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Living Arrangements and Housing

The impact of family

On this page: Children’s living arrangements with parents and grandparents, and family housing circumstances

- Children in single-parent households are likelier to live in poverty, have fewer relationships with male role models, have less time to interact with working parents, and have lower academic standing.
- Grandparents raising their grandchildren often need help – such as child care, support groups, and physical and mental health services – managing their responsibilities and maintaining a stable home environment.
- Low-income families are likelier to rent their homes, missing the financial benefits of home ownership. Children of renters are likelier to experience destabilization caused by high housing costs, overcrowding, and poor conditions.

| | —Berks County— | | —Pennsylvania— | |
|--|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Living Arrangements | | | | |
| • Own children under age 18 living with 2 parents | 65,525 | — | 2,026,701 | — |
| • Own children under age 18 living with mother only | 15,781 | — | 586,266 | — |
| • Own children under age 18 living with father only | 5,737 | — | 161,604 | — |
| • Own children under age 6 living with 2 parents | 19,850 | — | 616,445 | — |
| • Own children under age 6 living with mother only | 4,891 | — | 175,030 | — |
| • Own children under age 6 living with father only | 1,913 | — | 54,440 | — |
| Grandparents | | | | |
| • Grandparents responsible for their own grandchildren and living with them | 2,378 | 40.8% | 80,423 | 39.2% |
| • Grandparents responsible for their own grandchildren for five or more years, now living with them | 855 | 14.7% | 31,622 | 15.4% |
| Housing | | | | |
| • Owner-occupied households with own children | 34,027 | 24.0% | 1,068,530 | 22.4% |
| • Owner-occupied, single-mother households with own children | 3,296 | 2.3% | 118,865 | 2.5% |
| • Renter-occupied households with own children | 10,804 | 7.6% | 369,049 | 7.7% |
| • Renter-occupied single-mother households with own children | 4,587 | 3.2% | 172,504 | 3.6% |
| Neighborhoods | | | | |
| • Children under age 18 living in neighborhoods where 20% or more of the population is below poverty | 15,771 | 17.2% | 448,161 | 15.3% |

All data, U.S. Census of Population and Housing. Published by Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, a strong, effective and trusted voice to improve the health, early education, and well-being of the Commonwealth’s children, 1-800-257-2030; www.papartnerships.org. See www.papartnerships.org for research citations. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, www.aecf.org.