

POPULATION NOTES

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OSD 92-67

Fewer Households Have Married Couples With Children

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The number of non-family households and single-parent families grew faster than the number of married-couple families in Minnesota in the 1980s, data from the 1990 U.S. census show. The increased diversity of households has contributed to a decline in the size of the average household and indicates that the shift to "non-traditional" households continued in the 1980s. The average number of persons per household dropped from 2.74 in 1980 to 2.58 in 1990, slightly lower than the national average of 2.63.

"Household" Defined

A household is an occupied housing unit. It includes all the persons who live in a single housing unit such

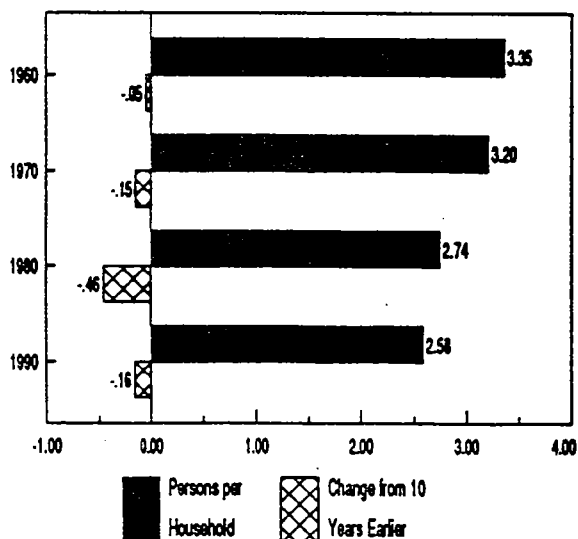
Households At A Glance...

- The number of single-parent families and non-family households grew rapidly in Minnesota between 1980 and 1990.
- One-fourth of all households consist of only one person.
- Minnesota's average household size in 1990 was 2.58, down from 2.74 in 1980.
- Household change was less dramatic in the 1980s than the 1970s.
- The percentage of Minnesota households made up of married couples continued to decline in the 1980s.

as a house, apartment or mobile home. One person in each household is designated as the "householder." Usually this is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned or rented.

Households can be family households or non-family households. A family household consists of a householder and one or more related persons who live together. Married-couple families and single-parent families are examples of family households. Not all households are families. A group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit is one example of a non-family household. A person living alone is also a non-family household.

Figure 1. Change in Persons Per Household
Biggest Drop Occurred in 1970s
Minnesota 1960-1990



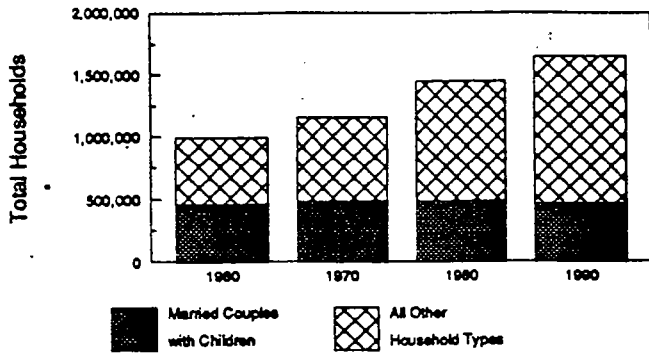
Household Size Declines Less in 1980s than in 1970s

Household change was much less dramatic in the 1980s than in the 1970s (Figure 1). Household size



**Figure 2. Total Households and Married Couples With Kids
Total Rises Rapidly; Couples with Kids Stable**

Minnesota 1960-1990



has been dropping for many decades, but the decline between 1970 and 1980 was very large. In the 1970s average household size dropped by almost half a person (.46), while in the 1980s it went down by a more modest .16 persons per household.

The decline in household size is tied to the shift from married-couple households, especially married couples with children, to other, smaller household types. The number of married couples with children under 18 has hardly changed since 1960, while the number of other kinds of households has risen sharply (Figure 2). Like the decline in household size, the shift from married couples to other

household types was also less dramatic in the 1980s than in the 1970s.

Married Couples Remain Most Numerous Household Type

Although married-couple families are not as dominant as they used to be, they are still the most common household type (Figure 3). In 1990, 57.2 percent of Minnesota households were husband-wife families. Many of these couples do not have children living at home. In fact, more than half of all husband-wife families do not have any children under 18 living with them. These couples without children include "empty nesters" whose children have left home; couples who have never had children; and families with children 18 or older still living at home.

Overall, the number of married couples grew 5 percent during the past decade, well below the increase found for other kinds of households. The number of married couples with children declined slightly between 1980 and 1990 (Table 1). The number of childless married couples grew 16 percent during the 1980s.

Non-family Households Show Large Increase

One-person households are the second most common household type, accounting for a quarter of all Minnesota households. Elderly persons are especially likely to live alone. About 40 percent of those who live alone are 65 or older. The number of one-person households increased 23 percent from 1970 to 1980, faster than married couples but slower than some other types of households.

Figure 3. Minnesota Household Types 1990

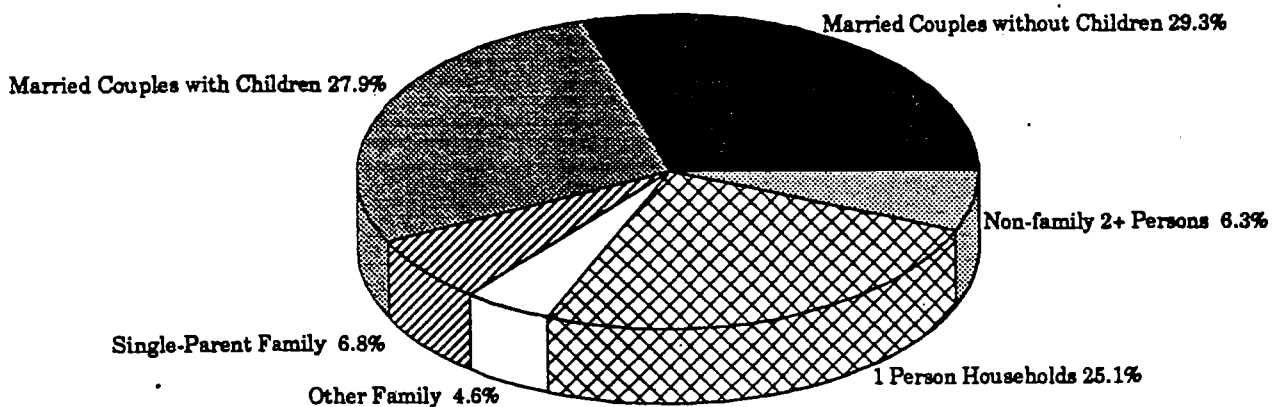


Table 1. Minnesota Household Types: 1980 and 1990

Type of Household	1980		1990		% Change in No. of Households 1980-1990
	Total Households	% of All Households	Total Households	% of All Households	
All Households:	1,445,222	100.0%	1,647,853	100.0%	14.0%
Family Households:					
Married-couple family:					
With own children	481,070	33.3%	459,997	27.9%	-4.4%
Without own children	416,462	28.8%	482,527	29.3%	15.9%
Other family:					
Male householder, no wife present:					
With own children	11,844	0.8%	21,668	1.3%	82.9%
Without own children	20,875	1.4%	24,937	1.5%	19.5%
Female householder, no husband present:					
With own children	67,546	4.7%	90,395	5.5%	33.8%
Without own children	39,725	2.7%	51,159	3.1%	28.8%
Non-family households:					
Householder living alone	335,791	23.2%	413,531	25.1%	23.2%
Householder not living alone	71,909	5.0%	103,639	6.3%	44.1%

Non-family households with two or more people are one of the fastest growing household types, soaring 44 percent between 1980 and 1990. Non-family households with two or more people made up 6.3 percent of Minnesota households in the 1990 census. An increase in the number of cohabiting couples is one factor in the rapid increase. The shaky economy in much of the 1980s may be another factor. More young people may be living with roommates because they can't afford to live alone.

In 1970 there were only 5,138 male headed families with children under 18. This rose to 21,668 in 1990. Changes in the law to favor joint custody in divorce cases do not appear to explain the increase. The rapid growth dates back to the 1970s and has occurred in other states as well as in Minnesota.

The remaining household type, "other families," accounts for 4.6 percent of all households. These are families where an unmarried householder lives with

One in Every Fifteen Households Is a Single-Parent Household

Single-parent families with children under 18 are another of the fastest growing household types. Single-parent families with a male householder grew 83 percent during the last decade, while female single-parent families increased 34 percent. The growth rate for single-parent families with a male householder was the highest of any household type in the 1980s. Together, female- and male-headed single-parent families now make up 6.8 percent of the households in Minnesota. They make up a larger percentage of families with children. A fifth (19.6 percent) of families with children under 18 are single-parent families.

Most Minnesota single-parent families are headed by women. In 1990, four-fifths of single-parent families had a female householder. Male single-parent families have become much more common (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Single-Parent Families With Children Under 18

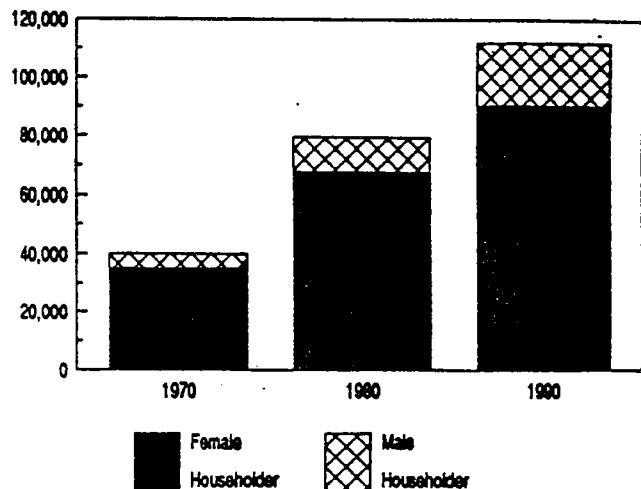


Table 2. Minnesota Household Types 1990

	Total	Families	Married- Couple Families	Male- Headed Families	Female- Headed Families	Non- Family Households	Persons Living Alone	Persons Per Household
Minnesota	1,647,853	1,130,683	942,524	46,805	141,554	517,170	413,531	2.58
Aitkin	5,126	3,620	3,226	127	267	1,506	1,375	2.39
Anoka	82,437	65,136	54,419	2,759	7,958	17,301	12,835	2.93
Becker	10,477	7,555	6,327	355	873	2,922	2,580	2.62
Beltrami	11,870	8,390	6,574	435	1,381	3,480	2,721	2.74
Benton	10,935	7,562	6,305	360	897	3,373	2,617	2.71
Big Stone	2,463	1,727	1,557	56	114	736	714	2.43
Blue Earth	19,277	11,993	10,100	473	1,420	7,284	4,678	2.59
Brown	10,321	7,167	6,306	249	612	3,154	2,892	2.54
Carlton	10,842	7,856	6,610	343	903	2,986	2,669	2.62
Carver	16,601	12,864	11,301	439	1,124	3,737	2,965	2.84
Cass	8,302	6,097	5,131	324	642	2,205	1,959	2.56
Chippewa	5,245	3,684	3,283	119	282	1,561	1,460	2.48
Chisago	10,551	8,183	7,125	332	726	2,368	1,971	2.84
Clay	17,490	11,921	9,890	477	1,554	5,569	4,097	2.64
Clearwater	3,064	2,240	1,885	111	244	824	770	2.65
Cook	1,632	1,072	944	41	87	560	473	2.33
Cottonwood	5,060	3,585	3,221	98	266	1,475	1,405	2.45
Crow Wing	17,204	12,161	10,299	461	1,401	5,043	4,360	2.52
Dakota	98,293	73,632	62,196	2,719	8,717	24,661	18,507	2.78
Dodge	5,538	4,277	3,809	156	312	1,261	1,101	2.81
Douglas	10,988	7,781	6,836	255	690	3,207	2,696	2.56
Faribault	6,772	4,710	4,156	137	417	2,062	1,946	2.45
Fillmore	7,822	5,654	5,034	196	424	2,168	1,975	2.59
Freeborn	13,029	9,287	8,088	331	868	3,742	3,378	2.49
Goodhue	15,198	10,903	9,550	363	990	4,295	3,788	2.60
Grant	2,454	1,737	1,561	46	130	717	670	2.47
Hennepin	419,060	257,347	203,656	11,708	41,983	161,713	121,665	2.41
Houston	6,844	5,053	4,382	179	492	1,791	1,604	2.65
Hubbard	5,781	4,274	3,750	179	345	1,507	1,357	2.55
Isanti	8,810	6,815	5,886	304	625	1,995	1,674	2.86
Itasca	15,451	11,424	9,758	449	1,217	4,037	3,572	2.60
Jackson	4,560	3,272	2,916	114	242	1,288	1,173	2.51
Kanabec	4,753	3,485	2,973	159	353	1,268	1,141	2.67
Kandiyohi	14,298	10,145	8,839	340	966	4,153	3,424	2.64
Kittson	2,274	1,586	1,407	59	120	688	653	2.46
Koochiching	6,025	4,278	3,528	238	512	1,747	1,493	2.58
Lac qui Parle	3,505	2,487	2,280	81	126	1,018	972	2.48
Lake	4,242	3,019	2,662	96	261	1,223	1,077	2.42
Lake of the Woods	1,576	1,169	1,030	46	93	407	369	2.55
Le Sueur	8,468	6,247	5,445	273	529	2,221	1,955	2.71
Lincoln	2,704	1,904	1,711	78	115	800	756	2.47
Lyon	9,073	6,251	5,480	196	575	2,822	2,370	2.56
McLeod	11,815	8,611	7,552	326	733	3,204	2,759	2.67

Table 2. Minnesota Household Types 1990

	Total	Families	Married- Couple Families	Male- Headed Families	Female- Headed Families	Non- Family Households	Persons Living Alone	Persons Per Household
Mahnomen	1,805	1,339	1,113	78	148	466	439	2.75
Marshall	4,194	3,017	2,671	139	207	1,177	1,102	2.59
Martin	9,129	6,378	5,616	180	582	2,751	2,536	2.46
Meeker	7,651	5,628	5,010	202	416	2,023	1,838	2.67
Mille Lacs	6,911	5,031	4,281	220	530	1,880	1,654	2.65
Morrison	10,399	7,715	6,648	324	743	2,684	2,412	2.79
Mower	15,028	10,373	8,950	348	1,075	4,655	4,172	2.44
Murray	3,758	2,715	2,476	84	155	1,043	986	2.53
Nicollet	9,478	6,786	5,895	219	672	2,692	2,096	2.69
Nobles	7,683	5,525	4,888	186	451	2,158	1,925	2.55
Norman	3,118	2,155	1,921	94	140	963	913	2.48
Olmsted	40,058	27,737	23,914	820	3,003	12,321	9,872	2.59
Otter Tail	19,510	13,939	12,288	512	1,139	5,571	5,027	2.53
Pennington	5,173	3,463	2,899	147	417	1,710	1,456	2.50
Pine	7,577	5,514	4,724	245	545	2,063	1,832	2.64
Pipestone	4,078	2,821	2,520	74	227	1,257	1,171	2.51
Polk	11,984	8,506	7,214	349	943	3,478	3,114	2.61
Pope	4,135	2,986	2,683	99	204	1,149	1,087	2.54
Ramsey	190,500	120,206	92,790	5,854	21,562	70,294	55,727	2.47
Red Lake	1,730	1,171	1,034	48	89	559	5278	2.58
Redwood	6,554	4,643	4,151	150	342	1,911	1,772	2.57
Renville	6,790	4,848	4,339	189	320	1,942	1,807	2.55
Rice	16,347	11,644	9,906	462	1,276	4,703	3,946	2.66
Rock	3,754	2,733	2,478	65	190	1,021	961	2.57
Roseau	5,415	4,016	3,459	221	336	1,399	1,190	2.73
St. Louis	78,901	51,903	42,426	2,237	7,240	26,998	22,747	2.43
Scott	19,367	15,438	13,416	621	1,401	3,929	2,996	2.95
Sherburne	13,643	10,715	9,357	428	930	2,928	2,073	2.98
Sibley	5,323	3,942	3,509	187	246	1,381	1,267	2.66
Stearns	39,776	27,766	23,736	1,119	2,911	12,010	8,558	2.81
Steele	11,342	8,328	7,352	263	713	3,014	2,620	2.65
Stevens	3,823	2,478	2,189	83	206	1,345	973	2.57
Swift	4,268	2,950	2,625	98	227	1,318	1,259	2.46
Todd	8,589	6,209	5,490	253	466	2,380	2,121	2.69
Traverse	1,778	1,253	1,130	32	91	525	502	2.44
Wabasha	7,286	5,387	4,782	187	418	1,899	1,678	2.67
Wadena	4,978	3,468	2,976	129	363	1,510	1,358	2.56
Waseca	6,649	4,756	4,123	171	462	1,893	1,636	2.64
Washington	49,246	39,277	33,729	1,379	4,169	9,969	7,929	2.91
Watonwan	4,530	3,133	2,768	118	247	1,397	1,265	2.54
Wilkin	2,805	2,022	1,765	90	167	783	710	2.63
Winona	16,930	11,329	9,652	471	1,206	5,601	4,316	2.61
Wright	23,013	18,071	15,741	738	1,592	4,942	4,026	2.95
Yellow Medicine	4,607	3,208	2,902	105	201	1,399	1,318	2.48

relatives other than children under 18. Examples would include a person living with his or her adult child(ren), a householder living with a parent, or someone sharing a home with a brother or sister.

Household Trends Are Similar in U.S. and Minnesota

Compared to the national average, Minnesota has slightly higher percentages of married-couple households (57.2 percent vs. 55.1 percent) and non-family households (31.4 percent vs. 29.8 percent). Families other than married couples are less common in Minnesota than nationally, 11.4 percent compared to the U.S. average of 15.0 percent.

For the most part, the household shifts that have been taking place in Minnesota are typical of what has been occurring in other parts of the country. Like Minnesota, the U.S. experienced a decline in average household size, slow growth in the number of married-couple households, and rapid growth in the number of non-family households and non-married-couple families (Figure 5).

There were differences in the Minnesota and U.S. growth rates for male- and female-headed family households with no spouse present. The number of female-householder families grew faster in Minnesota, while the number of male-householder families grew slower. The national data do not distinguish between families with and without children.

Thirty-four Counties Lose Households in the 1980s

In the 1970s every Minnesota county added households, even counties that lost population. It

Figure 5. Household Change in Minnesota and U.S. 1980-1990

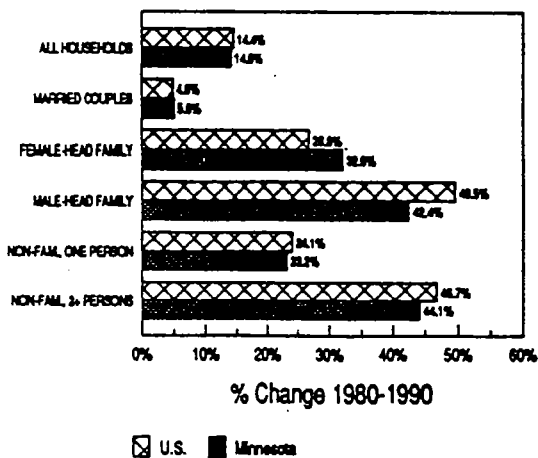
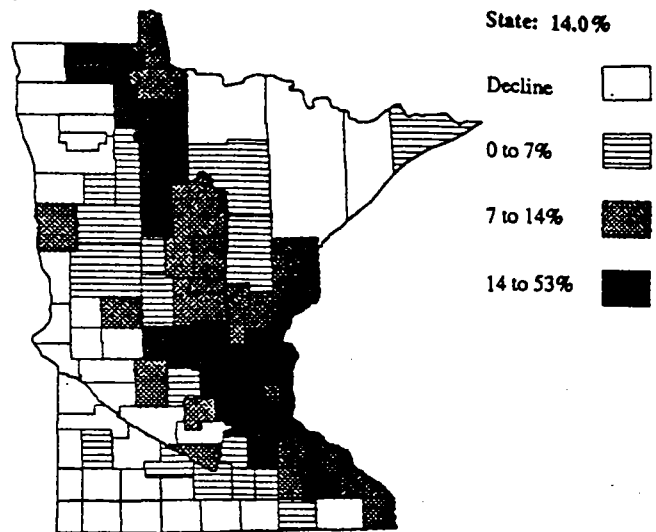


Figure 6. Percent Change in Number of Households 1980-1990



was a different story in the 1980s. Thirty-four Minnesota counties lost households between 1980 and 1990 (Figure 6). The largest losses were in Big Stone (-14.3 percent) and Traverse (-12.8 percent) Counties. The fastest growth occurred in suburbs of the Twin Cities: Dakota County (53.4 percent) and Scott County (43.4 percent).

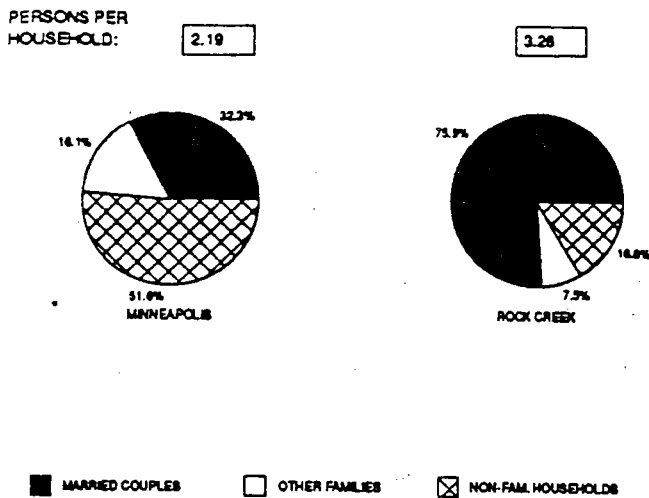
Generally, household trends in different parts of the state closely reflected population trends. The Twin Cities, Rochester, and St. Cloud regions, along with parts of extreme north central Minnesota, exhibited strong growth in households. These were also the regions with the highest levels of population growth. (See Population Notes, April 1991.) Areas with population declines or slow growth also had slow growth or declines in the number of households.

Non-family Households Are Smaller on Average

There is a strong connection between household composition and average household size. Family households are usually larger than non-family households. Families always have at least two people, while many non-family households have only one. The average size of family households in 1990 was 3.18 (a figure that includes non-relatives living in the household), compared to only 1.27 for non-family households. Consequently, areas with large proportions of non-family households usually have fewer persons per household than areas comprised mainly of families.

Figure 7 illustrates the relationship between household composition and size using the examples of two very different cities, Minneapolis and Rock Creek. Minneapolis, the state's largest city, has a

Figure 7. Household Types in Two Minnesota Cities 1990



Creek. Minneapolis, the state's largest city, has a very small proportion of married-couple households. Less than a third of the city's households are married-couple families, compared to the state average of 57 percent. More than half of Minneapolis households are non-family households. The average Minneapolis household size is very small: 2.19 persons. Rock Creek, a city of 1,040 in Pine County, has a dramatically different household profile. Three-quarters of Rock Creek households are married-couple families, while only 17 percent are non-family households. Rock Creek households average 3.26 persons, far higher than the Minneapolis and state averages.

Household Size Higher in Areas with Faster Growth

Average household size is also tied to population growth. Generally the number of persons per household is greatest in the areas with the greatest population growth: the Twin Cities suburbs, the St. Cloud and Rochester areas, and parts of north central Minnesota. Part of the reason is that these areas attract married-couple families with children, who tend to have the largest households (Figure 8, Table 2).

Areas experiencing population loss and outmigration—northeastern Minnesota, parts of southwestern Minnesota, and the southern border—have not been successful in drawing or keeping young families. They have larger proportions of empty nesters and older people living alone. This results in a lower average household size.

Hennepin and Ramsey Counties also have low average household size. Their low averages reflect the prevalence of small non-family and single-parent families in the central cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and in some older suburbs.

Minority and White Household Composition Differs

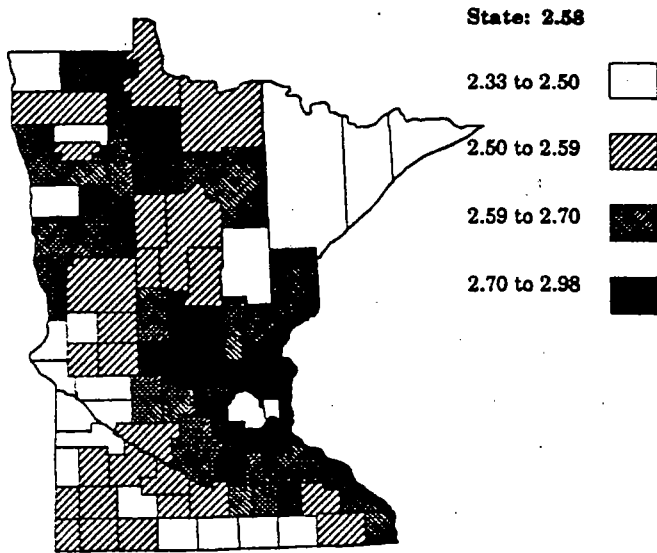
Household composition in minority communities is very different from white household composition (Table 3). Communities of color also vary from each other. The Asian population has a low percentage of non-family households and a high percentage of married-couple families. The African-American and American Indian populations have low percentages of married-couple households and high percentages of single-parent families. African-Americans also

Table 3. Minnesota Household Types 1990 by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder

	Total Households	Percent:			Non-family Households
		Married Couple Families	Female Householder Families	Male Householder Families	
White	1,579,722	58.0%	7.8%	2.7%	31.5%
Black	31,201	27.7%	31.9%	5.4%	35.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	17,198	61.9%	11.9%	5.4%	20.8%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	14,168	32.8%	33.1%	8.4%	25.7%
Hispanic origin*	14,039	49.0%	16.7%	5.7%	28.6%

Note: *Hispanic origin households may be of any race.

Figure 8. Persons per Household 1990



have a high proportion of non-family households. Differences between Hispanics and the white population are less striking than between whites and non-whites. For example, the percent of Hispanic

households made up of families other than married couples is higher than for whites but lower than for blacks or American Indians.

Announcements:

Future issues of **Population Notes** will cover more information from the 1990 census. Topics will include housing values and rent, marital status, and living arrangements of children. There will also be an issue on life expectancy.

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