers				
	Total	Race and ethnicity				Total	Race and ethnicity			
		White only		Black only	Hispanic (of any race)		White only		Black only	Hispanic (of any race)
		Total	Non-Hispanic				Total	Non-Hispanic		
All single parents.....	2,260	1,758	1,330	353	450	10,142	6,471	4,870	3,124	1,807
Type of family group										
Family household.....	1,915	1,506	1,176	285	346	8,139	5,155	3,960	2,591	1,357
Related subfamily.....	260	175	97	62	84	1,596	1,003	645	475	390
Unrelated subfamily.....	84	78	58	6	20	407	313	265	58	61
Number of own children under 18										
1 child.....	1,422	1,101	863	228	254	5,529	3,670	2,866	1,563	904
2 children.....	609	485	353	84	137	2,935	1,876	1,396	915	530
3 children.....	170	133	90	28	43	1,223	697	484	443	246
4 or more children.....	58	39	24	13	15	455	228	125	203	127
Presence of own children under 18										
With own children under 18.....	2,260	1,758	1,330	353	450	10,142	6,471	4,870	3,124	1,807
With own children under 12.....	1,547	1,187	846	254	360	7,417	4,624	3,385	2,391	1,405
With own children under 6.....	878	668	430	139	253	4,234	2,575	1,811	1,395	872
With own children under 3.....	530	404	261	84	152	2,287	1,364	956	789	453
With own children under 1.....	203	162	112	27	55	734	446	309	241	155
Education										
Less than high school.....	450	356	170	64	195	1,966	1,267	600	585	736
High school graduate.....	953	742	590	146	156	3,577	2,235	1,726	1,169	586
Some college.....	580	426	269	113	62	3,298	2,065	1,722	1,055	396
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	277	234	302	29	35	1,301	904	822	315	90
Marital status										
Never married.....	852	601	359	183	257	4,413	2,255	1,507	1,924	850
Married spouse absent ¹	344	264	203	53	63	1,810	1,193	773	479	480
Divorced.....	956	817	707	95	115	3,504	2,725	2,363	632	394
Widowed.....	107	76	62	22	15	416	298	228	89	83
Poverty status in 2002										
Below poverty level.....	357	239	142	93	100	3,268	1,849	1,214	1,237	730
At or above poverty level.....	1,903	1,520	1,188	260	349	6,875	4,622	3,656	1,887	1,077

¹Married spouse absent includes separated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

to have family incomes below the poverty level (32 percent compared with 16 percent). Women maintaining one-parent family groups were also more likely than corresponding men never to have married (44 percent and 38 percent, respectively).

Whether the single parent is divorced or never married may be an important indicator of the quality of life for children in these family groups. Children living with

divorced single mothers typically have an economic advantage over children living with those who never married. Divorced parents are, on average, older, have more education, and have higher incomes than parents who never married.¹¹ Non-Hispanic White single-mother family groups were more likely to

¹¹ Martin T. O'Connell, *Children with single parents—how they fare*, Census Brief, CENBR/97-1, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 1997.

be the result of a marital disruption (49 percent were divorced) than an out-of-wedlock birth (31 percent were never married). Black single mothers were the least likely to be divorced (20 percent) and the most likely to be never married (62 percent). Hispanic single mothers were more likely than non-Hispanic White single mothers or Black single mothers to be in a related subfamily (22 percent, compared with 13 percent and 15 percent respectively).

Table 5.
Married-Couple Family Groups With Stay-At-Home Parents: 2003

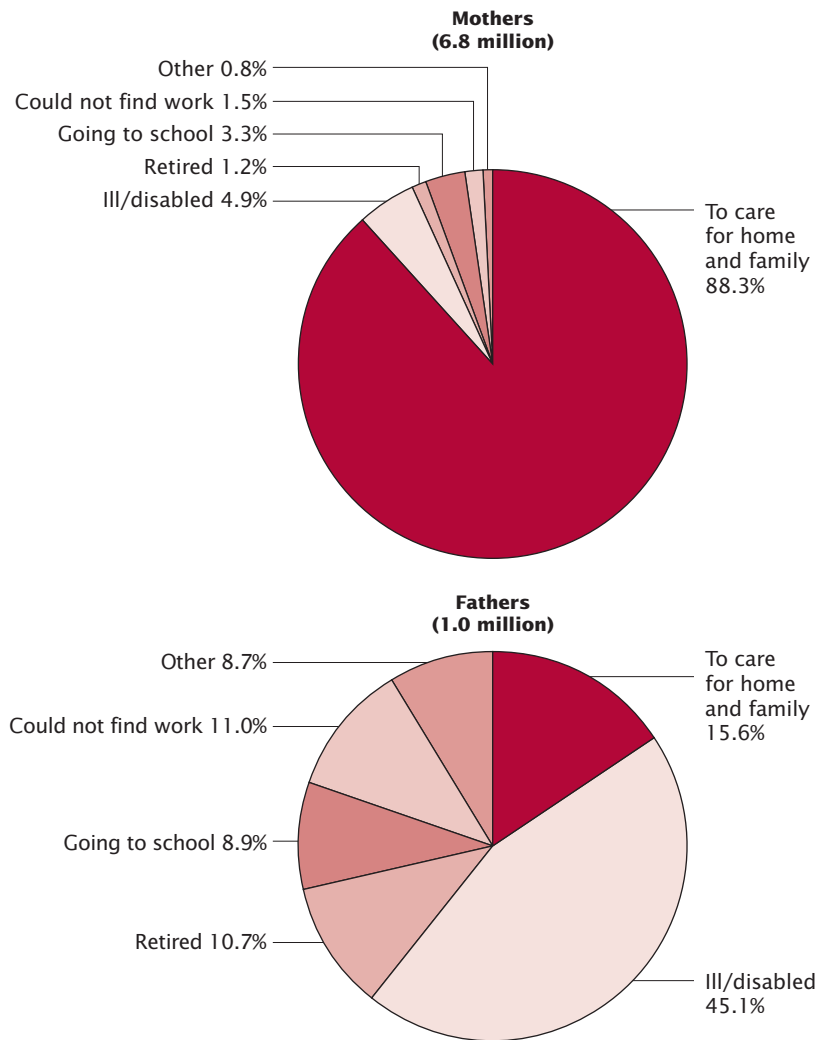
(In thousands)

Characteristic	Mothers		Fathers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All married-couple family groups with children under 15 years old	23,209	100.0	23,209	100.0
Labor force participation last year and stay-at-home parent families				
In labor force 1 or more weeks last year	16,371	70.5	22,199	95.6
Out of labor force all 52 weeks last year	6,838	29.5	1,009	4.3
Primary reason out of the labor force				
Ill/disabled	335	1.4	455	2.0
Retired	80	0.3	108	0.5
Going to school	227	1.0	90	0.4
Could not find work	105	0.5	111	0.5
Other	54	0.2	88	0.4
To care for home and family	6,036	26.0	157	0.7
Spouse in labor force all 52 weeks last year	5,388	23.2	98	0.4
Stay-at-home family groups	5,388	100.0	98	100.0
Type of family group				
Family household	5,276	97.9	94	95.9
Related subfamily	110	2.0	5	5.1
Unrelated subfamily	2	0.0	-	0.0
Number of own children under 15				
1 child	1,648	30.6	36	36.7
2 children	2,226	41.3	50	51.0
3 children	1,063	19.7	6	6.1
4 or more children	451	8.4	6	6.1
Presence of children				
With own children under 15	5,388	100.0	98	100.0
With own children under 12	4,883	90.6	85	86.7
With own children under 6	3,491	64.8	50	51.0
With own children under 3	2,254	41.8	28	28.6
With own children under 1	724	13.4	7	7.1
Age of stay-at-home parent				
15 to 24 years	287	5.3	4	4.1
25 to 34 years	1,795	33.3	25	25.5
35 to 44 years	2,379	44.2	46	46.9
45 to 54 years	818	15.2	19	19.4
55 to 64 years	97	1.8	4	4.1
65 years and over	12	0.2	-	0.0
Family income in 2002				
Under \$10,000	126	2.3	6	6.1
\$10,000-\$14,999	229	4.3	3	3.1
\$15,000-\$19,999	318	5.9	3	3.1
\$20,000-\$24,999	396	7.3	11	11.2
\$25,000-\$29,999	416	7.7	8	8.2
\$30,000-\$39,999	650	12.1	17	17.3
\$40,000-\$49,999	508	9.4	11	11.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	1,043	19.4	14	14.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	613	11.4	17	17.3
\$100,000 and over	1,089	20.2	9	9.2
Poverty status in 2002				
Below poverty level	668	12.4	13	13.3
At or above poverty level	4,720	87.6	85	86.7

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

Figure 4.
Reason For Being Out of the Labor Force for the Past Year for Married Mothers and Fathers With Children Under Age 15: 2003



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

Stay-at-home parent family groups

Recently, much interest has focused on married couples with children and a “stay-at-home” parent. This term typically describes a family where the father or the mother stays home to care for the children while the other spouse is employed. A 1993 estimate of

2 million stay-at-home fathers, a figure that has been widely publicized, was based on the number of fathers providing the primary care for their children under 15 years old while their spouses were at work.¹² This number, however,

¹² See the following Web site for links to media reports and information on stay-at-home dads: <www.slowlane.com>.

included 1.6 million fathers who actually were employed.¹³

In this report, estimates of the number of stay-at-home mothers and fathers caring for children under 15 are based not on the parents’ activities as childcare providers but rather on the primary reason they were not in the labor force for the previous 52 weeks. The labor-force-based measure is an item asked on the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS) and allows consistent measures of stay-at-home parent families over time.

In 2003, 23 million married-couple family groups included children under 15 years old. Table 5 shows how many had mothers or fathers out of the labor force for the preceding 52 weeks and the primary reason. Most parents in these married-couple families participated in the labor force for at least one week of the prior year (71 percent of mothers and 96 percent of fathers). However, 7 million mothers and 1 million fathers were out of the labor force all year.

The ASEC asked the primary reason why adults were out of the labor force for the entire previous year. Table 5 shows the distribution of these reasons and the percentage of all married-couple family groups with children under 15 that they represent, while Figure 4 shows the proportions of mothers and fathers who reported each reason. In 2003, 6 million (88 percent) of the 7 million married mothers out of the labor force said that the primary reason was to

¹³ Lynne Casper, *My Daddy Takes Care of Me! Fathers as Care Providers*, Current Population Reports, P70-59 <www.census.gov/prod/3/97pubs/p70-59.pdf> (U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1997) and PPL-53—Detailed Table 5.

Definition Box 3.

Marital Status. Marital status, as shown in this report, reflects the person's status at the time of the survey. For example, the category "divorced" represents only those divorced and not remarried at that time. It is not a count of divorces that occurred in 2003, nor a count of all people who have ever divorced in their lifetime. The category "married" includes both adults who lived with their spouse and those who lived apart, including those who were separated. "Unmarried" includes those who had never married or were divorced or widowed at the time of the survey.

Median Age at First Marriage. The median age at first marriage shown in this report is calculated indirectly by estimating the proportion of young people who will marry during their lifetime, calculating one-half of this proportion, and determining the age (at the time of the survey) of people at this half-way mark by interpolation. It does not represent the actual median age of the population who married during the calendar year.

Cohabitation. Since 1995 and in our historical tables since 1996, a category of relationship to the householder has been available

from the Current Population Survey for use in the direct measurement of cohabitation. This category allows respondents to identify an individual in the household as the 'unmarried partner' of the householder. This direct measure replaces a previously derived indirect measure of cohabitation, which inferred the relationship based on the presence of only two unmarried, opposite-sex, unrelated adults in the household. Cohabiting couples in which neither partner is the householder are not tabulated by either of these measures.

care for home and family. About 160,000 (16 percent) of the 1 million fathers out of the labor force all year gave this reason, while 45 percent reported being ill or disabled.

Focusing on the mothers and fathers who responded that they were out of the labor force to care for home and family helps to better define stay-at-home parents. Of the 6 million families with mothers out of the labor force caring for home and family during the prior year, 5 million had fathers in the labor force for the entire year. In 62 percent (about 100,000) of families with the father out of the labor force caring for home and family, the mothers were in the labor force for the entire year.

The characteristics of stay-at-home parent families are shown in Table 5. Forty-two percent of stay-at-home mothers had children under 3 in the household, compared with 29 percent of stay-at-home fathers. Stay-at-home

mothers were also more often under 35 years old than stay-at-home fathers, 39 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

MARITAL STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS

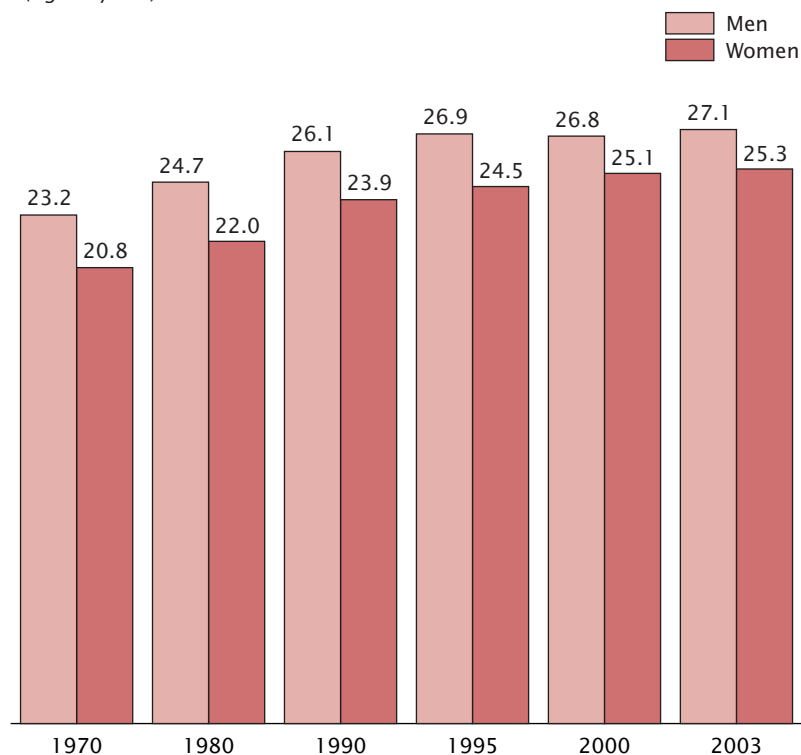
One reason that the proportion of nonfamily households increased since 1970 is postponement of marriage, as reflected in the rise in the age of first marriage. In 1970, the median age at first marriage was 20.8 years for women and 23.2 years for men. By 2003, these ages had risen to 25.3 years and 27.1 years, respectively (Figure 5), and the gap in median age at first marriage had narrowed from 2.4 years to 1.8 years. Changes in marriage patterns also can be observed in the proportion of the population that has not married. In 2003, 32 percent of men and 25 percent of women 15 years and older had never married, up from 28 and 22 percent for men and women, respectively, in 1970 (Figure 6).

The postponement of marriage since 1970 has led to a substantial increase in the percentage of young, never-married adults. The proportion of women 20 to 24 years old who had never married more than doubled between 1970 and 2003—from 36 percent to 75 percent (Table 6). The increase was relatively greater for women 30 to 34 years old, more than tripling, from 6 percent to 23 percent. Changes were also dramatic for men—the proportion of men 20 to 24 years old who had never married increased from 55 percent in 1970 to 86 percent in 2003. Men 30 to 34 years old experienced an increase from 9 percent to 33 percent. However, the majority of men and women in 2003 had been married by the time they were 30 to 34 years old (72 percent), and among men and women 65 years old and over, 96 percent had been married.

During most of the time that the median age at first marriage was increasing, divorce was also on the

Figure 5.
**Median Age at First Marriage for the Population
 15 Years and Over by Sex: 1970 to 2003**

(Age in years)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.

rise, although the rate leveled off during the 1990s. Both of these demographic shifts altered the marital composition of the population (Figure 6). Overall, never-married and divorced men and women composed a larger share of the population in 2003 than they did in 1970, while the proportion currently married declined. For example, 25 percent of women 15 years and older were never married and 13 percent were divorced or separated in 2003, compared with 22 percent and 6 percent, respectively, in 1970. In contrast, 52 percent of women aged 15 and over were currently married in 2003, down from 60 percent in 1970. The same trend

occurred for men, but in all time periods shown in Figure 6, men were more likely than women to be currently married. They were also more likely never to have been married. Women, on the other hand, were more likely than men to have been widowed or divorced. These differences are partially due to higher age-specific mortality among men—thereby leaving more women as widows—and higher rates of remarriage among men than women after divorce.¹⁴

¹⁴ Rose Kreider and Jason Fields, *Number, Timing, and Duration of Marriages and Divorces: Fall 1996*, Current Population Reports, P70-80, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 2001.

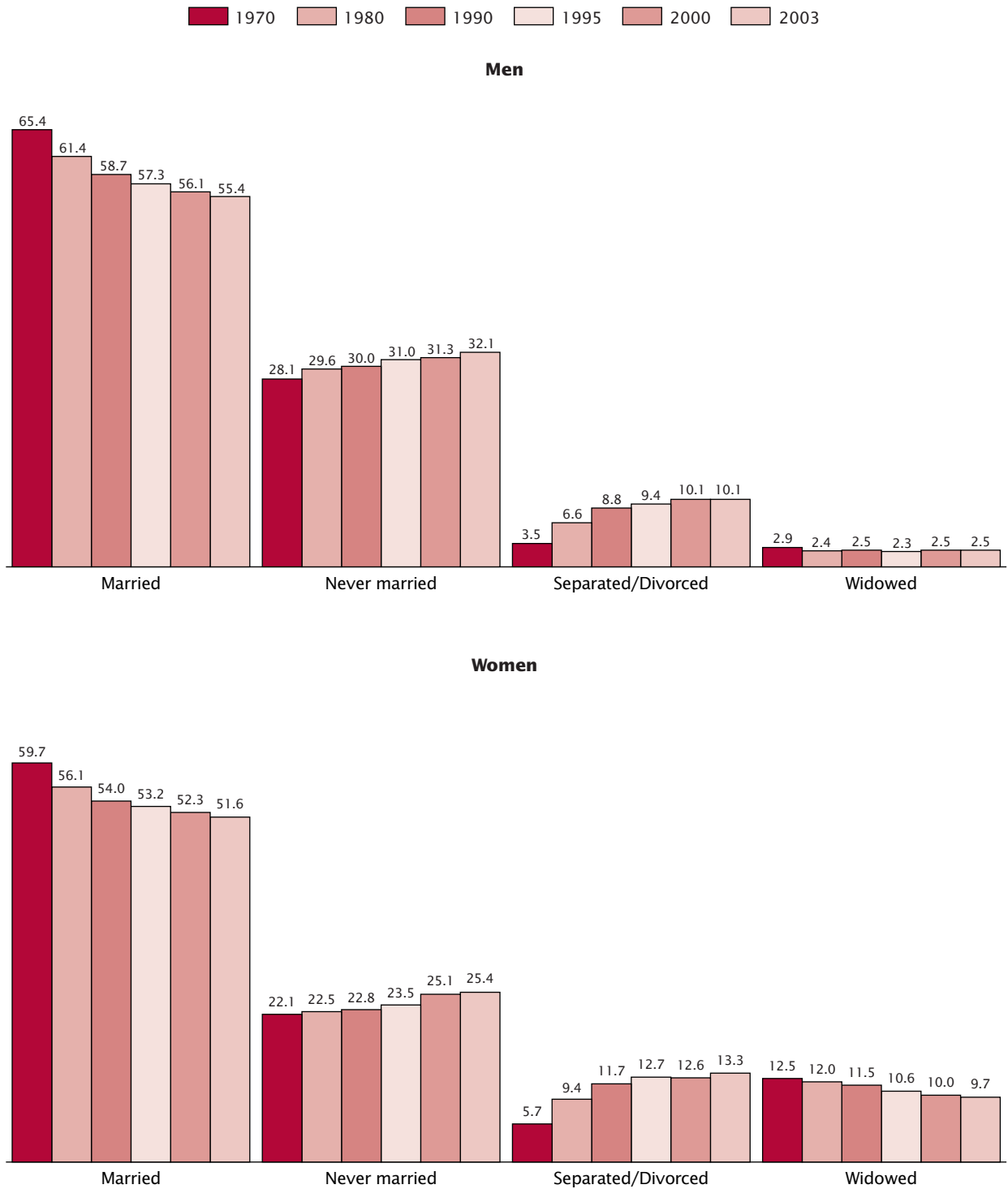
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF YOUNGER AND OLDER ADULTS

Younger adults

Differences in marriage and divorce patterns by age and sex are reflected in the variety of living arrangements of young adults. In 2003, 55 percent (7.6 million) of men 18 to 24 years old lived at home with one or both of their parents. Although women typically marry at younger ages, a sizable proportion in this age group (46 percent) lived at home with at least one of their parents (Table 7). Among people 18 to 24 years old, 9 percent of men and 16 percent of women were married and living with their spouse. In 2003, living alone was not very common among these younger adults—about 5 percent of men and women did so. Both men and women in this age group were more likely to live with others (cohabit or live with roommates or people other than spouses) or live with their parents than to live alone or with a spouse. In this age group, about 31 percent of men and women lived with people who were neither their spouse nor their parent.

For 25- to 34-year-olds, married life was the most likely (52 percent) type of living arrangement. In 2003, 48 percent of men and 57 percent of women in this age group were married and living with their spouse. Living alone also occurred for both men and women at these ages: 11 percent and 8 percent, respectively, in 2003. Some 25- to 34-year-olds lived with at least one of their parents: 14 percent of men and 7 percent of women.

Figure 6.
Marital Status of the Population 15 Years and Over by Sex: 1970 to 2003
(In percent)



Note: Married includes both "spouse present" and "spouse absent"; separated are shown with divorced for this figure.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1970 to 2003.

Table 6.

Marital Status of the Population 15 Years and Over by Sex and Age: March 1970 and 2003

(In thousands)

Sex and Age	2003								March 1970 percent never married ¹
	Number							Percent never married	
	Total	Married spouse present	Married spouse absent	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never married		
Both Sexes									
Total 15 years and over	225,057	117,172	3,139	4,723	21,649	13,995	64,380	28.6	24.9
15 to 19 years	20,176	257	43	70	39	16	19,751	97.9	93.9
20 to 24 years	19,856	3,181	177	213	243	16	16,026	80.7	44.5
25 to 29 years	18,696	8,158	308	476	832	50	8,872	47.5	14.7
30 to 34 years	20,505	12,268	317	515	1,606	80	5,720	27.9	7.8
35 to 44 years	44,025	28,633	759	1,461	5,567	407	7,197	16.3	5.9
45 to 54 years	40,196	27,299	606	1,056	6,478	842	3,914	9.7	6.1
55 to 64 years	27,387	18,949	393	550	4,157	1,779	1,558	5.7	7.2
65 years and over	34,217	18,427	535	382	2,725	10,806	1,341	3.9	7.6
Males									
Total 15 years and over	108,696	58,586	1,651	1,905	8,976	2,697	34,881	32.1	28.1
15 to 19 years	10,241	66	13	37	21	7	10,098	98.6	97.4
20 to 24 years	9,953	1,156	78	63	93	-	8,563	86.0	54.7
25 to 29 years	9,366	3,573	170	171	327	14	5,112	54.6	19.1
30 to 34 years	10,177	5,733	187	185	678	21	3,371	33.1	9.4
35 to 44 years	21,702	14,045	406	587	2,335	88	4,242	19.5	6.7
45 to 54 years	19,578	13,704	322	413	2,821	202	2,117	10.8	7.5
55 to 64 years	13,158	9,970	200	260	1,679	292	757	5.8	7.8
65 years and over	14,521	10,341	274	190	1,022	2,074	621	4.3	7.5
Females									
Total 15 years and over	116,361	58,586	1,488	2,817	12,673	11,297	29,499	25.4	22.1
15 to 19 years	9,935	193	30	32	18	9	9,652	97.2	90.3
20 to 24 years	9,903	2,025	99	150	150	16	7,463	75.4	35.8
25 to 29 years	9,330	4,585	138	305	505	36	3,760	40.3	10.5
30 to 34 years	10,329	6,535	130	330	928	58	2,349	22.7	6.2
35 to 44 years	22,322	14,588	353	875	3,233	319	2,955	13.2	5.2
45 to 54 years	20,617	13,595	283	643	3,658	640	1,797	8.7	4.9
55 to 64 years	14,229	8,980	193	290	2,478	1,487	801	5.6	6.8
65 years and over	19,696	8,086	261	192	1,704	8,732	720	3.7	7.7

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹The 1970 percentages include 14-year-olds, and thus are for 14+ and 14-19.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

Older adults

Among the population 75 years and over, 67 percent of men were living with their spouse in 2003 compared with 29 percent of women in this same age group (Table 7). In contrast, 50 percent of women were living alone, compared with 23 percent of men. The proportion not currently married but living with

either relatives or nonrelatives was about twice as high for women as for men: 22 percent compared with 10 percent.

Among the population 65 to 74 years old, the likelihood of living with a spouse was higher for both men and women than it was among people 75 years and older; in the younger age group, 74 percent of

men lived with their spouse compared with 54 percent of women. Living alone was also less common for people 65 to 74 years old than for people 75 years and older for both men and women. These differences in living arrangements reflect higher male mortality. With increasing age, however, both men and women were more likely to live alone.

Table 7.
Living Arrangements of Younger and Older Adults by Age: 2003

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
YOUNGER ADULTS				
Total, 18 to 34 years				
Total	33,354	33,251	100.0	100.0
Living alone	2,934	2,411	8.8	7.3
Living with spouse.....	10,517	13,311	31.5	40.0
Child of the householder - not living with a spouse	10,200	7,590	30.6	22.8
Other living arrangement	9,703	9,939	29.1	29.9
18 to 24 years				
Total	13,811	13,592	100.0	100.0
Living alone	722	814	5.2	6.0
Living with spouse.....	1,211	2,191	8.8	16.1
Child of the householder - not living with a spouse	7,569	6,215	54.8	45.7
Other living arrangement	4,309	4,372	31.2	32.2
25 to 34 years				
Total	19,543	19,659	100.0	100.0
Living alone	2,212	1,597	11.3	8.1
Living with spouse.....	9,306	11,120	47.6	56.6
Child of the householder - not living with a spouse	2,631	1,375	13.5	7.0
Other living arrangement	5,394	5,567	27.6	28.3
OLDER ADULTS				
Total, 65 years and over				
Total	14,521	19,695	100.0	100.0
Living alone	2,725	7,824	18.8	39.7
Living with spouse.....	10,341	8,086	71.2	41.1
Other living arrangement	1,455	3,785	10.0	19.2
65 to 74 years				
Total	8,268	9,831	100.0	100.0
Living alone	1,291	2,911	15.6	29.6
Living with spouse.....	6,141	5,257	74.3	53.5
Other living arrangement	836	1,663	10.1	16.9
75 years and over				
Total	6,253	9,864	100.0	100.0
Living alone	1,434	4,913	22.9	49.8
Living with spouse.....	4,200	2,829	67.2	28.7
Other living arrangement	619	2,122	9.9	21.5

Note: More specific relationship information and information for other age groups is available in Table A2 *Family Status and Household Relationship of People 15 Years and Over, by Marital Status, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2003* on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at the following URL: <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2003.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

Unmarried-partner households

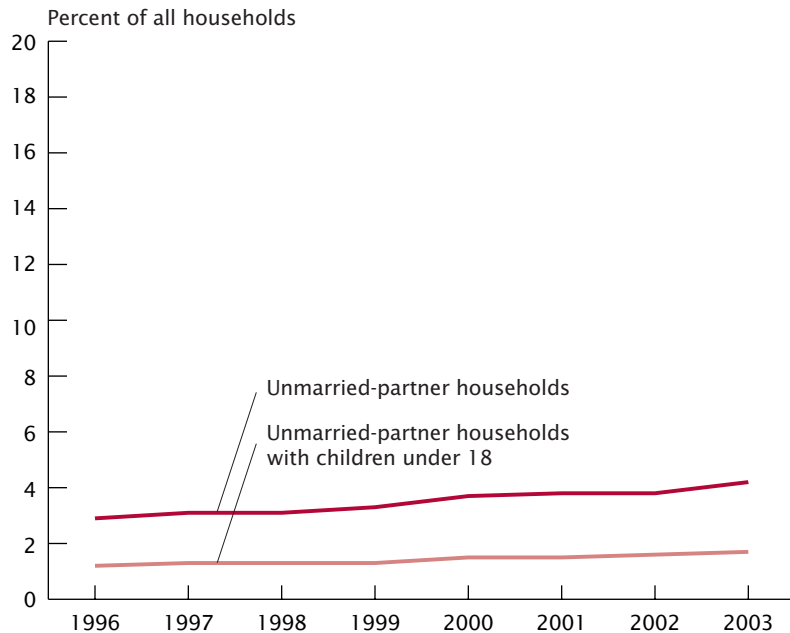
In 2003, 4.6 million households were classified as unmarried-partner households; that is, the householder was living with someone of the opposite sex who was identified as their unmarried partner. The proportion of all households that were unmarried-partner households has been steadily

increasing, from 2.9 percent of all households in 1996 to 4.2 percent in 2003 (Figure 7). These figures may under-represent the number of cohabiting couples because only householders and their partners, not all unmarried couples present in a household, are tabulated. Moreover, respondents may be reluctant to classify themselves as cohabiting and may describe

themselves as roommates, housemates, or friends.¹⁵

¹⁵ For more information on the growth of unmarried-partner households, see Lynne M. Casper and Philip N. Cohen, "How Does POSSLQ Measure Up? National Estimates of Cohabitation," *Demography* 37:2, (May 2000), pp. 237-45, and the highlights of the "Counting Couples Workshop: Improving Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, and Cohabitation Data in the Federal Statistical System" at <www.childstats.gov>.

Figure 7.
Unmarried-Partner Households: 1996 to 2003



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements: 1996 to 2003.

In 2003, 9.2 million men and women lived together in 4.6 million unmarried-partner households (Table 8). Cohabiting women tended to be younger than cohabiting men—24 percent of women and 16 percent of men were under 25. In contrast, 4 percent of married women and 2 percent of married men were this young. The proportion of unmarried partners who were 25 to 34 years old, while considerable (about one-third of men and women), was smaller than the proportion 35 years and older (43 percent of women and 50 percent of men). Among married couples, the majority of wives and husbands were 35 years and older (77 and 82 percent, respectively).

In 2003, 41 percent of unmarried-partner households and 45 percent of married couples included children under 18. More unmarried partners with children were under age 35 (64 percent of women and

57 percent of men) than married couples with children (37 percent of women and 28 percent of men).

Unmarried partners with children were also more likely to have a high school diploma or less education compared with married couples with children. In 2003, 63 percent of female and 70 percent of male unmarried partners with children had a high school diploma or less, compared with about 40 percent of both men and women who were married with children under 18.

Employment patterns differed for married spouses and unmarried partners with children. The proportion of married women with children and female unmarried partners with children who were employed were not statistically different—about two-thirds each. Among men in 2003, a greater proportion of married men with children (91 percent) than male

unmarried partners with children (81 percent) were employed.

In 2003, 80 percent of male partners and 72 percent of female partners in unmarried-partner households were employed. Married men and women were employed less often, 74 percent and 59 percent, respectively. This difference is affected by both the number of older men and women who were retired and by lower labor force participation among married women than among single women.

Table 9 compares men and women who were unmarried partners with married couples. In unmarried-partner households, 29 percent of women had higher levels of education than their partners, compared with 22 percent of wives in married couples. The percentages for unmarried partners with children were not different from those of married couples with children.

Unmarried partners overall were more similar in terms of their labor force status. In 2003, both partners worked in 61 percent of all unmarried-partner couple households, compared with 51 percent in married couples. The relationship reverses for couples with children. About 56 percent of unmarried partners with children reported that both partners were employed, compared with 61 percent of married couples with children.

In 19 percent of unmarried-partner households, but 23 percent of married couples, only the male partner was employed. Among couples with children present, only the man was employed in 25 percent of unmarried couples, compared with 30 percent of married couples.

Women in unmarried-partner households were also more likely than married women to earn more than their partners—23 percent of women in unmarried-partner households earned at least \$5,000 more than

Table 8.
Characteristics of Unmarried Partners and Married Spouses by Sex: 2003

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Unmarried partners				Married spouses			
	Total		With children under 18 ¹		Total		With children under 18 ¹	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	4,622	4,622	1,877	1,877	58,586	58,586	26,445	26,445
Age								
15 to 24 years.....	751	1,121	292	452	1,221	2,217	702	1,355
25 to 34 years.....	1,577	1,490	770	758	9,306	11,120	6,603	8,338
35 to 44 years.....	1,141	983	588	528	14,045	14,588	11,239	11,506
45 to 54 years.....	689	641	175	131	13,704	13,595	6,668	4,864
55 to 64 years.....	288	280	42	9	9,970	8,980	1,104	318
65 years and over	174	106	9	-	10,341	8,086	128	63
Race and ethnicity								
White only	3,713	3,755	1,420	1,466	50,822	50,590	22,367	22,306
Non-Hispanic.....	3,103	3,146	1,051	1,083	44,628	44,313	18,423	18,299
Black only	661	558	343	287	4,360	4,167	1,295	2,058
Asian only	96	149	30	38	2,384	2,744	602	1,460
Hispanic (of any race).....	679	678	402	421	6,599	6,701	4,227	4,295
Education								
Less than high school.....	843	736	452	411	8,435	7,105	3,475	2,992
High school graduate	1,799	1,627	858	770	17,293	19,425	7,344	7,440
Some college	1,178	1,395	420	531	14,289	15,652	6,787	7,493
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	801	863	147	164	18,570	16,403	8,838	8,519
Labor force status								
Employed.....	3,705	3,345	1,527	1,260	43,439	34,848	24,001	17,554
Unemployed	351	249	181	125	1,903	1,379	1,041	751
Not in labor force	566	1,028	169	492	13,244	22,359	1,403	8,140
Earnings in 2002								
Without earnings	510	904	177	401	12,145	20,942	1,263	7,424
With earnings	4,111	3,718	1,699	1,477	46,439	37,643	25,182	19,020
Under \$5,000	207	370	104	210	1,629	3,791	579	2,236
\$5,000 to \$9,999	276	360	116	155	1,507	3,426	592	1,884
\$10,000 to \$14,999	345	491	163	214	2,227	4,137	1,104	2,125
\$15,000 to \$19,999	487	513	216	188	2,843	4,013	1,564	2,045
\$20,000 to \$24,999	488	497	241	209	3,370	4,110	1,937	2,109
\$25,000 to \$29,999	458	412	198	185	3,359	3,569	1,873	1,720
\$30,000 to \$39,999	766	472	285	158	7,440	5,665	3,977	2,771
\$40,000 to \$49,999	424	266	173	78	5,727	3,497	3,138	1,601
\$50,000 to \$74,999	421	269	130	65	9,530	3,695	5,340	1,658
\$75,000 and over.....	239	68	73	15	8,807	1,740	5,078	871

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹May be "own children" of either partner or both partners. Excludes ever married children under 18 years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

their partners, compared with 17 percent of married women. In addition, 15 percent of unmarried partners but 31 percent of married couples included men who earned at least \$30,000 more than their partners or wives, respectively. Spouses and unmarried partners also differed by age. In 2003, 22 percent of female unmarried partners but

13 percent of wives were two or more years older than their male partners or husbands, respectively.¹⁶

¹⁶ For more information, see Tavia Simmons and Martin O'Connell, *Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000*, Census 2000 Special Reports, CENSR-5, U.S. Census Bureau: Washington, DC, 2003. Also, for a discussion of the transition from cohabitation to marriage, see Wendy D. Manning and Pamela J. Smock, "Why Marry?

Source of the data

The data in this report are from the Annual Social and Economic

Race and the Transition to Marriage Among Cohabitators," *Demography*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (November 1995), pp. 509-520; and Larry L. Bumpass and Hsien-Hen Lu, "Trends in Cohabitation and Implications for Children's Family Contexts in the United States," *Population Studies*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (March 2000), pp. 29-41.

Table 9.
Characteristics of Male-Female Unmarried and Married Couples: 2003

(In thousands)

Characteristic	Unmarried couples		Married couples	
	Total	With children under 18	Total	With children under 18
Total.....	4,622	1,877	58,586	26,445
Age difference				
Male 6 or more years older than female.....	1,104	456	11,466	5,162
Male 2 to 5 years older than female.....	1,306	559	20,601	9,087
Within 1 year of each other.....	1,189	476	18,830	8,770
Female 2 to 5 years older than male.....	602	244	5,379	2,608
Female 6 or more years older than male.....	421	142	2,309	818
Race difference¹				
Same-race couples.....	4,152	1,663	55,938	25,003
Both White only.....	3,558	1,369	49,725	21,826
Both Black only.....	521	270	3,990	1,967
Both Asian only.....	73	24	2,223	1,210
Interracial couples.....	228	47	1,043	527
Black only/White only.....	138	30	416	224
Black only/Asian only.....	13	4	49	24
White only/Asian only.....	77	13	578	279
All remaining combinations.....	242	167	1,605	915
Hispanic-origin difference²				
Both Hispanic.....	514	333	5,706	3,710
Neither Hispanic.....	3,778	1,387	50,992	21,632
One Hispanic and one non-Hispanic.....	330	156	1,888	1,102
Education				
Male more education than female.....	1,017	399	14,030	5,552
Male and female same education.....	2,261	936	31,866	14,971
Female more education than male.....	1,344	542	12,690	5,922
Employment status				
Male only employed.....	888	476	13,314	7,968
Female only employed.....	529	209	4,723	1,520
Neither employed.....	389	140	10,424	923
Both employed.....	2,816	1,052	30,125	16,034
Earnings difference in 2002³				
Male \$30,000 or more than female.....	708	269	18,352	10,762
Male \$5,000 to \$29,999 higher than female.....	1,765	788	15,580	8,581
Within \$4,999 of each other.....	1,093	399	14,731	3,189
Female \$5,000 to \$29,999 higher than male.....	824	357	7,007	2,807
Female \$30,000 or more than male.....	232	63	2,917	1,106

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹This race comparison is regardless of Hispanic origin. Data are not shown separately for the other race groups because of the small sample sizes in the Current Population Survey in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. The mutually exclusive race groups shown in this portion of the table are the most commonly reported single race groups. Other single race groups and those reporting multiple races are included in the "All remaining combinations" group. They may or may not be interracial couples.

²This difference does not consider race. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

³Includes people with no earnings or loss.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003.

Supplement (ASEC) to the 2003 Current Population Survey. The population represented (the population universe) in the ASEC is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with

their families on post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes

(91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000). Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March

2003. For annual time series from the CPS, data collected in the 2003 ASEC may be compared with data collected in the March Supplement to the CPS in prior years.

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

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio

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

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar03.pdf> or contact Jana Shepherd of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov>.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tables from the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS are available on the Internet at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site <www.census.gov>. Once on the

site, click on Subjects A-Z, select 'F,' then select 'Families.' From the 'Families' page, select '2003 CPS' and then choose from the list of options.

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USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

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