

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.