

These Traditional Nuclear Family Statistics Will Shock You

The number of homes in the U.S. with traditional “nuclear families”—married parents with children—is at the lowest point it has ever been, according to recently released data.

According to statistics compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, among the 130 million households in the country, only 17.8% include married couples with kids under 18 years old, which is down from more than 40% in 1970, stated a report from the Daily Mail.

There are currently only 23.1 million American homes with “nuclear families,” the fewest since 1959. Much of the staggering decrease has been credited to the COVID-19 pandemic, a trend in delayed marriage, and the ongoing decline in the birth rate.

For context, in the 1950s and '60s, on average, women married at 20.4 years old. Nowadays, the average age a woman pursues marriage is 28.6 years old. The average age men marry in 2021 is 30.4 years old.

The birth rate has significantly declined from 2019 into 2021. The U.S. fertility rate decreased from 58.5 births per 1,000 in 2019 to 55.4 per 1,000 in the second quarter of 2021.

Additionally, Americans are increasingly living alone, with more than 37 million adults living by themselves in early 2021, up from the 33 million in 2011. In 1960, for example, 87% of adults lived with a spouse.

Anything Else?

Elon Musk, the CEO and founder of Tesla, said Monday

civilization will “crumble” if people don’t begin having more children, raising concerns about the steadily declining birth rate.

“I think one of the biggest risks to civilization is the low birth rate and the rapidly declining birth rate,” he said during the *Wall Street Journal*’s CEO Council. “And yet, so many people, including smart people, think that there are too many people in the world and think that the population is growing out of control.”

“It’s completely the opposite,” Musk continued. “Please look at the numbers. If people don’t have more children, civilization is going to crumble, mark my words.”

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