Center for Family and Demographic Research

July 2001

Bowling Green State University

Ohio Population News: A Closer Look at Ohio Families and Households

The recent release of the Census Summary File 1 for the state of Ohio has prompted discussion about the changing nature of families in the state. Weeks earlier the Census released demographic profiles for the nation, states, and towns. These profiles detailed the increase in households headed by single mothers, the increase in cohabitation with an unmarried partner and the continuing effect of the baby boom on the population. With the release of these new data, researchers can examine in more detail the racial and ethnic differences and similarities among Ohio's families and households.

Significant changes occurred in the number and type of households in Ohio between the years 1990 and 2000- an 8.7% increase in the number of households, and a 2.7% increase in the number of families. These changes are a result of the shifts in the age composition of the state (the median age of the population increased from 34.5 to 36.2), as well as trends in marriage, fertility, and mortality. Table 1 provides a look at the percentage change in the number of family and nonfamily households by the presence of children in Ohio between the years 1990 and 2000. In 2000, married couple families with children accounted for less than a quarter of all households. In fact, slightly under half (47%) of the almost 3 million *family households* in Ohio included children, representing a 5 percent decline from 1990. In contrast, single-parent families with children in Ohio rose- from 375,843 to 470,368. This increase from 1990 in single-parent families with children - a 17.6% increase for women and a 63% increase for men- is the result of several demographic trends, such as the increase in births to unmarried women, later age of marriage and the propensity for divorce among couples with children. The average family size is also on the decline- from 3.12 in 1990 to 3.04 in 2000. Family size varies by race and ethnicity as well with non-Hispanic whites having the smallest average family size of 3.0 and Hispanics reporting the largest average family size of 3.5.

What is the difference between a family household and a nonfamily household?

A **household** contains one or more people- everyone living in the housing unit makes up the household. One of the people who own or rent the residence is designated as the *householder*. For the purposes of examining family and household composition, two types of households are defined: family and nonfamily.

A **family household** has at least two members related by blood marriage or adoption, one of whom is the householder. **Family households** are maintained by married couples or by a man or woman living with other relatives, children may or may not be present.

In contrast, **nonfamily households** are maintained only by men or women with no relatives at home. A **nonfamily household** can either be a person living alone or a householder who shares the housing unit with nonrelatives only such as a roommate.

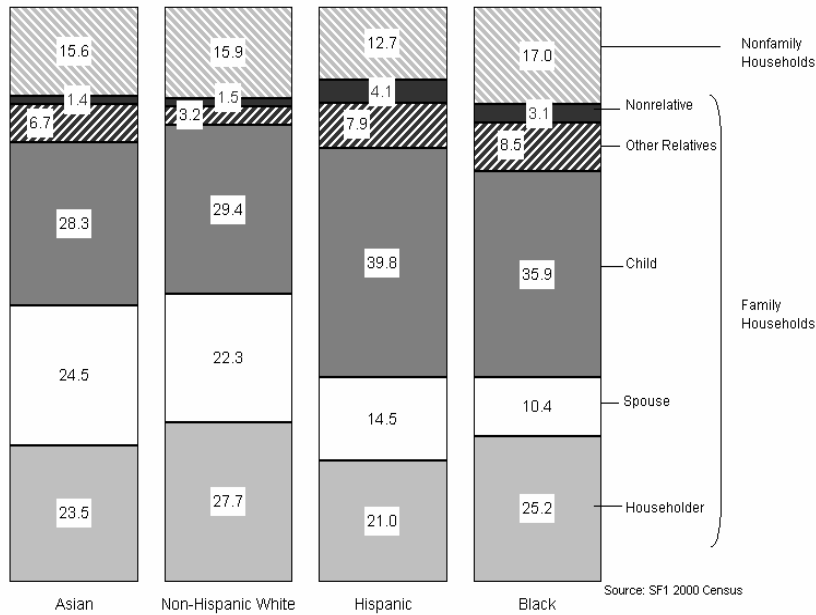Source: "America's Families and Living Arrangements" US Census Bureau June 2001.

In Ohio, 1 in 20 households were classified as 'unmarried partner' households. Of these roughly 230 000 households,

Table 2: Unmarried Partner Household, Ohio 2000

		% of Total Unmarried Partner Households
Total Households:	4 445 773	
Unmarried-partner households:	229 089	
Male householder and male partner	9 266	4.0
Male householder and female partner	111 489	48.7
Female householder and female partner	9 671	4.2
Female householder and male partner	98 663	43.1
All other households	4 216 684	

Source: Table PCT14 Summary File 1

Table 1: Households by Type and Presence of Children

	1990		2000		1990 to 2000	
	Households with ...		Households with ...		Percentage Change	
	People Under 18	No People Under 18	People Under 18	No People Under 18	People Under 18	People Under 18
Family Households						
Married Couple Family	1 101 299	1 192 812	1 046 172	1 239 626	-5.0	3.9
Other Family						
Male Householder, No Wife Present	62 781	60 261	102 226	68 121	62.8	13.0
Female Householder, No Husband Present	313 062	165 008	368 142	168 736	17.6	2.3
Nonfamily Households						
Male Householder	11 333	490 962	13 840	639 803	22.1	30.3
Female Householder	2 291	687 737	3 628	795 476	58.4	15.7

Source: Summary File 1, 2000 Census and STF 1A 1990 Census

CFDR 2001-4

Figure 1: Percent Distribution for the Population Living in Households by Household Type, Ohio 2000

	Asian	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic	Black	
Nonfamily Households	15.6	15.9	12.7	17.0	
Nonrelative	1.4	1.5	4.1	3.1	
Other Relatives	6.7	3.2	7.9	8.5	
Child	28.3	29.4	39.8	35.9	
Spouse	24.5	22.3	14.5	10.4	
Householder	23.5	27.7	21.0	25.2	

Source: SF1 2000 Census

Table 3: Percent Distribution of the Population Living in Nonfamily Households

	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Male Householder				
Living alone	28.7	32.8	26.5	30.6
Not living alone	8.0	6.0	12.4	11.5
Female Householder				
Living alone	40.3	41.7	22.0	22.6
Not living alone	5.6	5.0	5.8	6.2
Nonrelative	17.3	14.5	33.3	29.1

Source: P27 Tables Summary File 1

Figure 2: Household Type for the Population Under 18 Years, Ohio 2000 (percent distribution)

	Asian	NonHispanic White	Hispanic	Black	
Living with Nonrelative	1.1	1.7	2.8	2.5	
Living with Other relative	4.1	5.1	9.4	14.3	
Female-headed household, no husband present	7.3	13.9	26.5	49.6	
Male-headed Household, no wife present	2.8	4.9	6.8	5.2	
Married Couple Family	84.6	74.3	54.4	28.3	

Source: SF1 2000 Census

Living Arrangements:

The Census also provides information on the relationship by household type, identifying how other people in the household are related to the householder. **Figure 1** divides the population living in family and nonfamily households into various categories: householder, spouse, child, other relatives, and nonrelatives. The 'other relative' category includes grandchildren, siblings of the householder, and parents of the householder. (This excludes the portion of the population, roughly 2.6%, that is living in group quarters). This shows that household composition varies by race and ethnicity. For example, 4.1% of Hispanics live in family households as nonrelatives, compared to only 1.5% of non-Hispanic whites.

Persons living in nonfamily households are further classified as male or female householder living alone or with a nonrelative. The percentage of persons living in nonfamily households increased from 13% in 1990 to 16% in 2000. Part of this increase is due to the growth in 1-person households, or people living alone.

In 2000, roughly two-thirds of people living alone were women. This represents an increase of 13% since 1990.
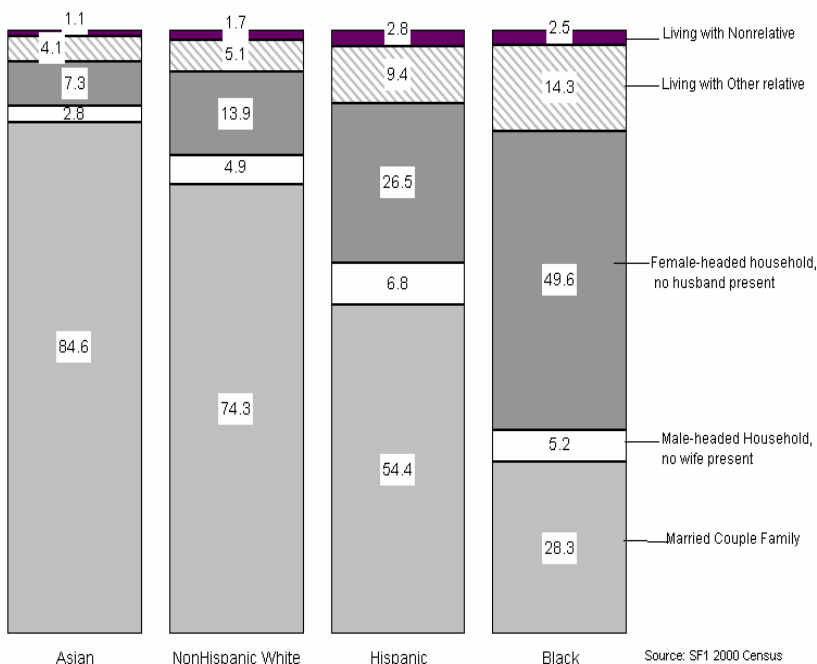
Figure 2 outlines the living arrangements for the population under 18 years of age: living in a married-couple family, living in a single-parent family (either female or male headed), with other relatives, or with nonrelatives. These calculations also exclude the population living in group quarters. (Well under a half of one percent of all children live in group quarters in Ohio). There are significant differences by race and ethnicity. For example, 85% of all Asian children live in a married couple family, compared to 74% of Non-Hispanic white children, 54% of Hispanic children and 28% of African American children.