Examining American Household Composition: 1990 and 2000

Census 2000 Special Reports

Issued August 2005

CENSR-24

By
Frank Hobbs

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United States Census 2000

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by **Frank Hobbs** under the general direction of **John F. Long**, former Chief, Population Division.

In the Census Activities and Tabulation Staff of the Population Division, **Marie Pees,** Chief, and **Janet Wysocki** provided significant contributions to the data compilation and understanding of the available coded data on household relationship.

Martin O'Connell, Chief, Fertility and Family Statistics Branch and **Campbell Gibson**, Demographic Advisor, Population Division, provided vital contributions pertaining to the understanding of decennial household and family data in general, and especially provided important details concerning census data for 1990 and 2000.

The author is grateful to other Population Division staff for their contributions to the review of this report. **Robert A. Kominski**, Assistant Division Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics, provided general comments and review. Special thanks are due to **Marjorie Hanson**, Population Division, for the improvements added by her review of the complete text of the report.

James L. Dinwiddie and **Jeanne Waples** of the Decennial Management Division provided decennial policy review of this report. **Philip M. Gbur**, Decennial Statistical Studies Division, conducted sampling review.

Jan Sweeney, **Theodora Forgione**, **Catherine M. Raymond**, and **Barbara Blount**, of the Administrative and Customer Services Division, **Walter C. Odom**, Chief, provided publication and printing management, graphics design and composition, and editorial review for print and electronic media. General direction and project management were provided by **Susan L. Rappa,** Chief, Publication Services Branch.

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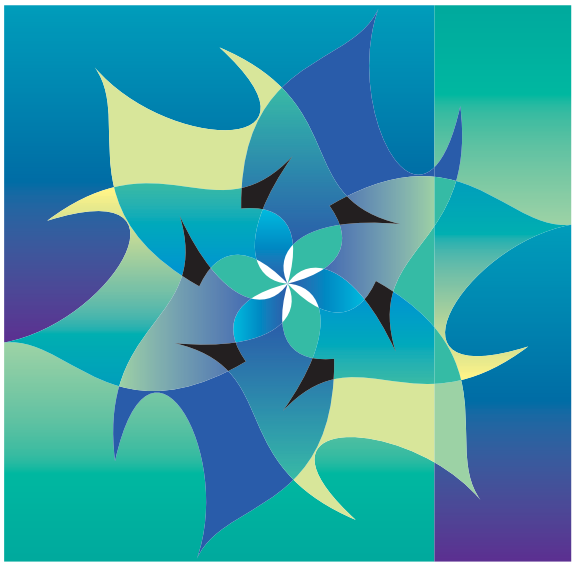

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Suggested Citation

Hobbs, Frank,
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000
Special Reports, CENSR-24,
Examining American Household Composition: 1990 and 2000,
U.S. Government Printing Office,
Washington, DC,
2005.

Economics and Statistics Administration

Kathleen B. Cooper,
Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free 866-512-1800; DC area 202-512-1800
Fax: 202-512-2250 Mail: Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-0001

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Examining American Household Composition: 1990 and 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Householders living alone had become the most common specific household structure in 2000, replacing the 1990 combination of householder, spouse, and natural and/or adopted children.

Partners

In 1990 and 2000, about three-fourths of households with children contained a partner (spouse or unmarried partner) of the householder.

During the 1990s, households without a partner grew faster (20 percent) than households with a partner (11 percent), and partner households where children were the only other members present grew slower (4 percent) than all other broad types.

In 2000, most households with a parent of the householder present were nonpartner households (60 percent).

Three-fourths of households with a grandchild present also included children of the householder in 2000.

In 2000, the most common type of household had neither a partner nor children (32 percent), followed by households with a partner and children (31 percent), households with a partner but without children (26 percent), and households with children but without a partner (12 percent).

Generations

Most U.S. households (55 percent) in 2000 were composed of one generation.

In 2000, the most common type of multigenerational (3 or more generations) household consisted of the householder, child, and grandchild generations and accounted for 62 percent of all multigenerational households.

About two-thirds of all multigenerational households contained a grandchild, and about one-third contained someone from the parent generation.

From 1990 to 2000, two-generation households increased slower than households with other numbers of generations.

Multigenerational households increased by 38 percent, from 3.0 million in 1990, to 4.2 million in 2000.

The majority of one-generation households (55 percent) did not have a partner present.

The majority of two-generation households (72 percent) and three-or-more-generation households (58 percent) were partner households.

INTRODUCTION

In 1880, the U.S. Census Bureau began asking a question in the decennial census of population to determine how each person living in a household was related to the head of the household (or the householder, in current terminology). From this information, all *individuals* can be tabulated according to their relationship to the householder, such as spouse, child, etc., and *households* may be classified as belonging to a particular type, such as married-couple, nonfamily, etc. This report uses the latter approach, classifying households, and shows tabulations of households within specific individual relationships and certain broader household-type classifications.

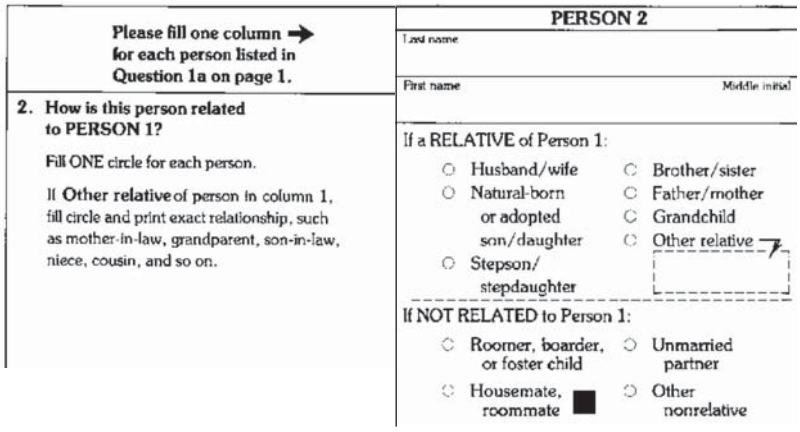
Beginning in the 1990 census, relationship data included separate precoded classifications for unmarried partner, stepchild, and grandchild. Census 2000 added more precoded categories (foster child, adopted child, parent-in-law, child-in-law) and obtained more detailed information about relationship than did previous censuses (Figure 1).

The new information collected in the relationship-to-householder item reflects the growing complexity of American households and creates an opportunity to enhance our understanding of how the U.S. population collectively lives in households. Since the general classifications used to group household types changed minimally over the last half of the 20th century, the traditional aggregations may not fully reflect this increased complexity.

In Census 2000, 273.6 million of the 281.4 million people enumerated lived in 105.5 million households and the remaining 7.8 million people lived in group quarters, such as correctional institutions, nursing homes, and college dormitories.[1] The data included in this report are based on special tabulations of households, classified according to the relationship item from the 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Question on Relationship to Householder: 1990 and 2000

1990



2000

2. **How is this person related to Person 1?** *Mark* ☒ *ONE box.*

- ☐ Husband/wife
- ☐ Natural-born son/daughter
- ☐ Adopted son/daughter
- ☐ Stepson/stepdaughter
- ☐ Brother/sister
- ☐ Father/mother
- ☐ Grandchild
- ☐ Parent-in-law
- ☐ Son-in-law/daughter-in-law
- ☐ Other relative — *Print exact relationship.*

If NOT RELATED to Person 1:

- ☐ Roomer, boarder
- ☐ Housemate, roommate
- ☐ Unmarried partner
- ☐ Foster child
- ☐ Other nonrelative

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000 questionnaires.

Historically, the terms used to describe households, the categories listed on the questionnaire, the method of obtaining responses on relationship, and the manner of tabulating and processing the data all changed during the decades after relationship data were first collected. For example, while large institutional populations were excluded from the counts of households, the treatment of places such as boarding houses varied. Such changes create some comparability issues with regard to

[1] See U.S. Census Bureau, 2001a, *Households and Families: 2000*, by Tavia Simmons and Grace O'Neill, Census 2000 Brief (C2KBR/01-8), Washington, DC.

Understanding Data on Relationship and Households

For every household, the householder refers to the person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. The person who designates himself or herself as the householder is the "reference person" to whom the relationship of all other household members is recorded. This designation thus affects the relationship code of each member of a household (e.g. parent, spouse, child) and the classification of all households by type. The householder is listed as person 1 on the census questionnaire. All households must, by definition, contain a householder. Since 1980, if the house was owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder could be either the husband or the wife.

Family and nonfamily households represent the broadest categories of household type used in census data tabulations. Each of these broad types generally is broken down into two additional types: family households into married-couple households and other family households, and nonfamily households into one-person households and other nonfamily households. These traditional broad categories of household type are closely linked to the relationship codes from the decennial census questionnaire. The presence of any of 15 of the 21 relationship codes in Census 2000 implies, by definition, that the household is a family household. Six can be found in both family and nonfamily households. Of the more than 786,000 possible combinations of relationships in a household, the maximum number of nonfamily household combinations is 32.

The 1990 Census of Population introduced the relationship code unmarried partner, which can occur in both family and nonfamily households. Building on 1990 and 2000 data on this code, this report creates a new classification using the presence or absence of a partner (spouse or unmarried partner) as the basis for configuring household type. Dividing households in this way allows all relationship codes (other than spouse and unmarried partner) to be present in either a partner or a nonpartner household. Partner households, by definition, include either a spouse or an unmarried partner. Nonpartner households, then, are households with neither a spouse nor an unmarried partner present.

Finally, the report creates a classification of households by the number of generations living in the household, where generations are defined solely by a person's relationship to the householder. Every household can be classified according to the number of generations present, from one through five, by using the relationship codes of all individuals present in the household. The five generations identified are grandparent, parent, householder, child, and grandchild. Only one type of five-generation household is possible, one that includes each of these generations. Four types of four-generation households can occur, as can six types of three-generation households, four types of two-generation households, and one type of one-generation household.

the interpretation and understanding of historical tabulations of household relationship data.[2] (For definitions of the household-related terms used throughout this report, see Appendix B, Glossary.)

This report examines the categories used to classify households based on the census question about relationship to the householder. Traditionally, households have been classified into two primary categories, family and nonfamily (each with two main subcategories). This report explores various new ways to present household relationship data, reconfigures household type classifications, and analyzes how these alternative groupings changed in the United States from 1990 to 2000. The report is organized into three main sections; each section presents data at the national level and examines both Census 2000 data and changes during the previous decade.

The report reconfigures the traditional family or nonfamily classification of households and creates a partner-nonpartner classification. Partner households include married-couple households and unmarried-partner households

[2] This includes, as discussed later, comparability between the household relationship data collected in 1990 and 2000. For additional historical household trends and information, see U.S. Census Bureau, 2002, *Demographic Trends in the 20th Century*, by Frank Hobbs and Nicole Stoops, Census 2000 Special Reports (CENSR-4), Washington, DC.

(regardless of gender). In addition, the report creates a classification of households by the number of generations living in the household, where generations are defined solely on the basis of the relationship to the householder. All households are classified by the number of generations (one through five).

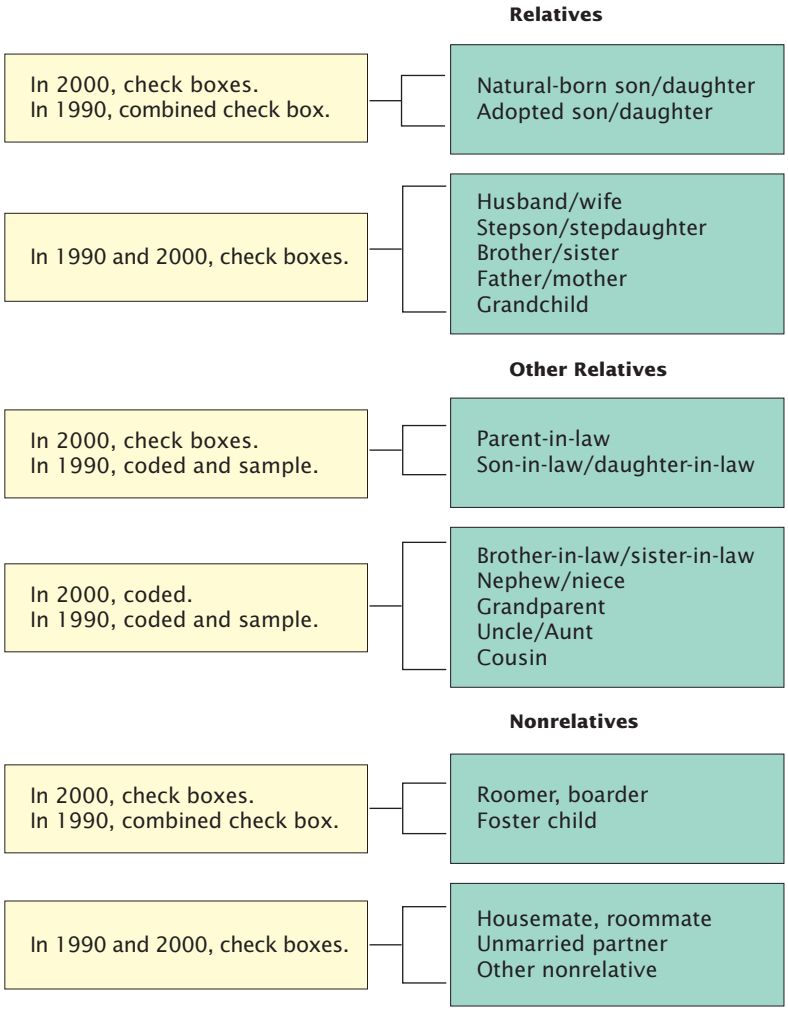
RELATIONSHIP CODES AND COMBINATIONS

Specific relationship code combinations are tallied in this report by identifying the presence of any of the 21 relationship codes in Census 2000 (or 19 codes in the sample data from the 1990 Census of Population) in each household. Figure 2 illustrates how each relationship code was collected or coded in 1990 and 2000. Each unique combination of codes identifies a different household combination. The presence of more than one person with the same relationship code in a household is not relevant in these tabulations. A household consisting of a householder, spouse, and one natural child is counted as the same combination as a household consisting of a householder, spouse, and multiple natural children. In this example, the presence of a fourth relationship code would create a new combination.

While family and nonfamily households represent the broadest categories traditionally used in census household data tabulations, data from detailed relationship codes in 1990 and 2000 allow a new examination of American household structure. This report considers combinations of household relationships not previously analyzed and illustrates the extensive range of types. New configurations of household type groupings might more effectively capture the variety of American living arrangements than currently provided by the classifications used for the past several decades.

All households must, by definition, contain a householder. All other relationship codes theoretically may be found in any combination within a household.[3] Thus, a large number of unique household

Figure 2.
Comparison of Relationship Items: 1990 and 2000



Note: Relationship items were collected and coded on a 100-percent basis, unless otherwise stated.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000 questionnaires.

[3] In Census 2000, combinations with both a spouse and an unmarried partner were not allowed to occur within the same household. In the 1990 Census of Population, the sample data included 30,989 households containing both a spouse and an unmarried partner. Revised editing procedures resulted in the exclusion of this combination from Census 2000 data.

relationship combinations are theoretically possible. For example, given the 21 specific household relationship codes in Census 2000, a total of more than 786,000 combinations are theoretically possible. However, proportionally very few of the possible combinations (3 percent) actually were observed. In general, the larger the number of relationship codes, the larger will be the number of observed combinations. The observed combinations increased from just over 5,000 in 1990 (using the 19 relationship codes from sample data) to nearly 25,000 in 2000 with the addition of specific codes for an adopted child and a foster child.[4]

Table 1.
Households by Presence of Specific Relationship Codes: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Relationship	Total households	Percent of–	
		Total households	Households with 2 or more members
Householder	105,480,101	100.0	100.0
Spouse	54,493,232	51.7	69.6
Natural child	42,847,722	40.6	54.8
Unmarried partner	5,475,768	5.2	7.0
Grandchild	3,560,932	3.4	4.6
Housemate	3,371,571	3.2	4.3
Stepchild	3,077,726	2.9	3.9
Sibling	2,504,069	2.4	3.2
Parent	2,035,905	1.9	2.6
Other nonrelative	1,754,870	1.7	2.2
Adopted child	1,567,499	1.5	2.0
Roomer	1,372,363	1.3	1.8
Nephew/Niece	1,035,796	1.0	1.3
Child-in-law	850,566	0.8	1.1
Parent-in-law	660,437	0.6	0.8
Sibling-in-law	582,758	0.6	0.7
Other relative	371,996	0.4	0.5
Cousin	364,306	0.3	0.5
Foster child	207,248	0.2	0.3
Uncle/Aunt	154,150	0.1	0.2
Grandparent	80,847	0.1	0.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Householder, spouse, and natural child were the most frequently occurring relationship codes.

Since all households must contain a householder, this relationship code occurs in 100 percent of U.S. households. A slight majority (52 percent) of U.S. households contained a spouse of the householder (Table 1). A natural child of the householder, the next most frequently occurring relationship, was found in 41 percent of all households. After these, the percentages dropped steeply and ranged from 5.2 percent (or 5.5 million) of all households containing an unmarried partner (the fourth most commonly occurring relationship code) down to 0.1 percent (or 81,000) households with a grandparent of the householder present.

[4] For further detail on adopted children in 2000, see U.S. Census Bureau, 2003a, *Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2000*, by Rose Kreider, Census 2000 Special Report (CENSR-6), Washington, DC.

Very few relationship combinations accounted for the overwhelming majority of all households.

A handful of the observed combinations accounted for most U.S. households in 2000. The 20 most common relationship combinations (out of more than 786,000 possible combinations) accounted for 92 percent of all households in the United States (Table 2).[5] Nine specific combinations, each with 1,000,000 or more households, accounted for 86 percent of all U.S. households. Several nontraditional specific combinations in this group included: householder and unmarried partner (5th, with 2.7 million households), householder and housemates (6th, with 2.3 million households), and householder, unmarried partner, and natural children (7th, with 1.6 million households).

[5] For the specific detailed household relationship combinations with more than 100,000 households in 1990 and 2000, see Appendix Tables A-1 and A-2, respectively.

Table 2.
Most Common Household Relationship Combinations: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Rank and household composition	Number of households	Percent
Total, all households (24,722 combinations)	**105,480,101**	**100.00**
Total, 20 most common relationship combinations	96,764,872	91.74
1 Living alone	27,230,075	25.82
Householder living with–	69,534,797	65.92
2 Spouse + Natural child	23,664,727	22.44
3 Spouse	22,382,944	21.22
4 Natural child	8,865,883	8.41
5 Unmarried partner	2,682,247	2.54
6 Housemate	2,332,386	2.21
7 Unmarried partner + Natural child	1,580,205	1.50
8 Spouse + Natural child + Stepchild	1,197,223	1.14
9 Spouse + Stepchild	1,105,151	1.05
10 Natural child + Grandchild	801,977	0.76
11 Sibling	737,586	0.70
12 Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild	717,150	0.68
13 Roomer	563,169	0.53
14 Parent	550,146	0.52
15 Spouse + Adopted child	492,934	0.47
16 Spouse + Natural child + Adopted child	433,945	0.41
17 Grandchild	376,494	0.36
18 Spouse + Grandchild	361,385	0.34
19 Other nonrelative	351,010	0.33
20 Spouse + Natural child + Parent	338,235	0.32
Total, remaining 24,702 relationship combinations	8,715,229	8.26

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Living alone became the most common unique household type in 2000.

In 1990, the most common specific household type consisted of a householder, spouse, and natural and/or adopted children. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of such households declined by 1.7 percent. The number of householders living alone increased by 21 percent and outnumbered all other specific types by 2000 (Table 3).[6]

Among the most common household types in 2000, four declined during the 1990s, and all of them included the relationship code spouse (Appendix Table A-3). Among the 19 most common household types that increased by more than 50 percent during the 1990s, 10 included other relative codes that were not available in the 100-percent data in 1990 but were coded in sample data. Eight included the relationship codes unmarried partner and/or other nonrelative, and one type consisted of the householder with only the code roomer/boarder/foster child.[7]

Table 3.
Household Composition Types With More Than 500,000 Households in 2000 and Percent Change by Relationship to Householder: 1990–2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Household composition	Number of households		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	1990	2000	Number	Percent
Total, all households	**91,993,582**	**105,480,101**	**13,486,519**	**14.7**
Living alone	22,421,114	27,230,075	4,808,961	21.4
Householder living with–				
Spouse	20,172,988	22,382,944	2,209,956	11.0
Spouse + Natural child	25,013,513	24,591,606	-421,907	-1.7
Spouse + Stepchild	1,195,656	1,105,151	-90,505	-7.6
Spouse + Natural child + Stepchild	1,137,426	1,236,813	99,387	8.7
Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild	661,610	759,396	97,786	14.8
Natural child	7,504,178	9,110,735	1,606,557	21.4
Natural child + Grandchild	683,994	832,606	148,612	21.7
Sibling	704,914	737,586	32,672	4.6
Parent	412,880	550,146	137,266	33.2
Roomer	322,121	563,169	241,048	74.8
Housemate	2,020,598	2,332,386	311,788	15.4
Unmarried partner	1,647,208	2,682,247	1,035,039	62.8
Unmarried partner + Natural child	859,192	1,620,891	761,699	88.7

Note: Data for 1990 are based on sample tabulations. The natural child category includes adopted child and the roomer category includes boarder and foster child.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

[6] Comparing 1990 and 2000 data by specific relationship combinations required aggregating combinations in 2000 into the 19 relationship code categories of 1990. Specific types including adopted child in 2000 were added to the appropriate natural child classification (since natural or adopted child was one code in 1990) and specific types including foster child in 2000 were added to the appropriate roomer/boarder classification (since roomer, boarder, or foster child was one code in 1990).

[7] The size of the increases in the other relative combinations based on the 1990 coding of sample data and in the unmarried partner combinations should be interpreted with caution, since they may be attributed in part to data processing issues.

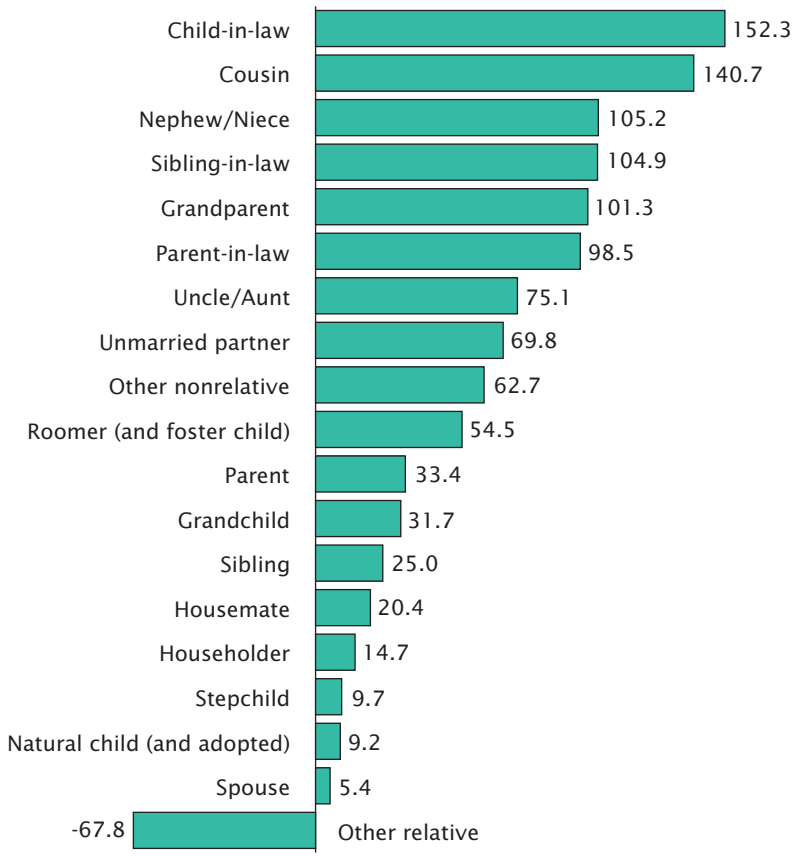
From 1990 to 2000, the percentage increases in households with spouses, natural and/or adopted children, and stepchildren were less than the increase in total households.

As noted earlier, in order to compare data on relationship for 1990 with 2000, the categories for adopted child and foster child from Census 2000 must be collapsed into their appropriate 1990 categories. Among the resulting 19 comparable relationship code categories, the number of households with an other relative declined during the 1990s (Figure 3 and Appendix Table A-4), but this decline almost certainly is an artifact of changes in the collection and processing of the relationship item. In 1990, the 100-percent data provided 12 relationship codes and the sample data provided 19. The additional relationship codes all resulted from expanding the broad other relative category. Most likely not coincidentally, households containing the seven additional relationship codes also were the seven fastest-growing households during the 1990s in terms of the specific codes. Adding parent-in-law and son-in-law/daughter-in-law as precoded check boxes on the Census 2000 questionnaire probably also contributed to the increases for these codes. While households including these seven specific other relative codes likely increased between 1990 and 2000, the actual increase probably was less than the derived increase based on the reported data (ranging from 75 percent for uncle/aunt to 152 percent for child-in-law).

Since every household has only one householder, the percentage change in the number of householders equals the change in the number of households. Aside from the other relative codes with probable data comparability issues, households with spouses, natural and/or adopted children, or stepchildren were the only three types to increase slower than the 15 percent national increase in total households. Among the codes related to the householder without data comparability issues, households with a parent of the householder present grew the fastest (33 percent), slightly exceeding the growth in households with a grandchild of the householder present (32 percent).

Figure 3.
Percent Change in Households by Presence of Specific Relationship Codes: 1990–2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)



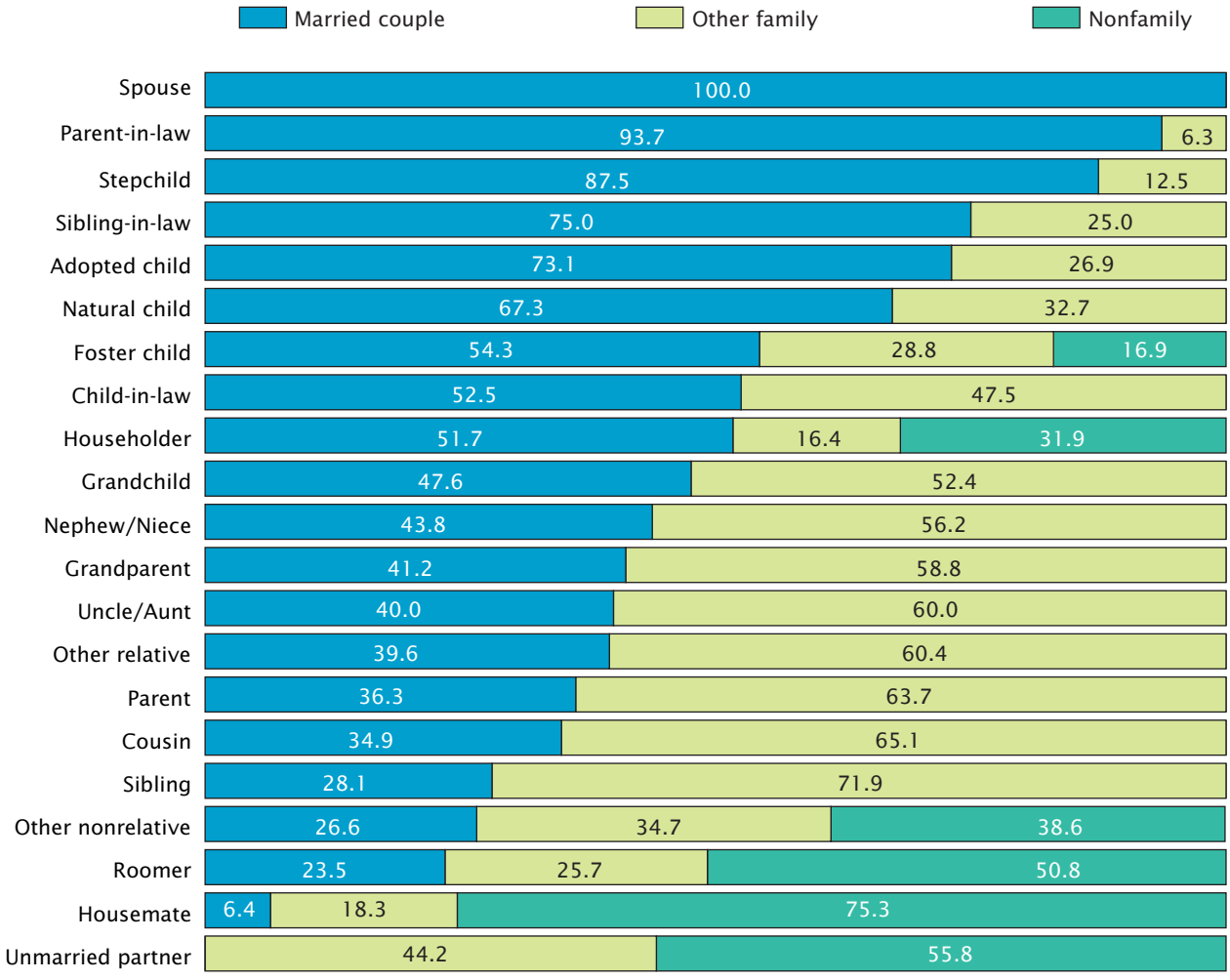
Note: Changes for households with adopted children and foster children are not available since the identification of households with these relationship codes is not possible for 1990. Percent change of householders equals percent change of total households.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

A parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, nephew or niece, aunt or uncle, and cousin of the householder were more likely to be in other family households than in married-couple households in both 1990 and 2000.

The relationship codes used in decennial censuses are closely tied to the traditional definitions of household type. This connection limits understanding the diversity of household structures. For example, of the 21 relationship codes in Census 2000, 15 of them can only be found, by definition, in a family household. The six remaining codes (including householder) may be found in either a family or a nonfamily household.

Of the relationship codes found exclusively in family households, spouse, by definition, only occurs in a married-couple household. Householder is most commonly found in married-couple households since this household type outnumbers other family and nonfamily households. The three child codes (natural, adopted, or step) and the three in-law codes (parent-in-law, child-in-law, sibling-in-law) occurred more frequently in a married-couple household than in an other family household (Figure 4 and Appendix Table A-5). In

Figure 4.
Percent Distribution of Specific Relationship Codes by Household Type: 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Note: Percent distribution of householders equals percent distribution of total households.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Table 4.
Change in Specific Combinations of Nonfamily Households by Relationship to Householder: 1990–2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions for 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf1.pdf* and for 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Nonfamily household composition	Number of households		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	1990	2000	Number	Percent
Total	**27,429,463**	**33,692,754**	**6,263,291**	**22.8**
Living alone	22,580,420	27,230,075	4,649,655	20.6
Living with nonrelatives	4,849,043	6,462,679	1,613,636	33.3
Unmarried partner alone or with any other nonrelatives	1,972,097	3,053,582	1,081,485	54.8
Alone	1,671,645	2,682,247	1,010,602	60.5
With any other nonrelatives	300,452	371,335	70,883	23.6
Housemate alone or with any other nonrelatives	2,344,113	2,538,574	194,461	8.3
Alone	2,200,608	2,332,386	131,778	6.0
With any other nonrelatives	143,505	206,188	62,683	43.7
Roomer and/or Foster child alone or with any other nonrelatives	449,245	730,093	280,848	62.5
Alone	366,862	582,268	215,406	58.7
With any other nonrelatives	82,383	147,825	65,442	79.4
Other nonrelative alone or with any other nonrelatives	471,569	678,059	206,490	43.8
Alone	231,391	351,010	119,619	51.7
With any other nonrelatives	240,178	327,049	86,871	36.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

contrast, a parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, nephew or niece, aunt or uncle, and cousin were more likely to be in other family households than in married-couple households in both 1990 and 2000.[8]

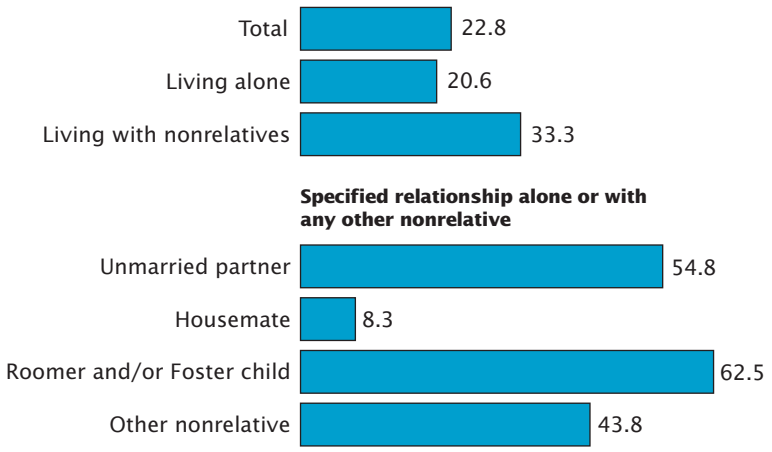
Among the Census 2000 relationship codes (other than householder)

[8] Households with the code other relative were slightly more prevalent in married-couple households in 1990 but more prevalent in other family households in 2000. This finding may be confounded by problems related to the coding of the 1990 sample data on relationship, as discussed earlier.

Figure 5.

Percent Change in Combinations of Nonfamily Households by Relationship to Householder: 1990–2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions for 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadata/1990stf1td.pdf* and for 2000 see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

that could occur in both family and nonfamily households, housemate was most commonly found among nonfamily households, and roomers and unmarried partners were about as likely to be included in either a family or a nonfamily household. Other nonrelatives were more likely to be included in family than nonfamily households, but were more likely to be present in nonfamily households than married-couple or other-family households. Foster child was most likely found in married-couple households.

From 1990 to 2000, nonfamily households with 2 or more members increased faster than people living alone.

In 1990, four relationship codes created 16 possible combinations of nonfamily households. The addition of the separate code foster child in 2000 resulted in 32 possible nonfamily relationship code combinations. In 1990, foster children were included within the category roomer, boarder, or foster child.

Overall, nonfamily households grew more rapidly (23 percent) than the total number of U.S. households (15 percent). Within the two broad types of nonfamily households, households that consisted of people living alone grew slower than nonfamily households with two or more members (21 percent compared with 33 percent, respectively, Table 4). The percentage change from 1990 to 2000 in the number of households in each comparable nonfamily relationship code varied from a low of 8 percent for nonfamily households with a housemate to 63 percent for nonfamily households with a roomer and/or foster child (Figure 5).[9]

[9] For comparability between 1990 and 2000, the relationship combinations including foster child in 2000 were aggregated to form the corresponding 1990 relationship code category—roomer, boarder, or foster child.

PARTNERSHIP STATUS

The traditional broad categories of family and nonfamily household types are closely linked to the relationship codes from the decennial census questionnaire, a connection that can limit understanding the diversity of household structures. For example, of the 21 relationship codes in Census 2000, 15 of them can only be found, by definition, in a family household. The six remaining codes (including householder) may be found in either a family or a nonfamily household.

The traditional classifications are heavily skewed to family households (24,690 observed family household combinations compared with just 32 nonfamily household combinations in 2000). In addition, the further breakout of each broad type is not along a consistent dimension. Family households are broken out by whether or not a spouse is present (married couple vs. other family), while nonfamily households are split by the size of the household (1-person vs. other nonfamily). Moreover, since the introduction of the relationship code unmarried partner in the 1990 Census of Population, unmarried-partner households can occur in both family and nonfamily households depending upon the presence of a relative of the householder.

Each of the above factors led to the creation in this report of a new split of all households by the presence or absence of a spouse or unmarried partner. Partner households consist of all households that contain either a spouse or an unmarried partner of the householder (whether or not they are family or nonfamily households) and all other households are classified as nonpartner households (again, whether or not they are family or nonfamily households). Any relationship code (other than

Figure 6.
Comparison of Traditional and Alternative Household Typologies

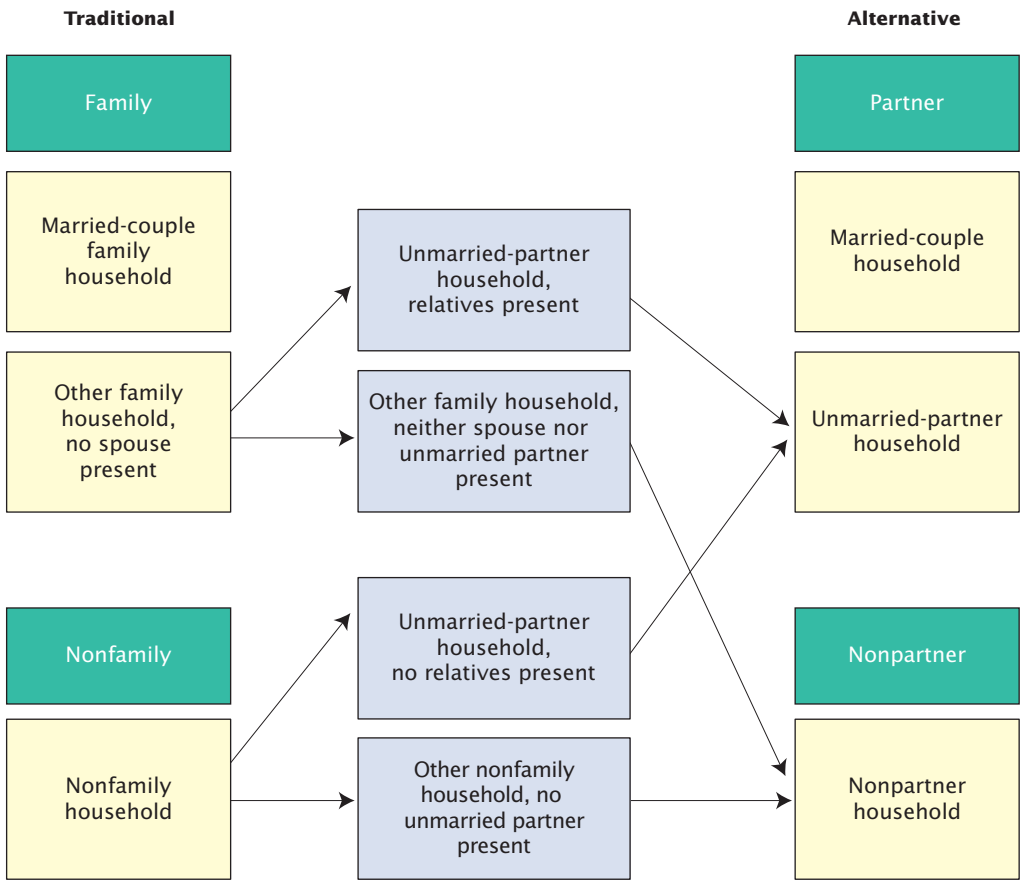
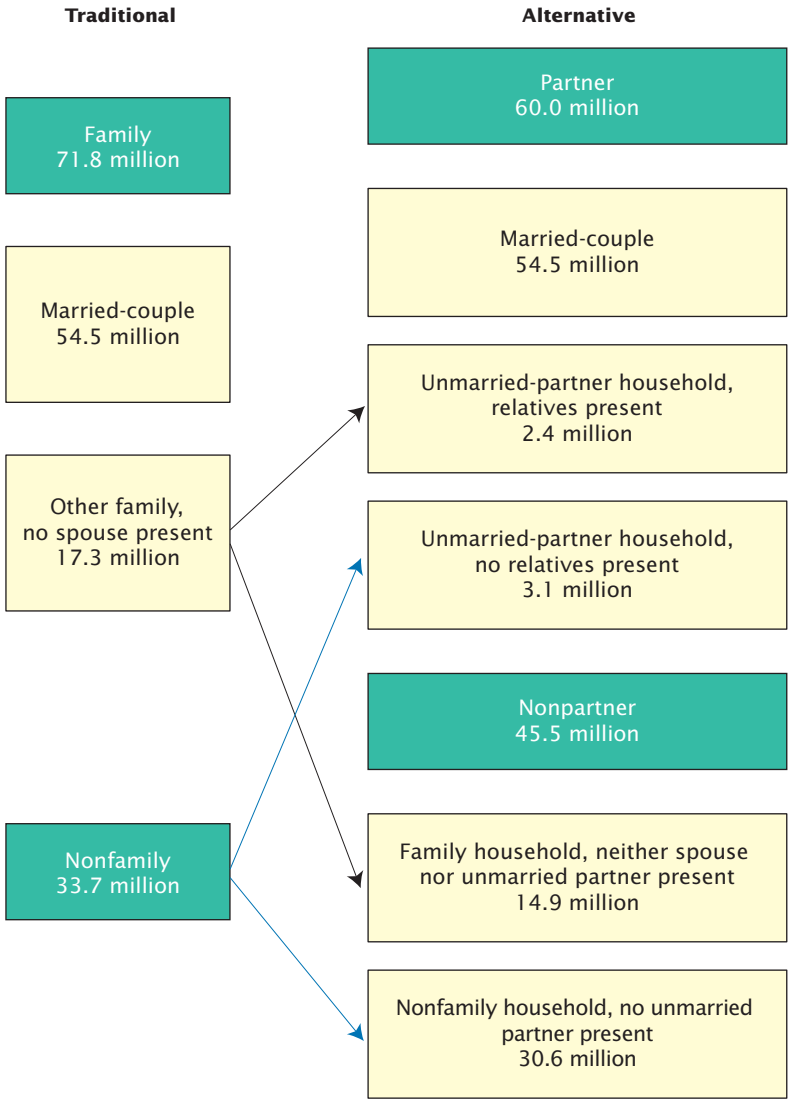


Figure 7.
Distribution of Traditional Household Components Into Alternative Typology: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

spouse and unmarried partner) can occur within either a partner or a nonpartner household.[10] An earlier Census Bureau study examined the geographic distribution and selected characteristics of married-couple and unmarried-partner households, terming the sum "coupled households."[11] Unmarried-partner households include both same-sex and opposite-sex partners. Figure 6 illustrates the comparison of the traditional breakdown of household type with the alternative typology.

This section examines household counts by an alternative classification: whether or not a partner of the householder is present in the household. Each of these broad types then is broken out by whether or not a child is present in the household. This configuration has the advantage of not directly linking particular relationship codes to household type (with the exception of spouse and unmarried partner, which, by definition, must be in partner households), and each type then can be further split along consistent dimensions, such as the presence of children or other characteristics, such as sex or age of the householder or size of the household.

Reconfiguring households results in some family-to-nonpartner and nonfamily-to-partner shifts in classification.

The introduction of a partner-nonpartner household dichotomy results in some numerical shifting of households from the traditional family-nonfamily dichotomy (Figure 7). The large majority of family households become partner households. Of the 71.8 million family households in 2000, 56.9 million are reclassified as partner households (the 54.5 million married-couple households plus the 2.4 million unmarried-partner family households). The 3.1 million unmarried-partner nonfamily households shift to the partner household type. Thus, in this alternative typology, all 5.5 million unmarried partner households are classified within one type (partner households) in contrast with their split into both family and nonfamily households according to the traditional dichotomy. Of the 33.7 million nonfamily households

[10] As noted earlier, the 1990 Census of Population included a small number of households that contained both a spouse and an unmarried partner. In this report, whenever tabulations are shown separately for married-couple and unmarried-partner households, the households with both of these relationship codes were tabulated in the married-couple household category.

[11] See U.S. Census Bureau, 2003b, *Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000*, by Tavia Simmons and Martin O'Connell, Census 2000 Special Reports (CENSR-5), Washington, DC.

in 2000, 30.6 million are classified as nonpartner households under the alternative typology.

Table 5 illustrates the classification of U.S. households by the traditional and the alternative typologies. According to the traditional classification, 68 percent of households in 2000 were family households and 32 percent were nonfamily households. The alternative typology shows that 57 percent were partner households and 43 percent were nonpartner households.

At the next level of tabulation, the presence or absence of children is not shown in the traditional typology's Family category and children cannot be present, by definition, in the Nonfamily category. In addition, the subcategories within the two traditional headings are not disaggregated along a common dimension (family households by presence of a spouse versus nonfamily households by size). In contrast, under the alternative typology, the major household types are disaggregated along a common dimension (presence of children) and the subcategories are consistent and directly comparable across the two major types.

Table 5.
Households by Traditional (Family-Nonfamily) and Alternative (Partner-Nonpartner) Typology: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/ prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Typology	Number	Percent
TRADITIONAL TYPE		
Total	**105,480,101**	**100.0**
Family	71,787,347	68.1
Married couple	54,493,232	51.7
Other family	17,294,115	16.4
Nonfamily	33,692,754	31.9
1 person	27,230,075	25.8
2 or more persons	6,462,679	6.1
ALTERNATIVE TYPE		
Total	**105,480,101**	**100.0**
Partner	59,969,000	56.9
With children	32,967,528	31.3
Without children	27,001,472	25.6
Nonpartner	45,511,101	43.1
With children	12,178,781	11.5
Without children	33,332,320	31.6

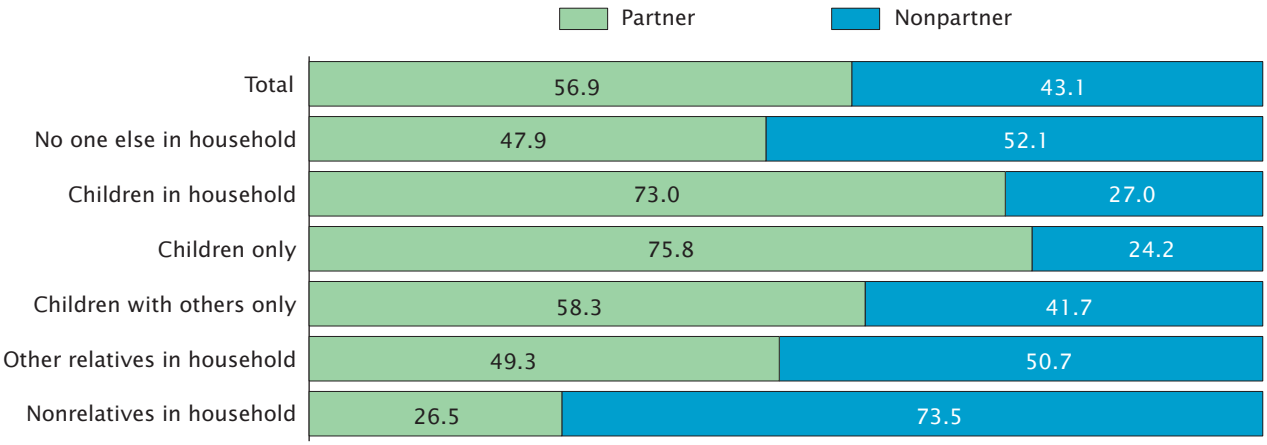
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

In 1990 and 2000, a partner of the householder was present in about three-fourths of households with children.

In addition to classifying households by the presence or absence of a partner of the householder, broad relationship code classifications may be formed using children, other relatives, and nonrelatives. In both 1990 and 2000, about three-fourths of all households with children contained a partner; households with other relatives were fairly evenly split between partner and nonpartner households; and about three-fourths of households with nonrelatives did not have a partner present (Figure 8 and Appendix Tables A-6 and A-7).

Figure 8.
Percent Distribution of Households by Relationships in the Household and Partnership Status: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



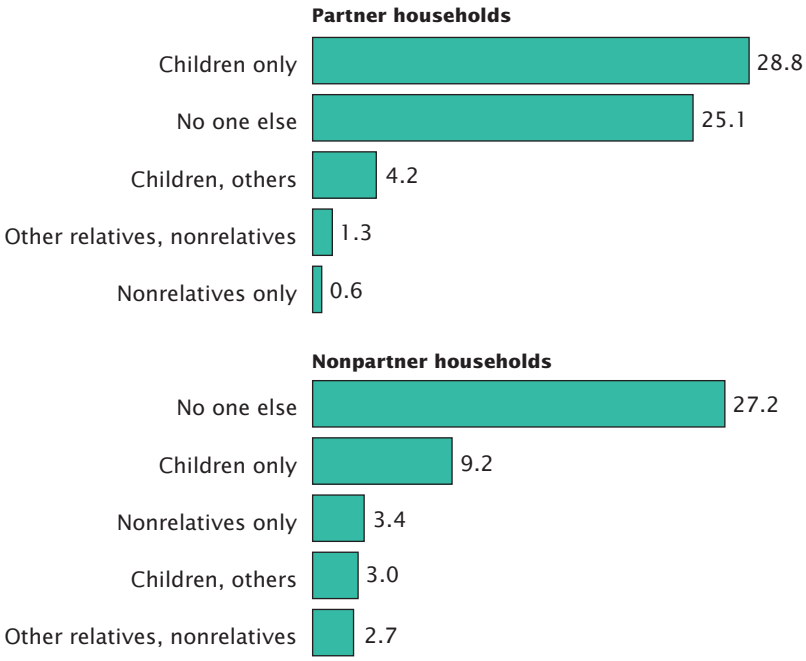
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Of the 105.5 million households in the United States in 2000, the three largest types consisted of either a person living alone (27.2 million), with a partner only (25.1 million), or with a partner and children only (28.8 million). Of the remaining 24.4 million households, 9.2 million were households with no partner and children only, 7.2 million contained children living with others, and 8.0 million were combinations of households consisting of other relatives and nonrelatives (Figure 9).

Figure 9.

Number of Households by Partnership Status and Relationships in the Household: 2000

(In millions. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

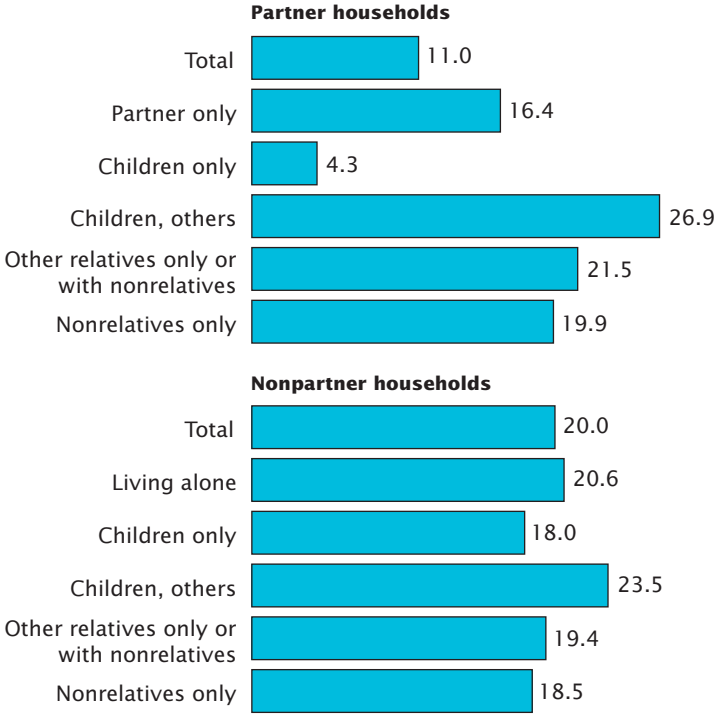


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Figure 10.

Percent Change in Number of Households by Partnership Status and Relationships in the Household: 1990–2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions for 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf1td.pdf* and for 2000 see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

From 1990 to 2000, partner households with only children present grew more slowly than all other broad types.

During the 1990s, households without a partner grew faster (20 percent) than households with a partner (11 percent, Figure 10). Still, most of the broad types of households grew within a fairly narrow range (16 percent to 27 percent) for both partner and nonpartner households. The exception was partner households with only children present, which increased by 4 percent during the 1990s.

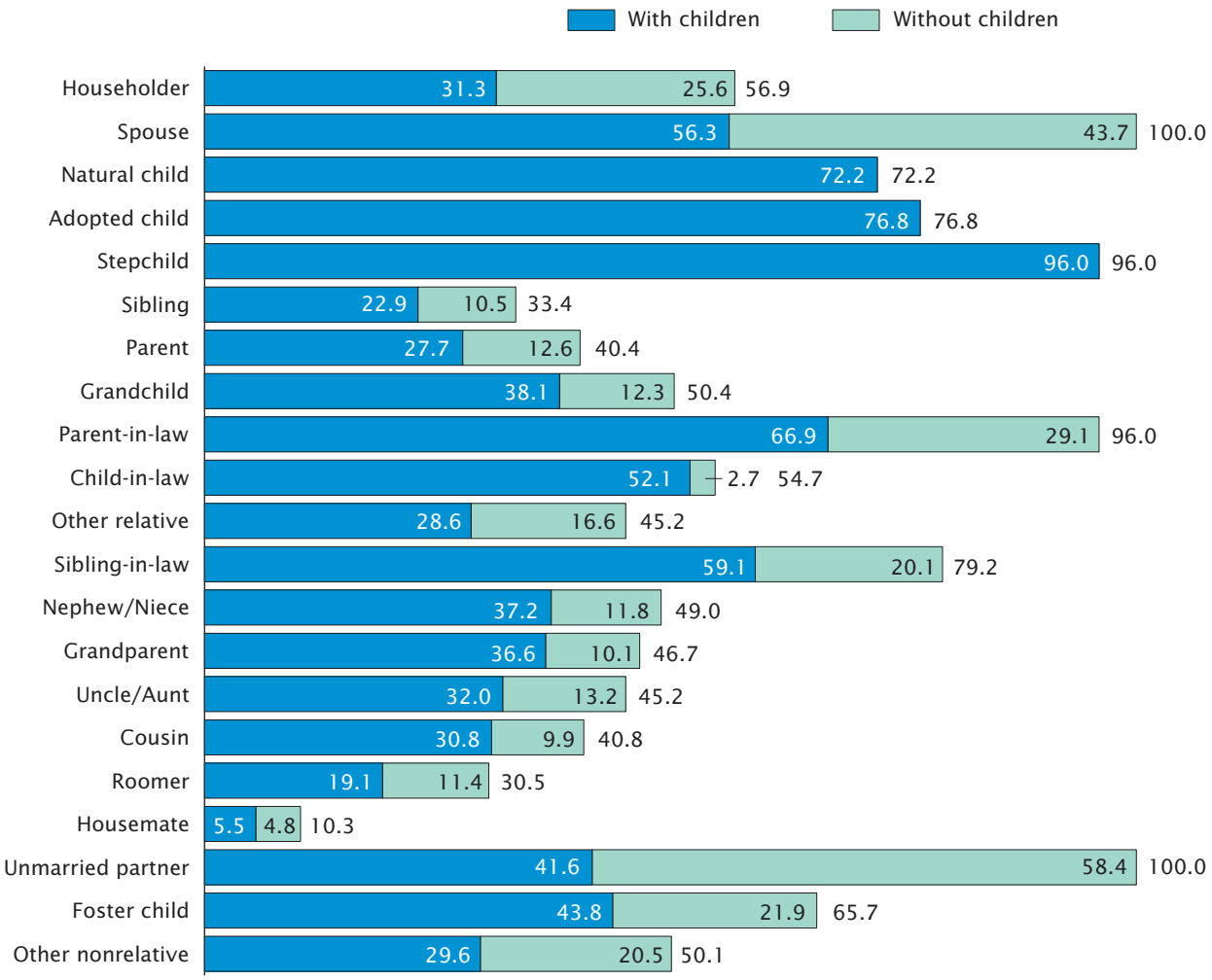
A parent of the householder was more likely to live in a nonpartner household.

Tabulating households by the presence or absence of a partner and the presence or absence of children provides a new perspective (Appendix Table A-8). In 2000, looking at the presence of a partner reveals that most households with a parent of the householder present (60 percent) were maintained by a householder who had no partner. Similarly, many detailed relationship codes were about as likely or more likely to be found in a nonpartner household as in a partner household (Figure 11). Nearly all households with a parent-in-law or with a stepchild were included among partner households. In contrast, 10 percent of households with housemates were included among partner households.

By definition, 100 percent of households with a spouse or an unmarried partner lived in a partner household. In 2000, natural (72 percent), adopted (77 percent), step (96 percent), and foster (66 percent) children were much more likely to live in a partner household.

Figure 11.
Percent of Partner Households for Specific Relationships by Presence of Children: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

The majority of households with children, in-laws, or a spouse, included a partner and children.

Households with children (natural, adopted, or step) were most likely to contain both a partner and children. Also, a majority of households including in-laws (parent-in-law, sibling-in-law, or child-in-law) and households with a spouse were the partner-child type.

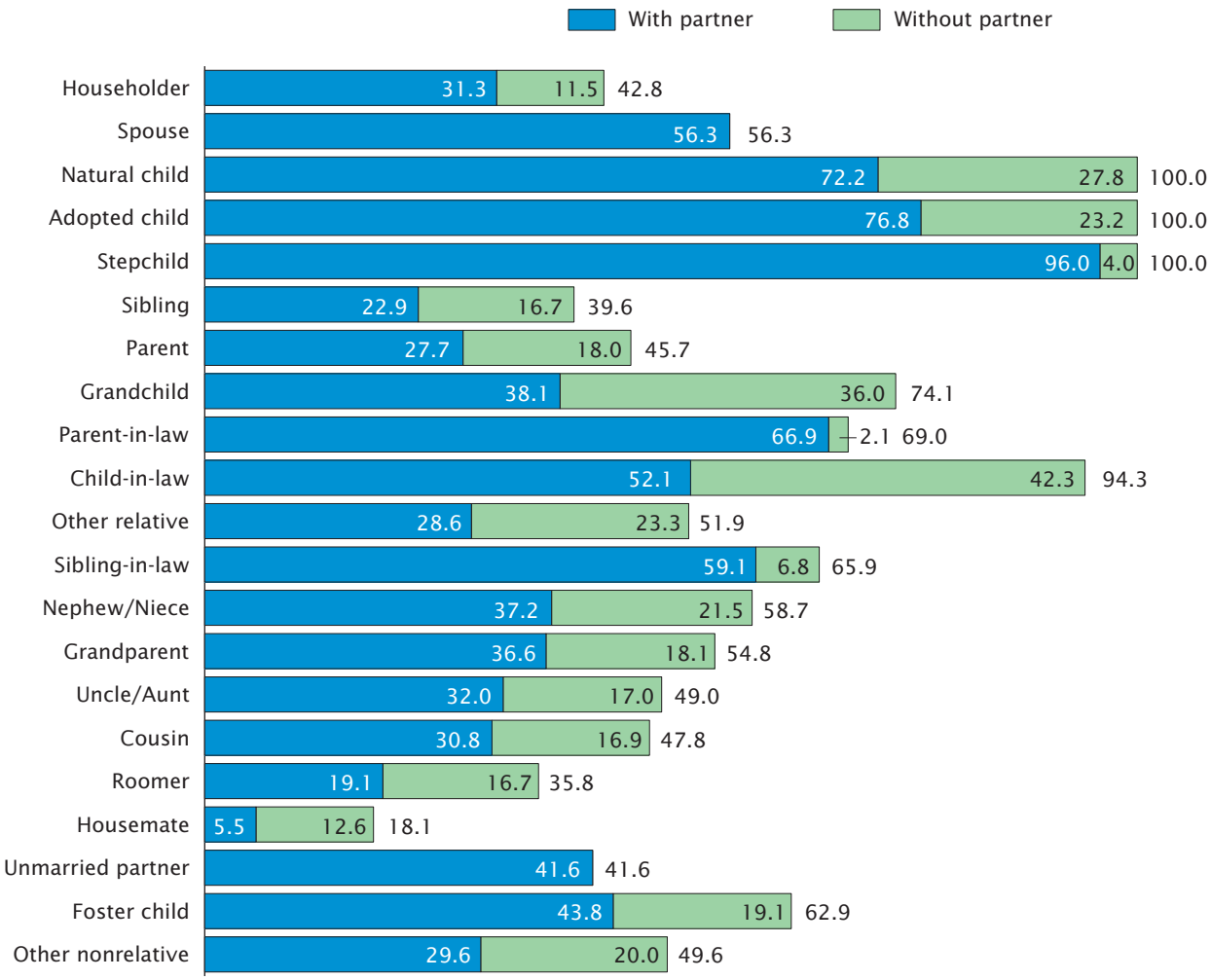
Households with a grandchild were more likely to have both a partner and children present (38 percent) than were households with a grandparent (37 percent) or with a parent (28 percent).

Three-fourths of households with a grandchild also included children of the householder.

Between the two types of partner households (married couple and unmarried partner) in 2000, married-couple households were slightly more likely (56 percent), and unmarried-partner households were slightly less likely, to have a child present in the household (42 percent, Figure 12). In three-fourths (74 percent) of all households with a grandchild present, children of the householder were also present.

Figure 12.
Percent of Households With Children for Specific Relationships by Presence of Partner: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

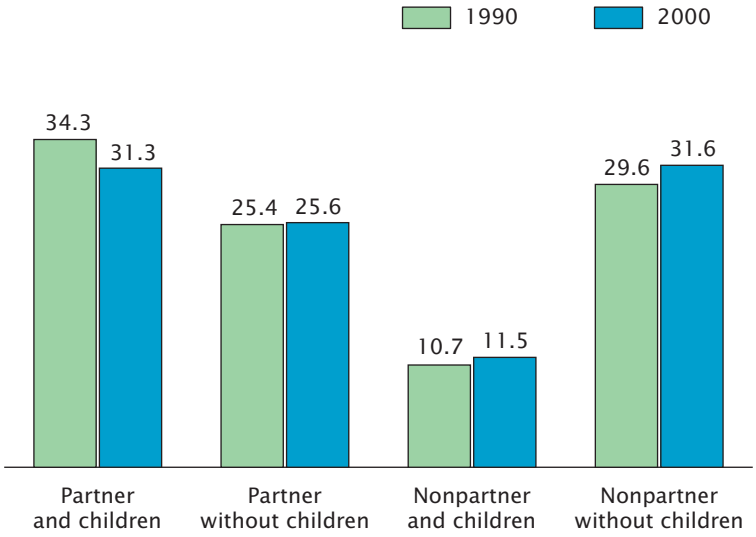
The most common type of U.S. household included neither a partner nor children.

Classifying all U.S. households in 2000 by the presence of both a partner and children reveals that the most common type of household had neither a partner nor children (32 percent, a large proportion of which were one-person households). This type was followed by households with both a partner and children (31 percent), households with a partner but without children (26 percent), and households with children but without a partner (12 percent, Figure 13 and Appendix Table A-8).

Figure 13.

Percent Distribution of Households by Presence of Partner and Children: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)



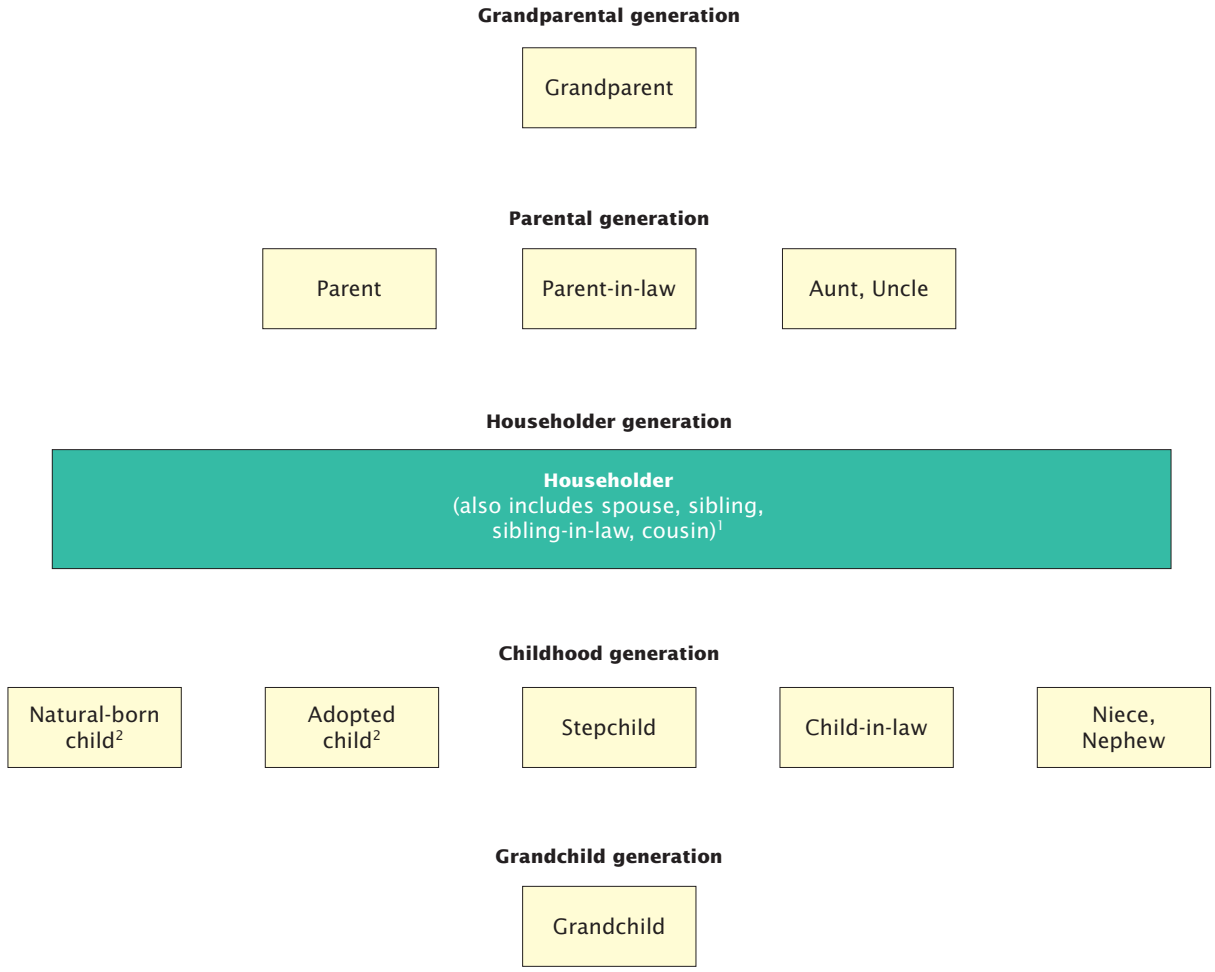
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

GENERATIONS

Every household can be classified according to the number of generations present, from one through five, by using the relationship codes of all individuals present in the household. Figure 14 shows how the detailed relationship information was used to classify each household as to whether or not particular generations were present. The five generations identified are grandparent, parent, householder, child, and grandchild. Only one type of five-generation household is possible, one that includes each of these generations. Four types of four-generation households can occur, as can six types of three-generation households, four types of two-generation households, and one type of one-generation household.

One-generation households consist of a person living alone (householder only) or a householder living with any number of the relationship codes pertaining to the householder generation. One-generation households can be either family or nonfamily households. Nonfamily

Figure 14.
Relationship to Householder by Generation: 1990 and 2000



[1] Since it is not possible to infer a generation from people identified as other relatives, they were implicitly included in the householder generation. People unrelated to the householder (unmarried partner, housemate, roomer and/or foster child in 1990 and shown separately in 2000, and other nonrelatives) were also included in the householder generation.
[2] In 1990, this relationship was included in a single, combined classification, "Natural born or adopted child."
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

households include a householder living alone or with one or more of the following relationship codes that are classified as the same generation: roomer, boarder; housemate, roommate; unmarried partner; foster child; and other nonrelative. For the purpose of this report, nonfamily households were considered to be one-generation households.[12]

Four types of two-generation households are possible. Since every household must contain the householder generation, the four combinations consist of the householder generation and one of the other generation types: householder-grandparent, householder-parent, householder-child, and householder-grandchild.

For the purposes of this report, households with three or more generations present are termed multigenerational households. From the 5 generations identified, there are 11 combinations of multigenerational households, including 6 types of three-generation households, 4 types of four-generation households, and 1 type of five-generation household.

Most U.S. households were composed of only one generation.

In Census 2000, 57.7 million households (55 percent) consisted entirely of members of one generation. Another 43.6 million households (41 percent) included people from two generations, 4.1 million households (3.9 percent) included members from three generations, 97,000 households had four generations, and fewer than 300 had members of all five generations present. The combined number of multigenerational (3 or more generations) households totaled 4.2 million, or 3.9 percent of all U.S. households (Table 6).[13]

[12] While foster children could be considered as a second generation, they cannot be separately identified from the 1990 Census of Population data, and thus were not counted as a second generation to allow comparability between 1990 and 2000. Counting foster children within the child generation in Census 2000 would reduce the number of one-generation households by 66,168, and correspondingly increase two-generation households by 58,592, three-generation households by 7,295, four-generation households by 279, and five-generation households by 2.

[13] An earlier examination of multigenerational households used a more limited definition of generations and did not consider all possible combinations of multigenerational households. This earlier work (U.S. Census Bureau, 2001a) identified 3.9 million multigenerational households in 2000 and noted that the total represented "a subset of all possible multigenerational households." See also, U.S. Census Bureau, 2001b, "Multigenerational Households for the United States, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000," Census 2000 PHC-T-17, available at <www.census.gov/population/cen2000/phc-t17.pdf>.

Table 6.
Number and Type of Generations Present by Partnership Status of Household: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

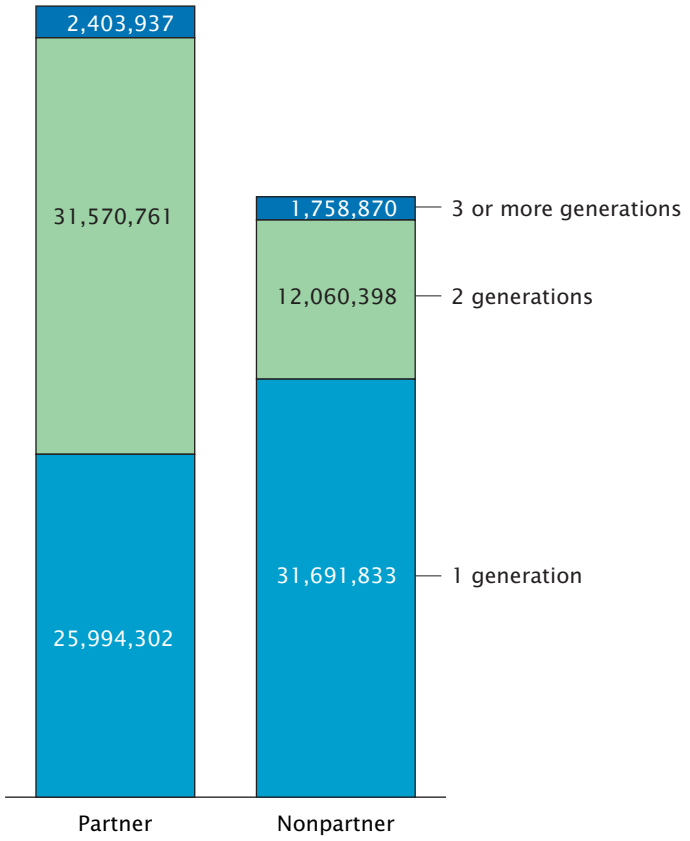
Number and type of household	Number			Percent of total households			Percent of type		
	Total	Partner	Nonpartner	Total	Partner	Non-partner	Total	Partner	Non-partner
Total	**105,480,101**	**59,969,000**	**45,511,101**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**56.9**	**43.1**
With child generation	45,618,520	33,110,933	12,507,587	43.2	55.2	27.5	100.0	72.6	27.4
With grandchild	3,560,932	1,794,491	1,766,441	3.4	3.0	3.9	100.0	50.4	49.6
With parent generation	2,794,231	1,491,328	1,302,903	2.6	2.5	2.9	100.0	53.4	46.6
With grandparent	80,847	37,754	43,093	0.1	0.1	0.1	100.0	46.7	53.3
1-generation	57,686,135	25,994,302	31,691,833	54.7	43.3	69.6	100.0	45.1	54.9
2-generation	43,631,159	31,570,761	12,060,398	41.4	52.6	26.5	100.0	72.4	27.6
With child generation	41,489,587	30,719,707	10,769,880	39.3	51.2	23.7	100.0	74.0	26.0
With grandchild	862,138	411,801	450,337	0.8	0.7	1.0	100.0	47.8	52.2
With parent generation	1,257,037	433,262	823,775	1.2	0.7	1.8	100.0	34.5	65.5
With grandparent	22,397	5,991	16,406	0.02	0.01	0.04	100.0	26.7	73.3
Multigenerational, 3 or more generations	4,162,807	2,403,937	1,758,870	3.9	4.0	3.9	100.0	57.7	42.3
With child generation	4,128,933	2,391,226	1,737,707	3.9	4.0	3.8	100.0	57.9	42.1
With grandchild	2,698,794	1,382,690	1,316,104	2.6	2.3	2.9	100.0	51.2	48.8
With parent generation	1,537,194	1,058,066	479,128	1.5	1.8	1.1	100.0	68.8	31.2
With grandparent	58,450	31,763	26,687	0.1	0.1	0.1	100.0	54.3	45.7
3-generation	4,065,319	2,348,195	1,717,124	3.9	3.9	3.8	100.0	57.8	42.2
4-generation	97,219	55,613	41,606	0.1	0.1	0.1	100.0	57.2	42.8
5-generation	269	129	140	0.0003	0.0002	0.0003	100.0	48.0	52.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Figure 15.

Households by Number of Generations and Partnership Status: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Most one-generation households did not have a partner present, while a partner was present in most two-generation and three-or-more-generation households.

Each generation type also may be characterized by the presence or absence of a partner of the householder. One-generation households were less likely to have a partner of the householder present (26.0 million partner households compared with 31.7 million nonpartner households, or 55 percent without a partner present). Two-generation and multigenerational households were more likely to have a partner of the householder present (Figure 15). More than twice as many two-generation households had a partner present (31.6 million) than did not (12.1 million), and among multigenerational households, 2.4 million were partner households and 1.8 million were nonpartner households. In proportional terms, 72 percent of two-generation households and 58 percent of three-or-more-generation households contained a partner of the householder.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of all multigenerational households contained a grandchild, while more than one-third (37 percent) contained someone from the parent generation.

Of the possible types of multigenerational households, the most common was a household including members of the householder, child, and grandchild generations, accounting for 62 percent of all multigenerational households (Table 7). The least common type was the five-generation household, totaling 269 and representing 0.01 percent of all multigenerational households.

All multigenerational households contain someone from the householder generation, since every household contains a householder by definition. In 2000, nearly every multigenerational household contained the child generation. In contrast, 1 percent of all multigenerational households contained a grandparent of the householder.[14] About two-thirds of all multigenerational households contained a grandchild and about one-third contained at least one person from the parent generation.

[14] Grandparent pertains to the person's relationship to the householder, as is true for all relationship codes. Thus, while a householder's parent may be present in a household with the householder's children, this person is identified as the householder's parent, and not as the child's grandparent.

Table 7.
Multigenerational Households by Generational Composition and Partnership Status: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

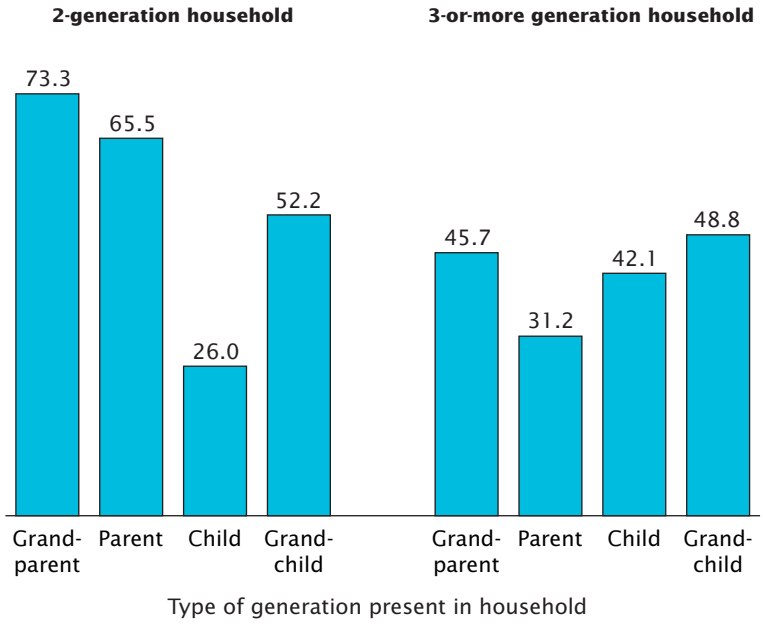
Number and generational composition of household	Number			Percent		
	Total	Partner	Non-partner	Total	Partner	Non-partner
Total multigenerational, 3 or more generations	**4,162,807**	**2,403,937**	**1,758,870**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
With child generation	4,128,933	2,391,226	1,737,707	99.2	99.5	98.8
With grandchild	2,698,794	1,382,690	1,316,104	64.8	57.5	74.8
With parent generation	1,537,194	1,058,066	479,128	36.9	44.0	27.2
With grandparent	58,450	31,763	26,687	1.4	1.3	1.5
3-generation	4,065,319	2,348,195	1,717,124	97.7	97.7	97.6
Householder Child Grandchild	2,588,767	1,320,901	1,267,866	62.2	54.9	72.1
Householder Parent Child	1,407,780	990,615	417,165	33.8	41.2	23.7
Householder Grandparent Child	34,967	23,987	10,980	0.8	1.0	0.6
Householder Parent Grandchild	21,790	10,946	10,844	0.5	0.5	0.6
Householder Grandparent Parent	11,717	1,629	10,088	0.3	0.1	0.6
Householder Grandparent Grandchild	298	117	181	0.007	0.005	0.010
4-generation	97,219	55,613	41,606	2.3	2.3	2.4
Householder Parent Child Grandchild	86,020	49,712	36,308	2.1	2.1	2.1
Householder Grandparent Parent Child	9,549	5,016	4,533	0.2	0.2	0.3
Householder Grandparent Child Grandchild	1,581	866	715	0.04	0.04	0.04
Householder Grandparent Parent Grandchild	69	19	50	0.002	0.001	0.003
5-generation						
Householder Grandparent Parent Child Grandchild	269	129	140	0.01	0.01	0.01

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Figure 16.

Percent of Nonpartner Households by Number and Type of Generation in the Household: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

In 2000, a partner of the householder was not present in the majority of two-generation households including a parent, grandparent, or grandchild.

Overall, two-generation households were more likely to have a partner present. Among the four types of two-generation households, partners were more likely to be present only in the householder-child household. Among households where the two generations consisted of householder-grandparent, householder-parent, or householder-grandchild, the absence of a partner in the household was more common (Figure 16). In contrast, for the three-or-more-generation household types including a grandparent, parent, child, or grandchild, a partner was more likely also to be present in the household.

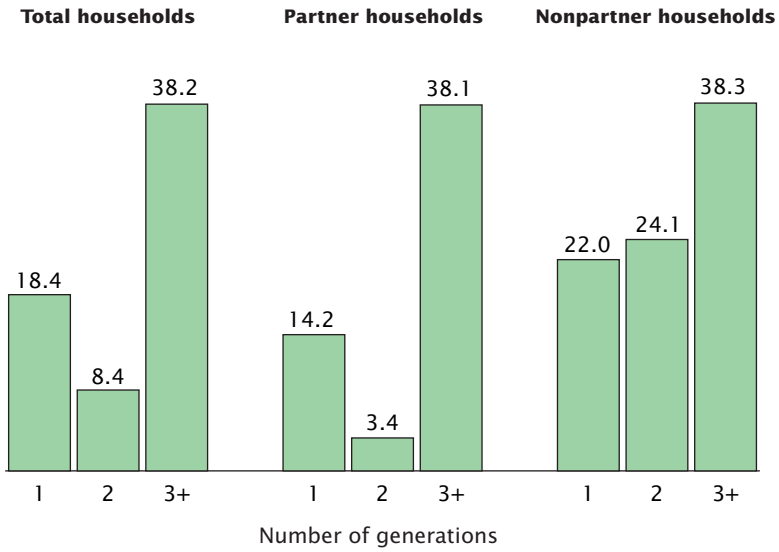
Two-generation households increased slower than households with other numbers of generations.

From 1990 to 2000, two-generation households increased slower than households of one generation or three or more generations (Figure 17). This finding varied between partner and nonpartner households and by whether the partners were married. Among nonpartner households, one-generation households increased slower (22 percent) than two-generation (24 percent) or three-or-more-generation (38 percent) households. Two-generation households increased the slowest for partner households. Within partner households, the one-generation type increased the slowest when the partner was not married to the householder, while those of two-generations increased the slowest when the partner was married (Appendix Table A-9).

The primary factor contributing to the slower percentage increase in the number of two-generation households during the 1990s was the absolute decline in the number of married-couple householder-child households. The specific two-generation type householder-child increased by 2.0 million for non-partner households and by 1.0 million for unmarried-partner households, and declined by 0.2 million for married-couple households.

Figure 17.
Percent Change in Households by Number of Generations and Partnership Status: 1990–2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Multigenerational households grew from 3.0 million in 1990 to 4.2 million in 2000.

A total of 3.0 million households can be identified as containing three or more generations in 1990 (Table 8). This number increased to 4.2 million in 2000, and included 2.4 million partner households and 1.8 million households with no spouse or partner present. The increase of 38 percent during the 1990s (1.2 million households) exceeded the 15 percent increase in the total number of U.S. households. As a proportion of all households, the percentage with three or more generations increased from 3.3 percent to 3.9 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Table 8.
Change in Households by Number of Generations and Partnership Status: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Number of generations	1990			2000			Change, 1990 to 2000					
							Numerical			Percent		
	Total	Partner	Non-partner	Total	Partner	Non-partner	Total	Partner	Non-partner	Total	Part-ner	Non-part-ner
Total households . . .	**91,993,582**	**55,027,930**	**36,965,652**	**105,480,101**	**59,969,000**	**45,511,101**	**13,486,519**	**4,941,070**	**8,545,449**	**14.7**	**9.0**	**23.1**
1 generation	48,739,896	22,764,044	25,975,852	57,686,135	25,994,302	31,691,833	8,946,239	3,230,258	5,715,981	18.4	14.2	22.0
2 generations. . . .	40,241,541	30,523,410	9,718,131	43,631,159	31,570,761	12,060,398	3,389,618	1,047,351	2,342,267	8.4	3.4	24.1
3 or more generations	3,012,145	1,740,476	1,271,669	4,162,807	2,403,937	1,758,870	1,150,662	663,461	487,201	38.2	38.1	38.3

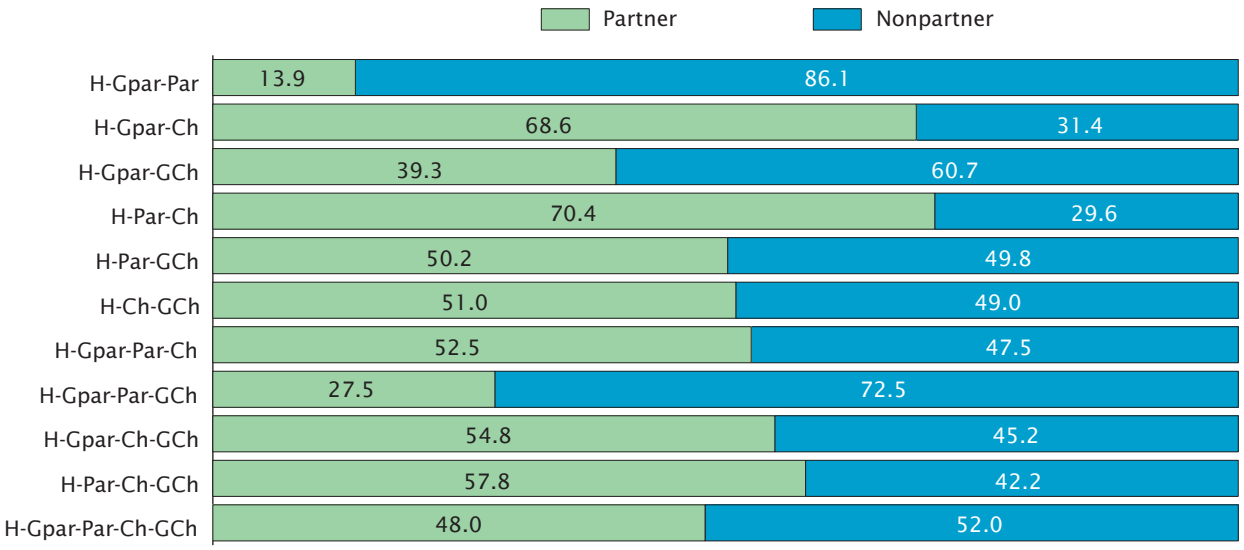
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

In 2000, the householder-parent-child type was the most likely to be a partner household among the multigenerational types, while the householder-grandparent-parent type was most likely to be a nonpartner household.

Each type of multigenerational household may be classified by the presence or absence of a partner of the householder. The most commonly observed multigenerational type, householder-child-grandchild, was almost as likely to have a partner as not, 51 percent compared with 49 percent (Figure 18). The second most commonly observed type, householder-parent-child, was also the type most likely to have a partner present in the household (70 percent). The householder-grandparent-parent household type was least likely to have a partner present in the household: 14 percent.

Figure 18.
Percent Distribution of Households in Each Multigenerational Household Type by Partnership Status: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Note: The generations pertaining to the abbreviations shown in this figure are as follows: H = Householder; Gpar = Grandparent; Par = Parent; Ch = Child; and GCh = Grandchild.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report used data from the relationship item from the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses of population to examine various configurations of households in the United States. More detailed coding of the relationship item allowed increased combinations of specific household codes to be identified. The 21 relationship codes in Census 2000 produced 24,722 unique combinations of relationship codes. Even so, relatively few combinations accounted for the majority of households. Twenty combinations of relationship codes accounted for 92 percent of all households, and 9 combinations (those with over 1 million households) accounted for 86 percent of all households.

Many relationships that were separately coded from write-in responses in 1990 under the other relative option grew faster than most other relationship codes. At the same time, the other relative classification declined considerably during the decade. Since this finding suggests inconsistencies in the processing of the data on relationship, comparisons of relationship data based on the changes in these individual relationship codes between 1990 and 2000 should be made with caution.

Detailed analysis of unique relationship combinations revealed some new findings. For example, data on the newly available (in Census 2000) relationship code adopted child showed that the specific household relationship combination consisting of householder-spouse-adopted child was the 15th most common, found in nearly 500,000 households, and the 16th most common combination also included adopted children, namely, householder-spouse-natural child-adopted child. Nontraditional specific combinations ranking among the 10 most common in the United States in 2000 were: householder-unmarried partner (5th, with 2.7 million households), householder-housemates (6th, with 2.3 million households), and householder-unmarried partner-natural child (7th, with 1.6 million households).

The introduction of the unmarried partner relationship code in 1990 opened a new dimension of household type. Under the traditional configuration, unmarried partner households are classified as either family or nonfamily households, depending upon the presence of members who are related to the householder. The analysis in this report used the presence or absence of a partner (spouse or unmarried partner) as the basis for classifying household type. This dichotomy allows all relationship codes (other than spouse and unmarried partner) to be present in both partner and nonpartner households.

Examining detailed relationships based on partnership status revealed that in 2000 only 40 percent of all households with a parent included a partner of the householder (or equivalently, 60 percent did not). Similarly, households with a grandparent were more likely not to have a partner present (53 percent), and households with a grandchild were about as likely to have a partner present as not (50 percent). If such households were split along the traditional family-nonfamily dimension, 100 percent of each would be classified as family households.

In this report, household type was also split by the presence or absence of children (natural, adopted, or step). Using these two dimensions creates four broad household types. In 2000, the most common type (32 percent) had neither a partner nor children, followed closely by households with both a partner and children (31 percent), then households with a partner but without children (26 percent), and households with children but without a partner (12 percent).

Examining all relationship codes present in a household permits the classification of every household by the number of generations present, from one through five. The analysis found that two-generation households grew slower than all of the other types during the 1990s. Multigenerational households, defined as households containing 3 or more generations, grew rapidly, from 3.0 million households in 1990 to 4.2 million in 2000, but remained a small proportion, 3.9 percent, of all U.S. households in 2000. Among all types of multigenerational households, the householder-child-grandchild type was the most common (2.6 million in 2000, or 62 percent of all multigenerational households).

The identification of these configurations opens opportunities for further exploration of the structure of American households. Analyses that controlled for the total number of household members or for the number of individuals with particular relationship codes could further improve understanding U.S. household structure. The presence or absence of a partner or children can affect the functioning of households. A partner present in the household has implications regarding the provision of care in two-or-more generation households, since the partner can share

the responsibility of caring for a parent, grandparent, or grandchild with the householder. Applying these alternative classification schemes to smaller levels of geography might assist local areas in planning for specific types of facilities or services.

Additional refinements of the classification types presented in this report are possible. For example, the identification of generations within households might take into account the age of the household members. Analyses beginning with Census 2000 data might classify the presence of foster children within the household as part of the child generation. Examining the household types presented in this report by sex, race, and Hispanic origin of the householder should also reveal new insights.

SOURCES AND QUALITY OF DATA

The data included in this report are based on special tabulations of the household relationship item from the 1990 and 2000 censuses of population. For 1990, tabulations from the relationship item are based on data collected on a 100-percent basis and on a sample basis. For 2000, the tabulations are based on the 100-percent data. Two sets of 1990 data were used in this report due to the limited number of relationship codes available on a 100-percent basis. The examination of changes from 1990 to 2000 used 100-percent data for both years whenever the data categories permitted, but required the use of 1990 sample data for detailed relationship comparisons. In this case, the 100-percent data from 2000 provided greater detail than the sample data from 1990. Two relationship codes, adopted child and foster child, were included as individual codes in 2000; while in 1990, adopted children were included with natural children, and foster children were included with roomers and boarders. The analysis of changes from 1990 to 2000 involved collapsing the appropriate relationship codes from 2000 into comparable 1990 sample-based categories.

In any large-scale statistical operation such as the U.S. decennial census, human and machine-related errors occur. These errors, commonly referred to as nonsampling errors, include not enumerating every household or every person in the population, not obtaining all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the manual and electronic processing of the data. As noted above, to maximize comparability with Census 2000 data, sample tabulations of data often were used from the 1990 census. Estimates derived from sample data are expected to be different from the 100-percent figures because they are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Sampling error in data arises from the selection of persons and housing units to be included in the sample. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error. For a detailed discussion of sampling and nonsampling error in Census 2000, see <www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf> and <www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf>, respectively.

The definition and/or concept of what constituted a "household" varied somewhat over the course of the decennial censuses. In particular, some early censuses (as recently as 1920) included a small number of "quasi-households," which, in Census 2000 terms, would often have been considered as part of the group quarters population, rather than as part of the household population.

The terms used to describe households, the categories collected on the questionnaire, the method of obtaining responses on relationship, and the manner of tabulating and processing the data have all changed since these data were first collected, creating some problems of comparability with regard to the interpretation and understanding of historical tabulations of household relationship data.[15]

Family and nonfamily households represent the broadest categories of household type traditionally used in census data tabulations. Each of these broad types generally is divided into two additional types: family households into married-couple households and other family households, and nonfamily households into one-person households and other nonfamily households. Both types of family households often are classified according to the presence of the householder's own children under 18 years, and other family households are additionally classified by the sex of the householder. Nonfamily households also tend to be classified by the sex and the age of the householder (often with a focus on age 65 and older).

Documentation from the decennial censuses of population generally notes that sample-data household results by type tend to slightly overrepresent family households and, thus, underrepresent nonfamily households. In this report,

[15] As discussed in this report, this includes comparability between the household relationship data collected in 1990 and 2000.

when deriving percent change from 1990 to 2000, this tendency may overstate the growth of non-family households and understate the growth of family households, since the 1990 tabulations used in this report were often based on sample data, while the Census 2000 tabulations were based exclusively on 100-percent data.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Data on households and families from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released in 2001 and from Summary File 3 in 2002. These data and comparable data files from the 1990 Census of Population are available on the Internet via <factfinder.census.gov>. The Census 2000 data files are available for purchase on DVD.

To investigate additional estimates and reports on topics related to households and families based on Census Bureau surveys such as the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation, go to <www.census.gov>.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Briefs series, the Census 2000 Special Reports series, and the Population and Housing Census Tables (PHC-T) series. These series are available through the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>. These series cover information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, housing, households, and other social and economic characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

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APPENDIX A. DETAILED TABLES

Table A-1.
Most Common Household Relationship Combinations: 1990

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Household composition	Number of households	Percent
Total, all households (5,054 combinations)	**91,993,582**	**100.00**
Total, 34 most common relationship combinations	88,491,975	96.19
Householder living with Spouse + Natural child	25,013,513	27.19
Living alone	22,421,114	24.37
Householder living with	41,057,348	44.63
Spouse	20,172,988	21.93
Natural child	7,504,178	8.16
Housemate	2,020,598	2.20
Unmarried partner	1,647,208	1.79
Spouse + Stepchild	1,195,656	1.30
Spouse + Natural child + Stepchild	1,137,426	1.24
Unmarried partner + Natural child	859,192	0.93
Sibling	704,914	0.77
Natural child + Grandchild	683,994	0.74
Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild	661,610	0.72
Parent	412,880	0.45
Spouse + Natural child + Parent	326,969	0.36
Roomer	322,121	0.35
Grandchild	287,265	0.31
Spouse + Grandchild	275,596	0.30
Natural child + Housemate	261,993	0.28
Spouse + Natural child + Other relative	*242,508*	*0.26*
Spouse + Natural child + Sibling	210,223	0.23
Other nonrelative	202,372	0.22
Natural child + Sibling	186,370	0.20
Spouse + Parent	174,479	0.19
Unmarried partner + Other nonrelative	172,976	0.19
Spouse + Natural child + Roomer	170,236	0.19
Natural child + Parent	164,525	0.18
Spouse + Natural child + Parent-in-law	150,794	0.16
Other relative	*147,245*	*0.16*
Spouse + Natural child + Other nonrelative	145,554	0.16
Spouse + Sibling	135,770	0.15
Natural child + Other relative	*130,882*	*0.14*
Natural child + Roomer	122,859	0.13
Natural child + Other nonrelative	115,296	0.13
Spouse + Other relative	*110,671*	*0.12*
Total, remaining 5,020 relationship combinations	3,501,607	3.81

Note: Based on sample tabulations. The natural child category includes adopted child and the roomer category includes boarder and foster child. Combinations shown in italics had more than 100,000 households in 1990, but less than 100,000 households in Census 2000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population.

Table A-2.
Most Common Household Relationship Combinations: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Household composition	Number of households	Percent
Total, all households (24,722 combinations)	**105,480,101**	**100.00**
Total, 45 most common relationship combinations	100,900,038	95.66
Living alone	27,230,075	25.82
Householder living with	73,669,963	69.84
Spouse + Natural child	23,664,727	22.44
Spouse	22,382,944	21.22
Natural child	8,865,883	8.41
Unmarried partner	2,682,247	2.54
Housemate	2,332,386	2.21
Unmarried partner + Natural child	1,580,205	1.50
Spouse + Natural child + Stepchild	1,197,223	1.14
Spouse + Stepchild	1,105,151	1.05
Natural child + Grandchild	801,977	0.76
Sibling	737,586	0.70
Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild	717,150	0.68
Roomer	563,169	0.53
Parent	550,146	0.52
Spouse + Adopted child	492,934	0.47
Spouse + Natural child + Adopted child	433,945	0.41
Grandchild	376,494	0.36
Spouse + Grandchild	361,385	0.34
Other nonrelative	351,010	0.33
Spouse + Natural child + Parent	338,235	0.32
Natural child + Housemate	293,249	0.28
Spouse + Natural child + Parent-in-law	273,404	0.26
Spouse + Natural child + Sibling	233,036	0.22
Unmarried partner + Other nonrelative	232,931	0.22
Natural child + Parent	221,413	0.21
Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild + Child-in-law	200,733	0.19
Natural child + Sibling	197,192	0.19
Natural child + Other nonrelative	196,193	0.19
Natural child + Grandchild + Child-in-law	186,977	0.18
Spouse + Natural child + Other nonrelative	178,708	0.17
Spouse + Parent	178,215	0.17
Spouse + Parent-in-law	159,179	0.15
Adopted child	153,542	0.15
Sibling + Parent	145,601	0.14
Natural child + Roomer	135,836	0.13
Spouse + Natural child + Nephew/Niece	133,700	0.13
Spouse + Sibling	129,342	0.12
Spouse + Natural child + Sibling-in-law	122,793	0.12
Spouse + Natural child + Roomer	119,453	0.11
Unmarried partner + Natural child + Other nonrelative	114,833	0.11
Spouse + Natural child + Child-in-law	112,140	0.11
Unmarried partner + Natural child + Stepchild	109,180	0.10
Nephew/Niece	103,020	0.10
Unmarried partner + Stepchild	102,541	0.10
Natural child + Child-in-law	101,955	0.10
Total, remaining 24,677 relationship combinations	4,580,063	4.34

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Table A-3.

Household Relationship Combinations With More Than 100,000 Households in 2000 and Percent Change: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Household composition	Number of households		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	1990	2000	Number	Percent
Total, all households	**91,993,582**	**105,480,101**	**13,486,519**	**14.7**
Total, 42 combinations with more than 100,000 households in 2000	88,683,591	101,388,887	12,705,296	14.3
Living alone	22,421,114	27,230,075	4,808,961	21.4
Householder living with	66,262,477	74,158,812	7,896,335	11.9
Spouse + Natural child	25,013,513	24,591,606	–421,907	–1.7
Spouse	20,172,988	22,382,944	2,209,956	11.0
Natural child	7,504,178	9,110,735	1,606,557	21.4
Unmarried partner	1,647,208	2,682,247	1,035,039	62.8
Housemate	2,020,598	2,332,386	311,788	15.4
Unmarried partner + Natural child	859,192	1,620,891	761,699	88.7
Spouse + Natural child + Stepchild	1,137,426	1,236,813	99,387	8.7
Spouse + Stepchild	1,195,656	1,105,151	–90,505	–7.6
Natural child + Grandchild	683,994	832,606	148,612	21.7
Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild	661,610	759,396	97,786	14.8
Sibling	704,914	737,586	32,672	4.6
Roomer	322,121	563,169	241,048	74.8
Parent	412,880	550,146	137,266	33.2
Grandchild	287,265	376,494	89,229	31.1
Other nonrelative	202,372	370,313	167,941	83.0
Spouse + Grandchild	275,596	361,385	85,789	31.1
Spouse + Natural child + Parent	326,969	351,452	24,483	7.5
Natural child + Housemate	261,933	302,824	40,891	15.6
Spouse + Natural child + Parent-in-law	150,794	286,503	135,709	90.0
Unmarried partner + Other nonrelative	172,976	243,335	70,359	40.7
Spouse + Natural child + Other nonrelative	145,554	242,843	97,289	66.8
Spouse + Natural child + Sibling	210,223	241,909	31,686	15.1
Natural child + Parent	164,525	229,618	65,093	39.6
Natural child + Other nonrelative	115,296	226,464	111,168	96.4
Spouse + Natural child + Grandchild + Child-in-law	88,200	209,251	121,051	137.2
Natural child + Sibling	186,370	204,400	18,030	9.7
Natural child + Grandchild + Child-in-law	84,616	193,680	109,064	128.9
Spouse + Parent	174,479	178,215	3,736	2.1
Spouse + Parent-in-law	95,761	159,179	63,418	66.2
Sibling + Parent	87,933	145,601	57,668	65.6
Natural child + Roomer	122,859	141,060	18,201	14.8
Spouse + Natural child + Nephew/Niece	78,108	140,705	62,597	80.1
Spouse + Sibling	135,770	129,342	–6,428	–4.7
Spouse + Natural child + Sibling-in-law	72,924	127,313	54,389	74.6
Unmarried partner + Natural child + Other nonrelative	82,237	125,565	43,328	52.7
Spouse + Natural child + Roomer	170,236	125,440	–44,796	–26.3
Spouse + Natural child + Child-in-law	51,780	116,849	65,069	125.7
Unmarried partner + Natural child + Stepchild	42,186	112,407	70,221	166.5
Natural child + Child-in-law	43,919	105,428	61,509	140.1
Nephew/Niece	59,691	103,020	43,329	72.6
Unmarried partner + Stepchild	35,627	102,541	66,914	187.8
Total, all remaining relationship combinations	3,309,991	4,091,214	781,223	23.6

Note: Data for 1990 are based on sample tabulations. The natural child category includes adopted child and the roomer category includes boarder and foster child.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Table A-4.

Total Households and Change by Presence of Specific Relationship Codes: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Relationship	1990		2000		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Householder	91,993,582	100.0	105,480,101	100.0	13,486,519	14.7
Spouse	51,718,214	56.2	54,493,232	51.7	2,775,018	5.4
Natural child (and/or adopted)	39,998,334	43.5	43,690,903	41.4	3,692,569	9.2
Natural child	(NA)	(NA)	42,847,722	40.6	(NA)	(NA)
Adopted child	(NA)	(NA)	1,567,499	1.5	(NA)	(NA)
Natural and adopted child	(NA)	(NA)	724,318	0.7	(NA)	(NA)
Stepchild	2,806,062	3.1	3,077,726	2.9	271,664	9.7
Sibling	2,003,362	2.2	2,504,069	2.4	500,707	25.0
Parent	1,526,050	1.7	2,035,905	1.9	509,855	33.4
Grandchild	2,703,024	2.9	3,560,932	3.4	857,908	31.7
Parent-in-law	332,703	0.4	660,437	0.6	327,734	98.5
Child-in-law	337,151	0.4	850,566	0.8	513,415	152.3
Other relative	1,155,960	1.3	371,996	0.4	–783,964	–67.8
Sibling-in-law	284,442	0.3	582,758	0.6	298,316	104.9
Nephew/Niece	504,789	0.5	1,035,796	1.0	531,007	105.2
Grandparent	40,164	-	80,847	0.1	40,683	101.3
Uncle/Aunt	88,028	0.1	154,150	0.1	66,122	75.1
Cousin	151,363	0.2	364,306	0.3	212,943	140.7
Roomer (and/or Foster child)	1,017,802	1.1	1,572,436	1.5	554,634	54.5
Roomer	(NA)	(NA)	1,372,363	1.3	(NA)	(NA)
Foster child	(NA)	(NA)	207,248	0.2	(NA)	(NA)
Roomer and foster child	(NA)	(NA)	7,175	-	(NA)	(NA)
Housemate	2,799,634	3.0	3,371,571	3.2	571,937	20.4
Unmarried partner	3,225,626	3.5	5,475,768	5.2	2,250,142	69.8
Other nonrelative	1,078,704	1.2	1,754,870	1.7	676,166	62.7

- Less than 0.05 percent. NA Not available.

Note: Data for 1990 are based on sample tabulations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Table A-5.

Number of Households With Specific Relationship Codes by Household Type: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Relationship	1990					2000				
	Total households	Family households			Nonfamily households	Total households	Family households			Nonfamily households
		Total	Married couple	Other family			Total	Married couple	Other family	
NUMBER										
Householder	91,993,582	65,049,428	51,718,214	13,331,214	26,944,154	105,480,101	71,787,347	54,493,232	17,294,115	33,692,754
Spouse	51,718,214	51,718,214	51,718,214	(X)	(X)	54,493,232	54,493,232	54,493,232	(X)	(X)
Natural child[1]	39,998,334	39,998,334	29,017,917	10,980,417	(X)	42,847,722	42,847,722	28,817,801	14,029,921	(X)
Adopted child	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(X)	1,567,499	1,567,499	1,145,498	422,001	(X)
Stepchild	2,806,062	2,806,062	2,610,044	196,018	(X)	3,077,726	3,077,726	2,694,014	383,712	(X)
Sibling	2,003,362	2,003,362	555,170	1,448,192	(X)	2,504,069	2,504,069	703,419	1,800,650	(X)
Parent	1,526,050	1,526,050	646,586	879,464	(X)	2,035,905	2,035,905	738,914	1,296,991	(X)
Grandchild	2,703,024	2,703,024	1,308,423	1,394,601	(X)	3,560,932	3,560,932	1,694,265	1,866,667	(X)
Parent-in-law	332,703	332,703	319,733	12,970	(X)	660,437	660,437	618,753	41,684	(X)
Child-in-law	337,151	337,151	177,676	159,475	(X)	850,566	850,566	446,249	404,317	(X)
Other relative	1,155,960	1,155,960	585,010	570,950	(X)	371,996	371,996	147,272	224,724	(X)
Sibling-in-law	284,442	284,442	220,618	63,824	(X)	582,758	582,758	437,239	145,519	(X)
Nephew/Niece	504,789	504,789	224,239	280,550	(X)	1,035,796	1,035,796	453,536	582,260	(X)
Grandparent	40,164	40,164	18,519	21,645	(X)	80,847	80,847	33,348	47,499	(X)
Uncle/Aunt	88,028	88,028	36,714	51,314	(X)	154,150	154,150	61,714	92,436	(X)
Cousin	151,363	151,363	53,480	97,883	(X)	364,306	364,306	127,165	237,141	(X)
Roomer[2]	1,017,802	628,354	356,710	271,644	389,448	1,372,363	675,101	322,741	352,360	697,262
Housemate	2,799,634	660,805	158,673	502,132	2,138,829	3,371,571	832,997	216,693	616,304	2,538,574
Unmarried partner	3,225,626	1,312,626	30,989	1,281,637	1,913,000	5,475,768	2,422,186	(X)	2,422,186	3,053,582
Foster child	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	207,248	172,214	112,542	59,672	35,034
Other nonrelative	1,078,704	659,203	305,054	354,149	419,501	1,754,870	1,076,811	467,251	609,560	678,059
PERCENT										
Householder	100.0	70.7	56.2	14.5	29.3	100.0	68.1	51.7	16.4	31.9
Spouse	100.0	100.0	100.0	(X)	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	(X)	(X)
Natural child[1]	100.0	100.0	72.5	27.5	(X)	100.0	100.0	67.3	32.7	(X)
Adopted child	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(X)	100.0	100.0	73.1	26.9	(X)
Stepchild	100.0	100.0	93.0	7.0	(X)	100.0	100.0	87.5	12.5	(X)
Sibling	100.0	100.0	27.7	72.3	(X)	100.0	100.0	28.1	71.9	(X)
Parent	100.0	100.0	42.4	57.6	(X)	100.0	100.0	36.3	63.7	(X)
Grandchild	100.0	100.0	48.4	51.6	(X)	100.0	100.0	47.6	52.4	(X)
Parent-in-law	100.0	100.0	96.1	3.9	(X)	100.0	100.0	93.7	6.3	(X)
Child-in-law	100.0	100.0	52.7	47.3	(X)	100.0	100.0	52.5	47.5	(X)
Other relative	100.0	100.0	50.6	49.4	(X)	100.0	100.0	39.6	60.4	(X)
Sibling-in-law	100.0	100.0	77.6	22.4	(X)	100.0	100.0	75.0	25.0	(X)
Nephew/Niece	100.0	100.0	44.4	55.6	(X)	100.0	100.0	43.8	56.2	(X)
Grandparent	100.0	100.0	46.1	53.9	(X)	100.0	100.0	41.2	58.8	(X)
Uncle/Aunt	100.0	100.0	41.7	58.3	(X)	100.0	100.0	40.0	60.0	(X)
Cousin	100.0	100.0	35.3	64.7	(X)	100.0	100.0	34.9	65.1	(X)
Roomer[2]	100.0	61.7	35.0	26.7	38.3	100.0	49.2	23.5	25.7	50.8
Housemate	100.0	23.6	5.7	17.9	76.4	100.0	24.7	6.4	18.3	75.3
Unmarried partner	100.0	40.7	1.0	39.7	59.3	100.0	44.2	(X)	44.2	55.8
Foster child	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	100.0	83.1	54.3	28.8	16.9
Other nonrelative	100.0	61.1	28.3	32.8	38.9	100.0	61.4	26.6	34.7	38.6

NA Not available. X Not applicable.

[1]Data for 1990 include adopted children.
[2]Data for 1990 include foster children.

Note: Data for 1990 are based on sample tabulations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Table A-6.

Households by Partnership Status and Relationship Composition: 1990

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf1td.pdf*)

Household composition	Total households	Partner households			Nonpartner households
		Total	Spouse	Unmarried	
NUMBER					
Total households	**91,947,410**	**54,025,036**	**50,708,322**	**3,316,714**	**37,922,374**
Partner only or living alone	44,115,961	21,535,541	19,863,896	1,671,645	22,580,420
Children in household	41,098,562	30,889,501	29,643,541	1,245,960	10,209,061
Children only	35,360,110	27,582,554	26,614,537	968,017	7,777,556
With other relatives only	4,187,820	2,536,108	2,420,116	115,992	1,651,712
With nonrelatives only	1,185,816	586,460	450,256	136,204	599,356
With other relatives and nonrelatives	364,816	184,379	158,632	25,747	180,437
Other relatives in household[1]	7,903,303	3,815,207	3,574,811	240,396	4,088,096
Other relatives only	3,055,778	1,032,329	954,433	77,896	2,023,449
With nonrelatives only	294,889	62,391	41,630	20,761	232,498
Nonrelatives in household[2]	5,227,741	1,338,504	855,340	483,164	3,889,237
Nonrelatives only	3,382,220	505,274	204,822	300,452	2,876,946
PERCENT BY PARTNERSHIP STATUS					
Total households	**100.0**	**58.8**	**55.1**	**3.6**	**41.2**
Partner only or living alone	100.0	48.8	45.0	3.8	51.2
Children in household	100.0	75.2	72.1	3.0	24.8
Children only	100.0	78.0	75.3	2.7	22.0
With other relatives only	100.0	60.6	57.8	2.8	39.4
With nonrelatives only	100.0	49.5	38.0	11.5	50.5
With other relatives and nonrelatives	100.0	50.5	43.5	7.1	49.5
Other relatives in household[1]	100.0	48.3	45.2	3.0	51.7
Other relatives only	100.0	33.8	31.2	2.5	66.2
With nonrelatives only	100.0	21.2	14.1	7.0	78.8
Nonrelatives in household[2]	100.0	25.6	16.4	9.2	74.4
Nonrelatives only	100.0	14.9	6.1	8.9	85.1
PERCENT BY COMPOSITION					
Total households	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Partner only or living alone	48.0	39.9	39.2	50.4	59.5
Children in household	44.7	57.2	58.5	37.6	26.9
Children only	38.5	51.1	52.5	29.2	20.5
With other relatives only	4.6	4.7	4.8	3.5	4.4
With nonrelatives only	1.3	1.1	0.9	4.1	1.6
With other relatives and nonrelatives	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.5
Other relatives in household[1]	8.6	7.1	7.0	7.2	10.8
Other relatives only	3.3	1.9	1.9	2.3	5.3
With nonrelatives only	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6
Nonrelatives in household[2]	5.7	2.5	1.7	14.6	10.3
Nonrelatives only	3.7	0.9	0.4	9.1	7.6

[1]Includes other relatives living with children and/or with nonrelatives.
[2]Includes nonrelatives living with children and/or with other relatives.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population.

Table A-7.

Households by Partnership Status and Relationship Composition: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Household composition	Total households	Partner households			Nonpartner households
		Total	Spouse	Unmarried	
NUMBER					
Total households	**105,480,101**	**59,969,000**	**54,493,232**	**5,475,768**	**45,511,101**
Partner only or living alone	52,295,266	25,065,191	22,382,944	2,682,247	27,230,075
Children in household	45,146,309	32,967,528	30,686,991	2,280,537	12,178,781
Children only	37,945,138	28,769,409	26,933,570	1,835,839	9,175,729
With other relatives only	5,213,600	3,191,673	2,982,468	209,205	2,021,927
With nonrelatives only	1,439,384	709,102	514,130	194,972	730,282
With other relatives and nonrelatives	548,187	297,344	256,823	40,521	250,843
Other relatives in household[1]	9,785,169	4,819,251	4,427,876	391,375	4,965,918
Other relatives only	3,643,259	1,248,225	1,130,852	117,373	2,395,034
With nonrelatives only	380,123	82,009	57,733	24,276	298,114
Nonrelatives in household[2]	6,382,838	1,694,502	1,063,398	631,104	4,688,336
Nonrelatives only	4,015,144	606,047	234,712	371,335	3,409,097
PERCENT BY PARTNERSHIP STATUS					
Total households	**100.0**	**56.9**	**51.7**	**5.2**	**43.1**
Partner only or living alone	100.0	47.9	42.8	5.1	52.1
Children in household	100.0	73.0	68.0	5.1	27.0
Children only	100.0	75.8	71.0	4.8	24.2
With other relatives only	100.0	61.2	57.2	4.0	38.8
With nonrelatives only	100.0	49.3	35.7	13.5	50.7
With other relatives and nonrelatives	100.0	54.2	46.8	7.4	45.8
Other relatives in household[1]	100.0	49.3	45.3	4.0	50.7
Other relatives only	100.0	34.3	31.0	3.2	65.7
With nonrelatives only	100.0	21.6	15.2	6.4	78.4
Nonrelatives in household[2]	100.0	26.5	16.7	9.9	73.5
Nonrelatives only	100.0	15.1	5.8	9.2	84.9
PERCENT BY COMPOSITION					
Total households	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Partner only or living alone	49.6	41.8	41.1	49.0	59.8
Children in household	42.8	55.0	56.3	41.6	26.8
Children only	36.0	48.0	49.4	33.5	20.2
With other relatives only	4.9	5.3	5.5	3.8	4.4
With nonrelatives only	1.4	1.2	0.9	3.6	1.6
With other relatives and nonrelatives	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6
Other relatives in household[1]	9.3	8.0	8.1	7.1	10.9
Other relatives only	3.5	2.1	2.1	2.1	5.3
With nonrelatives only	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.7
Nonrelatives in household[2]	6.1	2.8	2.0	11.5	10.3
Nonrelatives only	3.8	1.0	0.4	6.8	7.5

[1]Includes other relatives living with children and/or with nonrelatives.
[2]Includes nonrelatives living with children and/or with other relatives.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Table A-8.

Households With Presence of Specific Relationship Codes by Partnership Status and Presence of Children: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Relationship	Total households			Partner households			No spouse or partner households		
	Total	With children	Without children	Total	With children	Without children	Total	With children	Without children
NUMBER									
Householder	105,480,101	45,146,309	60,333,792	59,969,000	32,967,528	27,001,472	45,511,101	12,178,781	33,332,320
Spouse	54,493,232	30,686,991	23,806,241	54,493,232	30,686,991	23,806,241	(X)	(X)	(X)
Natural (and/or adopted) child	43,690,903	43,690,903	(X)	31,572,676	31,572,676	(X)	12,118,227	12,118,227	(X)
Natural child	42,847,722	42,847,722	(X)	30,948,876	30,948,876	(X)	11,898,846	11,898,846	(X)
Adopted child	1,567,499	1,567,499	(X)	1,203,401	1,203,401	(X)	364,098	364,098	(X)
Natural and adopted child	724,318	724,318	(X)	579,601	579,601	(X)	144,717	144,717	(X)
Stepchild	3,077,726	3,077,726	(X)	2,955,645	2,955,645	(X)	122,081	122,081	(X)
Sibling	2,504,069	991,860	1,512,209	835,211	572,510	262,701	1,668,858	419,350	1,249,508
Parent	2,035,905	930,800	1,105,105	821,994	564,502	257,492	1,213,911	366,298	847,613
Grandchild	3,560,932	2,639,963	920,969	1,794,491	1,357,687	436,804	1,766,441	1,282,276	484,165
Parent-in-law	660,437	455,514	204,923	634,049	441,641	192,408	26,388	13,873	12,515
Child-in-law	850,566	802,181	48,385	465,620	442,726	22,894	384,946	359,455	25,491
Other relative	371,996	193,189	178,807	168,219	106,500	61,719	203,777	86,689	117,088
Sibling-in-law	582,758	383,998	198,760	461,754	344,489	117,265	121,004	39,509	81,495
Nephew/Niece	1,035,796	607,950	427,846	507,236	385,290	121,946	528,560	222,660	305,900
Grandparent	80,847	44,276	36,571	37,754	29,624	8,130	43,093	14,652	28,441
Uncle/Aunt	154,150	75,590	78,560	69,745	49,348	20,397	84,405	26,242	58,163
Cousin	364,306	173,969	190,337	148,527	112,288	36,239	215,779	61,681	154,098
Roomer (and/or foster child)	1,572,436	618,313	954,123	551,060	351,359	199,701	1,021,376	266,954	754,422
Roomer	1,372,363	491,317	881,046	418,259	262,389	155,870	954,104	228,928	725,176
Foster child	207,248	130,397	76,851	136,149	90,768	45,381	71,099	39,629	31,470
Roomer and foster child	7,175	3,401	3,774	3,348	1,798	1,550	3,827	1,603	2,224
Housemate	3,371,571	608,688	2,762,883	346,255	185,228	161,027	3,025,316	423,460	2,601,856
Unmarried partner	5,475,768	2,280,537	3,195,231	5,475,768	2,280,537	3,195,231	(X)	(X)	(X)
Other nonrelative	1,754,870	870,461	884,409	879,771	519,445	360,326	875,099	351,016	524,083
PERCENT									
Householder	100.0	42.8	57.2	56.9	31.3	25.6	43.1	11.5	31.6
Spouse	100.0	56.3	43.7	100.0	56.3	43.7	(X)	(X)	(X)
Natural (and/or adopted) child	100.0	100.0	(X)	72.3	72.3	(X)	27.7	27.7	(X)
Natural child	100.0	100.0	(X)	72.2	72.2	(X)	27.8	27.8	(X)
Adopted child	100.0	100.0	(X)	76.8	76.8	(X)	23.2	23.2	(X)
Natural and adopted child	100.0	100.0	(X)	80.0	80.0	(X)	20.0	20.0	(X)
Stepchild	100.0	100.0	(X)	96.0	96.0	(X)	4.0	4.0	(X)
Sibling	100.0	39.6	60.4	33.4	22.9	10.5	66.6	16.7	49.9
Parent	100.0	45.7	54.3	40.4	27.7	12.6	59.6	18.0	41.6
Grandchild	100.0	74.1	25.9	50.4	38.1	12.3	49.6	36.0	13.6
Parent-in-law	100.0	69.0	31.0	96.0	66.9	29.1	4.0	2.1	1.9
Child-in-law	100.0	94.3	5.7	54.7	52.1	2.7	45.3	42.3	3.0
Other relative	100.0	51.9	48.1	45.2	28.6	16.6	54.8	23.3	31.5
Sibling-in-law	100.0	65.9	34.1	79.2	59.1	20.1	20.8	6.8	14.0
Nephew/Niece	100.0	58.7	41.3	49.0	37.2	11.8	51.0	21.5	29.5
Grandparent	100.0	54.8	45.2	46.7	36.6	10.1	53.3	18.1	35.2
Uncle/Aunt	100.0	49.0	51.0	45.2	32.0	13.2	54.8	17.0	37.7
Cousin	100.0	47.8	52.2	40.8	30.8	9.9	59.2	16.9	42.3
Roomer (and/or foster child)	100.0	39.3	60.7	35.0	22.3	12.7	65.0	17.0	48.0
Roomer	100.0	35.8	64.2	30.5	19.1	11.4	69.5	16.7	52.8
Foster child	100.0	62.9	37.1	65.7	43.8	21.9	34.3	19.1	15.2
Roomer and foster child	100.0	47.4	52.6	46.7	25.1	21.6	53.3	22.3	31.0
Housemate	100.0	18.1	81.9	10.3	5.5	4.8	89.7	12.6	77.2
Unmarried partner	100.0	41.6	58.4	100.0	41.6	58.4	(X)	(X)	(X)
Other nonrelative	100.0	49.6	50.4	50.1	29.6	20.5	49.9	20.0	29.9

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, Census 2000.

Table A-9.

Households by Number of Generations, Composition of Generations, and Presence of Children and Partner: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions in 2000, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* and for information on each of these items and on sampling error in 1990, see *factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/1990stf3td.pdf*)

Number of generations and type	1990				2000			
	Total	Married couple	Unmarried partner	No spouse or partner	Total	Married couple	Unmarried partner	No spouse or partner
Total households	**91,993,582**	**51,718,214**	**3,309,716**	**36,965,652**	**105,480,101**	**54,493,232**	**5,475,768**	**45,511,101**
1 generation	48,739,896	20,689,327	2,074,717	25,975,852	57,686,135	22,880,359	3,113,943	31,691,833
2 generations	40,241,541	29,356,607	1,166,803	9,718,131	43,631,159	29,353,148	2,217,613	12,060,398
3 or more generations	3,012,145	1,672,280	68,196	1,271,669	4,162,807	2,259,725	144,212	1,758,870
Family households	65,049,428	51,718,214	1,281,637	12,049,577	71,787,347	54,493,232	2,422,186	14,871,929
1 generation	21,795,742	20,689,327	46,638	1,059,777	23,993,381	22,880,359	60,361	1,052,661
2 generations	40,241,541	29,356,607	1,166,803	9,718,131	43,631,159	29,353,148	2,217,613	12,060,398
H-Gpar	10,873	2,523	390	7,960	22,397	4,707	1,284	16,406
H-Par	910,924	306,592	19,087	585,245	1,257,037	395,090	38,172	823,775
H-Ch	38,659,806	28,746,619	1,136,677	8,776,510	41,489,587	28,562,506	2,157,201	10,769,880
H-GCh	659,938	300,873	10,649	348,416	862,138	390,845	20,956	450,337
3 or more generations	3,012,145	1,672,280	68,196	1,271,669	4,162,807	2,259,725	144,212	1,758,870
Family households with natural, adopted, or step children	41,429,617	30,354,795	1,197,547	9,877,275	45,146,309	30,686,991	2,280,537	12,178,781
1 generation	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
2 generations	38,474,131	28,698,256	1,130,819	8,645,056	41,125,452	28,464,186	2,140,757	10,520,509
H-Gpar	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
H-Par	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
H-Ch	38,474,131	28,698,256	1,130,819	8,645,056	41,125,452	28,464,186	2,140,757	10,520,509
H-GCh	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
3 or more generations	2,955,486	1,656,539	66,728	1,232,219	4,020,857	2,222,805	139,780	1,658,272
Family households without natural, adopted, or step children	23,619,811	21,363,419	84,090	2,172,302	26,641,038	23,806,241	141,649	2,693,148
1 generation	21,795,742	20,689,327	46,638	1,059,777	23,993,381	22,880,359	60,361	1,052,661
2 generations	1,767,410	658,351	35,984	1,073,075	2,505,707	888,962	76,856	1,539,889
H-Gpar	10,873	2,523	390	7,960	22,397	4,707	1,284	16,406
H-Par	910,924	306,592	19,087	585,245	1,257,037	395,090	38,172	823,775
H-Ch	185,675	48,363	5,858	131,454	364,135	98,320	16,444	249,371
H-GCh	659,938	300,873	10,649	348,416	862,138	390,845	20,956	450,337
3 or more generations	56,659	15,741	1,468	39,450	141,950	36,920	4,432	100,598
Nonfamily households	26,944,154	(X)	2,028,079	24,916,075	33,692,754	(X)	3,053,582	30,639,172
1 generation	26,944,154	(X)	2,028,079	24,916,075	33,692,754	(X)	3,053,582	30,639,172

X Not applicable.

Note: The generations pertaining to the abbreviations shown in this table are as follows: H= Householder; Gpar = Grandparent; Par = Parent; Ch = Child; and GCh = Grandchild. Data for 1990 are based on sample tabulations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished tabulations, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

APPENDIX B. GLOSSARY

Family Household (Family) — a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in census tabulations. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated people or one person living alone. *Compare Nonfamily Household.*

Household — one person or a group of people living in a housing unit.

Householder — the person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member of the household, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. The person designated as the householder is the "reference person" to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded.

Married-Couple Household — a family household maintained by a householder and his or her spouse in which the spouse lives in the same household with the householder. *See Family Household.*

Multigenerational Household — a household with three or more generations present. The five generations identified in this report can create 11 specific multigenerational household types, including six types of three-generation households, four types of four-generation households, and one type of five-generation household.

Nonfamily Household — a household composed of one person living alone or a household of two or more people where all are unrelated to the householder. *Compare Family Household.*

Nonpartner Household — a household that does not contain either a spouse or an unmarried partner. All other households are classified as partner households. *Compare Partner Household.*

One-Generation Household — a person living alone (the householder only) or a householder living only with one or more of the people identified by the relationship codes pertaining to the householder's generation (spouse, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, cousin, other relative, roomer, boarder, housemate, roommate, unmarried partner, foster child, and other nonrelative).

One-Person Household — a household composed of one person living alone.

Other Family Household — a household maintained by a woman without a husband present who is living with at least one other relative, or maintained by a man without a wife present who is living with at least one other relative. Other family households comprise all family households excluding married-couple households. *See also Family Household.*

Other Nonfamily Household — a household of two or more members, none of whom is related to the householder. Other nonfamily households include all nonfamily households except one-person households. *See also Nonfamily Household.*

Partner Household — a household containing the householder and either a spouse or an unmarried partner. All other households are classified as nonpartner households. Partner households include married-couple households and unmarried-partner households (regardless of gender). *Compare Nonpartner Household.*

Two-Generation Household — a household containing a householder living with one or more members of only one of the generations other than the householder generation (grandparent, grandchild, parent generation, or child generation). Any number of relationship codes pertaining to the householder generation may be present in the household (*see One-Generation Household*).