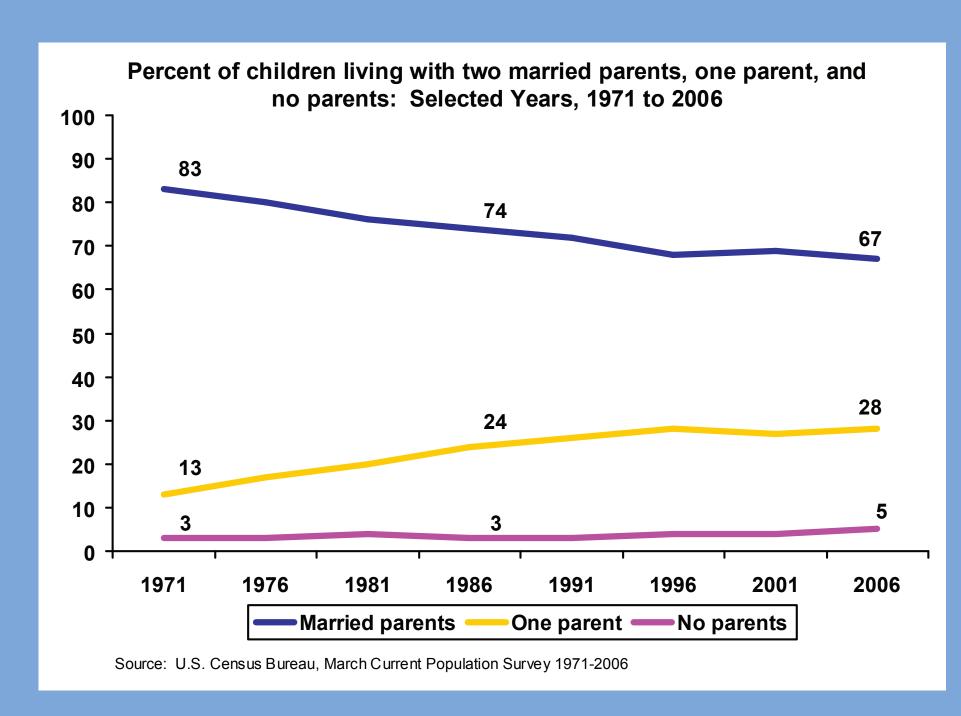
The Complex Living Arrangements of Children and Their Unmarried Parents

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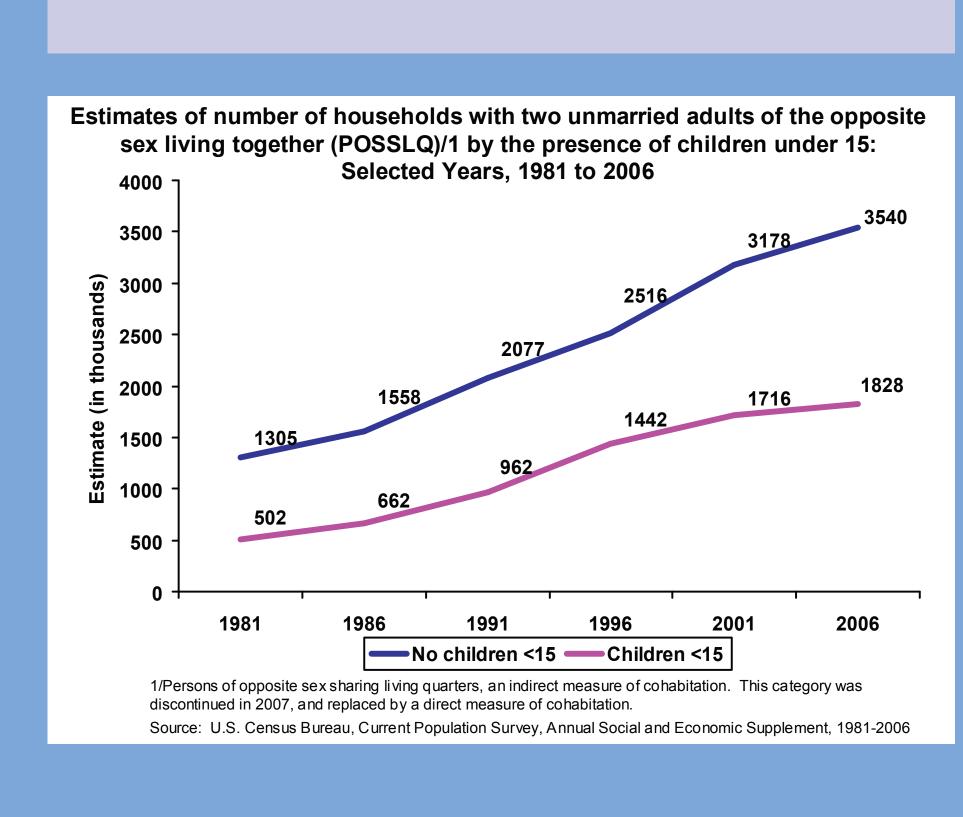
Introduction

For more than 30 years, the percentage of children living with two married parents has declined. Meanwhile, the percentage of children living with one parent has been on the rise.



Family demographers have noted that over time, more unmarried partner households have formed, many of which have children. So, many children previously counted as living with single parents may actually live with another parent or adult.

However, most large, nationally representative data sets have not had direct and detailed measures documenting this trend.



Since 2007, CPS data can show additional detail about children living with unmarried parents—whether they are living with one or two parents. This poster explores whether children live with 1) two unmarried parents, 2) a parent who is cohabiting or living with another adult or, 3) one parent alone.

Data

Economic Supplement (ASEC)
Conducted in February, March, and April
100,000 addresses; nationally representative
In 2007, CPS began to

ask a direct cohabitation question and
identify a second parent when present

New questions give more detail about the living arrangements of children of unmarried parents and make it possible to identify children living with two unmarried parents.
71.3 million weighted (58,357 unweighted) never married children <18 living with at least one parent

•2008 Current Population Survey's (CPS) Annual Social and

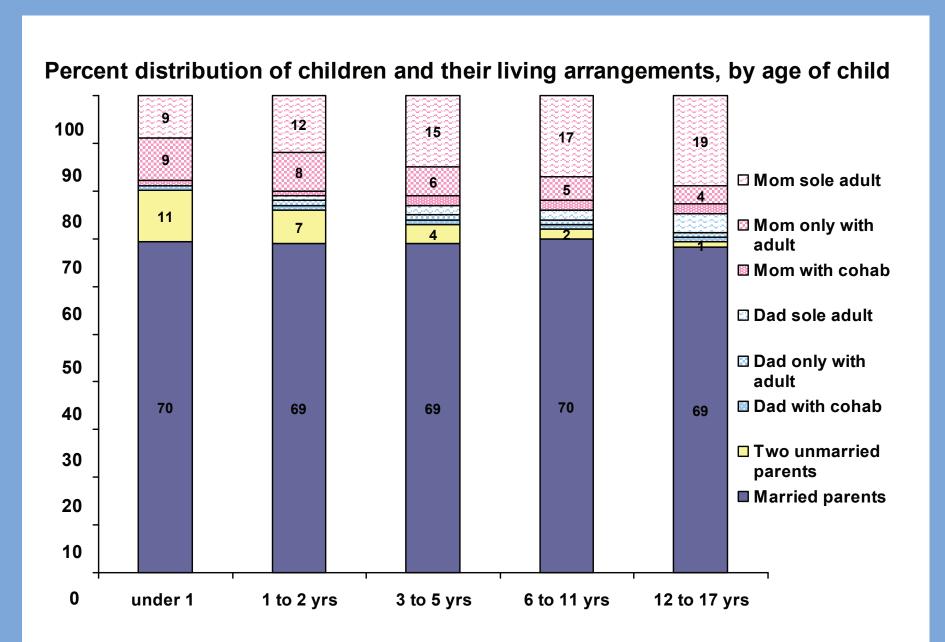
Definitions

Sole adult – No other adults in the household
 Married parents – Two of the child's parents live together in the same household and are married to each other
 Unmarried parents – Two of the child's parents live together in the same household but are not married to each other
 Other adult present – Child's parent lives with another adult including a cohabiting partner, relative, or non-relative who is not the child's other parent

Types of Children's Living Arrangements

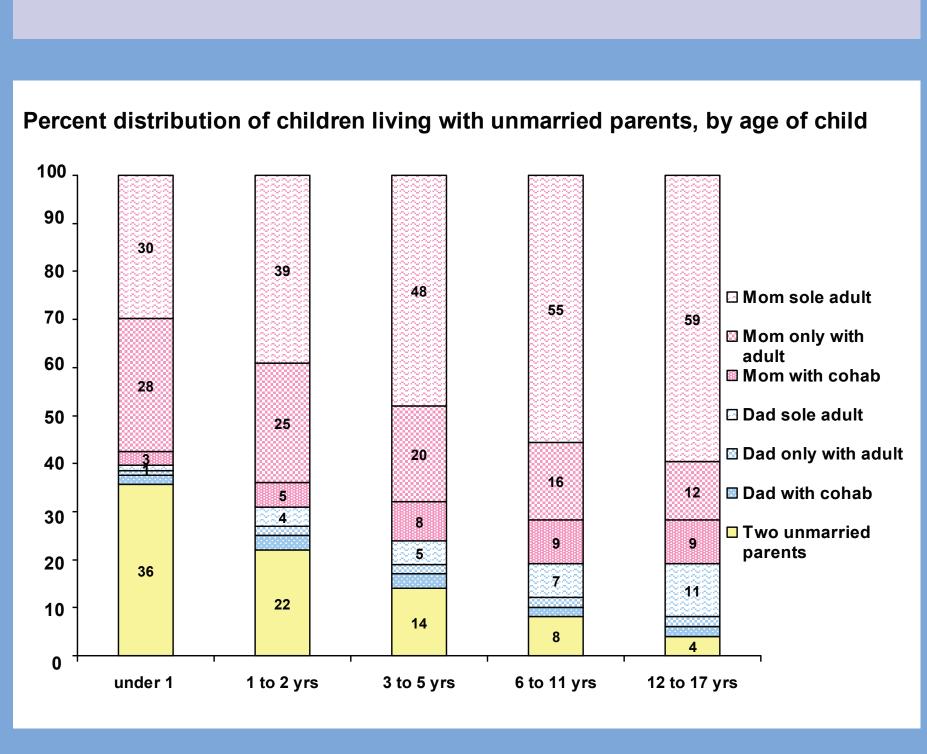
Across all age groups, about seven in ten children live with married parents.* Younger children are more likely to live with two unmarried parents than are older children.

* The percentage of children age 12-17 who live with two married parents, at 68.7, is statistically lower than 70 percent, and differs statistically from the percentage for children age 6-11, 70.2 percent.



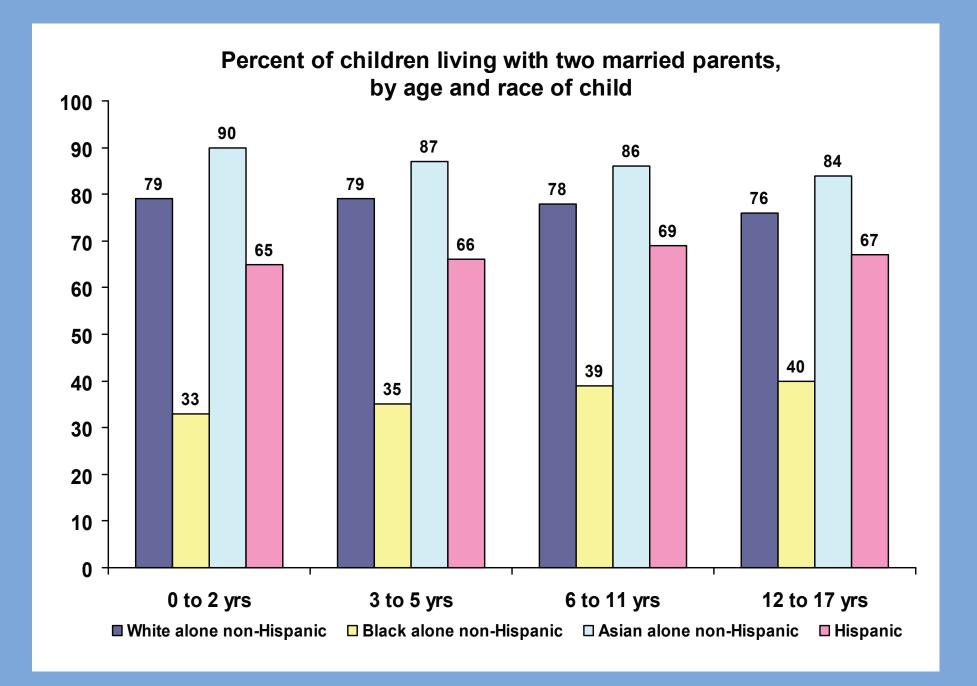
Among infants under age 1 who live with unmarried parents, one-third (36 percent) live with two parents. Among 12 to 17 year olds, only 4 percent of children are living with two unmarried parents.

A majority of children living with unmarried parents are living only with their mothers and not their fathers (61 percent before age 1 and 80 percent among 12 to 17 year olds). The comparable percentages for children living only with their fathers are 3 percent before age 1 and 16 percent for children 12 to 17.

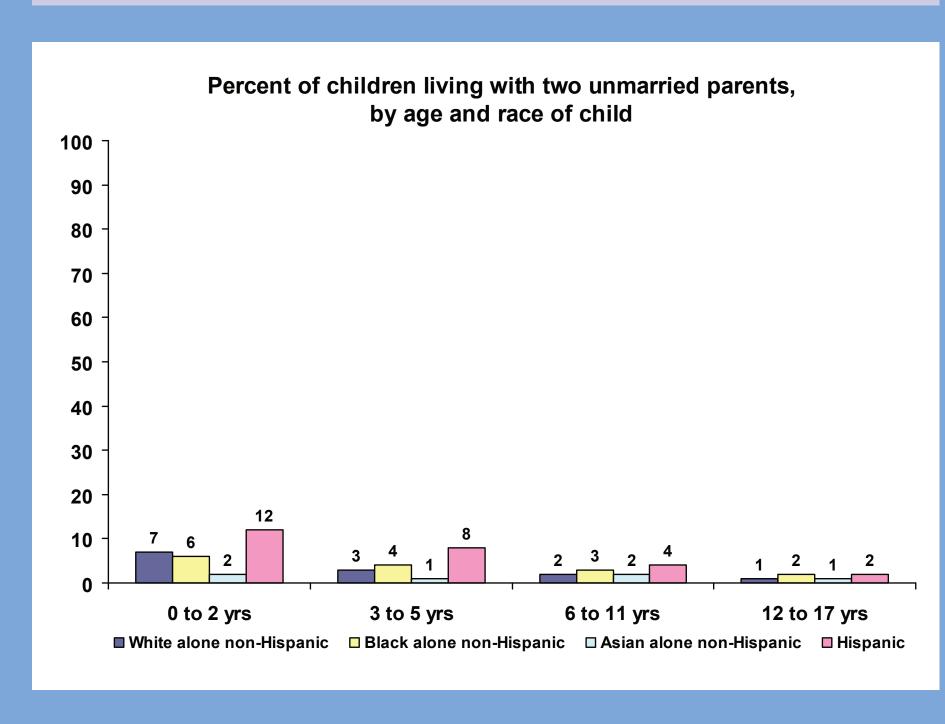


The proportion of all children living with parents who live in married couple families varies across race and origin groups. Among all children under age 18, more than eight in ten Asian* children, more than three-quarters of White* children, two-thirds of Hispanic children, and more than one-third of Black* children live with two married parents.

*These groups include children reported as single race, non-Hispanic.



A higher percentage of Hispanic children age 0 to 2 are living with two unmarried parents than other children.

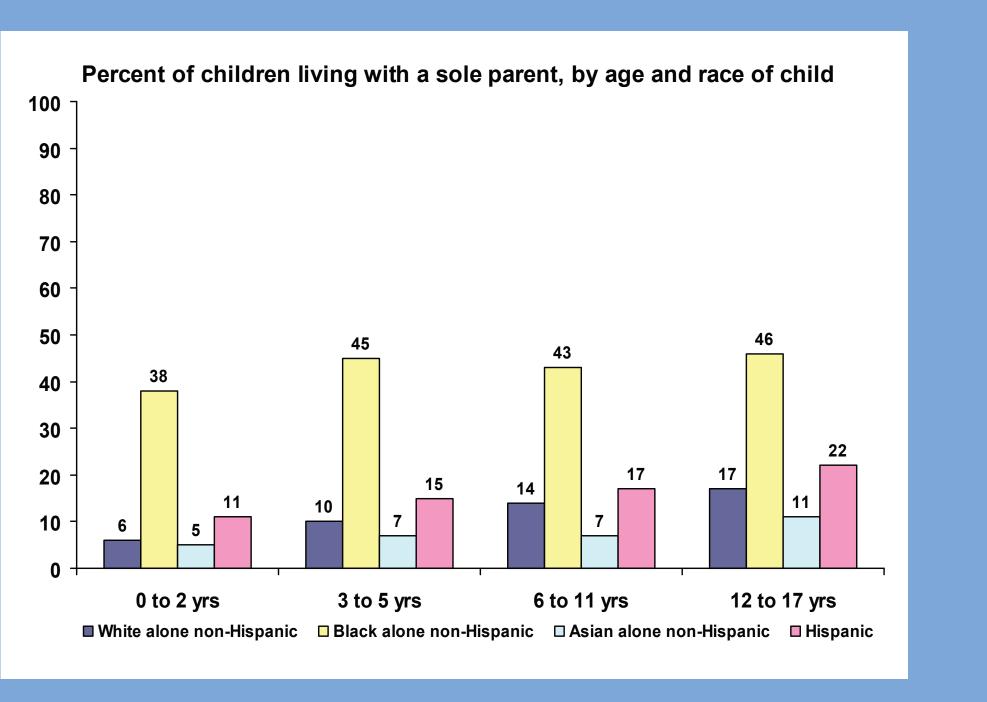


Within each age group, a higher percentage of Black children are living with a sole parent than other children.

One-quarter (23 percent) of Black children age 0 to 2

are living with one parent and another adult.

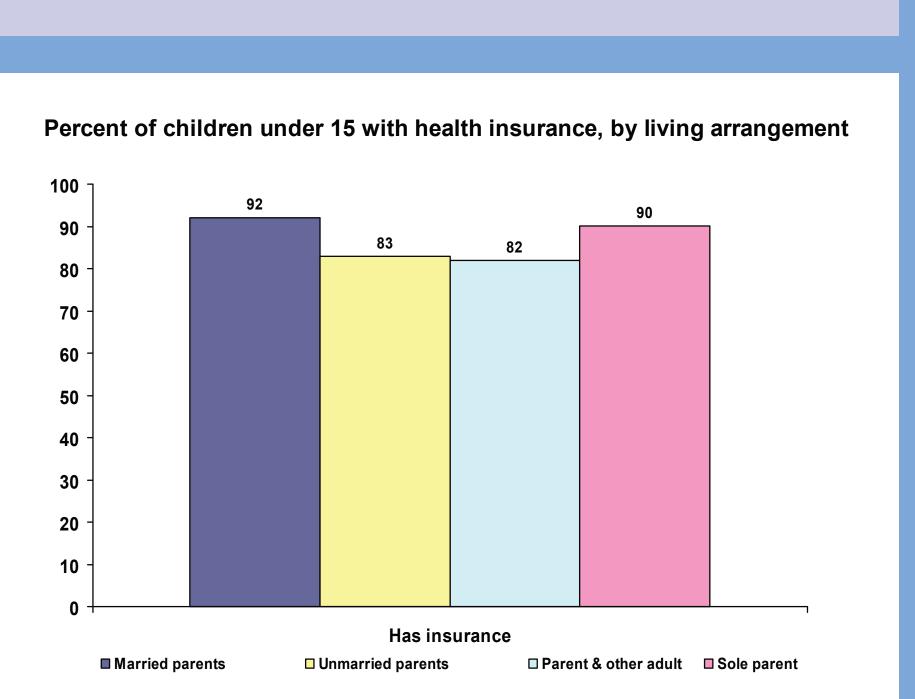
by age and race of child



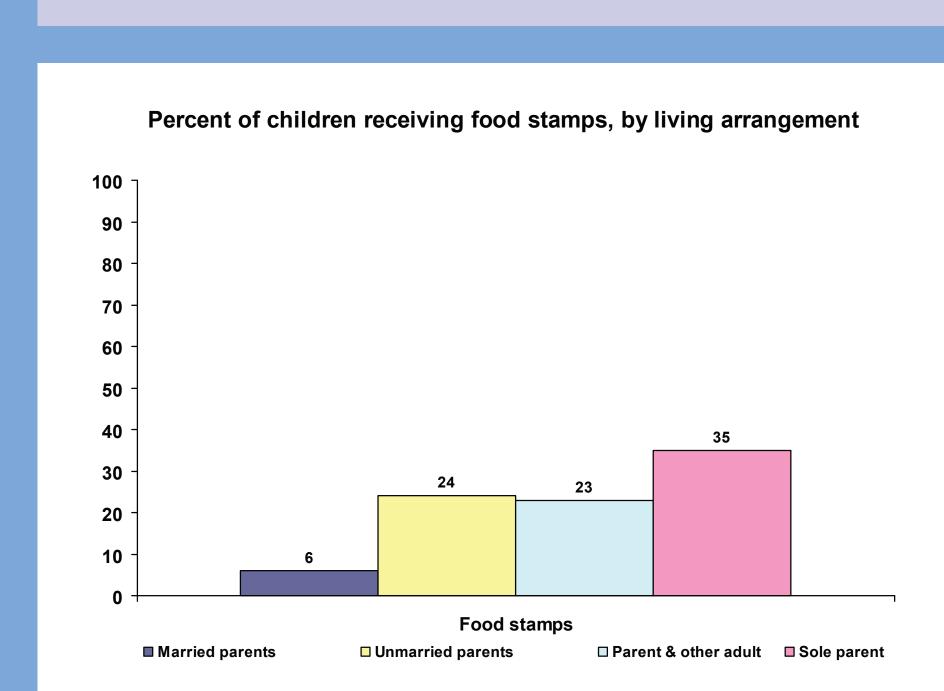
The Well-Being of Children Living With Unmarried Parents

About 9 out of 10 children living with married parents* or with a sole adult parent have health insurance, compared with about 8 out of 10 children living with two unmarried parents*, or with a parent who lives with another adult.

* The percentage of children who live with married parents and have health insurance (91.5 percent) is statistically different from 90 percent. The percentage of children who live with two unmarried parents and have health insurance (83.4 percent) is statistically different from 80 percent.



The percentage of children living with a sole parent receiving food stamps is six times the percentage of children living with married parents who receive food stamps.

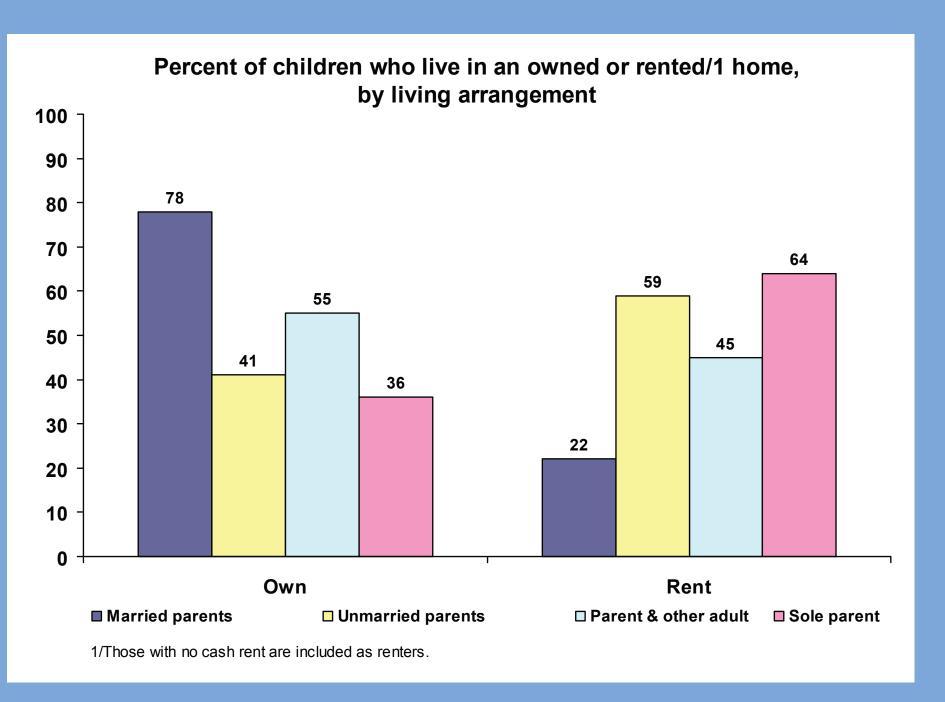


More than three-quarters of children with married parents and over half of children living with one parent and another adult live in homes that are owned.

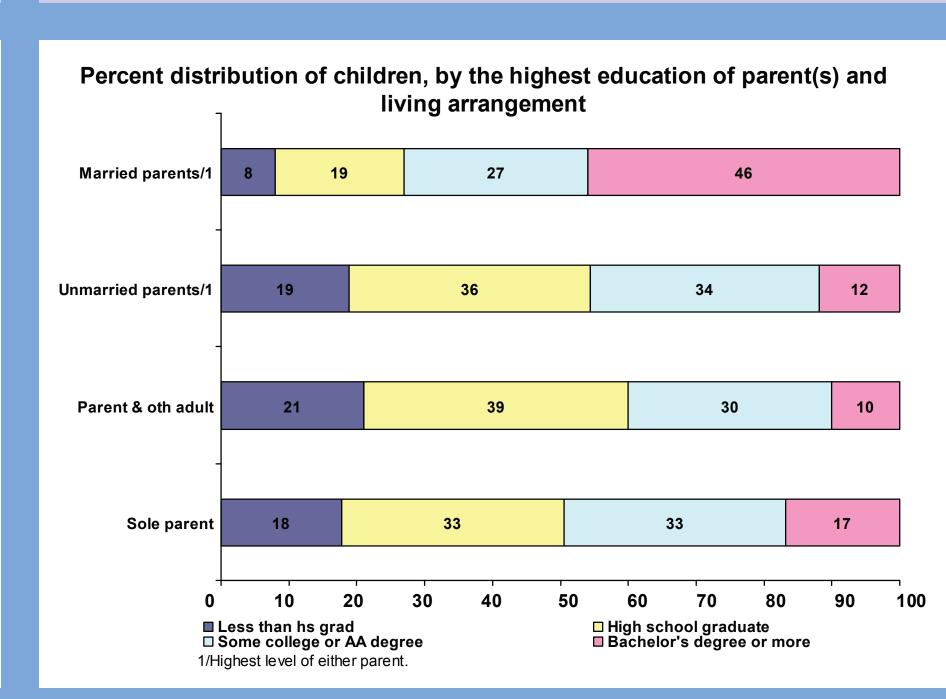
About 6 in 10 children living with two unmarried parents or living with a sole parent*

lived in rented housing.

* The percentage of children living with a sole parent (64 percent) differs statistically from 60 percent.



Children with married parents have parents with the highest levels of education: 46 percent of children with married parents have a parent with at least a bachelor's degree and 73 percent have a parent with at least some college.



Conclusions

The new CPS data allow us to look at the living arrangements of children and their unmarried parents in greater detail.

- Most children live with two married parents and this proportion across all age groups is about 7 in 10.
- While most children with unmarried parents are living only with their mother, 11 percent of all children under the age of 1 live with two unmarried parents. A higher percentage of children age 12 to 17 live with a sole parent than children under the age of 1.
- Living arrangements vary according to the child's race and ethnicity. Twelve percent of Hispanic children age 0 to 2 live with two unmarried parents. For black children age 3 and over, a higher percentage live with a sole parent than live in other arrangements.
- The children of married parents fare better than children in other living arrangements on a number of indicators of wellbeing. A higher percentage live with a parent who has at least some college education and owns their own home.

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NOTE: The estimates in this poster (which may be shown in text, figures and tables) are based or 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. Further information about the source and accuracy of the estimates is available at:

www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar08.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement

U.S. Census Bureau.

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