



## CHILDHOOD RISK

# Single Parent Households

### INDICATOR

Percent of children living in single-parent households.

<b>Numerator</b>	Number of children living with their own parent in a household with male or female head, with no partner present
<b>Denominator</b>	Child residences aged 0 to 18, in all living arrangements, including dual parent, or living alone

### DESCRIPTION

This metric is the percent of children living in single parent families, including mother- or father-headed families.

YEAR:		2016	
WI	US	Best	Worst
32%*	35%	19 UT%	56% DC
PAST YEAR:		2015	
WI	US		
32%*	35%		

\* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at  $p < 0.05$ .

### IMPORTANCE

Children living in single-parent households often have less stability, fewer rules, harsher discipline, and less supervision, all of which may impede social-emotional development. These children often live in more economically disadvantaged families, which can negatively impact the child's development (Amato, 2005). Compared to children in two-parent families, children in single-parent households are more likely to drop out of school, have a teen pregnancy, or experience their own divorce in adulthood (Sapharas, 2016).

### LIMITATIONS

- The exact mechanism for increased stress on a child in a single-parent family is not known, and a parent may be able to counteract the potential disadvantage through enhanced parenting, a supportive family/community, and additional financial resources.
- This metric does not account for live-in partners or close relatives that may have frequent contact with a child.

### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

#### Wisconsin Analyses

Wisconsin rates have been steady since before 2012.

#### National Analyses

Nationally, the percent of children living in families with two parents has decreased over 20%, between 1960, when nine out of every ten kids lived in a two parent home and 2016, when only seven out of ten do. (Porter, 2016)

### SOURCE

- Amato, Paul R. (2005). The impact of family formation change on the cognitive, social, and emotional wellbeing of the next generation. *The Future of Children*, p 75-96.
- Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey and 2002 through 2016 American Community Survey (ACS), accessed at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/106-children-in-single-parent-families>.
- Porter, Jenny. (2016). The Majority of Children Live with Two Parents, Census Bureau Reports. US Census Bureau, Release Number CB16-192.
- Sapharas, Nicole K., et al. (2016). Effects of Parental Divorce or a Father's Death on High School Completion. *Psychology in the Schools*, 53(8), 861-874.