

In September, the Census Bureau releases annual data from the American Community Survey, a survey of millions of households across the country. In this year's Census Factsheet, CCC highlights data on single parents in New York City.

In 2018, the estimate of children in single parent households saw a 10 percent annual decline, continuing a recent trend. Still, single parents are the second most common household head in the city, responsible for over 425,000 children. **The economic insecurity faced by single parents and their children is widespread, and compounded by inequalities across neighborhood, gender, and race.**

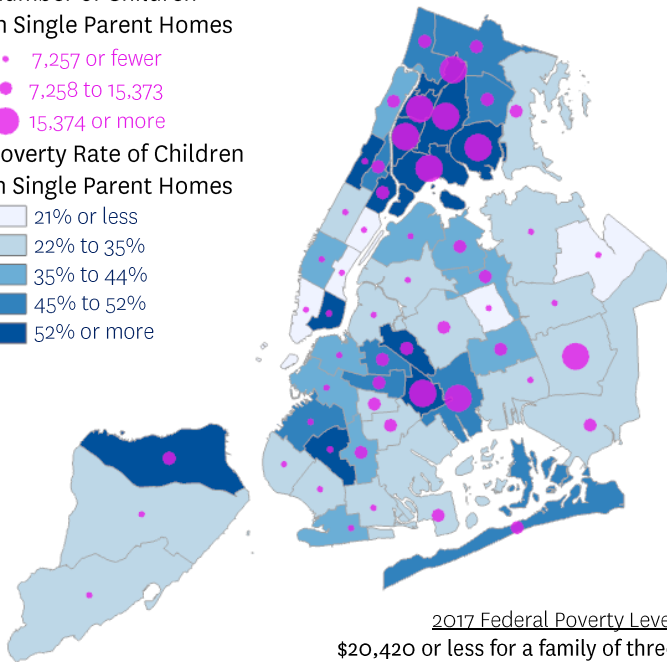
Children of Single Parents in New York City

Number of Children in Single Parent Homes

- 7,257 or fewer
- 7,258 to 15,373
- 15,374 or more

Poverty Rate of Children in Single Parent Homes

- 21% or less
- 22% to 35%
- 35% to 44%
- 45% to 52%
- 52% or more

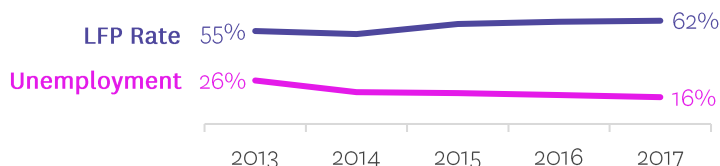


2017 Federal Poverty Level
\$20,420 or less for a family of three

Generally speaking, areas with greater numbers of children in single parent homes see higher rates of child poverty in those households. At the same time, there are communities with fewer children in single parent homes that have very high poverty rates (over 50 percent) for those children – places with concentrated poverty like Borough Park in Brooklyn, and the Lower East Side and Manhattanville in Manhattan. Conversely, some areas have more children in single parent households but relatively lower (35 percent or less) poverty rates for those children: this is the case in Jamaica/St. Albans in Queens, and East Flatbush and Canarsie in Brooklyn.

Single Parents in the Labor Force

Consistent with trends observed nationally, New York's single parents are increasingly likely to be in the labor force and employed. From 2013 to 2017, the share of single parents aged 16 and older at work or looking for work (LFP rate) increased seven percentage points. During the same time, the unemployment rate fell to 16 percent.

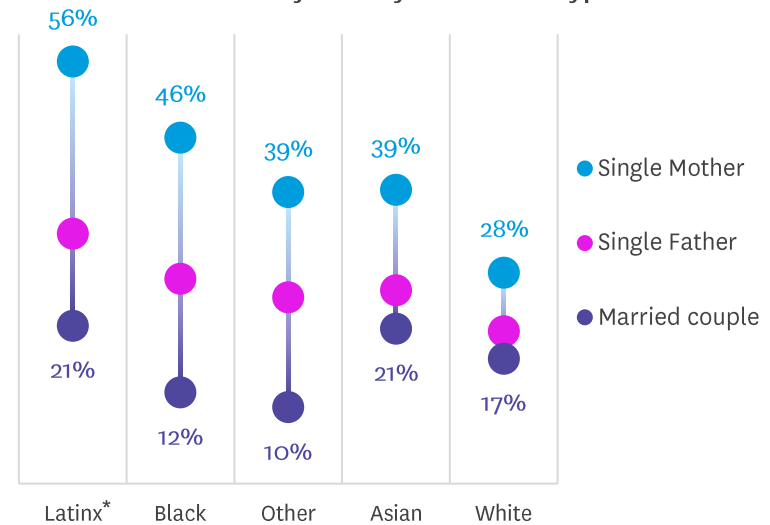


Number of Children in Households Headed by...	2018 (1Y est.)	2017 (1Y est.)	% Change '17 - '18
Married Couples	965,037	966,016	- 0.1%
Single Parents	428,214	550,974	- 9.6%
Grandparents	162,911	168,865	- 3.5%
Other Relatives / Foster Parent	102,095	91,475	+ 11.6%

Racial/Ethnic Disparities by Household Type

Despite positive trends in employment, deep inequalities persist. While married couples may benefit from two potential income-earners providing for their children, single parents are often supporting kids on their own. This results in profound disparities in poverty rates depending on if a child is living in a home headed by a single mother, a single father, or a married couple. The difference is greatest among Black and Latinx families, where child poverty is 46 and 56 percent, respectively, among single mothers but roughly a third of that for Black and Latinx children of married couples.

Child Poverty Rate by Household Type



Race/Ethnicity of Children

*CCC uses the term Latinx for individuals identifying as Latino or Hispanic

The gap is smallest across White families and stands out even more because of the stark income disparity across race/ethnicity. Just 28 percent of White children of single mothers live in poverty, which is half the rate for Latinx children of single mothers.

Source: CCC analysis of data from the American Community Survey's Public Use Microdata Sample files, 2013-2017 estimates.

Children in single parent homes are defined as the biological, adopted, or step children of household heads in family households where no spouse is present.

Indicator	NYC	Change from 2017 ¹	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Population data							
Total Population	8,398,748	-2.6%	1,432,132	2,582,830	1,628,701	2,278,906	476,179
Children under 18 years	1,739,256	-2.8%	355,049	588,823	232,979	458,368	104,037
<i>% of total population</i>	20.7%	0.0	24.8%	22.8%	14.3%	20.1%	21.8%
Teens 15-17 years	267,330	-4.0%	57,254	86,998	33,535	71,143	18,400
<i>% of child population</i>	15.4%	-0.2	16.1%	14.8%	14.4%	15.5%	17.7%
Children 5-14 years	936,858	-2.2%	195,031	314,729	122,674	246,200	58,224
<i>% of child population</i>	53.9%	0.3	54.9%	53.5%	52.7%	53.7%	56.0%
Children under 5 years	535,068	-3.2%	102,764	187,096	76,770	141,025	27,413
<i>% of child population</i>	30.8%	-0.1	28.9%	31.8%	33.0%	30.8%	26.3%
Characteristics of Children							
By Gender							
% Male	51.0%	0.0	50.8%	51.1%	50.3%	51.3%	51.2%
% Female	49.0%	0.0	49.2%	48.9%	49.7%	48.7%	48.8%
By Race/Ethnicity							
% Asian	11.8%	-0.7	3.3%	9.9%	8.5%	23.0%	9.0%
% Black	25.4%	-0.3	34.9%	30.8%	18.0%	18.3%	10.3%
% Latino	35.5%	0.0	61.9%	21.8%	35.7%	34.8%	26.0%
% White, non-Hispanic	25.9%	+0.3	5.5%	35.6%	35.2%	19.0%	50.5%
% Foreign Born	7.5%	-0.6	8.9%	6.0%	6.2%	9.5%	5.4%
% in Married Couple Families	55.8%	+1.4	36.1%	59.5%	59.2%	61.9%	67.7%
% in Male-Householder Families	5.0%	-0.2	8.1%	4.0%	5.4%	4.0%	4.2%
% in Female-Householder Families	23.8%	-2.0	39.4%	22.4%	23.2%	16.2%	13.3%
% in Grandparent Headed Households	9.4%	-0.1	10.7%	9.1%	8.1%	9.9%	8.3%
% Covered by Health Insurance	97.5%	+0.1	98.1%	97.7%	98.2%	96.4%	97.1%
% Covered by Medicaid	52.4%	0.0	70.3%	57.0%	35.6%	46.6%	29.3%
Economic & Housing Conditions							
Poverty Rate							
Total Population	17.3%	-0.7	27.4%	19.0%	15.5%	11.5%	11.4%
Children under 18 years	23.8%	-1.4	38.1%	26.0%	18.9%	14.5%	14.1%
% of Households with Children Receiving SNAP	26.0%	-2.0	45.5%	29.0%	16.1%	16.2%	13.8%
Total Unemployment Rate	5.7%	-0.7	10.1%	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%	4.1%
Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate	63.5%	-0.2	59.8%	63.4%	66.9%	64.3%	58.4%
Median Household Income							
All Households	\$63,799	+2.3%	\$38,467	\$61,220	\$85,066	\$69,320	\$82,166
Families with Children	\$64,818	+9.4%	\$38,793	\$61,822	\$114,544	\$70,550	\$100,977
Median Contract Rent	\$1,337	+3.3%	\$1,088	\$1,331	\$1,673	\$1,482	\$1,153
Share of Households with Severe Rent Burden (>50%)	26.7%	-0.4	33.0%	27.3%	21.8%	26.2%	26.0%
Homeownership Rate	32.8%	+0.1	18.5%	30.6%	24.0%	45.3%	69.2%
Overcrowded Rental Housing	10.6%	-0.5	14.1%	10.5%	6.6%	13.2%	7.9%

Sources & Notes: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2017 and 2018. Year-to-year comparisons of dollar amounts use constant 2018 dollars, using the Consumer Price Index Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS). The race/ethnicity categories of Black and Asian are not disaggregated by Latino ethnicity, so some percent totals may exceed 100 percent.

¹ Changes for data presented as total numbers are percentage increases or decreases; changes for data presented as percentages are percentage point increases or decreases.