

Working Mothers and Their Arrangements for Care of Their Children

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Mothers with children under age 18 have been entering the labor force in increasing numbers since before World War II. The growth in the number of working mothers has raised questions about the arrangements they make for the care of their children. The Children's Bureau therefore asked the Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the child-care arrangements of one group of working mothers—those with full-time jobs who had children under age 12. It is believed that the results will be of value in planning for the welfare of the Nation's children.

vided. In addition, a question was asked concerning the number of children aged 12-17 in the families with mothers working full time. The survey was conducted by the Bureau of the Census in the course of the Current Population Survey for June 1958.

Employed Mothers With Children Under Age 12

During the month of the survey,¹ an estimated 2.9 million women had full-time jobs² and had at least one child under age 12. These women accounted for about 1 in 7 mothers in the Nation³ and for about 1 out of every 2 mothers in the labor force who had a child of this age. Thus, only about 53 percent of the women in the labor force with children under age 12 were employed full time. Unfortunately, there are no data to indicate the extent and direction of changes in this proportion in the past decade. The fact remains, however, that nearly half the mothers in the labor force in June 1958 who had children under age 12 were working on a part-time basis or were unemployed.

Marital status and family size. — The large majority—2.3 million or 81 percent — of the mothers with chil-

¹ The survey was conducted in June 1958, but questions about care of children related to May in order to show arrangements at a time when most children were in school. Some mothers working full time in June but not in May were therefore excluded from the survey; the information on employment status and other characteristics of the population relates to the week of June 8-14.

² Persons employed full time were those who worked 35 hours or more during the week before the survey for pay or profit or without pay on a family farm or business.

³ The data relate primarily to the civilian population of the United States—that is, all civilians living within the continental United States, including inmates of institutions. Members of the Armed Forces except those overseas are also included.

ONE of the most significant social and economic trends of the past two decades has been the continuing increase in the number of women in the labor force. Their number rose from 13.8 million in March 1940 to 22.0 million in March 1958 (from 27.4 percent of the female population aged 14 and over to 35.0 percent). The significance of this increase becomes more apparent when it is recognized that a substantial part of it can be attributed to married women. The proportion of married women in the labor force nearly doubled between March 1940 and March 1958, rising from 16.7 percent to 31.4 percent.

To the Children's Bureau, with its concern for the welfare of children, the importance of these statistics lies in the fact that among the 16.6 million women in the labor force in March 1958 who were or had been married there were 7.5 million who had children under age 18. This number was 80 percent more than that (4.2 million) in April 1948.

How many of these mothers worked full time and how many children were in the families of mothers working full time were two basic questions for which there have been no answers. Other unanswered questions follow

from these. Who takes care of the children of working mothers? Are they cared for at home or away from home? How adequate is the care they receive while their mothers work? To what extent do these mothers have need for more adequate child-care arrangements?

To fill some of these gaps in knowledge the Children's Bureau contracted with the Bureau of the Census in the spring of 1958 to obtain information on the child-care arrangements of a specific group of working mothers—those who worked full time and had children under age 12. The questions asked about the children concerned their ages, who usually looked after them while they were out of school and their mothers were at work, and where this care was pro-

Table 1.—*Mothers with children under age 12 and with full-time employment: Marital status and number of children under age 18, June 1958*

[In thousands]

Marital status	Number of mothers					Total number of children under age 18
	Total	With specified number of children				
		1	2	3	4	
Total.....	2,873	931	951	534	457	6,665
Married.....	2,565	796	849	490	430	6,057
Husband present.	2,334	700	778	458	398	5,570
Husband absent.	231	96	71	32	32	487
Widowed or divorced.....	308	135	102	44	27	608

* Division of Research, Children's Bureau. Adapted from Henry C. Lajewski, *Child Care Arrangements of Full-Time Working Mothers* (Children's Bureau Publication No. 378), 1959. For a fuller treatment of the data, see the report.

dren under age 12 and with full-time jobs in June 1958 were married women living in the same household as their husbands (table 1). About 231,000 mothers had husbands absent from home because of separation, service in the Armed Forces, hospitalization for mental illness, imprisonment, or other reasons, and about 308,000 were either divorced from their husbands or widowed.

On the average the number of children under age 18 was the same (2.3) in the families of these mothers as in all families with children.⁴ About one-third of the families with working mothers had one child, another third had two children each, nearly a fifth had three children, and slightly more than a seventh had four or more children. Mothers living in rural areas had a slightly higher number of children, on the average, than those living in urban areas—2.5 compared with 2.2.

Working-mother families with children under age 18.—When all families with children under age 18 are classified by the presence of children in the age groups under 6, 6-11, and 12-17, the largest group is found to be that with children under age 6 only. The next largest group had at least one child under age 6 and at least one in the age group 6-11. As might be anticipated, the families with at least one child under age 6 had less representation, proportionately, among women in the labor force than those without such young children.

There is one exception to the generalization that mothers with children under age 6 are less likely than mothers with older children to be in the labor force and working full time. The exception is the mother who, in addition to having a child under age 6, also has one aged 12-17. As shown in table 2, in March 1958 about 1 out of every 10 women in the United States with at least one child under age 6, and slightly less than 1 in 10 women with at least one child aged 6 and other children aged 6-11, was employed on a full-time basis. The ratio for women with children aged 6-11 only or with children of that age

and children aged 12-17 as well was about 1 in 5. Of all women who had children under age 6 and aged 12-17 and who were in the labor force, about 7 out of 10 were employed full time.

Urban-rural differences are not significant. In both areas about 51 percent of the women had at least one child under age 6. The most notable difference is that a higher proportion of mothers in rural areas than in urban areas also had a child aged 12-17.

Mothers working full time who reside in the Northeast are more likely to have children in the older age groups. In June 1958, about 42 percent had a child aged 12-17. The proportion of mothers in the other regions with a child of this age ranged from 32 percent to 36 percent. Conversely the proportion of working mothers whose children were all under age 6 was lower in the Northeast than in the other regions. In addition, a smaller proportion of the working mothers in the Northeast had a child aged 6-11 as well as one under age 6. This finding suggests the possibility that mothers with young

children are less likely to enter the full-time working labor force in the Northeast than mothers in other regions.

Occupational group, race, and marital status.—Of all the women in the labor force in March 1958 who were or had been married, the largest proportion consisted of clerks or sales personnel and the smallest proportion of farmers or farm laborers. The situation was similar among the mothers who had children under age 12 and who were employed full time in June 1958. There were some differences, however, in the distributions of these groups by occupational categories. There was a higher proportion of clerks and sales personnel and a lower proportion of women in professional and managerial positions among the women who had children under age 12 and who were employed full time in June 1958 than among all women in the labor force in March 1958 who were or had been married.

Among the white mothers with children under age 12, employed full time, the largest proportion was employed as clerks or sales personnel; among the nonwhite mothers the largest proportion was in private household or other service work. Relatively more white mothers than nonwhite mothers were in professional and managerial positions. Farmers and farm laborers were represented to a greater extent among the nonwhite mothers. In each group the proportion of women who are craftsmen, operators, or laborers was about the same. The most significant occupational difference between mothers who were married and whose husbands are present and mothers of another marital status is that the former group contained a higher proportion of farmers or farm laborers and a lower proportion of household workers or service workers.

Regional and urban-rural residence.—About 2 out of every 3 of the mothers resided in an urban area. Regionally, this ratio varied. In the South the 1.1 million mothers were about equally divided between those residing in urban areas and those residing in rural areas. In the North Central States and in the West about 7 out of every 10 mothers lived in urban areas, and in the Northeast

Table 2.—*Mothers in the labor force and mothers with children under age 12 and with full-time employment: Labor-force participation rates, by presence of children in specified age groups*

Age group	Number of mothers ¹ (in thousands)			As percent of civilian population	
	In civilian population	In labor force	With children under age 12 and full-time employment	In labor force	With children under age 12 and full-time employment
None under 6...	11,297	4,647	(²)	41.1	(²)
6-11 only.....	3,433	1,356	713	39.5	20.8
6-11 and 12-17.	3,239	1,205	708	37.2	21.9
12-17 only.....	4,625	2,086	(³)	45.1	(³)
Some under 6...	14,146	2,847	1,452	20.1	10.3
Under 6 only...	6,600	1,350	697	20.5	10.6
Under 6 and 6-11.....	5,018	897	438	17.9	8.7
Under 6 and 12-17.....	586	156	109	26.6	18.6
Under 6, 6-11, and 12-17...	1,942	444	208	22.9	10.7

¹ Unpublished data on civilian population and on total labor force as of March 1958 from Bureau of the Census.

² Not available.

³ Not applicable.

⁴ Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, *Consumer Income*, No. 30, December 1958, table 6, page 22.

about 3 of every 4 resided in urban areas.

Children of Mothers Employed Full Time

Mothers who had children under age 12 and who were employed full time in June 1958 had 6.7 million children under age 18, of whom 5.1 million were under age 12. The care of the younger group was the particular focus of the survey. Among these children, 880,000 were under age 3 and 1.2 million were aged 3-5.

Age of children and race.—Of the 4.2 million children under age 12 of white mothers employed full time, about 1 in 6 was under age 3 and about 2 out of every 9 were aged 3-5. The proportion of those in the age group 6-9 years was slightly more than 1 in 3, and for those aged 10 and 11 it was nearly 1 out of every 4.

Among the 915,000 nonwhite⁵ children whose mothers had full-time jobs, about one-fifth were under age 3 and another one-fifth were aged 10-11, a fourth were in the age group 3-5 years, and about a third were aged 6-9. This information suggests that more nonwhite mothers than white mothers must enter the labor force, even though they have young children—possibly because of differences in family income level between white and nonwhite families.

Age	Total	White	Non-white
Total number..	5,073,000	4,158,000	915,000
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under age 3.....	17.4	16.5	21.2
3-5.....	22.8	22.1	26.2
6-9.....	35.3	35.9	32.5
10-11.....	24.5	25.5	20.1

Age of mothers.—Data on the ages of mothers who had children under age 12 and full-time jobs in June 1958 were obtained only in relation to the ages of their children. These data show that a high proportion of children aged 6-11 had mothers aged 30 or over. As might be anticipated, a high proportion (1 in 5) of the 5.1 million children under age 6 had mothers under age 30—a ratio sug-

⁵ The term nonwhite, for the purposes of the survey, includes Negroes, Chinese, Indians, Japanese, and other unspecified groups.

Table 3.—Children under age 12 of mothers employed full time: Occupation of mother and age of child, June 1958

Occupation of mother	Children under age 12 ¹					
	Number	Percentage distribution				
		Total	Under age 3	Aged 3-5	Aged 6-9	Aged 10-11
Total.....	5,073,000	100.0	17.4	22.8	35.3	24.5
Professional and managerial.....	641,000	100.0	14.3	18.9	40.4	26.4
Clerical and sales.....	1,788,000	100.0	18.5	21.5	35.2	24.8
Craftsmen, operators, laborers.....	951,000	100.0	15.1	21.9	37.1	25.9
Household and service workers.....	1,222,000	100.0	18.5	28.2	31.9	21.4
Farmers and farm laborers.....	471,000	100.0	18.5	21.4	33.8	26.3

gesting that the wife must work in a considerable number of young families despite the presence of young children. Research on the questions raised by this situation may well prove fruitful.

Another significant question for research is suggested by the fact that many mothers employed full time in the labor force apparently enter upon full employment when their children are aged 6-9. It would be interesting to know the extent to which mothers aged 30-39, whose children are now aged 6-11, worked when they were under age 30 and their children were under age 6.

Age of children and marital status of mother.—An overwhelming proportion—82 percent—of the children under age 12 lived in homes including both a mother and father. Eight percent lived in homes in which one of the parents was absent, and 10 percent lived in homes that had been broken either by death or divorce. There were only slight differences in the age distribution for those children whose parents were married at the time of the survey, whether or not both parents were in the home. There were two significant differences between those whose parents were married and those whose parents were either widowed or divorced. In the latter group there were proportionately fewer children under age 3 and proportionately more in the age group 6-9.

Age of children and urban-rural residence.—The age distribution of the children whose mothers were employed full time was similar in urban and rural areas, but mothers in the rural areas had, on the average, more children. About 61 percent of the

children lived in urban areas and 39 percent in rural areas.

The smallest proportion of children in both urban and rural areas was in the age group under 3. In both urban and rural areas there was a progressively higher proportion of children in each of the higher age groups, up through the group aged 6-9; among those aged 10 and 11 the proportion decreased.

Age of children and occupation of mother.—What relationship, if any, is there between the mother's occupation and the age of her child? The data indicate that there is a relationship, because a child whose mother is engaged in professional or managerial work is less likely to be under age 6 than is the child whose mother is engaged in other occupations (table 3). It is probable, therefore, that mothers in professional and managerial occupations may not enter the labor market as early as those in other occupational groups, perhaps because of the family's financial status. The data also indicate that the largest proportion of children had mothers who were clerical or sales workers and that the smallest proportion had mothers who were farmers or farm workers.

Regional and urban-rural residence.—Inasmuch as the majority of mothers in the study were concentrated in the urban areas of the Nation, so were the majority of their children under age 12. This urban majority was true of all regions but the South, where a majority of the children resided in rural areas and only 47 percent in urban areas. It is to be noted also that nearly 2 out of every 5 children under age 12 whose mothers were employed full time lived

in the South. Such facts are significant in planning for the care of children in this area.

Child-Care Arrangements of Mothers Employed Full Time

The principal questions asked in the survey were: Who takes care of the child under age 12 while the mother is working and where is the care provided—in the child's home or the home of the person providing care?

Care at home.—A very large majority of the children in the survey were provided care in their own homes. This finding is consistent with the fact that for many of them care was provided by their fathers or by relatives. Nearly 16 percent of the children were cared for by their fathers, whose working hours were different from those of the mother or who were unemployed or not in the labor force.

Children in the largest group, 30 percent, were cared for in their own homes by relatives other than the father. As indicated earlier, many of the mothers employed full time have children aged 12-17. That these children were often the relatives providing care for the children under age 12 is evident from the fact that 36.6 percent of the 1.5 million children cared for in their own homes by relatives received care from persons under age 18.

About 12 percent (594,000) of the children were cared for in their own homes by nonrelatives; neighbors provided the care for 90,000 and other nonrelatives the care for the others. Unfortunately, the survey could not be extended to explore the nature and circumstances of the care the children received from neighbors or other nonrelatives.

Care away from home.—Only about 1 in 5 of the children received care away from home. The children cared for by relatives away from home made up about 11 percent of all the children of working mothers and 49 percent of those cared for away from home. The relatives caring for children away from home, unlike those caring for children in the child's own home, were virtually all aged 18 or over. The relationship to the child—whether they were, for example,

siblings, grandparents, or aunts—is unknown. The data nevertheless suggest that a study of the pattern of care of children of working mothers by relatives would provide valuable insight into family life when the mother is employed.

Care for a child away from home by a nonrelative was arranged for about 9 percent of the children, and for about 2 out of every 3 the care was provided by a neighbor. Thus, again, the neighbor looms as a significant resource for child-caring arrangements.

Another group of children cared for away from their homes are those placed in day nurseries, day-care centers, settlement houses, nursery schools, and the like, who were considered to be receiving group care while their mothers worked. They accounted for 121,000 of the 5.1 million children under age 12 of mothers employed full time, as shown in the following tabulation.

[In thousands]

Type of child-care arrangement ¹	Number of children		
	Total	Under age 6	Aged 6-11
Total.....	5,073	2,039	3,034
Care at own home by:			
Father.....	802	299	503
Relative:			
Under age 18.....	558	148	410
Aged 18 or over.....	965	417	548
Nonrelative.....	594	290	304
Care at caretaker's home by:			
Relative.....	545	295	250
Nonrelative.....	440	258	182
Group care.....	121	91	30
Self-care.....	401	13	388
Other.....	647	228	419

¹ As of May 1958.

Children caring for themselves.—Most mothers, in taking a full-time job, without doubt give consideration to the arrangements that must be made for their children. One of the factors involved is the age of the child. The data on the children's age suggest that many mothers do not take full-time jobs until their children reach school age or until they pass their ninth birthday. Thus the child is in school most of the time the mother is working, leaving a need for child-care arrangements only during the hours between the time of his dismissal from school and her re-

turn from work. Sometimes there is no arrangement, and the child looks out for himself. About 1 out of every 13 of the children was expected to do so. The adequacy of this arrangement was not ascertained; that it is inadequate for very young children is unquestionable.

Other arrangements.—For about 1 out of every 8 children under age 12 with mothers working full time, it was not possible to state exactly who cared for the child or where the care was provided. Comments made by the survey enumerators give some idea, however, of the arrangements the mothers were able to make.

Babysitter takes care of child for one hour until daughter, age 18, returns from school—she then takes over.

Mother lives in apartment over dry cleaning establishment in which she is the only employee. . . . Mother is able to look after son while working.

Mother is grade teacher. She gets home and leaves the same time as the child does usually—on occasions when she can't be home with the child he stops at his grandmother's house until his mother comes home.

Aunt of the children cared for them from 2 p.m. until school was out and 13-year-old sister was at home. Mother worked until 10 p.m.

Mother is self-employed (motel operator). Their residence is at motel address; therefore, the child is under . . . mother's care at all times.

After school child goes to YMCA and other boys' meetings so is only home 1 or 2 nights a week right after school and then the father or grandmother is there to be with him and his sister—they are never left alone.

Mother works night shift and is home all day.

When working in fields brings children along—baby takes nap in car.

Works chopping cotton with mother.

Father and neighbor—the children are cared for at home by father, but neighbor across the street cares for children when both parents are away. The father works on day shift and mother in afternoon. One of the parents is there most of the time.

Comments by the enumerators underscore two facts about the child-care arrangements of working

mothers. The first, as already indicated by the data on children cared for by a specific person at and away from home, is the important role of relatives and neighbors. The second is the direct care that many working mothers are able to give their children, either taking them along to their place of employment (as do some farm laborers), having employment immediately accessible to their home and children, or confining their employment to certain hours that assure their presence at home when the children are not in school.

Age of children.—Generally, regardless of age, the majority of the children were provided care by their fathers or other relatives. About the same proportion (57 percent) of those under age 6 and those aged 6-11 received care in their own homes. The proportion of children in both age groups for whom "other" arrangements were in effect was 11 percent and 14 percent, respectively. Among the children under age 6, however, there were proportionately twice as many children cared for away from home (including those in group care) as among those aged 6-11. Although few of the children under age 6 were reported to be caring for themselves, about 13 percent or 1 out of every 8 among those aged 6-11 cared for themselves. For those aged 10 and 11 the ratio increased to 1 out of every 5.

Occupation of mother.—The occupation of the mother, in part, determines the type of care the mother arranges for her child. This finding, suggested by the excerpts noted previously from the enumerators' descriptions of "other" child-care arrangements, is substantiated when the arrangements are analyzed on the basis of the mother's occupation. Generally, it can be stated that children of mothers in the professional, managerial, farmer, and farm laborer occupations are provided "other" child-care arrangements more often than children of mothers in other occupations; that children of mothers employed in domestic or other service occupations, more often than other children, are provided care by fathers; and that children of mothers in the clerical, sales, craftsman, operative, and laborer occupations, as a group, are cared for away from home

to a greater extent than children in the other groups (table 4).

Specifically, children whose mothers are farmers or farm laborers to a large extent have "other" child-care arrangements or must take care of themselves. Slightly more than 1 out of every 5 children whose mothers were in these occupations was caring for himself. Few children of such mothers were provided care by their fathers, and none received care at home from nonrelatives or were in group care—undoubtedly characteristics of the farm or farm-laborer family culture.

Among the children of mothers in managerial and professional occupations, about the same number were provided "other" child-care arrangements as among those whose mothers were farmers or farm laborers. Another large group of them received care from nonrelatives at home. The data suggest that the mothers in professional and managerial occupations use the services of nonrelatives to provide care for children at home more extensively than do mothers in other occupations. Still another large group of children—slightly more than 1 out of every 5—with mothers in this type of occupation are provided care at home by relatives aged 18 or over. The ratio is the same for the children of mothers in every occupation except farmers and farm laborers.

Children with mothers whose occupations were in domestic or other

service were cared for by fathers to a greater degree than children with mothers in any other occupation. About 23 percent were receiving care from their fathers. Significantly, in comparison with children of mothers in other occupations (except farmers and farm laborers) a small proportion of these children were cared for by nonrelatives. For about 1 in 7, "other" arrangements were made.

A notable fact about the children of mothers in the clerical, sales, operative, craftsman, and laborer occupations was the relatively low proportion (about 1 in 14) for whom "other" child-care arrangements were made. Among children with mothers in other groups, this ratio ranged from 1 out of every 7 to nearly 1 out of every 3. It is also notable that a higher proportion of this group of children was in care away from home than of those with mothers in other occupations. In fact, about two-thirds of the 121,000 children in group care had mothers in the clerical and sales occupations.

Residence.—Several differences between the arrangements for care of children residing in urban areas and those for children in rural areas are evident from the survey data (table 5). The most noteworthy is the degree to which "other" child-care arrangements were used in the rural areas; 1 out of every 6 children in rural areas but only about 1 out of every 10 in urban areas was cared for

Table 4.—Children under age 12 of mothers employed full time: Child-care arrangements and occupation of mother, June 1958

[In thousands]

Type of child-care arrangement ¹	Number of children, by occupation of mother					
	Total	Professional and managerial	Clerical and sales	Craftsmen, operatives, and laborers	Private household workers or service workers	Farmers and farm laborers
Total.....	5,073	641	1,788	951	1,222	471
Care at own home by:						
Father.....	802	89	248	170	276	19
Relative:						
Under age 18.....	558	34	153	104	145	122
Aged 18 and over.....	965	139	350	183	245	48
Nonrelative.....	594	112	270	108	104	
Care at caretaker's home by:						
Relative.....	545	37	237	136	106	29
Nonrelative.....	440	46	200	100	81	13
Group care.....	121	9	79	15	18	
Self-care.....	401	39	129	61	69	103
Other.....	647	136	122	74	178	137

¹ As of May 1958.

Table 5.—Children under age 12 of mothers employed full time: Child-care arrangements and residence, June 1958

[In thousands]

Type of child-care arrangement ¹	Total number of children	Urban area	Rural area	Regions			
				North-east	North Central	South	West
Total.....	5,073	3,082	1,991	975	1,254	1,979	865
Care at own home by:							
Father.....	802	505	297	194	306	168	134
Relative:							
Under age 18.....	558	283	275	90	116	261	91
Aged 18 and over.....	965	654	311	200	225	380	160
Nonrelative.....	594	407	187	71	143	300	80
Care at caretaker's home by:							
Relative.....	545	307	238	115	98	250	82
Nonrelative.....	440	310	130	79	107	156	99
Group care.....	121	104	17	22	19	59	20
Self-care.....	401	201	200	83	72	185	61
Other.....	647	311	336	121	168	220	138

¹ As of May 1958.

under "other" arrangements. Proportionately more of the children in urban areas than of those in rural areas were provided care by nonrelatives both at and away from home, more were in group care, and fewer were caring for themselves.

The most outstanding regional difference in child-care arrangements was the relatively small proportion (about 9 percent) of the children in the South who were provided care by their fathers. In contrast, about 24 percent of the children in the North Central States and 16 percent in the Nation as a whole were cared for by their fathers. That such a small group of children in the South were provided care by their fathers may be attributed to the fact that many of their mothers were farmers or farm laborers. Throughout the Nation, the proportion of children of farmers and farm laborers provided care by their fathers was low. The Southern group may also include a high proportion of nonwhite children, for whom care by fathers was also relatively small. At the same time a higher proportion of children in the South than in any other region was provided care at home by relatives other than fathers

and by nonrelatives—about 48 percent. In the other regions this proportion ranges from 37 percent to 39 percent.

Other regional differences are less pronounced. In the North Central States the proportion of children receiving care from their fathers was high, and the proportion receiving care away from their homes was therefore low. In the West, proportionately more children had "other" child-care arrangements than in any other region.

Race. — A smaller proportion of nonwhite children than white children were cared for by their fathers, but proportionately more of them were cared for by relatives under age 18 (table 6). Among the nonwhite group there was also greater dependence, proportionately, on neighbors for child care, and a larger proportion took care of themselves. The proportion for whom "other" child-care arrangements were made was larger for white children than for nonwhite children.

Marital status of mother. — The child-care arrangements for children whose mothers and fathers were living in the same household differed from

those for children whose mothers were not living with their fathers. Among the former the father provided the care for about 1 out of every 5 children, and among the latter for slightly more than 1 out of every 100. The father's role in caring for the child in the instances in which the

Table 6.—Children under age 12 of mothers employed full time: Child-care arrangements by race and marital status of mother, June 1958

[In thousands]

Type of child-care arrangement ¹	Total number	Race		Marital status of mother	
		White	Non-white	Married, husband present	Other
Total.....	5,073	4,159	914	4,185	888
Care ² received from:					
Father.....	802	733	69	791	11
Relative:					
Under age 18.....	578	404	174	455	123
Aged 18 and over.....	1,490	1,171	319	1,101	389
Nonrelative:					
Neighbor.....	367	269	98	294	73
Other.....	667	622	45	577	90
Group care.....	121	106	15	67	54
Self-care.....	401	301	100	310	91
Other.....	647	553	94	590	57

¹ As of May 1958.

² Whether at home or at caretaker's home.

mother was divorced or had a husband absent from the home was not studied.

Among children whose mothers were not living with their spouses or whose spouses were deceased, a high proportion was cared for by relatives at home—44 percent by relatives aged 18 or over and 14 percent by relatives under age 18. These children were less likely than the children of mothers with the husband present to be cared for by "other" arrangements, and more likely to receive care in group facilities or to be caring for themselves.