



The Ever Changing Face & Role of Americans



[1]As demographic changes take place in the world, we wondered how this might affect people's Personal Safety Nets (PSNs). Two piece of recent research from our friends a [Pew Research](#) [2] caught our eye. Both present new and interesting challenges to individuals and families or communities seeking to build or enhance their personal safety networks.

Dads At Home with the Kids:

The number of fathers who are at [home](#) [3] with their children for any reason has nearly doubled since 1989. It reached its highest point: 2.2 million, in 2010, just after the official end of the 2007 recession. Since that time the number has fallen slightly, driven mainly by declines in unemployment.

Dads self-report feeling isolated, having difficulty connecting with a wider range of others who understand their questions, concerns and needs.

While most stay-at-home parents are still mothers, **fathers represent a growing share of all at-home parents - And yet, at 16% of parents staying home with children, primary care dad is hardly alone.** Interestingly, while roughly a quarter of these stay-at-home fathers (23%) report that they are home mainly because they cannot find a job. **Nearly as many (21%) say the main reason they are home is that they want care for their home or family.** This represents a fourfold increase from 1989, when only 5% of stay-at-home fathers said they were home primarily to care for family.

A rise in the number of stay-at-home fathers is occurring side by side with another important parenting [trend](#) [4] of the past half century: a rising share of fathers who don't live with their children at all. **About 16% of fathers with young children live apart from all of their children.**

As is the case among mothers, stay-at-home fathers are less well-off financially and have lower educational attainment than their working counterparts. **At-home fathers are twice as likely to lack a high school diploma as working fathers (22% vs. 10%). And almost half (47%) of stay-at-home fathers are living in poverty, compared with 8% of working fathers.**

Finally, **stay-at-home fathers also tend to be older than stay-at-home mothers.** Just 24% of stay-at-home dads are less than 35 years of age, but 42% of stay-at-home mothers are. And stay-at-home fathers are twice as likely to be 45 years or older (43% are, compared with 21% of stay-at-home mothers).

Record Share of Americans Have Never Married:



[5]After decades of declining marriage rates and changes in family structure, **the share of American adults who have never been married is at an historic high [6]**. In 2012, one-in-five adults ages 25 and older (about 42 million people) had never been married. Men are more likely than women to have never been married (23% vs. 17% in 2012). And this gender gap has widened since 1960.

The dramatic rise in the share of never-married adults and the emerging gender gap are related to a variety of factors. **Adults are marrying later in life, and the shares of adults cohabiting and raising children outside of marriage have increased significantly.** The median age at first marriage is now 27 for women and 29 for men, up from 20 for women and 23 for men in 1960. About a quarter (24%) of never-married young adults ages 25 to 34 are living with a partner.

This trend cuts across all major racial and ethnic groups but has been more pronounced among blacks. Fully 36% of blacks ages 25 and older had never been married in 2012, up from 9% in 1960. For whites and Hispanics, the share of never-married adults has roughly doubled over that same period. In 2012, 16% of whites and 26% of Hispanics had never been married.

Shifting public attitudes, hard economic times and changing demographic patterns all contribute to the rising share of never-married adults.



[7]Today's young adults are slow to tie the knot, and a rising share may end up not getting married at all. **When today's young adults reach their mid-40's to mid-50's, a record high share (25%) is likely to have never been married.**

And what about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults? Survey [findings](#) [6] showed 3.5% of adults self-identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and **in households identified as LGBT, over 80% are cohabiting partners, while due to the fact that only 19 states recognize marriage between same-sex partners (as of this research), less than 16% are married partners.**

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[2] <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/11/6-demographic-trends-shaping-the-u-s-and-the-world-in-2019/>

[3] <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/12/fathers-day-facts/>

[4] <https://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/a-fathers-impact-on-child-development/>

[5] <https://personalsafetynets.org/file/193>

[6] <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/04/25/the-changing-profile-of-unmarried-parents/>

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