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## + Mission

Research  
Training  
Dissemination

## + Goal

To improve our understanding of how family structure is linked to the health and well-being of children, adults, families, and communities and to inform policy development and programmatic responses.

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# + Fast Facts on Singlehood in America



In 2020, two out of five adults aged 18 and older in the United States were single (not currently married or cohabiting). The percentage was slightly higher for women (42%) than men (39%) ([FP-22-30](#)).



Over the past century, the overall increase in the share of unmarried adults has been driven mostly by the increasing percentage of previously married adults, which has doubled from 9% in 1900 to 19% in 2020 ([FP-23-04](#)).



About three out of ten resident mothers and one in ten resident fathers are single parents (e.g., they live with at least one biological or adoptive child but no partner or spouse) ([FP-22-17](#)).



The US marriage rate hit a 50-year low in 2020 ([FP-22-25](#)) and the share of never married adults increased to 31% ([FP-23-04](#)).



In 2021, about half of single adults in midlife were living alone ([FP-22-30](#)).



Over the past three decades, the median age of currently unmarried women (i.e., divorced/separated, widowed, and never married women) increased from 40.5 in 1990 to 43.8 in 2020. For unmarried men, the median age increased from 29.9 to 35.2 over this timeframe ([FP-23-08](#)).



The unmarried population appears to be growing older. In 2020, the share of adults aged 60 and older was one-fourth (25%) of the unmarried population, whereas in 1900 the percentage of adults aged 60 and older was only 12% of the unmarried population ([FP-23-08](#)).

For more NCFMR resources on singlehood, visit our Resources by Topic page at: <https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/resources-by-topic.html>

+ **Family Profiles** <https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles.html>

Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR's core research themes.