

# POPULATION NOTES

July, 1992  
OSD 92-69

## More Children Live with Single Mothers in 80s

Barbara Ronningen

More Minnesota children lived in a single-parent family in 1990 than in 1980, according to Census Bureau data on living arrangements of children. But the proportion of Minnesota children living with only one parent continued to be much lower than the nation. Eight out of 10 of Minnesota's children in 1990 lived in a married-couple household compared to seven out of 10 in the nation.

### How Living Arrangements Are Defined

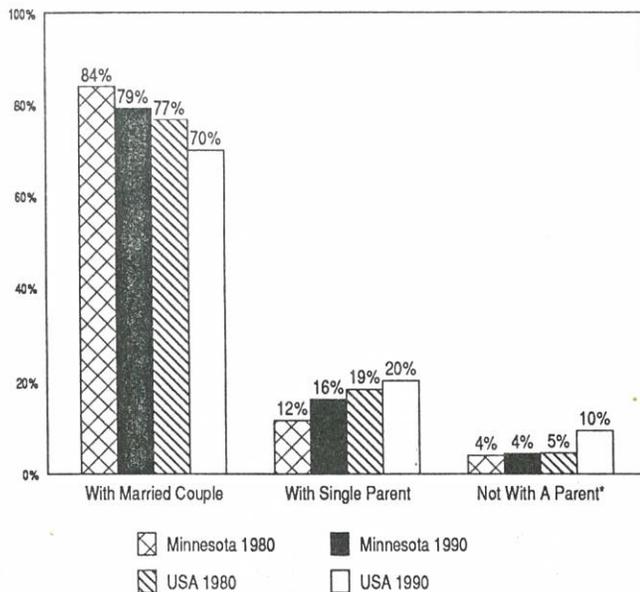
The Census Bureau groups data on children's living arrangements according to the child's relationship to the householder. As a result, a child who lives in a married-couple household and is the child of at least one of the couple is assigned to the category "married-couple families with own children." This category includes children living with both parents

### At A Glance...

- Minnesota's children are less likely to live with a single parent compared with children nationally.
- More Minnesota children lived with a single parent in 1990 than in 1980.
- More than half of Minnesota's black children lived with a single mother in 1990.
- Forty percent of American Indian children in Minnesota lived with a single mother in 1990.

(whether biological or adoptive) or with one parent and a stepparent. A small proportion of children who actually live with a parent are said to be living with a non-parent. For example, a child who lives with a parent in a household headed by the parent's non-relative companion would be described as living with a non-relative. Similarly, a child living with a parent in a household headed by the child's grandparent would be placed in the "living with other relative" category.

Figure 1. Living Arrangements of Children



### Fewer Minnesota Children Lived with Single Parents than in the Nation

In 1990, most children in Minnesota (95.5 percent) lived with at least one parent, and 79.3 percent lived in married-couple families. In 1980, 84.1 percent of Minnesota's children resided in married-couple families.

More children lived with a single parent in 1990 than in 1980 in Minnesota, but compared with the United States (20.2 percent), the proportion of Minnesota's children living with a single parent (16.2 percent) is

\*Includes children who live with other relatives, with non-relatives and in group quarters.



low (Figure 1). Five out of every six Minnesota children living with a single parent lived with a single mother in 1990.

Children in the northern half of Minnesota and in Hennepin and Ramsey counties were more likely to live with a single parent than children in other parts of the state. In Beltrami County, almost one-quarter of all children resided in single-parent households. Nearly one-third of all children living on American Indian reservations in Minnesota lived in single-parent households. (This figure includes all children on American Indian reservation and trust lands, not just American Indian children.) In 15 counties, mostly in western Minnesota, fewer than 10 percent of children lived in single-parent households (Figure 2). Lac Qui Parle County had the smallest proportion of children in single-parent households, 6 percent, in 1990 (Table 1).

In the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the proportion of children in single-parent households was very high, 36 and 27 percent respectively. On the other hand, in areas in Hennepin and Ramsey counties outside these central cities, the percentage of children living in single-parent households was below the state average of 16.2 percent.

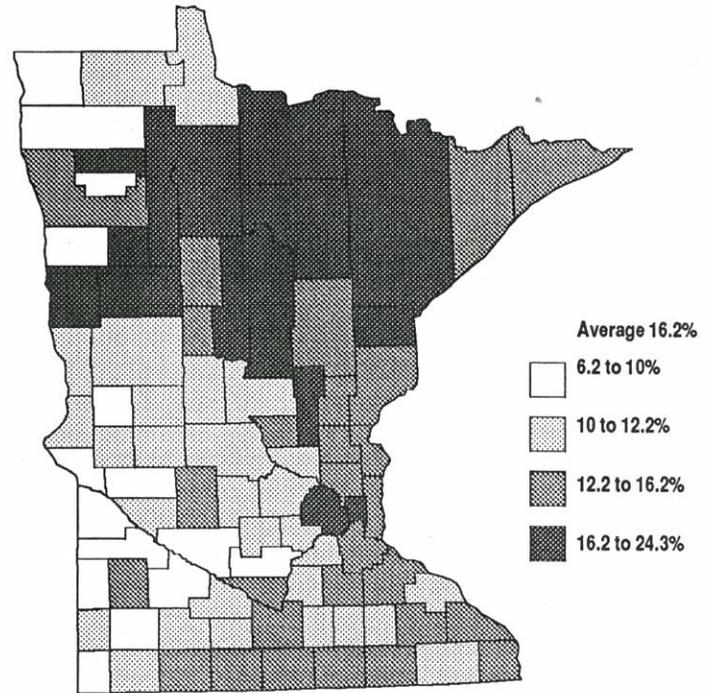
**Table 2.**

**Children in Single-Parent Households in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties**

	% of Children with:		
	Mother Only	Father Only	Single-Parent
Hennepin County	18.5%	3.1%	21.6%
Minneapolis	31.8%	4.5%	36.3%
Hennepin County Excluding Minneapolis	12.3%	2.3%	14.6%
Ramsey County	18.8%	3.2%	22.0%
St. Paul	23.6%	4.8%	28.4%
Ramsey County Excluding St. Paul	12.7%	2.4%	15.1%

Living arrangements of black and American Indian children are markedly different from living arrangements of white and Asian or Pacific Islander children. More than half of black children, 52 percent, resided with single mothers, and only 30 percent of black children lived in married-couple households. A slightly higher proportion of American Indian children, 34 percent, lived with both parents. However, 40 percent of American Indian children resided with a single mother (Figure 3), a rate three times as high as the state average.

**Figure 2. Percent of Children Living with a Single Parent**



Less than 3 percent of Minnesota children lived with single fathers in 1990. American Indian children are much more likely to live with a single father (9 percent) than children of any other race. Black children and Hispanic children were more likely to live with single fathers than white and Asian children.

### Very Young Children More Likely to Live with Grandparents

In 1990, 2.5 percent of all Minnesota children lived in households where the head of household was a non-parent relative. Children who resided with a relative are more likely to be preschool age or ages 15 through 17.

In 1990, 3.5 percent of preschool children (under 6 years) lived with a relative who was not the child's parent. The majority of these children resided with their grandparents. Often, these children lived with one or both parents in the grandparent's household. Many young parents, especially those who are unmarried, remain in their parents' home where the householder is the child's grandparent.

A higher proportion of American Indian and black children lived with non-parent relatives. These children may be more likely to live in extended families which would account for the greater proportion living with other relatives, especially grandparents. Asian or Pacific Islander children

**Table 1. Living Arrangements of Children 1990**

	Total Children Under 18	% of Children in Married-Couple Households	% of Children with Single Parents	% of Children with Other Relatives	% of Children with Non- Relatives	% of Children In Group Quarters
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>1,166,783</b>	<b>79.3%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Aitkin	2,959	80.9%	14.0%	3.5%	1.4%	0.0%
Anoka	74,369	80.1%	14.9%	2.8%	1.8%	0.2%
Becker	8,108	77.5%	17.5%	2.8%	2.0%	0.0%
Beltrami	10,228	66.6%	24.2%	5.9%	2.1%	1.0%
Benton	9,044	82.5%	14.8%	1.5%	1.2%	0.0%
Big Stone	1,641	85.6%	9.4%	1.4%	0.4%	3.2%
Blue Earth	12,391	80.7%	16.0%	1.5%	1.4%	0.3%
Brown	7,397	86.4%	11.3%	1.2%	1.0%	0.0%
Carlton	8,211	78.9%	16.3%	2.8%	1.8%	0.0%
Carver	14,507	86.8%	10.4%	1.6%	1.0%	0.2%
Cass	5,929	72.7%	20.8%	4.4%	1.9%	0.2%
Chippewa	3,581	86.9%	11.1%	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%
Chisago	9,404	83.0%	12.8%	2.4%	1.8%	0.0%
Clay	12,625	78.9%	17.1%	2.1%	1.3%	0.5%
Clearwater	2,419	77.4%	16.9%	3.8%	1.5%	0.2%
Cook	936	82.1%	13.7%	1.4%	1.6%	1.2%
Cottonwood	3,305	87.0%	10.0%	1.3%	1.2%	0.5%
Crow Wing	11,928	77.5%	17.7%	2.7%	1.6%	0.5%
Dakota	82,146	82.5%	14.2%	1.9%	1.3%	0.0%
Dodge	4,949	86.5%	10.3%	2.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Douglas	7,780	85.5%	11.7%	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%
Faribault	4,494	84.4%	13.0%	1.8%	0.7%	0.0%
Fillmore	5,781	86.7%	10.5%	1.5%	1.1%	0.0%
Freeborn	8,530	81.7%	13.8%	2.3%	1.8%	0.2%
Goodhue	11,450	83.2%	12.6%	2.0%	1.3%	0.8%
Grant	1,617	87.0%	9.7%	2.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Hennepin	238,809	72.8%	21.6%	3.4%	1.7%	0.4%
Houston	5,312	84.2%	12.9%	1.8%	1.0%	0.1%
Hubbard	4,089	80.9%	13.6%	3.1%	2.1%	0.2%
Isanti	8,112	81.4%	13.4%	2.5%	2.2%	0.4%
Itasca	11,558	77.6%	17.0%	2.6%	1.6%	1.1%
Jackson	3,136	85.4%	12.3%	1.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Kanabec	3,885	79.4%	16.1%	2.9%	1.5%	0.0%
Kandiyohi	11,037	83.0%	13.4%	1.6%	1.4%	0.5%
Kittson	1,506	88.4%	9.6%	1.7%	0.3%	0.0%
Koochiching	4,149	74.3%	17.4%	4.7%	2.1%	1.4%
Lac Qui Parle	2,359	90.7%	6.2%	2.1%	1.0%	0.0%
Lake	2,535	80.5%	15.4%	2.8%	1.2%	0.0%
Lake of the Woods	1,128	84.9%	11.9%	1.5%	1.4%	0.0%
Le Sueur	6,865	84.9%	11.7%	1.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Lincoln	1,801	87.3%	9.3%	1.3%	2.1%	0.0%
Lyon	6,739	84.6%	12.4%	1.5%	1.2%	0.1%
McLeod	9,282	85.4%	11.5%	1.4%	1.5%	0.0%
Mahnomen	1,574	76.0%	17.2%	4.4%	1.8%	0.05%

Table 1. Living Arrangements of Children 1990

	Total Children Under 18	% of Children in Married-Couple Households	% of Children with Single Parents	% of Children with Other Relatives	% of Children with Non- Relatives	% of Children In Group Quarters
Marshall	3,169	87.5%	9.6%	1.5%	1.3%	0.0%
Martin	6,143	83.9%	12.9%	1.8%	1.4%	0.0%
Meeker	6,127	86.1%	10.7%	1.9%	1.3%	0.0%
Mille Lacs	5,437	77.4%	16.3%	3.3%	2.8%	0.1%
Morrison	9,258	84.4%	12.1%	1.9%	1.5%	0.0%
Mower	9,555	79.3%	15.9%	2.1%	1.8%	0.7%
Murray	2,620	89.0%	8.3%	1.8%	0.9%	0.0%
Nicollet	7,347	85.1%	12.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.3%
Nobles	5,331	85.3%	10.7%	2.3%	1.2%	0.4%
Norman	2,153	86.7%	9.5%	2.6%	1.1%	0.0%
Olmsted	29,528	83.4%	13.2%	1.9%	1.2%	0.2%
Otter Tail	13,443	85.5%	11.3%	1.7%	1.3%	0.1%
Pennington	3,562	79.1%	17.2%	2.0%	1.6%	0.0%
Pine	6,043	78.7%	14.1%	2.9%	2.5%	1.8%
Pipestone	2,949	85.2%	11.6%	1.7%	1.3%	0.0%
Polk	9,143	81.7%	15.1%	1.9%	1.1%	0.1%
Pope	2,960	86.5%	11.0%	1.4%	1.0%	0.0%
Ramsey	120,104	72.2%	21.9%	3.7%	1.7%	0.4%
Red Lake	1,354	89.4%	9.2%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
Redwood	4,846	87.9%	9.8%	1.4%	0.8%	0.0%
Renville	4,922	87.5%	9.9%	1.1%	1.4%	0.0%
Rice	12,908	80.6%	14.5%	1.9%	1.4%	1.6%
Rock	2,786	88.7%	8.5%	1.7%	1.0%	0.0%
Roseau	4,683	84.8%	12.1%	1.7%	1.3%	0.1%
St. Louis	48,321	75.3%	19.5%	2.4%	2.1%	0.5%
Scott	18,001	85.5%	11.2%	1.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Sherburne	13,318	84.9%	11.6%	1.7%	1.6%	0.1%
Sibley	4,082	88.6%	8.5%	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%
Stearns	33,009	85.1%	12.0%	1.4%	1.2%	0.3%
Steele	8,792	85.5%	11.1%	2.2%	1.1%	0.0%
Stevens	2,500	86.9%	11.1%	1.4%	0.6%	0.0%
Swift	2,882	87.7%	9.9%	1.6%	0.8%	0.0%
Todd	7,131	86.4%	10.4%	2.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Traverse	1,171	86.3%	11.4%	1.8%	0.3%	0.0%
Wabasha	5,712	86.3%	10.8%	1.5%	1.4%	0.0%
Wadena	3,712	80.6%	14.8%	2.5%	2.0%	0.0%
Waseca	5,184	84.9%	12.2%	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%
Washington	44,315	83.1%	13.2%	2.1%	1.4%	0.1%
Watonwan	3,281	84.6%	11.9%	1.5%	2.0%	0.0%
Wilkin	2,126	84.5%	10.6%	2.2%	2.2%	0.5%
Winona	11,730	82.5%	13.8%	1.9%	1.6%	0.2%
Wright	22,385	84.7%	11.6%	2.0%	1.5%	0.1%
Yellow Medicine	3,155	88.3%	9.2%	1.5%	1.0%	0.0%

were also more likely than white children to live with other relatives.

**Table 3.**  
**Living Arrangements of Children Not Living with Either Parent 1990**

	All Children	Children Under 6
With Grandparents	40.3%	58.4%
With Other Relatives	17.6%	12.8%
With Non-Relatives	35.3%	27.0%
Group Quarters, incl. Institutions	6.8%	1.8%

### Proportion of Children Living with Non-Relatives Increases

Few children in Minnesota resided with non-relatives in 1990. Children who live with unrelated heads of households include children living with a parent who resides with a householder not related to the child, children who live in foster homes, children who live with an unrelated guardian, and, for some older children, residence with other unrelated people in a single household.

In 1980, 1 percent of children lived with non-relatives. The rate in 1990 was 1.6 percent, ranging from 0.3 percent in Kittson County to 2.8 percent in Mille Lacs County. Generally, the percentages of children living with non-relatives are higher in the northern part of the state, but the pattern is not pronounced. Older children (ages 15 through 17) were more likely to live with non-relatives (2.3 percent) than children in other age groups.

Almost 5 percent of American Indian children in Minnesota lived in households headed by a non-relative. White and Asian or Pacific Islander children, on the other hand, are much less likely to live in a non-relative's household (1.4 and 1.6 percent, respectively). About 3 percent of black and Hispanic children resided with non-relatives.

### Children Under 15 Unlikely to Live in Group Quarters

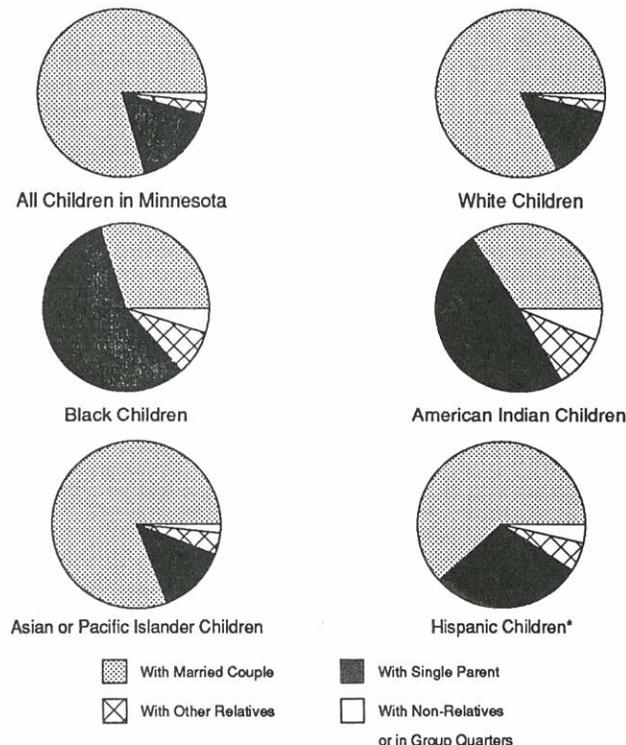
In Minnesota, very few children (0.3 percent) lived in group quarters in 1990. Group quarters include such non-institutional facilities as group homes, rooming houses, shelters and dormitories. Institutional group quarters include correctional facilities, residential schools for children with special needs, hospitals and nursing homes.

The proportion of children in group quarters and institutions declined slightly from 1980 when 0.4 percent of children lived in group quarters or institutions. This decline may be, in part, due to mainstreaming children with special needs into public schools. This practice has reduced the numbers of children who live in special schools and institutions.

Counties with large institutions tend to have higher proportions of children living in group quarters and institutions. For example, in Rice County where several institutions for children are located, 1.1 percent of all children resided in institutions. In Steele County just to the south and with no group quarters, no children resided in group quarters. The highest percentage of children living in group quarters is in Big Stone County (3.2 percent). All 52 children in group quarters resided in a Hutterite colony which is considered "group quarters" by the Census Bureau.

Most of the children living in group quarters in Minnesota in 1990 were more than 12 years old. Of all children under 12, less than 0.1 percent resided in group quarters. For children ages 12 through 14, 0.4 percent resided in group quarters. However, 1.1 percent of children ages 15 through 17 lived in group quarters.

**Figure 3. Living Arrangements of Children by Race and Hispanic Origin 1990**



\*Hispanic children may be of any race.

American Indian and black children were much more likely to reside in group quarters than other children. In Minnesota in 1990, one-fourth of children in group quarters were black or American Indian.

### More Young Adults Living with Parents

In 1990, 31.2 percent of adults ages 20 to 24 lived in their parents' residence, an increase of 5 percent over 1990. For those ages 25 to 29, the proportion rose from 7.5 percent in 1980 to 10.1 percent in 1990. These changes reflect a trend for young adults to remain in their parents' households longer. In Minnesota, as in the nation, young men are more likely to remain in their parents' households than young women. However, the rates for both men and women rose from 1980 to 1990.

### Fewer Young Adults Married

In 1980, 34.9 percent of persons age 20 to 24 were married and living with their spouse. This proportion dropped by almost half to 18.4 percent in 1990. The 25- to 29-year-old age group also experienced a large decline. Young Minnesota adults are postponing marriage and many of them are choosing to reside in their parents' households for longer periods of time.

**Table 4. Living Arrangements of Young Adults**

<b>Living in Parents' Households</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>
Men Ages 20 to 24	33.7%	37.1%
Women Ages 20 to 24	19.4%	25.4%
Men Ages 25 to 29	9.9%	13.5%
Women Ages 25 to 29	5.1%	6.7%
<b>Married Living with Spouse</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>
Men Ages 20 to 24	26.2%	12.8%
Women Ages 20 to 24	40.0%	24.1%
Men Ages 25 to 29	59.7%	45.3%
Women Ages 25 to 29	67.7%	57.6%

*Population Notes* is published periodically by Demography, Minnesota Planning, 300 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

For more information or copies:  
Census HelpLine (612)296-2557

Recycled • Recyclable • Soy Ink



Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 171  
St. Paul, MN

**POPULATION  
NOTES**