

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth, and Family Policies at
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Nordic and Anglo-countries have the highest percentages of single-parent families. These countries also have higher proportions of the population living in one-person and in couples-without-children households. Southern European households have larger proportions living in couples-with-children households. Ireland stands out as having the highest proportion of couples with children households and one of the highest proportion of lone-parent families.

Table 2.15b Composition of households by type of household in 1996

	<i>Lone parent families</i>	<i>Couples with children</i>	<i>One-person households</i>	<i>Couples without children</i>	<i>Other households</i>
<i>The calculations are based on the proportion of persons living in private households by type of household</i>					
Austria	6.0	50.0	11.0	17.0	16.0
Belgium	9.0	56.0	12.0	20.0	4.0
Denmark	5.0	50.0	17.0	26.0	2.0
Finland	9.0	50.0	15.0	22.0	3.0
France	7.0	56.0	12.0	20.0	4.0
Germany	6.0	50.0	15.0	25.0	4.0
Greece	6.0	58.0	7.0	16.0	14.0
Iceland	8.0	55.0	8.0	16.0	12.0
Ireland	10.0	65.0	7.0	9.0	9.0
Italy	7.0	62.0	8.0	14.0	9.0
Luxembourg	5.0	56.0	11.0	18.0	11.0
Netherlands	5.0	55.0	13.0	26.0	1.0
Norway	9.0	49.0	19.0	21.0	2.0
Portugal	7.0	58.0	4.0	12.0	18.0
Spain	6.0	62.0	4.0	11.0	16.0
Sweden	3.0	27.0	24.0	36.0	11.0
Switzerland	6.0	46.0	17.0	28.0	4.0
United Kingdom	11.0	50.0	12.0	22.0	5.0
<i>The calculations are based on the number of households</i>					
Australia (a)	7.6	27.9	24.2	30.5	9.8
Canada (b)	10.5	32.7	24.2	20.7	11.8
Korea (b,c)	8.6	58.6	x	12.6	20.3
Japan	5.2	35.3	22.6	18.4	18.5
New Zealand	8.9	23.6	20.1	27.8	19.7
United States (d)	9.3	24.6	25.7	28.3	12.1

Source: OECD. (2002). Society at a Glance: OECD Social Indicators. Appendix Table GE7.2. Paris: OECD.

Notes:

a. Data refer to 1999

b. Data refer to 1996.

c. It has not been possible to have a distinction between one-person households and other households;

d. Data refer to 1998

Australia: Couples without or with children are defined as couple family without or with one or more dependants;

Canada: For families of married couples there is a distinction between children at home and no children at home without indication on age of children;

Korea: The proportion of directly extended families in other types of households is significant;

Japan: The proportion of three-generation-family household is significant too;

New Zealand: Couples without or with children include couples without or with only dependent children;

United States: Couples without or with children include couples without or with children under 18.