

The Rest

Relationship Statistics

Vol. 7 – May 2003

FAMILIES

- In 2001 - 47.0% of families were couples with children (down from 49.6% in 1996). Couples without children – 35.7% (from 34.1%) and lone parent families – 15.4% (from 14.5%)
- 68.8% of households were families (down from 70.6% in 1996)
22.9% of households were lone person (up from 22.1%)
3.7% of households were groups (down from 4.1%) (ABS 2001b)

Parenting After Separation And Divorce

- 21% children in 1999 had parents who live separately
- Over 1million people with children under 18 are registered with Child Support Agency (Pathways 2001)
- 65% of children with a parent living elsewhere visited that parent at least once every six months, and 3% were in a shared care arrangement
- 61% of children aged 0-2 year see non-residential parent at least once per fortnight, for children aged 15-17 – 33% (ABS 1999)

Blended/Step Families

- 1997 - 8% of children living with parents live in step or blended families
- 42% of children of defacto parents live in step or blended families (ABS 1999).

One Parent Families

- Lone parent families now 15.4%, in 1971 was 5.7% (ABS 2001b)
- 62% of lone parents were separated or divorced, 31% never married, 7% widowed
- Lone fathers have fewer and older children than lone mothers
- 44% of children in lone parent families, live with a parent who is employed (ABS 1999).

Young Adults Living At Home

- 20-24 year olds living at home – 1999 – 47% (up from 42% in 1986)
- 25-29 year olds living at home – 1999 – 17% (up from 12% in 1986) (ABS 2000b)

SOURCES

ABS 1999, *Children Australia : A social report 1999*, ABS Canberra

ABS 2000b, *Australian Social Trends 2000*, Cat no 4102.0, ABS Canberra

ABS 2001b, *Census of Population and Housing – Selected Social and Housing Characteristics – Australia 2001*. Cat No 2015.0, ABS, Canberra

Pathways 2001, *Out of the Maze: Pathways to the future for families experiencing separation: Report of the Family Law Pathways Advisory Group*, Department of Finance and Administration, Canberra.