

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)

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DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on the marital status and living arrangements of people in the United States, based on the March 1998 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- In 1998, 110.6 million adults (56.0 percent of the adult population) were married and living with their spouse.
- Among people age 25 to 34 years old, 13.6 million had never been married, representing 34.7 percent of all people in the age group. For Blacks in this age group, 53.4 percent had never been married.
- In 1998, 19.4 million adults were currently divorced, representing 9.8 percent of this population.
- Nearly half (45.2 percent) of women 65 years old and over were widowed. Of the elderly widows, 70.1 percent lived alone.
- About 19.8 million children under 18 lived with one parent (27.7 percent of all children under 18).
- The majority of children who lived with a single parent in 1998 lived with their mother (84.1 percent). About 40.3 percent of these children lived with mothers who had never been married. Children who lived with their father only were more likely to be living with a divorced father (44.4 percent) than with a never-married father (33.3 percent).
- No other adults were present in the household for 55.7 percent of children living with single parents.
- About 4 million children lived in the household of their grandparents, representing 5.6 percent of all children under 18. Of the children living with their grandparents, 1.4 million had neither parent present.
- The proportion of married-couples who identified the woman as the householder has tripled since 1990, from 7.4 percent in 1990 to 22.9 percent in 1998.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The set of detailed tabulations consists of 9 tables from the March 1998 CPS (75 pages), 12 historical tables, 3 summary tables, and 1 state table, and provides demographic characteristics on the marital status of the population and on the living arrangements of children and adults. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on "Subjects A-Z," then on "M," and finally on "Marital Status."

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-100 for \$29.00. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-100, Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1998 (Update)," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$29.00 payable to **Commerce-Census-88-00-9010**, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on this topic, contact the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2465, or via Internet E-mail (tlugaila@census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are from the March 1998 Current Population Survey. All survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors for estimates, see the section on "Source and Accuracy" at <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/1998/ssrcacc.htm> on the Internet. For additional information, contact Andrew Zbikowski, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, on (301) 457-4214 or via Internet e-mail (andrew.a.zbikowski@ccmail.census.gov).

NOTICE TO USERS

In order to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey about the marital status and living arrangements of the population, short data updates will be made available in both printed and electronic forms for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic format on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1998, updating the prior report, Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1997 (Update) (Current Population Reports, P20-506), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

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