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★ Special Edition ★
Unmarried and Single Americans Week
September 18-24, 2005

“National Singles Week” was started by the Buckeye Singles Council in Ohio in the 1980s to celebrate single life and recognize singles and their contributions to society. The week is now widely observed during the third full week of September (Sept. 18-24 in 2005) as “Unmarried and Single Americans Week,” an acknowledgment that many unmarried Americans do not identify with the word “single” because they are parents, have partners or are widowed.

Singleness

100 million

Number of unmarried and single Americans. This group comprises 44 percent of all U.S. residents age 15 and over.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

53%

Percentage of unmarried and single Americans who are women.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

64%

Percentage of unmarried and single Americans who have never been married. Another 22 percent are divorced, and 14 percent are widowed.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

14.9 million

Number of unmarried and single Americans age 65 and over. These older Americans comprise 15 percent of all unmarried and single people.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

87

Number of unmarried men age 15 and over for every 100 unmarried women in the United States.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

49 million

Number of households maintained by unmarried men or women. These households comprise 44 percent of households nationwide.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

Parenting

33%

Percentage of births in 2002 to unmarried women.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/fertility/001491.html>>

12.4 million

Number of single parents living with their children. Of these, 10.1 million are single mothers.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabFM-2.pdf>>

41%

Percentage of opposite-sex, unmarried-partner households that include children.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

680,000

Number of unmarried grandparents who are responsible for caring for their grandchildren. These grandparents comprise nearly 3-in-10 grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren.

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_lang=en&_ts=101211465067>

Unmarried Couples

4.6 million

Number of unmarried-partner households. These households consist of a householder living with someone of the opposite sex who was identified as their unmarried partner.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/003118.html>

Voters

36%

Percentage of voters in the 2004 presidential election who were unmarried.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/voting/004986.html>>

Education

82%

Percentage of unmarried people age 25 or older who are high-school graduates.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/004214.html>>

23%

Percentage of unmarried people age 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or more education.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/004214.html>>

“Special Editions” of the U.S. Census Bureau *Facts for Features* are issued to provide background information for less known observances; anniversaries of historic events; and other timely topics in the news, such as:

Cinco de Mayo

National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week

Inauguration Day

Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian

National Adoption Month

Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Civil Rights Act of 1964 Anniversary

Anniversary of the UNIVAC Computer

Dedication of National World War II Memorial

Teacher Appreciation Week

Anniversary of ‘Wonderful World of Color’ in Television

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Brown v. Board of Education Anniversary

The Presidential Election

Social Security COLA

First Flight Centennial

Dialing for Dollars

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial

Tax Time

U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans

Editor’s Note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau’s Public Information Office at (301) 763-3030; fax (301) 457-3670; or e-mail <pio@census.gov>.