

PEW Research Center Chart Examination

The Changing Profile of Unmarried Parents [\(link\)](#)

In 2018, Pew Research Center released an analysis of Census Bureau statistics on unmarried parents in America dating back to 1968. The analysis revealed the changing profile of unwed American parents living with one or more children under the age of 18. Below are two charts taken from the analysis that highlight how the data has changed over time (**Chart 1**), and the change in demographics among unmarried parents from 1968-2017 (**Chart 2**).

Chart 1: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of unmarried parents, those who are single or living with a partner, among all parents living with a child increased from 7% to 25% between 1968 and 2017. This represents an increase of more than 350% over the last fifty years, and as of 2017, one-in-four parents living with a minor child is unmarried.

One-in-four U.S. parents are unmarried

% unmarried, among all parents living with a child

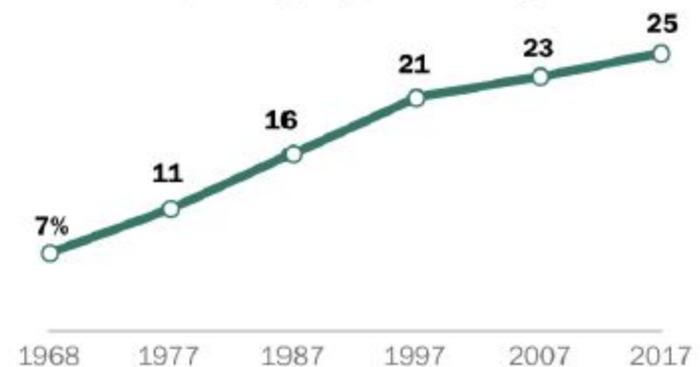
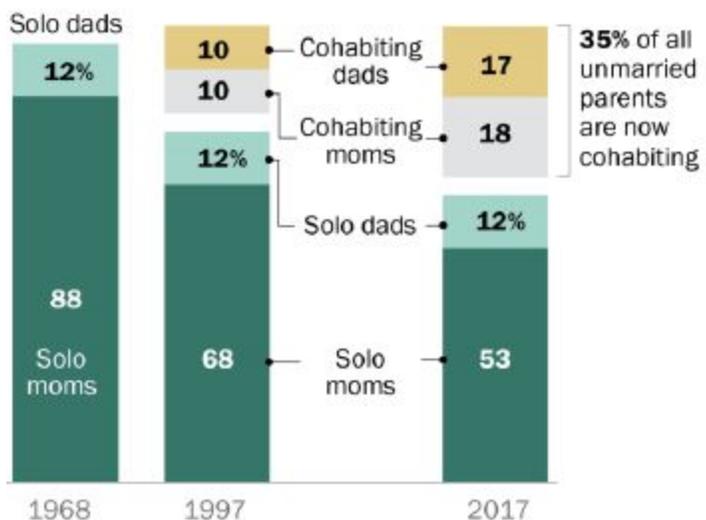


Chart 2: Pew Research Center's analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's data found that parents living with children under the age of 18 have been increasingly choosing forgo marriage. According to the study, nearly all unmarried parents living with a minor child were single in 1968, with no statistically significant data for unmarried parents who were cohabitating. In 2017, the data showed that the number of single parent homes had dropped by 35% from 1968 data. The shift in numbers reflects a move among unmarried parents who are opting for cohabitation with their partners over traditional marriage. While the percentage of single fathers living with a child has remained consistent over the same period of time at approximately 12%, the

Growing share of unmarried parents are cohabiting

% cohabiting/solo, among all unmarried parents living with a child



percentage of single mothers dropped from 88% in 1968 to 53% in 2017. The data shows that the overall rate of change among unmarried parents has remained fairly consistent over time, and based on the data it appears that the trend will continue into the future.