

Lone mothers with minor children

Years 2015-2016

In Italy, in 2015-2016, there were 1 million 34 thousand lone parents with at least one minor child, 15.8% of the families with minor children. The percentage is on the rise: in 1983 the lone parents with at least one minor child were 468 thousand (5.5% of the total).

In 2015-2016 lone mothers with at least one minor child were 893 thousand and represented 86.4% of lone parents with minor children (they were 402 thousand in 1983). The number of lone fathers was much lower: 141 thousand in 2015-2016 and 66 thousand in 1983.

52.9% of lone mothers with at least one minor child had one child, 38.2% two and 8.9% three or more. For one third of lone mothers the youngest child was 5 years old or younger, for 42.7% of lone mothers the youngest child was aged between 6 and 13 years.

In 2015-2016 1 million and 215 thousand children aged 0-17 years lived with their lone mother, they were 12.1% of total minors. In 1995-1996 they were 5.3% (558 thousand children).

Between 1995-1996 and 2016 the percentage of lone mothers until 34 years with at least one minor child decreased from 31.5% to 20.3%, this is due to the progressive growth of the age at childbirth. Lone mothers aged 45-54 increased from 20.9% to 31.8%. The highest proportion was still among lone mothers aged 35-44 (45.3%).

57.6% of lone mothers with at least one minor child were separated or divorced, 34.6% were unmarried, 7.9% widow. Since 1995-1996, unmarried mothers have increased from 18.9% to 34.6% and widow mothers have decreased from 22% to 7.9%.

In 2016 63.8% of lone mothers worked, 24.4% were inactive, 11.8% were unemployed. Compared to 2006, the share of employees suffered a significant reduction due to the crisis (it was 71.2%).

The economic condition of lone mothers with at least one minor child was critical: 11.8% of lone mothers were in absolute poverty, 42.1% of lone mothers were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (58% in the South and Islands).

More than half of lone mothers could not sustain an unforeseen expenditure of 800 euros or a week's holiday. Almost 20% was late in paying bills, rent and mortgage, and could not adequately heat the house.

Lone mothers with at least one minor child worked away from home more hours than mothers in a couple (47 minutes more per day) and they spent less time for family work (37 minutes less). They had a similar amount of free time as mothers in a couple (2 hours and 44 minutes a day).

88.5% of lone mothers were satisfied with their health condition, 84.5% with family relationships, 83.5% with friends, 54.6% with leisure time, 35% with economic conditions. Satisfaction levels were always lower than those of mothers in a couple for all dimensions of life and in particular for economic conditions.

In comparison to lone mothers, lone fathers with at least one minor child had fewer and older children. 186 thousand children 0-17 year old lived with their lone fathers, they were 87 thousand in 1995-1996.

44.9% of lone fathers were 45-54 years compared to 31.8% of lone mothers. Just over half had an upper secondary diploma or a degree, 77.1% were employed.

53.4% of lone fathers were separated or divorced, 29.3% were unmarried. The share of widowers was more than double than that of lone mothers.

LONE PARENTS WITH AT LEAST ONE MINOR CHILD. Years 1983, 1988 (a), 1995-1996 (b), 2005-2006 (b) and 2015-2016 (b), values in thousands and per 100 lone parents with at least one minor child

LONE PARENTS	1983	1988	1995- 1996	2005- 2006	2015- 2016				
	VALUES IN THOUSANDS								
Lone mothers	402	407	420	590	893				
Lone fathers	66	73	70	89	141				
TOTALE	468	480	490	679	1.034				
	PER 100 LONE PARENTS WITH AT LEAST ONE MINOR CHILD								
Lone mothers	85,9	84,8	85,7	86,9	86,4				
Lone fathers	14,1	15,2	14,3	13,1	13,6				
TOTALE	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0				

Source: Istat, Survey on households structures and behavior. Year 1983; Multipurpose survey on households. Years 1987-1991; Survey Aspects of daily life. Years 1995, 1996, 2005, 2006, 2015 and 2016.

(a) Survey carried out from December 1987 to November 1988.

(b) Two-year average.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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Type of problem		Primary	school	Lower secondary school				
	North	Centre	South and Islands	Italy	North	Centre	South and Islands	Italy
Blindness	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8
Partial blindness	3.7	4.7	2.8	3.6	4.6	3.4	2.8	3.7
Acute deafness	1.4	2.4	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.0	1.6
Partial deafness	2.5	3.4	3.4	3.0	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.4
Problems related to mobility	13.0	11.8	12.1	12.5	10.5	9.0	11.0	10.4
Learning specific disorder	15.0	19.3	20.7	17.9	23.3	24.9	25.2	24.3
Language specific disorder	25.2	22.4	21.0	23.2	15.2	12.0	15.1	14.5
General development disturbance	26.3	25.6	24.8	25.6	20.0	23.7	22.9	21.7
Intellectual disability	43.8	36.5	44.4	42.6	48.9	47.0	50.6	49.2
Attention deficit and behavioural disorders	15.5	20.1	19.5	17.8	15.7	18.2	17.1	16.7
Emotional relational disturbances	17.6	15.7	15.2	16.4	16.0	17.0	17.1	16.6
Other type of problem	24.1	21.8	20.8	22.5	19.4	19.9	18.1	19.0

 Table 1. Disabled students categorized by problem type, division and scholastic order.
 School Year 2016-2017

 (percentage values)
 (percentage values)

Note: The sum of each percentage column is greater than 100 because a single disabled student can have more than one type of problem.

Table 2. Schools with regulation architectural features by school year. architectural feature. scholastic order andregion.School Year 2016-2017 (for 100 schools in the same region)

REGIONS	Primary school				Lower secondary school				
	Accessible stairs	Accessible hygienic services	Tactile maps and tactile trails	Accessible external and internal access	Accessible stairs	Accessible hygienic services	Tactile maps and tactile trails	Accessible external and internal access	
Piemonte	81.5	78.1	23.7	43.5	82.8	79.2	23.7	45.0	
Valle d'Aosta-Vallée d'Aoste	85.7	82.1	20.2	60.7	90.5	85.7	28.6	57.1	
Lombardia	82.9	85.4	26.6	50.1	86.3	87.7	28.7	51.8	
Trentino-Alto Adige	89.6	81.4	27.2	58.4	90.8	86.7	29.5	52.6	
P.A. Bolzano-Bözen	93.3	82.0	25.1	55.4	97.7	90.9	36.4	53.4	
P. A. Trento	84.2	80.5	30.3	62.9	83.5	82.4	22.4	51.8	
Veneto	77.8	81.9	25.6	48.3	85.9	83.4	26.4	48.7	
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	78.6	79.6	27.9	57.4	85.7	82.1	26.8	63.7	
Liguria	78.6	65.7	29.7	41.5	86.6	72.1	27.4	42.3	
Emilia-Romagna	79.7	85.3	29.4	52.1	84.7	86.4	30.1	50.9	
Toscana	73.7	78.6	20.3	48.3	84.1	81.2	20.4	47.2	
Umbria	77.3	80.3	30.1	48.2	83.1	87.1	30.6	51.6	
Marche	80.0	71.9	17.1	41.1	82.5	73.1	15.8	37.2	
Lazio	72.4	70.6	15.1	34.0	78.4	74.5	16.8	35.0	
Abruzzo	73.3	71.9	18.1	40.1	81.9	71.7	15.9	40.3	
Molise	64.3	70.5	13.2	32.6	76.6	77.9	14.3	32.5	
Campania	72.8	62.1	14.1	40.0	82.4	69.4	14.4	42.7	
Puglia	85.2	77.7	18.9	44.1	88.3	81.4	16.6	47.1	
Basilicata	87.6	71.8	16.3	38.1	90.8	75.2	14.2	40.4	
Calabria	60.7	63.0	12.3	35.1	76.8	66.4	13.4	39.3	
Sicilia	72.7	71.9	16.0	39.8	85.1	79.3	19.1	42.6	
Sardegna	73.8	81.3	16.5	43.1	75.3	80.8	12.8	42.7	
Italy	77.0	75.7	21.0	44.4	83.6	79.2	21.4	45.3	

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