Statistical Standard for Family Type

Rationale

Family type is a key variable for determining the demographic characteristics of a population.

Five classifications are included in the scope of this statistical standard:
- family type classification
- family nucleus containing birth/biological, adopted children classification
- family nucleus containing step children classification
- family nucleus containing grandparent(s) in a parent role classification
- family nucleus containing other children classification

Definition

The 'family type classification' is a derived variable that classifies family nuclei according to the presence or absence of couples, parents and children.

All four of the classifications that identify types of children included in a family nucleus, are derived variables. These identify the types of children or parents in a family nucleus, without having to collect all the detail of the family type classification.

The following supporting concepts are defined in the glossary:
- family nucleus
- couple
- parent
- child in a family nucleus.

Operational issues

Family vs household

It is important to distinguish between the concepts of family and household. A family (or family nucleus) is defined as a couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household. A household is defined as one or more people usually resident in the same dwelling, who share living facilities (see household in the glossary). A household can contain one or more families, or can contain no families at all. A household that does not contain a family nucleus could contain unrelated people, related people, or could simply be a person living alone.

The classifications relating to these concepts are 'family type' and 'household composition'. Family type is a derived variable that classifies family nuclei according to the presence or absence of couples, parents and children. Household composition is a derived variable that classifies all households according to the relationships between the people in them, whether there is a family nucleus present or not. To illustrate the difference: there is no family type category for a person living alone, whereas the household composition classification has a category called 'one-person household'.

Child vs child(ren) in a family nucleus

There are two definitions for children. The first is that a child is anyone who is living with a parent. This broad definition includes people who are partnered and who are parents themselves. The 'relationship between members in a private dwelling' and 'living arrangements' statistical standards use this concept of child. However, this broad definition is not used for deriving the family type classification. For the purposes of the family type classification, only children in a family nucleus are counted as children (see child(ren) in a family nucleus in the glossary).

A child in a family nucleus is a narrower definition than the broader concept of child. To be a child in a family nucleus, you must usually reside with your parent(s), and have no partner or child(ren) of your own living in the same household (see usual residence, parent and partner in the glossary). Children in a family nucleus can be of any age. For example, a 50-year old person who does not live with a partner or child of their own and is living with their 75-year old parent is a child in a family nucleus. The standard classification for 'child dependency status', embedded in the family type classification, can provide information on families with dependent children. Continuing the example of the 50-year old child in a family nucleus, the 50-year old would be classified as a non-dependent child in a one parent family. See the statistical standard for 'child dependency status' for more information on classifying dependent and non-dependent children. Also see the related classifications and standards section for more classifications that can be embedded in, or cross-tabulated with family type.

Birth/biological, adopted, step-, grand-, and other children

Children are grouped into four different categories in the family type classification. These groupings determine the type of family nucleus they will fall under in levels 2 and 3 of the classification.
- Birth/biological, adopted children are children who are related to their parents by biology, legal registration on the child's birth certificate, or adoption.
- Step-children are the birth/biological or adopted child(ren) of one partner in a couple but not the other. Step-children are only found in 'couple with children' families and cannot be included in one parent families. This is because the definition of a step-child requires that the birth/biological, adoptive parent be a partner in a couple

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with the step-parent, meaning step-children can only reside in couple families. If a parent in a one-parent family indicates that they are usually resident with a step-child, this child should be coded as an 'other-child' for the family type classification rather than a step-child.

- Grandchildren are the children of a persons child (birth/biological, adopted or step). For the purposes of the family type classification, only grandchildren who usually reside with their grandparents and who do not usually reside with their birth/biological, adopted or step-parents are counted as grandchildren.
- Other children usually reside with a 'person in a parent role'. They are not the birth/biological, adopted, step-, or grandchild(ren) of the person in a parent role. 'Other children' do not have a partner or child of their own and do not usually reside with their mother or father (birth/biological, step or adopted) or grandparent. Examples include foster children, children under guardianship, or otherwise related or unrelated dependent children or dependent young persons. The specific criteria as to who is included or excluded from being an 'other child' should be defined by the survey.

For the family type classification there is an order of precedence when grouping children into a family nucleus. Birth/biological, adopted and step children take precedence over grandchildren and other children when deciding which category to place a family nucleus into. For example grandchildren and other children can be present in a 'couple with birth/biological, adopted children' families, but birth/biological, adopted children cannot be present in 'couple with grandchildren' or 'couple with other children only' families. Grandchildren also have precedence over other children, for example 'other children' can be present in 'couple with grandchildren' families, but grandchildren cannot be present in 'couple with other children only' families. For the specific criteria for inclusion in a category please see the classification section.

The classifications for identifying types of children in a family nucleus have been developed for cases where the order of precedence rule will mask types of children in a family nucleus that a collection may be interested in. For example 'grandchildren' and 'other children' will be hidden in 'couple with birth/biological, adopted children' and 'step family' family types. These classifications will give counts of the number of family nuclei that contain or do not contain the types of children.

Parents (mothers, fathers) and people in a parent role
The definition of parent includes two groups of people:

- Parents (birth/biological, adopted, or step) of children in a family nucleus
- 'People in a parent role', who are not mothers or fathers (birth/biological, adopted, or step) of children in a family nucleus but who usually reside with a person who otherwise meets the criteria for a child of a family nucleus (ie is not partnered, has no child of their own, and is aged less than 15 years), and, who can be considered a parent according to current social norms. Examples of 'people in a parent role' would be grandparents, foster parents or legal guardians. The specific criteria for classifying these 'people in a parent role' is defined by the survey. (See parent in the glossary). It is recommended that foster parents are always included as 'people in a parent' role.

It is important to note that when a parent (birth/biological, adopted, or step) is usually resident in the same dwelling as their child, there cannot also be a 'person in a parent role' to that child. The specific criteria for classifying people who are not parents (birth/biological, adopted, or step) as 'people in a parent role' of a child in a family nucleus should be determined by the survey. The classification criteria for 'people in a parent role' will be constrained by operational limitations of the survey. There are two types of surveys:

- Self-administered surveys that derive people in a parent role (ie do not ask a direct question about the relationship but derive 'people in a parent role' from information gathered from other variables such as relationship, sex, age, marital status)
- Interviewer-administered surveys that have a choice; they may derive people in a parent role or they may ask respondents questions that more accurately identify 'people in a parent role'. Common examples of people in a parent role (ie not the mother or father of a child in a family nucleus) include grandparents or foster parents.

Problems occur when young people, who we would expect to live in a family nucleus, do not report living with a mother or father. To solve this problem, surveys can either choose to classify young people outside of a family nucleus, or they can be classified as a child in a family nucleus and assigned to a person in a parent role (such as a grandparent or foster parent).

The Census of Population and Dwellings is an example of a survey that derives information on people in a parent role. As a general rule for the census, all people under the age of 15 should be classified as children in a family nucleus. The exception is people under 15 who have a child or partner of their own and cases of households where there are no usual residents present who are aged 15 years or over. Otherwise, people under 15 who are not reported as living with a mother and/or father should have another person in the household assigned to them as a person in a parent role. Further, if the child in a family nucleus is under 15 years of age, they should also be classified as a dependent child for the child dependency status standard classification. Due to historical practices and operational constraints census classifies foster parents as 'parents' rather than 'people in a parent role'. This should be kept in mind when comparing census data to data from other collections using this statistical standard.

Other surveys may choose not to derive people in a parent role, children in a family nucleus and dependent children in the same way as the census. For example, an interviewer-administered survey may choose to ask young people who do not report living with a mother or father if they are financially and/or otherwise dependent on another person usually resident in the household. A survey may decide to only assign related people, such as grandparents, aunts/uncles, and older siblings, to a parent role. This avoids creating family nuclei from unrelated flatmates. In all cases, the criteria for classifying people in a parent role needs to be explicitly defined by the survey for the users of the data.

Explanatory notes

Changes since the 1999 review of the standard

The previous version of the family type was a flat classification. It is now a hierarchical classification with three levels. Level 1 has not changed. Level 2 has been added in recognition of the increasing diversity of family types. Couple with children families are now divided into 'couple with birth/biological, adopted children', 'step family', 'couple with grandchildren' and 'couple with other children only'. 'One parent with children' families are now divided into 'one parent with birth/biological, adopted children', 'one parent with grandchildren' and 'one parent with other children only'. Level 3 further divides 'step families' into 'non-blended step-families' and 'blended step-families'. The inclusion of these categories in a hierarchical classification with level 1 remaining the same, will ensure that no data or data comparability will be lost for users, while a greater level of detail will be available on the differing types of families in our society.

Foster parents are no longer defined as 'parents' and are now defined as 'people in a parent role'. The specific criteria for classifying 'people in a parent role' is defined by the survey, but it is strongly recommended that foster parents are included in this category to ensure data comparability between collections using the 2008 family type statistical standard. Data comparability issues may arise with historical survey data collected using previous versions of the family type statistical standard.

Child dependency status will still be able to be cross-tabulated with level 1 of the classification to give the same output as the standard classification 'family type by child dependency status'. In addition, levels 2 and 3 will also be able to be cross-tabulated by child dependency status to gain this information on more detailed family types. See the classification section of this statistical standard or the standard classification of child dependency status for more information.

Four classifications identifying the different types of children included in a family nucleus have been developed and added to the statistical standard. These are available for use when the order of precedence rule will mask types of children in a family nucleus that a collection may be interested in (see operational issues, birth/biological, adopted, step, grand, and other children). For example 'grandchildren' and 'other children' will be hidden in 'couple with birth/biological, adopted children' and 'step family' family types. These classifications will give counts of the number of family nuclei that contain or do not contain the types of children.

Classification criteria

The family type classification has three levels.

The criterion used to place a family nucleus into level 1 of the classification is the type of relationship between the people in the family nucleus.

At level 2 of the classification, 'couple with children' and 'one parent with children' families are classified according to the types of children (birth/biological, adopted, step-, grand- or other children) in the family nucleus.

At level 3 of the classification, 'step-families' are classified according to whether or not there are birth/biological or adopted children of both partners in the couple.

The four classifications identifying the different types of children included in a family nucleus, have one level.

For the 'family nucleus containing birth/biological, adopted children', the criteria for inclusion is whether or not the family nucleus contains at least one identified usually resident birth/biological or adopted child.

For the 'family nucleus containing step-children', the criteria for inclusion is whether or not the family nucleus contains at least one identified usually resident step-child.

For the 'family nucleus containing grandparents in a parent role', the criteria for inclusion is whether or not the family nucleus contains at least one identified usually resident grandparent in a parent role.

For the 'family nucleus containing other children', the criteria for inclusion is whether or not the family nucleus contains at least one identified usually resident 'other' child.

Classification
Family type classification

Family type is a hierarchical classification with three levels. Level 1 of the classification has three categories. Level 2 of the classification has 10 categories, and level 3 has 12 categories. The maximum code length is three characters.

The criteria for inclusion in each category of the classification are shown in detail below.

Level 1
Couple without children
A couple without children usually living together in a household.

Couple with child(ren)
A couple with child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have a partner or child(ren) of their own living in the household.

One parent with child(ren)
One parent with child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household.

Level 2

Couple with birth/biological, adopted children
A couple family containing at least one child who is the birth/biological or adopted child of both partners in the couple, and no step children, all of whom must have usual residence in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household. 'Couple with birth/biological, adopted children' families may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

Step-family
A couple family containing at least one step-child and which may or may not include birth/biological, adopted children of both partners in the couple. All family members must have usual residence in the same household. If the step-parent adopts the step-child, the resulting family is no longer a step-family. 'Step-families' may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

Couple with grandchildren
A couple family containing at least one child who is the grandchild of at least one of the partners in the couple and no birth/biological, adopted or step children of either partner in the couple. Grandparents and grandchildren must have usual residence in the same household. The grandchild does not usually reside with their parent(s) (birth/biological, adopted, step) and does not have a partner or child of their own living in the household. 'Couple with grandchildren' families may contain, but do not have to include 'other children'.

Couple with other children only
A couple family, with one or more children, none of whom is the birth/biological, adopted, step-, or grandchild of either partner in the couple, e.g. foster children, children under guardianship, otherwise related or unrelated children. They must all have usual residence in the same household. The child(ren) do not have partners or child(ren) of their own living in the household and do not usually reside with their parent(s) or grandparent(s) (birth/biological, adopted or step).

One parent with birth/biological, adopted children
One parent with at least one child who is the birth/biological or adopted child of the parent, all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household. 'One parent with birth/biological, adopted children' families may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

One parent with grandchild(ren)
A one parent family containing at least one grandchild of the grandparent, and no birth/biological, adopted or step-children of the grandparent. The grandparent and grandchild(ren) must have usual residence together in the same household. The grandchildren do not usually reside with their parent(s) (birth/biological, adopted, step) and do not have a partner or child of their own living in the household. 'One parent with grandchild(ren)' families may contain, but do not have to include 'other children'.

One parent with other children only
A one parent family containing one 'person in a parent role' and at least one 'other child', none of whom is the birth/biological, adopted, step- or grandchild of the 'person in a parent role', all of whom must have usual residence in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household and do not usually reside with their parent(s) or grandparent(s) (birth/biological or adopted).

Level 3
Blended step-family
A couple family, with two or more children, where at least one child is a step-child of one member of the couple and at least one child is the birth/biological or adopted child of both members of the couple. All family members must have usual residence in the same household. The children do not have a partner or children of their own living in the household. Blended step-families may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

Non-blended step-family
A couple family containing at least one step-child and no birth/biological or adopted child(ren) of both partners in the couple. All family members must have usual residence in the same household. If the step-parent adopts the step-child(ren) the resulting family is no longer a step-family. 'Non-blended step-families' may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

For more information see the glossary.

'nfd' (not further defined) codes are included in family type for responses containing insufficient detail to be classified at level 2 or 3, but which can still be classified to a less detailed level 1 or level 2 category. The category 'couple with children nfd' should be used to classify families that contain a couple with children, but where there is insufficient information to derive further detail. The category 'one parent with children nfd' should be used to classify families that contain one parent with children, but where there is insufficient information to derive further detail. The category 'step family nfd' should be used when it is unclear whether there are any birth/biological children of both partners in the couple in the family nucleus.

Types of children in a family nucleus classifications
The four classifications are flat classifications. Each of the classifications has three categories. The maximum code length is one character.

Coding process
Family type is a derived variable. The process for deriving family type is survey-specific. For example, the Census of Population and Dwellings derives family type from the following variables:

- relationship between members in a private dwelling
- living arrangements

- age
- sex
- usual residence indicator.

A sample survey may derive family type from the following variables:

- relationship between members in a private dwelling
- identification of individuals family nucleus
- age
- sex
- partnership status in current relationship
- legal relationship status.

Questionnaire module
Requirements
There is no direct question asked for family type. For information on the requirements of questionnaire modules for the input variables see the following standards:

- age
- living arrangements
- partnership status in current relationship
- legal relationship status
- relationship between members in a private dwelling
- sex
- usual residence.

Example
See the standards listed above

Standard output
Family type classification
Family type is an output variable that is derived from several other household and family classifications (see coding process section). For high level output, use level 1 of the classification, for medium level output use level 2 and for the most detailed output use level 3.

Family type classification flexibility
The core classification framework approach provides flexibility for survey areas as they do not need to use every level of the classification, nor do they need to use every category within a level. They may also aggregate certain combinations of categories as required. Users may contact the classifications team for help with developing a survey-specific aggregation (if a suitable one does not already exist). Survey areas must document how they have aggregated the core classification framework and why, in supporting metadata and output reports, so it is clear to data users. For the current survey-specific aggregations or more information please contact the classifications and standards team at Statistics New Zealand.

Family type classification in combination with other classifications
Family type can also be combined with other standard classifications to create standard output. For example, family type can be combined with the standard classification for child dependency status:

Couple without children
       Couple without children

Couple with child(ren)
       Couple with dependent child(ren) only
       Couple with adult child(ren) only
       Couple with adult and dependent children only
       Couple with dependent child(ren) and at least one child with unknown dependency status
       Couple with adult child(ren) and at least one child with unknown dependency status
       Couple with adult and dependent children and at least one child with unknown dependency status
       Couple with child(ren), not further defined (all dependency status unknown)

One parent with child(ren)
       One parent with dependent child(ren) only
       One parent with adult child(ren) only
       One parent with adult and dependent children only
       One parent with dependent child(ren) and at least one child with unknown dependency status
       One parent with adult child(ren) and at least one child with unknown dependency status
       One parent with adult and dependent children and at least one child with unknown dependency status
       One parent with child(ren), not further defined (all dependency status unknown)

*The category of adult child(ren) is composed of 'dependent young person(s)' and 'non-dependent children'. See the statistical standard for child dependency status for more information.

Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the family type classification can also be combined with differing levels of the child dependency status classification. For example, level 1 family type can be combined with level 1 child dependency status.

Couple without children
      Couple without children

Couple with child(ren)
      Couple with at least one dependent child under 18
      Couple with no dependent child(ren) under 18, and no child(ren) of unknown dependency
      Couple with no dependent child(ren) under 18, and at least one child of unknown dependency

One parent with child(ren)
      One parent with at least one dependent child under 18
      One parent with no dependent child(ren) under 18, and no child(ren) of unknown dependency
      One parent with no dependent child(ren) under 18, and at least one child of unknown dependency

Contact the classifications and standards section for more information.

See the related standards section for a full list of standard classifications related to household and families that can be combined with family type for standard output.

Types of children in a family nucleus classifications
The types of children in a family nucleus classifications are output variables that are derived from several other household and family classifications. They can be output on their own or embedded into another classification, such as level 1 of the family type classification, or household composition.

Related classifications and standards
New Zealand
Related statistical standards:

- household composition
- partnership status in current relationship
- legally registered relationship status
- child dependency status
- living arrangements
- extended families

Related standard classifications
- identification of individual's family nucleus
- individual's role in family nucleus

The following classifications can be applied to family type for standard output:

- child dependency status
- type of couple
- age of youngest child
- sex of sole parent
- number of children

International
Statistics New Zealand's definition of family nucleus and couple are consistent with United Nations recommendations. Statistics New Zealand's definition of child is comparable to the United Nations recommendation except for foster children. Although the United Nations recommends excluding foster children when classifying children, Statistics New Zealand stakeholders have indicated that foster children should be included when classifying children in a family nucleus. This was deemed more appropriate for the New Zealand context of the family, and is in line with Australian definitions of children.

Glossary
Blended step-family

A couple family, with two or more children, where at least one child is a step-child of one member of the couple and at least one child is the birth/biological or adopted child of both members of the couple. That is the partners in the couple must have a birth/biological or adopted child together, while one or both partners can bring step children to the relationship. All family members must have usual residence in the same household. The children do not have a partner or children of their own living in the household. Blended step-families may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

Birth/biological, adopted child

A child who is related to his or her parents by biology, legal registration on the child's birth certificate, or adoption.

Birth/biological, adopted parent

A parent who is related to his or her children by biology, legal registration on the child's birth certificate, or adoption.

Child (birth/biological, adopted, step-, grand- or other)

A child is a person of any age who must have usual residence with at least one parent, and have no partner or child(ren) of their own living in the same household.

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, only 'children in a family nucleus' are counted as children.

Child in a family nucleus

To be a 'child in a family nucleus', a person must have usual residence with at least one parent, and have no partner or child(ren) of their own living in the same household. Note that 'child(ren) in a family nucleus' can be a person of any age.

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, only 'children in a family nucleus' are counted as children.

Couple

Two people who are partnered only with each other. See partnered. There are three types of couples: opposite-sex, male and female. For the purposes of the family type classification a couple must have usual residence in the same household.

Couple with birth/biological, adopted children

A couple family containing at least one child who is the birth/biological or adopted child of both partners in the couple, and no step children, all of whom must have usual residence in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household. 'Couple with birth/biological, adopted children' families may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

Couple with child(ren)

A couple with child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have a partner or child(ren) of their own living in the household.

Couple with grandchildren

A couple family containing at least one child who is the grandchild of at least one of the partners in the couple and containing no birth/biological, adopted or step children of either partner in the couple. Grandparents and grandchildren must have usual residence in the same household. The grandchild does not usually reside with their parent(s) (birth/biological, adopted, step) and does not have a partner or child of their own living in the household. 'Couple with grandchildren' families may contain, but do not have to include 'other children'.

Couple with other children only

A couple family, with one or more children, none of whom is the birth/biological, adopted, step-, or grandchild of either partner in the couple, e.g. foster children, children under guardianship, otherwise related or unrelated children. They must all have usual residence in the same household. The child(ren) do not have partners or child(ren) of their own living in the household and do not usually reside with their parent(s) or grandparent(s) (birth/biological, adopted or step).

Couple without children

A couple without children usually living together in a household.

Family nucleus

A couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household.

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, only 'children in a family nucleus' are counted as children. To be a 'child in a family nucleus' a person must have usual residence with at least one parent, and have no partner or child(ren) of their own living in the same household. Note that 'child(ren) in a family nucleus' can be a person of any age.

Grandchild

The child of a persons child (birth/biological, adopted, step).

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, only grandchildren who usually reside with their grandparents are counted as grandchildren. Grandchildren do not have a partner or child of their own and do not usually reside with their parent(s) (birth/biological, adopted, step).

Grandparent

The parent of a person's father or mother (birth/biological, adopted, step).

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, only grandparents who usually reside with their grandchildren are counted as grandparents. The grandchildren do not have a partner or child of their own and do not usually reside with their parent(s) (birth/biological, adopted, step).

Household

One person who usually resides alone or two or more people who usually reside together and share facilities (such as eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area).

Non-blended step-family

A couple family containing at least one step-child and no birth/biological or adopted child(ren) of both partners in the couple. One or both of the partners in the couple may bring step-children into the family, but they may not have a common birth/biological or adopted child. All family members must have usual residence in the same household. If the step-parent adopts the step-child(ren) the resulting family is no longer a step-family. 'Non-blended step-families' may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

One parent with birth/biological, adopted children

One parent with at least one child who is the birth/biological or adopted child of the parent, all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household. 'One parent with birth/biological, adopted children' families may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

One parent with child(ren)

One parent with child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household.

One parent with grandchild(ren)

A one parent family containing at least one grandchild of the grandparent, and no birth/biological, adopted or step children of the grandparent. The grandparent and grandchild(ren) must have usual residence together in the same household. The grandchildren do not usually reside with their parent(s) (birth/biological, adopted, step) and do not have a partner or child of their own living in the household. 'One parent with grandchild(ren)' families may contain, but do not have to include 'other children'.

One parent with other children only

A one parent family containing one 'person in a parent role' and at least one 'other child', none of whom is the birth/biological, adopted, step- or grandchild of the 'person in a parent role', all of whom must have usual residence in the same household. The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the household and do not usually reside with their parent(s) or grandparent(s) (birth/biological, adopted or step-).

Other child

'Other children' are children who usually reside with a 'person in a parent role' and who are not the birth/biological, adopted, step- or grandchild(ren) of the person in a parent role. 'Other children' do not have a partner or child of their own and do not usually reside with their mother or father (birth/biological, step or adopted) or grandparent. Examples include foster children, children under guardianship, or otherwise related or unrelated dependent children or dependent young persons. The specific criteria as to who is included or excluded from being an 'other child' should be defined by the survey.

Other parent

An 'other parent' is a person who is not a mother or father (birth/biological, adopted or step) or grandparent of the child but who nevertheless usually resides with that child. The child does not have a partner or child of their own and does not usually reside with their mother or father (birth/biological, adopted or step). An 'other parent' can be considered a parent according to current social norms regarding parenting. Examples of 'other parents' include foster parents, guardians of children or people acting in a parental role to otherwise related or unrelated dependent children or dependent young persons. The specific criteria as to who is included or excluded from being an 'other parent' should be defined by the survey.

Parent

The mother, father (birth/biological, adopted, or step), or 'person in a parent role' of a 'child in a family nucleus'. A 'person in a parent role' is a person who is not a mother or father (birth/biological, adopted or step) of the child but who nevertheless usually resides with that child. The child does not have a partner or child of their own and does not usually reside with their mother or father (birth/biological, adopted or step). A person in a parent role can be considered a parent according to current social norms regarding parenting. The specific criteria as to who is included or excluded from being a 'person in a parent role' should be defined by the survey.

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification Census includes foster parents as 'parents' rather than 'people in a parent role' due to historical practices and operational constraints.

Person in a parent role

See parent.

Partnered

A person with whom another person is:

- married to or in a civil union with, or
- in a de facto relationship with

Civil unions and de facto relationships include both same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples.

Step-child

A child who is the birth/biological or adopted child of one partner in a couple but not the other.

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, step-children are only found in couple with children families and cannot be included in one parent families.

Step-family

A couple family containing at least one step-child and which may or may not include birth/biological, adopted children of both partners in the couple. All family members must have usual residence in the same household. If the step-parent adopts the step-child, the resulting family is no longer a step-family. 'Step-families' may contain, but do not have to include 'grandchildren' and 'other children'.

Step-parent

The partner of a parent with birth/biological or adopted child(ren). The step-parent is not the birth/biological or adopted parent of those child(ren).

Note: for the purposes of the family type classification, step-parents are only found in couple with children families and cannot be included in one parent families.

Residual categories

Not further defined (nfd)

This is used in hierarchical classifications for responses containing insufficient detail to be classified to the most detailed level of a classification, but which can be classified to a less detailed category further up the hierarchy.

Not further defined codes are usually constructed by taking the classification code for the level to which the category is being classified and adding trailing zeros for the remainder of the code. Thus, not further defined categories always end with a "0". For example, 3200 North Africa (not further defined).

Not further defined codes can be applied to all but the bottom level of any hierarchical classification if required.

Previous titles

Not further classifiable has been used previously for this category. This is no longer a valid alternative title.

References

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United Nations (2006). *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*, Geneva.