

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)

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DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on families and nonfamily households in the United States, based on the March 1998 Current Population Survey. In the highlights below, the numbers in *italics* are significantly different from the corresponding numbers in 1997; others are not significantly different. These new tables provide information such as:

- In 1998, there were **70.9 million** family and **31.6 million** nonfamily households — 69.1 and 30.9 percent of U.S. households.
- Fewer than half (49.0 percent) of the family households had own children under 18 living at home.
- 14.4 percent of the family households had own children 18 and older living at home.
- Single parents maintained 27.3 percent of the family households with own children under 18.
- There were 2.1 million father-child and 9.8 million mother-child family groups — related and unrelated subfamilies as well as family households.
- In the mother-child family groups, 42.2 percent of mothers had never married.
- Overall, families had an average of 3.18 members. Average family sizes differ significantly for race and origin subgroups— 3.92 for Hispanic; **3.02** for White, not Hispanic; and 3.42 for Black families.
- People living alone accounted for **83.2 percent** of the 31.6 million nonfamily households.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The tables include 18 detailed tables (175 pages), 10 historical tables, 2 summary tables, and 1 state table. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet in portable document format using the Adobe Acrobat reader, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on "Subjects A-Z" then "F" for Families or "H" for Households.

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-101 for \$39.00. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-101, Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$39.00 payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of

these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on this topic, contact the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2465, or E-mail (lcasper@census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are from the March 1998 Current Population Survey. All survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors for estimates, see the section on "Source and Accuracy" at (<http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/1998/ssr/cacc.htm>). For additional information, contact Andrew Zbikowski, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, on 301-457-4214 or E-mail (andrew.a.zbikowski@cmail.census.gov).

NOTICE TO USERS

In order to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey about household and family characteristics, short data updates will be made available in both printed and electronic forms for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1998, updating the prior report, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1997" (Current Population Reports, P20-509), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-8800.