



2011 CENSUS

FAMILIES

Censuses of population and housing fund are the only source of reliable, exhaustive and detailed information on number and structure of families, as well as the changes occurred within them.

As of 1.02.2011 there are 2 123 224 families, 1 537 777 (72.4%) of which in urban areas and 585 447 (27.6%) – in rural.

Up to the middle of last century, the families have been identified with the households and have not been observed separately. Since 1965, the families are observed as a separate unit in the Census programme.

1. Families by place of residence, number of members and Census years

Place of residence	1965	1975	1985	1992	2001	2011
Families by number of members						
Total for the country	2410148	2626788	2699955	2547016	2369100	2123224
Persons in the families	7282704	7725844	7941547	7368808	6682394	5802005
Average number of members per family	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7
Urban	1055303	1465981	1719915	1690002	1623612	1537777
Persons in the families	3274994	4434036	5173837	5004408	4656731	4213518
Average number of members per family	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7
Rural	1354845	1160807	980040	857014	745488	585447
Persons in the families	4007710	3291808	2767620	2364400	2025663	1588487
Average number of members per family	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7

The number of families in the country increases within the period 1965 - 1985 by 289 807 (12.0%) and the number of persons living in them - by 658 843 (9.1%).

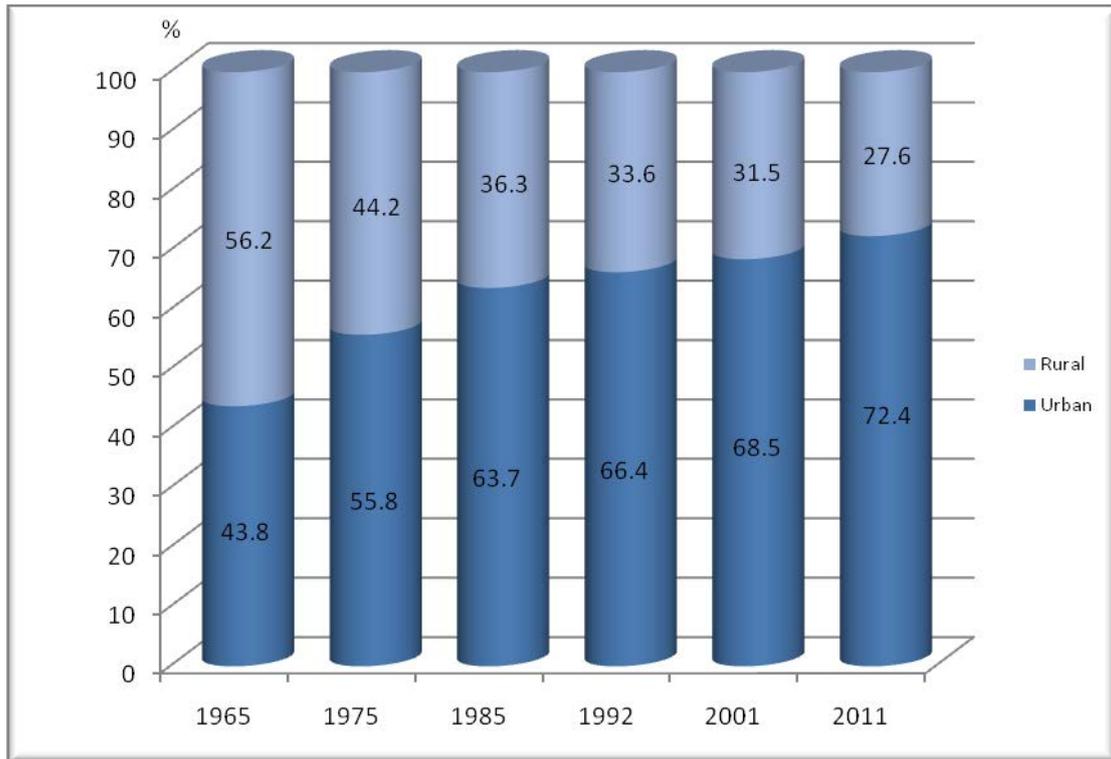
A decrease of the number of families by 576 731 is observed at the time of next Censuses and of the persons in them by 2 139 542. Highest decrease of the number of families is registered between the last two Censuses. As of 1.02.2011 in Bulgaria there are 245 876 (10.4%) families less than in 2001.



For the period of 45 years, during which the families are surveyed, small decrease of the families' average size is observed - from 3.0 persons in 1965 to 2.7 persons in 2011.

The structure of families by residence (urban/rural) is influenced by the decrease of rural population at the expense of urban. In 1965, 56.2% of the families are rural ones compared to 26.7% - as of 1.02.2011.

Figure 1. Structure of families by residence and Census years



There are some differences in the dynamics of family number by districts. The differences are due to the peculiarities of the separate districts and mainly the intensity of fertility and mortality processes, the differences in the economic development and the size and direction of internal and international migration. The number of families decreases within the period 2001 - 2011 in 26 districts. Most considerable decrease is registered in districts Vidin (27.3%), Vratsa (26.1), Montana (22.3%) and Razgrad (20.4%). An increase of the family number is observed in two districts only. An increase by 14 511 (4.3%) is observed in district Sofia cap. and in district Varna - by 116 (0.1%).

Between the last two Censuses, the average size of families decreases in 22 districts. More considerable decrease is registered in district Blagoevgrad - from on average 3.0 persons per family in 2001 to 2.8 persons in 2011, Smolyan - from 2.9 to 2.7 persons and Kyustendil - from 2.8 to 2.6 persons. In 6 districts the average size of families remains the same.



Family type

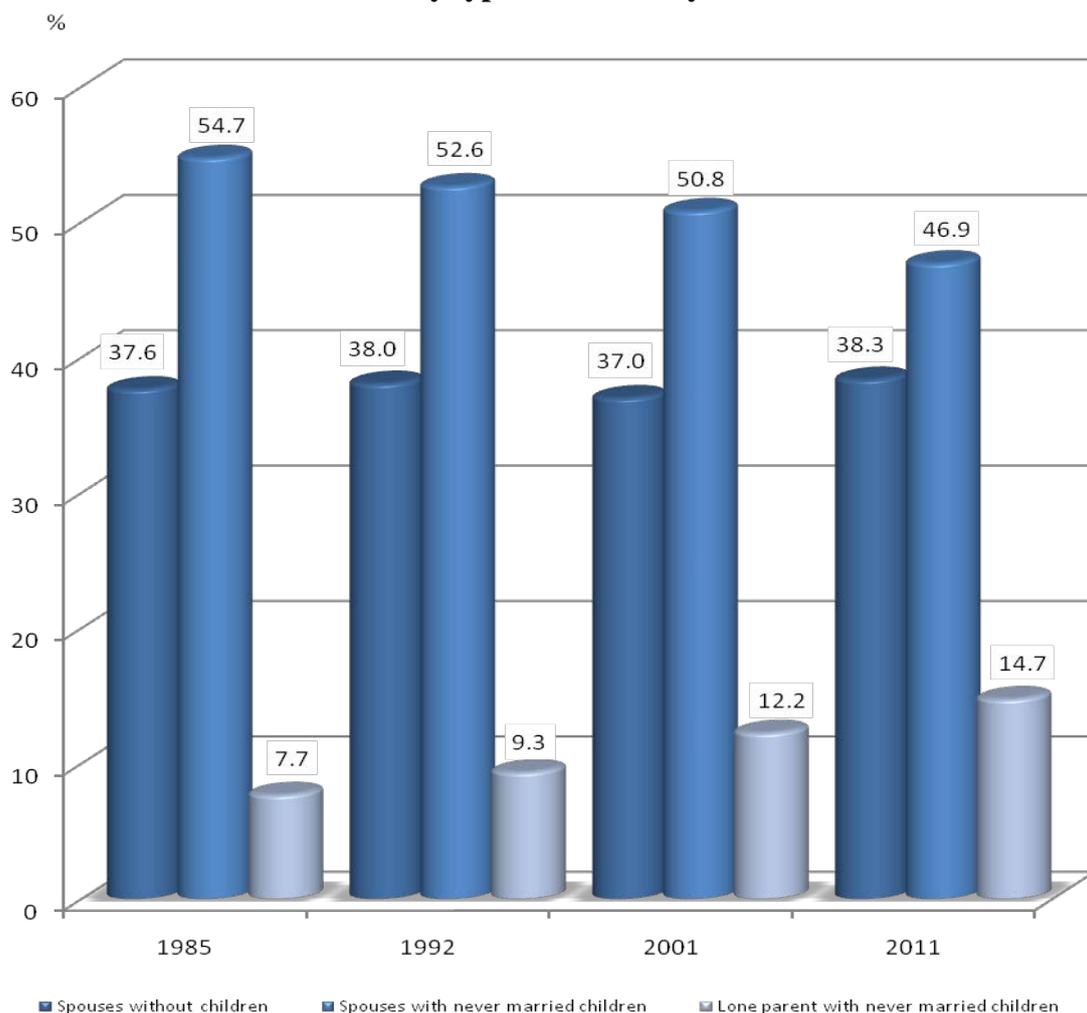
Up to 1965 till the present days, nuclear family, including two and more persons, connected by kinship or as a result of marriage/partnership or adoption is observed at Censuses. In contrast to the biologic family, covering the whole generation of the spouses, the nuclear family includes never married children, living with their parents only, no matter their age.

There are three basic types of families: husband-wife family (in juridical marriage or cohabiting without marriage) without children; husband-wife family (in juridical marriage or cohabiting without marriage) with never married children and lone parent with never married children.

As of 1.02.2011 the highest is the number of families composed of two spouses with never married children - 996 446. Families composed of two spouses without children are 813 995, and lone parent families with never married children - 312 783.

The number of complete nuclear families (two spouses with never married children) decrease considerably within the period 1985 – 2011. Share of these families decrease from 54.7% in 1985 to 50.8% in 2001 and 46.9% in 2011. The share of families composed of two spouses without children remains almost unchanged for the same period.

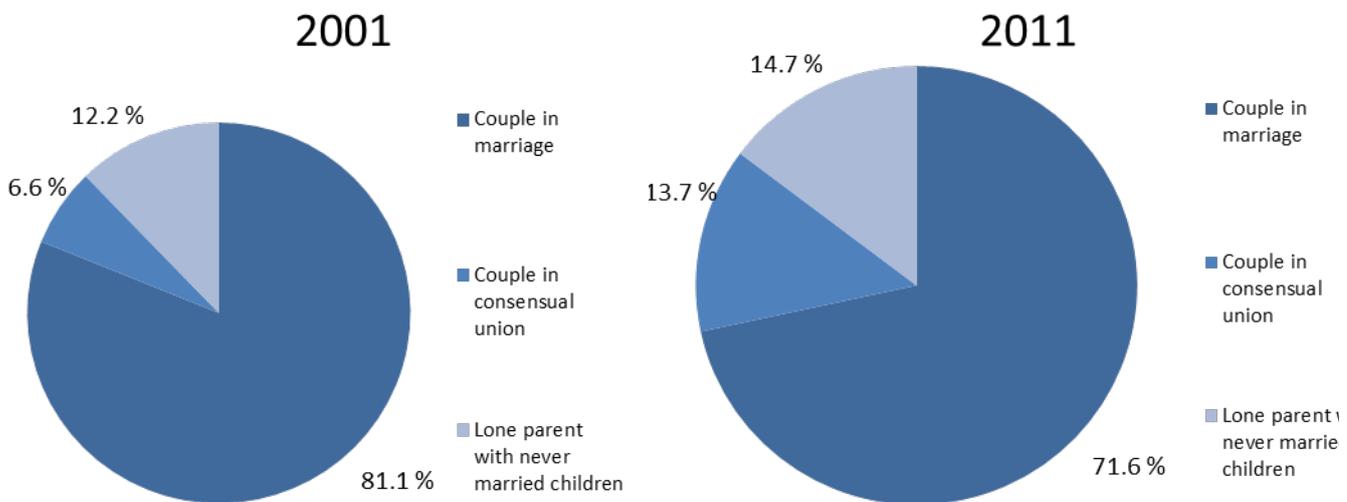
Figure 2. Structure of the families by type and Census years





Cohabiting without marriage is wide spread in many European countries. This type of partnership became more spread in Bulgaria during the last 20-25 years. The number of these families increases almost twice between the last two Censuses and as of 1.02.2011 there are 289 893 or 13.7% of all families in the country. There are 888 818 persons living in these families or 15.3% of all persons living in the families.

Figure 3. Structure of the families by de facto marital status and Census years



Cohabiting without marriage was most popular amongst the never married persons. More than $\frac{3}{4}$ or 76.4% of the cohabiting persons were single, 16.7% - divorced, 3.2% - widowed and 3.7% - married.

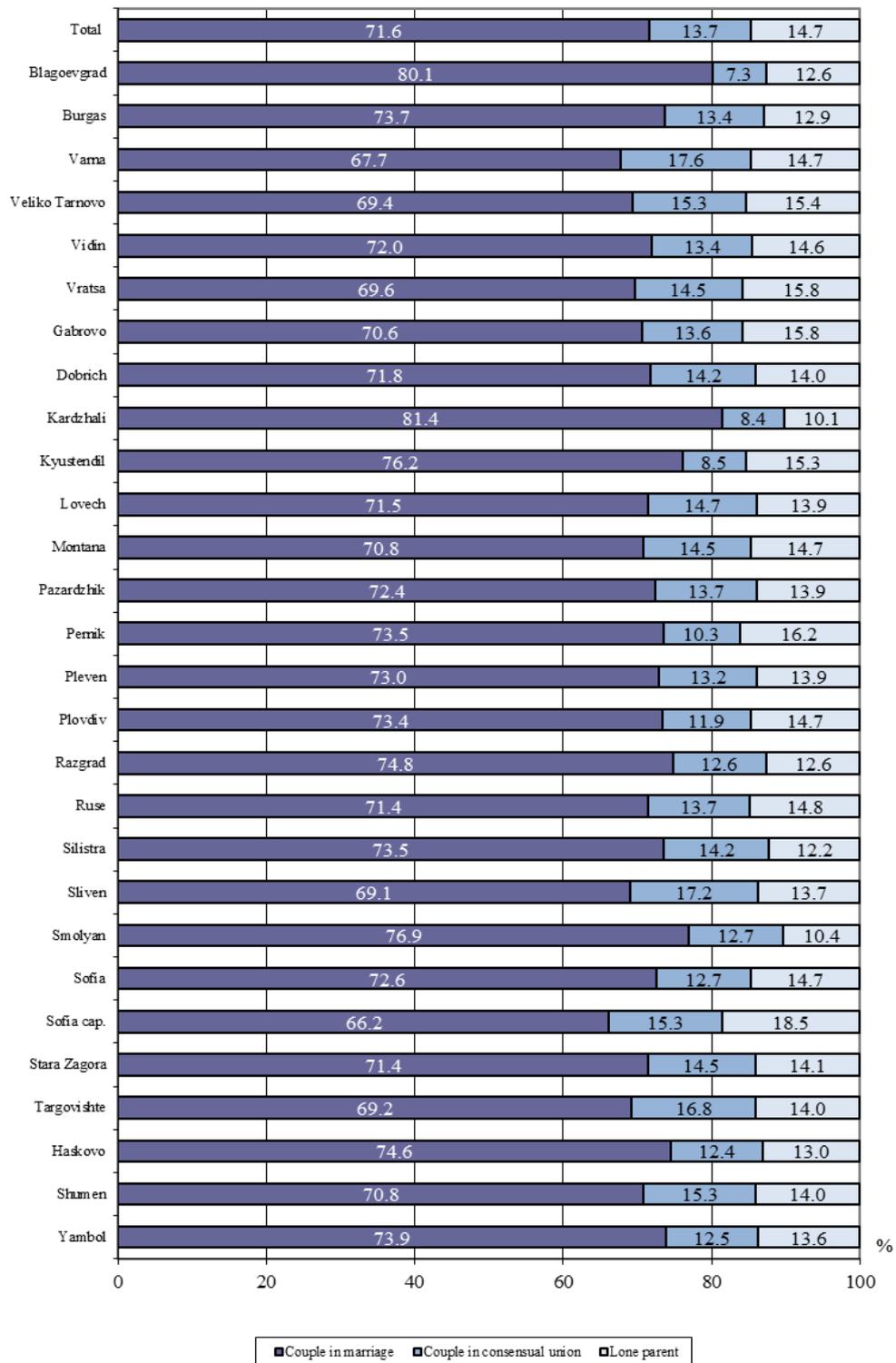
Amongst families composed of two spouses with never married children, 18.8% are cohabiting without marriage. In urban areas the share of these families is 6.8%, compared to - 24.8% in rural.

The share of families composed of lone parent with never married children increases from 7.7% in 1985 to 13.7% in 2001 and in 2011 reaches 14.7% of all families in the country. Mothers with never married children represent 80.4% of all lone parent families, and in 19.6% of lone parent families, the father is upbringing his children alone.

Highest number of lone parent with never married children families is registered in district Sofia cap. - 18.5% of all families in the district. Lowest is the share of such families in districts Smolyan (10.4%) and Kardzhali (10.1%).



Figure. 4. Structure of the families by type and districts





Analyzing the lone parent families with never married children by juridical marital status of the family head, continuous increase of the number of single parents (lone mothers and fathers) is observed within the period 1985-2011 – from 4 762 in 1985 to 56 963 in 2011. The share of these families increases by 15.9 percentage points and at the last Census they represent 18.2% of all lone parent families with never married children. The number of widowed parent families with never married children also increases and in 2011 they represent 35.5% of all incomplete nuclear families.

The number of families composed of a parent in juridical marriage, but bringing his/her children alone increases within the period 1985 - 2001 and decreases between the last two Censuses with about 7 thousand. As of 1.02.2011 the share of these families is 14.9% of all incomplete nuclear families.

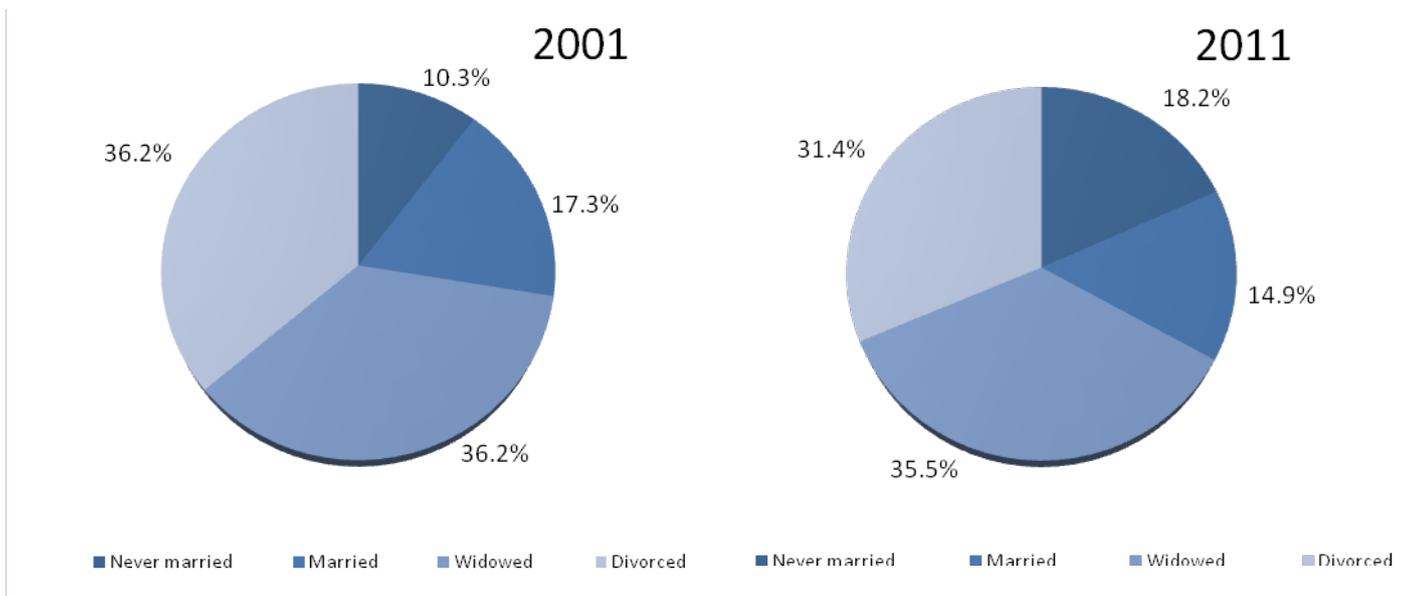
2. Incomplete nuclear families by sex and marital status of the head of the family and Census years

Residence Type of the incomplete nuclear family	Total	Legal marital status of the head of the family			
		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced
1985					
Total	206802	4762	19678	80964	101398
Mother with never married children	171569	4349	15896	65265	86059
Father with never married children	35233	413	3782	15699	15339
1992					
Total	237853	8270	44160	87174	98249
Mother with never married children	196096	7378	34949	70240	83529
Father with never married children	41757	892	9211	16934	14720
2001					
Total	290028	27515	53654	106634	102225
Mother with never married children	240239	24703	41557	87038	86941
Father with never married children	49789	2812	12097	19596	15284
2011					
Total	312783	56959	46685	110969	98170
Mother with never married children	251325	48955	32538	90705	79127
Father with never married children	61458	8004	14147	20264	19043



The number of families composed of divorced parents with never married children also decreased within the period 2001 – 2011, but the share of these families continues to be high and as of 1.02.2011 they represent 31.4% of all families composed of one parent with never married children.

Figure 5. Structure of the incomplete nuclear families by marital status of the head of the family and Census years

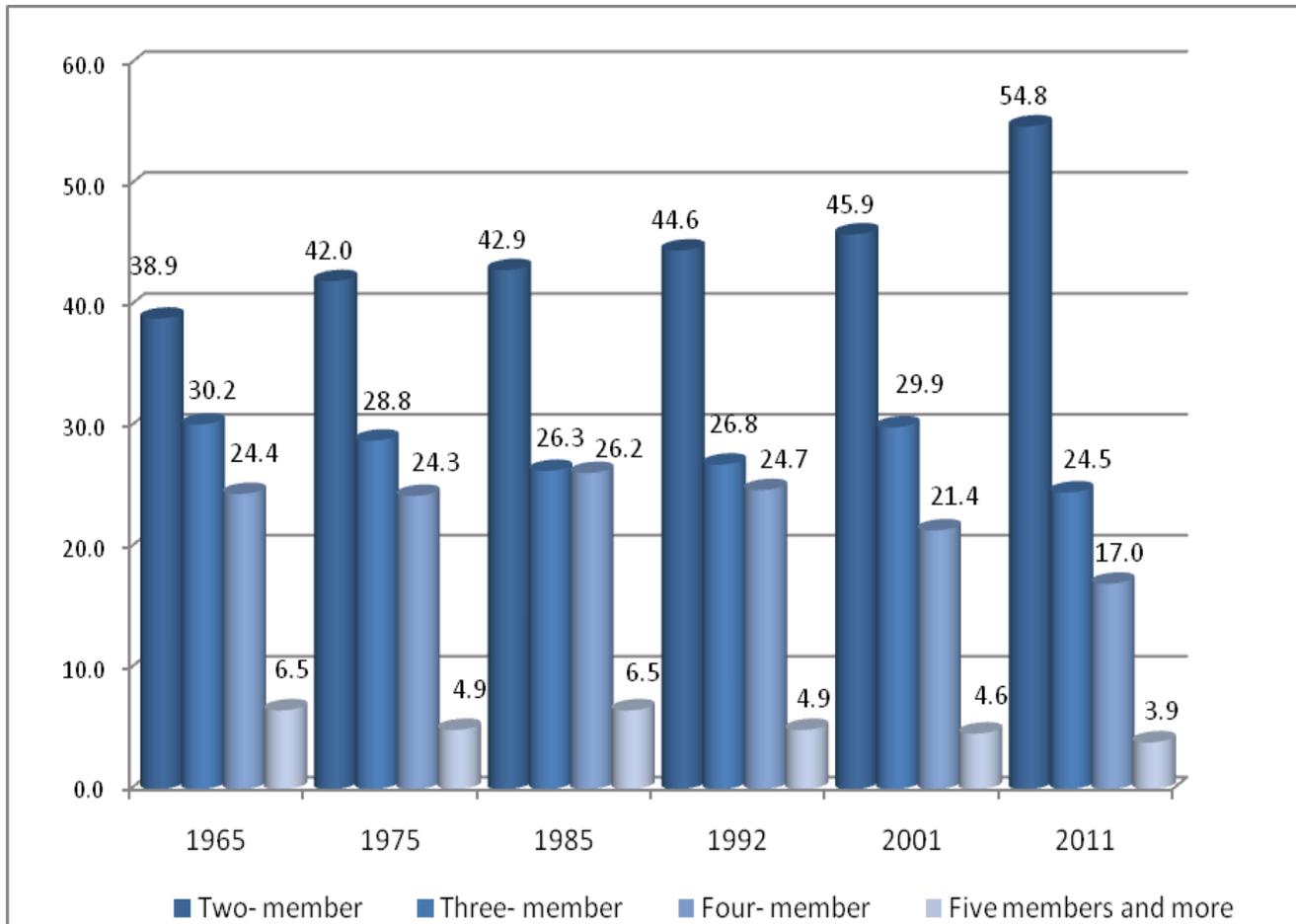


Number of the family members

The changes in the families' number and type are accompanied by changes in their structure by number of members. Two-member families are prevailing in the country. The number and share of two-member families increase from 937 841 (38.9%) in 1965 to 1 053 471 (54.8%) in 2011. The number and share of three-member families vary between the Censuses and as of 1.02.2011 there are 653 207 such families or 24.5% of the total number of families in the country.



Figure 6. Structure of the families by number of members and Census years



367 788 or 17.0% of all families have four members in 2011. The share of these families decreases by 7.4 percentage points within the period 1965 -2001.

Multi-member, with five and more persons, are 48 758 (3.7%) of the families. The number of these families decreases nearly three times during the observed period.

Number of children in the families

Last Censuses data shows that the one-child families were proved to be most typical in Bulgaria. The number of families with one child increased and as of 1.02.2011 they were 829 161 or 63.3.0% of all families with children. Absolute and relative decrease of the number of families with two, three or more children was observed for the period. Last Census data shows that there were 56 017 families with three or more children or hardly 4.3% of all families with children.



3. Structure of families with children by type and Census years

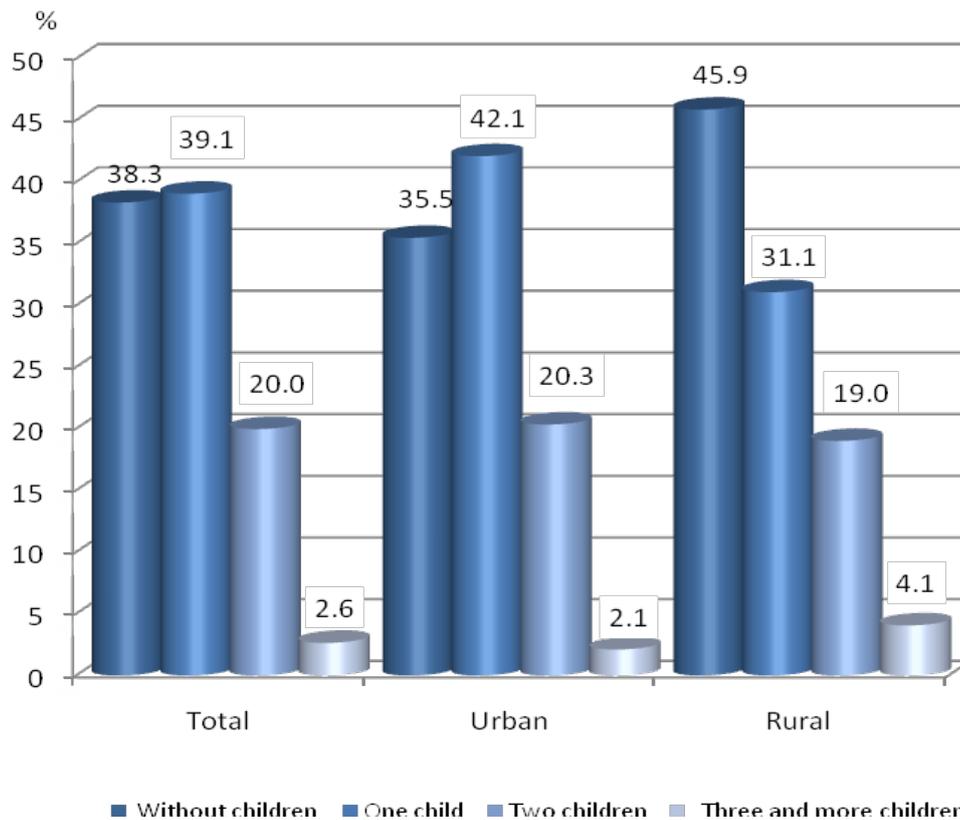
Families with children by type Census years	Total	Families by number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four and more
Families with children					
1985	100.0	47.6	44.5	6.0	1.9
1992	100.0	50.0	43.2	5.0	1.6
2001	100.0	57.0	38.0	3.9	1.1
2011	100.0	63.3	32.4	3.2	1.1
Two spouses with children					
1985	100.0	44.6	47.2	6.3	1.9
1992	100.0	46.5	46.4	5.5	1.6
2001	100.0	53.2	41.5	4.1	1.2
2011	100.0	59.2	36.2	3.5	1.2
Lone parent with children					
1985	100.0	69.3	25.3	4.0	1.4
1992	100.0	69.8	25.5	3.6	1.1
2001	100.0	72.8	23.8	2.7	0.7
2011	100.0	76.6	20.3	2.3	0.8

The district peculiarities determine the differences between them in respect “number of children in the family”. Highest is the number of families with three children and more in districts Sliven (8.8%), Pazardzhik (7.2%) and Kardzhali (6.9%) and lowest in Sofia cap. (2.9%), Pernik (3.0%) and Gabrovo (3.1%).

Mean age of the family head is 51 years (50 in urban areas and 53 years in rural). To a certain extent this is the reason for the high number of families without never married children. As of 1.02.2011 without children are 813 995 (38.3%) of the country families - (35.5% in urban and 45.9% in rural areas).



Figure 7. Structure of families by number of children and residence



Highest is the number of families without children in districts Vidin (47.6%), Montana (45.3%), Lovech (43.4%), Pleven (42.8%) and Yambol (42.5%) and lowest in districts Sofia cap. (29.9%), Blagoevgrad (32.1%) and Varna (33.8%).

Interesting are the families in which there are children under 18 years age.

As of 1.02.2011 the families with children under 18 years age are 755 946, or 57.7% of all families with never married children. There are 1 087 503 children under 18 years age in these families. In urban areas reside 570 945 (75.5%) of the families with children under 18 years age and in rural - 185 001 (24.5%).

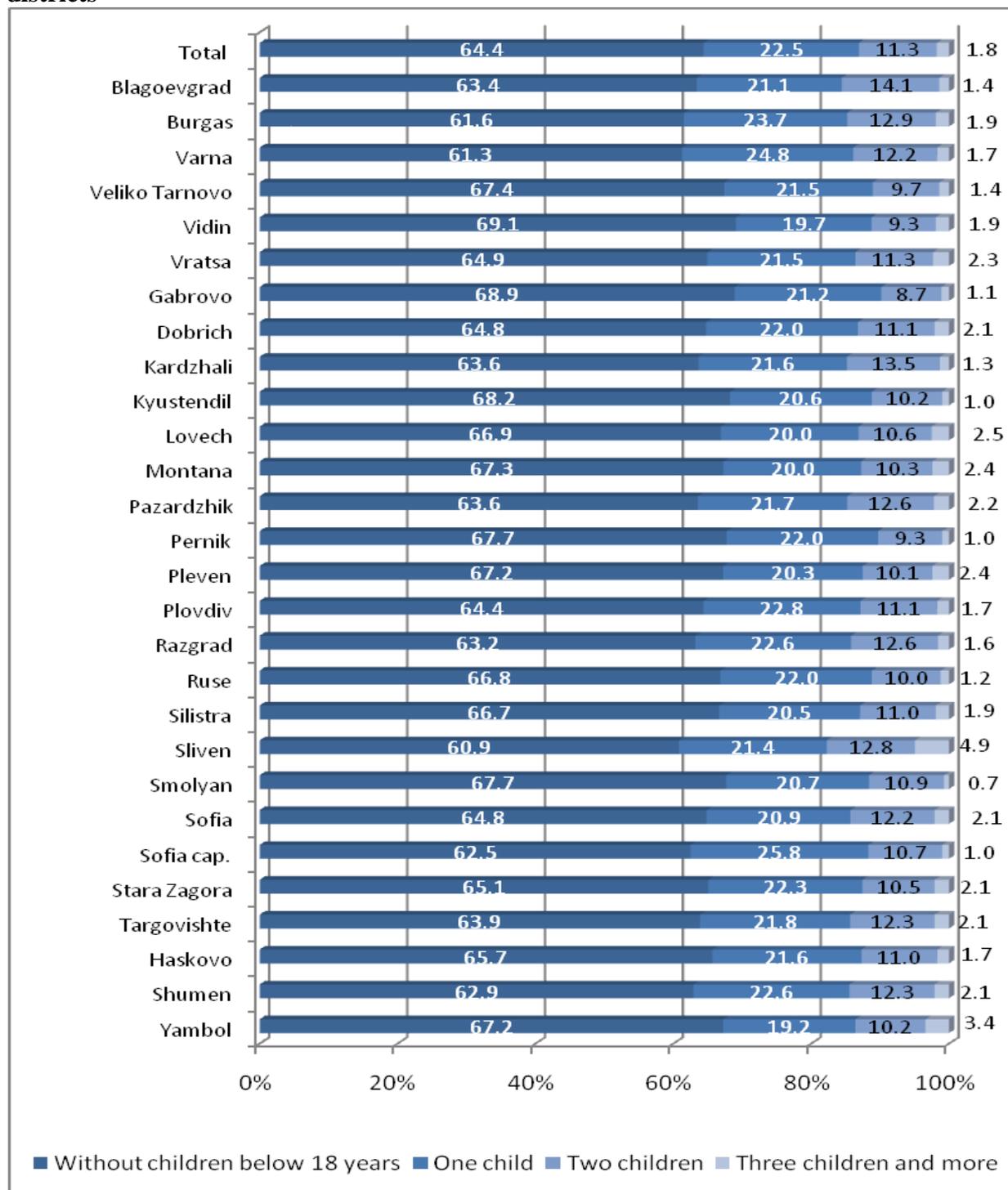
In complete nuclear families (two spouses with never married children) are bring up 907 683 (87.6%) children up to 18 years and 293 709 of them live in families where the two spouses are cohabiting.

In the families composed of one parent with never married children in 2011 there are 179 820 children aged up to 18 years, which means that each eight child in the country is bring up in these families.

The analysis of the families with children by districts shows that the highest is the share of families with children up to 18 years in district Sliven - 63.7% of all the families with children in the district and lowest – in Pernik (53.1%).



Figure 8. Structure of the families with children by number of children under 18 years age and districts



Data on families in Bulgaria are published at the NSI web page, section 2011 Census (<http://www.nsi.bg/census2011/pageen2.php?p2=179&sp2=210>).



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Family is composed by two or more persons, living in one household, related by kinship or as a result of marriage/partnership without marriage or adoption.

One person does not compose a family.

A family is composed by:

- two spouses (in juridical marriage or cohabiting without marriage) without children;
- two spouses (in juridical marriage or cohabiting without marriage) with one or several never married children, **no matter their age;**
- one parent with one or several never married children, **no matter their age.**

Two basic components of the family definition should be kept in mind:

First, in contrast to the biological family, including the whole spouses' generation, **the nuclear family includes never married children only, living with their parents at the Census moment.**

Second, there are no limits for the age and economic activity of the children in the family.

Head of the family is the person who is a spouse or a parent and is acknowledged as a family head.

The following principles should be taken into consideration in defining the family head:

- **The family head obligatory should live in dwelling;** in case the husband (wife) is permanently absent (lives in another settlement), he/she cannot be head of the family.
- **Never married child could be head of a family only in case he/she has own children and is living with them.**

De facto marital status

De facto marital status is the person marital status, no matter the juridical circumstances. The person de facto marital status could differ from his/her juridical marital status.

- „Not in marriage (partnership)” are persons who at the Census crucial moment are not cohabiting, as well as persons who are in juridical marriage, but separated i.e. as of 1.02.2011 are not living in marriage, but are not divorces yet.
- „In marriage” are persons who at the Census crucial moment are “married” and live together with their spouse.
- „Cohabiting/in partnership” are persons living in consensual union, without juridical marriage at the Census crucial moment.