



# FOCUS

ON FAMILIES

## Demographics and Family Formation



1994  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF THE FAMILY

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AUSTRALIA

1994

International  
Year of the Family

**FOCUS ON FAMILIES**  
**DEMOGRAPHICS AND FAMILY FORMATION**

**IAN CASTLES**

**Australian Statistician**

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# Focus on Families

## Demographics and Family Formation

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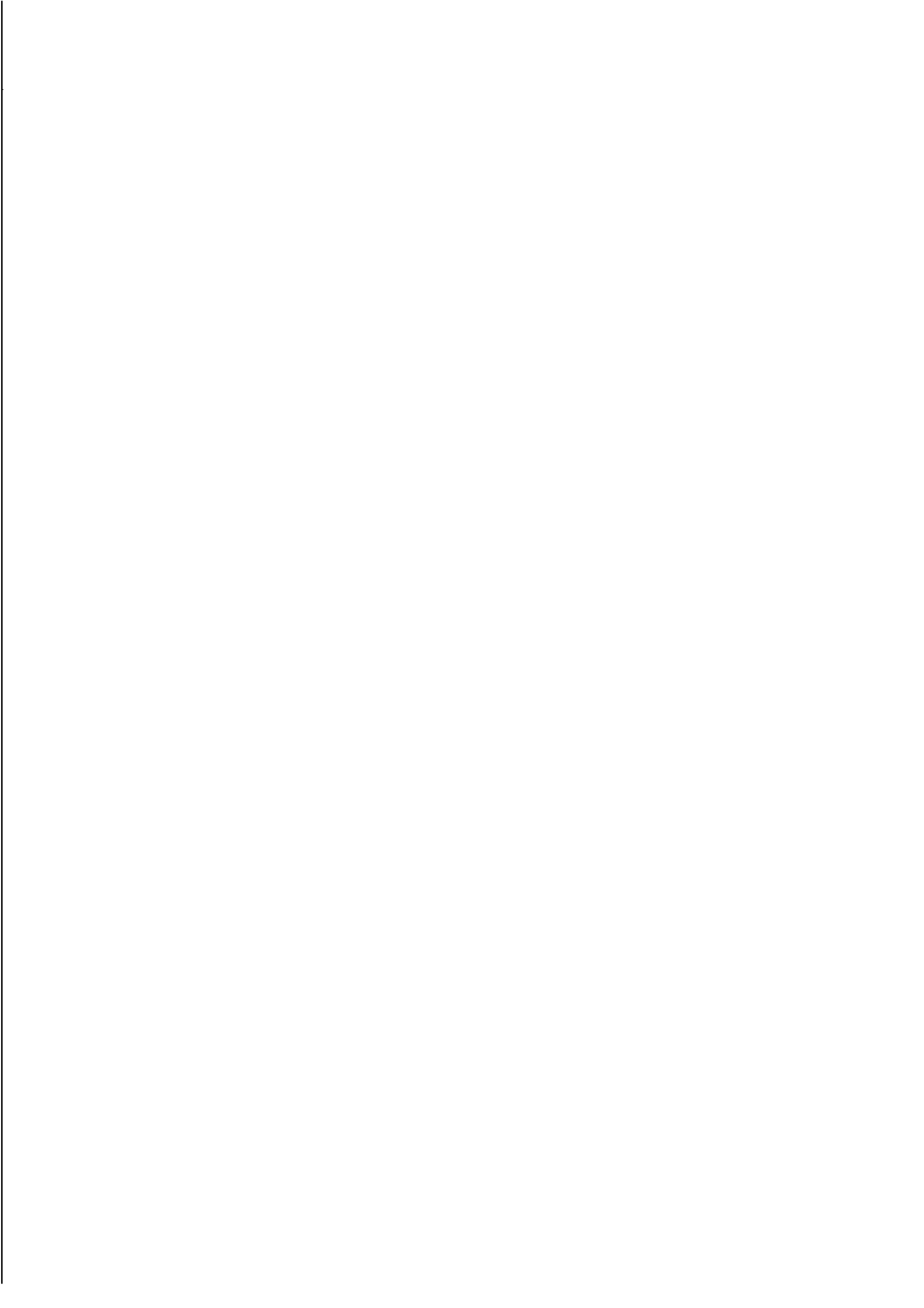
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#### INQUIRIES

- for further information contact Jenny Dean on (06) 252 7030 or any ABS state office.
  - for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.
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## PREFACE

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF). In Australia there is a strong commitment that IYF should be a catalyst to greater support and quality of life for all families.

The theme adopted by the National Council for IYF is "Supporting the many faces of families". One of the issues the Council has identified in support of this theme is:

To recognise the diversity of families in Australia in terms of their composition, culture and race and to celebrate their central contribution to Australia's social and economic welfare and cultural heritage.

This report aims to explore the demographic nature and formation of families and households in the light of the above priority issue. It is the first of a series of publications which provide statistical information on characteristics of families and family members, and factors over the last 10 to 20 years which have influenced the fabric of family life.

Other publications in the series will cover the following topics:

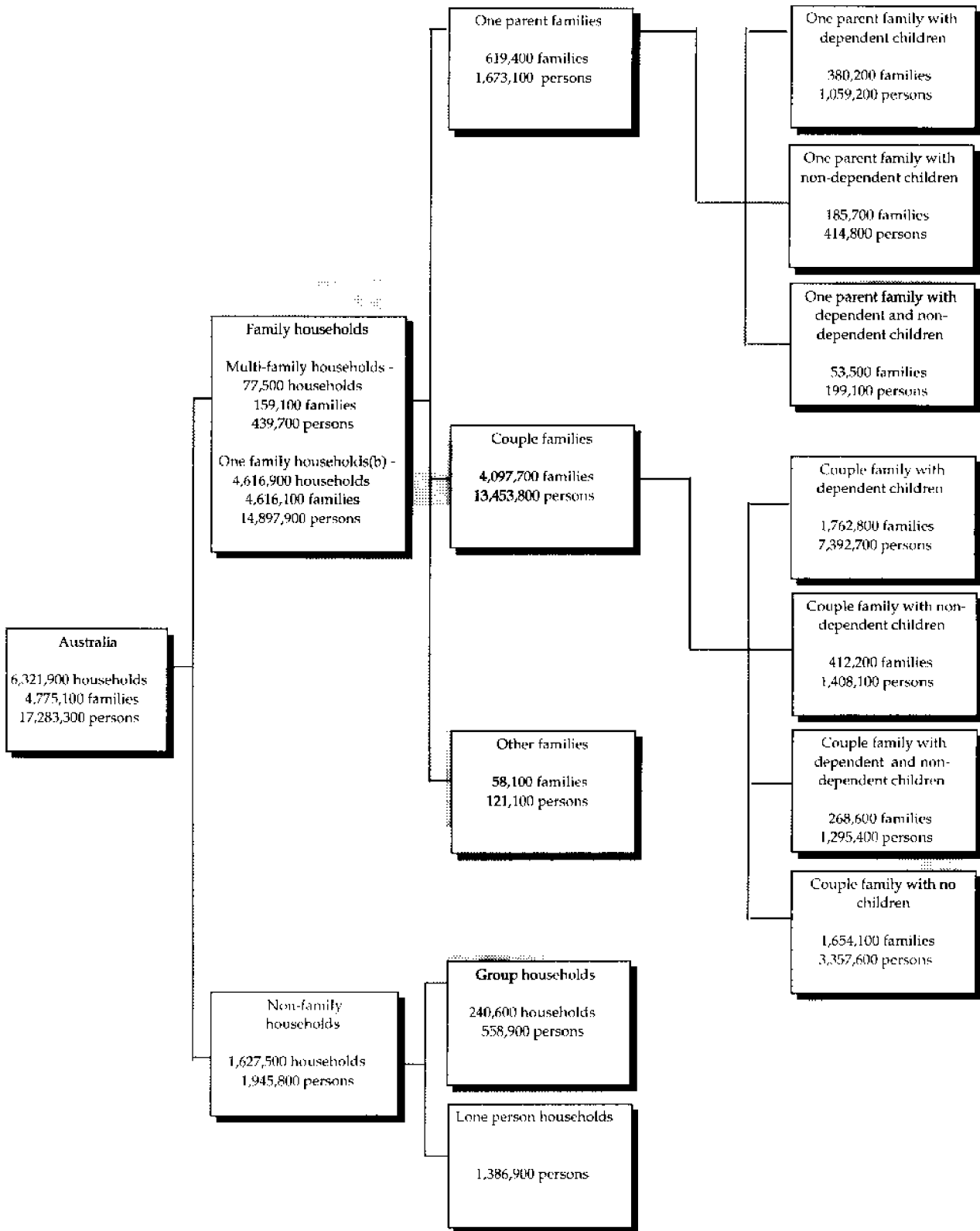
- education and employment;
- work and family responsibilities;
- caring in families (with particular reference to older people and those with disabilities);
- income and housing;
- families and quality of life.

Publications in the series draw on data from a number of sources, including the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia, the 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, and the 1992 Time Use Survey. In addition to publications, data can be accessed through the special tabulation service, the statistical consultancy service, and data in electronic format. Details of published and unpublished data services are outlined in Appendix A.

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Canberra ACT  
June 1994

**Figure 1. Number of households, families and persons, 1992(a)**



(a) In addition to couples, parents, children and other family persons, family households may also include unrelated individuals. Therefore, the number of people in family households will not equal the number of people in families. A total of 89,400 unrelated individuals lived with families.  
 (b) The difference between the number of families and households is due to differences in survey estimation procedures.

Source: Family Survey

# Focus on Families

## Demographics and Family Formation

### Main Features

#### Households

- One in 5 households in 1992 were lone person households. The 35 per cent increase in the number of such households since 1982 exceeded the 25 per cent increase in all households (*Table 2*).
- Over half of all people living alone were aged 55 and over, and almost 70 per cent of these older people were female (*Table 4*).
- Of males aged 45 and over, living alone, one-third had neither parents nor children living outside the household (*Table 5*).
- Over 60 per cent of family households in 1992 contained 3 or less people (*Table 3*).
- The proportion of Indigenous people living alone was less than half that of non-Indigenous people (*Table 6*).
- Almost 13 per cent of the Indigenous population lived in multi-family households, compared with less than 2 per cent of the non-Indigenous population (*Table 6*).
- Separated or divorced people accounted for 57 per cent of all lone parents (*Figure 2*).
- Of some 62,000 Indigenous families counted in 1991, almost a quarter were one parent families with dependent children, compared with 9 per cent of non-Indigenous families (*Figure 4*).

#### Marriage and divorce

- More than half of all people aged 15 and over were currently living in a registered marriage in 1992. Nine in 10 were married for the first time (*Table 9*).
- Of marriages registered in 1992, 56 per cent were preceded by a period of de facto living. This compares with 16 per cent of marriages beginning in 1975 (*Figure 5*).
- Of people in current marriages who had previously been divorced, 52 per cent lived with their partner before remarrying compared with 32 per cent of people who were currently married for the first time (*Figure 7*).
- Among couples where both partners came from non-English speaking countries, 9 per cent lived in a de facto relationship before registered marriage, compared with 37 per cent of Australian born couples (*Table 16*).
- For every 5 marriages registered in 1991 there were 2 divorces (*Tables 11 and 17*).

#### Families

- The number of de facto couple families more than doubled from 168,600 in 1982 to 345,200 in 1992 (*Table 7*).
- The number of one parent families increased by 42 per cent between 1982 and 1992, reaching an estimated 619,400 families — 13 per cent of all families — in 1992 (*Table 7*).

## Fertility

- As a proportion of all teenage births, those outside marriage more than doubled between 1971 and 1991 (*Table 19*).
- The proportion of births to women aged 40 and over remained relatively steady over the past 20 years, accounting for just over one per cent of all births in 1991 (*Table 20*).
- The proportion of women having children outside marriage increased from 9 per cent of all births in 1971 to 23 per cent of all births in 1991 (*Table 21; Figure 9*).
- Acknowledgment of paternity increased from 47 per cent of all births outside marriage in 1976 to 80 per cent in 1991 (*Table 22*).
- Among women aged 45 to 59, a higher incidence of childlessness occurred among those with tertiary qualifications (21%) and those in professional occupations (18%) (*Tables 23 and 24*).

## Children

- An estimated one million children — one in 7 dependent children and one in 4 non-dependent children — lived in one parent families in 1992 (*Table 25*).
- In 1992, almost 80 per cent of children aged 24 and under lived in a family with both their natural parents, and 96 per cent lived with their natural mother (*Table 26*).
- As children became older, they were less likely to live with both their natural parents. Eighty-seven per cent of children aged 4 and under lived with both natural parents compared with 74 per cent of 20 to 24 year-olds (*Table 26*).
- In 72 per cent of lone father families, the eldest child was aged 15 or over (*Figure 3*).

- Almost two-thirds of children in lone father families were male (*Figure 11*).

## Parents with children aged 14 and under not living in the same household

- Almost three-quarters of separated, divorced, or previously divorced women, with children aged 14 and under not living with them, were in a registered marriage (37%) or a de facto relationship (34%) (*Table 30*).
- Separated, divorced, or previously divorced men with children aged 14 and under not living with them, were in a variety of situations: with a partner (47%), alone (28%), in group households (8%), with their parent(s) (5%) or other family situations (5%) (*Table 30*).

## Lone ancestors

- Two-thirds of all lone ancestors were widowed females, and over one-third came from non-English speaking countries (*Table 31*).

## Mobility

- Twenty-one per cent of migrants who had arrived in Australia since 1987, had moved 4 or more times in the 5 years to 1992, three times the proportion of other migrants (7%) (*Figure 12*).
- About a third of young people who had moved between 1987 and 1992 had done so to be with or near family; almost twice the proportion who had moved to live with a partner or to be independent (*Table 33*).
- The proportion of currently separated or divorced people (separated since 1987) who had moved 4 or more times between 1987 and 1992 was almost twice that of other separated or divorced people (*Figure 13*).

# Focus on Families: Demographics and Family Formation

This publication examines how people live and relate to one another. It examines factors contributing to the diversity of family and social life, including patterns of de facto living, marriage, separation, mobility and fertility as well as types of households and families. These are important indicators of the potential call on a family's resources and need for support, and degrees of dependence and independence.

Family life is changing. The emergence of alternative family forms through de facto living, divorce and remarriage has meant that the traditional image of a married couple 'heading' the family unit is less common now than in the past. The changing situations of younger and older people have also influenced patterns of family and household formation.

Change does not necessarily reflect instability. While considerable diversity in family forms has developed over the past 3 decades, some of these family forms (e.g. one parent families) were as common 100 years ago (McDonald and Quiggin, 1985). However the underlying factors responsible for these alternative family forms are now quite different.

Despite increasing diversity, it is important not to overlook continuity. It remains the case that most marriages in Australia are first marriages, and the predominant family type is still a couple with children.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' definition of a

family is '2 or more people living in the same household who are related to each other by blood, marriage, de facto partnering, fostering or adoption'. Many people do not think of their families like this. For example, while most attention has been given to aspects of family life within a single household, important relationships and forms of support may exist across household boundaries. Where possible, this publication will examine characteristics of both household and extended family life.

## Households

*Over 60% of all family households contained 3 or less people in 1992.*

Households may consist of one person living alone, or a group of related or unrelated people. The population living in communal institutions such as boarding schools, hospitals and retirement villages are generally excluded from this definition.

Between 1982 and 1992, the number of households grew from 5.1 to 6.3 million, an increase of 25 per cent. Non-family households grew at a faster rate than family households over this period (34% growth compared with 22%). The greatest increase was in lone person households, from just over a million in 1982 to almost 1.4 million in 1992.

**Table 1. Selected families and family types: summary characteristics, 1992**

Family type	Average number			%		'000
	Persons in family	Dependent children	Non-dependent children	Families with lone ancestor	More than 1 family in household	
Step/blended family	4.2	1.8	0.4	**	*1.3	206.9
Lone mother family	2.7	1.2	0.5	3.3	6.9	521.5
Lone father family	2.6	1.0	0.5	**1.0	*5.3	97.9
Metropolitan family	3.2	1.0	0.3	1.9	3.8	3,010.9
Non-metropolitan family	3.1	1.0	0.2	1.3	2.6	1,764.2
Non-English speaking country family(a)	3.4	1.1	0.3	2.3	6.3	1,023.4
Indigenous family(b)	3.9	1.7	0.3	4.0	12.0	62.0(c)
<b>All families</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4,775.1</b>

(a) Families where either member of couple or lone parent was from a non-English speaking country. (b) Families where first or second reference person stated they were an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. Data taken from 1991 Census of Population and Housing. (c) 1991 reference period.

Source: Family Survey

**Table 2. Households: growth in household types**

Household type	1982	1992	Change 1982-1992
	- '000 -		-%-
1 family	3,787.9	4,616.9	21.9
2 or more families	59.5	177.5	30.3
All family households	3,847.5	4,694.4	22.0
Group	179.8	240.6	33.8
Lone person	1,031.5	1,386.9	34.5
All non-family households	1,211.3	1,627.5	34.4
<b>All households</b>	<b>5,058.8</b>	<b>6,321.9</b>	<b>25.0</b>

Source: Family Survey

While the number of households has grown, there has been a decline in the number of people living in each household. Overall, the average household size fell from 2.9 people in 1982 to 2.7 people in 1992, continuing a gradual downward trend which has characterised the last 100 years (Hugo, 1986).

**Table 3. Households: household type by size**

	Number of persons				Average size
	1	2-3	4-5	6 or more	
	-%-				- number-
<b>1982</b>					
1 family	..	55.4	38.6	5.9	3.3
2 or more families	..	..	51.4	48.6	5.2
All family households	..	54.6	38.9	6.6	3.4
Group	..	95.5	4.5	**	2.3
Lone person	100.0	..	..	..	1.0
<b>All households</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>1992</b>					
1 family	..	62.0	33.7	4.3	3.2
2 or more families	..	..	53.5	46.3	5.4
All family households	..	61.0	34.0	5.0	3.2
Group	..	94.4	5.6	**	2.3
Lone person	100.0	..	..	..	1.0
<b>All households</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Source: Family Survey

While the average size of non-family households has remained stable, the average size of family households fell from 3.4 in 1982 to 3.2 in 1992. This reflects declining fertility rates and the formation

of smaller households through separation and divorce. Over 60 per cent of family households in 1992 contained 3 or less people.

## Lone person households

*One in 5 households in 1992 were lone person households.*

The growth in the number of lone person households is due to several factors. There has been an increase in the number of people who never marry, as well as an increase in the number of lone person households formed through separation and divorce. However, the single most influential factor is the ageing of the population, where different household types have formed through the death of a spouse or de facto partner.

There are important differences in the characteristics of lone males and lone females, due in part to longer female life expectancy, but also differences in marital status. In 1992, over half of all people living alone were aged 55 and over (54%), and almost 70 per cent of these older people were female. Over half of lone females were widowed (53%), while 25 per cent had never married, and 21 per cent were divorced or separated. Among lone males, half had never married, a third were divorced or separated, and 15 per cent were widowed.

*Over half of all people living alone were aged 55 and over, and almost 70% of these older people were female.*

Living alone is not in itself an indicator of high levels of isolation because of the existence of wider family and social networks. The closest links could be expected to exist between parents and their adult children, and it is likely that isolation is greater for lone persons who have no children or parents living elsewhere.

Sixteen per cent of all people who lived alone had neither parents nor children living outside the household. This figure was proportionately higher for men (18%) than women (13%). Almost two-thirds of lone persons who did not have parents or children outside the household had never married.

**Table 4. Lone persons: age and registered marital status by sex, 1992**

	Males	Females	Persons
<i>Age</i>		- % -	
15-24	8.9	6.2	7.4
25-34	21.5	7.7	13.8
35-44	18.3	8.2	12.7
45-54	13.9	10.2	11.8
55-64	12.8	14.9	13.9
65 and over	24.6	52.9	40.3
<i>Marital status</i>			
Never married	50.4	24.5	36.0
Currently married	2.1	1.3	1.5
Separated	12.7	6.2	9.1
Divorced	19.7	15.1	17.1
Widowed	15.2	52.9	36.1
<b>All lone persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>617.3</b>	<b>769.6</b>	<b>1,386.9</b>

Source: Family Survey

Generally speaking, the absence of parents and children living elsewhere among lone persons increases with age. While 3 per cent of lone persons aged between 15 and 24 had neither parents nor children living elsewhere, this proportion rose to 10 per cent for those aged 35 to 44, and peaked at 26 per cent for those aged 55 to 64, dropping to 19 per cent for people aged 65 and over.

There was considerable variation in the proportion of lone males and females of different age groups with no parents or children outside the household. Of lone males aged 45 and over, 29 per cent had neither parents nor children living outside the household, compared with 16 per cent of lone females in the same age group. The higher proportion of lone males with no parents or children living elsewhere reflects the greater proportion of lone males who had never married.

## Indigenous households

*Almost 13% of Indigenous people lived in multi-family households, compared with less than 2% of non-Indigenous people.*

Multi-family households are a feature of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. In the 1991 Census, almost 13 per cent of the Indigenous population were counted in multi-family households compared with less than 2 per cent of the non-Indigenous population. The proportion of Indigenous people who lived alone (3%) was less than half the proportion of non-Indigenous people who lived alone (7%).

**Table 5. Lone persons: proportion with no children or parents outside the household by selected characteristics, 1992**

	Lone males		Lone females		All lone persons	
	'000	% with no children or parents outside household	'000	% with no children or parents outside household	'000	% with no children or parents outside household
<i>Age</i>						
15-24	55.2	*5.3	47.4	**	102.6	*2.9
25-34	132.5	*3.0	59.2	**1.6	191.7	*2.6
35-44	112.7	11.6	63.3	*7.0	176.0	9.9
45-54	86.1	22.7	78.2	14.8	164.3	18.9
55-64	78.8	36.5	114.5	18.7	193.3	26.0
65 and over	152.0	29.0	407.0	15.8	559.0	19.4
<i>Marital status</i>						
Never married	311.1	27.9	188.6	26.9	499.7	27.5
Currently married	13.0	**4.9	10.4	**4.8	23.5	**4.8
Separated	78.3	*3.1	47.7	*5.5	126.0	*4.0
Divorced	121.7	8.0	116.1	*8.8	237.7	8.4
Widowed	93.6	13.7	407.1	9.4	500.6	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>617.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>769.6</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>1,386.9</b>	<b>15.5</b>

Source: Family Survey

**Table 6. All persons in private dwellings(a): household type by whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, 1991**

Household type	Indigenous persons	Non-Indigenous persons
	- % -	
1 family	81.3	87.0
2 or more families	12.5	1.6
<i>All family households</i>	93.8	88.6
Group	2.7	3.8
Lone person	3.1	7.4
<i>All non-family households(b)</i>	6.2	11.4
<b>All persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>251.8</b>	<b>15,568.2</b>

(a) Excludes visitors. (b) Includes persons who were counted in non-classifiable households.

Source: *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (2740.0) based on data from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing

## Families

*The number of de facto couple families more than doubled between 1982 and 1992.*

Almost 9 in 10 people live with at least one other family member (see *Australia's Families*, 4418.0). In 1992, there were almost 4.8 million families in Australia, compared with 4.1 million families in 1982.

Of all major family types, one parent families grew at the fastest rate between 1982 and 1992 (42%), followed by couple only families (27%). Families containing a couple and others showed a relatively small increase in the 10 year period (6%), although they were still greater in number than the other family types (52% of all families in 1992). The number of other families (for example, brothers and sisters living together) decreased by about 6 per cent between 1982 and 1992.

De facto relationships are becoming increasingly common in Australia. The number of de facto couple families more than doubled in the 10 years to 1992, from 168,600 to 345,200. While there were more de facto couples without children than with children in the household in 1992, the rate of growth in both family types was similar (100% and 112% respectively). The growth in de facto couple families with children can be attributed, at least in part, to the partnering of people with children from previous marriages.

**Table 7. Families: growth in selected family types**

Family type	1982	1992	Change 1982-1992
	- '000 -		- % -
<i>Couple only</i>			
De facto	102.4	204.6	99.8
Registered married	1,176.5	1,415.3	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,278.9</b>	<b>1,619.9</b>	<b>26.7</b>
<i>Couple, others</i>			
De facto	66.2	140.6	112.4
Registered married	2,226.6	2,337.2	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,292.8</b>	<b>2,477.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<i>One parent, others</i>	436.6	619.4	41.9
<i>Other family</i>	62.1	58.1	-6.4
<b>All families</b>	<b>4,070.5</b>	<b>4,775.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>

Source: *Family Survey*

Of the 4.7 million couple and one parent families in 1992, almost half (44%) had children living outside the household. This figure was similar for both family types (44% and 43% respectively) although there were some differences within each type. Couple families with dependent children, were less likely than one parent families with dependent children, to have children living elsewhere (17% and 27% respectively). The average number of extra-household children of couple families with non-dependent children only, was also lower than that of one parent families with non-dependent children.

Approximately 580,000 families — 14 per cent of couple families — had no children living in or outside the household. A further 26 per cent of couple families had children living outside the household only.



**Table 8. Couple and one parent families: family type by number of children living outside the household, 1992**

Family type	Number of children outside household				Total - '000 -
	None	1	2	3 or more	
- % -					
<i>Couple family</i>					
Dependent children only	82.8	8.2	5.0	4.0	1,762.8
Dependent and non-dependent children	62.0	24.2	6.4	7.4	268.6
Non-dependent children only	23.2	31.5	23.5	21.8	412.2
No children in household	34.9	9.2	21.6	34.3	1,654.1
<i>All couple families</i>	56.1	12.0	13.6	18.3	4,097.7
<i>One parent family</i>					
Dependent children only	72.8	13.8	6.9	6.5	380.2
Dependent and non-dependent children	63.2	20.9	8.3	7.6	53.5
Non-dependent children only	23.5	24.4	19.3	32.8	185.7
<i>All one parent families</i>	57.2	17.6	10.7	14.5	619.4
<b>All couple and one parent families</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>4,717.1</b>

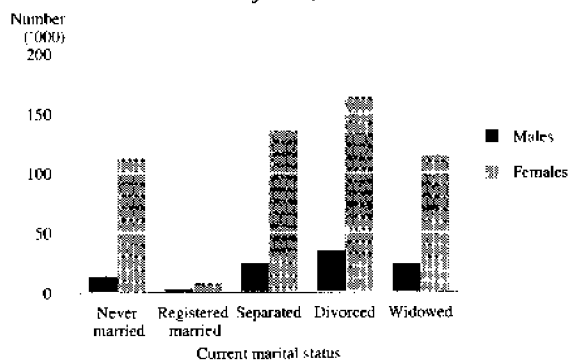
Source: Family Survey

## One parent families

*The number of one parent families increased by 42% between 1982 and 1992, reaching an estimated 619,400 in 1992.*

Between 1982 and 1992, the number of families headed by a lone parent grew by more than 180,000, reaching an estimated 619,400. The majority of lone parents in 1992 were female (84%).

**Figure 2. Lone parents: registered marital status by sex, 1992**

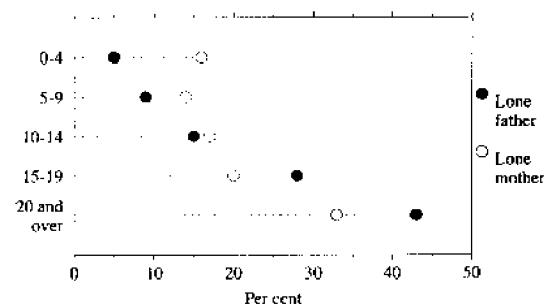


Source: Family Survey

Most one parent families are formed through separation and divorce, rather than through single parenthood. An indication of the way one parent families are formed is the registered marital status of the lone parent. Just over half of all lone

parents in 1992 were divorced or separated (57%) while the proportion of never-married parents was 20 per cent. There was a greater proportion of never-married mothers in lone mother families (21%), than never-married fathers in lone father families (14%), while the proportions of widowed mothers and fathers were about the same (21% and 23% respectively).

**Figure 3. One parent families: sex of parent by age of eldest child in family, 1992**



Source: Family Survey

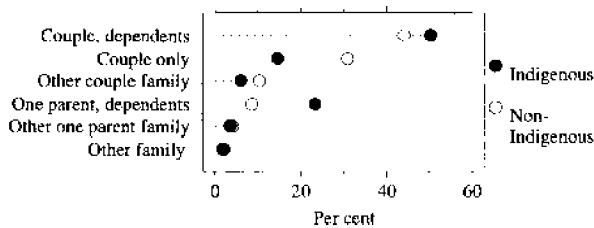
Lone father families were more likely to contain older children than younger children. In 72 per cent of these families, the age of the eldest child was 15 and over. The age distribution of eldest children in lone mother families was more even, with 47 per cent where the eldest child was aged 14 and under and 53 per cent where the eldest child was aged 15 and over.

## Indigenous families

*Almost a quarter of Indigenous families were one parent families with dependent children, more than double the proportion of non-Indigenous families.*

There were 62,037 Indigenous families counted in the 1991 Census. Almost one quarter of these families were one parent families with dependent children (23%) compared with 9 per cent of non-Indigenous families. Indigenous couple families with dependent children also occurred in greater proportions than non-Indigenous couple families with dependent children (50% and 44% respectively). Families consisting of couples only comprised 15 per cent of the total number of Indigenous families, compared with 31 per cent of non-Indigenous families.

**Figure 4. Indigenous families: family type, 1991**



Source: *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (2740.0) based on data from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing

## Marriage

### Registered marriages

*Nine in ten registered married people were married for the first time.*

In 1992, about 7.7 million people — more than half (57%) of all people aged 15 and over — were living in a registered marriage. Of these, 90 per cent were in their first marriage, while 9 per cent had remarried after divorce.

**Table 9. Persons currently in registered marriages: marital history, 1992**

Marital history	'000	%
Married for first time	6,880.4	89.7
Last marriage ended in divorce	668.7	8.7
Last marriage ended in widowhood	124.8	1.6
<b>All persons currently married</b>	<b>7,674.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: *Family Survey*

### De facto relationships

An estimated 710,800 people aged 15 and over lived in a de facto relationship in 1992, two-thirds of whom were aged 15 to 34. Of these 15 to 34 year-olds, a relatively high proportion of people who lived together had never married (85%).

**Table 10. Persons in de facto relationships: registered marital status by age, 1992**

Marital status	Age						Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
Never married	97.3	76.2	30.2	14.3	*11.9	**20.2	64.8
Separated	*1.2	6.3	13.1	19.5	*20.7	**19.4	8.0
Divorced	*1.5	17.5	54.5	62.1	53.0	*38.8	25.8
Widowed	**	**	*2.2	*4.1	*14.4	**21.5	1.3
<b>All persons in de facto relationships</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>193.6</b>	<b>286.2</b>	<b>135.2</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>710.8</b>

Source: *Family Survey*

De facto living was prevalent among people who had divorced or separated from a previous registered marriage, particularly in the older age categories. Of de facto partners aged 35 and over, 72 per cent were divorced or separated, compared with 3 per cent of those aged 15 to 24, and 24 per cent of those aged 25 to 34.

## Marriage history

*Almost 25% of all marriages in 1991 were remarriages for at least one partner.*

While the number of marriages remained relatively constant between 1981 and 1991, following a small decline and recovery from 1971 to 1981, there has been a steady decline in the crude marriage rate since 1971. There were 9.1 marriages per 1,000 mean population in 1971 compared with a rate of 6.6 in 1991.

**Table 11. Registered marriages**

Year	No. of marriages	Crude rate
1971	117,637	9.1
1976	109,973	7.8
1981	113,905	7.6
1986	114,913	7.2
1991	113,869	6.6

Source: *Marriages* (3306.0)

The change in the divorce laws in 1975 resulted in an increase in the proportion of remarriages registered in subsequent years. In 1971, less than 10 per cent of all marriages were remarriages for both men and for women, but this proportion rose to almost 25 per cent of all marriages in 1976 and has remained at this level. A slightly greater proportion of males than females tended to remarry (see *Marriages*, 3306.0).

Age-specific marriage rates for first marriages fell consistently in the 20 years to 1991, with those in the 20-24 year age group showing the greatest changes (see *Marriages*, 3306.0). First marriage rates for males fell by 64 per cent over the 20 year period, while those for females fell by 60 per cent. Remarriage rates for those aged 20-24 also declined between 1971 and 1991 (by 68% for males and 54% for females).

**Table 12. Number of remarriages and proportion of all marriages**

Year	Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%
1971	11,387	9.7	11,300	9.6
1976	23,181	21.1	22,539	20.5
1981	26,445	23.2	25,597	22.5
1986	28,237	24.6	26,843	23.4
1991	27,038	23.7	25,980	22.8

Source: *Marriages* (3306.0)

For those aged 35 and over, there was a smaller decrease in first marriage rates. However, remarriage rates showed considerable declines for this age group in line with similar declines for all other age groups, showing that remarriage is generally less attractive than it was 20 years ago.

**Table 13. Number of first marriages and proportion of all marriages**

Year	Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%
1971	106,250	90.3	106,337	90.4
1976	86,792	78.9	87,434	79.5
1981	87,460	76.8	88,308	77.5
1986	86,676	75.4	88,070	76.6
1991	86,831	76.3	87,889	77.2

Source: *Marriages* (3306.0)

## Age at first marriage

The median age at first marriage for both men and women increased by just over 3 years between 1971 and 1991. In 1991, the median age was 26.7 years for men and 24.5 years for women.

**Table 14. Median age at first registered marriage**

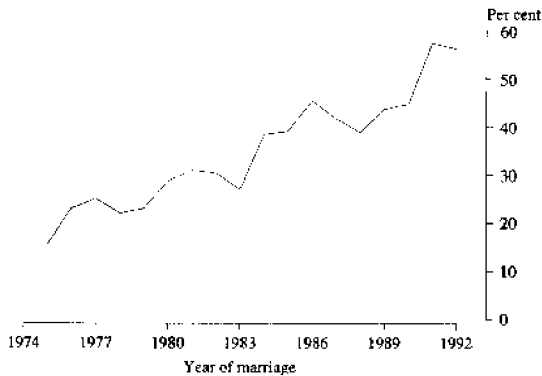
Year	Males	Females
1971	23.4	21.1
1976	23.6	21.2
1981	24.4	22.1
1986	25.6	23.5
1991	26.7	24.5

Source: *Marriages* (3306.0)

## De facto living before marriage

The fall in marriage rates since the early 1970s has been accompanied by a rise in the proportion of people living together before registered marriage. Of marriages registered in 1992, 56 per cent were preceded by a period of de facto living, compared with 16 per cent in 1975.

**Figure 5. Proportion of registered marriages(a) preceded by a period of de facto living, 1992**



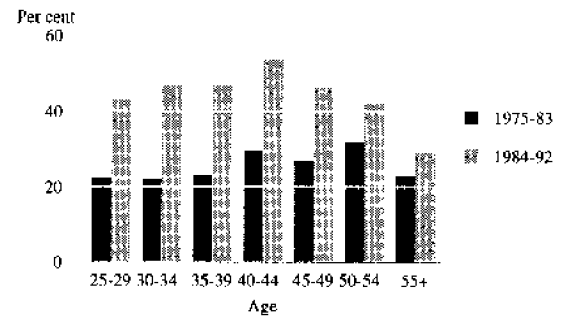
(a) Marriages from 1975 onwards. Data do not relate to all marriages (see glossary for more details).

Source: Family Survey

The higher prevalence of de facto living before registered marriage in recent years is due not only to an increase in the number of young people living together but also to an increase in the proportions of older couples living together. Comparing the period 1975 to 1983 with the period 1984 to 1992, there were increases across all age groups in the proportions of people living together before marriage. These increases were of a similar magnitude for all age groups 49 years and under. Between 1975 and 1983, the proportion of people living together before marriage was greatest among those aged 50 to 54 (32%). Between 1984 and 1992, the proportion of people living together before marriage was greatest among those aged 40 to 44 (54%).

The prevalence of de facto living before marriage among people in their 40s and 50s suggests there are factors other than age which may influence the incidence of de facto living before marriage. One of these factors is previous divorce. Of currently married people who had remarried after divorce, 52 per cent had lived together before their most recent marriage, compared with 32 per cent of people who were currently married for the first

**Figure 6. Persons aged 25 years and over: proportion who lived in a de facto relationship before registered marriage(a) by age and recency of marriage, 1992**



(a) Marriages from 1975 onwards. Data do not relate to all marriages (see glossary for more details).

Source: Family Survey

time. The average period of de facto living before a second or subsequent marriage was also greater than for those living together before their first marriage. Of previously divorced people who lived together before their remarriage, 21 per cent had lived together for less than a year while 16 per cent had lived together for 5 years or longer. Of those who had lived together before their first marriage, 30 per cent had lived together for less than a year and 8 per cent had done so for 5 years or longer.

**Figure 7. Persons currently registered married(a): proportion who lived in a de facto relationship before marriage by marital history(b), 1992**



(a) Marriages from 1975 onwards. Data do not relate to all marriages (see glossary for more details). (b) Only includes currently married persons whose last marriage ended in divorce.

Source: Family Survey

**Table 15. Persons who lived in a de facto relationship before current registered marriage(a): length of de facto relationship by marital history, 1992**

Length of de facto relationship	Married for first time	Remarried after divorce(b)	All persons currently married
	- % -		
Under 1 year	30.1	20.5	27.9
1 year up to 2 years	31.9	32.7	32.2
2 years up to 5 years	29.6	30.6	29.7
5 years up to 10 years	7.3	14.2	8.9
10 years or over	1.1	*2.0	1.3
<b>All persons living de facto before marriage</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>942.8</b>	<b>287.4</b>	<b>1,239.6</b>

(a) Marriages from 1975 onwards. Data do not relate to all marriages (see glossary for more details). (b) Only includes currently married persons whose last marriage ended in divorce.

Source: Family Survey

There are considerable variations in the proportions of couples living together before marriage depending on the birthplace of members of the couple. Of all couples who were currently married in 1992, the lowest proportion of de facto living before marriage occurred where both members of the couple were from a non-English speaking country (9%).

Low proportions of de facto living also occurred where one partner was Australian born while the other was from a non-English speaking country. In general, proportions of de facto living before marriage were highest where one partner was born in a Main English speaking country other than Australia, irrespective of where the other partner was born. For Australian born couples, de facto living before marriage occurred in 37 per cent of cases.

**Table 16. Couples who married in 1975 or later: whether lived in a de facto relationship before registered marriage by birthplace of partners, 1992(a)**

Birthplace of partners	% de facto before marriage
Both partners Australian born	37.0
Both partners born in other Main English speaking country	40.4
Both partners born in non-English speaking country	9.1
One partner born in non-English speaking country, other partner Australian born	25.2
One partner born in non-English speaking country, other partner born in other Main English speaking country	45.2
One partner born in other Main English speaking country, other partner Australian born	49.7
<b>All couples married in 1975 or later</b>	<b>34.6</b>

(a) Marriages from 1975 onwards. Data do not relate to all marriages (see glossary for more details).

Source: Family Survey

## Divorce

*For every 5 marriages registered in 1991, there were 2 divorces.*

Prior to the changes in the divorce laws in 1975 allowing for 'no fault' divorce, the crude divorce rate was very low with one divorce for every 1,000 population in 1971. This rate increased rapidly following the introduction of the new divorce laws, giving a rate of 4.5 divorces per 1,000 population in 1976. The rate fell to 2.8 divorces per 1,000 population in 1981 and then stabilised with almost no increase between 1986 and 1991.

**Table 17. Divorces**

Year	No. of divorces	Crude rate
1971	12,947	1.0
1976	63,230	4.5
1981	41,412	2.8
1986	39,417	2.5
1991	45,630	2.6

Source: *Divorces* (3307.0)

It is estimated that 5 years after marriage, approximately 10 per cent of marriages have ended in divorce. This proportion was the same for those married in 1971 as for those married in 1986. After 10 years, almost 20 per cent of all marriages have ended in divorce; after 15 years, approximately 25 per cent have ended, while after 20 years this proportion is about 30 per cent.

## Fertility

### Total fertility rate

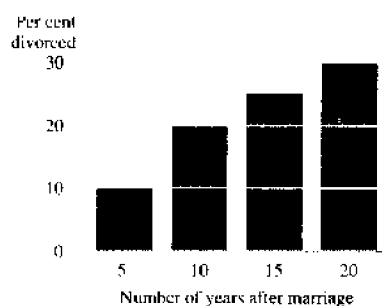
The total fertility rate is the average number of children that a thousand women would expect to bear in their lifetime, if they experienced the rates of the year shown. The total fertility rate showed a sharp decline in the early 1970s, but has declined more slowly since 1976.

The age-specific fertility rate is the number of births per 1,000 women of a specific age group in the population. The greatest declines in age-specific fertility rates occurred in the younger age groups, especially among those aged 24 and under. For women aged 30 and over, the initial decline between 1971 and 1976 was then reversed, so that there has since been a steady increase in fertility rates for women aged 30 and over in all age groups, except for those aged 45 to 49. This pattern has, in part, been caused by women delaying their childbearing to establish careers.

In 1971 there were 767 first births (1% of all first births), which occurred 10 years or more after marriage, while in 1991 there were 2,154 (3% of all first births) (see *Births*, 3301.0). Similar increases in delays were evident for first births which occurred between 5 and 9 years after marriage, from 7 per cent in 1971 (6,216 births) to 16 per cent in 1991 (13,167 births).

### Duration of marriage

**Figure 8. Proportion of marriages ending in divorce by average duration of marriage**



Source: *ABS divorce statistics (unpublished data)*

Although there were changes in the rate of divorce, the average duration of marriage showed little change in the 20 years to 1991. Using divorce statistics, it is possible to estimate how many marriages will end in divorce and also the length of marriage. There is some limitation to these estimates, in that there are no data available to measure the number of people who marry overseas and divorce in Australia or who marry in Australia, and subsequently divorce overseas.

**Table 18. Females aged 15 to 49 years: age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rates**

	Age							Total fertility rate
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1971	55.5	181.9	193.5	101.8	44.2	11.3	0.8	2,945
1976	35.2	128.3	146.2	72.5	24.1	5.5	0.4	2,061
1981	28.2	107.5	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1,938
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2	1,870
1991	22.1	75.0	132.0	100.2	36.0	5.5	0.2	1,855

Source: *Births* (3301.0)

## Births to teenage mothers

During the 20 years to 1991, the proportion of births to teenage mothers has declined from 11 per cent (30,332) of all births in 1971 to 6 per cent (14,641) of all births in 1991, although this decline largely stabilised in the last 5 years of this period. The age-specific fertility rate has shown a similar pattern of decline. However, the proportion of births to teenagers outside marriage more than doubled between 1971 and 1991. In 1971, 33 per cent of all births to teenage mothers were outside marriage, compared with 82 per cent in 1991. However, for women aged 19 and under, the number of births which occurred 7 months or less after marriage has decreased significantly over the same time period (see *Births*, 3301.0).

**Table 19. Females aged 19 years and under: number of births(a) by registered marital status**

Year	Marital status of mother		Total births	Age specific fertility rate
	Married	Not married		
1971	20,381	9,951	273,642	55.5
1976	12,871	8,712	225,565	35.2
1981	7,736	10,076	233,535	28.2
1986	4,050	10,180	240,699	21.8
1991	2,593	12,048	253,861	22.1

(a) Births refer to the number of pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth.

Source: *Births* (3301.0)

## Births to women aged 40 and over

In 1971 there were 4,545 births to women aged 40 and over — just under 2 per cent of all births — while in 1991 there were 3,533 births to women in

this age group, representing one per cent of all births. Although most birth registration data states birth order with reference to the current marriage rather than with reference to the woman's overall birth history, it appears that a larger number of women have been starting families later in life in the last decade. In 1971, 9 per cent of all births to women aged 40 and over were first births, while in 1991, 24 per cent of all births to women in that age group were first births (see *Births*, 3301.0).

**Table 20. Females aged 40 years and over: number of births(a) by registered marital status**

Year	Marital status of mother		Total births
	Married	Not married	
1971	4,151	394	273,642
1976	1,944	193	225,565
1981	1,673	223	233,535
1986	1,875	332	240,699
1991	2,873	660	253,861

(a) Births refer to the number of pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth.

Source: *Births* (3301.0)

## Births outside registered marriage

*23% of all births in 1991 were outside a registered marriage.*

The proportion of births outside registered marriage steadily increased between 1971 and 1991, from 9 per cent of all births (25,404) in 1971 to 23 per cent of all births (58,603) in 1991. The age structure of the women having children outside

**Table 21. Proportion of births(a) outside registered marriage by age of mother**

Year	Age						Number	Proportion of all births
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over		
			- % -				- '000 -	- % -
1971	39.2	33.4	14.5	7.5	3.8	1.6	25.4	9.3
1976	38.1	31.2	17.9	8.3	3.6	0.8	22.9	10.1
1981	32.6	35.6	19.0	8.9	3.2	0.7	31.0	13.3
1986	25.1	35.7	22.4	11.6	4.3	0.8	40.6	16.9
1991	20.6	34.8	23.6	14.1	5.7	1.1	58.6	23.0

(a) Births refer to the number of pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth.

Source: *Births* (3301.0)

**Table 22. Births(a) outside registered marriage: proportion where paternity acknowledged, by age of mother**

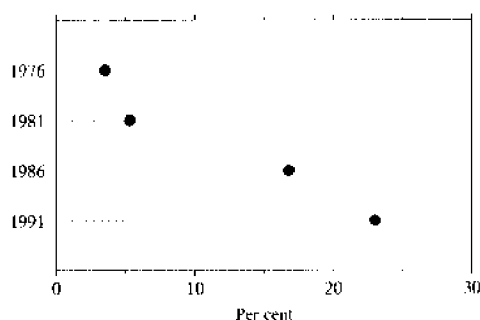
Year	Age						Total
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	
				- % -			
1976	33.6	48.2	61.6	63.3	63.2	54.4	46.9
1981	49.9	61.7	68.7	71.8	69.6	65.9	60.4
1986	60.7	71.8	75.9	76.8	74.3	68.1	70.6
1991	70.7	79.6	83.3	84.5	84.0	80.6	79.6

(a) Births refer to the number of pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth.

Source: ABS birth statistics (unpublished data)

registered marriage also changed during this period. The proportion of all births outside marriage which were to mothers aged 19 and under, fell from 39 per cent in 1971 to 21 per cent of all births to women in that age group in 1991. While there was little change during this period in the proportion of all births outside marriage to women aged 20 to 24, there was a rise in the proportion for those aged 25 and over.

**Figure 9. Proportion of births(a) outside registered marriage**



(a) Births refer to the number of pregnancies resulting in at least one live birth.

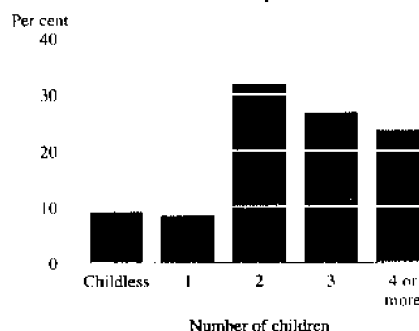
Source: Births (3301.0)

There have also been considerable changes in the extent of acknowledgement of paternity for births outside marriage. Data are not available for 1971, but of all births outside marriage in 1976 to teenage mothers, only 34 per cent had paternity acknowledged, compared with 71 per cent in 1991. Acknowledgement of paternity for births outside marriage to mothers aged 25 and over increased by about 20 percentage points over the 15 years, from around 60 per cent. For these older age groups, the proportion of births outside marriage for which paternity was acknowledged has been high for the whole time period, suggesting that they mainly occurred to couples in de facto relationships.

## Family size and socio-economic characteristics

An indication of the socio-economic characteristics of fertility can be gained by examining the childbearing patterns of women aged 45 and over (when most childbearing has been completed).

**Figure 10. Females aged 45 to 59 years: number of children, 1992**



Source: Family Survey

In 1992, 9 per cent of such women were childless; 32 per cent had 2 children and 27 per cent had 3 children. The average number of children born to women of these ages was 2.6.

Fertility rates vary according to a woman's level of post school qualification. The average number of children born to women with tertiary qualifications was 2.1, and 21 per cent were childless. This compares with an average of 2.5 children born to women with trade qualifications, or other certificate or diploma, and 2.7 children born to women with no post-school qualifications, 10 per cent and 8 per cent respectively remaining childless.



**Table 23. Females aged 45 to 59 years: post-school qualification by number of children, 1992**

Post-school qualification	Average number of children(a)	% childless	All persons ('000)
Bachelor/higher degree	2.1	21.1	80.7
Trade, certificate diploma or other post-school qualification	2.5	9.7	425.4
No post-school qualification(b)	2.7	7.7	804.0
<b>All females aged 45-59</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>1,321.2</b>

(a) Includes women who have borne no children. (b) Excludes a small number of females aged 45 to 59 who did not attend school.

Source: Family Survey

The link between education and employment is illustrated by similar differences in fertility patterns according to occupation. While there was relatively little variation in the average number of children among occupation types (ranging from 2.2 to 2.6), the proportions remaining childless were quite different. Professionals and para-professionals were the most likely of all occupation groups to be childless (18% and 17%), while those classified as labourers and related workers were the least likely to remain without children (5%).

**Table 24. Females aged 45 to 59 years: occupation by number of children, 1992**

Occupation	Average number of children(a)	% childless	All persons ('000)
Managers/administrators	2.6	*8.5	71.0
Professionals	2.2	17.7	97.5
Para-professionals	2.3	*17.3	54.5
Tradespersons	2.2	*11.4	19.4
Clerks	2.3	9.9	206.7
Sales/personal service workers	2.5	7.9	115.3
Plant/machine operators	2.3	*12.5	24.8
Labourers/related workers	2.6	*5.3	119.3
<b>All employed females</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>708.5</b>
<b>All females aged 45-59</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>1,321.2</b>

(a) Includes women who have borne no children.

Source: Family Survey

## Children

The ABS definition of a child is any family member living with at least one parent (for dependent children this includes 'proxy' parents who are responsible for a child) and who does not have a partner or child of their own in the same household. Children are classified as dependent if they are aged 14 and under, or aged 15 to 24 and studying on a full-time basis. All references to 'children' in the following discussion are based on the above definitions.

**Table 25. Children(a): dependency by selected family types, 1992**

	In couple families		Total	In one parent families		Total	All couple and one parent families
	Registered married	De facto married		Lone mother	Lone father		
Dependent	80.5	89.8	80.9	70.7	66.9	70.1	79.1
Non-dependent	19.5	10.2	19.1	29.3	33.1	29.9	20.9
<b>All children Number ('000)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>4,721.4</b>	<b>240.3</b>	<b>4,961.6</b>	<b>853.1</b>	<b>149.4</b>	<b>1,002.4</b>	<b>5,964.0</b>

(a) Excludes a small number of persons who lived with their parent(s) if they had a partner or child of their own.

Source: Family Survey

In 1992, almost 5 million children lived in couple families, with the majority of these being dependent (81%). Most children living in couple families had registered married parents (95%) and 240,000 children had parents who were living in a de facto relationship. A larger proportion of children of de facto couples were dependent (90%) than children of registered married couple families (81%).

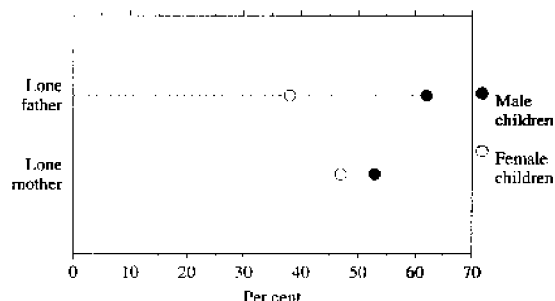
*Almost 80% of children aged 24 and under lived with both natural parents and 96% lived with their natural mother.*

Children in couple families were more likely to be dependent than children in one parent families (81% compared with 70%). This was reflected in the age structure of children in each family type. The proportion of children aged 14 and under in one parent families was 54 per cent compared with 66 per cent in couple families. This is likely to be a consequence of the majority of one parent families forming after divorce, where children may have reached their teens before the separation of parents occurred. The proportion of children aged beyond the teen years is also higher in one parent families than in couple families.

Approximately one million children — one in 7 dependent children and one in 4 non-dependent children — lived in one parent families. Of these children, 85 per cent lived with their mother.

*Almost two-thirds of children in lone father families were male.*

**Figure 11. Children in one parent families: sex by sex of lone parent, 1992**



Source: Family Survey

While lone mother families had a relatively even distribution of male and female children (53% and 47% respectively), lone father families contained proportionately more male children (62%).

The majority of children aged 24 and under live with their natural parents. In 1992, 8 out of 10 children of these ages lived in a family with both natural parents. For 15 to 24 year-olds, the picture changes as divorce, remarriage and lone parenthood have an impact. Only 73 per cent of 15 to 19 year-olds and 74 per cent of 20 to 24 year-olds lived with both natural parents compared with 87 per cent of children aged 4 and under.

**Table 26. Children(a) aged 0 to 24 years: proportion living with natural parents(b), step parent(s) or guardian by age and family type, 1992**

Family type	Age					Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	
- % -						
<i>In couple families</i>						
Both natural parents	86.6	81.6	75.8	73.1	74.0	78.8
Natural mother, step father	0.8	3.8	6.9	7.0	6.0	4.7
Natural father, step mother	**0.1	*0.3	0.8	1.6	*1.3	0.7
Other guardian	**	*0.2	*0.3	*0.8	*0.5	0.3
<i>In one parent families</i>						
Natural mother	11.9	12.6	13.4	13.4	13.0	12.8
Natural father	0.5	1.4	2.5	3.1	4.2	2.1
Other guardian	**	*0.1	*0.2	1.1	*1.1	0.4
<b>All children aged 15 to 24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>1,268.7</b>	<b>1,282.5</b>	<b>1,253.2</b>	<b>1,137.3</b>	<b>640.7</b>	<b>5,582.5</b>

(a) Excludes a small number of persons who lived with their parent(s) if they had a partner or child of their own. (b) Includes parents of adopted or foster children.

Source: Family Survey

Ninety-six per cent of children aged 24 and under lived with their natural mother. Some 13 per cent of all children aged 24 and under lived only with their natural mother, a further 5 per cent lived with their natural mother and step father. A smaller proportion of children aged 24 and under lived only with their natural father (2%) and less than one per cent, lived with their natural father and step mother.

Older children were more likely than younger children to be living with a step parent. Eight per cent of 15 to 24 year-olds lived with a step parent compared with one per cent of 0 to 4 year-olds. Similarly, older children were more likely to live with their natural father than younger children (5% of 15 to 24 year-olds, compared with less than 1% of children aged 4 and under). Less than one per cent of children were in the care of a family member other than a natural or step parent. These 'proxy' parents included grandparents, uncles and aunts.

## Young people

Over the last decade there have been many changes in the socio-economic circumstances of young people. Growing unemployment has been one factor contributing to higher school retention rates and increased numbers of people applying for entry to tertiary institutions. These factors have in turn had an impact on the living arrangements of young people and their levels of dependence on their family, particularly parents, in terms of financial support and accommodation.

*In 1992, nearly half of all 20 to 24 year-olds were living in the parental home.*

In 1992, 89 per cent of people aged 15 to 19 were living with at least one parent; 60 per cent of 15 to 19 year-olds were classified as dependent. For 20 to 24 year-olds, 32 per cent had formed their own families (i.e. lived with a partner and/or their own children), 13 per cent lived in a group household, and 5 per cent lived alone. Despite the larger proportion in this age group who had reached relative independence, nearly half of all 20 to 24 year-olds were living in the parental home.

**Table 27. Persons aged 15 to 24 years: living arrangements, 1992**

Living arrangements	Age		Total
	15-19	20-24	
	- % -		
Partner in couple(a)	3.2	28.5	16.4
Lone parent(a)	0.7	3.7	2.3
Dependent child	60.4	8.4	33.2
Non-dependent child	26.2	36.3	31.5
In other family household (b)	2.7	4.9	3.9
In group household	4.7	13.0	9.0
Living alone	2.1	5.2	3.7
<b>All persons aged 15-24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>1,313.3</b>	<b>1,434.9</b>	<b>2,748.2</b>

(a) Includes a small number of people who lived with parent(s) who had a partner or child of their own. (b) Includes unrelated individuals living in family households.

Source: Family Survey

The pattern of living arrangements for young people has changed over time. In both 1982 and 1992, twice as many 15 to 19 year-olds as 20 to 24 year-olds lived with their parents. However, greater proportions of both age groups lived in the parental home in 1992 than was the case in 1982.

**Table 28. Children(a) aged 15 to 24 years: proportion living with parent(s) by sex**

Year	Males		Females		Persons	
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24
	- % -					
1982	87.5	47.9	80.8	28.1	84.2	41.0
1992	91.3	54.9	86.5	39.7	88.9	47.4

(a) Excludes a small number of persons who lived with their parent(s) if they had a partner or child of their own.

Source: Labour force status and other characteristics of families (6224.0)

*The proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who lived with their parent(s) rose from 28% in 1982 to 40% in 1992.*

The change was most pronounced for women aged 20 to 24. In 1982, 28 per cent of women in this age group were living with their parents. In 1992, this proportion had increased to 40 per cent. The proportion of young males aged 20 to 24 living with their parents increased from 48 per cent to 55 per cent in the same time period.

## Parents with children aged 14 and under not living in the same household

About 399,000 people — 3 per cent of all people aged 15 and over — had children outside the household who were aged 14 and under. The majority of these people were separated (22%), divorced (24%) or currently married after divorce (19%), suggesting that these parents were not living with their extra-household children because of marriage breakdown. A further 18 per cent of people with extra-household children aged 14 and under were never married — it is also likely that a proportion of these children were from previous de facto relationships, although only separated, divorced or previously divorced people have been included in the following analysis.

There were an estimated 261,700 separated, divorced or previously divorced people in current marriages who had children aged 14 and under outside their custody in 1992. Three-quarters of these non-custodial parents were male.

The characteristics of non-custodial fathers and mothers were very different. A smaller proportion of fathers were living with a partner (47%) than mothers (72%). Six per cent of fathers lived in one parent families compared with 21 per cent of mothers. Among fathers, substantial numbers also lived alone (28%) or in group households (8%), while the remainder lived either with their parent(s) (5%) or in other family situations (5%).

**Table 29. Persons with children aged 0 to 14 years living outside the household: registered marital status by sex, 1992**

Marital status	Males	Females	Persons
	- % -		
<i>Never married</i>	18.5	15.5	17.5
<i>Currently married</i>			
<i>previously divorced</i>	19.0	19.7	19.2
<i>other</i>	9.4	31.0	16.5
<i>Separated</i>	26.8	12.3	22.1
<i>Divorced</i>	26.2	20.4	24.3
<i>Widowed</i>	*0.1	1.2	*0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>268.8</b>	<b>130.1</b>	<b>399.0</b>
<b>All persons aged 15 and over ('000)</b>	<b>6,713.7</b>	<b>6,764.7</b>	<b>13,478.4</b>

Source: Family Survey

Non-custodial fathers also tended to be older (31% aged 34 and under) than non-custodial mothers (43% aged 34 and under) and were more likely than mothers to have young children living elsewhere. Twenty per cent of fathers indicated they had children aged 4 and under living outside the household, compared with 4 per cent of mothers. About 245,000 children aged 14 and under lived outside the custody of their father, and about 80,000 children aged 14 and under lived outside the custody of their mother.

**Table 30. Separated, divorced or previously divorced persons(a) with children aged 0 to 14 living outside the household: selected characteristics by sex, 1992**

	Males	Females	Persons
	- % -		
<i>Living arrangements</i>			
Registered married	26.1	37.4	29.1
De facto married	20.9	34.1	24.4
One parent	6.3	20.5	10.0
Non-dependent child	4.9	**1.4	4.0
In other family household(b)	5.0	**	3.7
Group household	8.3	**0.7	6.3
Living alone	28.4	*5.9	22.6
<i>Age</i>			
15-34	30.7	43.4	34.0
35-44	50.7	45.9	49.4
45-54	16.7	10.3	15.0
55 and over	*1.9	**0.4	*1.5
<i>Age of child(ren)(c)</i>			
0-4	20.0	*3.7	15.8
5-9	46.0	34.0	42.8
10-14	61.0	78.8	65.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>193.6</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>261.7</b>

(a) Only includes currently married persons whose last marriage ended in divorce. (b) Includes unrelated individuals living in family households. (c) Persons may have more than one child outside the household and therefore components do not add to totals.

Source: Family Survey

## Lone ancestors

*Two-thirds of all lone ancestors in 1992 were widowed females.*

A lone ancestor is an unpartnered person living with their child or grandchild in a couple or one parent family. The presence of lone ancestors in the family household is one measure of extended family life, with support flows from older generations to younger generations, and from younger to older.

An estimated 82,000 people were lone ancestors in 1992, with the majority being female (76%) and widowed (82%; total in both categories, 65%). Three-quarters of lone ancestors were aged 65 and over.

The marital status and family type of male and female lone ancestors differed. Eighty-six per cent of female lone ancestors were widowed and about 13 per cent were separated or divorced; while 25 per cent lived in one parent families. The picture was rather different for male lone ancestors, where 69 per cent were widowed and 27 per cent were divorced or separated; while 18 per cent lived in one parent families.

*Over one-third of all lone ancestors were from non-English-speaking countries.*

Forty-nine per cent of lone ancestors were not Australian-born. Compared with all people aged 15 and over, lone ancestors from a non-English speaking country were over-represented (34% of lone ancestors and 16% of all people aged 15 and over were from a non-English speaking country) while those born in Australia were under-represented (52% of lone ancestors and 73% of all people aged 15 and over were born in Australia).

**Table 31. Lone ancestors: selected characteristics by sex, 1992**

	Males	Females	Persons
	- % -		
<i>Family type</i>			
In couple family	81.9	75.4	77.0
In one parent family	18.1	24.6	23.0
<i>Age</i>			
35-54	*11.5	*11.0	11.1
55-64	10.3	13.2	12.5
65 and over	78.2	75.8	76.3
<i>Marital status</i>			
Never married	**3.5	**0.8	*1.4
Separated	*10.7	*4.6	*6.0
Divorced	*16.5	*8.7	10.6
Widowed	69.3	85.7	81.8
<i>Ethnicity</i>			
Main English speaking country - Australian	51.8	51.3	51.5
Main English speaking country - other	17.5	13.6	14.5
Non-English speaking country	30.7	35.1	34.0
<b>All lone ancestors</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>82.3</b>

Source: Family Survey

## Mobility

Australia's population is on the move. In the 5 year period to 1992, about half of those aged 15 and over had changed their usual address at least once. Ten per cent of people had changed their usual address 4 or more times in the same period.

Generally, mobility decreases with age. Eighty per cent of people aged 65 and over had not changed their usual address between 1987 and 1992, compared with 44 per cent of 15 to 24 year-olds, and 26 per cent of 25 to 34 year-olds. While a relatively high proportion of 15 to 24 year-olds had not moved at all during this 5 year period (44%), 17 per cent had moved 4 or more times during the same period. Overall, people aged 25 to 34 were the most mobile. Three in 4 people in this age group had moved at least once over 5 years, and one in 5 people had moved 4 or more times.

**Table 32. Persons aged 15 years and over: age by number of times moved in previous 5 years, 1992**

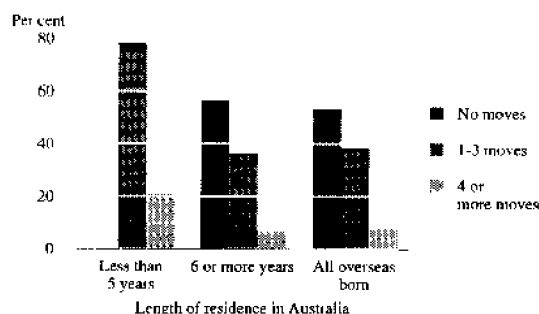
Age	Number of moves			Persons - '000 -
	None	1-3	4 or more	
15-24 years	43.5	39.4	17.1	2,748
25-34 years	26.2	53.5	20.3	2,829
35-44 years	50.0	42.8	7.1	2,651
45-54 years	64.7	31.7	3.5	1,964
55-64 years	73.0	25.6	1.3	1,454
65 years and over	79.8	19.6	0.6	1,830
<b>All persons aged 15 and over</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>13,478</b>

Source: Family Survey

People born overseas were more mobile than those born in Australia. In 1992, 52 per cent of people born outside Australia had moved at least once in the previous 5 years, compared with 46 per cent of the Australian-born population (the number of moves of overseas born people includes those made before they arrived in Australia). The most mobile overseas born people were those who had recently arrived in Australia (up to 5 years' duration of residence prior to 1992). The proportion of recent migrants who had moved four or more times in the five years to 1992 was 21

per cent. This proportion was almost three times greater than the proportion of all overseas born people who had moved during the same period (8%).

**Figure 12. Overseas born persons aged 15 years and over: length of residence in Australia by number of times moved(a) within previous 5 years, 1992**



(a) Includes moves made prior to arriving in Australia.

Source: Family Survey

While the mobility patterns of overseas born Australians differed from the rest of the population, the mobility patterns of Indigenous people were much the same as those of other Australian residents. Similar proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people reported in the 1991 Census that their address had been different 5 years earlier — 45 per cent and 43 per cent respectively (see *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, 2740.0*).

## Family reasons for moving

*Twice the proportion of young people moved to be near family as moved to live with a partner or to be independent.*

Family ties have a strong influence on mobility. Of the estimated 6.4 million people who had moved at least once between 1987 and 1992, 31 per cent identified a family reason — including marriage, de facto partnering, family conflict, or moving to be with or near family — as mainly responsible for their last move.

The mobility patterns of young people are quite different from those in other age groups. Over half of all people aged 15 to 24 who had moved in

**Table 33. Persons aged 15 years and over who had moved in previous 5 years: main reason for last move by age, 1992**

Reason for last move	Age						Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
	- % -						
<i>Family reasons</i>							
Registered marriage	5.3	7.3	2.2	*0.9	*0.8	*0.8	4.3
De facto relationship	4.2	3.3	1.8	2.0	*0.8	**	2.7
Marriage separation	1.2	3.1	4.2	5.6	2.5	*1.9	3.0
Other family conflict	3.1	0.6	0.6	*0.8	*1.0	*1.1	1.3
To be independent	7.5	4.3	1.5	1.4	*1.7	*2.3	3.9
To be with or near family	30.1	8.1	9.1	9.1	16.5	28.4	15.4
<i>Total family reasons</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>26.7</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>23.3</i>	<i>34.5</i>	<i>30.6</i>
<i>Other reasons</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>73.3</i>	<i>80.6</i>	<i>80.2</i>	<i>76.7</i>	<i>65.5</i>	<i>69.4</i>
<b>All reasons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number ('000)</b>	<b>1,553.3</b>	<b>2,088.0</b>	<b>1,324.8</b>	<b>693.0</b>	<b>392.4</b>	<b>370.2</b>	<b>6,421.5</b>

Source: Family Survey

the 5 years to 1992, had done so for family reasons, compared with between 19 and 35 per cent among those aged 25 and over. While moves associated with marriage or other forms of independence accounted for 17 per cent of the reasons for moving for 15 to 24 year-olds, their most frequently-given reason was to be with or near family (30%). High unemployment among 15 to 24 year-olds is likely to be reflected in the large numbers who move for this reason. To be with or near family was also a major reason for moving stated by people aged 65 and over (28%).

## Marriage, separation and mobility

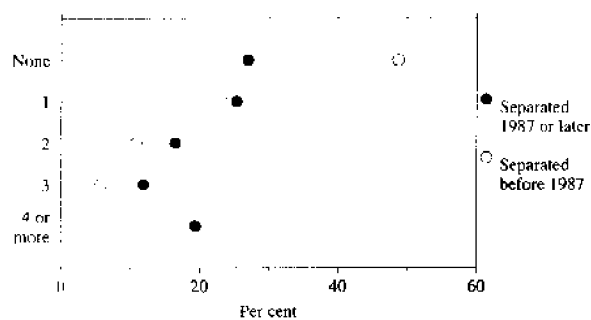
*Recent marriage breakdown leads to frequent moves.*

Marriage and separation both have an impact on mobility. The proportion of people moving to live with a partner (either a de facto relationship or registered marriage) was 10 per cent for 15 to 24 year-olds, and 11 per cent for 25 to 34 year-olds. Dissolution of marriage was a less frequently stated factor among 15 to 24 year-olds and 25 to 34 year-olds (1% and 3% respectively), while the

proportions of 35 to 44 year-olds and 45 to 54 year-olds stating they had moved because of a separation was higher than for the younger age groups (4% and 6% respectively).

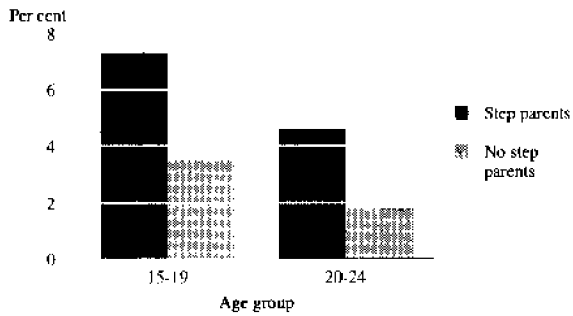
Recent marriage breakdown leads to frequent moves. For people currently divorced or separated since 1987, the proportion that had moved 4 or more times within a 5 year period was almost double that of other people who were currently divorced or separated.

**Figure 13. Divorced or separated persons: number of times moved in previous 5 years by recency of separation, 1992**



Source: Family Survey

**Figure 14. Persons with and without step parents outside the household(a): proportion who moved in previous 5 years because of family conflict by age, 1992**

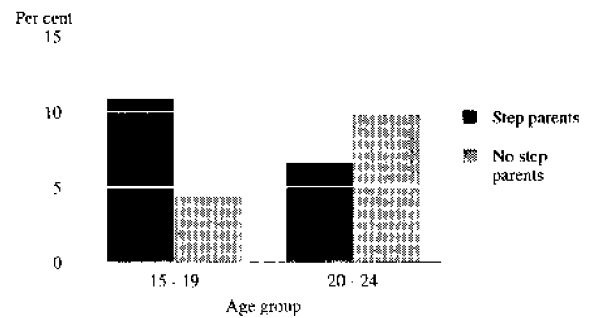


(a) Persons with no step parents outside the household may have step parents within the household, but only if they had a partner or child of their own.

Source: Family Survey

Young people with step parents outside the household were more likely to change address for reasons of family conflict than those who did not. Of 15 to 19 year-olds with step parents outside the household, 7 per cent stated that family conflict was the main reason for their last move compared with 4 per cent of those in the same age group with no step parents outside the household. While the proportion of young persons who stated that conflict was the main reason for their last move declined with age, the proportion of people with step parents outside the household who moved because of conflict (5%) was about twice that of people with no step parents outside the household (2%).

**Figure 15. Persons with and without step parents outside the household(a): proportion who moved in previous 5 years to gain independence by age, 1992**



(a) Persons with no step parents outside the household may have step parents within the household, but only if they had a partner or child of their own.

Source: Family Survey

Similarly, 11 per cent of 15 to 19 year-olds with step parents outside the household stated that independence was the main reason for their last move, compared with 4 per cent of those without step parents outside the household. For 20 to 24 year-olds this situation was reversed, with 7 per cent of those with step parents outside the household and 10 per cent of those without step parents moving to gain independence.

The mobility patterns of young people with step parents in the wider family network suggests that of both age groups, 15 to 19 year-olds are more affected by changing family circumstances.



## GLOSSARY

### FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

*In this section, the term 'family' refers only to the household family.*

A *blended family* is a couple family containing two or more children, of whom at least one is the natural child of both members of the couple, and at least one is the step child of at least one member of the couple.

A *child* is a family member living with at least one parent (natural or step) in the same household and who does not have a child (natural or step) or spouse of their own usually resident in the household.

A *couple* is two usual residents, both aged 15 years and over, who are either registered married to each other or living in a de facto relationship with each other. Prior to 1994, the ABS did not classify a homosexual couple as a couple in its collections. All surveys in this publication were collected prior to 1994. Homosexual couples appear as 'unrelated individuals' in a family or group household.

*De facto living before marriage* occurs when a couple lives together in a de facto relationship prior to entering a registered marriage with each other. The following points should be considered when interpreting these data:

- Data relate only to marriages from 1975 onwards.
- Persons in a second or subsequent marriage were asked about their current marriage only.
- Previously married persons in a de facto relationship were not asked any questions about periods of pre-marriage cohabitation.

A *dependent child* is a usual resident child aged under 15 years, or aged 15 to 24 years and studying full-time.

A *family* is where two or more persons live in the same household and are related to each other by blood, marriage, de facto partnering, fostering or adoption.

A *family household* is a household that contains a family, regardless of whether other persons reside in the household.

A *group household* is a household containing 2 or more unrelated individuals, and no related individuals.

A *household* is a lone person or a group of people who usually reside together. Communal institutions (e.g. boarding schools, mental institutions) are excluded. A household may consist of:

- one person;
- one family;
- one family and unrelated individuals;
- related families with or without unrelated individual(s);
- unrelated families with or without unrelated individual(s);
- unrelated individuals.

*Indigenous families* are those where the first or second family reference person on the census form is an Aborigine or a Torres Strait Islander.

*Indigenous households* are those where the first or second household reference person on the census form is an Aborigine or a Torres Strait Islander.

A *lone ancestor* is defined as a usually resident parent or grandparent (natural, step or in-law) of the lone parent/at least one member of the couple. He/she must not have a spouse (marriage or de facto) usually resident in the household. He/she must not have a child usually resident in the household who does not have a usually resident spouse or child. He/she must not have a parent (natural or step) usually resident in the household.

A *lone parent* is a usual resident aged 15 years and over who does not have a usual resident spouse (marriage or de facto) but has at least one usually resident child (natural, step or otherwise related) who does not have a usually resident spouse (marriage or de facto) of their own.

A *lone person household* is a household containing one person only.

A *multi-family household* is a household containing 2 or more families.

*Natural children* include those who are fostered or adopted.

A *non-dependent child* is a usual resident child aged 25 years and over, or aged 15 to 24 years and not studying full-time.

A *non-English speaking country family* is where either member of a couple, or lone parent, is born in a non-English speaking country.

A *one parent family* comprises a lone parent and that parent's child(ren) plus all other persons in the household related to them, provided those persons do not have a spouse or child of their own.

*Otherwise related dependent child* is a usually resident dependent child who is not the natural or step child of any lone parent/ either member of couple in the household.

*Other related individual* is a related individual who is not the spouse, child, parent or ancestor of any usual resident e.g. aunts, uncles.

A *parent* is a usual resident aged 15 and over who has at least one usually resident child (natural, step or otherwise related) and that child does not have a spouse or child of their own.

A *partner* is a spouse in a de facto relationship or registered marriage between people of the opposite sex usually resident in the same household. Prior to 1994, the ABS did not classify homosexuals as partners in its collections. All surveys in this publication were collected prior to 1994. Homosexual partners appear as 'unrelated individuals' in a family or group household.

*Related families [and unrelated individual(s)]* exist where a household contains at least two families of whom at least two are related.

A *related individual* is a usual resident who is related to at least one other usual resident by blood, marriage (including de facto), adoption or fostering. He/she must not have a spouse usually resident in the household. He/she must not have a child usually resident in the household who does not have a usually resident spouse or child.

*Spouse* is a non-sex-specific term which means registered marriage or de facto partner.

A *step family* is a couple family containing at least one child, not one of whom is the natural child of both members of the couple, and at least one of whom is the step child of either member of the couple.

A *usual resident* of a private dwelling is a person who lives in that particular dwelling and regards it as their only or main home.

*Unrelated families [and unrelated individual(s)]* is a household containing at least two families of whom none are related.

## **FAMILY HISTORY**

*Age-specific fertility rate* is the number of births per 1,000 women of a specific age group in the population.

*Age-specific first marriage rate* is the number of marriages per 1,000 estimated resident population of a specific age group who have never married.

*Age-specific remarriage rate* is the number of marriages per 1,000 estimated resident population of a specific age group who were divorced or widowed.

*Born alive* excludes miscarriages and stillbirths.

*Crude divorce rate* is the number of divorces per 1,000 mean estimated resident population.

*Crude marriage rate* is the number of marriages per 1,000 mean estimated resident population.

Current *registered marital status* classifies persons as:

- never married;
- separated;
- divorced;
- widowed;
- registered married;
  - currently registered married for the first time;
  - currently registered married and last registered marriage ended in divorce;
  - currently registered married and last registered marriage ended with death of spouse.

A *de facto* relationship is where a man and woman live together as husband and wife but are not registered as married to each other.

*Fertility* relates to the child(ren) a woman has given birth to and does not include step children.

*Registered marriage* is a formally registered marriage for which the partners hold a marriage certificate.

*Remarriage* is registered marriage by an individual for the second or subsequent time.

*Total fertility rate* is the number of children 1,000 women would expect to bear in their child bearing lifetime if they experienced the rates of the year shown.

## **EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION**

*Occupation* is coded according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) from the respondent's description of the kind of work they perform.

*Post-school qualifications* are the highest completed qualification attained at any time since leaving school and include bachelor degree or higher, trade qualification/apprenticeship, certificate or other.

## **GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

An *other main English speaking country* is a country from which Australia receives significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These are Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, United States of America and South Africa.

*Metropolitan* regions are capital cities and other bounded areas of 500 people or more.

*Mobility* is the movement of an individual or group from one usual place of residence to another.

A *Non-English speaking country* is a country from which Australia receives significant numbers of overseas settlers who are not likely to speak English.

*Non-metropolitan* regions are bounded areas of less than 500 people.

## APPENDIX A

### References

#### ABS publications

- 1991 Census: Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (2740.0)
- Australia's families: Selected findings from the Survey of Families in Australia (4418.0)
- Births, Australia (3301.0)
- Divorces, Australia (3307.0)
- Labour Force Status and other characteristics of families, Australia (6224.0)
- Marriages, Australia (3306.0)

#### Other publications

- Hugo, G., Australia's changing population: trends and implications. Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1986
- McDonald, P. and Quiggin, P., 'Lifecourse transitions in Victoria in the 1880s', in P. Grimshaw, C. McConville and E. McEwen, Families in Colonial Australia. George Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1985

### Related Publications

- Australian families, 1982 (4408.0)
- Australian Social Trends (4102.0)
- Families in Australia: A guide to content and procedures (4415.0)
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## Symbols used

- \* relative standard error greater than 25 and up to 50 per cent
- \*\* relative standard error over 50 per cent. Figures should be used with caution. If appears in place of an estimate, the estimate is zero.
- .. not applicable

Estimates may have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## Unpublished statistics

As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS has other unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to the Information Consultancy Service contact shown at the rear of this publication.

Data can be made available as:

- special tabulations;
- tabulations utilising the PROTAB facility;
- publications and products, including unit record data;
- statistical consultancy service.

## Special tabulations

Special tabulations can be produced on request to meet individual user requirements. These can be provided in printed form or on floppy disk. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, tabulations can be produced from a survey incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements.

## PROTAB

PROTAB is an alternative means of access for clients who have on-going or complex requirements for data. PROTAB is a Personal Computer based software system, supplied on floppy disk. Clients can use PROTAB to browse the complete list of variables that can be cross-classified for the Family Survey, select some of these, and use these variables to produce unambiguous specifications for their required tables. Clients can then fax the table specifications to the ABS where they will be processed. In most cases the tables will be returned within 48 hours of receipt of the specifications.

## Unit Record File

A unit record data file is available for some survey collections. The file is hierarchical, comprising a subset of variables at the person, family and household levels. It provides purchasers with an opportunity to undertake their own detailed analysis of the data. Deletion of some variables and aggregation of categories in other variables ensures confidentiality of individual respondents is maintained. Enquiries should be made to the contact officer listed at the front of this publication.



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### **Electronic Data Services**

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