

The Rest

Relationship Statistics

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PEOPLE IN THEIR TWENTIES

- One of the most dramatic social trends over the last 30 years has been a change in the social circumstances of Australians aged in their 20s.
- There were 2.6 million people in their 20s in 2001 accounting for 14% of the Australian population.
- The most common living arrangement for people in their 20s based on the 2001 census figures was to be living with at least one parent (30%). By contrast, the most common arrangement for Australians in their 20s in 1976 was to be in a couple relationship with children (40%).
- The percentage of people in their 20s living in a couple relationship with children decreased dramatically from 40% in 1976 to just 16% in 2001.
- There was a substantial increase in the percentage of people in their 20s living in a group household – up from 1% in 1976 to 12% in 2001.
- The percentage of 29 year olds who had never been married increased from 13% in 1976 to 49% in 2001; while the percentage of 20 year olds who had never been married increased from 76% to 97%.
- In 2001, 51% of first births within the current relationship occurred to women in their 20s. This compares to 77% in 1976 (with an additional 13% of such births occurring to women in their teens).
- 23% of those aged 20-29 were attending an educational institution in 2001 compared to 12% in 1976.
- 45% of Australians in their 20s had obtained a non-school qualification in 2001 compared to 31% in 1976. Of those in their 20s with such a qualification, a bachelor degree was the highest qualification received for 36% in 2001 compared to just 13% in 1976.
- The rate of participation of women in their 20s in the workforce rose from 57% in 1976 to 75% in 2001. By contrast, the participation rate of men in their 20s actually fell slightly from 92% in 1976 to 87% in 2001.
- The percentage of working people aged 20-29 working less than 35 hours a week rose from just 11% in 1976 to 28% in 2001. Reflecting a shift away from standard working hours, the percentage working more than 40 hours a week also increased from 22% of employed people in their 20s in 1976 to 28% in 2001.
- 19% of people in their 20s were born overseas in 2001 – a figure lower than the general population. Of those in their 20s born overseas, 60% had migrated from Asia and the Pacific (including New Zealand).

SOURCES:

4102.0 *Australian Social Trends* (2005). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics