

Family Forms

Sociology

The forms households actually take, and what has changed in a century.

Descriptive categories, not a ranking.

Form	Composition	Note
Nuclear	Two parents and children	Historically less universal
Extended	Kin across generations	Vertical or horizontal
Lone parent	One parent and children	Mostly headed by mothers
Reconstituted	Step-parents and step-siblings	Rising with remarriage
Same-sex	Two parents of one sex	Legally recognised recently
Living alone	One person	Fastest-growing household type

Educational reference. The isolated nuclear family as a modern invention is disputed: Laslett found small households long before