

Mapping New England

Share of Families with Children under Age 18 That Are Single-Parent Households, by County

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 decennial census reports 34.7 million families nationwide with children under the age of 18, of which 32.1 percent (11.2 million) were single-parent households. Of the 1.6 million New England families with children under age 18, nearly 30.9 percent (490,000) were single-parent households. Although a high share of single-parent families may be seen in urban areas, there are similarly high concentrations in rural areas of Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

Single-parent heads of households are mostly female, but differences exist between urban and rural counties. Counties with the largest shares of single-father households tend to be in northern New England, with the highest in Vermont's Grand Isle County and Maine's Hancock and Oxford counties.

Note: "Family households" consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. They do not yet include same-sex married couples. The share of families with children under age 18 that are single-parent households is the sum of such households that were reported as "male householders, no wife present" and "female householder, no husband present" in the 2010 decennial census—divided by the universe of such households.

Map: Robert Clifford, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

