



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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- **National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: Changes in the family environment** 2
Not only has separation and divorce among parents increased in frequency over the past few decades, but it is occurring earlier and earlier in the lives of children, according to new information from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth.

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Work arrangements in the 1990s

Released today, this publication uses data from the 1991 and 1995 Survey of Work Arrangements to provide in-depth statistical information and analysis on the hours people work, the prevalence of alternative work patterns such as flexitime and home-based work, and the work schedules of families and students. In addition, it looks at wage and non-wage benefits, unionization, job permanence and employer size. Also briefly examined are work hour and income preferences, self-employment, and provincial and sub-provincial data.

Employers, unions, labour market analysts, policy makers and organizations interested in work arrangements will want this comprehensive source of information.

Work arrangements in the 1990s (71-535-MPB, no. 8, \$53) is now on sale. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Ernest B. Akyeamong from Labour and Household Survey Analysis Division at (613) 951-4624 or Marie-Paule Robert, at 951-4628.



MAJOR RELEASES

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: Changes in the family environment

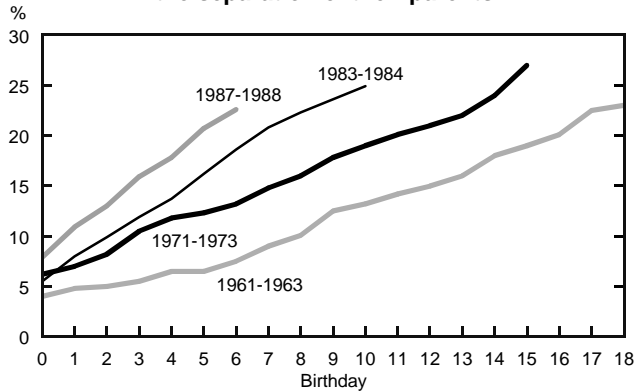
Not only has separation and divorce among parents increased in frequency over the past few decades, but it is occurring earlier and earlier in the lives of children, according to new information from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY).

Data from the NLSCY, as well as Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, confirm that over the last three decades, children are experiencing their parents' separation at an increasingly younger age.

For example, one in every five children born between 1961 and 1963 had to deal with their parents' separation by the time they were 16 years old. Since then, the age of children at the time of their parents' separation has progressively declined.

One in five children born between 1971 and 1973 had seen their parents separate by the time they reached 11 years of age. By the time they were just over six years old, one in five children born in 1983 and 1984 had separated parents. And the same proportion of children born in 1987 and 1988 were just under five years old when their parents' union dissolved.

Cumulated percentage of children tracked at each birthday, by selected cohorts, who experienced the separation of their parents



Sources: 1961-1963: Family Survey of 1984
 1971-1973: General Social Survey of 1990
 1983-1984: NLSCY, 1994-95 cohort 10-11 years old
 1987-1988: NLSCY, 1994-95 cohort 6-7 years old

Many studies have shown that over the past few years, more and more children are born to parents

Note to readers

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), developed jointly by Human Resources Canada and Statistics Canada, is a comprehensive survey which will follow the development of children in Canada and paint a picture of their lives. The survey aims to measure the incidence of various childhood risks and protective factors and the impact they have on children's development.

In late 1994 and early 1995, the parents of approximately 23,000 children up to the age of 11 were interviewed. They shared information not only about their children, but also about themselves and the children's families, schools and neighbourhoods. The survey will collect information on these same children every two years as they move into youth and adulthood.

The first NLSCY report, "Growing up in Canada" released on November 20, 1996, focused on the children themselves. The second release on April 17, 1997, provided information on their school environment. This third release portrays the children's family environment since birth.

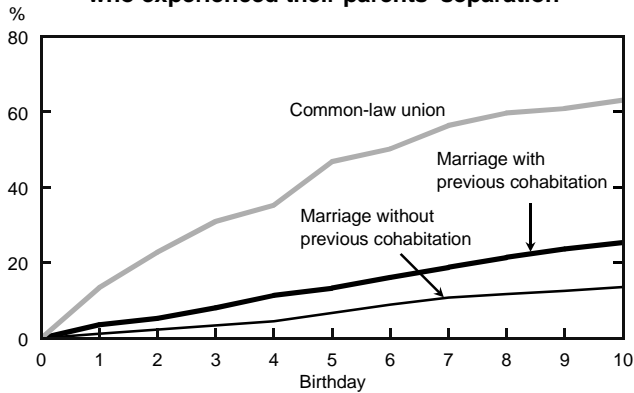
who are not married, resulting in a slight decline in the proportion of children born to two-parent families. Still, in 1993-94, the vast majority of children (91%) were born to two-parent families, down only slightly from 94% in 1983-84.

Common-law unions less stable

NLSCY data suggest that common-law unions are a less stable family environment for children than marriages. The rate of separation among parents is much higher for common-law couples than for married couples.

By the time they are 10 years old, 63% of children with parents living in a common-law union have seen their parents separate, compared with only 14% of children whose parents were married and had not previously lived common-law.

Cumulated percentage of children aged 10 and 11, tracked by type of parents' relationship, who experienced their parents' separation



Source: NLSCY Cycle 1, 1994-95.

Common-law unions more stable in Quebec than in other provinces

The 1996 Census clearly indicated that common-law couples are most prevalent in Quebec. Census data showed that one in four families in Quebec lived common-law, compared with one in seven families across Canada.

In Quebec, in 1994-95, 27% of children aged 11 and under were born to common-law couples. Only 7% of children in the same age group were born to common-law parents in Ontario and the Prairies, as were 8% in Atlantic Canada and 9% in British Columbia.

However, NLSCY data indicate that common-law unions in Quebec may provide a more stable environment for child-nurturing than do such unions in the rest of Canada. In 1994-95, by the age of six, 37% of children raised in common-law families in Quebec had seen their parents separate, compared with 61% in Ontario, 60% in British Columbia, 56% in the Prairie provinces and 44% in Atlantic Canada.

Custody arrangements vary according to duration of separation

NLSCY data show that in 1994-95, custody was decided out of court for just over half (53%) of the children of separated couples. Custody was decided by court order for 37% of the children, and 10% were awaiting a court decision.

However, these figures varied depending on the time that had elapsed since the separation. Among children whose parents had been separated for a year or less, decisions on custody were made out of court for 73% of them. Out-of-court decisions were made for only

47% of the children whose parents had been separated for more than a year.

Financial issues for children in separated families a growing concern

The financial situation of children in separated families is a growing concern among Canadians. NLSCY data show that about one in three children whose parents have separated live in a situation where no financial support agreement is in place.

Court orders on custody do not automatically ensure that agreements are reached on financial support for the children. Nearly one in five children whose custody was decided by court order are not covered by a financial support agreement. No financial support agreement is in place for 45% of the children whose custody was decided out of court.

Financial support for children with separated parents, by type of custody agreement

Type of custody agreement	No financial support agreement	Private financial support agreement	Court-ordered financial support agreement (or pending court decision)
	%		
Court-ordered (or pending court decision)	19	16	65
Private	45	45	10

Source: NLSCY Cycle 1, 1994-95.

When financial support agreements have been made by court order or privately, support payments are received regularly or with occasional delays for 6 of 10 children.

Regular financial payments are received for 76% of children whose parents reached their own financial arrangements, but only 53% of children for whom financial support has been ordered by the court receive it regularly. In addition, 31% of court-ordered support payments were in arrears for at least six months.

Regularity of child support payments, by type of financial support agreement

Type of financial support agreement	Payments received regularly or occasionally delayed	Irregular payments	No payment for at least 6 months
	%		
Court-ordered	53	15	31
Private	76	9	15

Source: NLSCY Cycle 1, 1994-95.

Most children live with their mother after separation

Most children (86%) lived with their mother after separation. Only 7% lived with their father, about 6% lived under a joint custody arrangement, and the remaining (less than 1%) lived under another type of custody agreement.

When no joint custody agreement existed, 58% of children saw their non-custodial parent regularly (at least once a month).

Child's contact with non-custodial parent, by type of financial support agreement

Type of financial support agreement	Regular, weekly contact	Regular biweekly or monthly contact	Irregular contact, contact by telephone or letter, or no contact
	%		
None	31	18	52
Private	52	23	25
Court-ordered	25	26	49
Total	35	23	43

Source: NLSCY Cycle 1, 1994-95.

At first glance, the likelihood of children maintaining regular contact with a non-custodial parent appeared to

be linked to the type of financial arrangements between the parents.

For example, 75% of children whose parents had a private agreement for financial support in 1994-95 saw their non-custodial parent regularly (at least once a month), compared with just 51% of children whose parents had a court-ordered financial arrangement. About 49% of children whose parents had no financial agreement saw their non-custodial parent regularly.

However, all the characteristics of the court orders that surround financial agreements are not known, and they could include restrictions on visits in some cases.

In addition to the custody information released today, Statistics Canada is also announcing the availability of the data from the Yukon and Northwest Territories sample of the NLSCY. The data for this sample of children were collected in 1994. The questionnaires were very similar to those used in the provincial collection. The data were collected on behalf of Statistics Canada by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics and the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics. The sample includes 1,059 children from the Yukon and 1,345 from the Northwest Territories. For more information on the data now available from the both territories, contact Jean Pignal (613-951-3317; pignjea@statcan.ca)

For further information about the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, contact Sylvie Michaud (613-951-9482; michsylv@statcan.ca) or Yvan Clermont (613 951-3326; cleryva@statcan.ca) at Statistics Canada, Allen Zeesman (819-994-3039; allen.zeesman@spg.org) at Human Resources Development Canada. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Business services industries 1995

Data for 1995 on travel agencies and tour operators, parking lots and garages, and other services (e.g., auctioneers, automobile associations, press clipping services, etc.) are now available.

These data provide information such as revenue, salaries and wages, profit margin, the percentage distribution of revenue by type of service, expenditures and client base for selected industries.

For further information on this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306), Services Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, March 1998
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
 (Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

Grain trade of Canada, 1996-97
Catalogue number 22-201-XPB
 (Canada: \$0/\$44; outside Canada: US\$0/US\$44).

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, March 1998
Catalogue number 41-011-XPB
 (Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Work arrangements in the 1990s, May 1998
Catalogue number 71-535-MPB
 (Canada: \$53; outside Canada: US\$53).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Statistics Canada

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