

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.¹ The report also describes how families and households have changed in recent years, notably during the latest economic recession, which lasted from 2007–2009.²

This report uses data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the American Community Survey (ACS).³ 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.⁴

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.

¹ 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_YR_S2601A&prodtype=table>.

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

³ 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.

⁴ For more details on the ACS, including its sample size and questions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/>. Further information on the CPS is available at <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>.

- 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).⁵
- Black children (55 percent) and Hispanic children (31 percent) were more likely to live with one parent than non-Hispanic White children (27 percent) or Asian children (13 percent).⁶
- During the latest recession, the percentage of stay-at-home mothers declined and did not

⁵ Note that unmarried opposite-sex couples were not statistically different from same-sex couples.

⁶ 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>. 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.⁷

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

⁷ For more information on the history of the CPS, see Chapter 2 of Technical Paper 66 at <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.⁸ 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

⁸ 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.⁹ 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 87 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.

⁹ 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 ¹	Total	Married couple	Other families		Total	Male householder	Female householder
					Male householder	Female householder			
All households	114,991,725	179,541	76,084,006	55,519,648	5,457,141	15,107,217	38,907,719	18,030,888	20,876,831
Age of Householder									
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
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder									
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
Size of Household									
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
Number of Related Children Under 18									
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 ²	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
Presence of Own Children Under 18									
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 ²	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
Tenure									
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

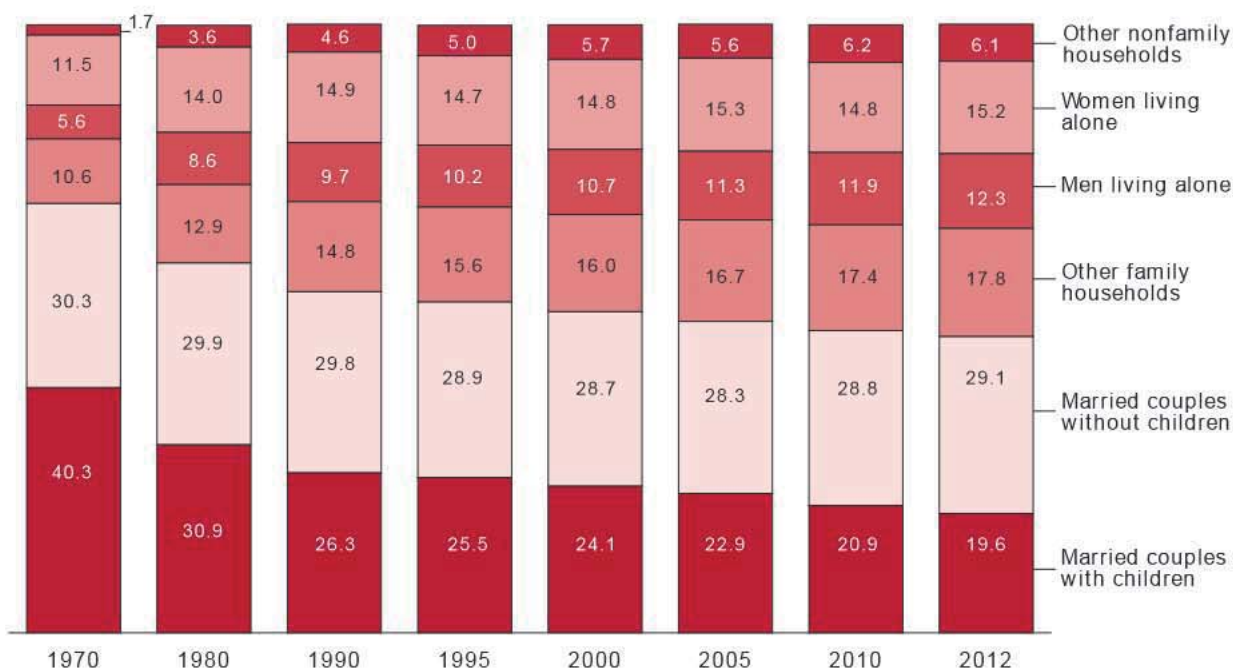
X Not applicable.

Z Rounds to zero.

¹ This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimated total number of households in each category or the average household size, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.² Excludes ever-married children under 18 years.Note: See <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 87 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.¹⁰

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 2012.¹¹ 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.¹²

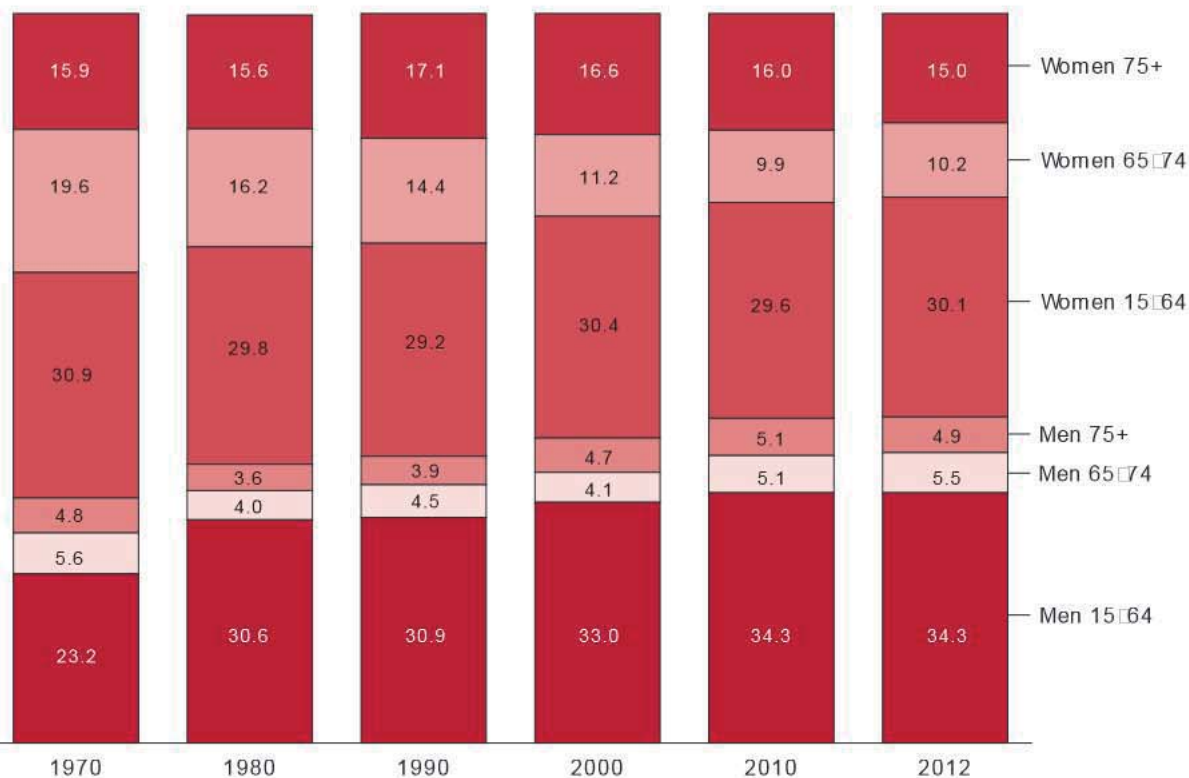
The growth in one-person households (people living alone) is responsible for most of the increase in nonfamily households over time—and the corresponding decrease in family households. The proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage

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

¹² 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.

¹⁰ 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 1980.¹³ However, one-person households among women of the same age did not increase between 1970 and 2012. This may

¹³ 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.¹⁴

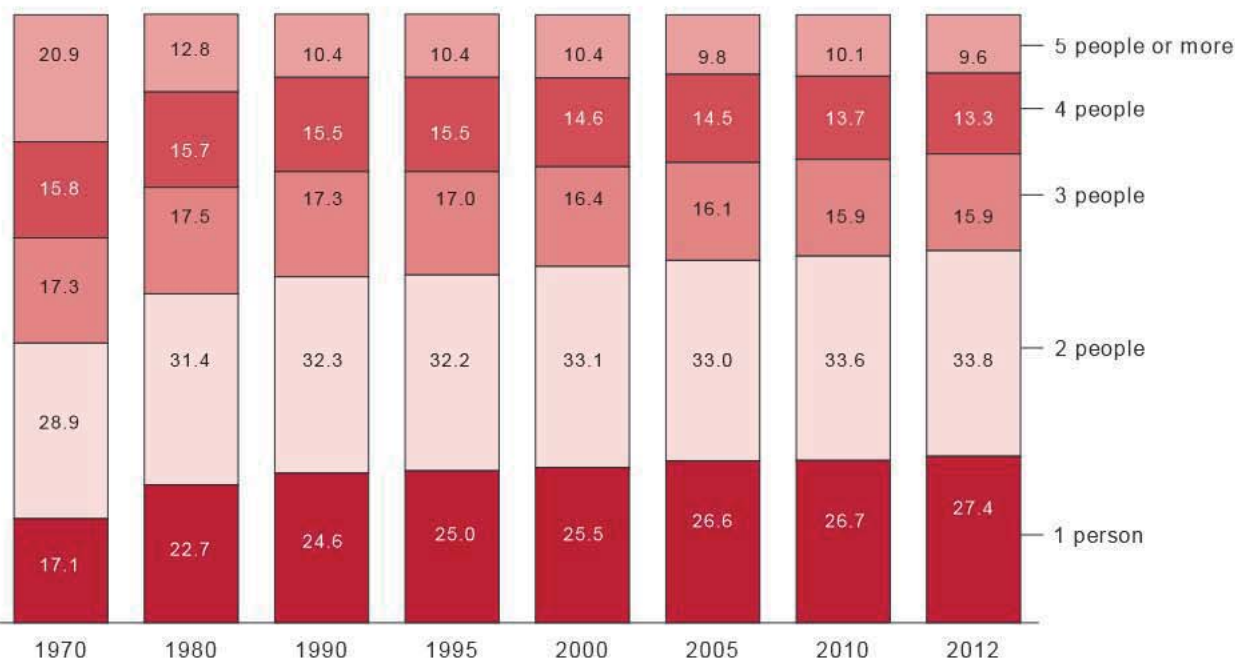
Households and families have become smaller over time (Figure 3).

Between 1970 and 2012, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to about 2.6.¹⁵ But the most profound changes in household size occurred among the largest and smallest

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

¹⁵ 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> and <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).¹⁶ Multigenerational households made up 3 percent of family households with a White,

¹⁶ 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_12_YR_B11017&prodType=table and http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_12_YR_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.¹⁷

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.

¹⁷ 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)
Total all family households	80,506	3,726	64,614	54,146	9,651	4,149	11,585
Total multigenerational households	3,726	3,726	2,533	1,638	799	262	970
Percent multigenerational households	4.6	100.0	3.9	3.0	8.3	6.3	8.4
Number	80,506	3,726	2,533	1,638	799	262	970
Type of multigenerational household ¹							
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 ²							
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
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Type of multigenerational household ¹							
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 ²							
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

¹ For total all family households, categories do not add to total or 100 percent, as there is no category for nonmultigenerational households.² 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.¹⁸

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).¹⁹ Forming a multigenerational household may be a strategy for coping with

poverty and could offer a financial safety net for some families.²⁰

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.²¹ It is important to note that the CPS counts students living in dormitories as living in their parents' home.²² 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.²³

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.²⁴ 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

¹⁸ 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.

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

²⁰ 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>.

²¹ 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>.

²² 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_1_YR_S2601B&prodType=table> and <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1_YR_B01001&prodType=table>.

²³ 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>.

²⁴ 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
YOUNGER ADULTS				
Total, 18 to 34 Years				
Total	35,612	35,714	100.0	100.0
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 <input type="checkbox"/> not living with a spouse or partner ¹	12,254	9,639	34.4	27.0
Other living arrangement	7,079	7,341	19.9	20.6
18 to 24 Years				
Total	15,154	14,971	100.0	100.0
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 <input type="checkbox"/> not living with a spouse or partner ¹	9,008	7,626	59.4	50.9
Other living arrangement	3,417	3,265	22.6	21.8
25 to 34 Years				
Total	20,458	20,743	100.0	100.0
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 <input type="checkbox"/> not living with a spouse or partner ¹	3,247	2,014	15.9	9.7
Other living arrangement	3,662	4,076	17.9	19.6
OLDER ADULTS				
Total, 65 Years and Over				
Total	18,333	23,160	100.0	100.0
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
65 to 74 Years				
Total	10,980	12,393	100.0	100.0
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
75 years and Over				
Total	7,353	10,767	100.0	100.0
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

¹ 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.²⁵ During the same period, the percentage of older women who lived with a spouse rose from 41 percent to 45 percent. Nonetheless, the

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