



NATIONAL USA WEEK

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

September 15 - 21, 2002
www.nationalUSAweek.org
sponsored by AASP

CELEBRATING THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF 82 MILLION UNMARRIED AND SINGLE AMERICANS

May 7, 2002

Mr. Dwight Johnson
Chief, Demographic Releases Team
Public Information Office
United States Census
Washington, DC 20233

Re: Request for Census Bureau to issue a Fact Sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We are writing to you to request that the Census Bureau issue a fact sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week this year. We hope that you will be able to honor this request.

Last year, when we were commemorating the third week of September as "National Singles Week," I spoke with Robert Bernstein in the Public Information Office. He suggested that I should contact you this year about the possible release of a fact sheet by the Census Bureau in connection with this occasion. It would be similar to the fact sheets which are issued for other commemorative days, weeks, or months.

Last year, we secured proclamations from several governors and mayors recognizing National Singles Week. (See enclosures.) This year, we hope to have every governor and many more mayors declare the third week of September as National Unmarried and Single Americans Week. We have already started the process of securing these proclamations.

AASP is the leading national organization for unmarried and single Americans. I am enclosing a brochure and a newsletter for your reference.

This year, we decided to broaden the name of this commemorative week so that more unmarried Americans will identify with it and feel included. (See History of National USA Week, enclosed.) We have created a website for this occasion. Both www.nationalUSAweek.org and www.nationalsinglesweek.com will take you to this site.

If you visit our website, you can see that many elected officials are honorary members of AASP, including federal, state, and local officials.

Fact sheets have been issued in the past for Older Americans Month, Women's History Month, African American History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, St. Patrick's Day, Grandparents Day, Professional Secretaries Day, and Disability Employment Awareness Month. With the 2000 Census reporting that nearly half of the nation's households are now headed by unmarried adults, it would be appropriate for the Census Bureau to issue a fact sheet this year during the one week of the year which recognizes this large population.

We look forward to hearing from you soon, hopefully with a favorable reply.

Very truly yours

Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director

Tom Coleman

From: Tom Coleman [coleman@unmarriedamerica.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2002 9:33 AM
To: 'robert.b.bernstein@census.gov'
Subject: follow up to your call

Mr. Bernstein,

I am sending you something in the mail today as a follow up to your phone message to me about my request for a Fact Sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week.

After reviewing other Fact Sheets issued by the Census Bureau this year for other occasions, I did a copy and past function and took pertinent information from some of those releases and prepared a draft fact sheet for USA Week for you to consider.

You should receive the materials by Monday if the postal service does its job right.

I look forward to hearing from you after you have time to review the draft.



Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director
American Association for Single People
www.unmarriedAmerica.org
(818) 242-5100
(818) 242-5103 FAX



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National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

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CELEBRATING THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF 82 MILLION UNMARRIED AND SINGLE AMERICANS

June 5, 2002

Robert Bernstein
Public Information Office
United States Census
Washington, DC 20233

A red stamp with a blue folder icon, the word "COPY" in large red letters, and the handwritten text "mailed certified 6-5-02" in red ink.

Re: Draft of possible Fact Sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

I received your phone message in response to my request to Dwight Johnson about a Fact Sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week.

You mentioned that you were not sure there were enough current facts to fill a Fact Sheet for this occasion. I thought about this for a while and wondered if there might be enough data from recent fact sheets from other occasions. So I did some research on the Census Bureau's website and some related government sites.

After studying the format for the typical Facts and Features releases you do, I used the data which I found and prepared a DRAFT Fact Sheet for you to consider. I believe there is sufficient information to prepare a 3 page Fact Sheet, even without waiting for other releases which will come out later this year.

However, I think that you could use some information from the Annual Supplemental Survey for 2001 which may be released in late July. Some of the marital status data in that report would make the Fact Sheet even more current. But even without this new data, there is plenty to fill a Fact Sheet right now.

Please share this with Mr. Johnson and other colleagues and let me know what you finally decide about a Fact Sheet for National USA Week this year.

Also, I noticed from a Tip Sheet issued on August 24, 2001 (TP01-17) that you did a 60 second radio spot for National Singles Week last year. This was part of the "Profile America" CD for September 2001. Is it possible for me to get a copy of that CD?

Thank you very much for considering this request and for reviewing this DRAFT. It is only a draft. I am sure that if the Census Bureau does issue a Fact Sheet for this occasion, it will surely be an improvement over the draft which I have prepared.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director

p.s. Let me know if you would like me to send you the draft web page as an attachment to an e-mail message. I prepared the draft using Front Page.

FACTS & FEATURES



CB??-FF.??

August ??, 2002

DRAFT: FOR CONSIDERATION BY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

(This draft was prepared by Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director, American Association for Single People, from excerpts taken from Facts and Features releases in 2002 for: Father's Day, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, and Women's History Month, as well as Census Bureau news releases in 2001 (CB01-113, CB01-96), Current Population Survey for March 2000 and November 2000, and from birth data from the National Center for Health Statistics. We hope that the Public Information Office will issue a Fact Sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week this year. This draft used the usual format of the Census Bureau for Fact Sheets and was prepared to demonstrate that sufficient data already exists to fill a Fact Sheet for this commemorative week.) Contact: Thomas F. Coleman, tomcoleman@earthlink.net, (818) 242-5100, (818) 242-5103 (fax).

Unmarried and Single Americans Week, 2002: September 15-21

Unmarried Adults

82 million

Number of unmarried adults in 2000. Of these, 48.2 million were never married, 19.8 million were divorced, and 13.7 million were widowed.

<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/p20-537/2000/tabA1.txt>

48% and 44%

The proportions of American women and men, respectively, who were 15 and over and unmarried in 2000. These percentages were up from 40 percent and 35 percent, respectively, in 1970. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

25.1 and 26.8

The estimated U.S. median ages at first marriage in 2000 for women and men, respectively. The age for women equaled the 20th century high reached in 1999 and is up 4.3 years since 1970. The age for men, even though it dipped 0.3 years since reaching a 20th century high in 1996, was still up 3.6 years from 1970.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

Older Adults

Women 65 and over were more likely than men in this age group to be unmarried. For example, among those in the 65- to 84-year-old age group, 26 percent of men and 55 percent of women were not married and living with their spouse. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-96.html>

Never Married

13.3 million

The number of people, ages 25 to 34 in 2000, who had never been married; this number represents 35 percent of all people in this age group. The total of never-been-marrieds among the 35-to-44 age bracket was 6.9 million or 15 percent. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

More than three times

The proportional increase of never married women ages 30 to 34 during the period 1970 to 2000 (from 6 percent to 22 percent). Men experienced a similarly dramatic increase in singleness, from 9 percent to 30 percent. Indeed, young, single adults are much more common today than a generation ago.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

Widowed

13.9 million

The number of widowed people in 2000, of which 2.6 million were men and 11.3 million were women. (QT-02. **Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000**) http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTable?_ts=41269221685

Divorced

19.8 million

The number of currently divorced people in 2000, of which 8.5 million were men and 11.3 million were women. (QT-02. **Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000**)

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTable?_ts=41269221685

Single Parents

12 million

The number of single parents in 2000. The number of single mothers increased between 1970 and 2000, from 3 million to 10 million; over the same time frame, the number of single fathers increased also, from 393,000 to 2 million. (Single mothers and fathers include all those who are not currently living with a spouse.)

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

5.8 million

Number of never-married mothers age 15 to 44 in 2000. They represented 23 percent of all never-married women in this age group. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-170.html>

43%

Percent of single mothers living with children under 18 in 2000 who had never married.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

2.0 million

Number of single fathers in 2000. Among these fathers, 45 percent were divorced; 34 percent had never married; 17 percent were married with an absent spouse; and 4 percent were widowed.

13.5 million

Number of live births to unmarried women in 2000. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/unmarry.htm>

33.2%

Percent of all births occurring to unmarried women in 2000. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/unmarry.htm>

Households

51 million

The number of households in 2000 -- nearly 5 in 10 -- maintained by unmarried men and women.

http://factfinder.census.gov/bf/?lang=en_vt_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U_DP1_geo_id=01000US.html (DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000)

31 million

The number of households in 2000 -- about 3 in 10 -- maintained by women with no husband present.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

26.7 million

The number of one-person households in 2000. The proportion of households consisting of one person living alone increased from 17 percent in 1970 to 26 percent in 2000.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

5.5 million

The number of unmarried partner (same and opposite sex) households in 2000.

http://factfinder.census.gov/bf/?lang=en_vt_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U_DP1_geo_id=01000US.html (DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000)

3.8 million

Number of opposite-sex cohabitating couples who maintained households in 2000.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>

Voting

35%

The percent of voters in the 2000 presidential election who were unmarried. Nearly 37 million voters were divorced, widowed, or never married. Married individuals (67 percent) are more likely to vote than widowed (59 percent), divorced (54 percent), separated (46 percent), and never married individuals (44 percent).

Separated and never-married individuals are generally younger, which also influences their voting patterns.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-31.html>

Employment

42%

The percent of the workforce in February 2002, ages 16 and over, which was unmarried. Nearly 57 million of the 133.3 million people employed that month were unmarried.

http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/pub/empsit_feb2002.htm

63%

The percent of unemployed people in February 2002 who were unmarried. Married people have a lower unemployment rate than do unmarried people. For example, in February 2002, the overall unemployment rate for people 16 years and older was 5.5 percent, whereas for married men it was 3.4 percent and for married women it was 3.8 percent.

http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/pub/empsit_feb2002.htm

Health Insurance

27.4 million

The number of unmarried adults who had no health insurance in 2000. Of the 38 million adults who were not covered by health insurance during any time in 2000, only about 10.6 million were men and women living with their spouses. Adults under the age of 65 who are not married have an uninsured rate overall about twice that of married non-elderly adults, which is about 13 percent. (See e-mail from Institute of Medicine.)

http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032001/health/h01_001.htm

The preceding facts come from the Current Population Survey and the Statistical Abstract of the United States. The data are subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Previous 2002 *Census Bureau Facts for Features*: African American History Month (February), Valentine's Day (Feb. 14), Women's History Month (March), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), Census Bureau Centennial (March 6), Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May) and Older Americans Month (May). Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office (tel: [301] 457-3030; fax: [301] 457-3670; e-mail: pio@census.gov).

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Public Information Office
(301) 457-3030*

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions • 1902-2002

Tom Coleman

From: Tom Coleman [coleman@unmarriedamerica.org]
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2002 11:15 AM
To: 'robert.b.bernstein@census.gov'
Subject: RE: Possible fact sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Mr. Bernstein,

Thank you for evaluating the possibility of a Fact Sheet for Unmarried and Single Americans Week.

I understand the position you are in this year, especially with so little lead time and with three other Fact Sheets being issued in September.

The radio spot on September 16 is very good news. In a previous communication you had mentioned the possibility of one for each day of the week. Considering all of the sub-groups of unmarried Americans (solo singles, unmarried couples, single parents, divorcees, widowed, etc.) it would be fantastic if you could do 5 spots, one for each day during Monday-Friday.

I appreciate the compliment about my knowledge of the Census data sets. I have been a perpetual student of the work you folks do at the Census Bureau. Your research and the service you provide are so important to government officials and private sector companies.

Please let me know whether you might be able to do 5 radio spots instead of one.

Thanks again for giving serious consideration to a Fact Sheet for this year. Perhaps this could be given some priority for September 2003.

Best wishes,

Tom Coleman

Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director
American Association for Single People
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(818) 242-5100
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-----Original Message-----

From: robert.b.bernstein@census.gov [mailto:robert.b.bernstein@census.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2002 10:52 AM
To: coleman@unmarriedamerica.org
Cc: dwight.l.johnson@census.gov
Subject: Possible fact sheet for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Dear Mr. Coleman,

Thank you for sending over the draft fact sheet. We're very impressed with your knowledge of the Census Bureau's data sets -- you included an interesting array of statistics.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to issue a Facts for Features on this topic this year. September will probably be our staff's busiest month of 2002, as we already are committed to doing three factsheets that month (Labor Day, Grandparents Day, and Hispanic Heritage Month), not to mention the fact we will be making preparations for our annual income and poverty news conference late in the month, at which we release the nation's official poverty rate. The planning for this event consumes a large portion of our staff's time that month, and it would be difficult to engage in this activity and field media queries

on this factsheet, not to mention the other three, simultaneously. In addition, we are scheduled to release the Summary File 3 national file at some point during the month, which will generate a large volume of media calls.

That said, we do intend to do a segment on National Unmarried and Single Americans Week for "Profile America," which is a daily, 60-second feature we produce for radio stations that uses interesting vignettes from key events, observances or commemorations for that day to highlight information collected by the Census Bureau. The segment would air on Monday, Sept. 16. We plan on using some of the statistics you provided to us in your draft fact sheet. Profile America is very widely distributed, heard on 470 radio stations and 37 radio networks nationwide, including the Armed Forces Radio Network. In addition, U.S. Newswire picks up all Profile America segments, which means many wire services and newspapers will see, and may very well choose to write about, the segment on Singles Week.

We will definitely consider doing a Facts for Features on Singles Week next year, as we will evaluate the various demands on our staff at that time.

Robert Bernstein
Public Information Office
U.S. Census Bureau