

# The Miami Herald

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## Single dads raising children a growing group, census says

BY GENARO G. ARMAS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More fathers are going solo in raising kids.

It's a change that single fathers say shows greater acceptance by American families and courts that sometimes the best place for children is with Dad.

In about one household in 45, the father raises the children without a mother. Single fathers say the numbers help tear down a long-standing conception that single fathers tend to abandon their kids, or at least not take as good care of them as single moms, said Vince Regan, an Internet consultant from Grand Rapids, Mich., who is raising five kids on his own.

"In time, it goes a long way to helping society think that single fathers do help their kids and want to be part of their lives," he said.

Thomas Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, attributed the rise in single dads to a variety of reasons, including more judges awarding custody to fathers in divorce cases and more women choosing their jobs over family life.

The percentage increase in

### MR. MOMS

The 2000 census found:

- ▶ In 2.2 million households, fathers raise their children without a mother. That's about one household in 45.
- ▶ The number of single-father households rose 62 percent in 10 years.
- ▶ The portion of households headed by fathers with children living there doubled in a decade, to 2 percent.

Associated Press

single-father households far outpaced other living arrangements. Households where both parents raise the children increased by 6 percent, and single-mother homes were up by 25 percent.

Father-headed households are still only a small percentage. Married couples with children make up 24 percent of all households. They were 39 percent of all homes in 1970. Single-mother homes made up 7 percent of households in 2000,

up from 5 percent over 30 years ago.

Single fathers "need help just as much as single mothers," said Darryl Pure, a psychologist from Chicago who has had sole custody of three children for four years, but the men have a harder time asking.

"There's often a fear among single fathers that if the mother steps in, she'll regain custody, so single, custodial fathers don't go after child support as much as single mothers do, and I know a lot of fathers that are really impoverished," Pure said.

The Census Bureau counts single fathers in a category that could allow other adults, such as the child's grandparents, to be present, but bureau analysts said research shows that most of the men in the category are raising a child alone.

The bureau released basic figures for 21 states and the District of Columbia this week on topics ranging from age to home ownership. Other states are scheduled to be released later this month.

According to 2000 census data being released today, some of the biggest increase in single-father households occurred in southern and western states: up 126 percent in Nevada, and 74 percent in Delaware.

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Friday, May 18, 2001

## Mister Mom a familiar face

**Census • Sharp increase in single fathers raising kids could help change a stereotype, men say.**

By **GENARO C. ARMAS**  
The Associated Press

### WASHINGTON

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The 2000 census found:

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- The number of single-father households rose 62 percent in 10 years.
- The portion of households headed by fathers with children living there doubled in a decade, to 2 percent.

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**More online:**  
Census Bureau: [www.census.gov/ResponsibleSingleFathers](http://www.census.gov/ResponsibleSingleFathers)  
[www.singlefather.org/](http://www.singlefather.org/)  
Family Research Council: [www.frc.org/](http://www.frc.org/)

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Thomas Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, attributed the rise in single dads to a variety of reasons, including more judges awarding custody to fathers in divorce cases and more women choosing their jobs over family life.

The percentage increase in single-father households far outpaced other living arrangements. The "Ozzie and Harriett" household, where both parents raise the children like on the old TV show, increased by 6 percent, and single-mother homes were up by 25 percent.

Father-headed households are still only a small percentage. Married couples with children make up 24 percent of all households. They were 39 percent of all homes in 1970. Single-mother homes made up 7 percent of households in 2000, up from 5 percent over 30 years ago.

Single fathers "need help just as much as single mothers," said Darryl Pure, a psychologist from Chicago who has had sole custody of his three children for four years, but they have a harder time asking.

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single fathers that if the mother steps in, she'll regain custody, so single, custodial fathers don't go after child support as much as single mothers do, and I know a lot of fathers that are really impoverished," Pure said.

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## Increase seen in single-father homes

◆◆ MORE: [www.singlefather.org](http://www.singlefather.org)

WASHINGTON (AP) — More fathers are going solo in raising kids. It's a change that single fathers say shows greater acceptance by American families and courts that sometimes the best place for children is with Dad.

The 2000 census found:

- In 2.2 million households, fathers raise their children without a mother. That's about one household in 45.

- The number of single-father households rose 62 percent in 10 years.

- The portion of the country's total 105.5 million households that were headed by single fathers with children living there doubled in a decade, to 2 percent.

Single fathers say the numbers help tear down a long-standing conception that single fathers tend to abandon their kids, or at least not take as good

care of them as single moms, said Vince Regan, an Internet consultant from Grand Rapids, Mich., who is raising five kids on his own. "In time, it goes a long way to helping society think that single fathers do help their kids and want to be part of their lives," he said.

Thomas Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, attributed the rise in single dads to a variety of reasons, including more judges awarding custody to fathers in divorce cases and more women choosing their jobs over family life.

The percentage increase in single-father households far outpaced other living arrangements. The "Ozzie and Harriett" household, where both parents raise the children like on the old TV show, increased by 6 percent, and single-mother homes were up by 25 percent.

Father-headed households are still only a small percentage.

Married couples with children make up 24 percent of all households — whether family or non-family. They were 39 percent of all homes in 1970. Single-mother homes made up 7 percent of all households in 2000, up from 5 percent over 30 years ago.

Looked at another way, single father homes made up 3 percent of the country's 71 million family households in 2000. Family households are those in which one or more people are related to the householder.

Single fathers "need help just as much as single mothers," said Darryl Pure, a psychologist from Chicago who has had sole custody of his three children for four years, but they have a harder time asking.

"There's often a fear among single fathers that if the mother steps in, she'll regain custody, so single, custodial fathers don't go after child support as much as single mothers do, and I know a lot of fathers that are

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According to 2000 census data being released Friday, some of the biggest increase in single-father households occurred in southern and western states: up 126 percent in Nevada, and 74 percent in Delaware.

## More U.S. homes led by single fathers

■ Increase found by census is attributed, in part, to more judges awarding custody to men

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More fathers are going solo in raising kids.

The 2000 census found that the number of single-father households rose 62 percent in 10 years, and that fathers raise their children without a mother in about 2.2 million homes. That's about one household in 45.

According to 2000 census data released today, households that were headed by single fathers with children living there made up 2 percent of the country's 105.5 million households.

Thomas Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, attributed the rise in single fathers to a variety of reasons, including more judges awarding custody to fathers in divorce cases and more women choosing their jobs over family life.

Single fathers say the numbers help tear down a longstanding conception that they tend to abandon their children, or at least not take as good care of them as single mothers.

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