

District of Columbia **STATE DATA CENTER**  
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## Families with Children in the District of Columbia and Metro Region

### Introduction

The U.S. Census recognizes three types of families: 1) Married couple family households, 2) Male householder, no wife present family household, and 3) Female householder, no husband present family household. When examining the characteristics of the three types of families, we can also explore the living arrangements of children in these households. This report will examine the proportion of households that are comprised of families with children and specific characteristics of those children in the District of Columbia as well as the DC Metro Region using the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates.

### Household and Family Types

A family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in tabulations. Thus, the number of family households is equal to the number of families, but family households may include more members than do families. A household can contain only one family for purposes of tabulations. Not all households

contain families since a household may be comprised of a group of unrelated people or of one person living alone – these are called nonfamily households.

In 2012, according to the ACS, 42.2 percent (112,493) of all households in the District of Columbia were family households.

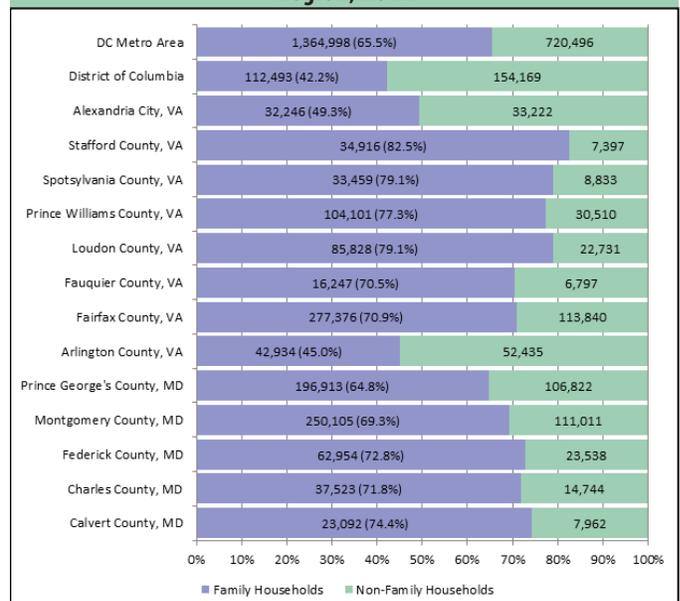
In comparison, the DC metro region,

which includes the District, is comprised of 65.5 percent (1,364,998) family households. When the District is compared to counties in the DC metropolitan region, Stafford County, Virginia has the largest percentage of family households with 82.5 percent (34,916), whereas the District of Columbia has the smallest percentage of family households with only 42.2 percent. Montgomery County, Maryland has the largest number of overall households in the region with a total of 361,116 households in 2012 and also has the largest number of family households with 250,105 (69.3 percent) (Figure 1).

### Family Households with Own Children

Family households can be further broken down by those that contain their own children under 18 years of age and those who do not have own children in the household. In 2012, 41.4 percent (46,568) of the family households in DC contain the householders own children under 18

**Figure 1. Family vs Non-Family Households in the DC Metro Region, 2012**



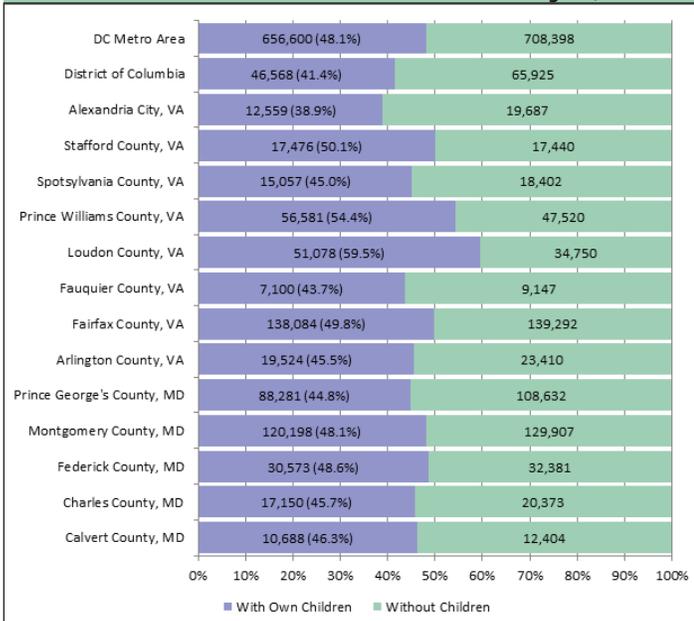
Note: Counties with population less than 65,000 are not shown.

Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates

years. For the majority of the regions in 2012, family households with own children represent less than half of all the family households. The exceptions were Loudon County, Virginia where family households with own children represented 59.5 percent (51,078), Prince Williams County, Virginia with 54.4% (56,581), and Stafford County, Virginia with

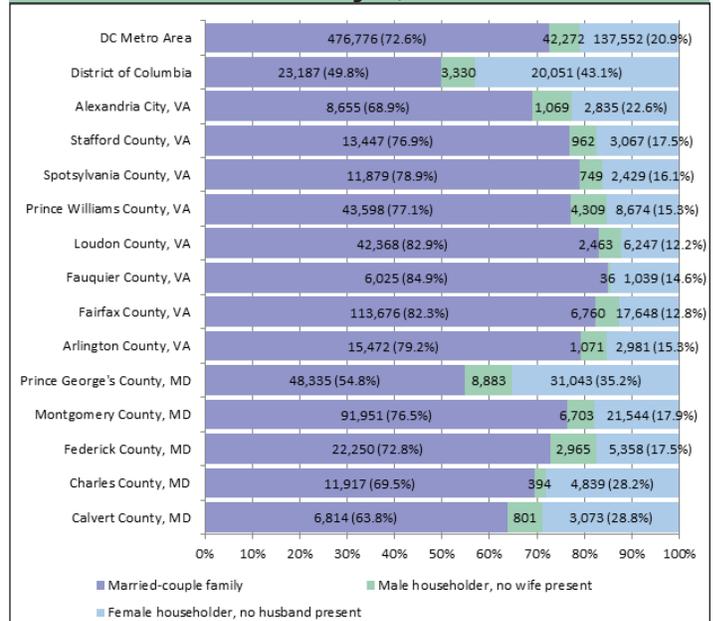
**Own Child** – A never-married child under 18 years who is a son or daughter by birth, a stepchild, or an adopted child of the householder.

**Figure 2. Family households with own children vs Family households without children in the DC Metro Region, 2012**



Note: Counties with population less than 65,000 are not shown.  
Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates

**Figure 3. Family Types with own children under 18 years, DC Metro Region, 2012**



Note: Counties with population less than 65,000 are not shown.  
Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates

**Table 1. Family Types with own children under 18 years, DC Metro Region, 2012**

Jurisdiction	Married-couple family		Male householder, no wife present		Female householder, no husband present	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DC Metro Area	476,776	72.6%	42,272	6.4%	137,552	20.9%
District of Columbia	23,187	49.8%	3,330	7.2%	20,051	43.1%
Calvert County, MD	6,814	63.8%	801	7.5%	3,073	28.8%
Charles County, MD	11,917	69.5%	394	2.3%	4,839	28.2%
Frederick County, MD	22,250	72.8%	2,965	9.7%	5,358	17.5%
Montgomery County, MD	91,951	76.5%	6,703	5.6%	21,544	17.9%
Prince George's County, MD	48,335	54.8%	8,883	10.1%	31,043	35.2%
Arlington County, VA	15,472	79.2%	1,071	5.5%	2,981	15.3%
Fairfax County, VA	113,676	82.3%	6,760	4.9%	17,648	12.8%
Fauquier County, VA	6,025	84.9%	36	0.5%	1,039	14.6%
Loudon County, VA	42,368	82.9%	2,463	4.8%	6,247	12.2%
Prince Williams County, VA	43,598	77.1%	4,309	7.6%	8,674	15.3%
Spotsylvania County, VA	11,879	78.9%	749	5.0%	2,429	16.1%
Stafford County, VA	13,447	76.9%	962	5.5%	3,067	17.5%
Alexandria City, VA	8,655	68.9%	1,069	8.5%	2,835	22.6%

Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates

**Married-Couple Family** – A family in which the householder and his or her spouse are listed as members of the same household.

Other Family:

**Male Householder, No Wife Present** – A family with a male householder and no spouse of householder present.

**Female Householder, No Husband Present** – A family with a female householder and no spouse of householder present.

50.1 percent (17,476). The DC Metro Region, as a whole, had 656,600 (48.1%) family households with own children in 2012 and 708,398 (51.9 percent) family households without own children (Figure 2).

**Family Households by Type**

Families are classified by type as either a “married-couple family” or “other family” according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives.

Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage

**41.4% of DC family households had own children**

certificates for same-sex couples. Same-sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption.

## 72.6% of DC families with own children were married-couples

When examining family types with own children under 18 years of age, the District of Columbia had the lowest percentage of married couple families with own children, with 49.8 percent (23,187), compared to the DC Metro Region as a whole and any of the other subareas of the region (Table 1, Figure 3). Fauquier County, Virginia has the largest percentage of married couple families with own children under 18, with 84.9% (6,025), in 2012. The District of Columbia also had the largest percentage of female householder, no husband present families with own children under 18, with 43.1% (20,051) in 2012. Prince George's County, Maryland has the largest percentage of male householder, no wife present families with own children under 18, with 10.1 percent (8,883).

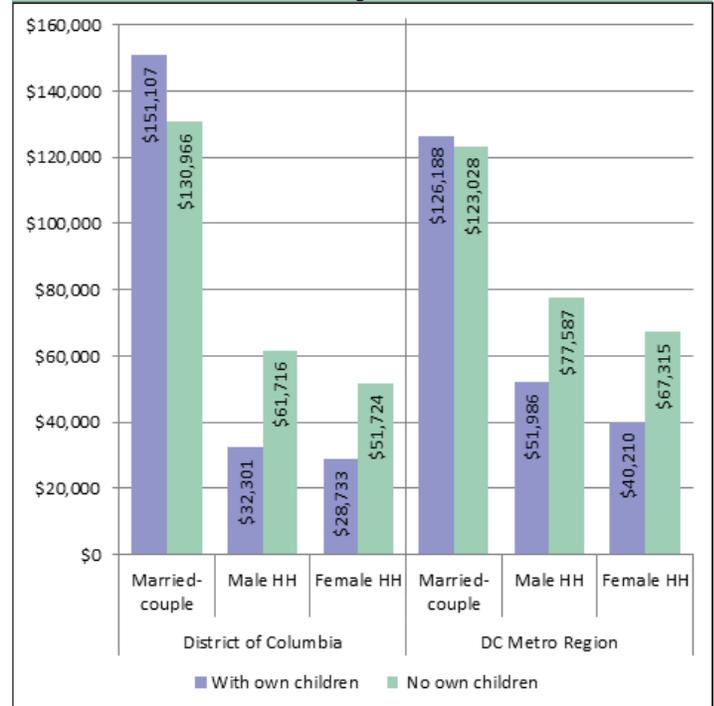
### Income of Family Types with and without Own Children under 18 years

The median family income divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median income and one-half above the median. Median income is a good indicator for the financial health of families with and without own children under 18 years of age. In every county and city in the DC Metro Region, regardless if the families does or does not have own children, married-couple families have higher incomes than male householders, with no wife present and female householders, with no husband present (Table 2). This can be attributed to the fact that in most married-couple families, both husband and wife are likely in the labor force, contributing to the overall family income, whereas, families where a spouse is not present are relying on one main household worker.

In 2012, in the District of Columbia and in the DC Metro Region as a whole, married-couple families with own children had the highest median family income with \$151,107 in the District and \$126,188 in the region (Figure

4). In contrast, both male and female householders without own children, for the District (Male HH: \$61,716, Female HH: \$51,724) and the region (Male HH: \$77,587, Female HH: \$67,315), experienced higher median family incomes than their counterparts with own children. For both DC and the metro region, Male householders, with no wife present, for both those with and without children, had higher incomes than their female counterparts (Figure 4). For the region in 2012, Arlington County, Virginia had the highest median family income for both married-couple families with own children (\$161,634) and married-couple families with no children (\$151,464) (Table 2). Loudoun County, Virginia had the highest for male householder, no wife present with own children (\$89,515). Stafford County, Virginia had the

**Figure 4. Median Family Income, District of Columbia and DC Metro Region, 2012**



Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates

**Table 2. Median Family Income, Family Types with own children under 18 years, DC Metro Region, 2012**

Jurisdiction	Married-couple family		Male householder, no wife present		Female householder, no husband present	
	With own children under 18 years	No own children under 18 years	With own children under 18 years	No own children under 18 years	With own children under 18 years	No own children under 18 years
DC Metro Area	\$126,188	\$123,028	\$51,986	\$77,587	\$40,210	\$67,315
District of Columbia	\$151,107	\$130,966	\$32,301	\$61,716	\$28,733	\$51,724
Calvert County, MD	\$114,873	\$113,039	\$42,583	\$70,900	\$40,236	\$95,972
Charles County, MD	\$119,492	\$113,899	\$47,188	\$105,446	\$47,228	\$73,185
Frederick County, MD	\$111,248	\$96,723	\$44,538	\$84,104	\$30,961	\$62,718
Montgomery County, MD	\$136,938	\$132,124	\$53,108	\$77,959	\$48,047	\$77,376
Prince George's County, MD	\$100,729	\$106,898	\$42,329	\$68,593	\$41,736	\$69,315
Arlington County, VA	\$161,634	\$151,464	\$61,689	\$76,218	\$40,299	\$56,237
Fairfax County, VA	\$135,971	\$142,259	\$87,555	\$96,081	\$48,353	\$77,735
Fauquier County, VA	\$108,444	\$105,921	\$24,052	\$103,838	\$26,489	\$39,606
Loudoun County, VA	\$144,104	\$138,196	\$89,515	\$73,824	\$48,347	\$82,596
Prince Williams County, VA	\$113,096	\$118,514	\$41,011	\$78,084	\$48,495	\$66,111
Spotsylvania County, VA	\$100,742	\$95,421	\$63,670	\$60,781	\$38,583	\$42,338
Stafford County, VA	\$123,878	\$128,788	\$51,544	\$114,111	\$46,003	\$62,556
Alexandria City, VA	\$109,414	\$129,045	\$53,194	\$66,074	\$37,074	\$65,208

Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates

highest for male householder, no wife present with no children (\$114,111). Prince William County, Virginia has the highest median family income for female householder, no husband present with own children (\$48,495). Calvert County, Maryland had the highest for female householder, no husband present with no children (\$95,972).

When examining the median family income for married-couple families, in most cases, families with own children under 18 had higher median family incomes than those with no children. When examining the median family income of male householder, no wife present, the majority of those with no children had higher median family incomes, except for Loudon County, Virginia with a \$15,691 difference, and Spotsylvania County, Virginia with a \$2,889 difference. In every case, female householder, with no husband present, those with no children under 18 had higher median family incomes than those with children (Table 2).

### Selected Characteristics of Children Living in Family Households, DC and DC Metro Region

What follows are highlights about characteristics of children living in family households in DC and regionally in 2012, for further information, please refer to Table 3.

- In 2012, 50.1 percent of the children living in married-couple family households in the District were under 6 years of age, compared to 34.7 percent regionally.
- In the District, 46.4 percent of children in married-couple family households were white, while 34.3% were black, compared to the DC Metro region where 57.8 percent were white and 17.7 percent were black.
- Meanwhile, in male householder, no wife present family households in the District, 73.4 percent of children were black, while 15.2 percent were white. In female householder, no husband present family

households in the District, 85.0 percent of children black, while 7.8 percent were white.

- In 2012, Hispanic children of any race represented 15.5 percent of children in married-couple family households, 14.8 percent in male householder families, and 12.1 percent in female householder families.
- The largest percentage of children living in households receiving public assistance in the District can be found in female householder, no husband present family households in 2012, where 66.8 percent of these households received assistance. Compared to only 15.9 percent for married-couple families and 22.0 percent for male householder families.
- An estimated 43.8 percent of children living in female householder families were living in poverty in 2012, compared to 30.2 percent of these family types regionally.
- The majority of children living in married-couple families in the District lived in owner-occupied housing (64.3 percent), compared to children of single parents (male householder: 35.9 percent, female householder 21.5 percent) in 2012.

**Table 3. Characteristics of Children in the District and DC Metro Area, 2012**

Categories	District of Columbia			DC Metro Region		
	In married-couple family household	In male householder, no wife present	In female householder, no husband present	In married-couple family household	In male householder, no wife present	In female householder, no husband present
Children under 18 years in households	48,329	7,975	52,180	966,737	85,668	293,759
<b>AGE</b>						
Under 6 years	50.1%	42.1%	35.4%	34.7%	39.3%	33.1%
6 to 11 years	28.8%	22.1%	31.0%	33.4%	28.7%	31.6%
12 to 17 years	21.2%	35.7%	33.6%	31.9%	32.0%	35.4%
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN</b>						
White	46.4%	15.2%	7.8%	57.8%	43.4%	28.5%
Black or African American	34.3%	73.4%	85.0%	17.7%	29.7%	51.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
Asian	3.7%	0.9%	0.3%	11.4%	5.5%	2.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race	8.2%	8.1%	4.1%	4.9%	13.7%	9.4%
Two or more races	7.2%	2.3%	2.7%	7.8%	7.4%	7.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	15.5%	14.8%	12.1%	17.1%	32.4%	21.4%

**Table 3 conti. Characteristics of Children in the District and DC Metro Area, 2012**

Categories	District of Columbia			DC Metro Region		
	In married-couple family household	In male householder, no wife present	In female householder, no husband present	In married-couple family household	In male householder, no wife present	In female householder, no husband present
<b>RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLDER</b>						
Own child (biological, step or adopted)	92.3%	74.8%	77.4%	94.4%	79.6%	81.4%
Grandchild	4.5%	13.8%	15.5%	3.8%	7.5%	12.4%
Other relatives	2.5%	10.2%	6.3%	1.4%	10.0%	5.2%
Foster child or other unrelated child	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%	0.4%	2.9%	1.0%
<b>PRESENCE OF OTHER ADULTS</b>						
Unmarried partner of householder present	(X)	35.2%	9.7%	(X)	41.6%	13.6%
<b>DISABILITY STATUS</b>						
Civilian children under 18 years in households	48,329	7,975	52,180	966,737	85,668	293,759
With any disability	2.4%	4.3%	8.1%	2.2%	2.2%	4.3%
<b>SCHOOL ENROLLMENT</b>						
Children 3 to 17 years in households	35,032	6,508	43,167	801,210	69,672	249,472
Enrolled in school	32,972	6,098	40,529	740,143	60,151	222,243
Public	68.8%	85.3%	87.1%	79.7%	88.7%	90.1%
Private	31.2%	14.7%	12.9%	20.3%	11.3%	9.9%
Not enrolled in school	2,060	410	2,638	61,067	9,521	27,229
<b>PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>						
Children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/ SNAP benefits	15.9%	22.0%	66.8%	8.2%	22.5%	38.7%
<b>POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>						
Children in households for whom poverty status is determined	48,080	7,885	51,824	963,955	83,906	291,324
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	7.6%	28.0%	43.8%	4.4%	12.8%	30.2%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level	92.4%	72.0%	56.2%	95.6%	87.2%	69.8%
<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>						
Children under 18 years in occupied housing units	48,329	7,975	52,180	966,737	85,668	293,759
In owner-occupied housing units	64.3%	35.9%	21.5%	74.5%	45.5%	35.0%
In renter-occupied housing units	35.7%	64.1%	78.5%	25.5%	54.5%	65.0%

Source: 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates



For more information contact:

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