

National Centre of Social Studies, o.p.s. (public benefit organization)

Socio-demographic analysis of single-parent families with minor children in the Czech Republic

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INTRODUCTION

The Czech family has been subject to significant changes in the past 15 years. Most importantly, family patterns have been changed. Prior to 1989, the model of family behaviour was, more or less, uniform, almost everyone got married at least once, namely, at a very young age (men: at the age of 25, women: at the age of 22 on average), the first child was born soon after marriage (more than 50% of the first children born in marriage were born within 8 months after marriage), the second child followed soon after the first one (after 3 years on average). The proportion of children born outside of marriage was less than 10 %, premarital conception was mostly legalized by marriage. The induced abortion rate was high, compared to Western countries, however, mostly married women with two children got an abortion, i.e. abortion became a sort of an „ex post“ contraception whereby unplanned pregnancies after giving birth to the desired number of children were addressed. The divorce rate was increasing.

In the last decade, in particular, there was a fall in the marriage rate. According to the 2001 data of the Czech Statistical Office (hereinafter „the CSO“), only 65 % of men and 72 % of women entered into marriage. The reason behind the decline in these indicators is the fact that the beginning of family life is postponed until a higher age. In connection with the postponement of marriage and childbirth, numbers of married women dropped and hence also numbers of children born in marriage decreased. On the contrary, numbers and proportions of children born outside of marriage increased (in 2002: 25.3 %, in 2003: 28.4 % and in 2004: 30.6 %), however, not due to the higher rate of the out-of-wedlock (non-marital) fertility, but in particular due to the above mentioned lower number of children born to married women.

The submitted analysis focuses on single-parent families, their composition, number of children in a family, presence of another adult person in a family and socio-economic situation of these families. Single-parent families, on one hand, result from the rising divorce rate, but on the other hand, their number is influenced also by the higher proportion of children born outside of marriage.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs required to include into this analysis the data related to single-parent families only. The project managers decided to incorporate into the analysis, beyond its terms of reference, also a chapter on the so-called de facto marriages that are categorized as two-parent families, but the project managers consider them worthy of attention.

The analysis is based on the results of surveys conducted by the Czech Statistical Office, in particular:

- Population and Housing Census 2001 (and, where possible, also the comparison with the results of the population census 1991 is used which enables to reflect the changes that occurred in the 90's)
- Social situation of families 2001
- Microcensus 2002
- Survey on family 2003
- Household budget survey

The results of the Population and Housing Census reflect the current status of the population at a particular date which stems from development trends of individual demographic processes. The data on families and households collected in the course of censuses illustrate the consequences of previous family behaviour. When preparing this analysis, standard outputs of the Czech Statistical Office were used, in particular the publication "Population, dwellings, houses and households" (*Obyvatelstvo, byty, domy a domácnosti*) and "Households" (*Domácnosti*) were used. Hence, the analyses are based on the aggregate data published in the above publications, not on individual census data. Although the aggregate data limit the analysis on one hand, since only published classification of data can be used, they are quite satisfactory for the basic description of families on the other.

At the turn of May and June 2001, the Czech Statistical Office conducted a survey of the social situation of households. The purpose of the survey was to obtain the up-to-date representative data on socio-demographic characteristics of persons and households in the Czech Republic, the level and degree of differentiation of their income and, furthermore, information on the availability of household equipment and housing characteristics. Apart from these objective characteristics, the surveys

included a relatively high number of attitudinal questions whose purpose was to ascertain also additional information on living conditions.

The Czech Statistical Office conducted in March 2003 a sample survey of money income and income-in-kind of households in 2002 – Microcensus 2002. The purpose of the survey was to obtain representative data on the level and structure of income and basic socio-demographic characteristics of households and their members required for the analysis of income indicators. In order to limit the burden imposed on households, no additional ranges of questions have been included (data on a dwelling, housing costs, household equipment) were not included. For Microcensus 2002, a total of 11,040 dwellings were selected, i.e. about 0.25 % (in the City of Prague 0.5 %) of the total number of permanently occupied dwellings. The selection was performed on the basis of the Population and Housing Census 2001 and hence reflected also the territorial structure of households. In contrast with the Population and Housing Census 2001, however, the data are stated only for „dwelling households“, i.e. the survey included all persons who had in a selected dwelling in the course of 2002 for at least 1 month their usual (i.e. the sole or main) residence.

In 2003, the Czech Statistical Office conducted also an extraordinary survey of child upbringing and maintenance costs. The survey was organized as part of the regular household budget survey in the course of the whole year 2003. Organizational and methodological principles for the ordinary Household Budget Survey were used for its implementation, together with the measures aimed at meeting the survey objectives, i.e. obtaining the data on child-related expenditure for various types of households and on average money expenditure per child specified by age, sex and type of household in which a particular child lives. The only survey of the same type was conducted in 1988 and provided extensive information on the facts that had not been subject of any previous survey in the Czech Republic. Hence, the up-to-date data for 2003 provide, in a way, unique information on the burden imposed on current household budgets with respect to education and maintenance of children in the Czech Republic.

For the Household Budget Survey that is being monitored on an annual basis, households are selected on the basis of the judgement quota sample. For the general population, therefore, sample features are the social status of the head of

household, number of household members, number of unprovided for children and the net annual per capita money income. In the case of single-member households of pensioners, the sample feature is also sex. The survey is conducted on a sample of the general reporting population which includes 1,750 households of employees, 300 households of farmers, 450 households of self-employed persons and 500 households of pensioners. In addition to the general population, there is also the so-called additional population intended for the monitoring of income and expenditure of families with children and with minimum income. In 2004, the additional population was comprised of 400 families with children.

The submitted analysis contains ten chapters. Chapter one presents basic definitions of individual types of households and problems surrounding the definition of families, chapter two briefly deals with the development of families and households in the Czech Republic, chapter three describes the composition and structure of single-parent families, chapter four analyzes the issues related to the head of household focusing on sex, age, marital status, education, economic activity, nationality and denomination of the head of household. Chapter five deals with housing of single-parent families, chapter six analyzes the presence of an additional person in a single-parent family. The financial situation of single-parent families is examined in chapter seven and chapter eight compares regional differences. As already mentioned above, the submitted analysis includes chapter nine on de facto marriages and the final chapter ten contains a brief summary. At the end of the analysis annexes are attached which contain more detailed tables related to topics of individual chapters that are too extensive to be incorporated into the body of the report.

1. Definitions of single-parent families, their problems and surveys on single-parent families

1.1. Definition of single-parent families

A survey on single-parent families with minor children should clarify how many families of this type there are in the Czech Republic, what is their composition and it should also reflect their socio-economic situation. However, the definition of the term single-parent family and the term minor child itself poses a problem.

The term single-parent family is understood by the general public as a synonym of families in which a lone parent lives with a child (children) or in which a lone grandparent lives with a grandchild (grandchildren). In this context, the lone status means that there is no (second) **legal** partner of a parent (grandparent). Hence, this category of families also includes cohabiting couples (consensual unions), „for whom it is worthwhile to remain unmarried“, since they enjoy more social advantages derived from such status.

Statisticians in their surveys use three basic criteria for the definition of households and families

- living together,
- common housekeeping and
- kinship.
-

On the basis of these three criteria, in Czech censuses, there are three types of households:

1. **dwelling household** consists of persons living together permanently in one dwelling, it is comprised of one or more housekeeping households;
2. **housekeeping household** consists of persons living together in one dwelling and sharing housekeeping, i.e. sharing the housing costs, it is comprised of one (or more) census households
3. **census household** is defined by kinship or other relationships, on the basis of these relationships census households are further subdivided as follows:

Census households are further subdivided according to the following scheme

census households, total	family households	two-parent families	without dependent children
			with dependent children
	single-parent families	without dependent children	
		with dependent children	
Non-family households	households of individuals		
	multi-member non-family households		

The following families are considered to be family households

- two-parent families, comprised of a married couple or cohabiting couples living in a consensual union (the so-called de facto marriage or consensual unions) without children or with children, children are either dependent or independent,
- single-parent families, comprised of one parent living at least with one child, children are either dependent or independent

Children are defined by kinship, generally, their age or marital status is irrelevant. The number of dependent children in a family is one of the monitored classification criteria. Methodological definition of a dependent child has been further specified in the course of the years. During the census in 2001, a dependent child was defined as a person which meets simultaneously three conditions, namely having the son/daughter relationship to the head of household, being economically not active (without earning its livelihood) and being aged between 0 – 25 years. Effectively, these are mostly children of pre-school age, children of school age, or students of secondary schools or universities. Other cases of dependent children are not so frequent.

Family households can include also other individual persons, both relatives and non-relatives who live with the family and share the housekeeping and do not constitute a separate family household (e.g. grandmother).

The following types of households are classified as non-family households:

- households of individuals, i.e. persons living in a dwelling separately or as subtenants, or living together with another household, but with a separate housekeeping
- multi-member non-family households, comprised of two or more persons who share common housekeeping and are or are not relatives

1.2. Problems surrounding definitions of single-parent families

When we examine these definitions, it is immediately clear that they are not fully consistent with the established concept of single-parent families, as referred to at the beginning of this chapter.

The definition of census households implies that it is possible to obtain from population censuses data on single-parent families which actually consist of a single parent living with a child (children). In these families, also an additional person can live (almost always one of the grandparents).

However, the families in which unmarried parents of a child (children) live together pose a problem. The Czech Statistical Office ranks these families among the so-called de facto marriages, whether they declare their relationship as the one of cohabiting partners or not and classifies them under two-parent families. Hence, such information is probably undervalued and it is difficult to record it. On one hand, these data are collected only on the basis of personal declaration during census and the population census only records those couples in which partners have **the same permanent residence**, on the other. Consequently, we can assume that a certain portion of consensual unions was not and will not be recorded in the course of censuses.

Other problems arise from the permanent residence of adult persons stated in the course of the census. If the spouses do not have the same permanent address, they are considered to be a household of an individual (man) and a single-parent family (mother with a child).

Since 2001, census households consisting of a grandparent and a grandchild have been considered to be multi-member non-family households and they are not treated as single-parent families anymore.

Also the definition of the number of children in single-parent families poses a problem. As it monitors the number of dependent children only, in cases where there is a child in the family which does not meet the criteria of a dependent child, it is classified not as a child, but as an additional person in the family.

This type of families poses another problem, namely identification of „the head“ of household. Based on the recognized methodology, the oldest, economically active person is considered to be the head of household. Consequently, if a parent is not economically active, but some child is, such economically active child is classified as the head of household. A similar problem may occur even in case that in a family of three generations consisting of "a grandparent (economically active) + a parent receiving a family allowance or an unemployed + an unprovided for child" a grandparent will be the head of household.

The second problem related to the terms of reference of our analysis is the use of the term single-parent family „**with minor children**“. Neither the family statistics prepared by the Czech Statistical Office, nor the statistics of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs use the term minor children, i.e. children up to the age of 18, (without any further limitations), but the term „dependent child“. The details of the methodological definition of a dependent child according to the Czech Statistical Office have been specified in the course of years. During the census in 2001, a dependent child was defined as person which meets simultaneously three conditions, namely having the son/daughter relationship to the head of household, being economically not active (without earning its livelihood) and being aged between 0 – 25 years. The definition according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is similar, a dependent child is considered to be a child until the completion of the compulsory school attendance, and afterwards, however, up to a maximum of 26 years of age, if it is systematically preparing for its future job or cannot be systematically preparing for his/her future job or be engaged in gainful activities due to a sickness or an accident or due to a long-term poor health condition. After the completion of the compulsory school attendance, up to 18 years of age, also a child which is registered in job-seeker records of the Labour Office and is not eligible for

the unemployment benefits or retraining benefits is considered to be a dependent child.

Despite all these problems, the data on „census households“ (hereinafter referred to as „households“), namely family households, can be taken as the basis for the purposes of this analysis. Specifically, these will be the data on single-parent family households and de facto marriages. The emphasis will be put on families with dependent or unprovided-for children.

1.3. Survey on single-parent families

A separate analysis of single-parent families is very rare in current studies (as opposed to reports on old people, people with disabilities, homeless people, etc.). Single-parent families, or lone parents with children, are only discussed marginally (if at all) as part of analyses and surveys/researches focused on people in low- income brackets.

The last survey on single-parent families was carried out by the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs in 1996. Its authors, Lhotská and Petrová, at the end of their survey note that single-parent families involve a wide range of family arrangements, while the type of family cohabitation significantly influences the living conditions of a particular family. The type of family cohabitation (the nuclear or mixed family) is the most influential factor, in particular with respect to the family income. Nuclear, single-parent families ranked among the lowest income group, whereas among consensual unions (de facto couples) the highest income was reported. The housing situation of single-parent families was not beyond average indicators reported by two-parent families, both in terms of the type of the occupied dwelling (defining the ownership rights), and the size of the habitable area (monitored in our data by the number of habitable rooms).

Obadalová (2001) ranks lone parents, in terms of access to housing, among at-risk groups whose specific needs arise from socio-economic reasons. According to the author, lone parents with children, mostly mothers, are exposed to material deprivation more than other groups. These households are heavily dependent on the supply of rental housing and in Western European countries are usually given

preferential treatment as regards access to social (subsidized) rented dwellings. In the Czech Republic's conditions, unfortunately, account is taken usually of other criteria than the social ones when allocating council dwellings. It is relatively difficult to quantify the need for social dwellings of these households. Usually, only those parents (mostly mothers) with children who became homeless suddenly and ended in the street are in the public eye. In other cases, their homeless status is hidden. They share a dwelling, either with grandparents or other relatives.

2. Families and households in the Czech Republic in the period 1961 – 2001

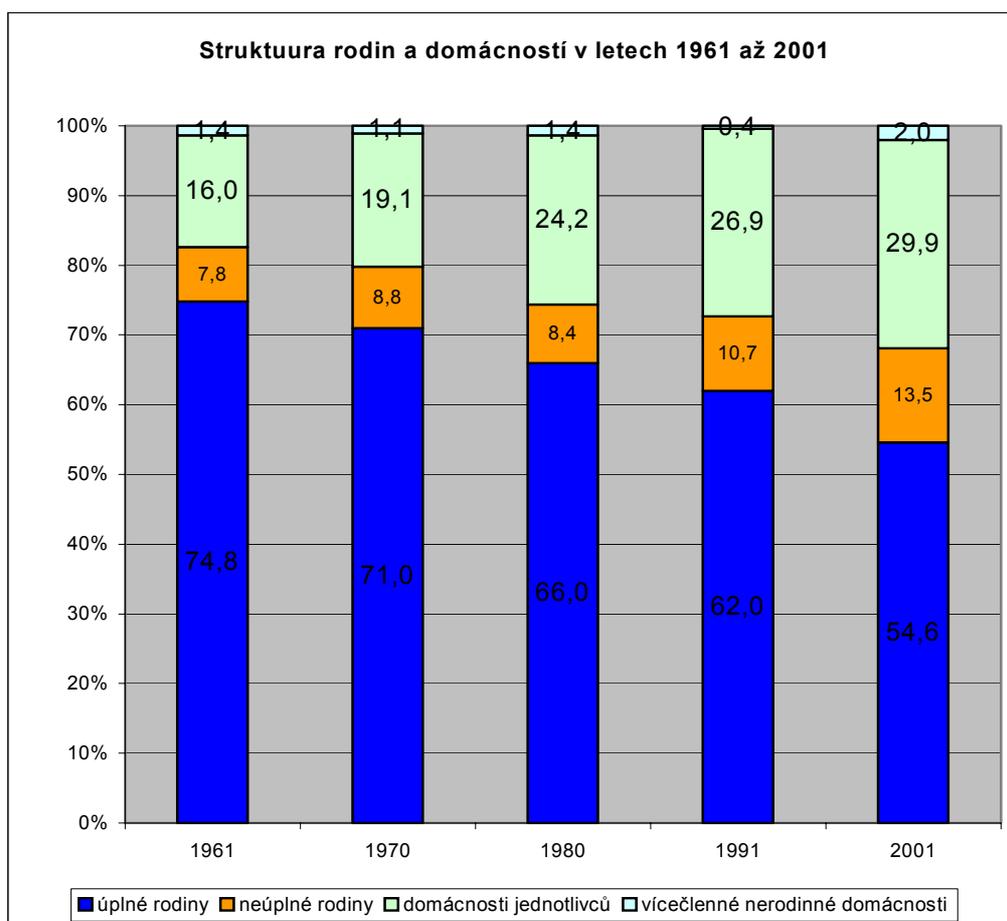
In the period 1961 – 2001 the number of households increased by 32.9 %. The main sign of the changing structure was a drop in the numbers and share of two-parent families, in particular with dependent children. The number and share of single-parent families, on the contrary, due to the divorce rate and the rising illegitimate birth rate increased. Also the proportion of the households of individuals and multi-member non-family households increased due to a change in the definition of cohabitation of grandparents and grandchildren.

Table 1: Development of the number of families and households

		1961	1970	1980	1991	2001
Total		3 214,3	3 502,7	3 875,7	4 051,6	4 270,7
two-parent families	absol. (ths.)	2 405,4	2 487,5	2 556,8	2 512,9	2 333,6
	%	74,8	71,0	66,0	62,0	54,6
single-parent families	absol. (ths.)	249,6	306,7	325,1	434,4	576,4
	%	7,8	8,8	8,4	10,7	13,5
Households of individuals	absol. (ths.)	514,7	668,6	938,8	1 089,6	1 276,2
	%	16,0	19,1	24,2	26,9	29,9
multi-member non-family households	absol. (ths.)	44,6	39,9	55,0	14,7	84,5
	%	1,4	1,1	1,4	0,4	2,0

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 1: Structure of families and households during the Population and Housing



Census in the period 1961-2001

Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 1:

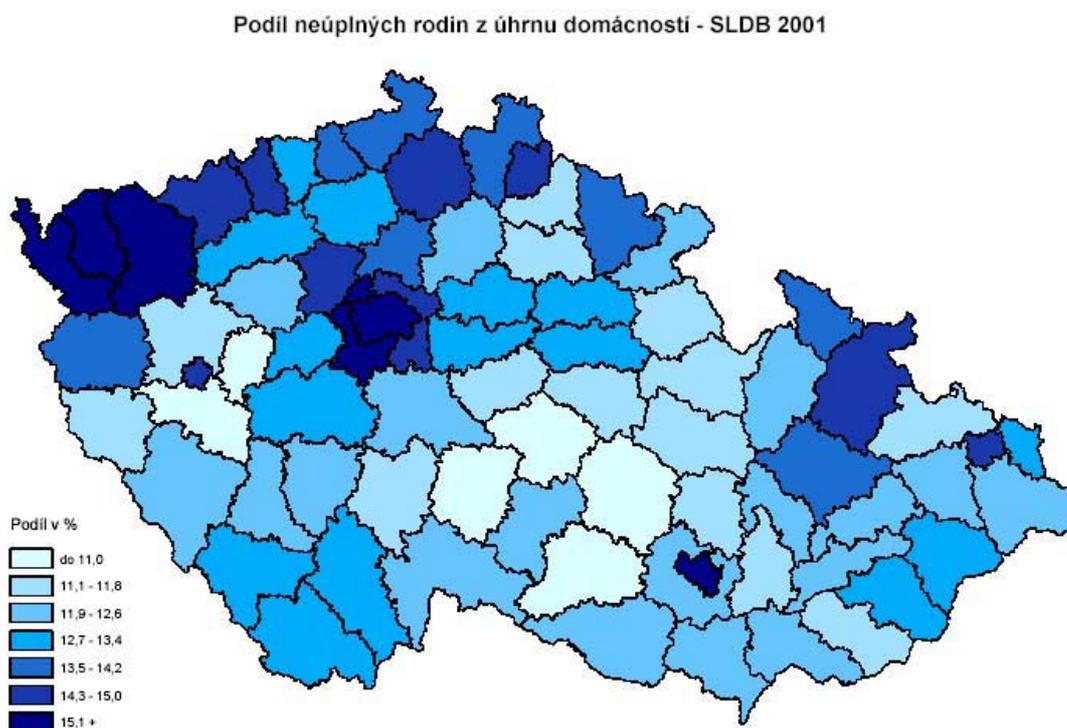
Structure of families and households in the period 1961-2001

two-parent families, single-parent families, households of individuals, multi-member non-family households]

The trends which had been observed among families and households in previous decades were significantly intensified in the last period (since the 1991 census). In particular, there was a sharp **fall in the number of two-parent families**. While between 1961 and 1980 their number was rising, afterwards it started to drop and in 2001 it reached the lowest level for the whole monitored period. Simultaneously, with the development of this type of families, on the other hand, **the number of single-parent families** and households of individuals **was rising**. The number of single-parent families has increased since 1961 more than twice and in the period 1991-2001 itself it has risen by almost one third (32.7 %). A similar development occurred

among households of individuals which have risen to two and a half multiple, while for the last decade they have increased by one sixth (17.1 %). Multi-member non-family households represented the smallest category throughout the whole period. Their share, being in the region of one percent, grew only in 2001 when 85 thousand of these households accounted for two per cent of all families and households.

Graph 2: Share of single-parent families (status as at 1 March 2001)



Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 2:

Share of single-parent families in the total number of families – The Population and Housing Census 2001

Percentage share
up to 11.0
11.1-11.8....]

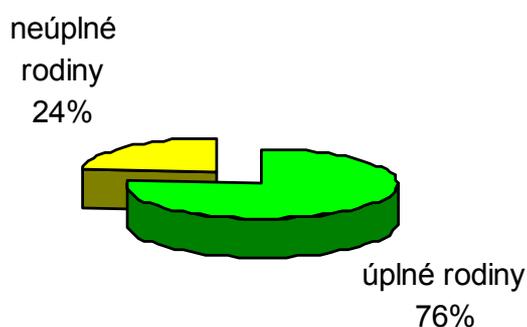
3. Single-parent families

Of the total number of families with dependent children in 1991, every sixth family was single-parent. In 2001, it was even every fourth family. A change in the relation between two-parent and single-parent families resulted from the opposite dynamics of their development. The number of single-parent families with dependent children has increased by more than one third since the last census; whereas, on the contrary, the number of two-parent families with children in the same period dropped by more than one fifth.

Single-parent families arise, in particular, due to a divorce of parents, but also as a result of death of one of the parents or in cases where a lone mother gives birth to a child. A necessary prerequisite for treating a particular family as a single-parent one is similarly, as in the case of other families, the permanent residence of its members in one dwelling. A long-term dynamic growth is a typical feature of the development of numbers of single-parent families with dependent children. This development is related in particular to the high divorce rate. Despite a drop in this indicator in 1999, the divorce rate was in the region of 30,000 per year. Although part of the divorced re-marry and part of them live in an informal, de facto (consensual) union, numbers of single-parent families are rising. Single-parent families account for almost one fourth of the total number of families with dependent children.

In the Czech Republic, in 2001 a total of 2,910,012 census family households were registered. This figure included 2,333,592 (i.e. 80.2%) two-parent families, while the remaining 19.8% were single-parent families – i.e. those where only a single parent with at least one child lives.

Graph 3: Family households by type of household



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 3:

single-parent families
24%

two-parent families 76%]

At the time of the census, there were 576,420 nuclear single-parent families in the Czech Republic, while in the long-term, their number is constantly increasing (in the period 1991-2001 by 32.7 %).

From the long-term viewpoint, it is obvious that an increase in the number of these families results from the higher number of single-parent families with dependent children. Since 1961, the number of single-parent families with two dependent children has increased most rapidly (389.4 %), followed by families with one dependent child (285.2 %). Save for 1961, families with dependent children prevail constantly over the families without these children. In 2001, three fifths of single-parent families had dependent children, while about two thirds of these 343 thousand families had one dependent child and more than one quarter had two dependent children.

Table 2: Single-parent family households

census	total		with dependent children		
	abs. (ths.)	% of census households	abs. (ths.)	% of census households	% of single-parent family households
1961	249,6	7,8	115,0	3,6	46,1
1970	306,7	8,8	157,0	4,5	51,2
1980	325,1	8,4	203,8	5,3	62,7
1991	434,4	10,7	254,1	6,3	58,5
2001	576,4	13,5	343,4	8,0	59,6

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Table 3: Composition of single-parent families by the number of dependent children

	1961		1970		1980		1991		2001	
	absol. (ths.)	relat. (%)								
number of single-parent families, total	249,6	100	306,7	100	325,1	100	434,4	100	576,4	100
Including:										
without dependent children	134,9	54,1	149,7	48,8	121,2	37,3	180,3	41,5	233,0	40,4

with 1 dependent child	77,8	31,2	111,3	36,3	133,5	41,0	166,0	38,2	221,9	38,5
with 2 dependent children	26,3	10,5	35,8	11,7	57,7	17,8	73,4	16,9	102,4	17,8
with 3 dependent children	7,5	3,0	7,6	2,5	10,4	3,2	12,5	2,9	15,8	2,7
with 4 or more dependent children	3,1	1,2	2,3	0,7	2,3	0,7	2,2	0,5	3,3	0,6

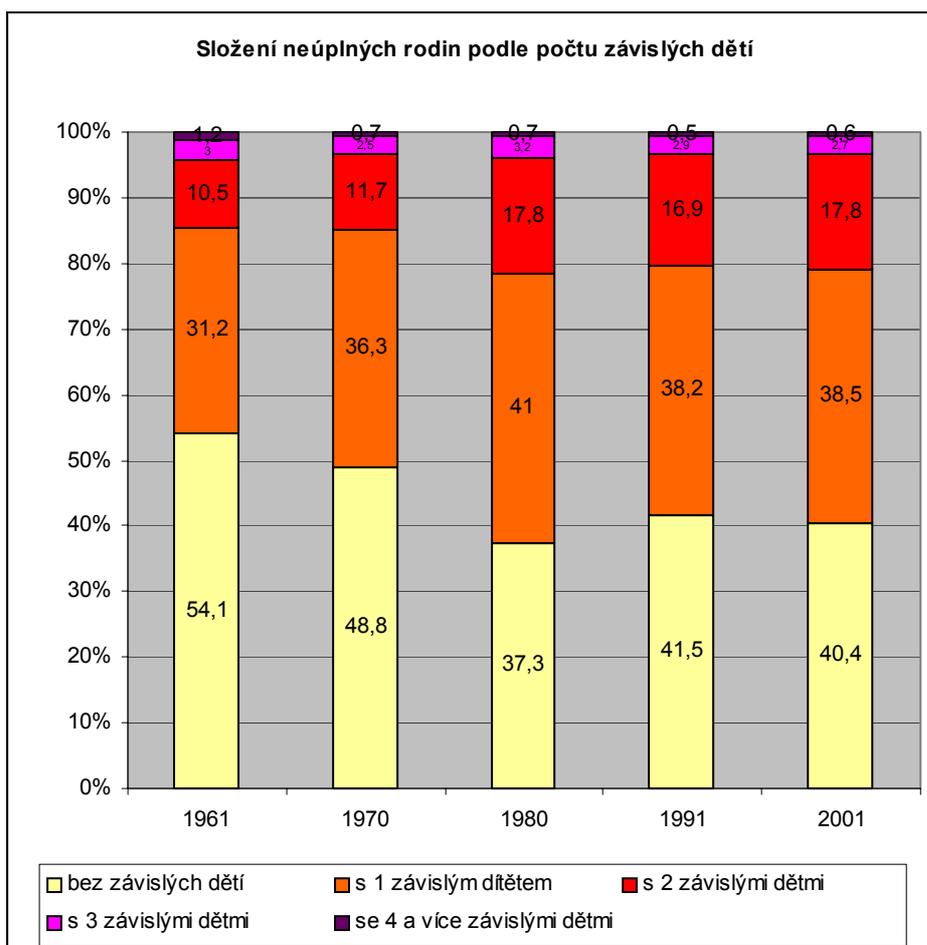
Source: The Czech Statistical Office, the Population and Housing Census 2001

Note: as has been already mentioned above in the chapter dealing with definitions of families and households, the data for single-parent families from censuses prior to 1991 and 2001 are not completely comparable, since census households consisting of a grandparent and a grandchild started to be classified since 2001 as multi-member non-family households and were not treated as single-parent families anymore.

Two-parent families consists of almost one half of families with two dependent children (47.4%), while families with one dependent child, accounting for 43.4%, represent another important group, the remainder being families with more than two dependent children (9.2%). On the contrary, among single-parent families, households with one dependent child significantly prevail (64.6%), less than one third (29.8%) of families have two dependent children and 5.6% of single-parent families have more than two dependent children.

In 2001, almost 1.5 million persons (14 % of the population) lived in single-parent families, including 488 thousand dependent children (27 % of dependent children). Half of them were children up to the age of 10 years, inclusive.

Graph 4: Composition of single-parent families by the number of dependent children in the period 1961 – 2001 (in thousands)



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 4:

Composition of single-parent families by the number of dependent children

without dependent children, with 1 dependent child, with 2 dependent children
with 3 dependent children, with 4 and more dependent children]

The average size of a family with dependent children in 2001 was 3.88 members in a two-parent family and 2.62 members in a single-parent family (with the average number of children of 1.4). In 1991, these figures were 3.92 members in a two-parent family and 2.64 members in a single-parent family. The average number of dependent children in a two-parent family has slightly dropped, whereas in a single-parent family has remained the same.

Table 4: Children in single-parent families

census	number of dependent children			average number of dependent children in single-parent families with children	average number of dependent children in single-parent families, total
	1	2	3+		
1961	67,8	22,9	9,3	1,45	0,66

1970	70,9	22,8	6,3	1,37	0,69
1980	65,5	28,3	6,2	1,42	0,88
1991	65,3	28,9	5,8	1,42	0,83
2001	64,6	29,8	5,6	1,42	0,85

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

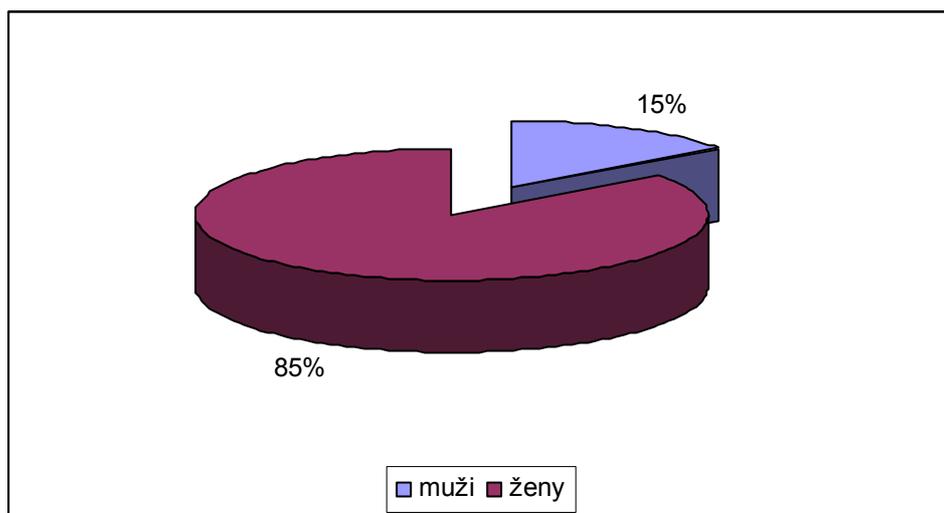
4. The head of household in a single-parent family

4.1. Sex of the head of household in a single-parent family

The single-parent status of a large number of Czech families is a serious factor in particular from the gender viewpoint. Due to the usual divorce practice whereby minor children are mostly placed in the custody of their mother, mothers with children prevail in single-parent families. In 2001, also an increase in the number of single mothers under the age of 30 was recorded (from 10 thousand to 30 thousand). The position of the head of household in single-parent families imposes significant burden on this family member, from all possible aspects (economic, social and psychological) and hence this enormous burden is borne primarily by women.

As regards the relation between women and men heading a single-parent family with children, women are the heads of household in such families seven times more frequently than men, namely across the entire structure of single-parent families with children. With the rising number of dependent children, this proportion of women is slightly increasing. The total number of single-parent families recorded during the last census was 576,420, while 487,841 (i.e. 84.6%) of these families were headed by a woman and 88,579 (15.4%) of these families were headed by a man. At the same time, 61.1% of single-parent families headed by a woman had at least one dependent child, whereas among the families headed by a man, 48.5% only. Consequently, men are heading single-parent families far less frequently than women, but even those who perform this role, do so more frequently than women without dependent children. Even this particular circumstance, that single mothers prevail over single fathers, needs to be viewed as important from the gender viewpoint.

Graph 5: Share of single-parent families by sex of the head of household in total (at 1.3.01)



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 5:

men, women]

The share of women heading single-parent families with at least one dependent child is even higher (88%) and this proportion has remained unchanged in recent years.

Table 5: Single-parent families by the head of household and the number of dependent children in 1991 and 2001

	census year	number of families		including: with the number of dependent children (%)			
		absol.	Relat. (%)	1	2	3	4+
number of single-parent families with dependent children, total	1991	254 083	100,0	65,3	28,9	4,9	0,9
	2001	343 405	100,0	64,6	29,8	4,6	1,0
Including:							
headed by a woman	1991	223 855	88,1	64,8	29,3	5,0	0,9
	2001	300 485	87,5	64,3	30,1	4,7	1,0
headed by a man	1991	30 228	11,9	69,5	25,6	4,1	0,7
	2001	42 920	12,5	67,1	28,0	4,0	0,9

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

4.2 Age of the heads of household in single-parent families

Single-parent families are headed by women of wide age range, effectively between twenty five and the pre-pension age. Men occur in this position rather after the age of forty, most frequently even after the age of forty five.

The age structure of the heads of household in a single-parent family with dependent children differs in the case of families headed by a woman and families headed by a man, but there are certain differences also in comparison with two-parent families with dependent children. As for women, the highest share is represented by the 25 – 39 age bracket, among men, higher age bracket is the most frequent one, specifically 35 – 49 years.

The average age of a man heading a single-parent family with dependent children in 2001 was 41.7 years, the average age of a woman heading a single-parent family was 35.4 years. For the sake of comparison: among two-parent families with dependent children, the average age of a man was 39.2 years and the average age of a wife or a (female) cohabitee was 36.3 years.

The comparison shows that women always significantly prevail in single-parent families, namely in all age brackets. The lowest share of women was recorded in the 50-59 bracket, the largest proportion of women is in the age brackets under 30 years. Among two-parent families, the situation is different: the share of women is decreasing in proportion to the age, in the forty-year-old age group, the proportion becomes more equal and from the age of fifty, men start to prevail.

Table 6 Single-parent families with dependent children by sex and age of the head of household

Age bracket	total	head of household	
		woman	Man
Total	343 405	300 485	42 920
-19	2 491	2 434	57
20-29	90 347	86 526	3 821
30-39	129 537	116 432	13 105
40-49	93 635	75 465	18 170
50-59	25 422	18 609	6 813
60-69	1 644	843	801
70+	281	144	137
Not identified	65	49	16

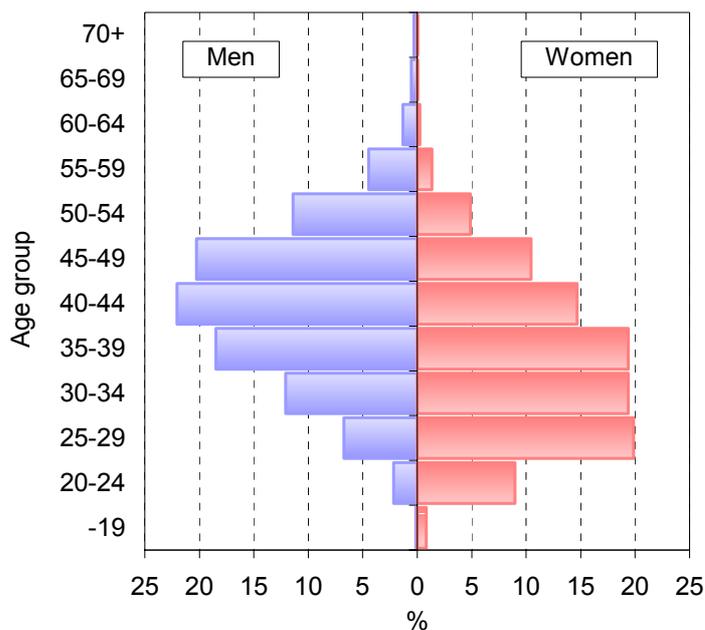
Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Table 7 Single-parent families by the number of dependent children and by sex and age of the head of household

Age bracket	Households with 1 dependent child			Households with 2 dependent children			Households with 3 dependent children			
	total	head of household		total	head of household		total	head of household		
		woman	man		woman	man		woman	man	
Total	221 974	193	28 818	102	369	90 352	12 017	19 062	16 977	2 085
-19	2 311	2 258	53	164	161	3	16	15	1	1
20-29	68 465	65 444	3 021	19 239	18 553	686	2 643	2 529	114	114
30-39	63 357	56 007	7 350	54 248	49 393	4 855	11 932	11 032	900	900
40-49	63 989	52 033	11 956	25 566	20 251	5 315	4 080	3 181	899	899
50-59	22 094	16 498	5 596	2 981	1 915	1 066	347	196	151	151
60-69	1 483	774	709	114	41	73	30	11	19	19
70+	231	111	120	39	23	16	11	10	1	1
Not identified	44	31	13	18	15	3	3	3	0	0

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 6: Share of single-parent families by age as at 1 March 2001



Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

4.3. Marital status of the heads of household in single-parent families

Also the marital status of the heads of households in a single-parent family with dependent children is closely linked to the age structure of men and women heading a single-parent family. About one half of single-parent families with dependent children (some 262 thousand, i.e. 45.9 %) represent in the case of both men and women heading a family the divorced in the 30-49 age bracket. Hence, most single-parent families arise as a result of the break-up of marriage. About one fourth of single-parent families are headed by a married person. De jure marriage continues, despite the fact that during the census these persons lived with their children (child) separately from their (male or female) partner. The share of widowed men in the structure of single-parent families with dependent children is much higher than that of widowed women. Single women who raise alone their child or children are the third most numerous group of single-parent families headed by a woman.

Table 8: Single-parent families by age and marital status of the head of household
a) women

Age bracket	total	Marital status				
		Single	married	divorced	widowed	not identified
Total	300 485	48 524	78 568	148 303	22 592	2 498
-19	2 434	2 020	353	33	3	25
20-29	86 526	28 000	32 792	23 834	969	931
30-39	116 432	12 306	29 223	68 524	5 328	1 051
40-49	75 465	4 869	13 440	46 391	10 358	407
50-59	18 609	1 274	2 680	9 224	5 370	61
60-69	843	45	64	255	472	7
70+	144	4	5	18	115	2
not identified	49	6	12	14	3	14

b) men

Age bracket	total	Marital status				
		Single	married	divorced	widowed	not identified
Total	42 920	2 702	12 225	22 227	5 263	503
-19	57	51	5	0	0	1
20-29	3 821	1 214	1 502	976	64	65
30-39	13 105	860	3 998	7 347	689	211
40-49	18 170	438	4 595	10 612	2 366	159
50-59	6 813	120	1 886	2 969	1 786	52
60-69	801	17	200	275	303	6
70+	137	0	37	44	54	2
not identified	16	2	2	4	1	7

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

These families have also, compared to other heads of household, most frequently dependent children, which is the case of about two thirds of them. In view of a relatively large number of pensioners performing the role of heads of household, widows and widowers account for one fourth of the total number of single-parent families.

In 1991 and 2001, divorced and widowed women were most frequently heading a single-parent family. Married women (see above) were the third most frequent category of the marital status. Among single-parent families headed by a man, also divorced and widowed men dominated as the heads of household, however, these families account for a small share in the total number of single-parent families, since,

as has been already mentioned above, mostly women (85 %) are heading a single-parent family.

Nevertheless, in 2001 the structure of single-parent families by age and marital status of the head of household was changed. In the case of women under the age of 30 heading a single parent family, the proportion of single women increased at the expense of married women (up to the age of 25) and divorced (25 – 29 years). This development may be partly explained by the lower societal pressure on pregnant women to get married. Consequently, single young women can give birth to a child more frequently without being married, be it for housing or social reasons (preferential treatment of single mothers within the social security system), due to partnership relations (unstable relationship between partners in a parental couple) etc. In 1991, on the contrary, couples tended to get married prior to the childbirth, despite the fact that the spouses have not resolved, for instance, their housing situation yet, which resulted in a relatively high proportion of single-parent families headed by a married woman. In the 30-50 age bracket, single-parent families headed by a divorced woman prevail, whereas in higher age groups, families headed by a widowed woman are the most frequent category of single-parent families. However, the shares of single-parent families headed by a divorced woman dropped in 2001, compared to the 1991 figures, namely up to the age of 35 – 39 years, inclusive. On the other hand, starting from the 25 – 29 age bracket, also the shares of single-parent families headed by a married woman increased. On the contrary, the shares of single-parent families headed by a widowed woman dropped in 2001, compared to the 1991 figures, due to the lower mortality and the increased divorce rate.

Among men heading a single-parent family household, at first sight, there were no such significant changes in terms of age and marital status. The shares of single persons dropped in the period 1991 - 2001, the shares of married and divorced increased and the shares of widowed men heading a single-parent family dropped similarly as in the case of women.

The shares of men and women heading a single-parent family, by age and marital status, in the total number of population, by age and marital status, confirm that divorced and widowed women represent the highest rate of giving rise to single-parent families, followed by widowed men.

Divorced men do not live in a single-parent family, nowhere near so often as divorced women, due to the existing divorce practice whereby children are mostly placed in the custody of their mother. The rate at which single-parent families arose in relation to the marital status and age of the head of household was generally higher in 2001 than in 1991. This feature was especially marked among single and married women.

Among single men, the average number of children is even the highest one, since children are placed in custody of divorced men only seldom. In terms of age, on average, single men in the 25-34 age bracket have most dependent children (2001-the 25-29 age bracket: 1.47, the 30-34 age bracket: 1.40). Widowed men have more frequently already independent children. Among women, widowed and then divorced women had the highest average number of children. In terms of age, unemployed women in the 30-34 and 35-39 age brackets have the highest average number of children (2001-married: 1.73 and 1.75, respectively, divorced: 1.71 and 1.72, respectively). From the published data it is not clear whether these are women married for the first time, or married repeatedly. In general, the rule applies that women married repeatedly have more children than divorced women, since they can have additional children with a new partner (new partners).

A more detailed overview of single-parent families by sex, age and marital status of the head of household is given in Annexes 1 to 3.

4.4. Education of the heads of household in single-parent families

The educational structure of the heads of household in single-parent families with dependent children shows differences between families headed by a man and families headed by a woman. Among men, the share of secondary education is important; the proportion of the second most frequent type - the full secondary education - is much lower (about twice lower). The educational structure of women is much more balanced. The share of secondary education and the full secondary education is almost the same.

The structure of the heads of household in single-parent families with children and a particular marital status analyzed by the highest completed education shows in particular that the secondary education prevails among men (with completed

apprentice training or the secondary education without the school-leaving examination – 51.2 %), regardless of their marital status. Among women, the full secondary education prevails, except for single women in the case of which the secondary education without the school-leaving examination prevails (36.3 %). Women and men with the completed school-leaving examination rank second, but the share among women is higher, 28.6%, whereas among men 22.6%. Primary education ranks third in both populations, while the share of women in this category is higher (22.6%) than the share of men (10.2%). Post-secondary non-tertiary (extension) or higher education was recorded in the case of 4.3% of women and 2.8% of men. The group of university graduates accounts for 8.2% among women and by five percentage points more among men, i.e. 13.2%.

There are no fundamental differences between the educational structure of partners in two-parent families and the heads of household in single-parent families, by type of a family in terms of sex. Education of partners in two-parent families or the heads of household in single-parent families, basically, „reflects“ its distribution among the population in general. There are no fundamental differences between the educational structure of partners in two-parent families and the heads of household in single-parent families. This has been proved not only by the same order of the shares of individual education groups, but also by the fact that percentage point differences between these shares in two-parent and single-parent families were insignificant for both men and women. Perhaps only with respect to the primary education this group was represented more significantly in single-parent families (among women the difference was 2.4 percentage points, whereas among men 2.9 percentage points).

The absolute data show, in particular, that the most frequent type of a single-parent family with dependent children headed by a man is a single-parent family of a divorced man with secondary education. A typical single-parent family with dependent children headed by a woman is a single-parent family of a divorced female with secondary education (with the school-leaving examination).

There is only one information which is inconsistent with the above mentioned conclusions when examining the structure of the heads of household in single-parent families with a particular completed education analyzed by their marital status. Of the

total number of university graduates who were as at the date of the 2001 census heading a single-parent family with dependent children, 50 % were married. Among women, the share of married women in the total number of female university graduates heading a single-parent family was 39%. In the case of married family members, there is an obvious interdependence relationship: with the higher level of education, also their share in the number of the heads of household in a single-parent family with a given level of education is increasing. A similar interdependence, but in the opposite direction, applies to single family members; the higher the level of education, the lower the share of single heads of household in a single-parent family with dependent children.

Table 9: Single-parent family households by age of the head of household and by his/her highest completed education

a) women

Education of the head of household	Age of the head of household - Women								
	up to 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	not identified	total
primary, not completed, without education	1 660	14 423	12 636	22 289	20 403	16 783	30 169	20	118 383
secondary education without the school-leaving examination	561	40 004	42 301	40 344	24 981	9 152	12 509	23	169 875
secondary education with the school-leaving examination	125	24 850	43 259	34 308	22 226	5 015	3 138	15	132 936
Post-secondary non-tertiary (extension) studies, completion of 2 or more secondary schools, higher professional education	2	2 888	5 295	6 402	4 227	889	698	4	20 405
University	-	2 646	12 872	13 749	7 801	1 523	802	60	39 453
not identified	88	1 766	1 946	1 366	747	328	548	-	6 789
Total	2 436	86 577	118 309	118 458	80 385	33 690	47 864	122	487 841

b) men

Education of the head of household - Men	Age of the head of household - Men								
	up to 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	not identified	total
primary, not completed, without education	38	782	1 348	2 537	2 441	1 610	2 488	5	11 249
secondary education without the school-leaving examination	15	1 982	6 353	15 045	12 422	3 777	3 852	10	43 456
secondary education with the school-leaving examination	2	729	3 431	5 947	5 295	1 497	1 116	3	18 020
Post-secondary non-tertiary (extension) studies, completion of 2 or more secondary schools, higher professional education	-	83	235	550	831	338	302	5	2 344
University	-	135	1 632	3 987	3 785	1 170	839	25	11 573
not identified	2	123	402	678	468	143	121	-	1 937
Total	57	3 834	13 401	28 744	25 242	8 535	8 718	48	88 579

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

4.5. Economic activity of the heads of household in single-parent families

The economic activity of the head of household in a single-parent family is one of the most important characteristics of this type of a household. An economically active head of household is in most of these families the sole person having an income from employment, i.e. the one earning the livelihood. The position of single-parent families with dependent children is very bad, compared to two-parent families. While among two-parent families with dependent children, in 79% of the families both parents are economically active, in 19.5% of the families one of the parents is economically active and there is only a minimum share (0.8 %) of the families in which both parents are economically not active, among single-parent families the situation is significantly different. A total of 17.5% of single-parent families with dependent children are headed by an economically not active person. In absolute terms, this is almost 60,000 single-parent families in which more than 88,000 dependent children live, while 90% of them live with an unemployed mother. For the sake of comparison: in 2001, in absolute terms, there were only 8,694 two-parent families with both economically not active parents.

The adverse situation of single-parent families with dependent children headed by an economically not active person is proved also by the fact that in more than 90% of these households, there is no other (cohabiting) economically active person. Mostly, these are two-member families (a parent and one child) in which the head of household has completed the primary or secondary education. The biggest number of these families in absolute terms is in large cities – Prague, Brno and Ostrava and also in the Karviná district.

Similarly, as in the case of all families, also among single-parent families, the highest share, almost one half, represent families headed by an employee, in this context, most frequently a female employee. They are followed, with about one fifth share, by families of not working pensioners. While among families of employees, there is almost one half with 1 dependent child, in the case of not working pensioners this involves an absolute majority of families without dependent children.

In terms of the composition of the number of dependent children, families headed by an unemployed person differ significantly from the average figures determined by employees. They have more dependent children, for instance, the share of families with 3 or more dependent children is double the share of the employed and, on the contrary, their share among families without dependent children is significantly lower. On the other hand, social situation of these families, whose total number with dependent children is 41 thousand (11.9 % of single-parent families with dependent children and 7.1 % of all single-parent families), and their life situation in general is, no doubt, much more complicated.

Let us examine in more detail single-parent families of the unemployed. A single-parent family is more frequently headed by an unemployed woman than by an unemployed man (2001: 87 % of single-parent families of the unemployed, 83% of the employed). The rate of giving rise to single-parent families is higher among unemployed women than among employed women, in the case of men, this rate is significantly lower, however, in the case of the unemployed men, it is also higher, compared to the employed men. Most unemployed men and women heading a single-parent family are divorced (2001:59%), in the case of women, there is an obviously higher share of single unemployed women, compared to men (2001: 18 % compared to 13 %). As regards the number of dependent children in a single-parent family of the unemployed, single men and women have most frequently children.

However, there were differences in the economic activity of the heads of family households when analyzed by dependent children: mothers of dependent children heading single-parent families are more frequently economically active than mothers of dependent children from two-parent families. The share of the unemployed among economically active heads of family households differed when analyzed by the type of family: among two-parent families, there were 6.1% of the unemployed, whereas in single-parent families 13.0%. Even in this case, in both types of families, women's position is worse than men's: the share of the unemployed among economically active women heading two-parent families was 7.7% which is by 2.9 percentage points more than in the case of men whose share was 4.8%. In the case of single-parent families, the share of the unemployed among economically active women heading a family accounted for 13.6%, while among men it was 9.9%, i.e. the

percentage difference is 3,7%. The high percentage of the unemployed women heading single-parent families is especially sad.

When the head of household in a single-parent family loses his/her job, he/she faces a very difficult situation. And if there are dependent children in such family, it is even worse. This concerns a total of 59,577 children from single-parent families, while 90% of them live with an unemployed mother.

The share of unemployed women heading a single-parent family with a dependent child accounted for 83.5%, among unemployed men heading a single-parent family 63.9% have a dependent child , i.e. by 19.6 percentage points less.

4.6. Business activities of the heads of family households

According to the position in their work, 16.8% of the employed persons heading family households categorized themselves under the group „employers“ or „self-employed persons“, i.e. entrepreneurs. Among women heading family households, this share accounted for 11.2%, while among men it was 22.1%, i.e. the difference was 10.9 percentage points in favour of men. Among employees, women constitute a slight majority (52.0%), among entrepreneurs, this is one third (32.5%).

At the level of more detailed classification by the type of family there were no differences in business activities: in the case of employed women heading two-parent families, the share of entrepreneurs was the same as the share of entrepreneurs among employed women heading single-parent families: in both cases 11% were engaged in business activities. In the case of male entrepreneurs heading family households there was not any significant difference in the measured share, either: among two-parent families it was 22.0% and among single-parent families 24.7%. An interesting finding was the fact that even 11.3% of the employed women – mothers of dependent children heading a single-parent family are engaged in business activities.

Table 10: Single-parent family households by age and economic activity of the head of household

a) women

Sex, age	Economically active persons					Economically not active persons			Not identified	Total
	including:					including:				
	including:			unem- ployed persons	total	Not working pension- ers	other ec. not active	total		
	employees	emplo- yers, self- employed	other							
	15 - 19	236	8	637	151	1 032	-	1 372		
20 - 24	6 901	384	3 025	2 691	13 001	90	13 397	13 487	446	26 934
25 - 29	27 004	2 609	2 986	9 155	41 754	343	16 554	16 897	992	59 643
30 - 34	32 926	4 410	1 745	8 614	47 695	643	9 028	9 671	899	58 265
35 - 39	38 785	5 883	1 205	7 287	53 160	1 124	4 916	6 040	844	60 044
40 - 49	83 184	11 474	1 887	11 916	108 461	5 040	3 763	8 803	1 194	118 458
50 - 54	43 084	4 699	1 107	4 182	53 072	25 551	1 181	26 732	581	80 385
60+	3 691	547	288	-	4 526	76 828	45	76 873	155	81 554
not identifie d	38	2	7	3	50	17	7	24	48	122
total	235 849	30 016	887	43 999	322 751	109 636	50 263	159 899	5 191	487 841

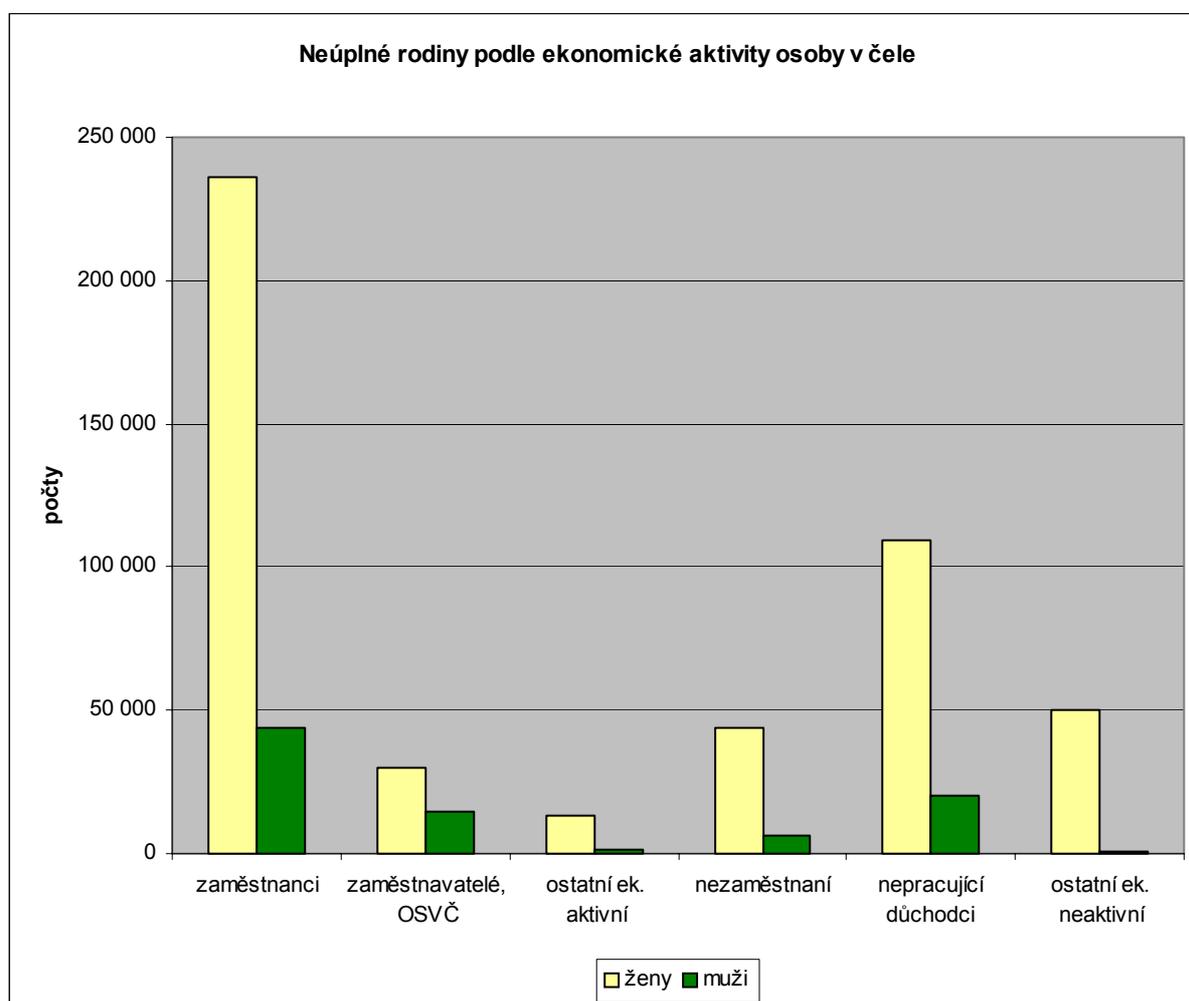
b) men

Sex, age	Economically active persons					Economically not active persons			Not identified	Total
	including:					including:				
	including:			unemplo yed persons	total	Not working pension- ers	Other ec. not active	total		
	employees	Emplo- yers, self- employed persons	other							
	15 - 19	8	2	2	27	39	-	15		
20 - 24	506	65	14	273	858	13	33	46	32	936
25 - 29	1 761	483	44	431	2 719	33	58	91	88	2 898
30 - 34	3 139	1 040	94	653	4 926	70	58	128	165	5 219
35 - 39	4 938	1 854	126	850	7 768	139	57	196	218	8 182
40 - 49	17 428	6 381	474	2 539	26 822	1 168	132	1 300	622	28 744
50 - 54	14 832	4 060	430	1 810	21 132	3 562	132	3 694	416	25 242
60+	1 539	587	96	14	2 236	14 925	10	14 935	82	17 253
not availa-	11	5	2	1	19	3	1	4	25	48

ble										
total	44 162	14 477	1 282	6 598	66 519	19 913	496	20 409	1 651	88 579

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 7: Single-parent families by the head of household and its economic activity



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 7:

Single-parent families by economic activity of the head of household

numbers

employees, employers, self-employed persons, other economically active persons, unemployed, not working pensioners, other economically not active persons

women, men]

4.7 Nationality of the heads of single-parent families

The nationality structure of the heads of a single-parent family with dependent children corresponds, in terms of its proportion, to the nationality structure of the population of the Czech Republic in general. When excluding the unidentified nationality, in 2001, the share of single-parent families with dependent children headed by a man of other than Czech (Moravian, Silesian) nationality accounted for 5.3 %, and the share of single-parent families with dependent children headed by a woman was 3.5 %.

In comparison with the total data on the number of children, the most significant structural difference was noted in the case of families headed by a person of Roma nationality - almost one fifth of these families had 3 or more dependent children. Significantly above the average values were recorded also among families headed by a person of Hungarian and Slovak nationality; among these families, the share of families with 3 or more children accounted for 12 or 10 %. (Of the total number of single-parent families with dependent children, only less than 6 % were single-parent families with 3 or more children).

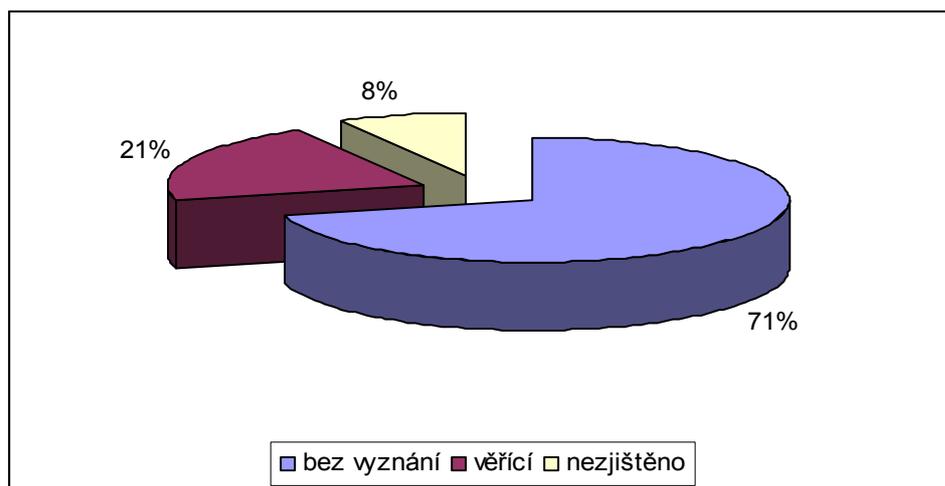
4.8. Denomination of the heads of household in single-parent families

The structure of single-parent families with dependent children by denomination of the head of household is, in terms of its basic proportions, almost the same among the families headed by a man and among the families headed by a woman. The share of believers is in the region of 21%, whereas the share of non-denominational is about 71 %. The Roman Catholic church represents the highest share.

Single-parent families with children have slightly higher proportion of non-denominational persons, compared to two-parent families and, on the contrary, the

lower share of believers heading the family. A link between faith and the higher number of children is obvious even among single-parent families. Despite this fact, the shares of families with 3 children or more are significantly lower than among two-parent families.

Graph 8: Single-parent families with dependent children by denomination of the heads of household (status as at 1 March 2001)



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 8:

non-denominational, believers, not identified]

Table 11: Single-parent families with dependent children by the number of children and denomination of the head of household (status as at 1 March 2001)
absolute values

Denomination of the head of household	Single-parent families, total	including: the number of dependent children				headed by a man	headed by a woman
		1	2	3	4+		
single-parent families, total	343 405	221 974	102 369	15 781	3 281	42 920	300 485
including:							
non-denominational	242 415	156 327	73 665	10 505	1 918	30 320	212 095
Believers	73 455	47 518	20 846	4 034	1 057	8 919	64 536
including: The Roman Catholic church	58 235	37 761	16 472	3 172	830	6 907	51 328
The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren	2 366	1 577	629	131	29	318	2 048
The Czechoslovak Hussite Church	1 324	941	327	48	8	194	1 130
not identified	27 535	18 129	7 858	1 242	306	3 681	13 854

relative values

Denomination of the head of household	Single-parent families, total	including: the number of dependent children				headed by a man	headed by a woman
		1	2	3	4+		

single-parent families, total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
including:							
non-denominational	70,6	70,4	72,0	66,6	58,5	70,6	70,6
Believers	21,4	21,4	20,4	25,6	32,2	20,8	21,5
Including: The Roman Catholic church	17,0	17,0	16,1	20,1	25,3	16,1	17,1
The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren	0,7	0,7	0,6	0,8	0,9	0,7	0,7
The Czechoslovak Hussite Church	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,5	0,4
not identified	8,0	8,2	7,7	7,9	9,3	8,6	4,6

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

A single-parent family headed by a non-denominational woman with one dependent child (40 % of the total number of single-parent families with children) was a „statistically average“ single-parent family with dependent children, in terms of denomination and the number of children.

5. Housing of single-parent families

5.1. Single-parent families in dwellings

5.1.1. Households living together

The standard of housing data are important indicators of the standard of living and the social situation of families. For this reason, all censuses examine this issue. Obviously, the best way how to monitor the standard of housing is to focus on dwellings in which only one family lives. According to the results of the population census in 2001, about three thirds of single-parent families lived **stand-alone (in their own dwelling)**. However, the results are different for a single-parent family without dependent children and for a single-parent family with dependent children.

Table 12: Development of the share of households living stand-alone by the type of household

Single-parent families	Number of households living stand-alone			Percentage share in the total number of households		
	1980	1991	2001	1980	1991	2001
without dependent children	143 403	160 439	198 539	84,9	89,0	85,2
with dependent children	94 366	177 842	218 503	60,4	70,0	63,6

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Over the past twenty years, there have been no dramatic changes to the shares of households living stand-alone. The share of single-parent families living stand-alone increased in 1991, compared to the 1980 figures and subsequently in 2001 dropped again. This trend occurred also in all other types of families.

In terms of the number of children in a single-parent family, the share of childless single-parent families headed by a young person under the age of 40 living stand-alone dropped (again, however, the above mentioned problem surrounding the definition of a single-parent family faced already in the 2001 census influenced the results). Among single-parent families with one dependent child, the share of families living stand-alone dropped most sharply (by more than 6 %) in the case of families headed by a person in the 25 – 34 age bracket. Among families with more children, the housing conditions measured as the proportion of families sharing the dwelling with other households deteriorated most significantly in the case of the heads of households in the youngest age brackets. In general, the rule applies that the share

of single-parent families living stand-alone rises with the higher age of the head of a single-parent household. This is due to the fact that single-parent families with dependent children are mostly headed by a woman. And if this is a young woman, in most cases it is also a single mother living with her parent (parents). On the other hand, in the case of older women, these are mostly divorced women who (due to the existing judicial practice in the Czech Republic) stay to live with their children in the original dwelling.

Table 13: Household by type, manner of accommodation and number of cohabiting persons

	Single-parent families								
	without dependent children			with dependent children			Total		
	absol.	%	% of the total	absol.	%	% of the total	absol.	%	% of the total
Living in dwellings, total	180 168	100,00	99,93	253 269	100,00	99,68	433 437	100,00	99,78
including: persons living in dwelling:									
1 household	160 439	89,05		177 842	70,22		338 281	78,05	
2 households	18 324	10,17		68 761	27,15		87 085	20,09	
3 households	1 330	0,74		6 191	2,44		7 521	1,74	
4 or more households	75	0,04		475	0,19		550	0,13	
Households, total	180 302		100,00	254 083		100,00	434 385		100,00

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

The number of single-parent families living together with another household was higher than among two-parent families (in 2001: two-parent families - 14 %, single-parent families - 27 %). In general, mostly single-parent families with one child (37 %) shared dwelling with another household. Often, these are young single mothers staying, for instance, in the household of their parents. Single-parent families with more dependent children mostly headed by mother, stay, due to the existing judicial practice, very often in the original dwelling and therefore the share of households living together with another household among these families is lower than among families with one child.

Apart from the fact that some single-parent families share the dwelling with another household (27 %, in total in 2001), some of these family households live together with another **added person** (table 28). Hence, in 1991 and 2001 6 % of single-parent families with dependent children lived together with additional persons, which was by

two percentage points more than in the case of two-parent families (less than 4 %). Most frequently, only one person lived with these families, in most cases a grandmother - mother/mother-in-law of the head of household (two thirds of cases) a grandfather - father/father-in-law of the head of household (about every tenth added person) and also another person (one quarter). In 1991, significantly more frequently single-parent families without dependent children lived together with another person (16 %). Again, the share of mothers/mothers-in-law of the head of household was significant. In 2001, this share sharply dropped (probably also in connection with the new definition of single-parent families) to less than 5 %. Again, living together with only one added person prevailed, this time, however, the share of persons other than mother/mother in law and father/father-in-law increased.

5.1.2. Legal title to the use of dwelling

Single-parent families with dependent children and without children live, in comparison with two-parent families, more frequently in **rented dwellings**, less frequently in their own dwelling or in a house. The ownership of dwellings and membership of housing cooperatives is comparable in both types of families (both two-parent and single-parent families). It reflects the economic situation of single-parent families and also deteriorated financial situation after divorce may play a certain role in this respect.

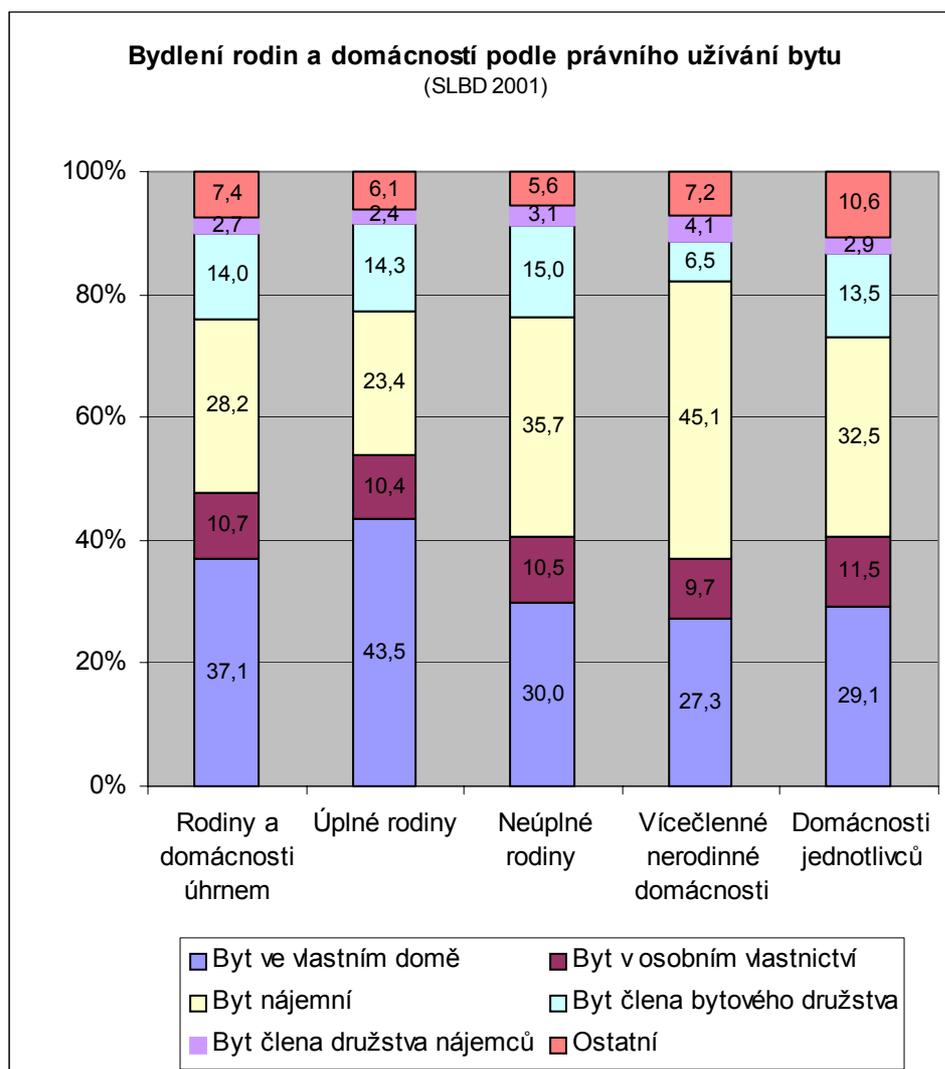
Table 14: Housing of families and households by legal title to the use of dwelling in the Czech Republic as at 1 March 2001

Category, legal title to the use of dwelling	Families and households, total		Two-parent families		Single-parent families		Multi-member non-family households		Households of individuals	
	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%
Dwelling in own house	1 570 701	37,1	1 011 944	43,5	171 427	30,0	22 822	27,3	364 508	29,1
Ownership of dwelling	454 904	10,7	242 627	10,4	60 181	10,5	8 127	9,7	143 969	11,5
Rented dwelling	1 193 424	28,2	544 263	23,4	203 844	35,7	37 699	45,1	407 618	32,5
Dwelling belonging to a member of the Housing association	591 819	14,0	332 045	14,3	85 760	15,0	5 411	6,5	168 603	13,5
Dwelling belonging to a member of the Tenant association formed during	112 608	2,7	55 202	2,4	17 866	3,1	3 465	4,1	36 075	2,9

privatization											
Other	312 236	7,4	141 634	6,1	31 924	5,6	5 978	7,2	132 700	10,6	
Total	4 235 692	100,0	2 327 715	100,0	571 002	100,0	83 502	100,0	1 253 473	100,0	

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 9: Housing of families and households by legal title to the use of dwelling



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 9:

Housing of families and households by legal title to the use of dwelling
(The Population and Housing Census 2001)

Families and households in total, Two-parent families, Single-parent families, Multi-member non-family households, Households of individuals

Dwelling in own house, Ownership of dwelling

Rented dwelling, Dwelling belonging to a member of the Housing association
Dwelling belonging to a member of the Tenant association, Other]

Similarly as among two-parent families, also among *single-parent families without dependent children*, a trend towards symmetry between the ownership housing and rental housing was obvious in both 1991 and 2001. The share of the ownership housing among single-parent families without dependent children exceeded, according to the results of the 2001 census, the share of the rental housing. No significant changes were noted in the cooperative housing of single-parent families without dependent children.¹

Among single-parent families with dependent children the share of the ownership housing increased. On the contrary, the share of the rental and cooperative housing dropped. In 2001, the share of the ownership housing exceeded the share of the rental housing, starting from the 40 – 44 age bracket.

Table 15: Single-parent families by legal title to the use of dwelling, by the number of households in dwelling (or census households except for dwellings and heads of single-parent family as at 1 March 2001

¹ Note.: a methodological change between censuses in 1991 and 2001: single-parent families without dependent children headed in particular by a young man consisted in 1991 mostly of an economically active grandson and a grandmother; in 2001, however, these households were classified under multi-member non-family households

⁶ According to the 2001 census, single-parent families account for one fourth of all families with dependent children. *Rodiny se závislými dětmi* (Families with dependent children), The Czech Statistical Office, 2004, p.13

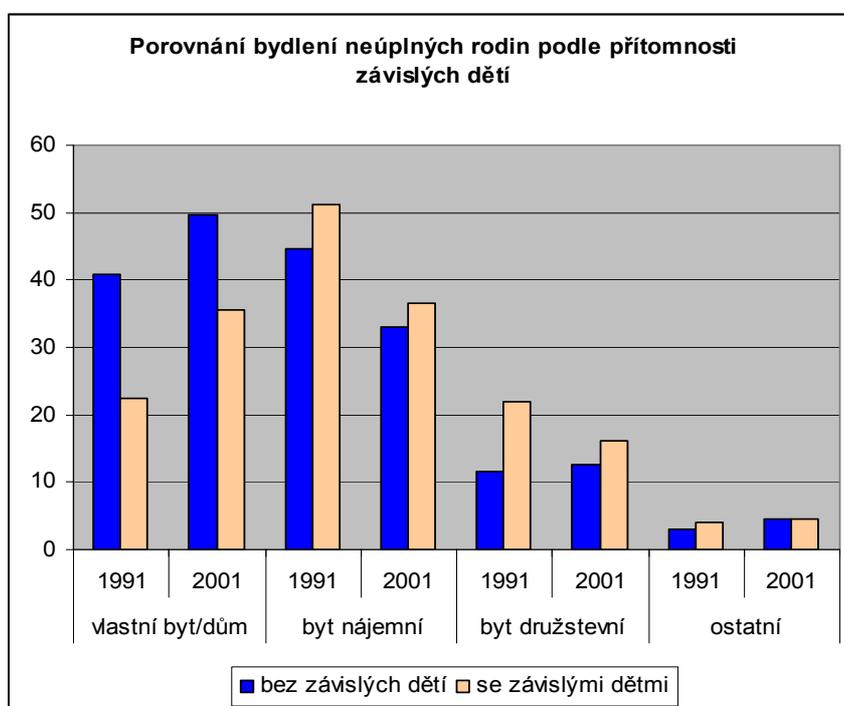
⁶ In 2000, 70 % of the adult population subscribed to the opinion that if a woman wishes to have a child, she can have one alone, even without a man. Young people under the age of 30 were the most frequent supporters of this conviction (77%), but this opinion had a relatively large number of supporters also among the oldest generations over the age of 60 (61 %). The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM), a representative survey *Rodina 2000* (Family 2000) 2000, 1,681 respondents.

Legal title to the use of dwelling, number of households in dwelling	Single-parent families			
	without dependent children		with dependent children	
	Men	women	men	women
1. Dwelling in own house				
1 household is living in dwelling	13 649	54 504	7 838	35 410
2 or more households are living in dwelling	3 752	11 345	5 865	39 064
Total	17 401	65 849	13 703	74 474
2. Ownership of dwelling				
1 household is living in dwelling	3 585	18 188	2 470	22 424
2 or more households are living in dwelling	601	2 097	1 383	9 433
Total	4 186	20 285	3 853	31 857
3. Rented dwelling (including People's Housing Associations)				
1 household is living in dwelling	12 336	55 110	8 389	80 041
2 or more households are living in dwelling	2 378	7 043	5 834	32 713
Total	14 714	62 153	14 223	112 754
4. Dwelling belonging to a member of the Housing association				
1 household is living in dwelling	4 421	20 913	3 941	35 865
2 or more households are living in dwelling	1 054	2 910	2 627	14 029
Total	5 475	23 823	6 568	49 894
5. Dwelling belonging to a member of the Tenant Association formed during privatization				
1 household is living in dwelling	1 197	5 713	772	6 322
2 or more households are living in dwelling	223	625	435	2 579
Total	1 420	6 338	1 207	8 901
6. Other legal titles to the use of dwelling				
1 household is living in dwelling	1 751	7 172	1 766	13 265
2 or more households are living in dwelling	442	1 188	1 016	5 324
Total	2 193	8 360	2 782	18 589
7. Dwellings, total				
1 household is living in dwelling	36 939	161 600	25 176	193 327
2 or more households are living in dwelling	8 450	25 208	17 160	103 142
Total	45 389	186 808	42 336	296 469
8. Single-parent families out of dwelling stock				
Total	270	548	584	4 016

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

If we focus on single-parent families *with dependent children*, then it is obvious from the above overview that most families live in rented dwellings, stand-alone without presence of any other household. An overwhelming majority of these families is headed by a woman. Single-parent families living in their own dwelling or house constitute another significant group, but in this case two or more households living together prevail. Consequently, in most cases these are single-parent families living in a family house together with grandparents. Even in this case, woman is mostly heading these families. This overview is more clearly arranged in Graph 11.

Graph 10: Housing of single-parent families by the presence of dependent children



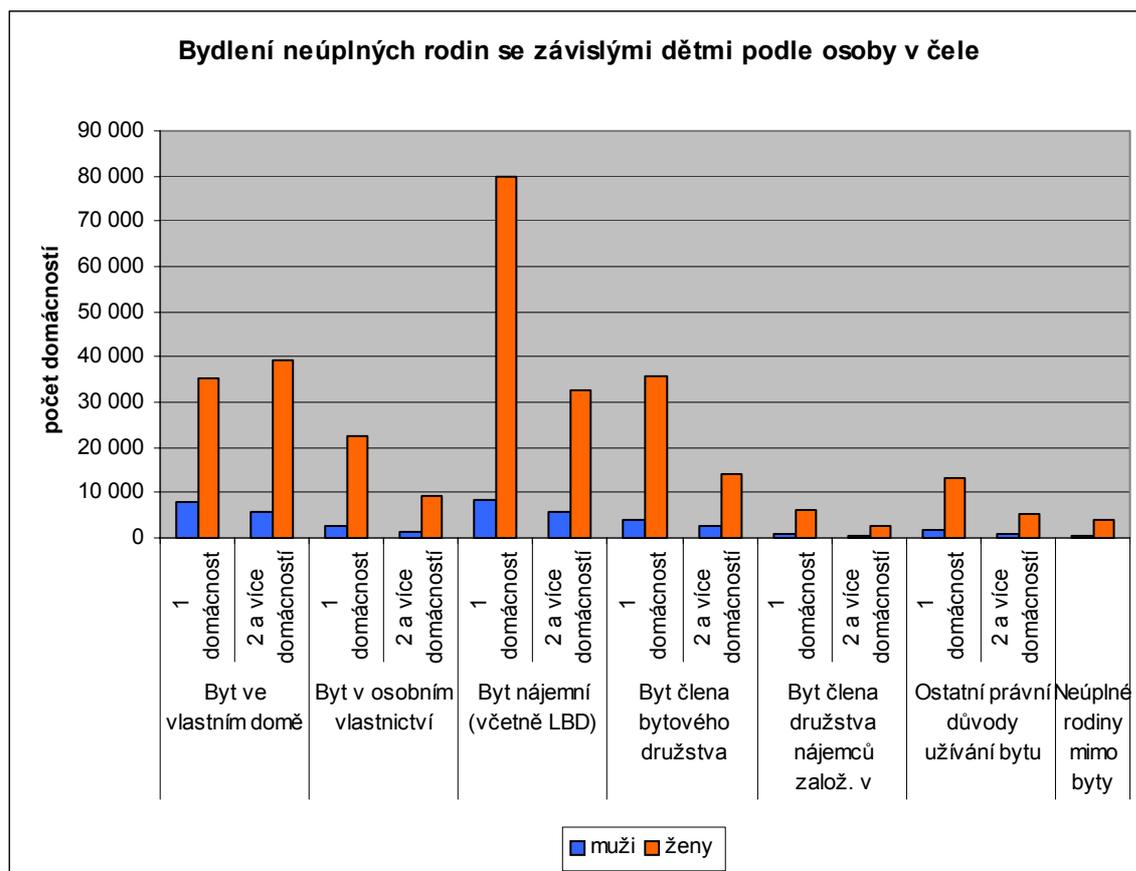
Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 10:

Comparison of housing of single-parent families by the presence of dependent children

own dwelling/house, rented dwelling, cooperative dwelling, other dwellings
without dependent children, with dependent children]

Graph 11: Housing of single-parent families with dependent children



Source: according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 11:

Housing of single-parent families with dependent children by the head of household

number of households

1 household, 2 and more households, 1 household, 2 and more households, 1 household, 2 and more households...

Dwelling in own house, Ownership of dwelling, Rented dwelling (including the dwelling belonging to a member of the People's Housing Association), dwelling belonging to a member of the Housing association, dwelling belonging to a member of the Tenant association formed during privatization, Other legal titles to the use of dwelling, Single-parent families out of dwelling stock
men, women]

5.1.3. Category and size of dwelling

The quality of housing of families with children in terms of the category of dwelling has improved over the ten years between censuses. The tendencies towards changes in the structure of housing were the same among both two-parent and single-parent families with dependent children, only in the case of single-parent

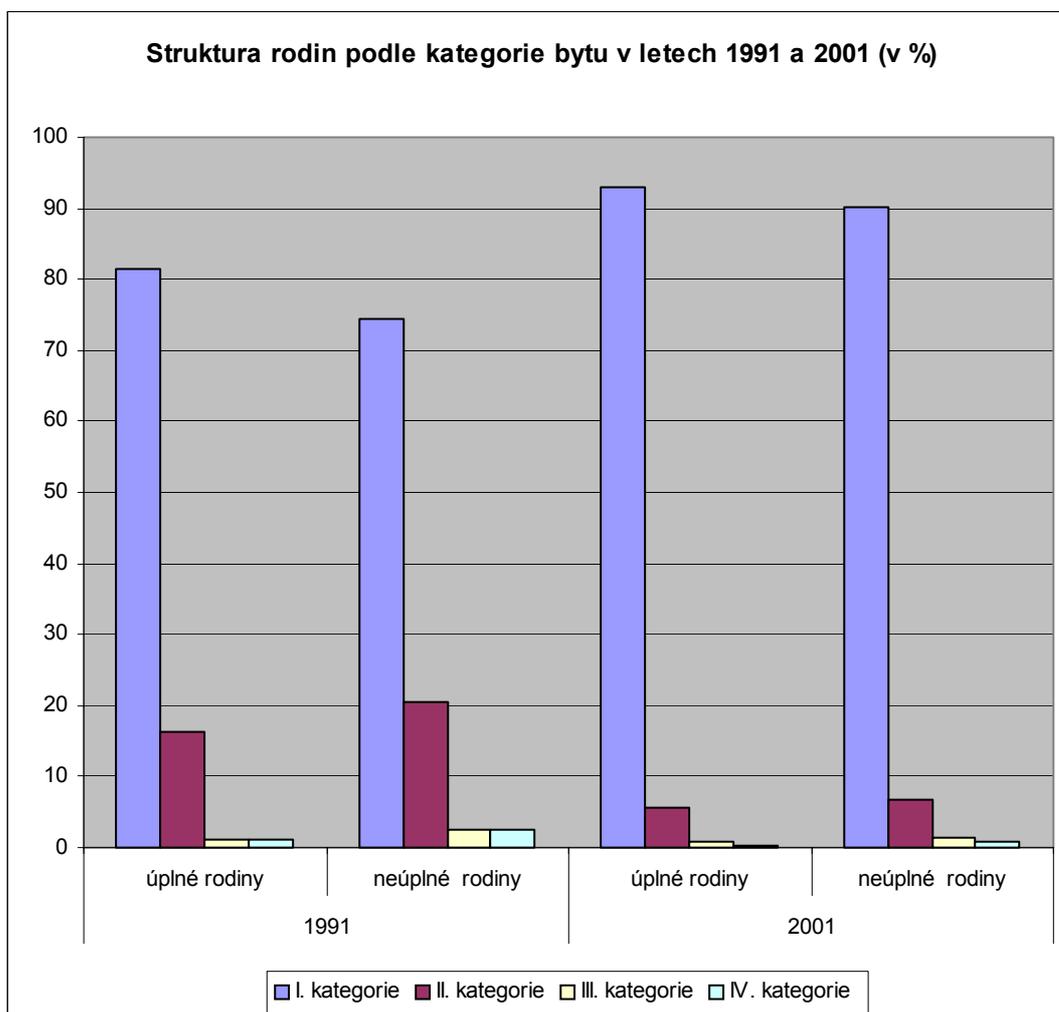
families structural changes were more dynamic. This resulted in bridging the gap between the standard of housing of both types of families. This fact was a result of generally higher level of the dwelling stock in terms of the availability of technical equipment of dwellings which sets the standards for the category of dwelling.

Table 16 : Comparison of the quality of housing among two-parent and single-parent families from the last Population and Housing Census

Source: the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Category of dwelling	1991		2001	
	two-parent families	single-parent families	two-parent families	single-parent families
First category	81,4	74,4	92,9	90,1
Second category	16,2	20,6	5,5	6,8
Third category	1,2	2,5	0,9	1,4
Fourth category	1,1	2,5	0,4	0,9
Total	100	100	100	100

Graph 12: Structure of families by category of dwelling in 1991 and 2001



[Translation of the text in Graph 12

Structure of families by category of dwelling in 1991 and 2001 (%)

two-parent families, single-parent families, two-parent families, single-parent families
1st category, 2nd category, 3rd category, 4th category]

The overall quality of housing in the Czech Republic is relatively high. A total of 91.4% of all family households live in the first category dwellings, 6.6% in the second category dwellings, 1.3% in the third category dwellings and only 0.7% fall within the lowest, fourth category.

As far as individual types of households are concerned, 92.0% of two-parent families, 89.0% of single-parent families and 84.2% of individuals live in the top category of dwellings. 0.5% of two-parent families, 1.2% of single-parent families and 2.8% of individuals live in the fourth category dwelling. The share of two-parent households was decreasing with the lower category of dwelling, the increase in the share of households of individuals, on the contrary, was directly proportional to worse housing conditions. The share of single-parent families was **in all categories of dwelling relatively stable** – ranged from 13-14%.

In terms of the presence of dependent children in a family, among family households it did not make much difference whether a family living in the top, i.e. the first category has a dependent child or not. In the case of lower categories, however, the share of families without dependent child was gradually increasing. This is probably primarily related to the fact that worse categories of dwellings are occupied especially by older people, i.e. persons without dependent children. There were also differences by the type of family: if among two-parent families living in the first category dwelling, 47.3% have a dependent child, among single-parent families their share is by 13.2 percentage points higher (60.5%). At the same time, among two-parent families, in all dwelling categories, the share of families without dependent children always prevails over the families with dependent children. Among single-parent households, this is the case only in the third and fourth category and in the first and second category, households with a dependent child prevail.

A total of 2,297,946 dependent children live in family households, including a total of 477,121 dependent children in single-parent families. A large majority of dependent children from family households (2,115,445 children) live in the first category dwelling. Regardless of whether these are two-parent or single-parent families, their share in the top dwelling category is always higher than 90% (among two-parent families it is 92.6%, among single-parent families 90.1%). Hence, less than ten percent of dependent children from family households live in lower dwelling categories, however, even this proportion represents 182,501 children (including 47,114 from single-parent families), while a total of 39,809 children live in the third or fourth category (including 12,278 from single-parent families). This figure suggests that, nonetheless, there are some differences between two-parent and single-parent families, specifically consisting in the fact that with the lower category of dwelling, the share of children from single-parent families is increasing (in the first category dwelling, the share of dependent children from single-parent families accounts for 20.3%, in the second category dwelling these are 24.4% children, while in the third category dwelling, this share is 29.0% and in the fourth category dwelling, the share of children from single-parent families accounts even for 34.1%).

Hence, we can draw a conclusion that **dependent children from single-parent families more frequently live in a worse dwelling category** than dependent children from two-parent families and the lower the quality of dwelling, the higher the share of dependent children from single-parent families. At the same time, the fact whether a single-parent family is headed by a woman or by a man was irrelevant for the quality of housing of dependent children from single-parent families, only minimum differences were noted.

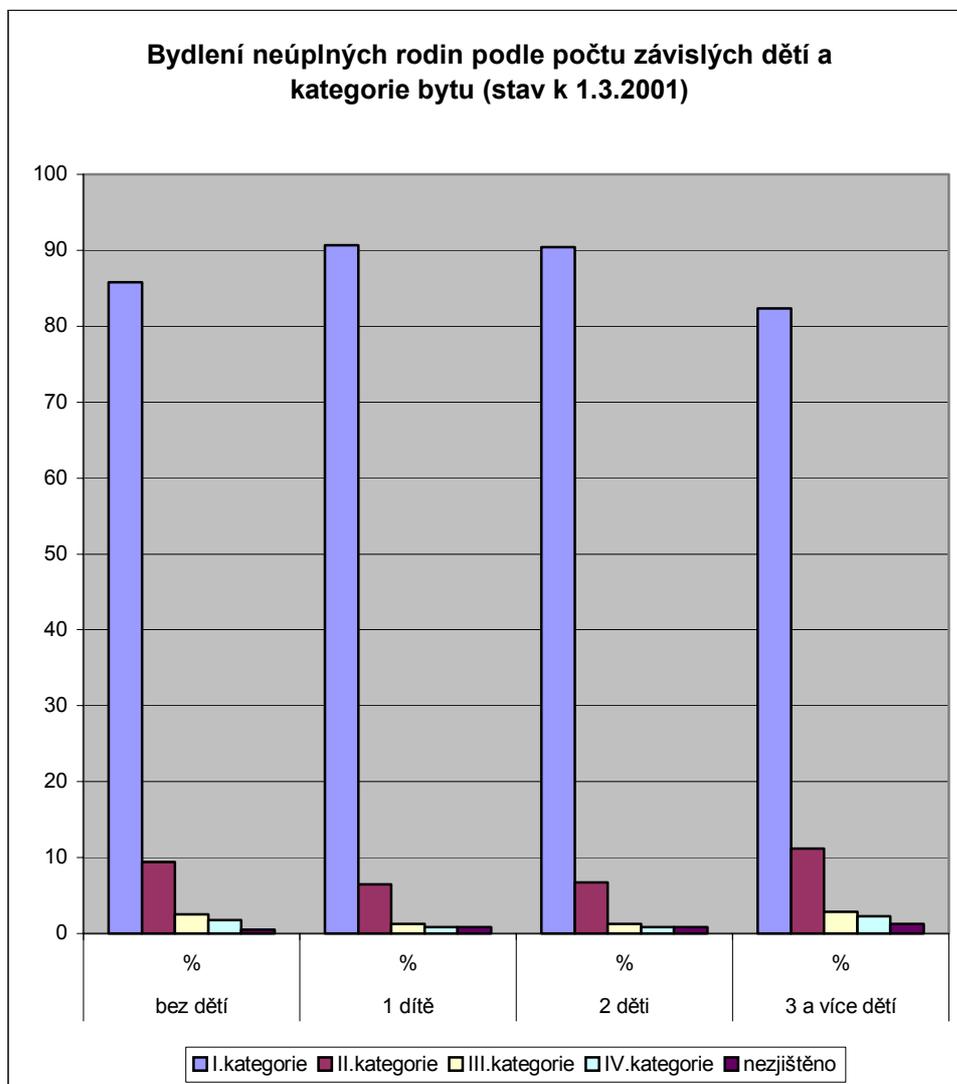
Table 17: Housing of single-parent families by the number of dependent children and category of dwelling in the Czech Republic as at 1 March 2001

Category of dwelling, size of dwelling	Single-parent families, total		including: the number of dependent children							
			without children		1 child		2 children		3 or more children	
	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%
Total	571 002	100,0	232 197	100,0	219 129	100,0	101 041	100,0	18 635	100,0
First category	504 636	88,4	199 256	85,8	198 696	90,7	91 351	90,4	15 333	82,3
Second category	44 866	7,9	21 855	9,4	14 190	6,5	6 726	6,7	2 095	11,2
Third category	10 421	1,8	5 699	2,5	2 830	1,3	1 359	1,3	533	2,9
Fourth category	7 068	1,2	4 120	1,8	1 740	0,8	784	0,8	424	2,3

not identified	4 011	0,7	1 267	0,5	1 673	0,8	821	0,8	250	1,3
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Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 13: Housing of single-parent families by the number of dependent children and category of dwelling (status as at 1 March 2001)



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 13:

Housing of single-parent families by the number of dependent children and category of dwelling (status as at 1 March 2001)

without children, 1 child, 2 children, 3 and more children

1st category, 2nd category, 3rd category, 4th category, not identified]

The differences in the quality of housing among dependent children from single-parent families were also obvious according to whether the head of household in a single-parent family is employed or not: among single-parent families in which the

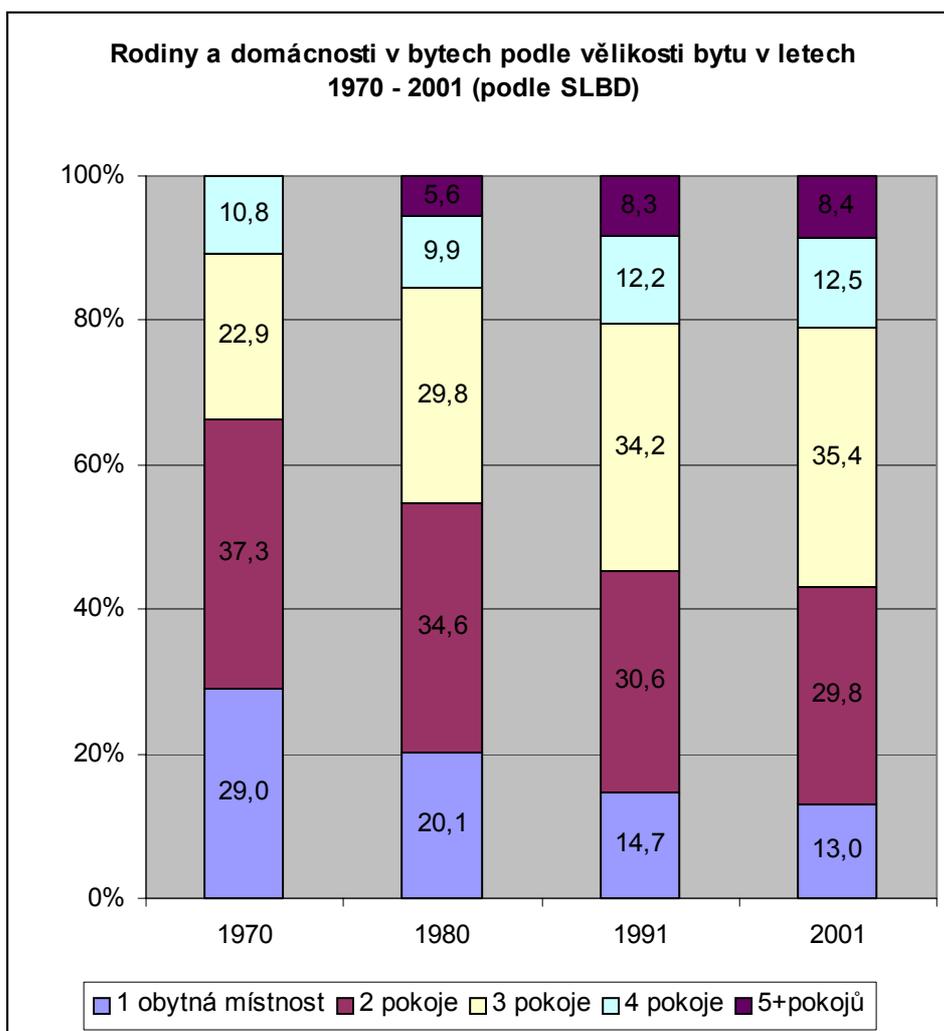
head of household is employed, 92.4% of dependent children from these families live in the first category, whereas only 1.6% live in the third or fourth category. In single-parent families in which the head of household does not have a job, 84.1% of dependent children (i.e. by 8.3 percentage points less) live in the first category dwellings and 5.0% of dependent children from single-parent families in which the head of household is unemployed live in the third or fourth category dwellings (i.e. by 3.4 points more). At the same time, among single-parent families headed by an unemployed man, the share of dependent children from the third or fourth category dwellings is higher (9.0%) than among single-parent families headed by an unemployed woman (4.6%).

Although in general, the share of dependent children living in single-parent families of the unemployed heads of household in the third or fourth category dwellings is low (in absolute terms these are 2,979 children), the fact that precisely in **single-parent families of the unemployed dependent children live in worse conditions than in single-parent families of the employed persons**, can be regarded as another serious finding.

Changes in the structure of housing of two-parent and single-parent families with children by **size of dwelling** showed in the period 1991 - 2001 contrary tendencies. Of the total increase in the number of single-parent families, the largest share represented three-room dwellings whose top position in the structure of housing of single-parent families with children was consolidated. One-room dwellings and in particular two-room dwellings had the lower weight in the dwelling structure in 2001, compared to the 1991 figures. Hence, an absolutely obvious shift in the housing structure from smaller dwellings to the larger ones was noted. A different situation occurred in the case of two-parent families. While their total number dropped, numbers of families in all size groups of dwellings were decreasing, except for one-room dwellings, in which in 2001, on the contrary, approximately 6 thousand two-parent families with dependent children more than in 1991 lived. Hence, also the share of two-parent families with children living in one habitable room increased which, given the size of this type of family – in total national figures, the average size of a two-parent family with dependent children was 3.9 persons – cannot be viewed as a favourable development. The relation between the economic activity of the head of household and the size or category of dwelling shows that employed persons live

more frequently in larger dwellings and in higher category dwellings. In such cases, there is an interdependence between these factors, better financial situation enables to the families higher standard of housing and, on the contrary, the achieved standard of housing is an incentive for keeping one's job or seeking a new job if one loses it.

Graph 14: Housing of all families by size of dwelling (status as at 1 March 2001)



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office , The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 14:

Families and households in dwellings by size of dwelling in the period 1970-2001
(according to the Population and Housing Census)]

1 habitable room, 2 habitable rooms, 3 habitable rooms, 4 habitable rooms, 5 habitable rooms and more]

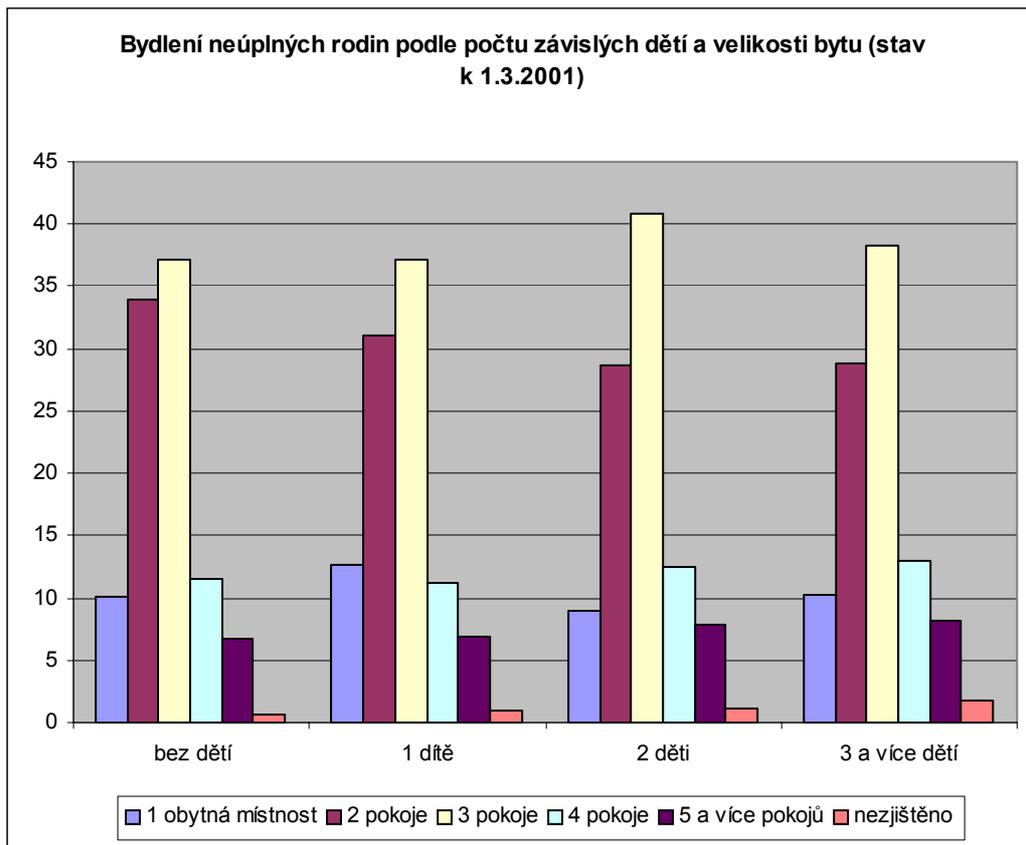
The comparison of housing parameters by individual legal forms among two-parent and single-parent families with children proves that the situation of two-parent families was better, as their dwellings in 2001 showed more favourable values for both most frequent legal forms of dwellings. Among two-parent families, there was both the higher share of higher category dwellings and higher average size of dwelling. For instance, of the number of families with dependent children living in rented dwellings, in 2001, 8.4 % of households lived in a one-room dwelling in the case of two-parent families with dependent children and 19.3 % in the case of single-parent families. As regards the structure of dwellings in own house by the number of rooms, among two-parent families with children, dwellings with 3, 4 and 5 or more rooms were represented almost evenly (28 - 29 %); in the case of single-parent families, housing in a three-room dwelling was the most frequent form (41.6 %) and the share of larger dwellings was decreasing evenly.

Table 18: Housing of single-parent families by the number of dependent children and size of dwelling in the Czech Republic as at 1 March 2001

Category of dwelling, size of dwelling	Single-parent families, total		including: the number of dependent children							
			without children		1 child		2 children		3 or more children	
	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%
Single-parent families										
Total	571 002	100,0	232 197	100,0	219 129	100,0	101 041	100,0	18 635	100,0
1 habitable room	62 323	10,9	23 513	10,1	27 841	12,7	9 063	9,0	1 906	10,2
2 rooms	181 063	31,7	78 738	33,9	67 919	31,0	29 029	28,7	5 377	28,9
3 rooms	215 837	37,8	86 097	37,1	81 436	37,2	41 184	40,8	7 120	38,2
4 rooms	66 680	11,7	26 994	11,6	24 611	11,2	12 679	12,5	2 396	12,9
5 or more rooms	40 138	7,0	15 479	6,7	15 137	6,9	8 000	7,9	1 522	8,2
not identified	4 961	0,9	1 376	0,6	2 185	1,0	1 086	1,1	314	1,7

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 15: Housing of single-parent families by the number of dependent children and size of dwelling (status as at 1 March 2001)



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 15:

Housing of single-parent families by the number of dependent children and size of dwelling (status as at 1 March 2001)

without children, 1 child, 2 children, 3 and more children

1 habitable room, 2 habitable rooms, 3 habitable rooms, 5 and more habitable rooms, not identified]

Similarly, as in the case of two-parent families, the size of dwelling (measured by the number of rooms) is small in particular at the young age of the head of household. More than two thirds of families headed by a person under the age of 25 and with one or two children lived in 2001 in a dwelling with one or two rooms. At the age of 25-29 years, the share of single-parent families with children living in a larger dwelling (three or more rooms) was already higher, in particular due to the lower share of single-parent families living in a one-room dwelling and this trend continues even up to the higher age of the head of household in a single-parent family with dependent children. In 2001, single-parent families headed by a person in the 40-49

and 50-59 age bracket having two or more dependent children lived in the largest flats (approximately two thirds lived in three or more room dwellings).

Compared to the 1991 figures, according to the data of the 2001 census, shares of single-parent families with dependent children living in a three or more room dwelling slightly increased. Among families with three or more children, however, the improvement was less marked. In contrast with two-parent families with dependent children, single-parent families lived more frequently **in dwellings with less rooms**, but due to the lower number of members of a single-parent family, **the number of persons per one room is lower than** in two-parent families.

In terms of the average habitable floor area per person in a single-parent family living in a dwelling without any additional households, the situation in 2001 has also improved, compared to 1991. Also the average number of persons per habitable room regardless of the number of children dropped (except for families with three or more children). Similarly as with respect to two-parent families, the rule applies that each additional child reduces the average habitable floor area per person or increases the average number of persons per habitable room.

5.1.4. Availability of equipment in dwelling households

During the 2001 census, the availability of equipment in dwelling households with respect to such items as e.g. a telephone, personal computer, passenger car and also recreational possibilities (i.e. the ownership of a weekend house or cottage) of households was examined. Consequently, the data on the availability of equipment in dwelling households do not document the ownership of particular equipment items in individual families, but the equipment of a dwelling household as a whole. In cases where two or more households lived in a dwelling, the equipment of all households together is reported, despite the fact that effectively, the owner was, for instance, a one person only and a particular item (car, computer, etc.) did not have to be always available to all households. The data on the availability of equipment in households of individual types of families need to be considered as indicative only. However, in view of the fact that 90 % of the dwellings are occupied by one household (and at the same time of the total number of families with children living in a dwelling more than

82 % live alone in a dwelling), the above data can be regarded as having sufficient informative value, even if we take into account the above surveying methodology.

The comparison of the availability of equipment in two-parent and single-parent families with dependent children and childless families (Table 19 and Graph 16) shows that there are differences between childless families and families with dependent children and these differences are in both directions, since the reasons for the ownership of various items of household equipment are different. In general, we may note that **the availability of equipment in households is lower among single-parent families** and the availability of equipment **tends to decrease, subject to the rising number of children in a family.**

Table 19 : Household equipment of two-parent families and single-parent families (status as at 1 March 2001 in %)

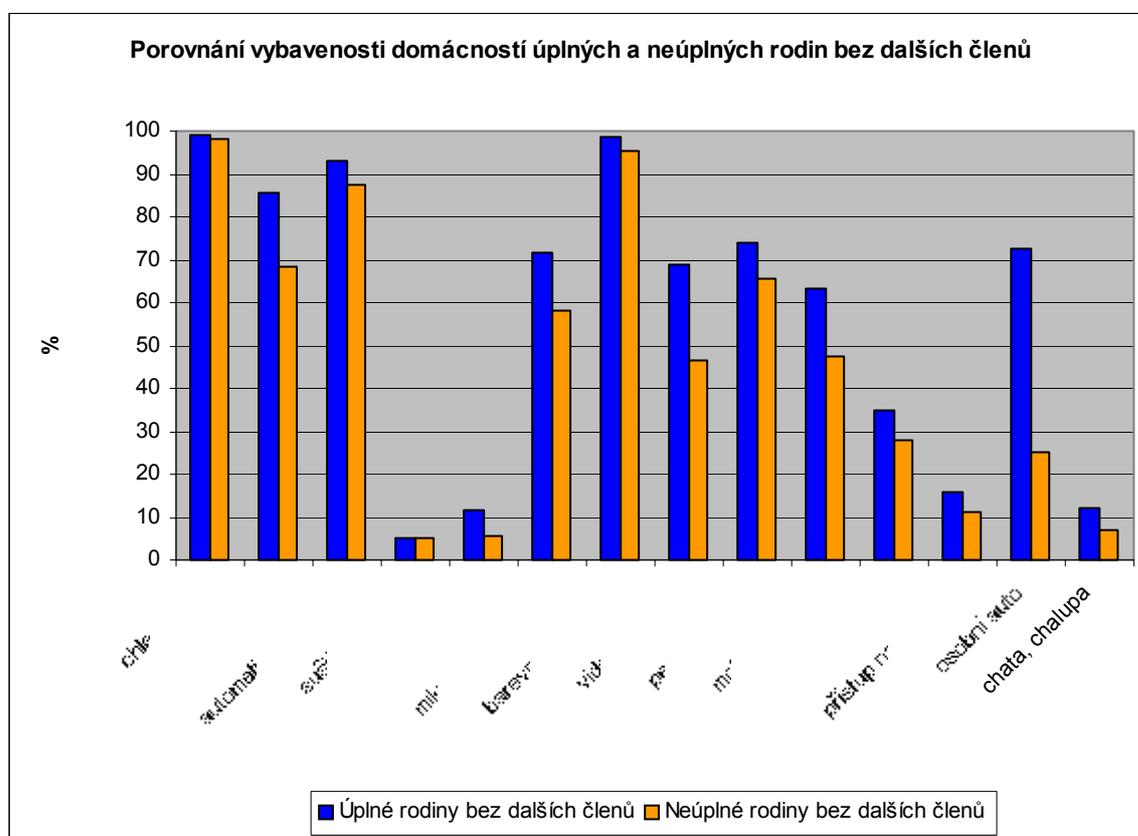
	Two-parent families without additional members	Single-parent families without additional members
Number of households absol.	1 172 488	188 911
Household equipped with the following items		
Refrigerator	99,1	98,2
freezer	85,6	68,6
automatic washing machine	92,8	87,4
clothes dryer	5,1	5,0
dish washer	11,7	5,5
microwave oven	71,8	58,3
colour TV	98,5	95,2
personal video recorder	69,0	46,5
fixed telephone line	73,9	65,8
mobile phone	63,3	47,3
personal computer	35,1	28,1
access to the Internet	15,7	11,0
passenger car	72,4	25,1
weekend house, cottage	12,1	7,1
Households which do not have these items, would like to have them, but cannot afford them		
Refrigerator	0,6	1,4
Freezer	6,0	14,8
automatic washing machine	4,4	9,3
clothes dryer	19,4	21,9
dish washer	30,0	31,3
microwave oven	13,0	23,2
colour TV	0,6	2,6
personal video recorder	13,3	30,2
fixed telephone line	6,3	12,0
mobile phone	11,9	23,6

personal computer	27,3	32,0
access to the Internet	31,3	37,9
passenger car	14,9	35,8
weekend house, cottage	26,8	36,9

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, Social situation of households 2001

Even from this basic overview is clear, that single-parent families in general have available the monitored items to much less extent than two-parent families and quite naturally, there is the higher share of single-parent households that would like to purchase such items but cannot afford them.

Graph 16: Comparison of availability of household equipment in two-parent and



single-parent families

Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 16:

Comparison of availability of household equipment in two-parent and single-parent families without additional members

Refrigerator, freezer, automatic washing machine, clothes dryer, dish washer, microwave oven, colour TV, personal video recorder, fixed telephone line, mobile phone, personal computer, access to the Internet, passenger car, weekend house, cottage

Two-parent families without additional members, Single-parent families without additional members]

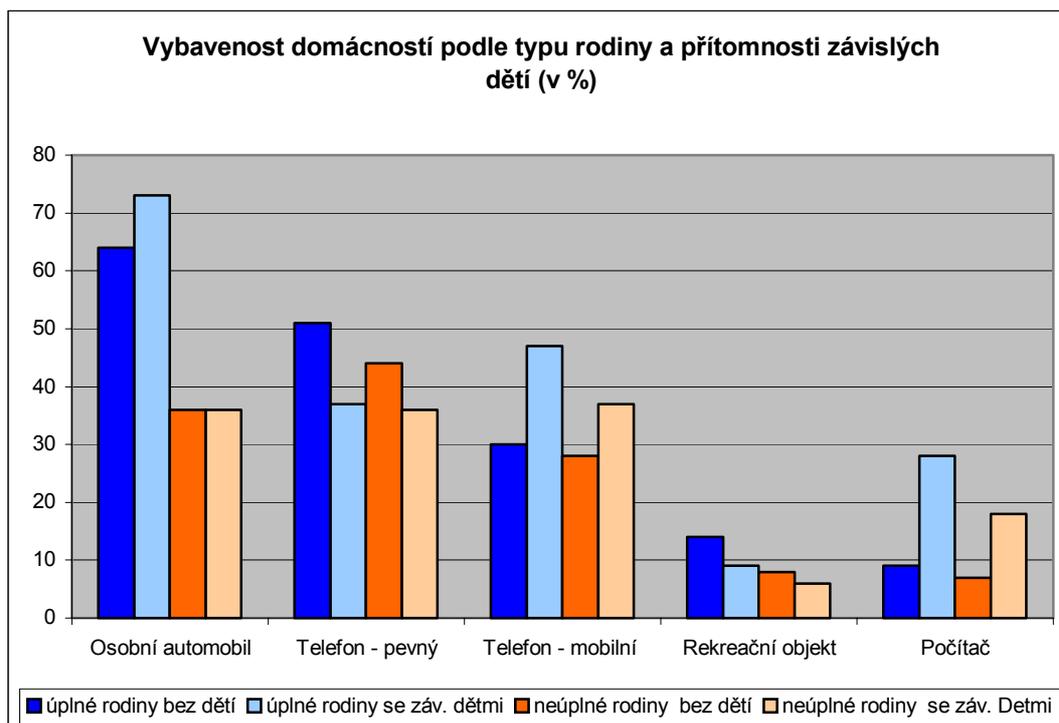
The comparison of the availability of basic equipment items in two-parent and single-parent families with dependent children by the number of dependent children is set out in the table below:

Table 20 : Household equipment in families with dependent children (status as at 1 March 2001)

Equipment, type of family	Number of dependent children					Total
	1	2	3	4	5+	
Passenger car						
two-parent families	72	75,1	69,7	58,4	49,3	73
single-parent families	39,2	38,4	31,4	23,2	21,5	38,5
Telephone – fixed line						
two-parent families	38,1	39,7	40,2	36,2	31,5	39
single-parent families	38,9	38,3	34,7	27,2	19,5	38,4
Telephone - mobile (separately or together with the fixed line)						
two-parent families	49,8	49,1	42,4	35,1	29,1	48,7
single-parent families	39,1	39,5	33,5	26,6	20,5	38,8
Ownership of weekend house						
two-parent families	12,1	9,9	7,9	5,7	5	10,7
single-parent families	8,7	7,5	5,3	3,5	2,8	8,2
Computer						
two-parent families	27,2	32,3	28,8	22,9	19	29,7
single-parent families	17,6	22,3	17	11,4	7,5	18,9

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 17: Availability of household equipment in two-parent and single-parent families by presence of dependent children



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 17:

Availability of household equipment by type of family and presence of dependent children (%)

Passenger car, telephone – fixed line, telephone – mobile, weekend house/cottage, personal computer

two-parent families without children, two-parent families with dependent children, single-parent families without children, single-parent families with dependent children]

As has been already noted above, the availability of particular equipment items is also determined by certain special reasons. For instance, a personal computer is a recent phenomenon and in particular younger people and children of school age possess computer skills. Consequently, given the current affordability of computers, the availability of a personal computer precisely in families with dependent children is significantly higher than in childless families in comparable age categories of families. Only among the youngest families – whose head of household is under the age of 29 – the trend is quite the opposite and the availability of a personal computer is higher in childless families. The comparison of the availability of a personal computer between two-parent and single-parent families with dependent children shows better

results for two-parent families; maximum values of the difference are in the region of 10 percentage points.

As regards the availability of a passenger car to individual families, there are significant differences between two-parent and single-parent families and much smaller differences between childless families and families with children (while the availability of passenger car to families with children is higher). Specifically, for instance, the availability of a passenger car to single-parent families with dependent children, in total, is almost a half of the figure of two-parent families with children.

The availability of a weekend house is directly proportional to the age of the head of household; the higher the age, the higher the availability of a weekend house. At the same time, families with children purchase their own weekend house more frequently than childless families. The availability of own weekend house is higher among two-parent families than among single-parent families.

Telephones – fixed lines or mobile phones - are currently affordable to such an extent that differences between individual types of families are insignificant. The availability to families of both types of telephones at the same time, i.e. both the fixed line and the mobile telephone, was again higher among two-parent families and lower among single-parent families. In terms of the number of children, the shares among families with children were higher than among families without children. This illustrates the fact that young people and children again, similarly as in the case of personal computers, possess best skills as regards mobile technologies. For instance, among two-parent families, almost one half of the families with one or two dependent children and 41% of two-parent families with 3 or more dependent children had a mobile phone, either separately or together with the fixed line. The share of childless families was 32%. Among single-parent families, the shares were 39% in the case of 1 or 2 dependent children and 32% among families with 3 or more dependent children.

5.2. Families with dependent children living out of dwelling stock

A total of 7.5 thousand families with dependent children lived out of dwelling stock, i.e. in various forms of emergency dwellings, in weekend houses or mobile dwellings

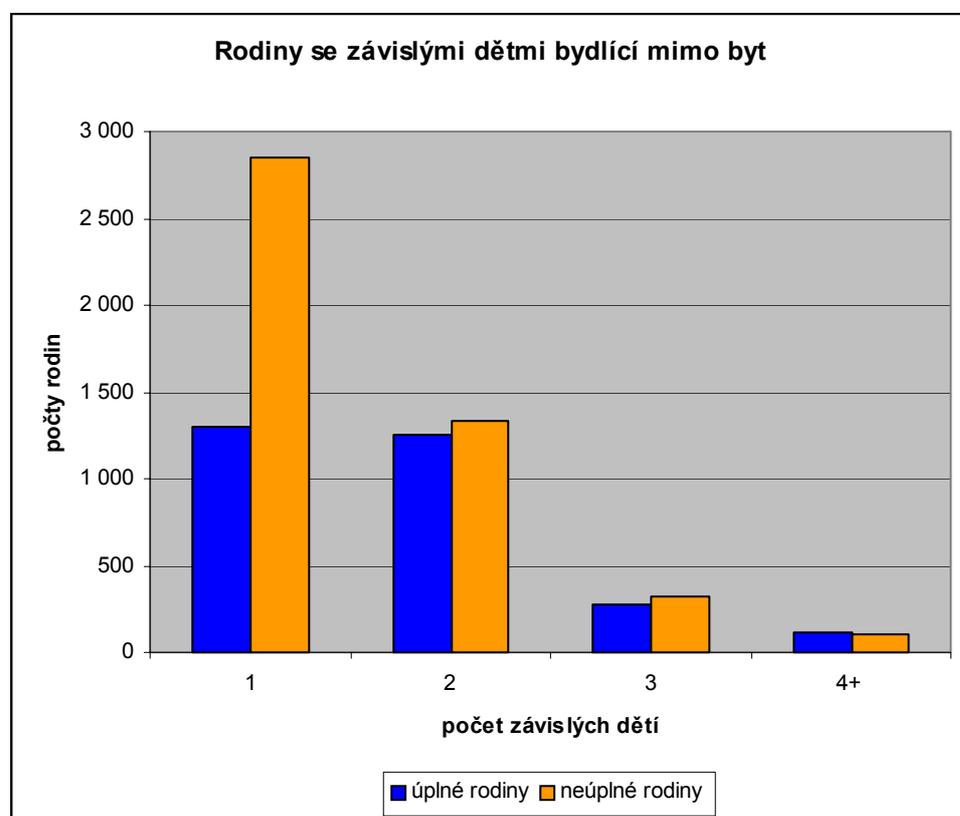
as at 1 March 2001. Of this number, less than one fifth lived in weekend houses and cottages and more than 80% lived in emergency conditions of substandard housing. In percentage terms, of the total number of families with dependent children, it is less than half per cent, nevertheless, a not insignificant total number of 12 thousand dependent children lived in such substandard conditions and two thirds of them were aged between 0 – 10 years.

Table 21 : Families with dependent children living out of dwelling stock as at 1 March 2001

Number of dependent children	Families, total	including:		
		two-parent families	single-parent families	
			headed by man	headed by woman
1	4 146	1 301	398	2 447
2	2 578	1 250	136	1 192
3	590	271	38	281
4+	226	118	12	96
total	7 540	2 940	584	4 016

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 18: Families living out of dwelling stock by the number of dependent children as at 1 March 2001



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Housing and Population Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 18:

Families with dependent children living out of dwelling stock

numbers of families

number of dependent children

two-parent families, single-parent families]

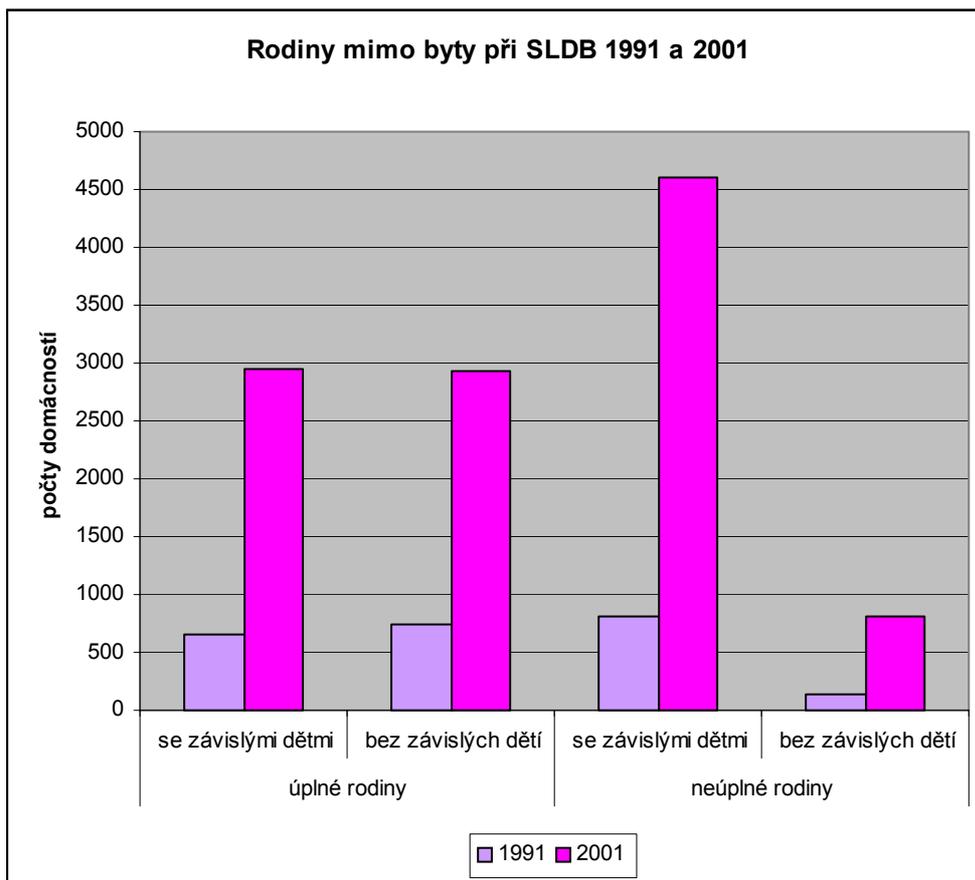
The number of families with dependent children living out of dwelling stock was more than five times the amount of the 1991 figures, while the number of cases living out of dwelling stock increased more rapidly among single-parent families.

Table 22 : Households out of dwelling stock in the Population and Housing Census in 1991 and 2001

	two-parent families		single-parent families		individuals	multi-member non-family households
	with dependent children	without dependent children	with dependent children	without dependent children		
1991	651	737	814	134	5 942	55
2001	2 940	2 937	4 600	818	22 703	1 027

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 19: Families living out of dwelling stock during the Population and Housing Census 1991 and 2001



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 19:

Families out of dwelling stock during the Population and Housing Census 1991 and 2001

numbers of households

with dependent children, without dependent children, with dependent children, without dependent children, two-parent families, single-parent families]

There were no significant changes in the structure of housing out of dwelling stock (an emergency dwelling, a mobile dwelling or a weekend house and a cottage), but there are substantial differences when compared by the type of family. The share of living in a weekend house or a cottage among two-parent families with dependent children exceeded 30 %, whereas among single-parent families it accounted for a mere one tenth of their number.

More than three fifths of the total number of families with dependent children living out of dwelling stock were comprised of single-parent families, in particular single-parent families headed by a woman. Hence, it is obvious that a break-up of marriage and the subsequent solution of the housing situation is in some cases difficult. The fact whether a single-parent family is headed by a woman or a man was irrelevant for the standard of housing of dependent children from single-parent families.

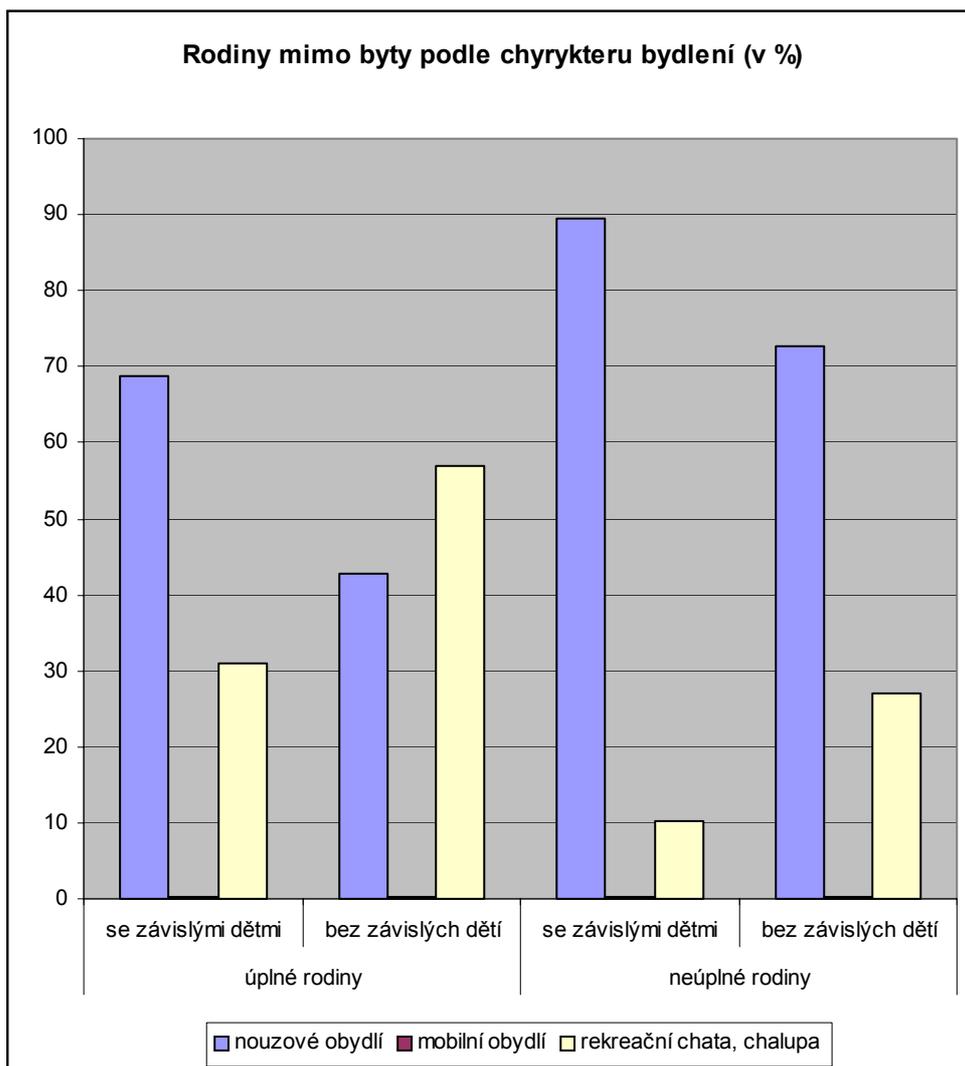
Table 23: Households out of dwelling stock by type of housing (The Population and Housing Census 1991 and 2001)

	two-parent families				single-parent families				individuals		multi-member non-family households	
	with dependent children		without dependent children		with dependent children		Without dependent children					
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
emergency dwelling	67,4	68,8	37,7	42,8	91,0	89,6	69,4	72,6	79,0	84,4	92,7	89,9
mobile dwelling	0,6	0,3	0,7	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,0	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,0	0,8
weekend house, cottage	32,0	30,9	61,6	57,0	8,7	10,2	30,6	27,1	20,5	15,1	7,3	9,3
total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note.: with respect to the 1991 figures, also other cases and houses not approved for use were added to emergency dwellings

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 20: Families living out of dwelling stock by type of housing, status as at 1.3.01



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 20:

Families out of dwelling stock by type of housing (%)

with dependent children, without dependent children, with dependent children,
without dependent children

two-parent families, single-parent families

emergency dwelling, mobile dwelling, weekend house, cottage]

6. Additional persons in single-parent families

As has been already mentioned above in the chapter on housing, single-parent families live, in comparison with other types of households, more frequently together with an additional household in one dwelling. This type of living was the most frequent in a dwelling in own house, i.e. in particular in family houses where living together of more generations is generally more frequent. However, living together with an additional person is more frequent also in dwellings among single-parent families. Such „additional persons“ can be e.g. grandparents, other relatives or not related persons.

Table 24: Family households with dependent children by individuals living together with them as at 1 March 2001

Manner of accommodation of a census household	Two-parent families	including: number of children	Single-parent families		Family households, total	including: number of children
			total	including: number of children		
No additional person	1 049 925	1 764 083	322 647	460 803	1 372 572	2 224 886
One additional person, including:	39 846	65 642	19 912	26 287	59 758	91 929
mother - mother-in-law	25 205	41 481	12 886	16 725	38 091	58 206
father - father-in-law	6 250	10 495	2 498	3 371	8 748	13 866
other relative	7 904	12 888	3 853	5 115	11 757	18 003
Two additional persons including one:	911	1 494	743	979	1 654	2 473
mother - mother-in-law	427	689	431	544	858	1 233
father - father-in-law	100	170	67	89	167	259
other person	384	635	245	346	629	981
Three, or more additional persons	88	144	103	150	191	294
Families with persons living together with them, total	40 845	67 280	20 758	27 416	61 603	94 696

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Table 25: Single-parent families with dependent children by individuals living together with them as at 1 March 2001

Manner of accommodation of a census household	Single-parent families					
	total	including: number of children	headed by man	including: number of children	headed by woman	including: number of children
No additional person	322 647	460 803	39 990	55 698	282 657	405 105
One additional person, including:	19 912	26 287	2 754	3 668	17 158	22 619
mother	12 886	16 725	1 621	2 044	11 265	14 681
father	2 498	3 371	250	320	2 248	3 051
other relative	3 853	5 115	501	671	3 352	4 444

Two additional persons including one:	743	979	154	210	589	769
mother	431	544	80	107	351	437
father	67	89	11	16	56	73
other person	245	346	63	87	182	259
Three, or, where appropriate, more additional persons	103	150	22	35	81	115
Families with persons living together with them, total	20 758	27 416	2 930	3 913	17 828	23 503

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Most cases of single-parent families with dependent children and an additional person (specifically 96 % of them) concerned families with only one additional person. Of this number, more than three fourths (77 %) represented families in which **a grandparent is part of the family, in particular a mother** (child's grandmother). Also the age structure of additional persons in families with dependent children corresponds to it – three quarters of their number fall within the 45 – 79 age bracket (among two-parent families, they fall within the 55 – 84 age bracket).

When comparing single-parent families in total (regardless of the presence of dependent children), the situation is similar:

Table 26: Single-parent families in total by individuals living together with them as at 1 March 2001

	Single-parent families		
	without dependent children	with dependent children	Total
No additional person, total	221 538	322 647	544 185
Share of total census households in %	95,10	94,00	94,40
One additional person, total	10 665	19 912	30 577
including: mother – mother-in-law	5 766	12 886	18 652
father - father-in-law	726	2 498	3 224
other relative	3 794	3 853	7 647
not related person	379	675	1 054
Two additional persons, total	697	743	1 440
including: one mother – mother-in-law	111	431	542
father - father-in-law	9	67	76
other person	577	245	822
Three, or, where appropriate, more additional persons	116	103	219
Families with persons living together with them, total	11 478	20 758	32 236

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

With respect to the total number of families with dependent children, the shares of families with additional person were not insignificant. In 2001, one additional person

lived in 4.2 % of families with dependent children, while among single-parent families this share was 5.8% and among two-parent families 3.6 %. Apart from additional persons in families, as defined above, these families included also children which did not meet the criteria required to fall within the category of „dependent children“. 178.2 thousand of such children lived in two-parent families, including 45.5 thousand children living in single-parent families. Approximately one fifth of them exceeded the age limit of 25 years, however, mostly these were children, up to the age of 24 which were economically active, but have not founded their own family yet.

In terms of the structure of families with dependent children, by the number of additional persons in a family, the share of families with an additional person between 1991 and 2001 increased. This was a result of a significant increase in the number of single-parent families in cases where a newly arisen single-parent family addressed its housing needs often by staying in the dwelling of a grandparent. This hypothesis is supported also by data on the relationship between the head of household in a single-parent family and the occupant of the dwelling. While among two-parent families with dependent children and an additional person, the head of household was in 75% of cases also an occupant of the dwelling, among single-parent families, this share accounted for a mere 43%. Other single-parent families with dependent children and an additional person in the family lived in dwellings whose occupant was someone else - mostly, it was one of the grandparents (i.e. a mother or a father of the head of a single-parent family – 40.6 %).

Table 27: Single-parent families in total by relationship of the head of household to the occupant of the dwelling as at 1 March 2001

	Absol.			%		
	without dependent children	with dependent children	total	without dependent children	with dependent children	total
Occupant of the dwelling	24 535	41 873	66 408	72,89	34,81	43,13
Children	2 053	60 434	62 487	6,10	50,24	40,59
sons-in-law and daughters-in-law	142	1 395	1 537	0,42	1,16	1,00
grandsons (great grandsons)	13	2 818	2 831	0,04	2,34	1,84
Parents	4 346	630	4 976	12,91	0,52	3,23
other relatives	941	4 201	5 142	2,80	3,49	3,34
subtenants	420	3 119	3 539	1,25	2,59	2,30
other not related persons	1 209	5 832	7 041	3,59	4,85	4,57

The total number of persons living together in the census household	33 659	120 302	153 961	100,00	100,00	100,00
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Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

7. Financial situation of single-parent families

7.1. Social group of the head of household

A particular social group of a household which is determined according to the social status of the head of household regardless of the economic activity of other family members is an important basis for examination of the financial situation of families. Among single-parent families, mostly a parent is the head of household (provided that he/she is economically active, otherwise also an economically active child can be the head of household). The social status is the criterion for categorization of the head of household into one of the following groups :

- employees, if he/she is employed (workers and other employees) and does not work in the agricultural sector. It is not decisive whether their employer is in the state or private sector. Also members of a limited liability company (or limited partners of limited partnerships) fall within this category, if employed in their own company under the employment contract and receive wage
- farmers, if he/she is a member of an agricultural cooperative or works with his/her hands in other types of agricultural companies (joint-stock companies, private enterprises) or if he/she manages in such enterprises agricultural operations and self-employed farmers. Under the methodology of the Household Budget Survey employees of agricultural enterprises who do not work directly in agricultural production (craftsmen, administrative staff, etc.) are not considered to be farmers.
- self-employed persons, if he/she is engaged in private enterprise, i.e. under the trade licence alone or with a certain number of workers pursues production and business activity or provides various services or if he/she is a person pursuing a liberal profession (e.g. doctors, lawyers), a person engaged in business activities under special regulations (experts, interpreters, etc.), a person pursuing art or another creative activity.

The head of household of pensioners is a person economically not active receiving pension. A necessary prerequisite for inclusion of a particular household into the reporting population is that no other household member be a permanent staff member, either.

Table 28: Share of households by social groups in 2002 in the Czech Republic (%)

	Households, total	Employees, total	Self- employed, total	Pensioners , total	Un- employed	Other house- holds
two-parent families, total	62,8	68,7	82,8	49,3	48,1	27,8
Including: nuclear families	49,7	52,8	66,2	41,1	37,6	18,8
single-parent families, total	12,3	15,8	8,1	4,2	30,1	44,3
Including: nuclear families	5,6	6,3	3,6	0,9	25,1	37,0
non-family households	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,8	0,4	2,0
individuals: men	9,2	8,3	6,0	10,9	15,6	11,6
wo- men	14,9	6,5	2,6	34,8	5,9	14,3

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

The above overview clearly shows that among single-parent families there is much less self-employed persons and a minimum share of pensioners, but, on the contrary, much higher share of unemployed persons (parents).

The following table provides a more detailed overview of the social group related to nuclear single-parent families:

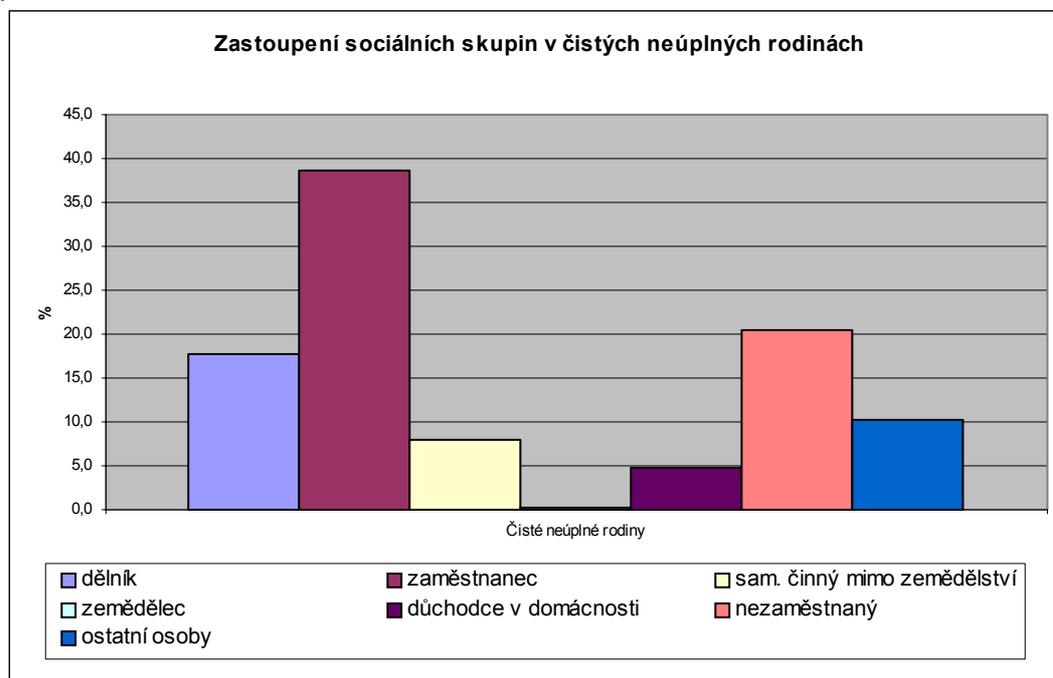
Table 29: Nuclear single-parent families by economic activity and social group of the head of household in 2002 (in %)

Indicator	Nuclear single-parent families	Number of children		Main reasons for single-parent status head of household		
		1	2+	single	divorced	widowed
		Number of households absol.	225 458	129 831	95 627	40 998
Number of household members:						
1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
2	57,6	100,0	0,0	81,0	52,4	52,5
3	36,2	0,0	85,4	13,9	41,8	38,0
4	5,4	0,0	12,8	4,4	5,7	5,4
5	0,6	0,0	1,4	0,7	0,2	2,7
6 or more	0,2	0,0	0,4	0,0	0,0	1,3
Number of economically active:						
0	35,5	34,4	36,9	59,1	31,0	26,1
With economically active members, total	64,5	65,6	63,1	40,9	69,0	73,9
1	64,5	65,6	63,1	40,9	69,0	73,9
2 or more	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Social group of the head of household:						
Worker	17,6	16,2	19,5	13,8	18,5	18,6
Employee	38,6	41,8	34,4	25,5	42,1	38,4
self-employed, except agriculture	8,0	7,2	9,2	1,6	8,1	16,9
Farmer	0,2	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,0
Not working pensioner						
with economically active members	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
without economically active members	4,8	4,4	5,3	2,2	2,9	19,0
Unemployed	20,5	19,6	21,8	30,0	20,9	4,8
other persons	10,2	10,4	9,8	26,9	7,2	2,3

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

Table 29 and Graph 21 show that among nuclear single-parent families the head of household (a parent) is mostly in the position of an employee (38.6 %). However, the unemployed (20.5 %) who are heading one fifth of nuclear single-parent families (!) are another important group. These two most frequently represented social groups show the same results also in terms of the analysis by the number of dependent children in a family and also by marital status of the head of household. But while the group of employees is rising among the divorced and widowed heads of household, the unemployment is significant among single parents where it accounts for up to 30%. The unemployment is rising also with an increasing number of dependent children. Both these conclusions are rather alarming, since the unemployment of a lone parent significantly increases the risk of social exclusion of a single-parent family.

Graph 21: Share of social groups related to the head of household in nuclear single-parent families in total



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

[Translation of the text in Graph 21:

Share of social groups in nuclear single-parent families

Nuclear single-parent families
 worker, employee, self-employed, except agriculture
 farmer, not working pensioner, unemployed
 other persons]

7.2. Income of single-parent families

Microcensus 2002 which contains results for housekeeping households (households on common budget) is the primary basis for ascertaining income of single-parent families. The statistical concept of a housekeeping household is based on a voluntary statement of persons usually living in a selected dwelling that they live together and share housekeeping, i.e. they share basic household costs (food, housing and other operating expenditure). When interpreting and analyzing the microcensus results, account needs to be taken constantly of the fact that they have arisen by the processing of data obtained from a sample survey. This means that all published

data are, basically, estimates, that are subject to certain errors and not precise figures.

Financial income of families can be subdivided to the working income (income from main occupation minus health and social insurance contributions and income tax), social amounts (pensions, sickness benefits, child benefits, social allowance, family allowance, unemployment benefit for registered unemployed, minimum income benefit, etc.) and other income (insurance compensations, loans received, credits and loans repaid, gifts, income from private enterprise out of the main occupation, income from the sale of shares and securities, winnings, heritage, alimony, scholarships, etc.).

Basic characteristics of two-parent and single-parent families included in the Microcensus 2002 survey are set out in Table 30. This comparison shows that, as regards income, the situation of nuclear single-parent families with additional members, is always worse than that of two-parent families, in particular in terms of income from employment. On the contrary, the comparison reveals the high share of social benefits received by these families. Also the percentage of single-parent families whose income is under the subsistence level is high.

Table 30: Household composition and annual per capita income in CZK (2002)

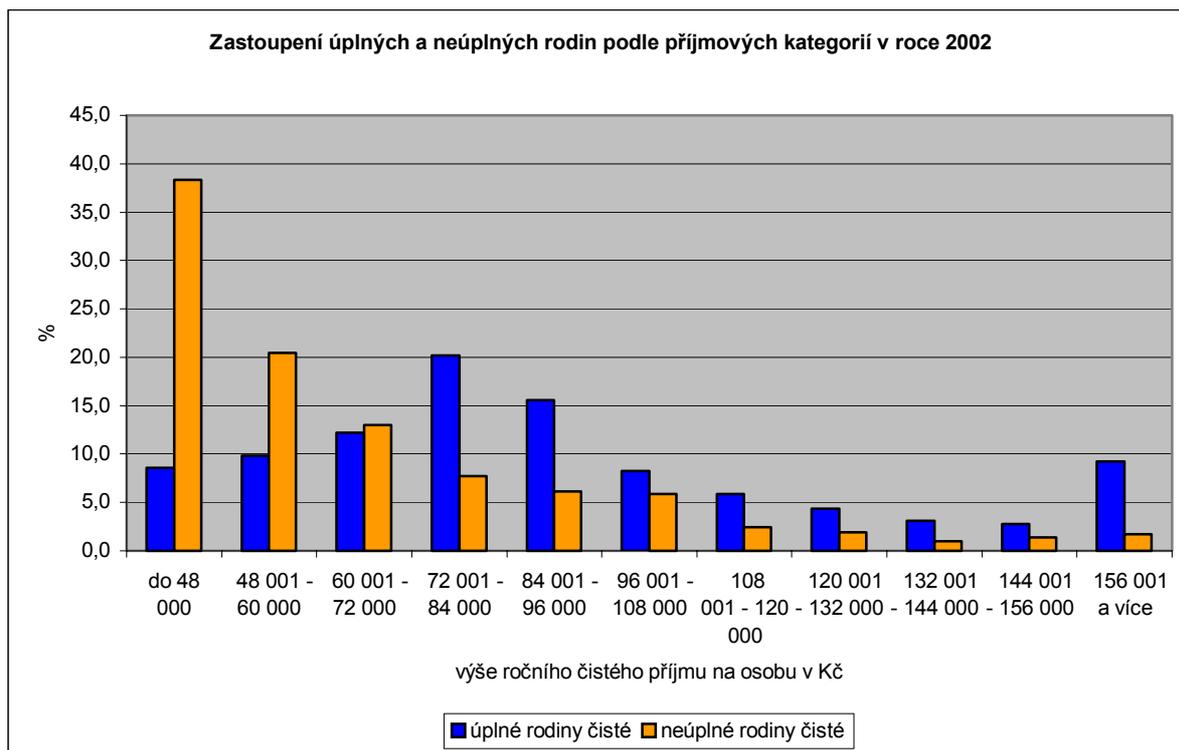
		Two-parent families		Single-parent families	
		two-parent nuclear families	two-parent families with additional members	single-parent nuclear families	single-parent families with additional members
Number of households	absol.	2 012 781	534 883	225 458	271 556
	% of type of household	79,0	21,0	45,4	54,6
Number of household members	absol.	5 783 466	2 037 378	562 383	690 090
	% of type of household	73,9	26,1	44,9	55,1
Per household averages:					
Members		2,87	3,81	2,49	2,54
economically active		1,23	2,22	0,65	1,18
unprovided for children		0,88	0,52	1,49	0,30
not working pensioners		0,55	0,64	0,05	0,69
other members		0,21	0,43	0,30	0,37
Equivalencies	OECD	2,20	2,92	1,87	2,05
	EU	1,82	2,35	1,58	1,74
Gross money income		107 589	119 776	69 512	109 428

1. Income from employment	65 160	81 443	35 452	66 523
including from main occupation	64 604	80 614	35 088	66 357
2. Income from private enterprise	18 493	16 193	6 526	8 235
Including from main occupation	17 895	15 818	6 458	7 884
3. Social income	21 950	20 035	20 962	31 482
Including: Pensions	16 295	14 379	6 548	24 109
state social support benefits	3 353	1 583	8 859	1 911
4. Other income	1 987	2 106	6 571	3 188
Net money income	89 801	98 544	61 594	92 890
Including from main occupation	49 881	62 168	28 052	51 244
Households with net income	absol.	49 052	8 643	36 979
under subsistence level	%	2,4	1,6	16,4
				4,4

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

Specific definition of income limits and the share of two-parent and single-parent families and their share in income deciles is shown in Graphs 22 and 23.

Graph 22: Share of two-parent and single-parent families by income brackets in 2002



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

[Translation of the text in Graph 22

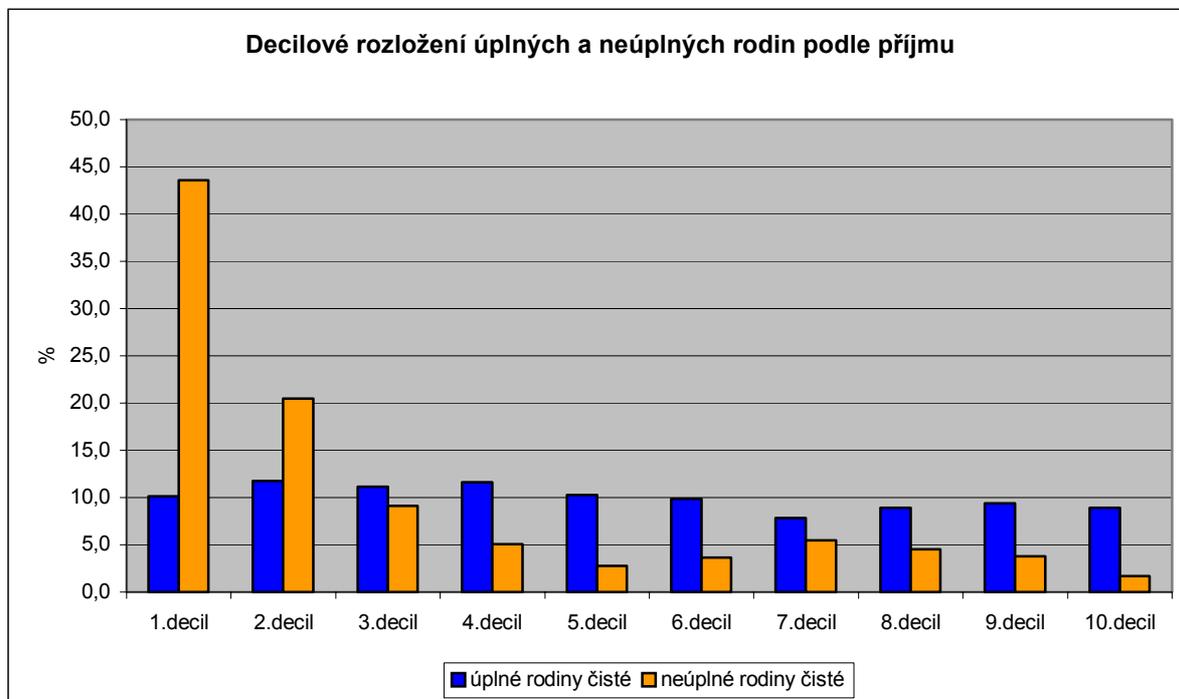
Share of two-parent and single-parent families by income brackets in 2002

...156,000 and more

annual net per capita income (CZK)

nuclear two-parent families, nuclear single-parent families]

Graph 23: Decile distribution of two-parent and single-parent families by income categories in 2002



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

[Translation of the text in Graph 23

Decile distribution of two-parent and single-parent families by income

1st decile, 2nd decile, 3rd decile, 4th decile, 5th decile, 6th decile, 7th decile, 8th decile, 9th decile, 10th decile

nuclear two-parent families, nuclear single-parent families]

The above overviews show clearly that while nuclear two-parent families' per capita income was between CZK 72,000 – 96,000, i.e. CZK 6,000 – 8,000 per month, the share of nuclear single-parent families prevails in the income bracket up to CZK 48,000 or CZK 60,000, i.e. CZK 4,000 and CZK 5,000 per month, respectively. The decile structure of families corresponds to these figures, as among two-parent families there is an obvious even distribution into all 10 deciles, whereas single-parent families show an obvious shift to the first decile or the first two deciles. In the lowest decile, (the poorest 10 % of the households), 43 % of single-parent families are represented and in the lowest two deciles, a total share of these households accounts for 64%.

These conclusions confirm the fact that while previously, rather families with the higher number of children and a woman receiving parental benefit were under the subsistence level, gradually, the share of single-parent families in this low income bracket was rising (and in addition, also families with an unemployed person or a not working pensioner).

The financial situation of single-parent families was monitored also through a survey of child upbringing and maintenance costs carried out by the Czech Statistical Office in 2003. For your information, we set out below the table showing income of families in total and income of single-parent families

Table 34: Household composition and annual per capita income in CZK (2003)

	Households, total	Single-parent families
Per household averages:		
Members	3,50	2,47
economically active	1,63	1,04
unprovided for children	1,60	1,39
not working pensioners	0,02	0,01
other members	0,25	0,03
Equivalencies (OECD)	2,55	1,91
Gross money income, total	104 272	98 106
Income from employment	77 815	69 365
Income from private enterprise	11 960	3 749
Social income	8 853	12 490
Pensions	1 231	4 102
sickness benefits	2 248	2 158
unemployment benefits	297	237
state social support benefits	4 881	5 838
Other social income	196	155
Other income	5 645	12 502
Net money income, total	87 525	84 395

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, Child upbringing and maintenance costs

The table shows that the situation of single-parent families, both in terms of their structure and in particular in terms of their income situation was consistent with the results of Microcensus 2002.

The comparison of the development of income between two-parent and single-parent families of employees with children can be done on the basis of comparison of the data from the Household Budget Survey.

Table 35 Development of income of single-parent families of employees with children (annual per capita averages)

	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families						
Gross money income, total	96 637	94 366	98 986	93 393	105 351	98 027	110 775	103 966
Income from employment	83 502	69 677	84 497	71 105	90 548	72 624	95 778	78 406
Income from private enterprise	716	41	789	75	728	61	1 182	53
Social income	8 234	11 950	9 546	11 801	8 983	11 589	9 263	11 733
Other income	4 185	12 698	4 154	10 412	5 092	13 754	4 552	13 774
Net money income, total	78 952	80 602	80 907	79 390	85 691	83 760	89 819	88 167
Including: income from employment	65 817	55 913	66 417	57 101	70 888	58 357	74 822	62 608
Main occupation	63 418	52 656	64 457	54 553	68 146	55 452	72 131	59 867
Head of household	42 501	52 369	44 318	54 456	46 788	55 439	49 894	59 807
Wife	20 824	0	20 035	0	21 325	0	22 158	0
Other person	92	288	104	97	32	14	78	60
secondary occupation	2 399	3 257	1 962	2 549	2 743	2 905	2 692	2 740

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Household Budget Survey 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

Table 35 shows an obvious permanent trend which has two basic tendencies: firstly, income is constantly increasing (in all categories) among both two-parent and single-parent families and secondly, single-parent families still do not earn income fully comparable to two-parent families (they earn some 94 % of income of two-parent families). A detailed analysis of the income structure is set out in Annex 4.

Lower income of single-parent families is reflected also in subjective assessments of family income, as recorded in the survey of social situation of households 2001.

Table 36: Subjective opinions of households on sufficiency of income (%)

	Two-parent families without additional members	Single-parent families without additional members
Housing costs are		

big financial burden	42,9	59,4
bearable financial burden	47,8	31,9
not a problem	6,8	4,2
not applicable	2,5	4,6
Household was able to live on its income		
with big difficulties	19,4	38,3
with difficulties	27,4	29,2
with some difficulties	37,3	23
fairly easily	12,5	7,6
easily	2,7	1,8
very easily	0,7	0,2
Income of household was		
sufficient for everything	20,2	11,7
had to save up a lot for more expensive things	49,0	37,7
only for cheapest things	22,8	34,1
only for cheapest food	5,1	10,1
not enough even for cheap food	3,0	6,4

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Social situation of households 2001

7.3. Single-parent families in social systems

In order to illustrate the income situation of single-parent families, it is possible to compare the share of single-parent families in social benefit systems. Within the category of state social support benefits, the share of single-parent families is most obvious in the summary figures for social allowance, in the case of which lone parents are given preferential treatment as regards the calculation of this benefit, on the grounds of their lone status (for other state social support benefits the lone status of a parent is not a relevant information and therefore it is not possible to determine the share of single-parent families in the number of recipients of other benefits).

In March 2001, (at the time of the Population and Housing Census), 456,229 social allowances were paid, including 144,146 benefits that were paid to single-parent families. In comparison with the total number of families, this means that social allowance was received by 13.4% of two-parent families and 25% of single-parent families, while single-parent families accounted for 31.6% of recipients of social allowance.

In December 2004, a total of 346,561 social allowances were paid, including 141,016 i.e. already 41% of the benefits were paid to single-parent families. On the basis of the statistics of the paid social allowances (statistics of the Ministry of Labour And

Social Affairs), it is possible to compare income of single-parent families with respect to the subsistence level of a family, subject to the number of children (Table 37)

Table 37: Paid social allowance to lone parents for December 2004 subject to income and number of children

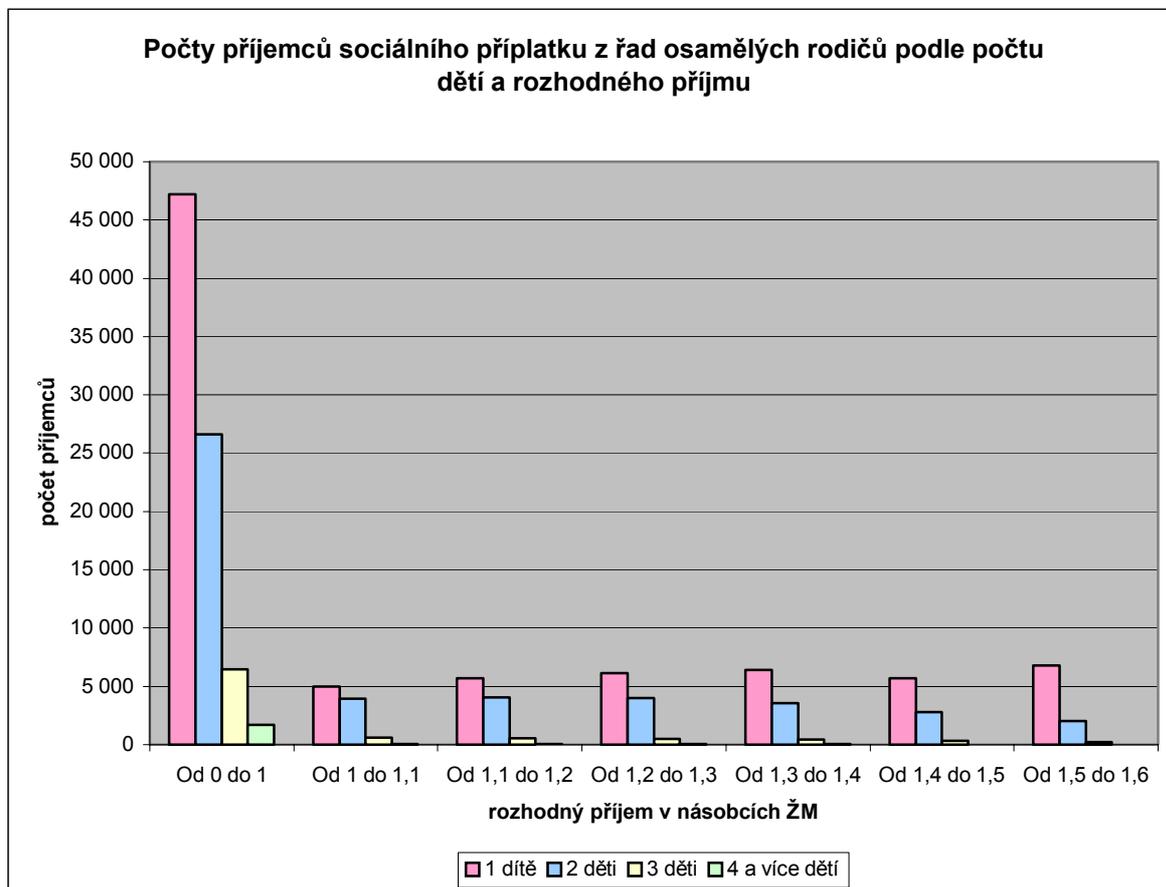
Number of children	Ratio of decisive income to subsistence level of family (in multiples of subsistence level)							total
	0 – 1,0	1,0 - 1,1	1,1 – 1,2	1,2 - 1,3	1,3 - 1,4	1,4 - 1,5	1,5 – 1,6	
1	47 197	5 009	5 677	6 136	6 388	5 677	6 810	82 894
2	26 626	3 938	4 059	3 974	3 565	2 810	2 037	47 009
3	6 480	600	564	501	439	309	205	9 098
4 or more	1 720	82	79	51	37	27	19	2 015
Total	82 023	9 629	10 379	10 662	10 429	8 823	9 071	141 016

Source: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Table 37 and Graph 24 clearly show that most social allowances are paid, in terms of the number of children, to lone parents with one child (59 %) and, in terms of income, to parents in the lowest income bracket, i.e. up to 1.0 multiple of the subsistence level. Lone parents with 1 child and income up to 1.0 multiple of the subsistence level (33.5 % of all social allowances paid to lone parents) then actually constitute the largest group. Effectively, this means that this allowance is granted to parents without any income from gainful activity and it is possible to estimate that primarily mothers which receive family allowance will fall under this category.

This is confirmed also by the overview of the payment of social allowances according to the actual amount of income of lone parents where 48,062 lone parents (i.e. 34 %) earn income only up to CZK 5,000 (this is equal to the sum of family allowance and child benefit – see Table 38 on the next page).

Graph 24 : Numbers of recipients of social allowance among lone parents by the number of children and decisive income as a multiple of subsistence level of the family (status as at 31 December 2004)



Source: prepared according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

[Translation of the text in Graph 24:

Numbers of recipients of social allowance among lone parents by the number of children and decisive income

Number of recipients

Between 0 and 1, Between 1 and 1.1, Between 1.1 and 1.2, Between 1.2. and 1.3, Between 1.3. and 1.4., Between 1.4. and 1.5, Between 1.5 and 1.6

Decisive income as a multiple of subsistence level

1 child, 2 children, 3 children, 4 and more children]

Table 38: Number of social allowances paid to lone parents subject to actual amount of their decisive income

Number of children	Amount of decisive income (CZK thousand)						total
	under 5	5 – 10	10 – 15	15 – 20	20 – 25	Over 25	
1	34 156	39 447	8 277	31	0	19	81 930
2	11 670	16 572	17 630	1 995	14	4	47 885
3	1 848	3 750	2 360	1 197	22	1	9 178

4 or more	388	985	366	207	70	7	2 023
Total	48 062	60 754	28 633	3 430	106	31	141 016

Source: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

7.4. Single-parent families and poverty

In EU countries, in particular in the last decade, enormous attention has been paid to the financial situation and living conditions of households with special focus on the issue of poverty. For the purposes of international comparison, the poverty line is constructed as 60 % of the median. It is possible to use also other relations for internal purposes of individual countries (e.g. 50 % of the median), if such an approach is more appropriate for the income structure of households. Table 37 presents selected characteristics of persons at risk of monetary (income) poverty analyzed by individual types of families processed according to the Eurostat methodology. The unit of processing was a person, all household members were included into the processing.

Table 39: Selected characteristics and indicators of poverty of persons by various levels of monetary (income) poverty

	At-risk-of-poverty threshold	
	50%	60%
	of median of annual income per EU scale equivalency	
Number of persons in households with income under at-risk-of-poverty threshold share in the total number of persons in the Czech Republic (%)	382 451 3,78	822 170 8,13
Persons by selected characteristics % of all persons of the given type		
Type of household		
individuals 65 and over	1,18	9,26
men	0,42	3,59
Women	1,40	10,93
childless couples – both partners under 64 years	1,12	2,29
childless pairs – at least 1 of the partners 65 and over	0,31	0,88
1 parent and dependent children only	14,19	29,46
parental couple		
- with 1 dependent child	3,13	6,46
- with 2 dependent children	3,18	7,06
- with 3 or more dependent children	9,88	19,38
- with dependent and other children	6,84	11,77
Other households	1,88	4,74

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, Microcensus 2002

Even this overview clearly shows that persons living in single-parent families belong to the groups most at risk of monetary (income) poverty in the Czech Republic, namely even significantly higher than among families with more children.

About 133,000 households (3.3%), in which more than 392,000 persons lived, were in 2002 under the official poverty line in the Czech Republic (3.3%). The methodology of measuring monetary (income) poverty in the EU which is based on median income converted per EU scale equivalency, however, shows that in the Czech Republic about twice more households (over 7%) or persons (724,000) are at risk of poverty.

This high percentage of persons at risk is proved also by the fact that as at 31 December 2004, a total of 228.4 thousand households were registered in records of the needy population. Two thirds of this figure were comprised of households without children (153.1 thousand), only one third (inter alia, due to the system of the state social support) were families with children (75.3 thousand). Among needy households with children single-parent families prevailed (49.0 thousand, i.e. 65 % of their total number).

8. Regional comparison

This part of the study focuses on a brief description of the composition of households from the regional viewpoint (i.e. at the level of regions – administrative units). The structure and weight of individual types of families and households is significantly differentiated in territorial terms (see Table 40). This status reflects a wide range of conditions and factors arising, inter alia, from historical development, level of urbanization of a particular unit, conservative or rather liberal nature of the population and finally, its demographic features and parameters.

The comparison of individual districts shows that in the case of two-parent families, the highest shares were recorded in particular in the Vysočina (Highlands) region and in the South Moravian region (the Žďár nad Sázavou, Třebíč, Uherské Hradiště and Hodonín districts). Districts with big cities in their territory and the Karlovy Vary region and the Ústí nad Labem region (Most, Brno-City, Ostrava, Pilsen and Karlovy Vary districts) show the lowest shares of two-parent families. For the sake of comparison, it should be noted that Prague itself has even less two-parent families (43.3 %).

In the case of de facto marriages their occurrence was most frequent in the Ústí nad Labem region where almost 18 thousand (14.3 %) of these unions were recorded. On the contrary, the lowest number of consensual unions, a mere 4 thousand (3.2 %) were recorded during the census in the Vysočina (Highlands) region.

The structure of single-parent families is, on the other hand, almost opposite. In places where there was the lowest number of two-parent families, e.g. in big cities, on the contrary, there is the highest proportion of precisely these families and the situation is similar in most of the above mentioned districts. Hence, the high share of single-parent families was found in the Karlovy Vary district and in the second biggest metropolis – Brno (15.7 %). The districts with the highest number of single-parent families also include both suburban districts of the City of Prague, i.e. Prague - West and Prague - East (the share of Prague itself is the highest compared to districts, since it accounts for 16.4 %) and furthermore, also in districts with significant mobility of the population caused, inter alia, by the industrial development (e.g. Česká Lípa, Sokolov). A small number of single-parent families was found in particular in the Vysočina region, in the Pelhřimov or Žďár nad Sázavou districts. Among the regions, we can highlight in particular the Karlovy Vary region (15.7%) and on the other hand the already mentioned Vysočina region (11.2%). Most single-parent families were in all regions represented by single-parent families with dependent children, the largest share of these families was again in North Bohemian regions. Single-parent families were mostly childless (without dependent children) in the Vysočina region, Zlín region, South Moravian region and Olomouc region and also in Prague. In regions of North Bohemia higher proportion of single-parent families with dependent children was recorded, in particular with one and two children.

The figures for households of individuals also correspond to the data on two-parent and single-parent families. The districts with the highest share of two-parent families were frequently also among districts with small number of households of individuals and on the other hand, in districts with the low share of two-parent families, there was a high percentage of households of individuals. The lowest level of these households was found in the Hodonín district with about one fifth of these households and the highest level in the Ústí nad Labem district, with more than one third of such

households. An extremely high number of households of individuals was registered in Prague (36.8 %) and then in the Ústí nad Labem region (32.6 %), in contrast with a very low share of the Zlín region (25.8 %).

The situation in the City of Prague was as follows: two-parent families constituted the lowest share (43.3 %) and on the contrary, the shares of households of individuals (36.8 %), multi-member non-family households (3.6 %) and single-parent families (16.4 %) were higher.

Table 40: Selected districts with extreme values for two-parent and single-parent families and households of individuals, status as at 1 March 2001 (without the City of Prague)

two-parent families, total		single-parent families, total	
district	%	district	%
Highest			
Žďár nad Sázavou	64,1	Karlovy Vary	16,3
Třebíč	63,9	Brno-City	15,7
Uherské Hradiště	63,7	Prague-West	15,6
Hodonín	63,6	Sokolov	15,5
Blansko	63,1	Cheb	15,1
Havlíčkův Brod	62,4	Ostrava	14,9
Opava	62,2	Prague-East	14,9
Pelhřimov	62,1	Česká Lípa	14,7
Vyškov	61,8	Jablonec nad Nisou	14,7
Znojmo	61,7	Most	14,7
Lowest			
Liberec	51,3	Ústí nad Orlicí	11,3
Sokolov	51,0	Chrudim	11,3
Chomutov	50,6	Opava	11,3
Cheb	49,9	Semily	11,2
Pilsen-City	49,6	Třebíč	11,0
Ostrava	49,3	Havlíčkův Brod	10,9
Ústí nad Labem	49,3	Pilsen-South	10,9
Karlovy Vary	48,4	Žďár nad Sázavou	10,8
Brno-City	48,1	Rokycany	10,5
Most	48,1	Pelhřimov	10,3

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

As already noted above, households of single-parent families are mostly headed by a woman (85 % on a national basis). In terms of the regions, higher shares of single-parent families headed by a man were recorded in Prague and in the Central Bohemian region (almost 17 % of single-parent families), on the contrary, the lowest shares were found in the Olomouc (14.2 %) and the Zlín region (13.3 %). If a single-parent family is headed by a man, then he is mostly divorced, then widowed and married and in the least number of cases single. In northern regions, compared to

other regions, the share of divorced men was significantly higher (more than 50 % of men heading a single-parent family). Similar differences were also found in East Bohemia, in the Olomouc and Moravian-Silesian region. With respect to North Bohemia, an interesting finding was that the shares of married men heading a single-parent family were almost the same as those of the widowed men.

For the population of women heading a single-parent family, the findings were very similar to the population of men. The higher shares of single and married women were found in particular in the Ústí nad Labem, Karlovy Vary and Liberec regions. In these regions, also the share of widowed women heading a single-parent family was lower.

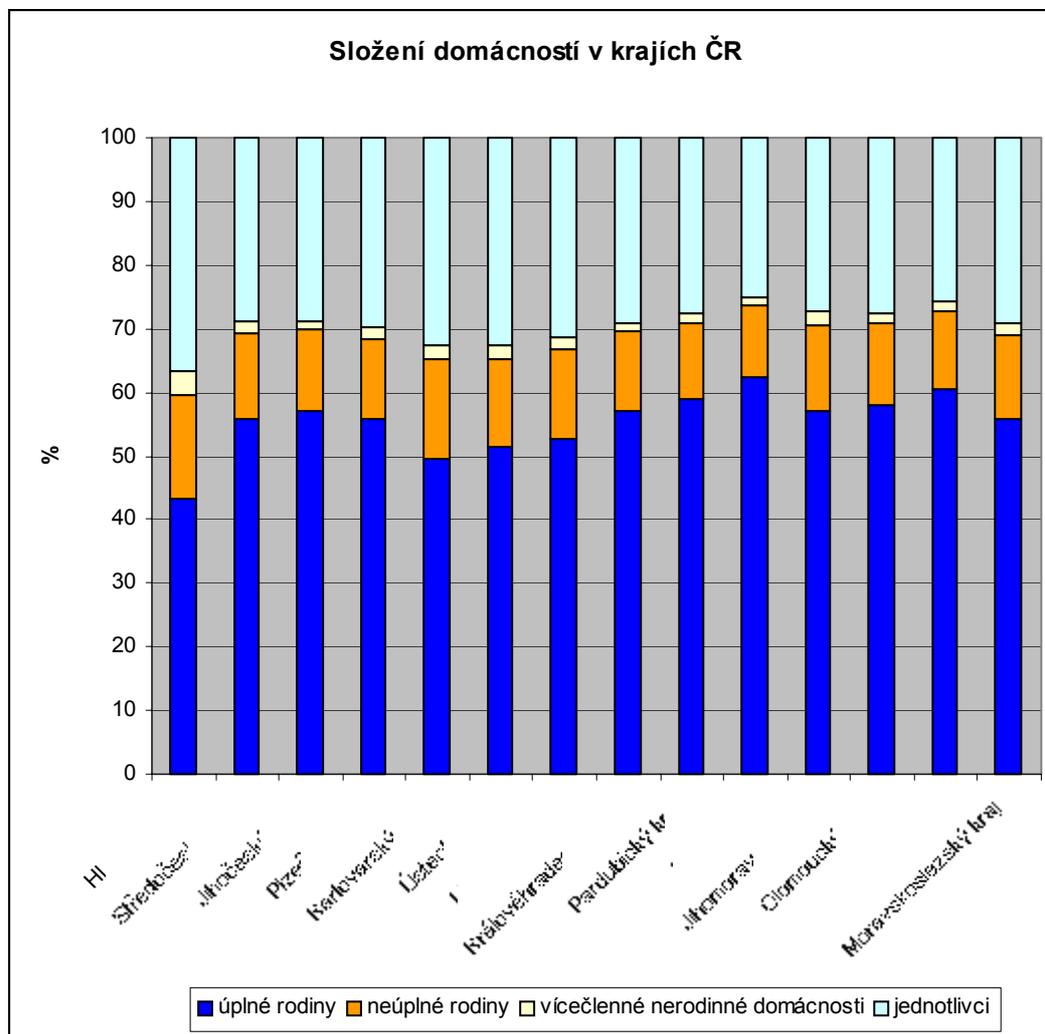
Table 41: Families and households in individual regions of the Czech Republic as at 1 March 2001

Regions, districts	House- holds, total	including:							
		two-parent families		single-parent families		multi-member non-family households		Individuals	
		absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%

City of Prague	547 811	236 980	43,3	89 614	16,4	19 882	3,6	201 335	36,8
Central Bohemian region	464 188	259 529	55,9	62 163	13,4	8 213	1,8	134 283	28,9
South Bohemian region	255 569	146 136	57,2	32 074	12,6	4 053	1,6	73 306	28,7
Pilsen region	232 424	129 647	55,8	29 160	12,5	4 070	1,8	69 547	29,9
Karlovy Vary region	132 397	65 681	49,6	20 814	15,7	2 861	2,2	43 041	32,5
Ústí nad Labem region	356 126	183 501	51,5	48 952	13,7	7 565	2,1	116 108	32,6
Liberec region	181 249	95 670	52,8	25 136	13,9	3 864	2,1	56 579	31,2
Hradec Králové region	228 158	129 875	56,9	28 706	12,6	2 999	1,3	66 578	29,2
Pardubice region	204 594	120 673	59,0	24 453	12,0	2 742	1,3	56 726	27,7
Vysočina (Highlands) region	199 417	124 477	62,4	22 238	11,2	2 703	1,4	49 999	25,1
South Moravian region	455 546	259 567	57,0	61 477	13,5	9 923	2,2	124 579	27,3
Olomouc region	257 163	149 069	58,0	33 024	12,8	4 011	1,6	71 059	27,6
Zlín region	231 969	140 111	60,4	28 751	12,4	3 177	1,4	59 930	25,8
Moravian-Silesian region	524 106	292 676	55,8	69 858	13,3	8 466	1,6	153 106	29,2

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 25 : Share of households by type of household in individual regions of the Czech Republic



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, the Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 25:

Composition of households in regions of the Czech Republic

City of Prague, Central Bohemian region, South Bohemian region, Pilsen region, Karlovy Vary region, Ústí nad Labem region, Liberec region, Hradec Králové region, Pardubice region, Vysočina (Highlands) region, South Moravian region, Olomouc region, Zlín region, Moravian-Silesian region.

two-parent families, single-parent families, multi-member non-family households, individuals]

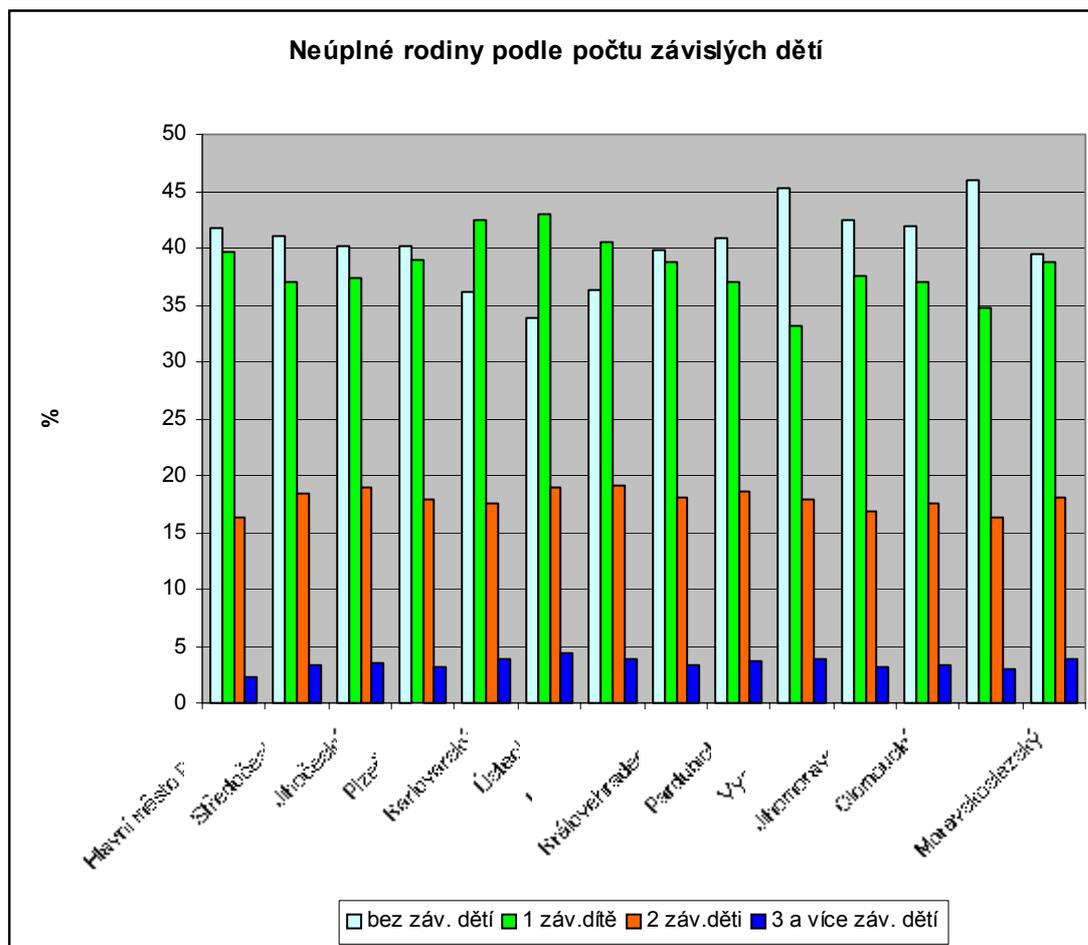
Table 42: Single-parent families by the number of dependent children and regions as at 1 March 2001

Region	Single-parent families, total	including: the number of dependent children							
		without dependent children		1		2		3+	
		abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
City of Prague	89 614	37 453	41,8	35 611	39,7	14 619	16,3	1 931	2,2
Central Bohemian	62 163	25 577	41,1	22 978	37,0	11 529	18,5	2 079	3,3
South Bohemian	32 074	12 870	40,1	11 999	37,4	6 086	19,0	1 119	3,5
Pilsen	29 160	11 686	40,1	11 356	38,9	5 223	17,9	895	3,1
Karlovy Vary	20 814	7 534	36,2	8 831	42,4	3 666	17,6	783	3,8
Ústí nad Labem	48 952	16 616	33,9	20 988	42,9	9 245	18,9	2 103	4,3

Liberec	25 136	9 127	36,3	10 201	40,6	4 838	19,2	970	3,9
Hradec Králové	28 706	11 437	39,8	11 139	38,8	5 185	18,1	945	3,3
Pardubice	24 453	9 966	40,8	9 064	37,1	4 551	18,6	872	3,6
Vysočina (Highlands)	22 238	10 046	45,2	7 375	33,2	3 980	17,9	837	3,8
South Moravian	61 477	26 092	42,4	23 145	37,6	10 362	16,9	1 878	3,1
Olomouc	33 024	13 874	42,0	12 214	37,0	5 809	17,6	1 127	3,4
Zlín	28 751	13 211	45,9	9 981	34,7	4 685	16,3	874	3,0
Moravian – Silesian	69 858	27 526	39,4	27 092	38,8	12 591	18,0	2 649	3,8
Czech Republic	576 420	233 015	40,4	221 974	38,5	102 369	17,8	19 062	3,3

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 26: Single-parent families by the number of dependent children and regions as at 1 March 2001



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 26:

Single-parent families by the number of dependent children

City of Prague, Central Bohemian region, South Bohemian region, Pilsen region, Karlovy Vary region, Ústí nad Labem region, Liberec region, Hradec Králové region, Pardubice region, Vysočina (Highlands) region, South Moravian region, Olomouc region, Zlín region, Moravian-Silesian region.

without dependent children, 1 dependent child, 2 dependent children, 3 and more dependent children]

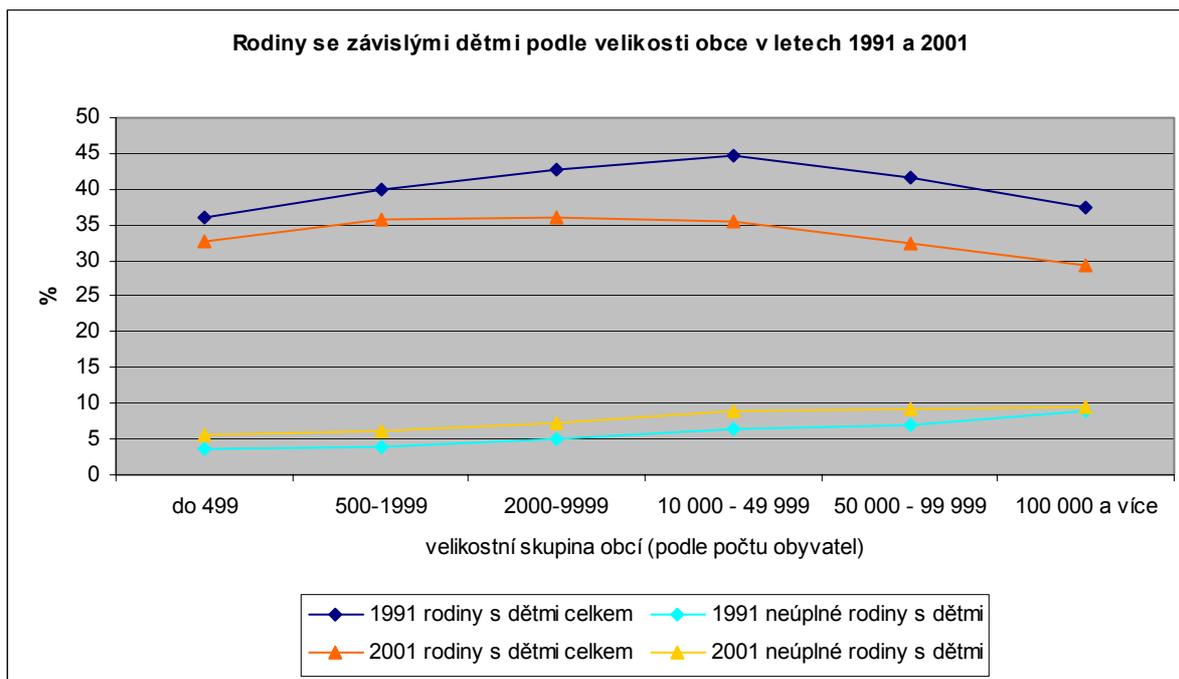
In terms of size groups of municipalities, there is an obvious interdependence between the size of a municipality and the structure of households. The nationwide decrease in the number of families with dependent children between 1991 and 2001 made itself felt in all size groups of municipalities, except for the smallest municipalities where the total number was approximately the same, but only due a very sharp increase in the number of single-parent families with dependent children. In municipalities with a small number of the population and stronger social ties traditional family values are still more respected. The higher the number of the population of a particular municipality, the higher the share of single-parent families.

Table 43: Families with dependent children, by the size of municipalities according to the Population and Housing Census in 1991 and 2001

Municipality size group (by the number of population)	% share in the total number of households			
	1991		2001	
	families with children, total	single-parent families with children	families with children, total	single-parent families with children
under 499	36,1	3,5	32,8	5,6
500-1999	39,9	4,0	35,7	6,2
2000-9999	42,8	5,1	35,9	7,4
10 000 - 49 999	44,8	6,5	35,4	8,8
50 000 - 99 999	41,7	7,0	32,3	9,1
100 000 or more	37,5	8,8	29,4	9,4
Total	40,7	6,3	33,6	8,0

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 27: Families with dependent children by municipality size according to the Population and Housing Census in 1991 and 2001



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 27:

Families with dependent children by municipality size in 1991 and 2001
 under 499.....100,000 or more
 Municipality size group (by the number of population)
 1991 families with children, total, 1991 single-parent families with children
 2001 families with children, total, 2001 single-parent families with children

The municipality size generally affects also the number of dependent children. There is an interdependence relationship: the smaller the municipality, the higher the share of families with more children. 50,000 people is a marginal limit. In the towns of this size and bigger, families with one dependent child prevail, in smaller municipalities, families with two children are the most frequent. Almost 14 % of two-parent families with dependent children have three and more children in the smallest municipalities under the population of 199, whereas among municipalities over the population of 100,000 the share of such two-parent families is 6.5% only. The distribution of families with dependent children into municipality size groups, basically, reflects the structure of the population. Three quarters of all families with dependent children were in 2001 in municipalities with the population of 2,000 and more, whereas almost one third of families with children was in the cities with the population of fifty thousand and more. The position of the City of Prague, where the shares of families

with children are the lowest of the total number of households, is unique among individual regions.

The share of families with dependent children (both two-parent and single-parent ones) in the total number of households of individual regions mostly ranges from 32 - 35 %, i.e. it accounts for about one third of all households in regions. However, more significant differences were found in the analysis of family households with children to two-parent and single-parent families. In Prague, the ratio of two-parent families with dependent children to single-parent families with dependent children is roughly 2:1, whereas in the Vysočina (Highlands) region this share is 5:1.

Table 44: Shares of two-parent and single-parent families and their size (status as at 1 March 2001)

region	shares of families with dependent children (%)		average number of dependent children		average family size	
	two-parent families	single-parent families	Two-parent families	single-parent families	two-parent families	single-parent families
Prague	65,8	34,2	1,57	1,36	3,73	2,54
Central Bohemian	76,2	23,8	1,66	1,44	3,87	2,65
South Bohemian	78,4	21,6	1,69	1,45	3,89	2,64
Pilsen	76,8	23,2	1,65	1,41	3,84	2,59
Karlovy Vary	69,4	30,6	1,00	1,41	3,84	2,60
Ústí nad Labem	72,5	27,5	1,64	1,43	3,83	2,62
Liberec	73,8	26,2	1,68	1,44	3,87	2,62
Hradec Králové	77,7	22,3	1,68	1,42	3,88	2,61
Pardubice	79,8	20,2	1,73	1,45	3,94	2,65
Vysočina (Highlands)	83,4	16,6	1,79	1,48	4,01	2,70
South Moravian	77,6	22,4	1,69	1,41	3,92	2,62
Olomouc	79,0	21,0	1,70	1,44	3,91	2,65
Zlín	81,6	18,4	1,73	1,43	9,96	2,65
Moravian-Silesian	77,2	22,8	1,69	1,44	3,88	2,63
Czech Republic	76,1	23,9	1,68	1,42	3,88	2,62

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Housing and Population Census 2001

Among single-parent families, generally, families with one dependent child prevailed. At the same time, the share of single-parent families with one dependent child in more than three quarters of districts ranged from 61 - 65 %, i.e. within the range of a mere 5 percentage points. Maximum value (65 %) was found in Cheb, minimum value (57.5 %) in Pelhřimov. The highest shares of single-parent families with 3 or more dependent children in the total number of single-parent families in the district were recorded in the Jeseník and Česká Lípa districts (in both cases 8.2%), however, in absolute terms, these are minimum numbers – 341 families in Česká Lípa, and 116 families in Jeseník. The lowest shares of single-parent families with 3 or more children were found in Prague and Pilsen (less than 4 %, of the total number of single-parent families with children).

Regional differences were found also in the housing of single-parent families. For illustrative purposes, we present below the structure of per capita habitable floor area by regions in tabular form which shows that it is similar for all types of families (Table 45). The highest per capita floor area was found in all types of family households in the Central Bohemian region, followed by the Hradec Králové and the Pardubice regions. The lowest share of per capita habitable floor area was recorded in family households in the Moravian-Silesian region, in Prague and in particular in the Karlovy Vary region. When evaluating the census results, however, it is possible to go into more detail and identify the standard of housing in families with children by their number. In general, we may note, that among two-parent families, each additional child means the reduction of the per capita habitable floor area by more than 2 m², whereas among single-parent families, this means even the reduction by approximately 4 m². Differences between individual regions in the average per capita habitable floor area for two-parent families are insignificant. The difference between the region with the highest values (Central Bohemian) and the region with the lowest values (Karlovy Vary) is about 2 m² (basically, regardless of the number of children). For single-parent families, differences are slightly bigger. Among single-child and two-child single-parent families, the difference between the Central Bohemian region and the Karlovy Vary region is almost 3 m² per capita in a dwelling.

Table 45: Average per capita habitable floor area by structure of households and regions

region	two-parent families	single-parent families
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	without children	with children	without children	with children
Prague	18,6	13,6	19,8	17,3
Central Bohemian	21,8	15,4	23,0	18,8
South Bohemian	20,9	14,7	22,2	17,3
Pilsen	20,9	14,6	22,0	17,7
Karlovy Vary	19,7	13,5	19,7	16,2
Ústí nad Labem	20,5	14,1	20,3	16,6
Liberec	20,9	14,6	21,1	17,4
Hradec Králové	21,1	15,0	22,1	17,5
Pardubice	21,1	14,8	22,3	17,3
Vysočina (Highlands)	20,8	14,7	22,5	16,9
South Moravian	20,7	15,1	21,8	17,4
Olomouc	20,7	14,7	21,5	17,1
Zlín	20,2	14,8	21,8	16,9
Moravian-Silesian	20,0	13,8	20,8	16,4
Czech Republic	20,5	14,5	21,4	17,2

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Due to the structure of the survey, in the course of which incomes of single-parent families are examined, these incomes are not available at the regional level. At the level of individual regions only recipients of social support benefits can be monitored, which, nonetheless, due to their conditions for eligibility of recipients provide at least partial information about the income situation of single-parent families. Social allowance was paid to lone parents in all former districts of the Czech Republic. The highest numbers of lone parents (as at 31 December 2004) were recorded in Prague (9,510), Brno – City (5,547) and Karviná (5,506). The lowest numbers, on the other hand, were found in Rokycany (434), Rakovník (647) and Prachatice (695).

The data on single-parent families registered in files of the needy families with unprovided for children are another source of information on income of single-parent families. Such files indicate that these families mostly fall within the category of families completely without income since even with the state social support benefits their income does not reach the subsistence level. The largest portion of these families was found in the Moravian-Silesian region (11,469, including 9,186 families registered for more than 6 months), among districts then in Ostrava (4, 436, including 3,516 families registered for more than 6 months). The Most district (2,745 registered families, including 2,469 families registered for more than 6 months) and the Karviná district (2,611 registered families, including 2,135 families registered for more than 6 months) were other districts with the high number of single-parent families registered in files of the needy families. It is obvious, that these are regions with high

unemployment which is also proved by the fact that most of these families are registered in the files of needy families in the long term. On the contrary, the lowest share of these families was registered in the Domažlice district (76, including 55 registered for more than 6 months), Cheb (78, including 74 registered for more than 6 months) and Prague – West (78, including 52 registered for more than 6 months).

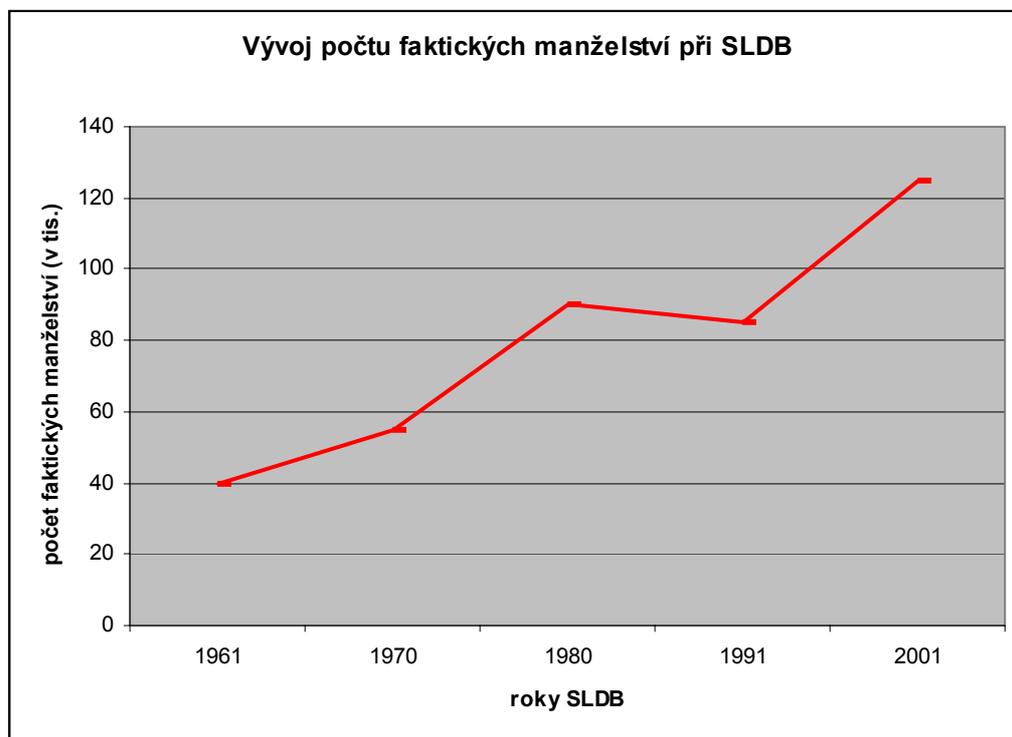
More detailed overviews of regional shares of single-parent families are set out in Annexes 5 to 9.

9. De facto marriages

The term „de facto marriage“ in census results means cohabitation of partners living together in one dwelling who declared in the census form their own relationship as a (male/female) „cohabitee“. Such a household is considered to be a two-parent family, despite the fact that cohabitation of partners is not a formal marriage de jure, but only a de facto (consensual) union. These consensual unions were in all previous (Czechoslovak) censuses considered to be equal to de jure unions and therefore were an integral part of two-parent families. In all censuses since 1921, in census forms or in explanatory notes to printed forms, (female) cohabitees were stated, besides wives, as a possible definition of the relationship to the owner of dwelling or the head of household. However, only the establishment of the term „census household“ and its methodological definition in 1961 paved the way for a separate quantification of these families. Since 1980, tables started to be processed for de facto marriages, but in 1980 only to a limited extent the basic structure by age and marital status was examined. More detailed characteristics were available from census data in 1991 and 2001. Since there were no changes in methodological definition of de facto marriages, the examined data are fully comparable.

According to the calculations and estimates published to date **the number of de facto marriages** in 1961 was about 40 thousand families, while in 1970 it exceeded 55 thousand. Separately prepared data for de facto marriages in the subsequent censuses already document increased absolute numbers in particular in the 1990's. In 1980 almost 90 thousand de facto marriage were recorded, in 1991 85 thousand and in 2001 more than 125 thousand of these consensual unions were found.

Graph 28: Development of the number of de facto marriages



Source: prepared according to the Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 28

Development of the number of de facto marriages during the Population and Housing Censuses

number of de facto marriages (in thousands)

individual years of the Population and Housing Censuses]

However, the weight of de facto marriages in a population of households – or the group of two-parent families – is not significant. In the period 1980 – 1991, the share of de facto marriages in the total number of all households was in the range of 2.3 – 2.1 % and its share in the number of two-parent families roughly 3.5 %. The more significant absolute increase in their number after 1991 resulted also in an increase in both shares to almost 3% in the total number of households and almost 5.5 % of the number of two-parent families in 2001. Despite this increase, the above

mentioned shares do not represent a significant share in the number of households. Compared to other European states, the Czech Republic ranks among countries with the low share of de facto marriages. For instance, in Scandinavian countries, the share of de facto marriages in the number of two-parent families accounts for about 20 %, in Great Britain it was during the last census 16 %. However, on the contrary, for instance, the shares of de facto marriages in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary or Greece, were even lower, compared to the Czech Republic.

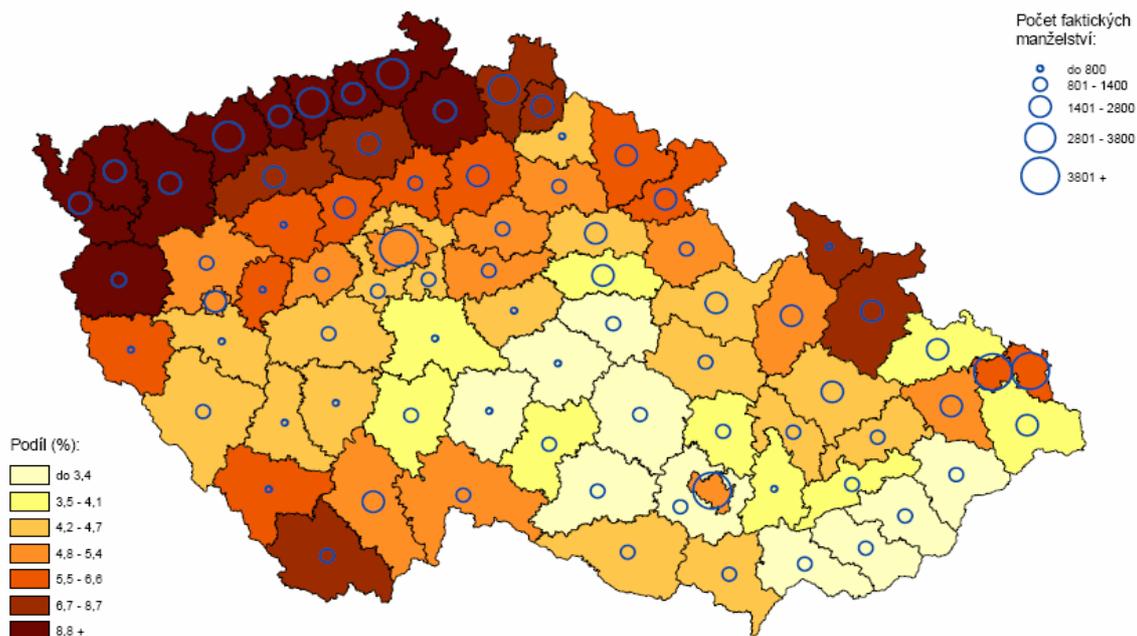
Table 46: Numbers of men and women in de facto marriages in 1991 and 2001

	1991		2001		Increase	
	de facto marriages, total	including: under 29	de facto marriages, total	including: under 29	de facto marriages, total	including: under 29
number of men	84 934	11 681	125 269	29 284	40 335	17 603
number of women	84 934	16 607	125 269	39 402	40 335	22 795
number of de facto marriages by the number of dependent children						
0	45 449	6 122	73 850	20 838	28 401	14 716
1	19 176	5 696	28 181	11 375	9 005	5 679
2	13 843	3 463	16 448	5 288	2 605	1 825
3+	6 466	1 326	6 790	1 901	324	575

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

In 2001, de facto marriages were an alternative to formal marriage for 125,269 men and the same number of women. Although the development of de facto marriages did not influence national data on families, their growing numbers, but in particular changes in the internal structure of this group of households, were interesting to such an extent that the data on de facto marriages started to be prepared in more detail.

Graph 29: The share of de facto marriages in two-parent families in total as at 1 March 2001



Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 29:

Number of de facto marriages

under 800

Share (%)

Under 3.4]

The period 1991 – 2001 was for the development of the number and structure of de facto marriages the time of a significant change in the trend. While in previous years or decades, de facto marriages meant an option of living together in particular for middle-aged persons or older – divorced or widowed, after 1991, the share of young single persons who preferred this informal cohabitation to marriage sharply increased. At the same time their total number significantly increased, too.

With respect to the total number of two-parent families this meant that despite the fact that the total number of two-parent families between 1991 and 2001 dropped, this drop concerned exclusively married couples with children. The number of de facto marriages, on the contrary, increased in the given period almost by one half. At the same time, the number of de facto marriages without dependent children rose at a significantly quicker pace. Also the share of de facto marriages in the total number of two-parent families increased.

During the years, not only the number of these de facto marriages has increased, but also their structure has been subject to changes. The share of de facto marriages with older partners (60 and more) has dropped and on the contrary, the share of **the lowest age bracket** (under the age of 29) has more than doubled. Thereby, also the share of this age bracket in the total number of de facto marriages increased (while in 1980 young people accounted for almost one fifth of consensual unions, in 2001 they constituted more than one third of all de facto marriages).

Changes in the age structure, compared to 1991, towards younger age groups, were reflected also in the structure by **marital status**. An informal cohabitation of the youngest pairs concerned in particular single partners. Their sharp absolute increase meant also significant increase in their share. While in 1991 the share of de facto marriages with both single partners accounted for less than one tenth of the total number of these informal unions, in 2001 they constituted already one quarter of them. However, consensual unions of divorced and widowed persons remain to be the most numerous group, though their weight is decreasing. The combination of a single man and a married, divorced or widowed woman which was in 1991 the second most frequent option of a de facto marriage (one fifth of the total number), was in 2001 only the third most frequent combination.

The age structure of individual groups of de facto marriages with a specific combination of marital status of the partners had its logical rationale. Both single partners were most frequently younger than 30; both divorced or widowed partners were, on the contrary, more frequently older (40 or more), while the distribution into individual age groups was, starting from the above mentioned 40th year of age more or less even. Within the group of partnership unions where one of the partners is single and the other has a different marital status, single women under 30, divorced or widowed women or married women between 30 – 39 and single men between 30 and 49 were the most frequent groups.

The constantly largest group of de facto marriages were partnership unions of persons who have been already married, i.e. cohabitation of divorced and widowed persons. However, changes in the age structure of partners were closely associated

with the structure by marital status, which resulted in an increased number of de facto marriages of two single partners. The share of these families in the period 1980 – 2001 increased almost 6 times and in 2001 accounted for almost one fourth of the total number of de facto marriages.

As regards the educational structure, in 2001, persons with secondary education prevailed in total figures. For women – cohabitees, compared to men, in the whole age range, higher shares of primary education, incomplete education, including without education were found; at the same time their shares were higher (except for the oldest ones) even in the case of the full secondary education – i.e. education completed by the school-leaving examination. Men with secondary education absolutely prevailed among men and their shares were in the region of 50 % (within the interval 47 - 57 %).

Changes in the **basic characteristics** of persons living in de facto marriages underwent a similar development between 1991 and 2001 for both men and women, only the rate of increase was different. While the total number of men and women living in de facto marriages in the period 1991 and 2001 increased

- in terms of the marital status, the number of single women and single men increased most rapidly, whereas numbers of the widowed dropped
- in terms of the completed education, the highest absolute increase was found among men with secondary education and women with secondary education and full secondary education; a decrease was found for both men and women with primary or incomplete education or without education
- in terms of the economic activity, the share of de facto marriages with an economically not active woman increased.

In 2001, similarly, as in 1991 a divorced man, economically active with secondary education was a typical man in the de facto marriage. A divorced, economically active woman with secondary education (in 1991, a divorced, economically active woman with primary education) was a typical woman in a de facto marriage. As the above comparison implies, apart from a change in the education of women which is consistent with the society-wide trend towards enhancing education of the population, there were no significant changes in average values of basic characteristics of (male and female) cohabitees in de facto marriages. However,

differences between the most frequent and the second most frequent values decreased significantly. For both men and women the most frequent age groups were changed. While in 1991, cohabiting partners were most frequently in the 40 – 44 age bracket, in 2001, it was the 25 – 29 age bracket.

Table 47 De facto marriages by marital status of partners in 1991 and 2001

Marital status of partners	1991		2001	
	absol.	%	absol.	%
Both single	8 349	9,8	31 186	24,9
Both divorced, widowed	51 043	60,1	55 673	44,4
Married	187	0,2	572	0,5
Single man, woman of other marital status	16 800	19,8	20 726	16,5
Single woman, man of other marital status	7 092	8,4	12 565	10,0
Other cases	1 463	1,7	4 547	3,6
Total	84 934	100,0	125 269	100,0

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

De facto marriages were in 2001 mostly without **dependent children** (59 %). Not only the oldest de facto marriages were childless, but also the youngest unions – with a woman under the age of 24 where the share of childless families exceeded 60%. On the contrary, among families with a woman between 25 – 44 years, families with dependent children prevailed. A total of 84,283 dependent children lived in 51,419 de facto marriages. Of the above number of de facto marriages, families with one dependent child accounted for about 55 %, families with two dependent children for 32 % and 13 % of families had three or more children.

In 1991, a total of 68,869 people lived in de facto marriages and there were 0.81 children per consensual union. In 2001, already 84,283 dependent children lived in these families and there were 0.67 children per family. Consequently, this means that although the number of de facto marriages increased in the period 1991 - 2001 almost by 50 %, the number of dependent children in these families rose only by about one fifth.

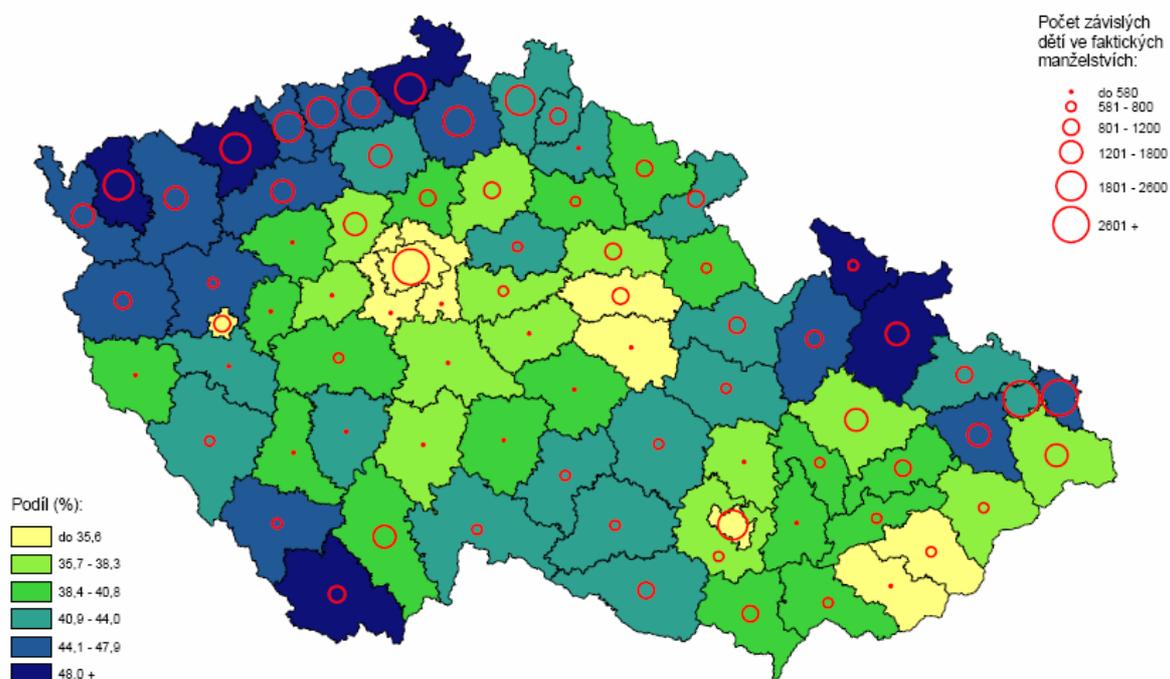
Despite the fact that absolute numbers of de facto marriages increased, compared to the 1991 figures, in the whole range of dependent children, the dynamics of this increase was very different. The quickest growth was recorded for childless consensual unions. The share of families with one dependent child remained at about the same level (roughly one fifth of de facto marriages) and the shares of families with 2 or more children decreased.

Table 48: De facto marriages by the number of dependent children

Number of dependent children	Number of de facto marriages
0	73 430
1	28 016
2	16 345
3	4 803
4+	1 932
Total	124 526

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Graph 30: The share of de facto marriages with dependent children in de facto marriages in total as at 1 March 2001



Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

[Translation of the text in Graph 30:

Number of dependent children in de facto marriages:

under 580...

Share (%)

under 35.6...]

The basic tendencies in the development of indicators of **economic activity** of the population between censuses in 1991 and 2001 were reflected also in economic characteristics of partners in de facto marriages. At the same time, however, also other influences were at play, such as the age structure of partners, etc. The most rapid increase was recorded among families with an economically not active woman. In 1991, there was one fourth of such households, in 2001 already 30%. The shares of households with an economically not active woman increased most significantly among families with a divorced woman and a widowed woman. In both cases women without dependent children of higher age - mostly already at the pension age had significant impact on these values. Precisely in this group of women two significant trends in the development of economic activity of the population combined – general decrease in the employment of women and a drop in unemployment of persons at the post-productive age.

In the group of de facto marriages with dependent children, families with a divorced woman (52 % of the total number of de facto marriages with dependent children) and families with a single woman (35 %) constituted the highest share. Within the structure of de facto marriages with an economically not active woman with dependent children, the same groups of women represented the decisive shares, but the values of their shares were in the reverse order – the highest share was found for single women (57 %) and the second highest share for the divorced women (34 %). The reasons behind these results were in particular various age structure of the above groups of women and associated numbers and age structure of dependent children. Single women were mostly younger than divorced women, they had more frequently small children (more than half of them had a child up to the age of 6) and therefore they were represented more in the group of housewives, i.e. economically not active women. Divorced women were more frequently in the 30 – 39 age bracket or 40 – 49 age bracket, i.e. at the age when children – though still falling within the category of dependent children – enabled to a number of women to return back to work; consequently, the share of economically not active women was lower.

The level of economic activity was, compared to the whole population of the Czech Republic, significantly higher for both men and women and the difference between the values for men and women was smaller. The reason behind these results was

quite obviously the age structure of de facto marriages with the prevailing share of persons of the productive age. The higher level of economic activity of women was influenced also by the fact that in a population of de facto marriages, childless unions prevailed.

Believers in de facto marriages accounted for approximately one fourth, while the share of female believers was slightly higher than the share of male believers. The shares of believers increased in proportion to the higher age of a particular person. This is a nationwide trend and it documents higher shares of believers born and educated before 1948.

As regards **the nationality structure** of de facto marriages, families with homogeneous nationality structure, in particular Czech, Moravian and Silesian, constitute the majority. Despite this fact, their share is lower than for two-parent families in total. Consensual (de facto) ethnic intermarriages are in relative terms more frequent than formal ethnic intermarriages. Of the total number of mixed unions, the highest share represented Czechoslovak families. Of the total number of de facto ethnic intermarriages, the cases of cohabitation with persons of other than Czech state citizenship or of families in which partners had different citizenship, of which one could be also Czech citizenship, accounted for about 4%. The most frequently represented states were Slovakia, Vietnam and the Ukraine.

The overwhelming majority of de facto marriages lived as at the date of the census in **dwelling**s. Only 743 families, including 323 families with dependent children, were recorded as living out of dwelling stock. Living together with another household in a common dwelling was recorded for 15.5 % of de facto marriages without dependent children and 17% of de facto marriages with children. Families living out of dwelling stock were found mostly in emergency dwellings, about 30 % lived in weekend houses and cottages.

Living in one habitable room was in 2001 reality for almost 20,000 families consisting of cohabitees, of which almost one third represented families with dependent children. The highest share of couples living in one habitable room, however, was found among de facto marriages without dependent children. The largest share of them constituted the youngest consensual unions, with cohabitees up to the age of

29. Consequently, it can be assumed that the decision to form a consensual union and live together was a decisive incentive and de facto (consensual) unions have arisen even if the initial housing conditions were not too good.

The data on the type of a house and the legal title to the use of dwelling document quite obviously the fact that de facto couples prefer housing in rented or cooperative dwellings, whereas for married couples ownership forms of housing prevail. While married couples live in more than one half of the cases in family houses, of de facto marriages, only one third live in family houses. The structure of housing by legal title to the use of dwelling corresponds to these results. Dwelling in own house (mostly in a family house) or ownership of dwelling was recorded in 2001 for almost 55% of married couples, but less than 38% of de facto marriages. 22% of the families of married couples and almost 40% of de facto marriages lived in rented dwellings.

The structure, in terms of additional individual persons in a household, did not go beyond the nationwide average of two-parent families, cases of living together with only one additional person prevailed. Among families with dependent children, mostly one of the parents was this additional person, whereas among families without children it was other relative.

The standard of housing of de facto marriages was quite unambiguously lower than the standard of housing of two-parent families in total, and even lower than that of all households in total. Less than 85 % of de facto marriages living in dwellings lived in the first category dwellings, while 10 % lived in the second category dwellings. In terms of the size of dwelling, more than two thirds represented two and three-room dwellings.

With respect to the size of family or the number of dependent children, the rule applied that the higher the number of children in a family, the worse the standard of housing. While de facto marriages with one dependent child lived in the first category dwellings in 86.5% of the cases, families with 4 or more children in less than 58% of the cases only.

The size of dwelling among families with one or two children increased in proportion to the rising number of children. However, this was not true for the most numerous families. The standard of housing for a group of families with the highest number of children (though in absolute terms not very large) was significantly substandard. For instance, almost one fifth of the families with 4 or more children lived in 2001 in a one-room dwelling. The share of one-room dwellings, even in the case of de facto marriages with the lower number of children, was not insignificant - it exceeded one tenth of their number. The share of family houses in the housing structure of de facto marriages was lower – less than one third of these families lived in them.

The level of availability of selected equipment items to individual households was in general lower than for all households in total. At the same time, however, there were no significant differences in the availability of these equipment items in groups of families with various number of children. With the increasing number of children in a family the availability of selected equipment items was the same or, on the contrary, was slightly increasing.

Table 49: Housing of de facto marriages by the number of dependent children as at 1 March 2001

Number of habitable rooms, category of dwelling	De facto marriages with the number of dependent children					
	0	1	2	3	4+	total
1 habitable room	13 530	3 609	1 784	595	368	19 886
2 rooms	27 688	9 232	5 191	1 503	694	44 308
3 rooms	22 244	10 362	6 383	1 808	555	41 352
4 rooms	6 176	2 980	1 871	529	180	11 736
5+ rooms	3 233	1 621	972	320	99	6 245
Total	73 430	28 016	16 345	4 803	1 932	124 526
Including:						
First category	63 055	24 238	13 615	3 604	1 119	105 631
Second category	6 845	2 626	1 912	786	456	12 625
Third category	1 673	565	399	205	178	3 020
Fourth category	1 369	423	293	164	148	2 397

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

9.1. De facto marriages in regions

The share of de facto marriages in the total number of two-parent families ranged in individual regions of the Czech Republic from 3.1% (Zlín region) to 10.4 % (Karlovy

Vary region). An exceptionally high level found in the Karlovy Vary region stemmed from the fact that in all three districts of this region the shares of de facto marriages, both compared to the national average and to other districts, was very high – between 9.4 and 12.2 %. The value of 12.2 % recorded in the Sokolov district is even the highest of all districts in the Czech Republic. Apart from districts of the Karlovy Vary region, high shares (10 or more percent) were also found in the Chomutov, Most, Děčín, Tachov and Česká Lípa districts. On the contrary, minimum values (less than 3 %) were recorded in the Uherské Hradiště, Žďár nad Sázavou and Zlín districts. In general, the rule applies that higher shares of de facto marriages in the total number of two-parent families are in the north and west of the country and the lowest ones in South Moravia.

The Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem and Liberec regions where above the average values of the share of de facto marriages in the total number of two-parent families were found, had also a similar structure of de facto marriages in terms of the age of partners (cohabitees). Compared to the national average, the shares of consensual unions of young partners were higher in these regions (up to the age of 29). On the contrary, families with older partners prevailed among de facto marriages in Prague, where 25 % of cohabiting couples were 50 year-old persons and older and additional 15% were couples with one partner of the given age. A varied age structure of de facto marriages in the regions of the Czech Republic was reflected also in the composition of de facto marriages by the number of dependent children. In general, de facto marriages without dependent children prevailed in the country (59 %). Significantly above the average share of childless de facto marriages was found in Prague (68 %) which was associated in particular with the higher share of older persons in the age structure of de facto marriages.

The highest shares of de facto marriages with dependent children were found in the Karlovy Vary region (48 %) and the Ústí nad Labem region (47 %); the national share was 41 %. Only in four districts the shares of de facto marriages with dependent children exceeded 50 %, namely in the Český Krumlov, Bruntál, Chomutov and Sokolov districts. On the contrary, the lowest share was recorded in Prague (less than 32 %) and also in the Chrudim, Zlín and Brno districts (less than 35 %).

10. Summary of findings related to single-parent families

The basic results concerning single-parent families arising from this analysis can be summarized as follows:

The period 1991 – 2001 saw the highest increase in numbers and share of single-parent families in the last four decades and in numbers and share of single-parent families at present. In the course of the last population census in 2001 a total of 576,420 single-parent families were recorded in the Czech Republic (which accounts for 13.5 % of households in total), including 343,405 families with dependent children. In 19,062 single-parent families three or more dependent children lived in single-parent families. The average size of a single-parent family is 2.46 persons. Almost 1.5 million persons live in single-parent families in total, including 488 thousand dependent children.

Among single-parent families, families with one dependent child significantly prevail. 85% of these families are headed by a woman, while a divorced woman with children remains to be the most frequent case. Hence, a family with one dependent child headed by a divorced woman is a typical single-parent family.

Among women heading a family household with a dependent child, there is the largest share of women in the youngest age bracket, i.e. at the age of 15-19 years. This is the only age group in which women heading a single-parent family prevail over women of the same age with a dependent child from two-parent families.

The number of men who alone take care of unprovided for children has also increased between 1991 and 2001, but compared to single mothers, it still remains low (30 thousand in 1991, 43 thousand in 2001).

The postponement of founding a household with a partner (two-parent families) is more marked among persons with higher education and single-parent families with children (compared to two-parent families) have slightly higher share of non-denominational heads of household.

Single-parent families mostly live stand alone in a dwelling, but also more frequently than other types of households live together with another family in one dwelling (27 %) – which means mostly living together with their parents. Single-parent families live in dwellings with lower number of rooms but the per capita habitable floor area is higher than among two-parent families. Single-parent families live mostly in rented dwellings and less frequently in their own flats.

Most single-parent families lived in the first category dwellings. Despite this fact, also the number of single-parent families with dependent children living out of dwelling stock has increased, more than 5 thousand single-parent families lived out of dwelling stock (in emergency dwellings, cottages etc..). The level of availability of equipment in single-parent households was generally lower in single-parent families than in two-parent families; in the case of most equipment items, the availability was decreasing with the higher number of children in a family.

Single-parent families are most frequently headed by a person in the social position of an employee, but the high share of single-parent families is headed by an economically not active person which is often an unemployed person (17.5 %), specifically, more than 40 thousand single-parent families with dependent children are headed by an unemployed person. In terms of their income, single-parent families are earning in the long term much less than two-parent families.

The highest share of single-parent families was found in Prague and in the Karlovy Vary, Brno-City, Sokolov and Cheb districts, whereas the lowest share was recorded in the Pelhřimov, Rokycany, Žďár nad Sázavou, Havlíčkův Brod and Pilsen-South districts.

In 2001, 125,269 de facto marriages (consensual unions) were recorded, while the share of such type of cohabitation is higher in particular among single partners (in 1991, less than 85 thousand of these unions were recorded). Despite an increase in the number of consensual unions of young persons with full secondary and university education, still the highest numbers of these unions are found among persons with primary education. According to the stated marital status, among the persons living in consensual unions (de facto marriages), the divorced or widowed prevailed. In the youngest age groups of persons in de facto marriages, women prevail significantly, however, their predominance tends to be decreasing with higher age and from the

thirtieth year of age men start to slightly prevail. The 40-49 age bracket represented the highest share within the age structure of cohabiting partners in consensual unions, it includes about one fifth of all persons regardless of their sex. A consensual union (de facto marriage) is not an equal alternative to traditional formal marriage in terms of reproduction.

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ANNEXES

**Annex 1:
Single-parent family households and households of individuals by sex, age
and
marital status of the head of household**

Sex, age	Single-parent family households					
	single	married	divorced	widowed	not identified	total
Women as the heads of household						
15 – 19	2 021	354	33	3	25	2 436
20 – 24	13 423	9 878	3 206	137	290	26 934
25 – 29	14 600	22 936	20 634	832	641	59 643
30 – 34	7 476	16 797	31 583	1 845	564	58 265
35 – 39	4 996	12 646	38 281	3 575	546	60 044
40 – 44	3 514	9 574	37 306	6 344	403	57 141
45 – 49	2 750	8 609	38 386	11 173	399	61 317
50 – 54	1 983	5 762	26 986	15 283	280	50 294
55 – 59	973	2 446	12 383	14 145	144	30 091
60+	1 120	1 643	11 893	66 559	339	81 554
not identified	12	19	33	20	38	122
Total	52 868	90 664	220 724	119 916	3 669	487 841
Men as the heads of household						
15 – 19	51	5	-	-	1	57
20 – 24	549	281	72	12	22	936
25 – 29	673	1 225	904	52	44	2 898
30 – 34	517	1 793	2 613	200	96	5 219
35 – 39	399	2 275	4 884	502	122	8 182
40 – 44	340	2 879	7 456	1 098	131	11 904
45 – 49	345	3 869	10 105	2 290	231	16 840
50 – 54	242	3 552	8 318	3 447	175	15 734
55 – 59	119	2 106	4 127	3 057	99	9 508
60+	170	1 790	3 077	12 077	139	17 253
not identified	3	7	9	5	24	48
Total	3 408	19 782	41 565	22 740	1 084	88 579

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Annex 2:
Single-parent families by the number of members

Sex and age of the head of census household	Single-parent families				
	with the number of members				total
	2	3	4	5+	
Men					
15 – 19	41	11	4	1	57
20 – 24	710	167	40	19	936
25 – 29	1999	732	133	34	2898
30 – 34	2888	1892	325	114	5219
35 – 39	3923	3387	715	157	8182
40 – 44	5942	4751	1008	203	11904
45 – 49	9419	6024	1173	224	16840
50 – 54	10360	4486	743	145	15734
55 – 59	7056	2090	304	58	9508
60 – 64	3937	815	105	30	4887
65 – 69	3075	479	78	16	3648
70+	7804	794	100	20	8718
not identified	32	9	6	1	48
Total	57186	25637	4734	1022	88579
Women					
15 – 19	2102	287	36	11	2436
20 – 24	21384	4795	623	132	26934
25 – 29	38971	17534	2611	527	59643
30 – 34	28111	24165	4865	1124	58265
35 – 39	22724	28700	6964	1656	60044
40 – 44	24403	25504	5900	1334	57141
45 – 49	33708	22426	4417	766	61317
50 – 54	34484	13331	2114	365	50294
55 – 59	23518	5654	763	156	30091
60 – 64	14766	2454	362	73	17655
65 – 69	14058	1696	231	50	16035
70+	44072	3369	365	59	47865
not identified	80	35	6	1	122
Total	302381	149950	29257	6254	487842

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Housing and Population Census 2001

Annex 3:

Two-parent and single-parent family households by the age of partners and heads of single-parent family households and the number of dependent children

Dependent children	Two-parent families		Single-parent families		Dependent children	Two-parent families		Single-parent families	
	female partners	male partners	women as the head of household	men as the head of household		female partners	male partners	women as the head of household	men as the head of household
Households without dependent children					Households with 2 dependent children				
15 - 19	1 738	305	2	-	15 - 19	155	67	161	3
20 - 24	31 621	15 011	23	5	20 - 24	11 572	4 241	3 301	100
25 - 29	36 675	38 418	28	8	25 - 29	93 544	50 036	15 252	586
30 - 34	12 143	19 982	72	37	30 - 34	141 992	111 395	23 155	1 733
35 - 39	12 149	14 239	1 805	259	35 - 39	148 947	144 570	26 238	3 122
40 - 44	62 112	31 374	13 044	2 437	40 - 44	81 201	116 938	14 121	3 263
45 - 49	172 224	118 798	29 949	8 137	45 - 49	31 258	62 912	6 130	2 052
50 - 54	252 160	220 293	35 682	10 842	50 - 54	6 804	19 972	1 636	810
55 - 59	220 002	214 721	26 094	7 587	55 - 59	884	4 791	279	256
60+	441 652	569 336	80 584	16 315	60+	128	1 534	64	89
not identified	346	345	73	32	not identified	51	80	15	3
Total	1 242 822	1 242 822	187 356	45 659	total	516 536	516 536	90 352	12 017
Households with 1 dependent child					Households with 3 or more dependent children				
15 - 19	1 490	306	2 258	53	15 - 19	13	7	15	1
20 - 24	40 266	17 278	23 200	805	20 - 24	1 023	667	410	26
25 - 29	91 764	72 112	42 244	2 216	25 - 29	10 686	5 615	2 119	88
30 - 34	57 029	66 160	30 177	3 154	30 - 34	28 339	17 109	4 861	295
35 - 39	52 684	52 018	25 830	4 196	35 - 39	38 611	31 765	6 171	605
40 - 44	91 500	69 816	27 552	5 630	40 - 44	16 417	28 304	2 424	574
45 - 49	85 800	97 546	24 481	6 326	45 - 49	4 583	12 612	757	325
50 - 54	41 169	64 313	12 804	3 967	50 - 54	774	3 488	172	115
55 - 59	10 256	23 947	3 694	1 629	55 - 59	77	700	24	36
60+	1 648	10 081	885	829	60+	19	261	21	20
not identified	74	103	31	13	not identified	12	26	3	-
Total	473 680	473 680	193 156	28 818	total	100 554	100 554	16 977	2 085

Annex 4:
Income of households of employees with unprovided for children by type of family

	2001			2002			2003			2004		
	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families
GROSS MONEY INCOME, TOTAL	97 072	96 637	94 366	99 295	98 986	93 393	105 745	105 351	98 027	111 238	110 775	103 966
Income from working activity	83 135	84 218	69 718	84 341	85 286	71 180	90 106	91 276	72 685	95 990	96 960	78 459
Income from employment	82 399	83 502	69 677	83 593	84 497	71 105	89 426	90 548	72 624	94 983	95 778	78 406
main occupation	79 511	80 684	65 754	81 193	82 221	68 147	86 209	87 373	69 229	91 859	92 654	75 248
the head of household	54 617	53 998	65 398	56 957	56 459	68 026	60 616	59 951	69 213	64 911	64 049	75 173
Wife	23 685	26 569	0	22 666	25 630	0	24 122	27 382	0	25 211	28 504	0
other persons	1 209	116	356	1 570	132	121	1 471	40	17	1 738	101	75
secondary occupation	2 888	2 818	3 923	2 401	2 277	2 958	3 217	3 175	3 394	3 123	3 125	3 158
Income from private enterprise	736	716	41	748	789	75	680	728	61	1 007	1 182	53
main activity	508	476	0	466	452	12	462	473	0	785	918	25
the head of household	53	64	0	63	63	0	13	16	0	95	112	25
Wife	338	407	0	330	389	0	374	438	0	661	800	0
other persons	117	5	0	73	0	12	74	18	0	29	7	0
secondary activity	200	207	33	253	303	54	192	226	47	214	255	27
sale of agricultural products	28	33	9	29	35	9	26	28	14	9	9	1

	2001			2002			2003			2004		
	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families	Households with children, total	Two-parent nuclear families	Single-parent nuclear families
Social income	8 943	8 234	11 950	10 129	9 546	11 801	9 539	8 983	11 589	9 727	9 263	11 733
Pensions	1 468	665	3 613	1 512	896	2 945	1 540	843	3 072	1 317	628	3 340
the head of household	356	170	1 779	394	210	1 308	411	141	1 494	417	132	1 759
Wife	465	419	0	568	596	0	626	660	0	473	464	0
other persons	647	77	1 834	551	91	1 637	503	42	1 578	428	31	1 581
Sickness benefits	2 143	2 146	2 317	2 516	2 515	1 931	2 479	2 586	2 297	1 854	1 915	1 855
Unemployment benefit	331	336	224	520	472	228	301	257	232	416	366	335
State social benefits	4 815	4 914	5 643	5 409	5 521	6 461	5 059	5 153	5 917	5 921	6 157	5 977
child benefits	2 303	2 243	3 481	2 515	2 427	3 877	2 421	2 315	3 779	3 060	2 965	4 459
social allowance	542	479	1 214	606	508	1 447	491	432	1 071	379	329	863
family allowance	1 432	1 698	14	1 593	1 925	20	1 536	1 833	52	2 013	2 417	6
other benefits	537	495	934	694	660	1 118	610	573	1 014	469	446	650
Other social income	187	173	154	172	142	237	160	143	71	219	197	226
Other income	4 994	4 185	12 698	4 824	4 154	10 412	6 100	5 092	13 754	5 520	4 552	13 774
Income from financial assets	106	98	173	144	174	13	227	253	126	63	68	54
property income	34	32	8	52	61	12	34	35	12	38	46	0
sale of securities	71	66	165	92	112	1	193	218	114	24	21	53
Other income	4 888	4 088	12 525	4 679	3 980	10 399	5 873	4 839	13 628	5 458	4 484	13 720
Income from sale of movables, immovables	928	831	1 999	903	1 047	130	1 534	1 405	2 754	1 076	964	2 385
insurance compensations	268	292	137	280	245	408	454	469	304	380	422	196
social support	4	5	1	12	14	6	3	4	2	9	10	0
gifts from relatives	2 011	2 115	2 117	1 583	1 599	1 987	1 857	1 871	1 861	1 713	1 754	1 951
Income n.e.c.	1 676	846	8 270	1 901	1 075	7 868	2 025	1 090	8 707	2 280	1 333	9 189

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Household Budget Survey 2001, 2002, 2003

**Annex 5:
Families and households in individual districts of the Czech Republic as at 1
March 2001**

Regions, districts	Household s, total	including:							
		two-parent families		single-parent families		multi-member non-family households		individuals	
		absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%
City of Prague	547 811	236 980	43,3	89 614	16,4	19 882	3,6	201 335	36,8
Prague 1	17 063	5 990	35,1	2 982	17,5	977	5,7	7 114	41,7
Prague 2	25 542	9 278	36,3	4 232	16,6	1 234	4,8	10 798	42,3
Prague 3	37 978	13 199	34,8	6 066	16,0	1 666	4,4	17 047	44,9
Prague 4	65 906	27 155	41,2	9 854	15,0	2 385	3,6	26 512	40,2
Prague 5	44 942	19 595	43,6	7 449	16,6	1 380	3,1	16 518	36,8
Prague 6	51 639	22 581	43,7	8 107	15,7	2 195	4,3	18 756	36,3
Prague 7	21 053	7 575	36,0	3 564	16,9	1 109	5,3	8 805	41,8
Prague 8	51 276	22 167	43,2	8 436	16,5	1 758	3,4	18 915	36,9
Prague 9	33 296	15 071	45,3	5 035	15,1	1 152	3,5	12 038	36,2
Prague 10	55 036	21 900	39,8	8 565	15,6	2 407	4,4	22 164	40,3
Prague 11	36 620	17 903	48,9	6 799	18,6	1 093	3,0	10 825	29,6
Prague 12	28 922	14 470	50,0	4 905	17,0	696	2,4	8 851	30,6
Prague 13	33 246	16 593	49,9	5 994	18,0	789	2,4	9 870	29,7
Prague 14	26 378	13 829	52,4	4 410	16,7	642	2,4	7 497	28,4
Prague 15	18 914	9 674	51,1	3 216	17,0	399	2,1	5 625	29,7
Central Bohemian region	464 188	259 529	55,9	62 163	13,4	8 213	1,8	134 283	28,9
Benešov	37 260	21 389	57,4	4 635	12,4	775	2,1	10 461	28,1
Beroun	31 539	17 760	56,3	4 121	13,1	507	1,6	9 151	29,0
Kladno	63 642	34 614	54,4	9 158	14,4	1 252	2,0	18 618	29,3
Kolín	39 651	22 421	56,5	5 093	12,8	666	1,7	11 471	28,9
Kutná Hora	29 978	17 335	57,8	3 534	11,8	572	1,9	8 537	28,5
Mělník	39 945	21 882	54,8	5 387	13,5	706	1,8	11 970	30,0
Mladá Boleslav	47 217	26 604	56,3	5 955	12,6	723	1,5	13 935	29,5
Nymburk	34 900	19 712	56,5	4 475	12,8	432	1,2	10 281	29,5
Prague-East	39 898	21 782	54,6	5 926	14,9	647	1,6	11 543	28,9
Prague-West	34 077	18 585	54,5	5 307	15,6	616	1,8	9 569	28,1
Příbram	44 135	24 620	55,8	5 887	13,3	941	2,1	12 687	28,7
Rakovník	21 946	12 825	58,4	2 685	12,2	376	1,7	6 060	27,6
South Bohemian region	255 569	146 136	57,2	32 074	12,6	4 053	1,6	73 306	28,7
České Budějovice	74 245	41 679	56,1	9 684	13,0	1 185	1,6	21 697	29,2
Český Krumlov	23 899	13 639	57,1	3 086	12,9	501	2,1	6 673	27,9
Jindřichův Hradec	36 618	21 820	59,6	4 518	12,3	430	1,2	9 850	26,9
Písek	29 730	16 261	54,7	3 743	12,6	486	1,6	9 240	31,1
Prachatice	20 643	11 786	57,1	2 613	12,7	348	1,7	5 896	28,6
Strakonice	28 582	16 338	57,2	3 477	12,2	473	1,7	8 294	29,0
Tábor	41 852	24 613	58,8	4 953	11,8	630	1,5	11 656	27,9

Regions, districts	Household s, total	including:							
		two-parent families		single-parent families		multi-member non-family households		individuals	
		absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%
Pilsen region	232 424	129 647	55,8	29 160	12,5	4 070	1,8	69 547	29,9
Domažlice	24 046	14 118	58,7	2 739	11,4	372	1,5	6 817	28,3
Klatovy	36 067	20 703	57,4	4 385	12,2	556	1,5	10 423	28,9
Pilsen-City	75 382	37 420	49,6	10 833	14,4	1 355	1,8	25 774	34,2
Pilsen-South	28 013	16 728	59,7	3 066	10,9	391	1,4	7 828	27,9
Pilsen-North	29 716	17 889	60,2	3 346	11,3	432	1,5	8 049	27,1
Rokycany	18 756	10 931	58,3	1 968	10,5	553	2,9	5 304	28,3
Tachov	20 444	11 858	58,0	2 823	13,8	411	2,0	5 352	26,2
Karlovy Vary region	132 397	65 681	49,6	20 814	15,7	2 861	2,2	43 041	32,5
Cheb	38 423	19 174	49,9	5 808	15,1	964	2,5	12 477	32,5
Karlovy Vary	53 733	25 987	48,4	8 762	16,3	1 297	2,4	17 687	32,9
Sokolov	40 241	20 520	51,0	6 244	15,5	600	1,5	12 877	32,0
Ústí nad Labem region	356 126	183 501	51,5	48 952	13,7	7 565	2,1	116 108	32,6
Děčín	57 165	30 060	52,6	7 736	13,5	1 150	2,0	18 219	31,9
Chomutov	53 654	27 129	50,6	7 714	14,4	1 581	2,9	17 230	32,1
Litoměřice	47 962	26 414	55,1	6 304	13,1	776	1,6	14 468	30,2
Louny	35 870	19 611	54,7	4 652	13,0	733	2,0	10 874	30,3
Most	52 541	25 294	48,1	7 748	14,7	1 360	2,6	18 139	34,5
Teplice	56 266	29 003	51,5	7 375	13,1	922	1,6	18 966	33,7
Ústí nad Labem	52 668	25 990	49,3	7 423	14,1	1 043	2,0	18 212	34,6
Liberec region	181 249	95 670	52,8	25 136	13,9	3 864	2,1	56 579	31,2
Česká Lípa	43 646	23 395	53,6	6 397	14,7	706	1,6	13 148	30,1
Jablonec nad Nisou	37 738	19 482	51,6	5 562	14,7	692	1,8	12 002	31,8
Liberec	68 964	35 387	51,3	9 725	14,1	1 664	2,4	22 188	32,2
Semily	30 901	17 406	56,3	3 452	11,2	802	2,6	9 241	29,9
Hradec Králové region	228 158	129 875	56,9	28 706	12,6	2 999	1,3	66 578	29,2
Hradec Králové	67 382	37 887	56,2	8 941	13,3	1 138	1,7	19 416	28,8
Jičín	31 681	18 507	58,4	3 635	11,5	367	1,2	9 172	29,0
Náchod	46 407	26 818	57,8	5 591	12,0	419	0,9	13 579	29,3
Rychnov nad Kněžnou	31 817	18 762	59,0	3 592	11,3	392	1,2	9 071	28,5
Trutnov	50 871	27 901	54,8	6 947	13,7	683	1,3	15 340	30,2
Pardubice region	204 594	120 673	59,0	24 453	12,0	2 742	1,3	56 726	27,7
Chrudim	41 449	25 212	60,8	4 686	11,3	429	1,0	11 122	26,8
Pardubice	67 856	38 036	56,1	8 903	13,1	1 153	1,7	19 764	29,1
Svitavy	40 168	24 393	60,7	4 616	11,5	498	1,2	10 661	26,5
Ústí nad Orlicí	55 121	33 032	59,9	6 248	11,3	662	1,2	15 179	27,5
Vysočina (Highlands)	199 417	124 477	62,4	22 238	11,2	2 703	1,4	49 999	25,1
Havlíčkův Brod	36 923	23 046	62,4	4 012	10,9	471	1,3	9 394	25,4
Jihlava	42 919	25 437	59,3	5 398	12,6	719	1,7	11 365	26,5
Pelhřimov	28 526	17 714	62,1	2 932	10,3	448	1,6	7 432	26,1

Třebíč	44 286	28 289	63,9	4 862	11,0	499	1,1	10 636	24,0
Žďár nad Sázavou	46 763	29 991	64,1	5 034	10,8	566	1,2	11 172	23,9

Regions, districts	Household s, total	including:							
		two-parent families		single-parent families		multi-member non-family households		Individuals	
		absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%	absol.	%
South Moravian region	455 546	259 567	57,0	61 477	13,5	9 923	2,2	124 579	27,3
Blansko	41 162	25 966	63,1	4 730	11,5	703	1,7	9 763	23,7
Brno-City	167 740	80 619	48,1	26 407	15,7	4 926	2,9	55 788	33,3
Brno-Country	62 396	38 345	61,5	7 586	12,2	1 019	1,6	15 446	24,8
Břeclav	47 670	29 188	61,2	5 954	12,5	1 113	2,3	11 415	23,9
Hodonín	60 029	38 174	63,6	7 537	12,6	718	1,2	13 600	22,7
Vyškov	33 343	20 615	61,8	3 860	11,6	727	2,2	8 141	24,4
Znojmo	43 206	26 660	61,7	5 403	12,5	717	1,7	10 426	24,1
Olomouc region	257 163	149 069	58,0	33 024	12,8	4 011	1,6	71 059	27,6
Jeseník	16 726	9 596	57,4	2 332	13,9	244	1,5	4 554	27,2
Olomouc	90 971	51 951	57,1	12 305	13,5	1 429	1,6	25 286	27,8
Prostějov	43 631	25 870	59,3	5 422	12,4	589	1,3	11 750	26,9
Přerov	54 846	31 950	58,3	6 660	12,1	914	1,7	15 322	27,9
Šumperk	50 989	29 702	58,3	6 305	12,4	835	1,6	14 147	27,7
Zlín region	231 969	140 111	60,4	28 751	12,4	3 177	1,4	59 930	25,8
Kroměříž	42 469	25 462	60,0	5 244	12,3	513	1,2	11 250	26,5
Uherské Hradiště	54 615	34 807	63,7	6 275	11,5	660	1,2	12 873	23,6
Vsetín	57 212	33 842	59,2	7 334	12,8	906	1,6	15 130	26,4
Zlín	77 673	46 000	59,2	9 898	12,7	1 098	1,4	20 677	26,6
Moravian-Silesian region	524 106	292 676	55,8	69 858	13,3	8 466	1,6	153 106	29,2
Bruntál	42 180	23 609	56,0	6 076	14,4	596	1,4	11 899	28,2
Frýdek-Místek	90 007	53 500	59,4	11 132	12,4	1 099	1,2	24 276	27,0
Karviná	117 183	65 048	55,5	15 745	13,4	1 852	1,6	34 538	29,5
Nový Jičín	63 362	37 174	58,7	7 938	12,5	987	1,6	17 263	27,2
Opava	70 526	43 852	62,2	7 989	11,3	1 283	1,8	17 402	24,7
Ostrava-City	140 848	69 493	49,3	20 978	14,9	2 649	1,9	47 728	33,9

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

**Annex 6:
Composition of households by regions in 2001**

region	households, total (H)	including:							
		two-parent families (TF)		including:					
				with children			without children		
		number	% H	number	% TF	% H	number	% TF	% H
Prague	547 811	236 980	43,3	100 456	42,4	18,3	136 524	57,6	24,9
Central Bohemian	464 188	259 529	55,9	116 974	45,1	25,2	142 555	54,9	30,7
South Bohemian	255 569	146 136	57,2	69 876	47,8	27,3	76 260	52,2	29,8
Pilsen.	232 424	129 647	55,8	57 826	44,6	24,9	71 821	55,4	30,9
Karlovy Vary.	132 397	65 681	49,6	30 085	45,8	22,7	35 596	54,2	26,9
Ústi nad Labem	356 126	183 501	51,5	85 133	46,4	23,9	98 368	53,6	27,6
Liberec	181 249	95 670	52,8	45 198	47,2	24,9	50 472	52,8	27,8
Hradec Králové	228 158	129 875	56,9	60 202	46,4	26,4	69 673	53,6	30,5
Pardubice	204 594	120 673	5,09	57 259	47,4	28,0	63 414	52,6	31,0
Vysočina (Highlands)	199 417	124 477	62,4	61 142	49,1	30,7	63 335	50,9	31,8
South Moravian	455 546	259 567	57,0	122 467	47,2	26,9	137 100	52,8	30,1
Olomouc	257 163	149 069	58,0	71 854	48,2	27,9	77 215	51,8	3,00
Zlín	231 969	140 111	60,4	69 069	49,3	29,8	71 042	50,7	30,6
Moravian-Silesian	524 106	292 676	55,8	143 229	48,9	27,3	149 447	51,1	28,5
The Czech Republic	4 270 717	2 333 592	54,6	1 090 770	46,7	25,5	1 242 822	53,3	29,1

Region	households total (H)	including:							
		single-parent families (SF)		including					
				with children			without children		
		number	% H	number	% SF	% H	number	% SF	% H
Prague	547 811	89 614	16,4	52 161	58,2	9,5	37 453	41,8	6,8
Central Bohemian	464 188	62 163	13,4	36 586	58,9	7,9	25 577	41,1	5,5
South Bohemian	255 569	32 074	12,6	19 204	59,9	7,5	12 870	40,1	5
Pilsen.	232 424	29 160	12,5	17 474	59,9	7,5	11 686	40,1	5
Karlovy Vary.	132 397	20 814	15,7	13 280	63,8	10,0	7 534	36,2	5,7
Ústi nad Labem	356 126	48 952	13,7	32 336	66,1	9,1	16 616	33,9	4,7
Liberec	181 249	25 136	13,9	16 009	63,7	8,8	9 127	36,3	5
Hradec Králové	228 158	28 706	12,6	17 269	60,2	7,6	11 437	39,8	5
Pardubice	204 594	24 454	12,0	14 487	59,2	7,1	9 967	40,8	4,9
Vysočina (Highlands)	199 417	22 238	11,2	12 192	54,8	6,1	10 046	45,2	5
South Moravian	455 546	61 477	13,5	35 385	57,6	7,8	26 092	42,4	5,7
Olomouc	257 163	33 024	12,8	19 150	58	7,4	13 874	42,0	5,4
Zlín	231 969	28 751	12,4	15 540	54,1	6,7	13 211	45,9	5,7
Moravian-Silesian	524 106	69 858	13,3	42 332	60,6	8,1	27 526	39,4	5,3
The Czech Republic	4 270 717	576 421	13,5	343 405	59,6	8,0	233 016	40,4	5,5

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Annex 7:

Family households by the number of dependent children in 2001, regions

region / number of dependent children	two-parent families %					single-parent families %				
	0	1	2	3+	total number	0	1	2	3+	total number
Prague	57,6	21,3	18,5	2,5	236 980	41,8	39,7	16,3	2,2	89 614
Central Bohemian	54,9	19,8	21,6	3,7	259 529	41,1	37	18,5	3,3	62 163
South Bohemian	52,2	19,9	23,6	4,4	146 136	40,1	37,4	19	3,5	32 074
Pilsen.	55,4	19,9	21,3	3,5	129 647	40,1	38,9	17,9	3,1	29 160
Karlovy Vary	54,2	21,9	19,6	4,3	65 681	36,2	42,4	17,6	3,8	20 814
Ústí and Labem	53,6	22	20,2	4,2	183 501	33,9	42,9	18,9	4,3	48 952
Liberec	52,8	20,9	21,8	4,5	95 670	36,3	40,6	19,2	3,9	25 136
Hradec Králové	53,6	19,8	22,4	4,2	129 875	39,8	38,8	18,1	3,3	28 706
Pardubice	52,6	19,1	23,3	5,1	120 673	40,8	37,1	18,6	3,6	24 454
Vysočina (Highlands)	50,9	18	25	6,2	124 477	45,2	33,2	17,9	3,8	22 238
South Moravian	52,8	20,1	22,5	4,6	259 567	42,4	37,6	16,9	3,1	61 477
Olomouc	51,8	20	23,5	4,6	149 069	42	37	17,6	3,4	33 024
Zlín	50,7	19,8	24,3	5,2	140 111	45,9	34,7	16,3	3	28 751
Moravian-Silesian	51,1	21	23,2	4,7	292 676	39,4	38,8	18	3,8	69 858
The Czech Republic	53,3	20,3	22,1	4,3	2 333 592	40,4	38,5	17,8	3,3	2 333 592

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, The Population and Housing Census 2001

Annex 8:
Numbers of lone parents – recipients of social allowance in December 2004

	Decisive income in CZK thousand						total
	under 5	5 - 10	10 -15	15 - 20	20-25	over 25	
City of Prague	2 708	4 600	1 967	223	12	0	9 510
Benešov	157	458	291	33	1	0	940
Beroun	196	332	192	34	1	0	755
Kladno	813	989	417	46	1	0	2 266
Kolín	313	553	286	31	1	0	1 184
Kutná Hora	370	472	240	27	1	1	1 111
Mělník	406	567	247	46	3	1	1 270
Mladá Boleslav	231	412	264	39	0	0	946
Nymburk	280	440	216	17	0	1	954
Prague-East	199	427	187	30	1	0	844
Prague-West	193	352	162	21	1	1	730
Příbram	320	602	348	49	1	0	1 320
Rakovník	169	284	166	28	0	0	647
České Budějovice	518	1 107	545	60	1	1	2 232
Český Krumlov	290	384	170	26	0	0	870
Jindřichův Hradec	323	609	309	27	1	0	1 269
Pelhřimov	177	346	220	38	1	1	783
Písek	287	438	254	34	0	0	1 013
Prachatice	176	327	171	21	0	0	695
Strakonice	206	420	225	29	3	0	883
Tábor	322	551	343	43	0	1	1 260
Domažlice	141	240	191	17	1	0	590
Cheb	472	697	346	31	0	1	1 547
Karlovy Vary	638	965	492	47	2	0	2 144
Klatovy	232	463	263	33	1	0	992
Pilsen-City	664	953	456	73	1	0	2 147
Pilsen-South	188	322	181	27	0	0	718
Pilsen-North	191	333	139	28	0	0	691
Rokycany	131	191	97	14	1	0	434
Sokolov	887	1 057	468	48	0	0	2 460
Tachov	214	322	180	23	1	0	740
Česká Lípa	504	804	377	50	2	1	1 738
Děčín	1 007	1 046	434	42	2	0	2 531
Chomutov	1 349	1 118	430	39	0	1	2 937
Jablonec nad Nisou	448	698	388	38	0	2	1 574
Liberec	712	1 061	568	75	1	2	2 419
Litoměřice	599	821	323	29	2	1	1 775
Louny	628	586	262	43	3	0	1 522
Most	2 226	1 215	386	42	1	0	3 870
Teplice	1 324	1 075	348	25	2	1	2 775
Ústí nad Labem	989	1 015	424	42	2	0	2 472
Havlíčkův Brod	230	433	306	56	1	0	1 026
Hradec Králové	485	778	412	50	0	0	1 725
Chrudim	378	548	266	27	4	0	1 223
Jičín	224	416	228	22	2	0	892
Náchod	533	822	422	54	0	3	1 834
Pardubice	460	864	485	55	1	0	1 865

	Decisive income in CZK thousand						total
	under 5	5 - 10	10 -15	15 - 20	20-25	over 25	
Rychnov nad Kněžnou	215	417	225	27	1	0	885
Semily	276	401	203	28	0	0	908
Svitavy	486	609	296	34	0	0	1 425
Trutnov	529	809	417	67	2	0	1 824
Ústí nad Orlicí	614	931	500	66	2	1	2 114
Blansko	287	538	319	38	1	0	1 183
Brno-City	2 181	2 335	915	113	3	0	5 547
Brno-Country	462	745	400	64	1	0	1 672
Břeclav	514	648	323	36	3	0	1 524
Zlín	656	974	471	67	0	0	2 168
Hodonín	709	803	407	44	3	0	1 966
Jihlava	308	495	255	31	1	0	1 090
Kroměříž	424	608	300	40	1	0	1 373
Prostějov	494	655	287	39	3	1	1 479
Třebíč	546	604	295	25	0	0	1 470
Uherské Hradiště	371	595	388	35	1	0	1 390
Vyškov	393	512	204	24	1	0	1 134
Znojmo	563	651	317	34	1	0	1 566
Žďár nad Sázavou	315	520	315	48	5	0	1 203
Bruntál	1 001	1 054	398	39	0	0	2 492
Frydek-Místek	1 146	1 288	513	47	4	1	2 999
Karviná	2 545	2 062	812	83	2	2	5 506
Nový Jičín	1 040	1 102	469	76	3	0	2 690
Olomouc	948	1 377	599	69	2	2	2 997
Opava	868	960	476	50	3	1	2 358
Ostrava-City	3 587	2 816	1 038	130	1	3	7 575
Přerov	551	653	409	37	1	0	1 651
Šumperk	645	897	436	52	2	0	2 032
Vsetín	580	828	407	44	0	0	1 859
Jeseník	299	352	144	11	0	1	807
Other	1	2	3	0	0	0	6
Total	48 062	60 754	28 633	3 430	106	31	141 016

**Annex 9:
Numbers of single-parent families registered in files of the needy as at 31
December 2004**

	Number of recipients of benefits (families with unprovided for children, total)		including:	
	Number of recipients of benefits as at 31 December 2004	including: persons receiving benefits more than 6 months	single-parent families	
			Number of recipients of benefits as at 31 December 2004	including: persons receiving benefits more than 6 months
The City of Prague	2 299	1 814	1 865	1 484
Benešov	116	67	84	48
Beroun	199	161	146	122
Kladno	1 292	1 174	656	559
Kolín	369	246	237	155
Kutná Hora	539	436	359	292
Mělník	697	602	471	408
Mladá Boleslav	391	303	261	204
Nymburk	425	363	256	214
Prague-East	176	116	142	95
Prague-West	127	72	78	52
Příbram	389	312	294	236
Rakovník	230	150	145	87
Central Bohemian region	4 950	4 002	3 129	2 472
České Budějovice	591	452	444	339
Český Krumlov	560	421	259	183
Jindřichův Hradec	403	316	304	254
Písek	405	253	299	204
Prachatice	269	210	196	149
Strakonice	286	239	192	165
Tábor	543	420	396	313
South Bohemian region	3 057	2 311	2 090	1 607
Domažlice	148	109	76	55
Klatovy	350	217	229	144
Pilsen-South	205	164	131	92
Pilsen-City	727	612	529	450
Pilsen-North	260	187	176	127
Rokycany	148	116	86	66
Tachov	298	253	222	172
Pilsen region	2 136	1 658	1 449	1 106
Cheb	116	99	78	74
Karlovy Vary	826	692	515	438
Sokolov	1 215	1 012	678	572
Karlovy Vary region	2 157	1 803	1 271	1 084
Děčín	1 972	1 748	1 061	873
Chomutov	2 642	2 150	1 672	1 346
Litoměřice	1 210	947	844	626
Louny	1 378	1 139	655	541
Most	4 216	3 763	2 745	2 469

Teplice	1 884	1 536	680	566
Ústí nad Labem	2 157	1 761	1 205	1 018
Ústí nad Labem region	15 459	13 044	8 862	7 439
Česká Lípa	704	533	402	333
Jablonec nad Nisou	473	411	352	286
Liberec	1 201	954	842	655
Semily	453	382	304	257
Liberec region	2 831	2 280	1 900	1 531
Hradec Králové	739	553	483	347
Jičín	278	237	158	131
Náchod	1 018	751	699	553
Rychnov nad Kněžnou	455	366	334	269
Trutnov	943	788	651	553
Hradec Králové region	3 433	2 695	2 325	1 853
Chrudim	702	510	374	276
Pardubice	647	488	398	307
Svitavy	868	712	595	499
Ústí nad Orlicí	1 026	786	690	547
Pardubice region	3 243	2 496	2 057	1 629
Havlíčkův Brod	282	207	193	142
Jihlava	464	335	316	234
Pelhřimov	177	125	148	102
Třebíč	949	697	528	423
Žďár nad Sázavou	535	393	389	294
Vysočina (Highlands) region	2 407	1 757	1 574	1 195
Blansko	387	293	255	194
Brno-City	3 412	2 960	2 486	2 152
Brno-Country	610	444	438	319
Břeclav	844	653	542	442
Hodonín	1 422	1 161	831	714
Vyškov	619	447	446	311
Znojmo	594	433	459	346
South Moravian region	7 888	6 391	5 457	4 478
Jeseník	665	581	331	281
Olomouc	1 386	1 072	913	685
Prostějov	901	657	624	478
Přerov	1 014	861	598	508
Šumperk	995	501	683	349
Olomouc region	4 961	3 672	3 149	2 301
Kroměříž	877	652	600	309
Uherské Hradiště	612	386	449	255
Vsetín	992	842	635	543
Zlín	907	605	686	455
Zlín region	3 388	2 485	2 370	1 562
Bruntál	1 724	1 291	1 050	806
Frydek-Místek	2 055	1 519	1 298	986
Karviná	4 353	3 565	2 611	2 135
Nový Jičín	1 835	1 507	1 182	994
Opava	1 408	1 152	892	749
Ostrava	6 575	5 224	4 436	3 516
Moravian-Silesian region	17 950	14 258	11 469	9 186
The Czech Republic, total	76 159	60 666	48 967	38 927

Secondary analysis of the data of sociological surveys

Introduction

The number of families, in which only one of the parents lives at least with one child, is permanently increasing. Statistics show that in the period between censuses in 1991 and 2001 the number of single-parent families has risen by more than one third.² This trend stems in particular from permanently high divorce rate, on the other hand, the death of one of the parents and parenthood of single persons (to put it more precisely: women) give rise to single-parent families to a significantly lower extent. However, it can be assumed, that in the future, the number of mothers who remain single and without a firm partner, will be increasing and although their impact on giving rise to single-parent families will hardly ever be as intense as the impact of the divorce rate, it is necessary to expect the growing share of single mothers. The data of sociological surveys confirm that intentional and planned choice of a single mother status is associated with general changes in family behaviour after 1990 and currently represents one of socially tolerated forms of arrangement of family life.³

Life in single-parent families places on their family members from all possible aspects specific demands that can become under the existing social conditions a burden which is difficult to handle. In this context, it is remarkable, how little attention has been paid in recent years in empirical surveys to the living conditions of single-parent families. Over the past fifteen years, a relatively large number of sociological surveys examining family issues have been carried out in the Czech Republic, however, surveys that explicitly deal with the issue of single-parent families are rather rare. It is also symptomatic, that the issue of single-parent families is neglected even by surveys focused on gender issues, despite the fact that the burden of life in a single-parent family is borne in particular by women whose number as heads of these households highly exceeds that of men (85 % of women and 15 % of men).⁴

The survey performed by The Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs in 1995, on a population of 691 representatives of single-parent families is one of more extensive sociological surveys of single-parent families. The survey focused on single-parent families with dependent children only and always the head of household was interviewed. The criteria determined for the selection of a sample of households in this survey were much broader and allowed to include into the sampling population, apart from nuclear single-parent families consisting of one parent and children (52 % of the households interviewed) also cohabitation with

grandparents or other relatives (22 %) and living together with a cohabitee (26 %). The definition of a single-parent family involving a wider variability of the internal arrangement of this type of family formation⁵ proved to be useful. An inquiry into individual forms of single-parent families defined by the internal structure of their household enabled to disprove a simplified concept of a single-parent family as a homogeneous type of an at-risk-family. The results clearly proved that a formal incompleteness (i.e. single-parent status) of a family does not always mean the actual incompleteness profile. Single-parent families need to be viewed as an internally heterogeneous type of family arrangement under which precisely a particular structure of a family significantly differentiates not only material conditions, but also the level of adaptation and the life attitudes of heads of these households. Based on the survey findings, three types of family arrangement can be differentiated in formally declared single-parent families. Nuclear single-parent families in which only one of the parents and children live, is the first type. This type has from all viewpoints (monitored in the survey) the worst parameters and it is closest to the concept of a socially handicapped family. Single-parent families which consist (actually or potentially) of a partner of the head of household are an opposite pole of this type of family arrangement. The situation of these families is in many respects similar to the situation of two-parent families. Somewhere in between these two extreme types there are single-parent families based on living together with grandparents or other relatives.

Living conditions of families can be influenced not only by their internal structure, but also by the family life cycle stage. In this respect, they provide a completely unique basis for a secondary analysis of an empirical survey conducted among two forms of single-parent families – young families and families with adolescent children. The surveys were carried out by the Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) in 2002 as part of a series of eight surveys among various types of families.⁶ The results of these surveys are beneficial for the purposes of the secondary analysis for two reasons. Firstly, they enable to identify changes in life situations of single-parent families in the course of two basic parental cycle stages. Their second benefit is the possibility of comparison with the situation of simultaneously surveyed two-parent families at the same family life cycle stage (a two-parent young family and a two-parent family with adolescent children). For these reasons, and also because this is relatively up-to-date information, the findings from these surveys were used for the purposes of this report.

I. Basic data on interpreted surveys

1. Single-parent young family

Family of a lone mother (single, divorced, widowed), under the age of 35 with a pre-school child / children

Survey method: standardized face to face interviews

Size of the sampling population: 187 women, including 40 % single, 57 % divorced and 3 % widowed

2. Two-parent young family

Family in which spouses under the age of 35 and at least one pre-school child live.

Survey method: standardized face to face interviews

Size of the sampling population: 208 respondents

3. Single-parent family with adolescent children

Family in which a lone mother (single, divorced, widowed) aged between 36-55 years and at least one unprovided for child aged between 15-26 years which has not completed the preparation for future job yet live

Survey method: standardized face to face interviews

Size of the sampling population: 199 women, including 11 % single, 71 % divorced and 18 % widowed

4. Two-parent family with adolescent children

Family in which spouses aged between 36-55 years and at least one unprovided for child aged between 15-26 years which has not completed the preparation for future job yet live.

Survey method: standardized face to face interviews

Size of the sampling population: 188 respondents

II. Single-parent young family

1. Adaptation to the existing situation

The attitude of women from single-parent young families towards their own life situation shows that the break-up of a family at an early stage or the foundation of a single-parent family is one of the hardest periods at all. Despite the fact that the way how young mothers assess their situation is not always the same (even in the case of these attitudes, the posited heterogeneity of single-parent families is verifiable), negative perception of their situation prevails. Almost three out of five women from single-parent young families are convinced that they are experiencing an unhappy period of their life that inflicts serious problems and worries on them. Of all eight surveys of various types of families, precisely opinions of women from young single-parent families are the most pessimistic ones. Their pessimism is especially obvious when compared to the manner in which young people living in a two-parent young family view their own life situation. On the contrary, an attitude expressing their carefreeness, enjoyment of life and satisfaction with the experienced life stage is typical of them.

However, the conviction that a difficult situation they are facing is only temporary and will get better for the foreseeable future is a very significant feature of the way young mothers from single-parent families view their situation. This belief, no doubt, is typical of young people, nevertheless, it is worthy of mention that it is an expression of confidence in one's own ability to change things („I believe that I will resolve everything soon“). This self-confidence is obvious also in other attitudes, e.g. in the conviction that family will handle even a difficult situation easily. This belief is significantly more frequent among young families (88 %), nevertheless, it is not rare at all among lone young mothers, either (67 %).

„You assess your current life period as:“

	Single-parent young family	Two-parent young family
Very happy	4 %	18 %

Quite happy	38 %	65 %
Rather unhappy, but I believe that I will resolve everything soon	52 %	14 %
Very unhappy and I do not believe to resolve the problems soon	6 %	3 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

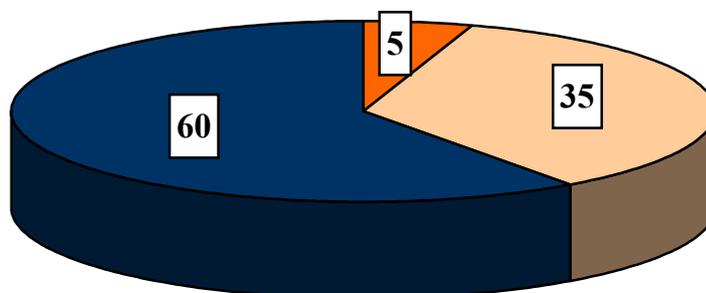
„When you take into account all circumstances of the life of your family, can you say that you are a family that lives free of big problems and worries ?“

	Single-parent young family	Two-parent young family
Definitely yes	4 %	14 %
Rather yes	42 %	64 %
Rather not	40 %	17 %
Definitely not	14 %	5 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

One of possible ways how to tackle a difficult living situation is to find a firm partner or directly switch to a two-parent family. It can be assumed that a trouble-free attitude towards life, which is typical of most young people from two-parent families, does not mean that these families are free of any problems and worries. However, they grapple with them aware of the fact that they have someone with whom they can share them and they are two for overcoming them. Lone mothers, who plan to found a two-parent family, take the same line of thinking. Their most frequent argument is a wish not to be alone and to have a stable family background (76 %), other reasons are already less frequent (emotional relationship with a partner 9 %, material security 11%). A larger portion of women from single-parent families, however, do not intend to get married soon. The reason for such attitude is not only the fact that an appropriate and reliable partner „is not available“, much more important is the disappointment at failed marriage, the distrust of a new marriage and also the fact that this woman has got used to her living regime already.

„Do you intend to get married in the near future (approximately within 5 years)?“ (%)



■ Ano, s otcem dítěte/děti ■ Ano, s jiným mužem ■ Ne, o sňatku neuvažuji

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2001, The survey Single-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Yes, with the child's father, Yes, with another man, No, I do not intend to get married.]

„If you do not intend to get married what is your main reason for such an attitude?“
answers to a free question

Habit	32 %
Does not have an appropriate and reliable partner	31 %
Disappointment at and distrust of marriage	25 %
Fear of her children's relationship with a new partner	8 %

Other reasons	4 %
----------------------	------------

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

Distrust and fear of getting married which are obvious from the data contained in the table are worthy of attention primarily due to the fact that the absolute majority of young women from single-parent families are convinced that a lone mother living with a small child is at disadvantage to the married couple with a small child, not only in terms of material security (91 %), but also in non-material terms (78 %).

2. Hierarchy of family life problems

The absence of a firm partner background among lone young mothers is reflected also in the opinions on manageability of problems they are facing. Compared to two-parent young families, lone mothers consider their problems and worries much more frequently insoluble. Also the hierarchy of seriousness of individual problems is slightly different among single-parent young families. While for women from single-parent families in particular the relationship with the child's father, problems surrounding the job-seeking process and the material situation of a family (especially the source of income) are completely insoluble obstacles or obstacles which they doubt to be able to overcome on their own, people from two-parent young families are most worried about, apart from fears of difficulties faced in the labour market, the conditions for leisure time and combining career and family life. The source of income is viewed as a less stressful factor among two-parent young families.

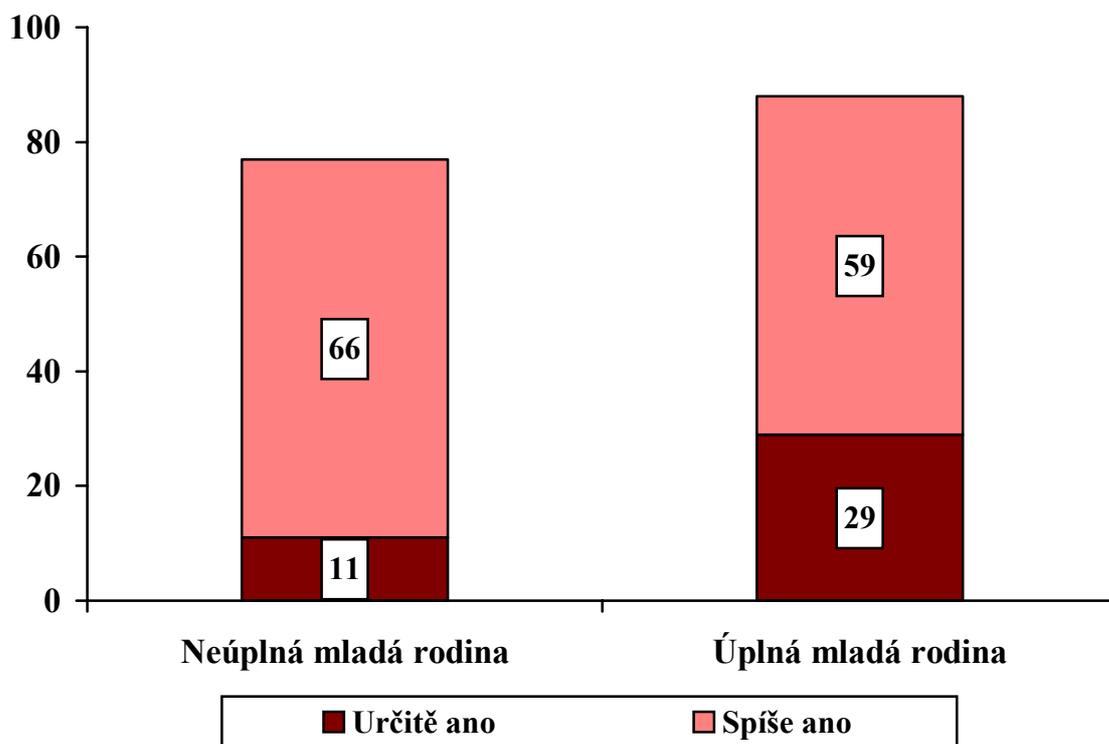
The formalities associated with the functioning of a family and the arrangement of family relationships are a specific area which, compared to two-parent families, imposes a significantly higher burden on young lone mothers. Dealing with the authorities and arranging for various applications is a serious complication for every second lone mother raising a pre-school child (children). The same share of women views the legislation regulating family relationships as another problem immediately affecting their family. Among two-parent young families, these problems are of

infinitely less importance (dealing with the authorities is considered to be an immediate problem by 29 % and family-related legislation by 20 % of representatives of two-parent young families).

The perceived seriousness of most problems in single-parent families is rising with the higher number of children living in these families. The relationships with the child's father, in the case of which the number of children is not of key importance, are an exception.

It is worthy of attention that despite higher helplessness associated with the solution of individual problems (compared to two-parent families), most lone mothers are convinced that their family tackles any problems and difficulties in most cases successfully. The opinion that the family will manage to resolve any problems that have arisen soon, is less deep-seated and less frequent among lone young mothers, compared to two-parent young families, but the differences are smaller than would be expected.

„When some problems arise in my family, I/we manage to resolve them soon “
(the % share of answers „definitely yes and rather yes“)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

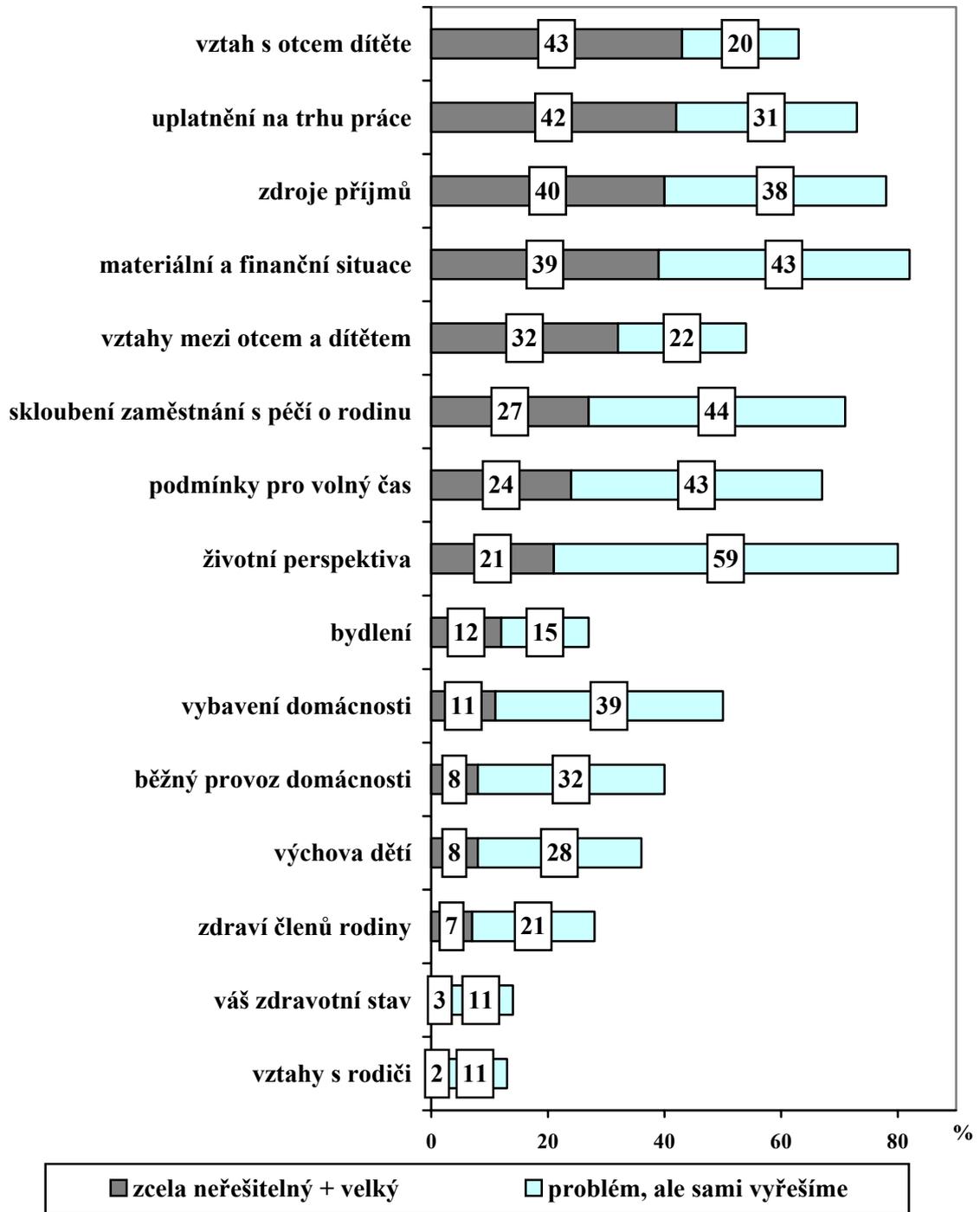
Single-parent young family, Two-parent young family

Definitely yes, Rather yes]

The conviction that a difficult situation is only a temporary problem is well discernible among single-parent families also in their idea that problems which families momentarily face, will be gradually dwindling. Lone young mothers often express biggest hope in those areas of life that they currently perceive as the most tricky ones. This concerns in particular income and the general material and financial situation of their households. Lone mothers view very optimistically also their future life prospects. On the contrary, they consider their future position in the labour market to be relatively poor.

The interesting thing is that the lone mothers' outlook for the future is not significantly different from that of people living in a two-parent young family. Relationships with the child's father, which are viewed by most of the lone women with much resignation and the conviction that in the future, they can expect no radical changes to their problematic nature, are an exception to this rule.

"Jak velký problém pro Vás v současné době představují:"
 (podíl "zcela neřešitelný problém"+"velký problém a pochybuji, že na jeho řešení sami stačíme" / "je to problém, ale věřím, že jej brzy vyřešíme")



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above Graph:

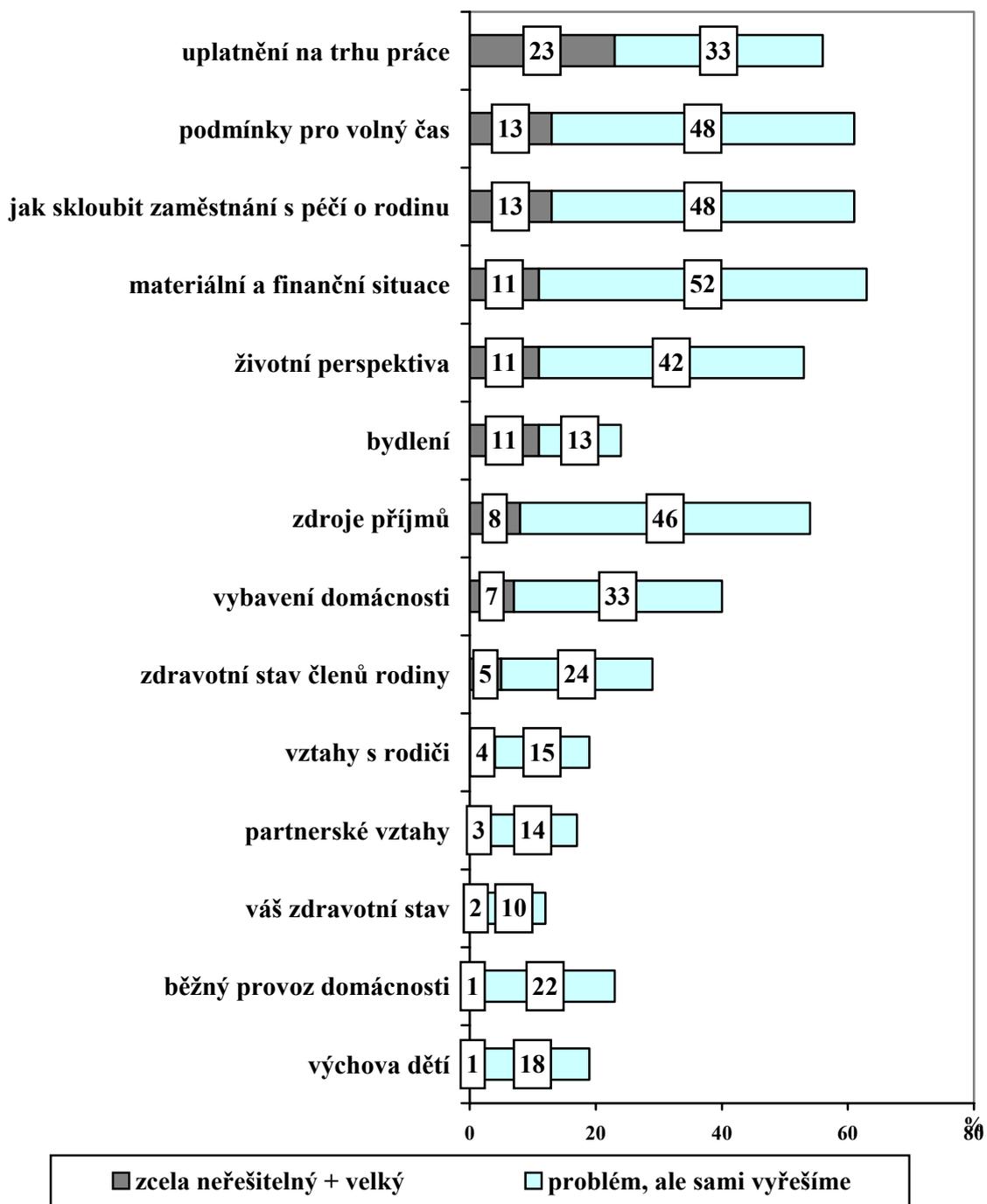
"How big a problem for you currently are the following issues:"

(the share of answers "completely insoluble problem" + "big problem and I doubt we will be able resolve it ourselves"/ "it is a problem, but I believe that we will resolve it soon:)

relationship with the child's father
participation in the labour market
sources of income
material and financial situation
relationships between father and child
combining career and the care of family
conditions for leisure time
life prospects
housing
availability of household equipment
ordinary functioning of household
upbringing of children
health of family members
your health condition
relationships with parents

completely insoluble+big, - it is a problem, but we will resolve it ourselves

"Jak velký problém pro Vás v současné době představují:"
 (podíl "zcela neřešitelný problém"+"velký problém a pochybuji, že na jeho řešení sami stačíme" / "je to problém, ale věřím, že jej brzy vyřešíme")



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

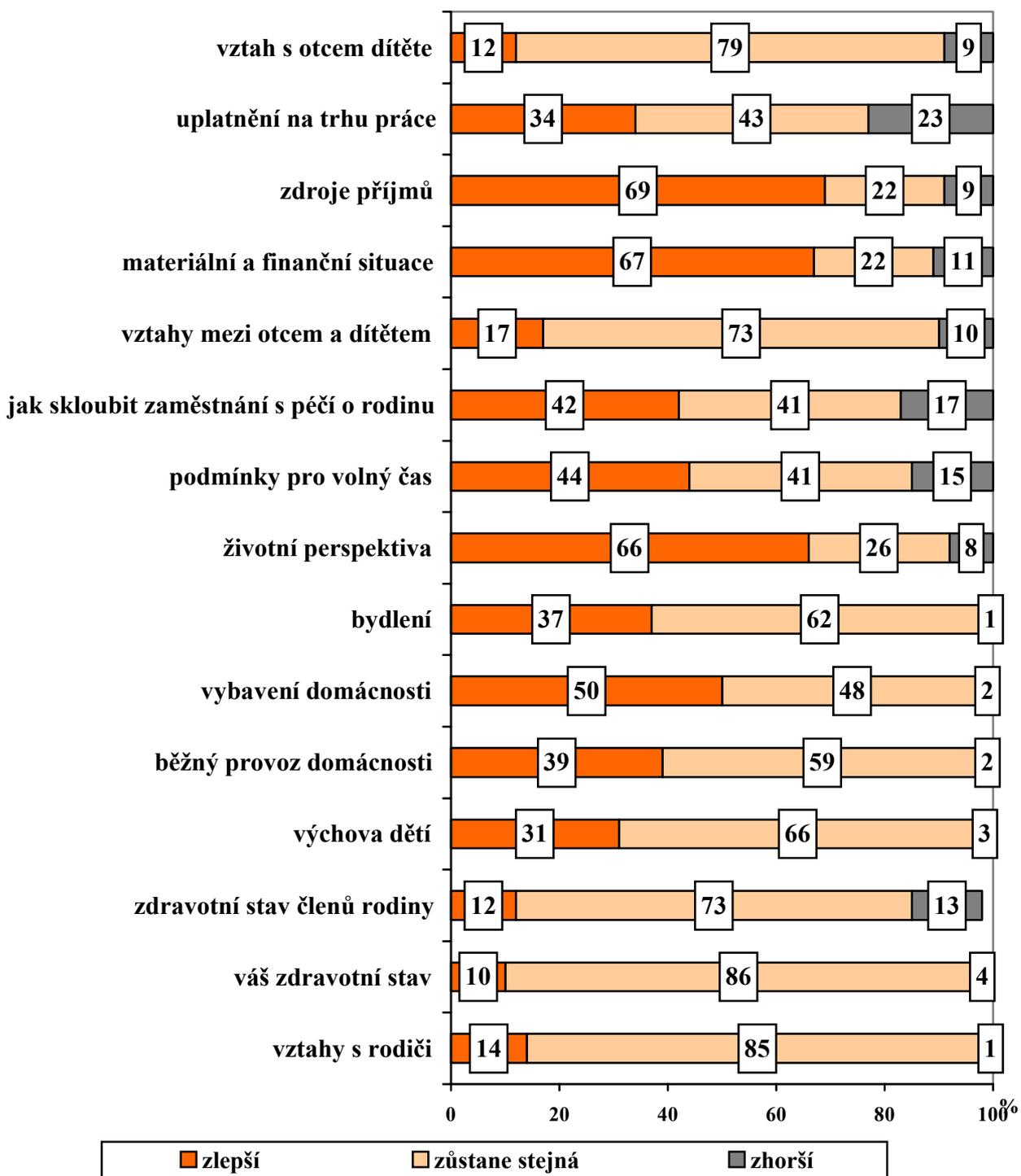
"How big a problem for you currently are the following issues:"

(the share of answers "completely insoluble problem" + "big problem and I doubt we will be able resolve it ourselves"/ "it is a problem, but I believe that we will resolve it soon:)

participation in the labour market
conditions for leisure time
combining career and the care of family
material and financial situation
life prospects
housing
sources of income
availability of household equipment
health condition of family members
relationships with parents
relationships between partners
your health condition
ordinary functioning of household
upbringing of children

completely insoluble+big, - it is a problem, but we will resolve it ourselves

"Očekáváte, že se v následujících oblastech situace pro Vaši rodinu do budoucna (přibližně do 5 let)..."



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

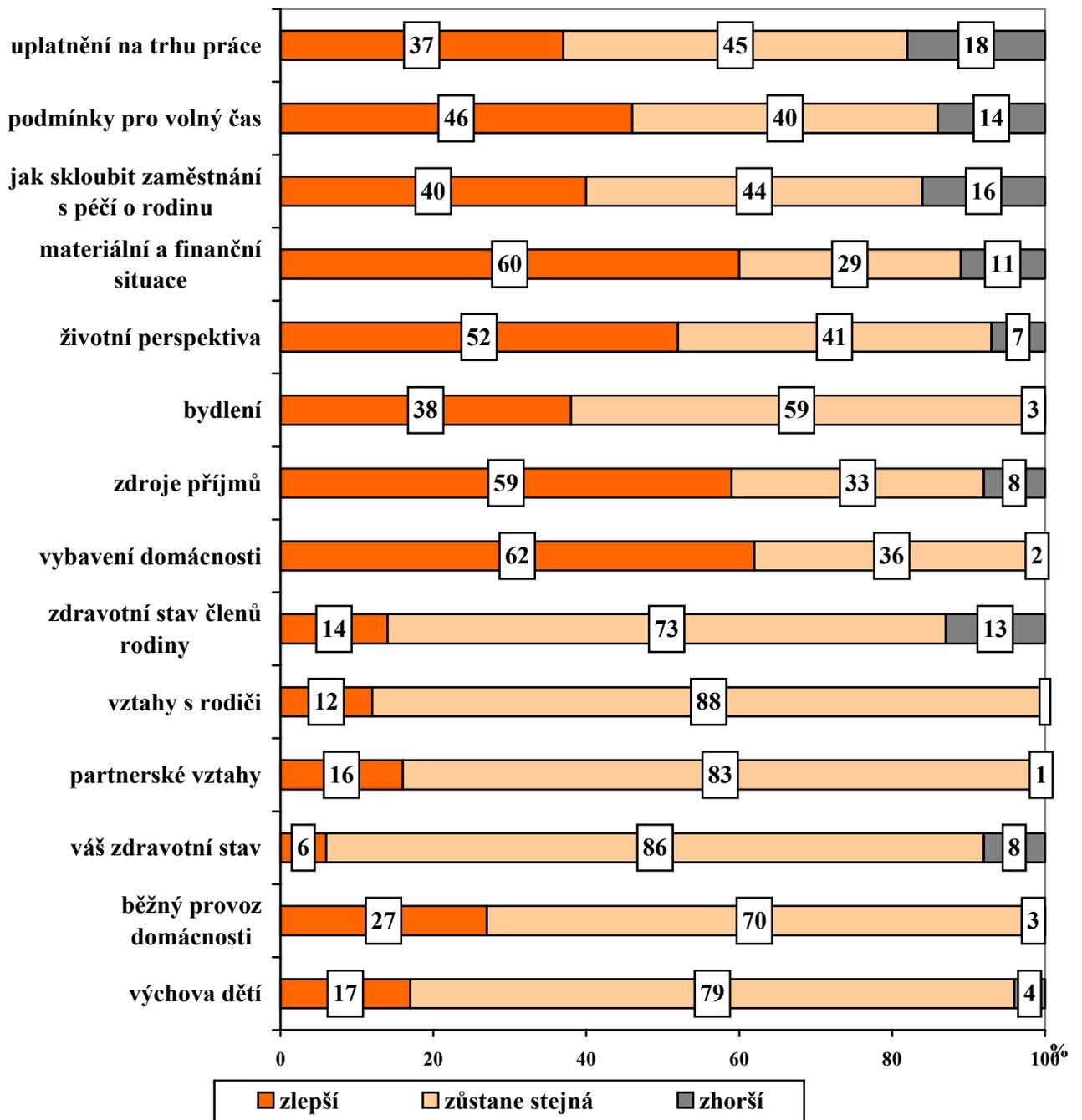
[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Do you expect that the situation for your family with respect to the areas given below in the future (approximately within 5 years)..."

relationship with the child's father
participation in the labour market
sources of income
material and financial situation
relationships between father and child
combining career and the care of family
conditions for leisure time
life prospects
housing
availability of household equipment
ordinary functioning of household
upbringing of children
health condition of family members
your health condition
relationships with parents

will improve - will remain the same – will deteriorate

"Očekáváte, že se v následujících oblastech situace pro Vaši rodinu do budoucna (přibližně do 5 let)..."



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The Survey Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Do you expect that the situation for your family with respect to the areas given below in the future (approximately within 5 years)..."

participation in the labour market
 conditions for leisure time
 combining career and the care of family
 material and financial situation
 life prospects
 housing
 sources of income
 availability of household equipment
 health condition of family members
 relationships with parents
 relationships between partners
 your health condition
 ordinary functioning of household
 upbringing of children

will improve - will remain the same – will deteriorate

3. Upbringing of children

In about one half of single-parent young families (53 %) at the time of the survey two children lived, a slightly smaller part of these families had one child (44 %), families with three or more children occurred in isolated cases (3 %). The upbringing of children is one of the areas which is associated in single-parent families with significantly bigger problems than among married couples. Lone mothers have significant worries about the upbringing and care of their children more than twice as frequently as parents living in a two-parent family. It is symptomatic that even a large proportion of lone women who take care of one child only have problems to meet their parental responsibilities. The presence of two, or more children only complicates the situation surrounding their education.

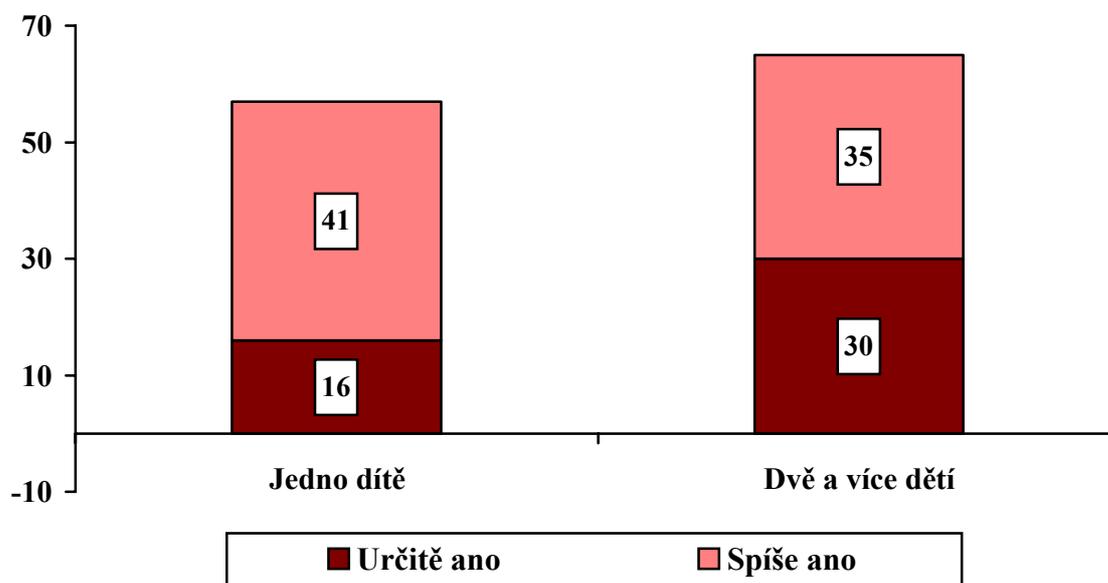
„The upbringing of children in my family is associated with enormous worries and sometimes I have/we have significant problems with it“.

	Single-parent young family	Two-parent young family
--	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Definitely yes	20 %	8 %
Rather yes	39 %	20 %
Rather not	31 %	55 %
Definitely not	10 %	17 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

„The upbringing of children in my family causes enormous worries to us and sometimes I have/we have significant problems with it“.
(the % share of answers „definitely yes and rather yes“ by the number of children)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

One child – Two and more children

Definitely yes – Rather yes]

4. Atmosphere in a family

The situations where the child's father is actively involved in helping his wife with the care of children and household are very rare in a single-parent family. Only about one tenth of lone young mothers have such an experience. On the contrary, a larger portion of these women (about two fifths), experience with their children's father relationships that are complicated and difficult for all the parties concerned. The survey data show that most long-term disagreements between the child's mother and father affect children (disputes over alimony and contacts with children). The matters, such as, for instance settlement of property of the spouses seriously complicate the relationships with the child's father only in the first period after the family break-up and only a few lone mothers consider them to be a permanent burden (16 %).

„Opinions on the quality of the relationship with the child's father */“

	I have a lot of disagreements and problems with my child's/children's father concerning alimony	I have a lot of disagreements and problems with my child's/children's father concerning his contact with children
Definitely yes	20 %	10 %
Rather yes	21 %	25 %
Rather not	34%	30 %
Definitely not	15 %	23 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

**/ women who have not answered the question are added to the 100 % figure.*

The conviction that the relationship of the child's father with children is bad shared by three fifths of women from single-parent families is an especially negative reflection of the situation in single-parent families. It is very likely, that this subjective attitude of lone women towards the relationship between the father and children has been also influenced to a certain extent by their disappointment at the failed partnership and the man's failure. It is impossible to draw a conclusion from the surveyed data as to the intensity of impact of these circumstances on lone mothers' assessment of the father's relationship with children, but the very frequency of the feeling that the

relationship between the father and children is bad testifies to bad atmosphere in a number of single-parent families.

The relationship with parents has a completely different quality, compared to the relationship with the child's father. This is obvious already when we examine the differences between frequency of mutual contacts. While women from single-parent families make contact with the child's father only sporadically or do not contact him at all, contacts with parents are regular and in most families take place at least once a week. It needs to be noted that intense contacts with parents are, among other factors, influenced also by a relatively frequent cohabitation of women from single-parent families with parents in one dwelling or a house (28% of women).

„Frequency of contacts with the child's father and with parents“

	Child's father	Parents /one of parents
Several times a week	7 %	72 %
Once a week, or up to once in two weeks	26 %	23 %
Approximately once a month	16 %	2 %
Several times a year	17 %	2 %
About once a year	6 %	xx
Less frequently or not at all	28 %	1 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Studies (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

Also some explicit attitudes of women from single-parent families show a very positive relationship with their parents. A significant majority of these women (four fifths) consider their parents to be an important part of the family and are of the opinion that parents contribute to positive family relationships. Only less than one fifth (16 %) of lone mothers view relationships with their parents as confrontational and problematic. The survey did not distinguish between parents of a woman and parents of the child's father, however, on the basis of empirical experience it can be assumed that a favourable appreciation of relationships with parents concerns in particular parents of a woman.

The attitude viewing the role of parents as the one having a positive impact is not a specific feature of single-parent young families. Even people living in a married couple family view their parents in the completely same manner. However, the differences between a single-parent and a two-parent young family consist in the frequency of mutual contacts. Among people living in a married couple family, cases of living together in one dwelling or a house are less frequent (living together with own parents or the partner's parents was stated by 8 – 13 % of persons from two-parent families) and the frequency of mutual contacts is also more limited.

„Frequency of contacts with parents in a two-parent young family“

	Respon- dent's parents	Partner's parents
Several times a week	46 %	34 %
Once a week, or up to once in two weeks	34 %	34 %
Approximately once a month	11 %	23 %
Several times a year	7 %	6 %
About once a year	2 %	1 %
Less frequently or not at all	xx	1 %

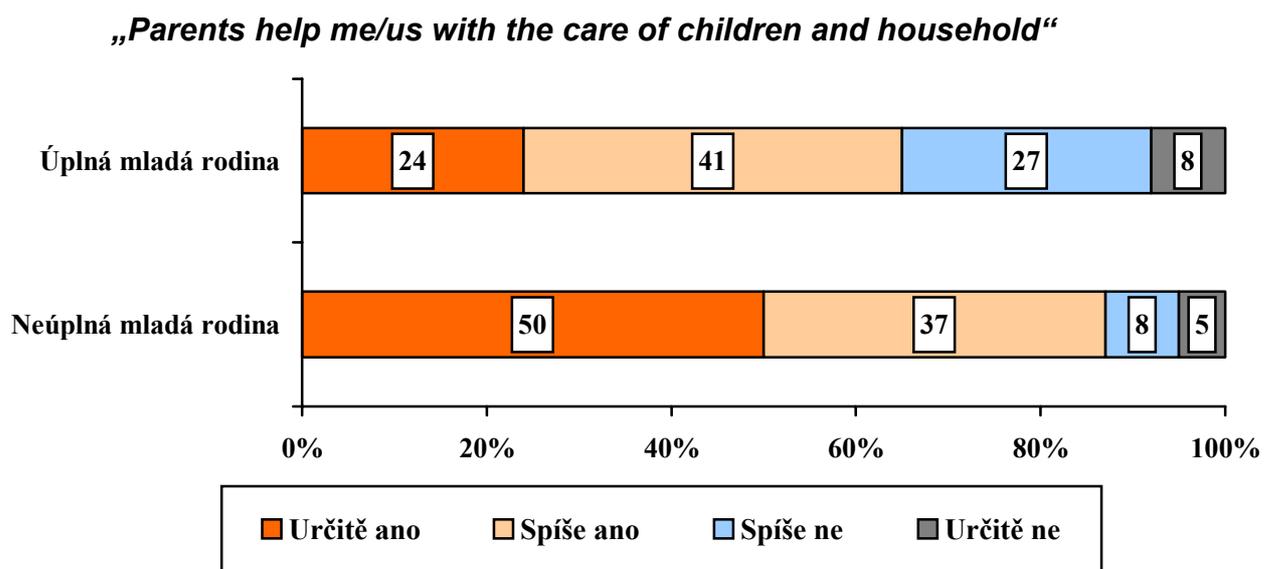
Source: The Centre for Empirical Studies (STEM) 2002, The survey Two-parent young family

5. Social self-sufficiency

Intergenerational relationships have also their practical side of mutual support and assistance. The surveys focusing on family issues show that the intensity and content of intergenerational assistance depends on the family life cycle and type of family cohabitation. In general, however, the rule applies that intergenerational assistance is

provided significantly more frequently in the direction from parents to children, rather than the other way round and its highest share has been found among young families. Young households are typical representatives of the families which within the system of intergenerational exchange of assistance much more take than give.

The quoted survey confirmed that among single-parent young families parental support is even more intense. The share of lone mothers who cannot manage without parental assistance in their care of children and household is three times bigger than in two-parent young families. The similar situation was observed with respect to financial and material support which lone young women receive from parents almost twice as frequently as young people living in a two-parent family.



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

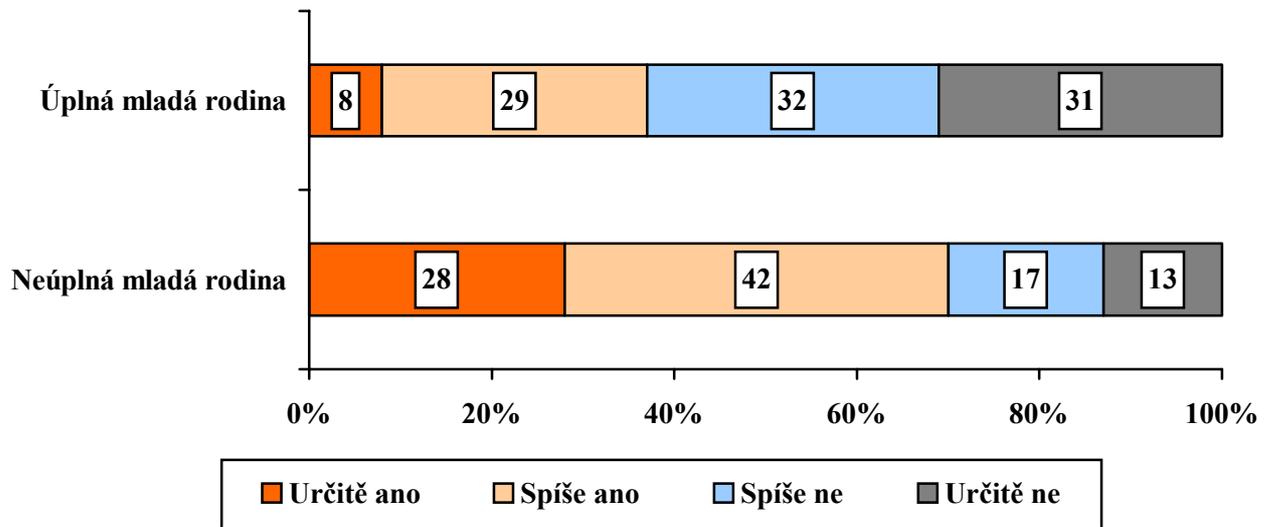
[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Two-parent young family

Single-parent young family

Definitely yes, Rather yes, Rather not, Definitely not]

„Parents provide me/us with regular financial and material support“



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

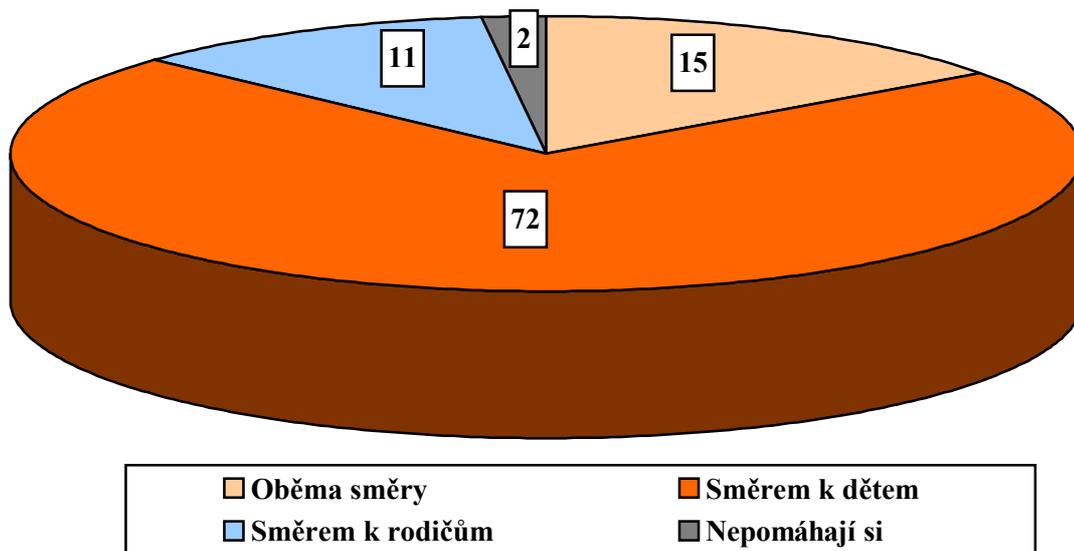
[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Two-parent young family

Single-parent young family

Definitely yes, Rather yes, Rather not, Definitely not]

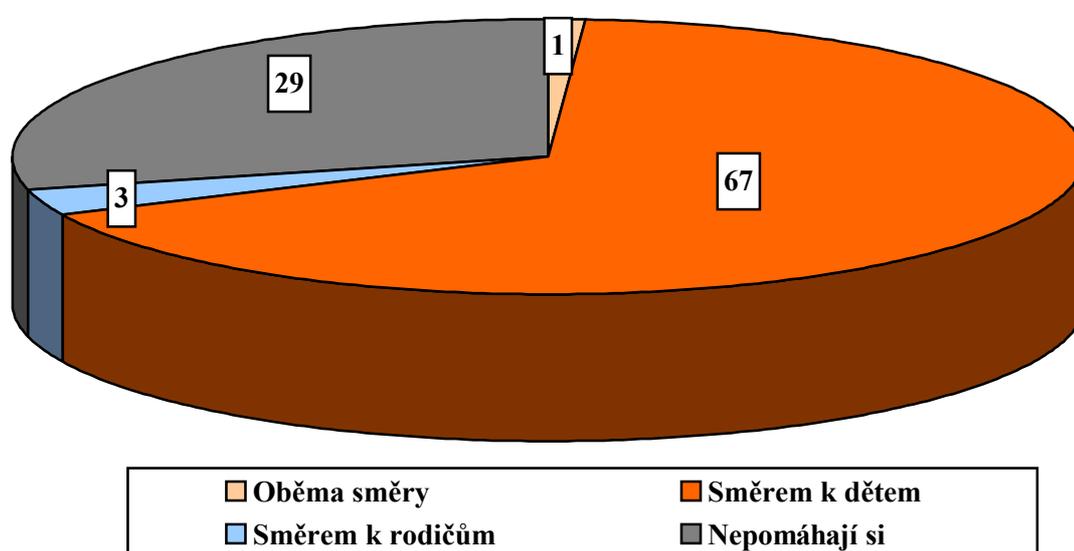
Direction of intergenerational assistance in the care of children and household in single-parent young families



[Translation of the text in the above graph:

In both directions Towards children
Towards parents Do not help each other]

Direction of intergenerational financial assistance in single-parent young families



[Translation of the text in the above graph:

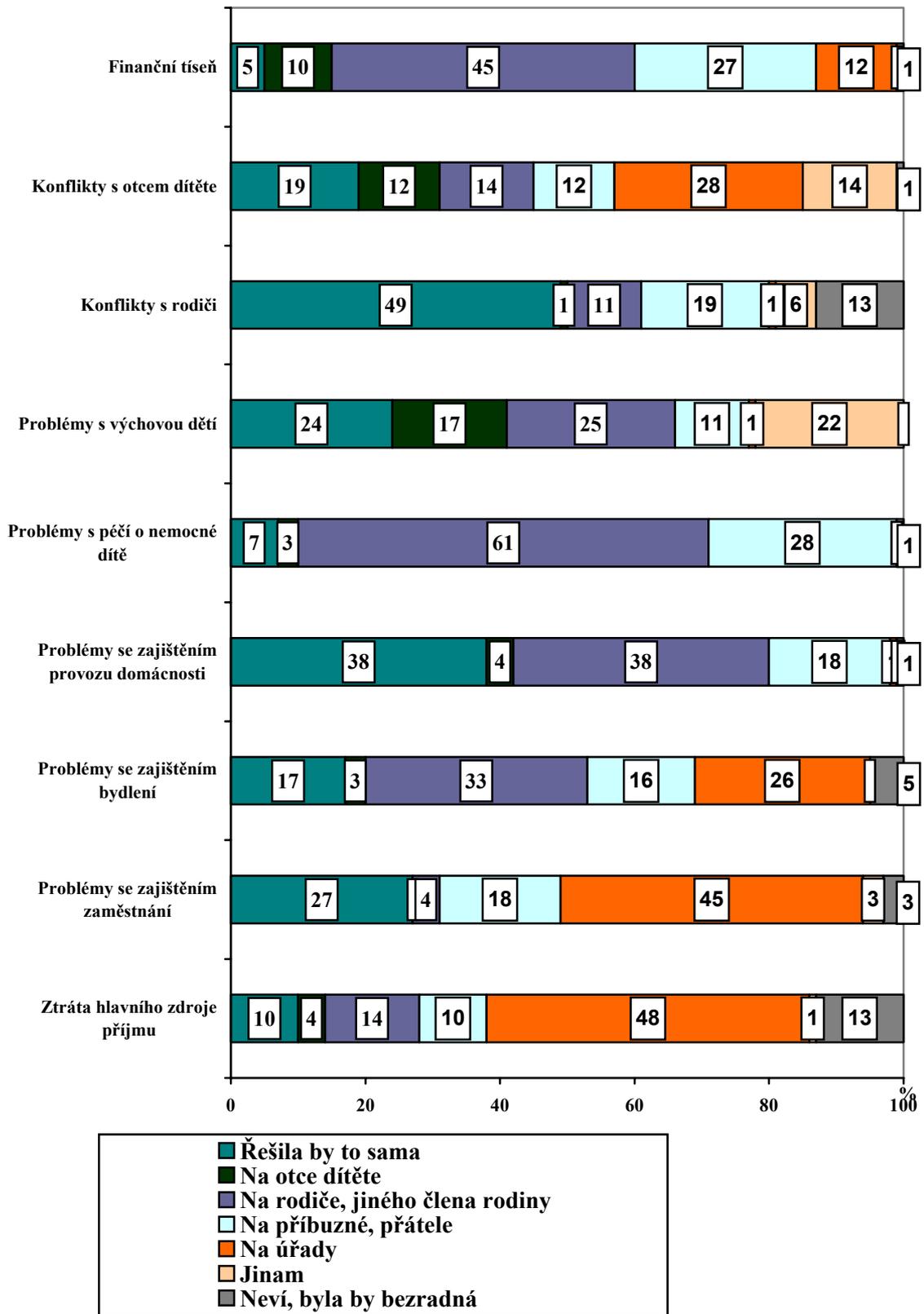
In both directions Towards children
Towards parents Do not help each other]

From sociological surveys of family issues it is known that social standards regulating relationships between parents and children contain the rule of a sort of permanent parenthood that considers it natural that parents provide their adult children with

financial and other support. This rule is widely accepted in particular with respect to the period of foundation and the first years of building the children's own family. It is reasonable to draw a conclusion that the scope of assistance that young families receive from their parents is not entirely commensurate with the extent to which these families are self-sufficient or lack self-sufficiency. In the survey quoted, the level of sovereignty of families was examined also by a question asking how would individual families resolve various problem situations, whether on their own or with an assistance of someone else. The answers to this question (for more details see graphs on the following pages) illustrate quite aptly not only how the absence of a firm partner weakens the self-sufficiency of single-parent families, but also show, how in this context, the family's dependence on various sources of assistance is increasing.

The data obtained on the basis of the above question again confirm that the support provided to lone young mothers by fathers of their children is absolutely negligible. There is only a very limited number of problem situations in which lone mothers would seek help from the child's father. The low share of lone young mothers, who can rely on the child's father when addressing problems associated with the child's upbringing, is especially remarkable.

"Na koho byste se obrátila s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

[*Translation of the text in the above graph:*

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Would resolve it herself/himself

The child's father

Parents, another family member

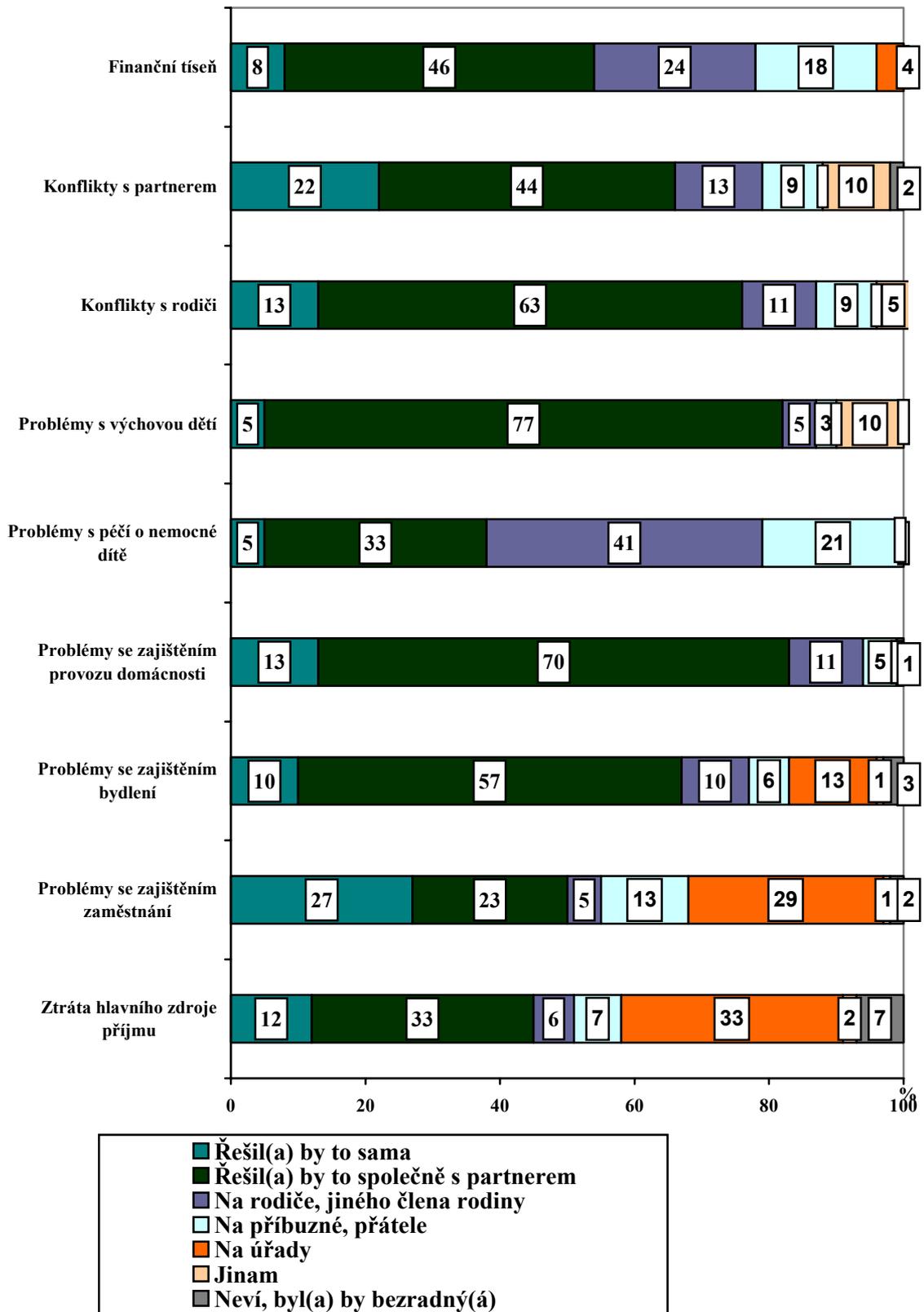
Relatives, friends

Authorities

Other parties

Does not know, would be helpless]

"Na koho byste se obrátil(a) s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Two-parent young family

[*Translation of the text in the above graph:*

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

Financial distress

Conflicts with a partner

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Would resolve it herself/himself

Would resolve it together with a partner

Parents, another family member

Relatives, friends

Authorities

Other parties

Does not know, would be helpless]

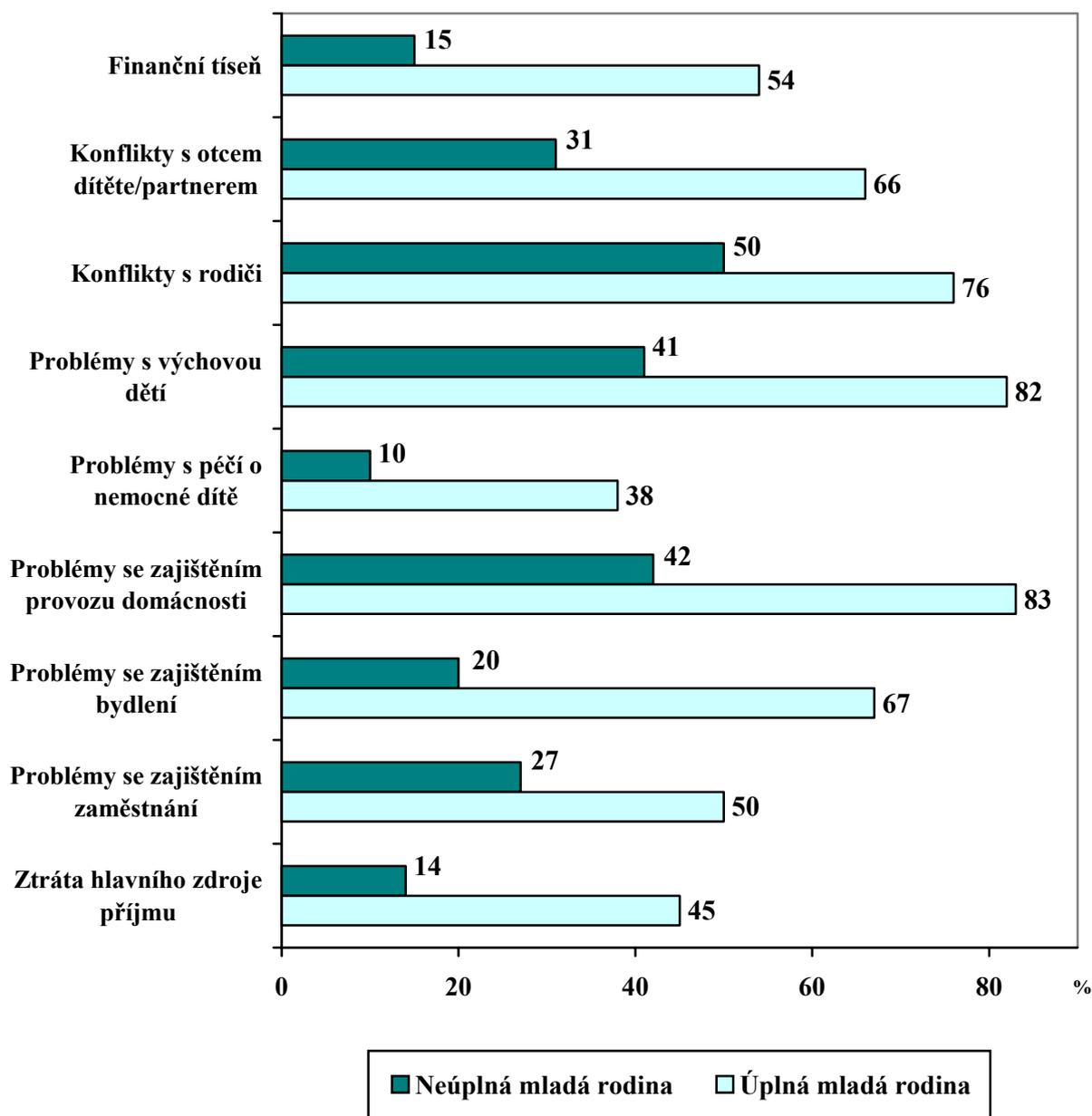
Less than one fifth of lone mothers (17 %) admit that they would resolve possible problems with the upbringing of their children together with the children's father. At the same time, among two-parent young families precisely the upbringing of children belongs to those areas of family life in which support from a partner is viewed as absolutely the strongest one (77 % of persons living in a two-parent young family declare cooperation with a partner in the solution of problems with the upbringing of children).

The absence of a firm partnership background in a single-parent young family results in the fact that a network of parties, whom lone mothers consider to be a possible source of help, is much wider than among two-parent young families. Apart from parents, whose supportive role in single-parent families is much stronger than in married couple families, the „safety net“ for young lone mothers also more frequently

includes wider relatives and friends. This rule applies despite the fact that even in this respect lone young mothers are to a certain extent at a disadvantage compared to persons living in a two-parent family – the certainty that in cases where their family is faced with serious difficulties (the survey specifically states financial difficulties), it has a lot of relatives and friends who would help her, was declared by one half of lone women, whereas among two-parent young families the same certainty was expressed by 62% of the people.

Parents, a wider family and friends substitute for the role of a husband in particular in those situations where the two-parent family feels to be most independent, capable of addressing the problems that have occurred on its own. This concerns in particular family relationships and situations associated with the functioning of a household (including for instance securing of housing). In areas, where the self-sufficiency of two-parent young families is relatively not so strong (problems surrounding the job-seeking process, loss of the main source of income), the absence of the firm partnership background strengthens the role of the authorities as the provider of assistance. The dependence of lone mothers on the authorities when dealing with the conflicts with the child's father is a completely specific issue.

"Na koho byste se obrátil/a s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"
podíl odpovědí "řešil/a bych to sám/a nebo společně s otcem dítěte/partnerem (%)"



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

the share of answers "would resolve it myself or together with the child's father/partner (%)

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father/partner

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

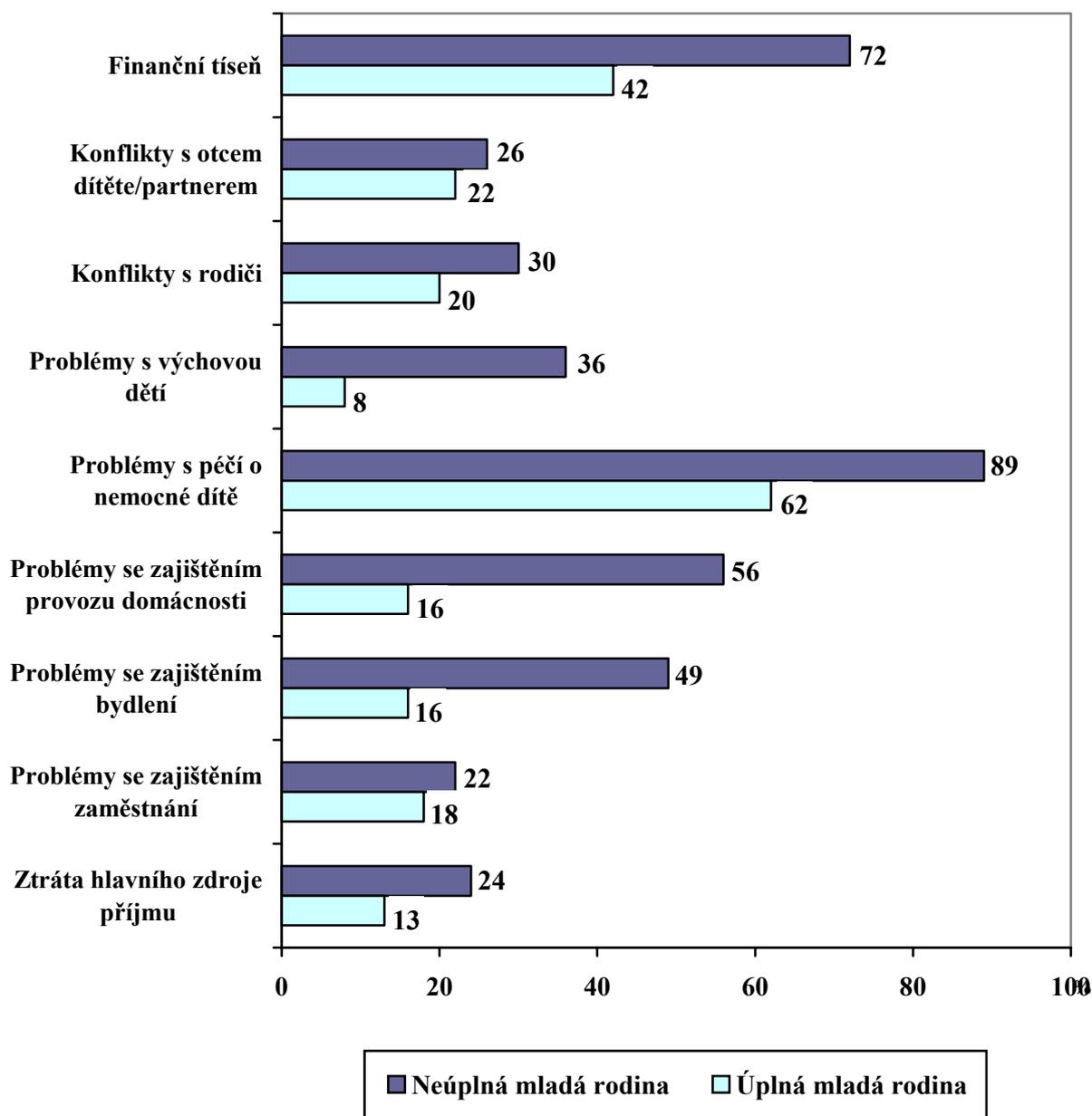
Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Single-parent young family – Two-parent young family

"Na koho byste se obrátil/a s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"
podíl odpovědí "obrátil/a bych se o pomoc na rodiče, příbuzné a přátele" (%)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

the share of answers "would ask for help parents, relatives and friends (%)

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father/partner

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

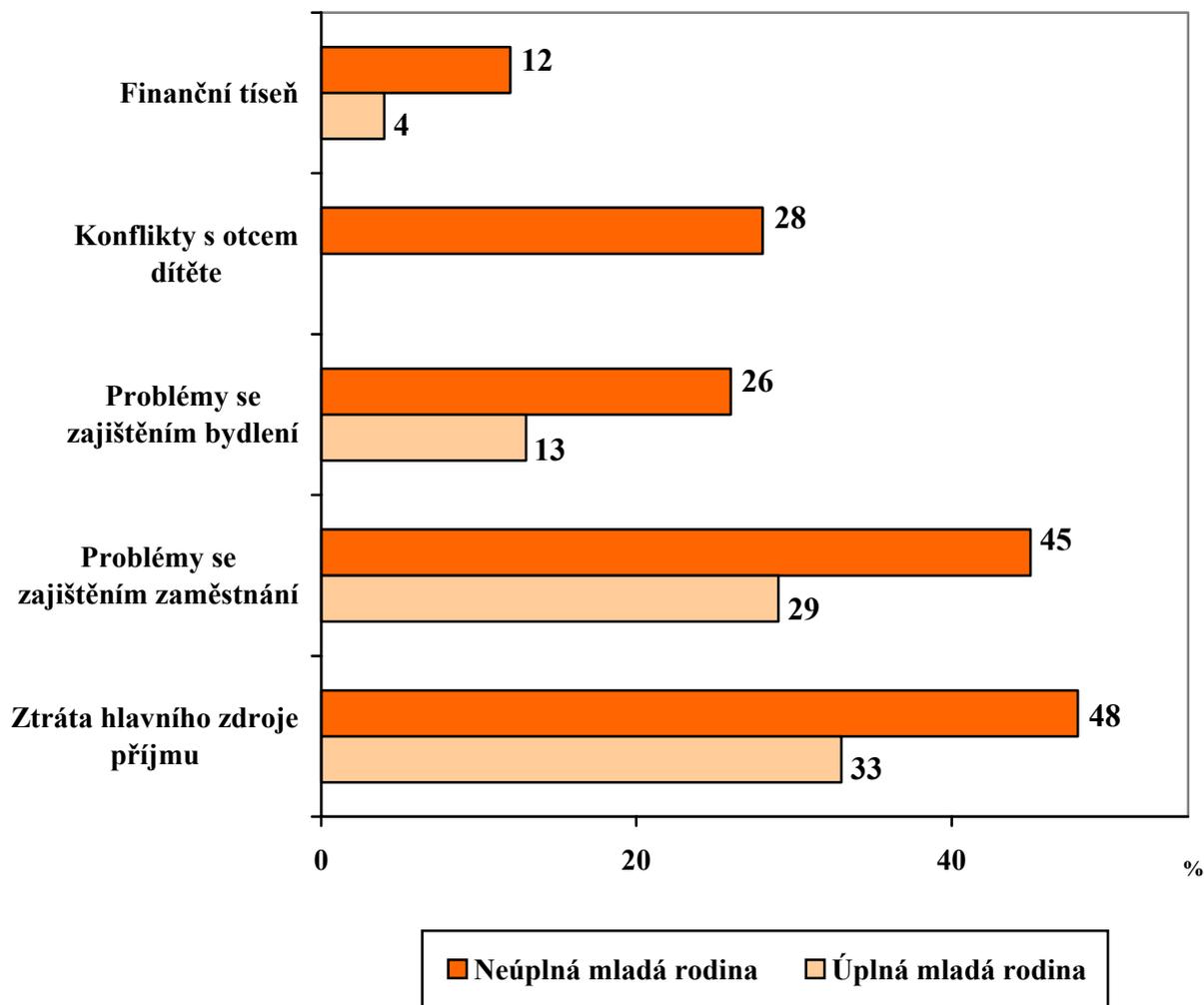
Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Single-parent young family – Two-parent young family]

"Na koho byste se obrátil/a s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"
podíl odpovědí "obrátil/a bych se o pomoc na úřady" (%)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

the share of answers "would ask for help the authorities" (%)

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father

Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Single-parent young family – Two-parent young family]

6. Material and income situation

Poor material and financial situation, this is the most frequent answer of lone young mothers to a free question what is currently their biggest problem and what worries them most (62 % of answers to this question concern income, financial situation and the standard of living). Partial attitudes expressing subjective assessment of individual aspects of the standard of living and financial situation correspond to this response. Three fifths of women from single-parent families are convinced that the standard of living of their family is poor, half of them has a subjective feeling of poverty. Every second lone woman raising a pre-school child also states that she finds it hard or very hard to make both ends meet with income available to her. The perception of insufficiency of funds in single-parent young families is obvious also from the assessment of what their income can buy. Three quarters of women from single-parent families have enough money to buy quality food, less than two fifths have sufficient resources to buy quality clothing for family members and less than one fifth of lone mothers answered that there is some money left for culture, sports and similar activities. A large proportion of women from single-parent young families have a feeling that they cannot give their children everything they need (56%). For most young single-parent families it is a problem to have any savings.

It is symptomatic that the assessment of individual aspects of the material situation of single-parent families does not at all fundamentally depend on how many children a particular lone mother raises. Mothers with one child mostly feel to be only a little bit better off than women who take care of more children. There are significant differences solely in the assessment of the possibility to give their children everything they need. In this respect, mothers with more children are obviously more skeptical (the answer can give her child/children everything it needs/they need, was given by 48% of mothers with one child and 33% of mothers with more children).

Financial and material problems are the most frequent response in the category of free answers to the same question also among people living in a two-parent young family. Although they are not as dominant as among single-parent families (approximately 40% of answers concern income and the standard of living), nonetheless they show that also young people living in a two-parent family are dissatisfied with the financial and material situation of their household. The interesting thing is, that this dissatisfaction is also accompanied by some relatively positive attitudes that show that the material situation of young families is not so bad, compared to the whole population. A large proportion of young families (67 %) consider their standard of living good (at the time of the survey 57 % of the population responded in this manner). Among young families, also the share of those who feel to be poor is lower (27 %, compared to about 35 % among the population in general). Two fifths of young families make both ends meet on their income relatively easily, only a quarter of them experienced some difficulties. However, the key problem surrounding the housekeeping of two-parent young families is the feeling of insufficient funds for potential savings. Despite the fact that one half of them stated that they had managed to save some money in recent months, two thirds, however, are at the same time convinced that they do not have sufficient funds to create any financial reserves.

As has been already noted above, financial assistance from parents is an important financial contribution to the income of young families, in particular the single-parent ones. Young families, both two-parent and single-parent ones, relatively often are increasing their family budget also by an extra income (one half of two-parent young families and 56 % of lone young mothers consider an extra income to be a very important source of income). From this viewpoint, there is no difference between the housekeeping strategy of two-parent and single-parent young families (parental financial support is more frequent in single-parent families). Despite this fact, there are very marked differences in the subjective assessment of the material situation between a single-parent young family and a two-parent young family.

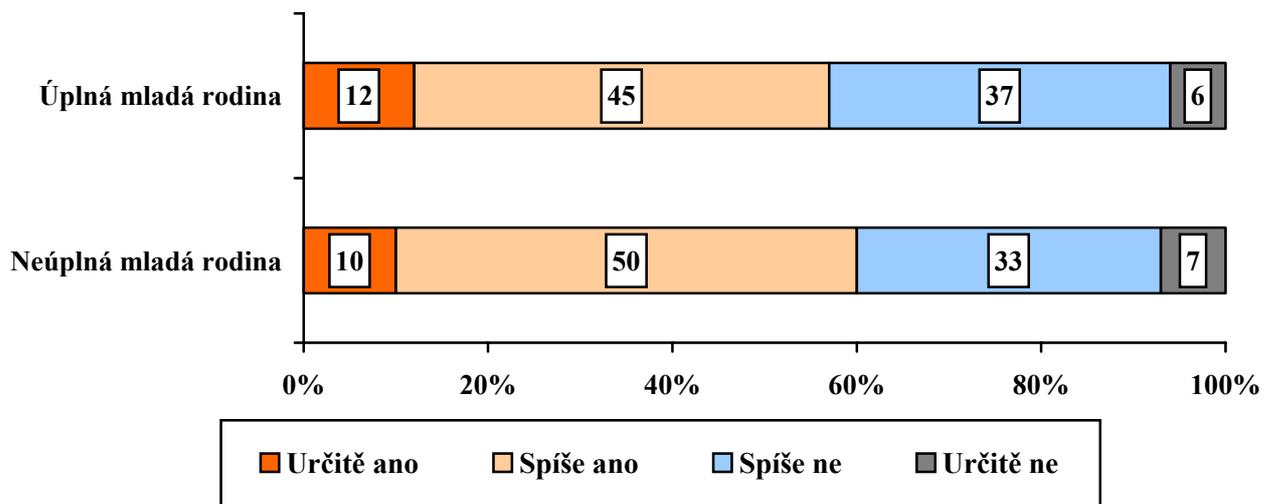
A relatively worse economic situation of single-parent families, compared to two-parent families, was stressed by all standard of living surveys conducted after 1989

and it has been confirmed also by more recent surveys.⁷ Many of these surveys have also pointed out that the fact that the economic situation among single-parent families is viewed as significantly worse is not caused only by the lower number of economically active persons who are able to contribute to the family budget. It needs to be taken into account that even in single-parent families a portion of income from the economic activity of the children's father is added to the household's budget (usually on a regular basis), despite the fact that he is not included in the number of economically active members of the household at all. Although this is only a partial substitute for an absent family breadwinner, according to some studies, this is not the main reason for an exposure to the risk of this type of family arrangement. The risk exposure is rather a latent one and consists in significantly limited, often non-existent possibility to mobilize the economic activity of another member of the household and thereby improve, if such need arises, the ratio between economically active and not active persons in a family. For single-parent young families, this circumstance is even more stressful since these households are living with a feeling that they do not have enough funds to create financial reserves for possible adverse situations. The second reason, why negative opinions on the economic situation need not necessarily mean significantly substandard conditions consists precisely in subjective indicators themselves. The subjective assessment of the standard of living and the financial situation is a relatively complicated socio-psychological category which involves a wide range of various feelings. It is shaped by various ideas of lifestyle-related necessary needs (see, for instance the above mentioned contrast between a relatively critical overall assessment of the material situation in two-parent young families on one hand and, in comparison with the population in general, more positive opinions on certain partial aspects of the standard of living on the other), methods of housekeeping and managing household budget, etc. Subjective attitudes towards the standard of living are relative and express especially feelings which, however, from the viewpoint of familiarization with the living conditions of families, can be more important than the so-called hard data.

The subjective assessments of the economic situation also contain comparative viewpoints (40 % of two-parent young families are of the opinion that the standard of living of their household is better, compared to the average standard of living in the Czech Republic, whereas in single-parent young families this view is shared only

among 14% of the families). It is also associated with the general life feelings and plans for the future. In this respect, it is a positive feature that single-parent young families consider their adverse economic situation to be only a temporary phase in the life of their family and believe that in the near future (within 2 years, according to the survey), their situation will improve. In this respect, the ideas of lone young mothers are fully comparable to the way how people living in a two-parent young family estimate future development of their standard of living.

„Do you think that the standard of living of your family will improve in the near future (approximately within 2 years)?



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Two-parent young family

Single-parent young family

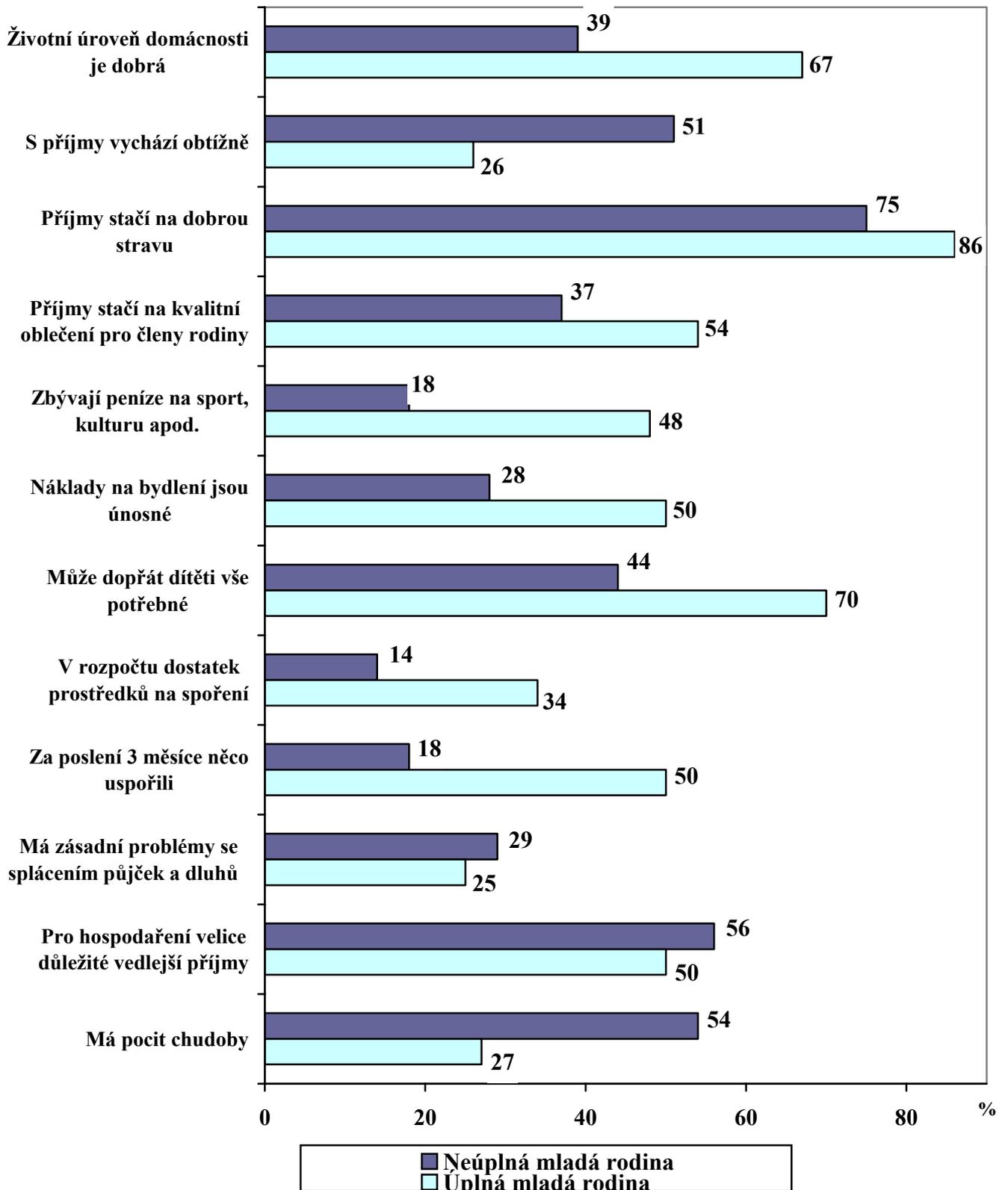
Definitely yes

Rather yes

Rather not

Definitely not]

Subjektivní hodnocení životní úrovně a finanční situace podíl odpovědí ano (%)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[*Translation of the text in the above graph:*

Subjective assessment of the standard of living and financial situation

The share of answers yes (%)

The standard of living of households is good

Difficult to make both ends meet on her/his income

Income is sufficient for quality food

Income is sufficient for quality clothing for family members

There is money left for sports, culture, etc.

Housing costs are affordable

Can give a child everything it needs

The budget is sufficient for saving money

Have saved some money in the course of the past 3 months

Has fundamental problems with the repayment of loans and debts

Extra income very important for housekeeping

Has a feeling of poverty

Single-parent young family

Two-parent young family]

7. Position in the labour market

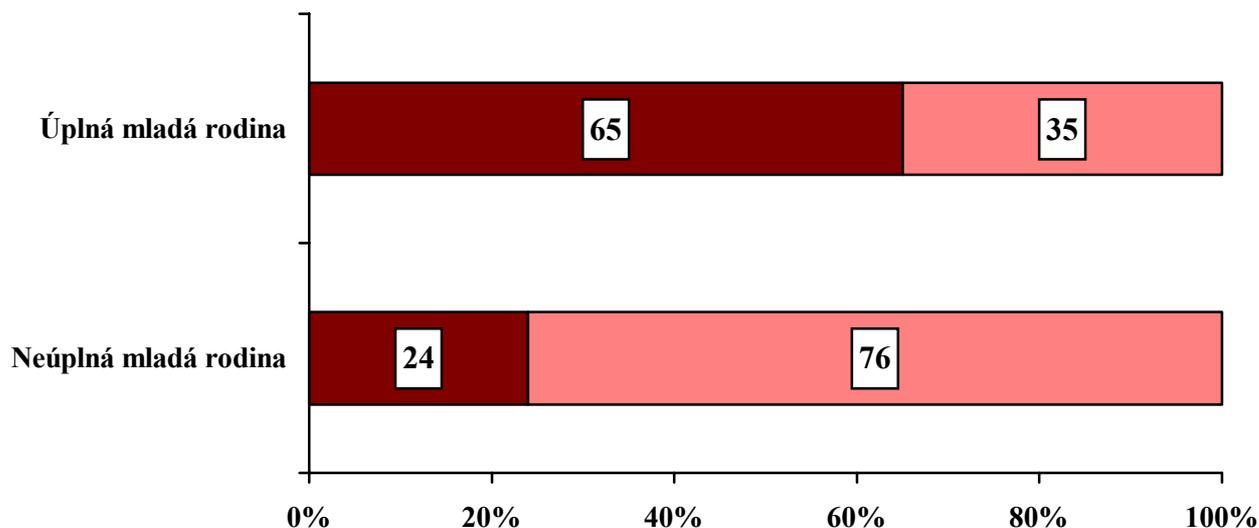
In contrast with the economic situation, job means for women from single-parent young families a sphere of life, in which their self-confidence is low and which they consider to be problematic in the long term (as has been already noted above, one quarter of them expect even worse labour market opportunities in the future). The need to combine increased demands on the involvement in a household and the upbringing of children, which arise from the position of a lone young mother, with career responsibilities, puts women from single-parent young families in a tricky situation. On one hand, they consider for themselves ideal a job that would give them enough time they could invest in family and children, but they are afraid that it will be hard for them to get any job whatsoever. Unemployment is an especially thorny

problem for them. Every second woman is afraid that if she loses a job, she will have to seek a new opportunity longer than half a year, while almost one fifth (17 %) have doubts whether they would get any job at all.

A dilemma with no easy solution between family responsibilities and the need to work, is obvious among lone young mothers also in the difference between their idea of an optimal working regime and the regime under which they actually work. Lone mothers taking care of a small child are much interested in alternative work forms (part-time job, working on a flex-time schedule, work at home jobs), every second woman would like to take advantage of some of these forms of work. In reality, less than one fifth of lone mothers work in this way (18 %).

The fact that women with pre-school children are among the most at-risk-groups in the labour market is a known fact which has been confirmed by a number of studies.⁸ The quoted surveys have also shown that the job issue is for women living in a two-parent young family a similar problem as for women in single-parent families. Their situation is a little bit easier since they have an economically active person in their household who can work fully and earn family income or with whom they can share family responsibilities and worries. This certainty makes young mothers from two-parent families slightly more free in the labour market. However, not by a wide margin, also two fifths of these women are afraid that they would be seeking a new job longer than half a year, while less than one tenth (7 %) are of the opinion that that if they lose their job they will have no chance to get a new opportunity.

„Which of the two following statements expresses better your plans for the future?”



- **Hodně pracovat a zajistit si tak dostatek peněz na kvalitní služby pro rodinu, děti, volný čas apod.**
- **Pracovat uváženě a mít dostatek času věnovat se sobě, svým dětem apod.**

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

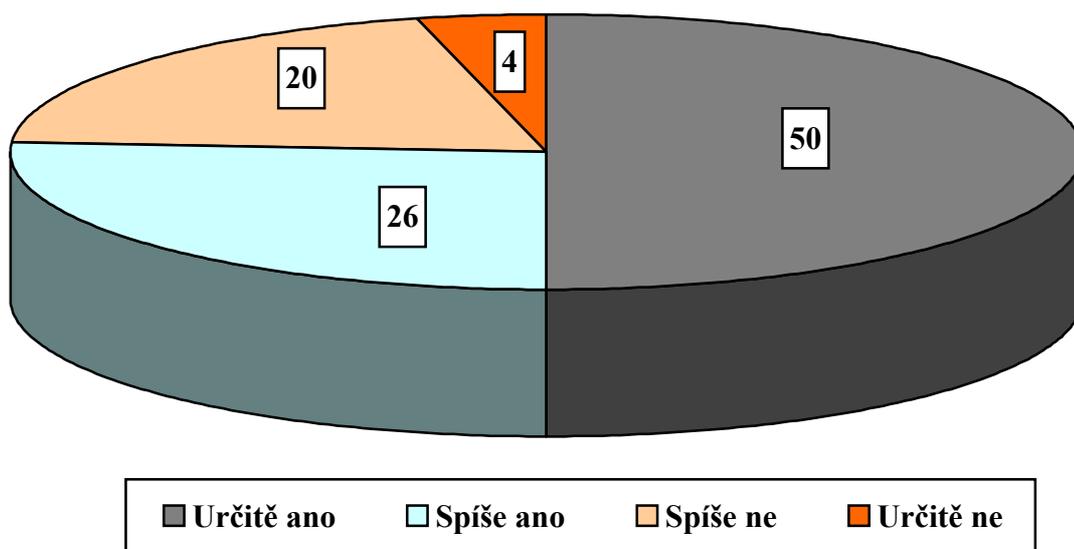
Two-parent young family

Single-parent young family

To work a lot and thereby get enough money for quality services for family, children, leisure time, etc.

To work for reasonable time and have enough time for own interests, children etc.]

„Are you personally afraid of unemployment?”



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Definitely yes

Rather yes

Rather not

Definitely not]

„Should you lose your job now, in your opinion, how long would it take to get a new job?“

	Lone mothers	Women from two-parent young families
Less than a month	6 %	6 %
1 – 3 months	21 %	30 %
3 – 6 months	23 %	21 %
6 months – 1 year	21 %	20 %
More than one year	12 %	16 %
I would only have a negligible/no chance to get a new job	17 %	7 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

Ideal and actual working regime of mothers with pre-school child/children

	Lone mothers		Women from two-parent young families	
	Ideal	Actual	Ideal	Actual
Full-time job	37 %	41 %	32 %	27 %
Part-time job	18 %	9 %	23 %	10 %
Flex-time schedule	18 %	7 %	10 %	3 %
Work at home	15 %	2 %	13 %	4 %
No work	12 %	41 %	22 %	56 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

III. Single-parent family with adolescent children

1. Adaptation to the existing situation

Adaptation to lone motherhood at the central stage of the family life cycle which a family with adolescent children represents seems to be relatively less stressful or experienced with less emotions than adaptation to the same situation in the initial family-building period. Three fifths of women who raise an adolescent child without a partner, feel happy. Even the remaining part of these women, who mostly think that they will manage to overcome soon an unhappy period they are going through right now, do not view their situation as hopeless. A large majority of lone women with adolescent children also view their family as able to resolve the problems quickly (85 %).

The fact that lone parenthood is managed by women at the middle stage of the family life cycle more easily than by mothers from single-parent young families, is proved also by more frequent conviction that a family lives relatively without worries, and without serious problems and worries (among young single-parent families 46 %, among single-parent families with adolescent children 61 %). The situation for lone mothers with adolescent children is easier than for young mothers, however, it appears to be significantly worse, compared to a two-parent family with adolescent children.

„You view your current life period as:“

	Single-parent family with adolescent children	Two-parent family with adolescent children
Very happy	3 %	5 %
Quite happy	57 %	75 %
Rather unhappy, but I believe that I will resolve everything soon	33 %	18 %
Very unhappy and I do not believe to resolve the problems in the foreseeable future	7 %	2 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

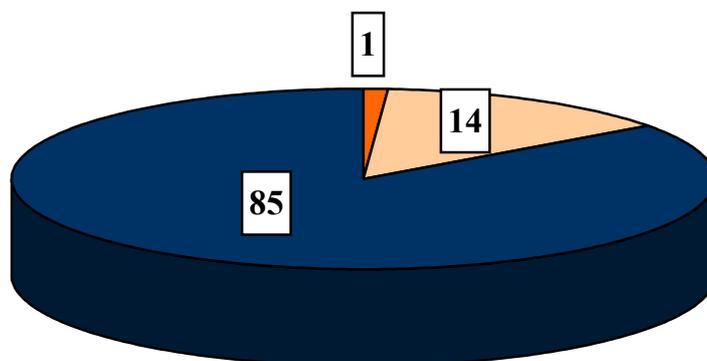
„If you take into account all circumstances of the life of your family, can you say that you are a family which lives without any serious problems and worries?“

	Single-parent family with adolescent children	Two-parent family with adolescent children
Definitely yes	5 %	12 %
Rather yes	56 %	67 %
Rather not	31 %	13 %
Definitely not	8 %	4 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

Lone mothers at the central stage of family life cycle also feel to be at a disadvantage to two-parent families. Basically, they reflect their position, in comparison with two-parent families, as disadvantageous equally frequently as young lone mothers (from the viewpoint of the material security 87%, in non-material terms 78%, women from single-parent young families 91 % and 78 %, respectively). Their more frequently declared life with less worries, however, means that they are able to come to terms with this situation more easily. This conciliatory attitude can be partly proved by the fact that a vast majority of women who raise adolescent children alone without a man, do not intend to change anything in their position and do not intend to get married in the future (85 %, among young single-parent families, 60 %). Most frequently, this is due to the fact that they have already got accustomed to their life (44 %, young lone mothers 32 %) or because they do not believe that they would be happier in marriage (22 %, young lone mothers 25 %).

„Do you intend to get married soon (approximately within 5 years)?“ (%)



■ **Ano, s otcem dítěte/děti**
 ■ **Ano, s jiným mužem**
 ■ **Ne, o sňatku neuvažuji**

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Yes, with the child's/children's father Yes, with another man No, I do not intend to get married]

„If you do not intend to get married, what is your main reason for not doing so?“

Answers to a free question

Habit	45 %
Disappointment at and distrust of marriage, preferred consensual relationship	22 %
Does not have an appropriate and reliable partner	15 %
Worries about children's relationship with a new partner	6 %
Another reason	4 %
No reason, does not know	8 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

2. Hierarchy of family life problems

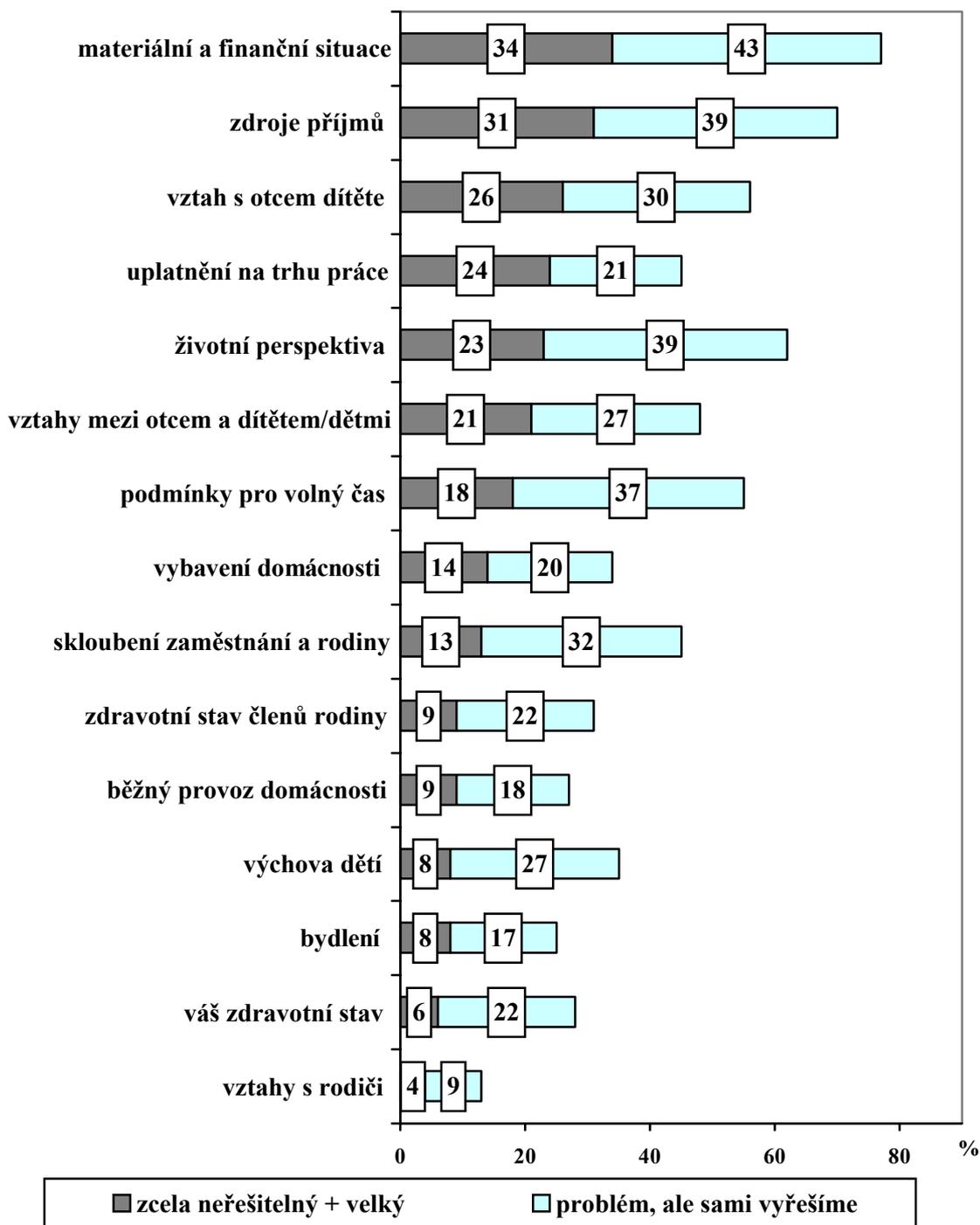
Lone mothers with adolescent children view most areas of their life (except for health) more or less more favourably than single-parent young families. However, the main areas of problems remain even at this stage of the family life cycle the same, as in families with pre-school children – problems surrounding the financing of family needs, relationships with the child's father, problems related to the job-seeking process and overall life prospects. It is typical that many of these worst assessed areas of life also belong to those areas whose improvement, in comparison with the early family stage, is viewed as the least marked. This applies in particular to the material and financial situation. The number of families, in which relationships with the child's father are complicated, has not been significantly reduced, but the problem does not seem to be now so often insurmountable (*„it is a problem, but I believe to resolve it soon“*).

A turn for the better, in comparison with young single-parent families, is associated in particular with the less time consuming nature of care of adolescent children and it concerns both leisure time conditions and conditions for combining family and career responsibilities. In this context, it is worthy of attention that finding a job still remains to be one of the most thorny problems for lone mothers (*„for me, it is a completely insoluble problem or a problem I can hardly manage“*).

Higher degree of an attitude of resignation towards their future life, in comparison with young single-parent families, appears to be a change for the worse at this middle stage of a single-parent family. Lone mothers with adolescent children view further development of individual areas of their life as less promising and less frequently await any improvement. In a way, this again confirms that the lower level of dissatisfaction of middle-aged lone mothers stems also from their higher ability to accept things as they are. This is an attitude which is, no doubt, typical of middle-aged people rather than the youth and we may say that there is nothing surprising about it. However, the question is, to what extent this conciliatory attitude affects general life attitudes and in particular the efforts to get their lifestyle as close as possible to the way of life in two-parent families.

The thing is that the comparison between two-parent and single-parent families at the middle stage of the family life cycle shows the situation of lone mothers with adolescent children in a completely different way than the comparison with a young single-parent family. In this case, the rule applies which has been already mentioned with respect to young families – lone mothers, compared to two-parent families, are faced with more serious difficulties in almost all areas of life. This is especially obvious in the material and financial situation, which is viewed as a big burden by twice as much share of lone women with adolescent children as parents living in a two-parent family. For married couple families with adolescent children, material security of a household poses basically the same problem as leisure time conditions, combining family and career responsibilities or general life prospects. For lone mothers, this is a dominant problem.

"Jak velký problém pro Vás v současné době představují:"
 (podíl "zcela neřešitelný problém"+"velký problém a pochybuji, že na jeho řešení samo stačíme" / "je to problém, ale věřím, že jej brzy vyřešíme")



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"How big a problem for you currently are the following issues:"

(the share of answers "completely insoluble problem" + "big problem and I doubt we will be able resolve it ourselves"/ "it is a problem, but I believe that we will resolve it soon:)

material and financial situation

sources of income

relationship with the child's father

participation in the labour market

life prospects

relationships between father and child/children

conditions for leisure time

availability of household equipment

combining career and family responsibilities

health condition of family members

ordinary functioning of household

upbringing of children

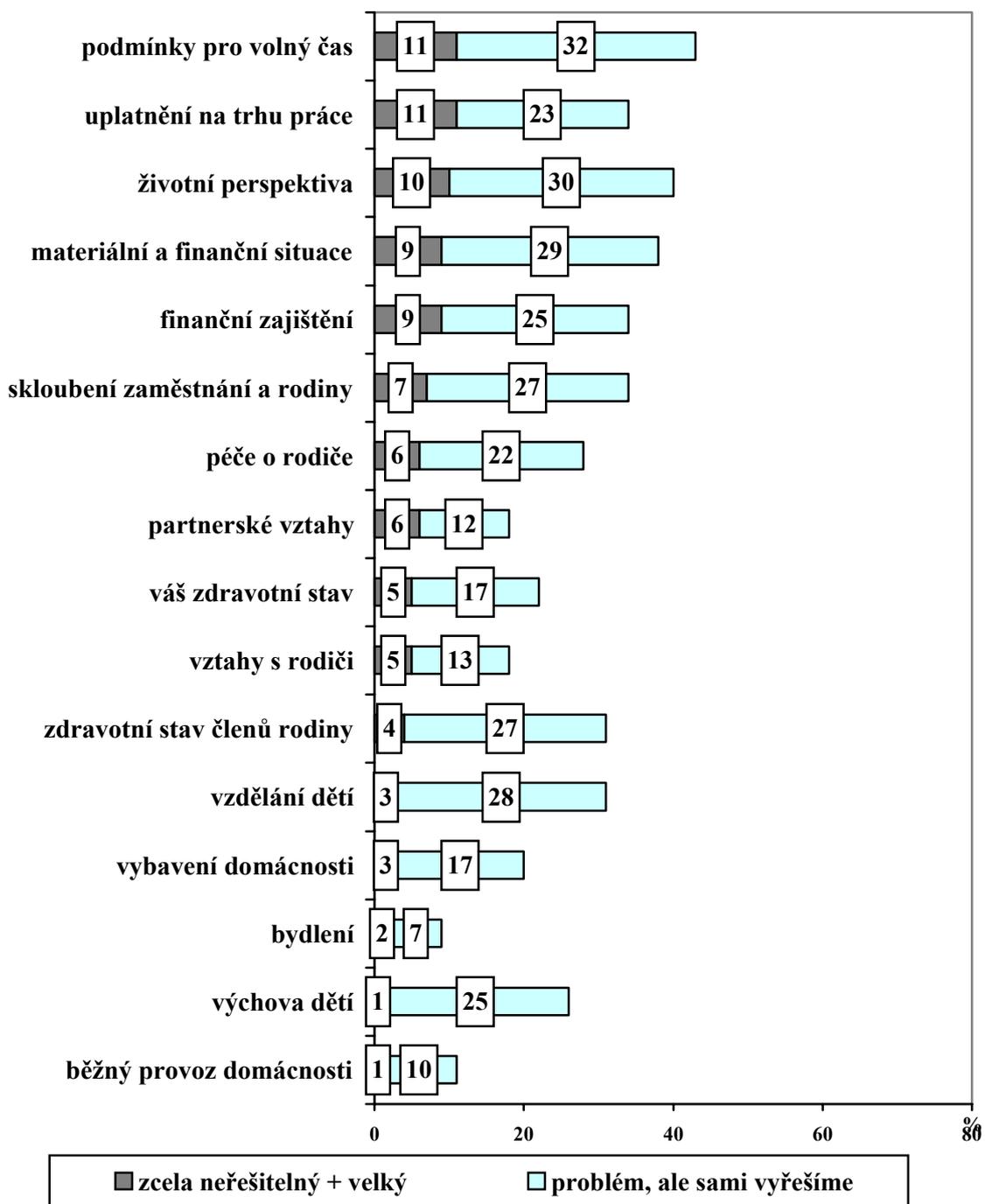
housing

your health condition

relationships with parents

completely insoluble+big, - it is a problem, but we will resolve it ourselves

"Jak velký problém pro Vás v současné době představují:"
 (podíl "zcela neřešitelný problém"+"velký problém a pochybuji, že na jeho řešení samo stačíme" / "je to problém, ale věřím, že jej brzy vyřešíme")



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"How big a problem for you currently are the following issues:"

(the share of answers "completely insoluble problem" + "big problem and I doubt we will be able resolve it ourselves"/ "it is a problem, but I believe that we will resolve it soon:)

conditions for leisure time

participation in the labour market

life prospects

material and financial situation

financial security

combining career and family responsibilities

care of parents

relationships between partners

your health condition

relationships with parents

health condition of family members

child education

availability of household equipment

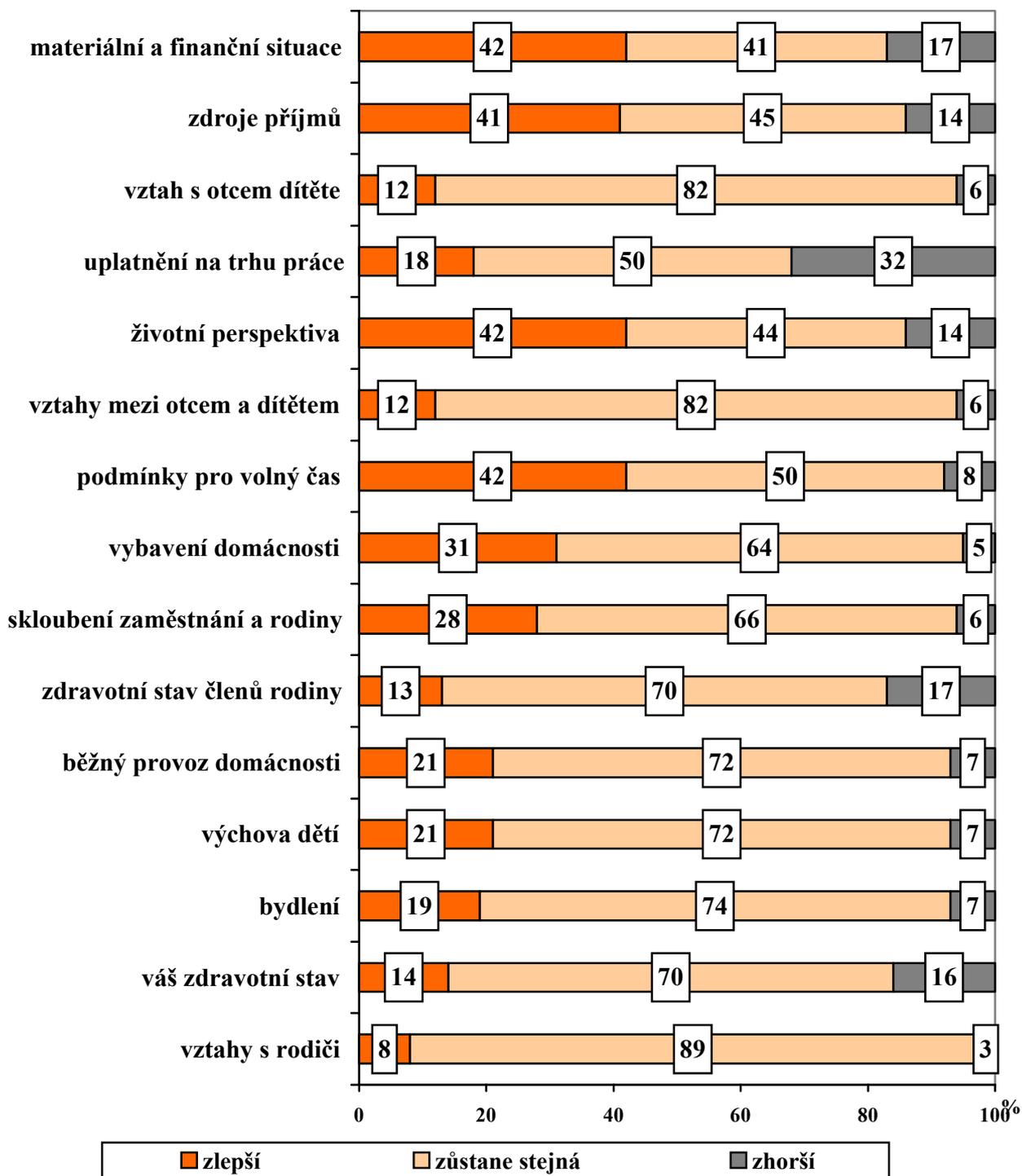
housing

upbringing of children

ordinary functioning of household

completely insoluble+big, - it is a problem, but we will resolve it ourselves]

"Očekáváte, že se v následujících oblastech situace pro Vaši rodinu do budoucna (přibližně do 5 let)..."



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Do you expect that the situation for your family with respect to the areas given below in the future (approximately within 5 years)..."

material and financial situation

sources of income

relationship with the child's father

participation in the labour market

life prospects

relationships between father and child

conditions for leisure time

availability of household equipment

combining career and family responsibilities

health condition of family members

ordinary functioning of household

upbringing of children

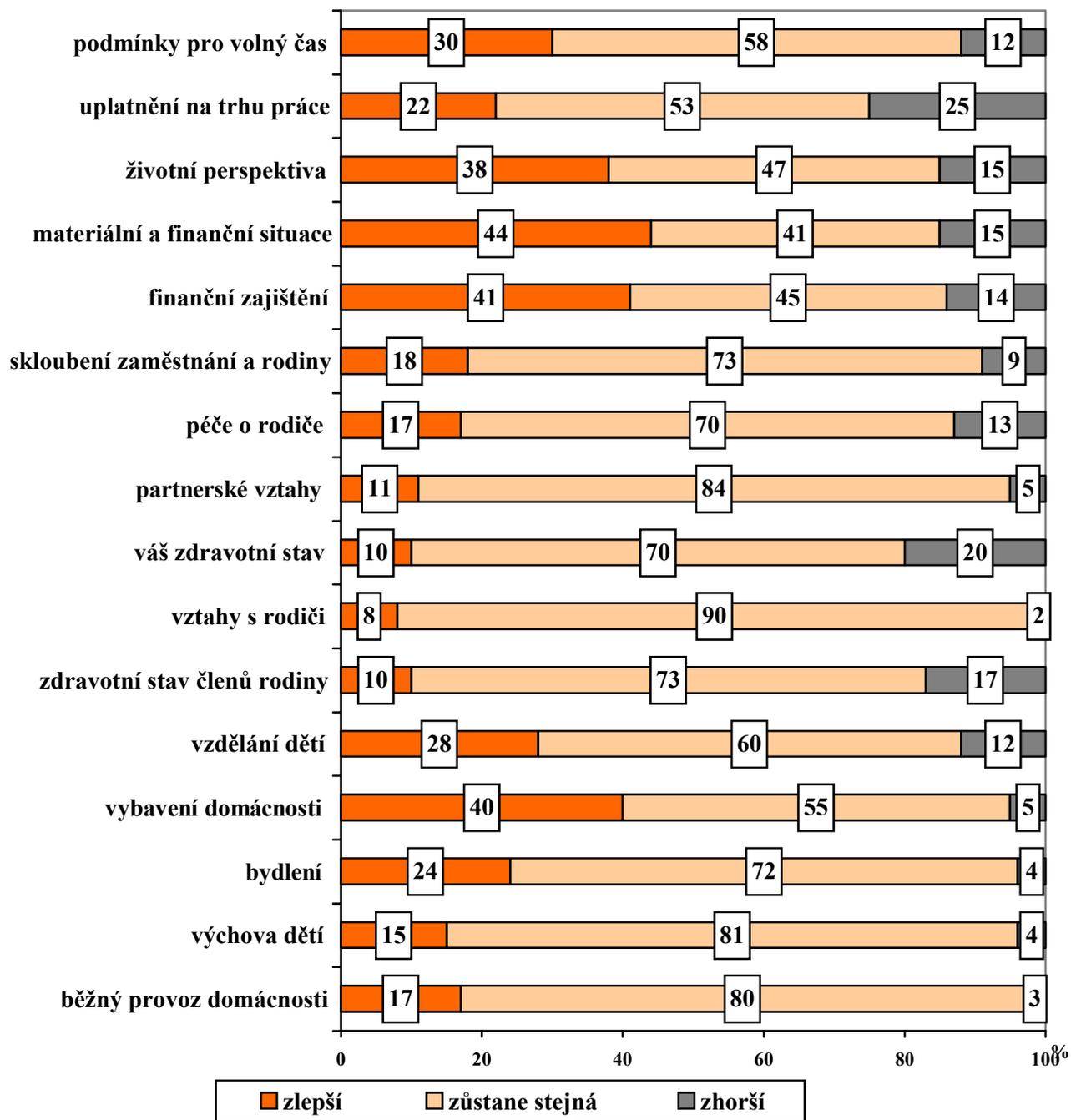
housing

your health condition

relationships with parents

will improve - will remain the same – will deteriorate]

"Očekáváte, že se v následujících oblastech situace pro Vaši rodinu do budoucna (přibližně do 5 let)..."



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Do you expect that the situation for your family with respect to the areas given below in the future (approximately within 5 years)..."

conditions for leisure time
participation in the labour market
life prospects
material and financial situation
financial security
combining career and family responsibilities
care of parents
relationships between partners
your health condition
relationships with parents
health condition of family members
child education
availability of household equipment
housing
upbringing of children
ordinary functioning of household

will improve - will remain the same – will deteriorate]

3. Upbringing of children

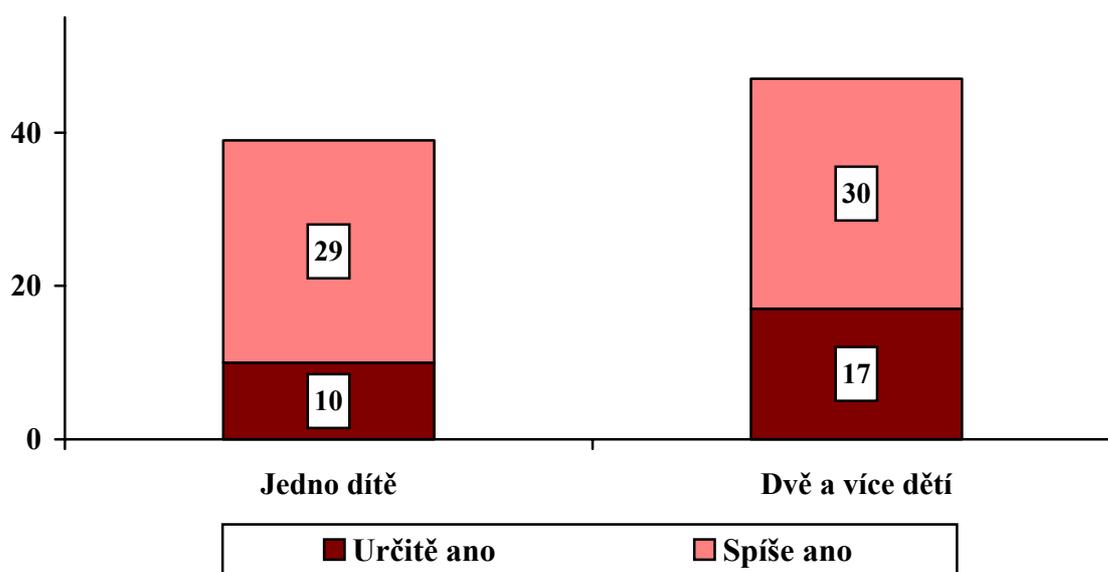
Single-parent families with adolescent children included in the survey were, in terms of the number of children, as big as young single-parent families (53 % two children, 44 % one child, 3 % three or more children). Obviously, their age structure was much more varied. In more than one third of these families at least one adult child over 18 lived. It has transpired that the upbringing of children is viewed within the given structure of a single-parent family as less problematic than in a single-parent family with pre-school children.

„The upbringing of children in my family causes big worries to us and sometimes I /we have considerable difficulties with it“.

	Single-parent family with adolescent children	Single-parent young family
Definitely yes	14 %	20 %
Rather yes	30 %	39 %
Rather not	44 %	31 %
Definitely not	12 %	10 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

„The upbringing of children in my family causes big worries to us and sometimes I have/we have considerable difficulties with it“.
(the percentage share of answers „definitely yes and rather yes“ by the number of children)



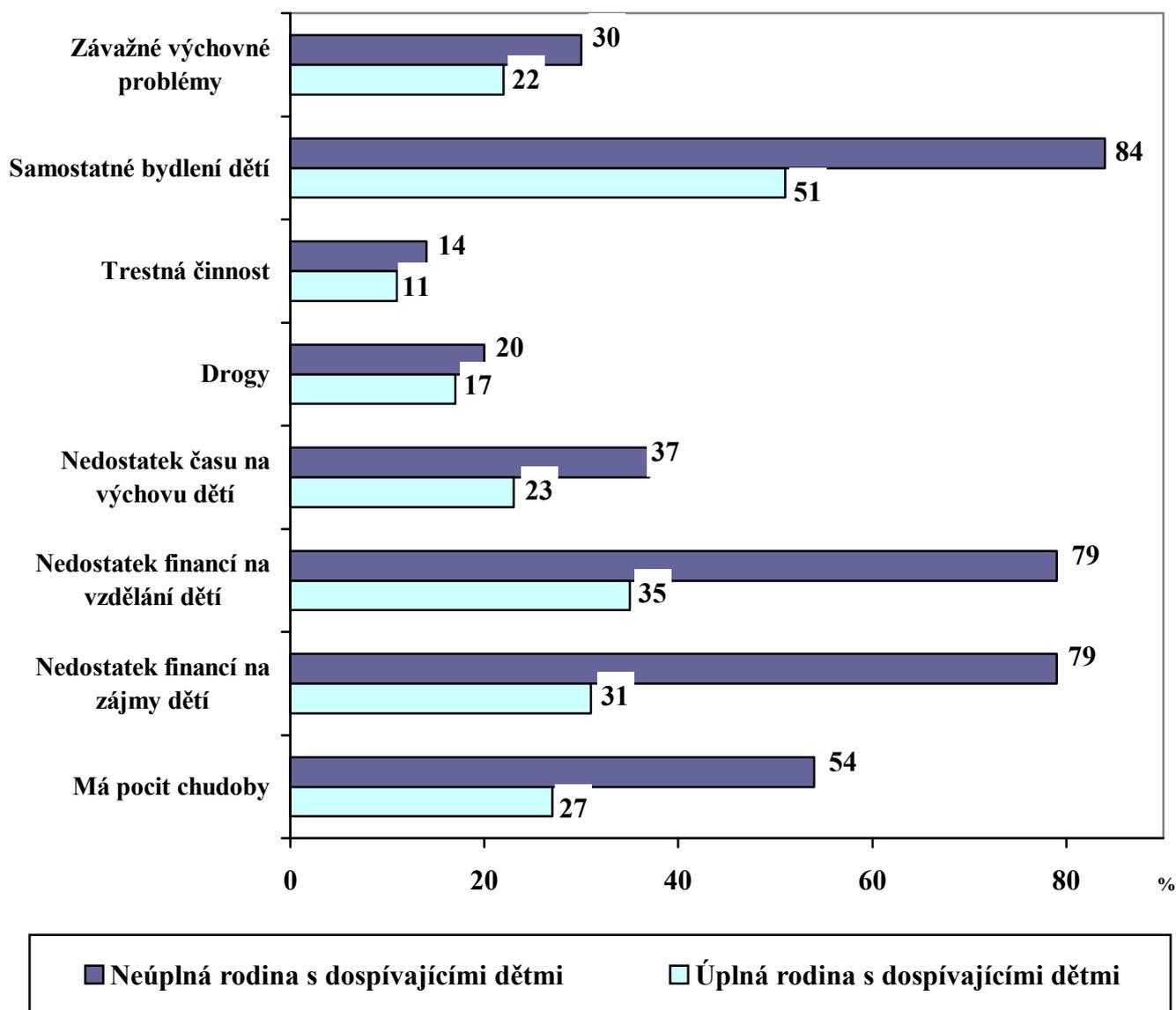
Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

One child	Two and more children
Definitely yes	Rather yes]

The care of children at this stage of the family life cycle has certain specific features and causes worries which young families do not encounter. This concerns not only problems associated with adolescence, but also, in particular, securing the children's future. Here, again it becomes obvious that single-parent families are more vulnerable, in particular in those areas which impose a serious burden even on two-parent families (arranging for children's standalone housing) or which are associated with higher financial expenditure (education, leisure time of children).

"Do jaké míry je pravděpodobné, že by ve Vaší rodině nastaly:"
podíl odpovědí "velmi a dost pravděpodobné" (%)



[Translation of the text in the above graph:

**"To what extent is it likely that
the following circumstances might occur in your family:"
the share of answers "very and fairly likely" (%)**

- Serious upbringing problems
- Standalone housing of children
- Crime
- Drugs
- Insufficient time for upbringing of children
- Insufficient funds for child education
- Insufficient funds for child interests
- Has a feeling of poverty

Single-parent family with adolescent children Two-parent family with adolescent children]

4. Atmosphere in a family

Also in single-parent families with adolescent children the assistance of the child's father with the care of children and household is very rare (stated by 7 % of lone mothers only). However, in contrast with young single-parent families, relationships with the child's father are less tense at this stage. Contacts between children and their father or the issue of alimony stir less arguments. There is also lower number of lone mothers who report a negative relationship between the father and children (32 %, among single-parent young families almost three fifths).

Opinions on the quality of the relationship with the child's father */

	I have many disagreements and problems with the father of my child/ my children concerning alimony	I have many disagreements and problems with the father of my child/ my children concerning his contact with children
--	---	---

	Single-parent family with adolescent children	Single-parent young family	Single-parent family with adolescent children	Single-parent young family
Definitely yes	12 %	20 %	4 %	10 %
Rather yes	18 %	21 %	12 %	25 %
Rather not	30%	34 %	38 %	30 %
Definitely not	18 %	15 %	22 %	23 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

**/ respondents who have not answered the question were added to the 100 % figure*

Relationships with grandparents are slightly less important for the atmosphere of families with adolescent children. This was reflected in lower frequency of mutual contacts and at the same time also less frequent feeling that grandparents contribute to positive relationships in a family (single-parent family with adolescent children 71 %, young single-parent family 80 %). Also living together with grandparents is less usual than among young single-parent families (12 %, among single-parent young families 28 %). Despite these differences, relationships with grandparents remain to be obviously a positive feature of the overall atmosphere in a family even in middle-aged families. In the case of lone mothers with adolescent children then, this is an element whose quality is incomparably better than relationships with the child's father.

Frequency of contacts with the child's father and with parents

	Child's father	Parents /one of them
Several times a week	8 %	46 %
Once a week or up to once in two weeks	18 %	34 %
Approximately once a month	17 %	12 %
Several times a year	27 %	5 %
About once a year	5 %	2 %
Less frequently or not at all	25 %	1 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

Frequency of contacts with parents in a two-parent family with adolescent children

	Respondent's parents	Partner's parents
Several times a week	36 %	23 %
Once a week or up to 14 days	33 %	36 %
Approximately once a month	15 %	15 %
Several times a year	13 %	19 %
About once a year	2 %	4 %
Less frequently or not at all	1 %	3 %

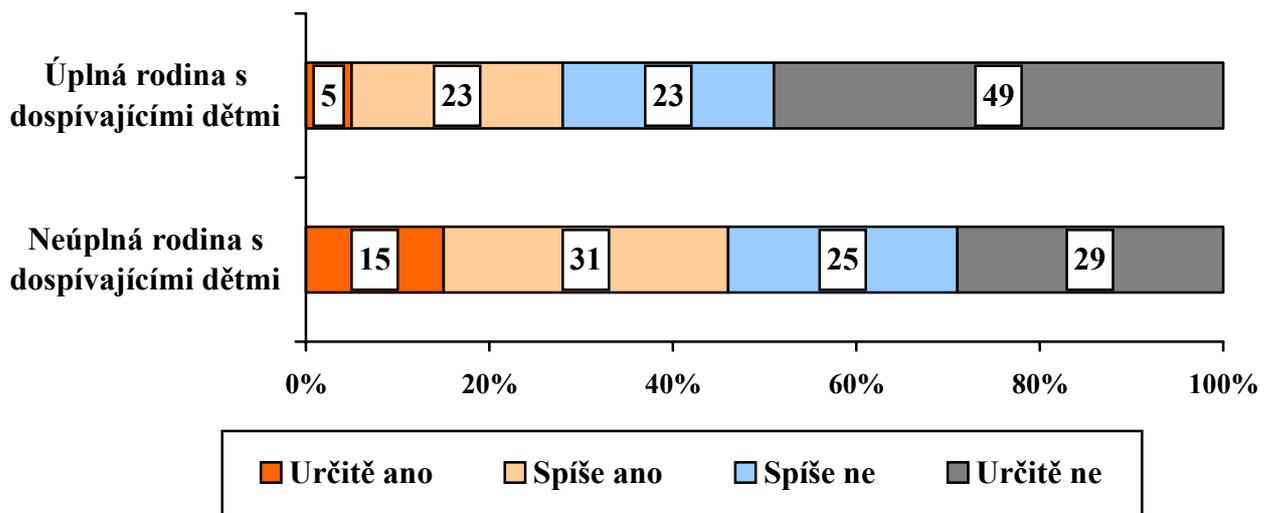
Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Two-parent family with adolescent children

5. Social self-sufficiency

Regardless of the fact that at the middle stage of the family life cycle living together with parents is less usual and mutual contacts are less frequent, too, also the family with adolescent children effectively performs the function of a family of three generations, at least in terms of mutual assistance and support. The growing need to help parents is a specific feature of this type of family which is otherwise rather exceptional among young families. A family with adolescent children is an example of a particular type of a family in which assistance provided by parents and provided to

parents, is basically balanced and the family within the intergenerational assistance system gives approximately the same level of assistance as it takes. However, this is true only on condition that this is a two-parent family. Among lone mothers with adolescent children, the situation is similar to that of a single-parent young family – their household takes more from the intergenerational solidarity system than it gives. Only the volume of assistance and support obtained is lower than in single-parent families.

„Children help me/us with the care of children and household“



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Two-parent family with adolescent children

Single-parent family with adolescent children

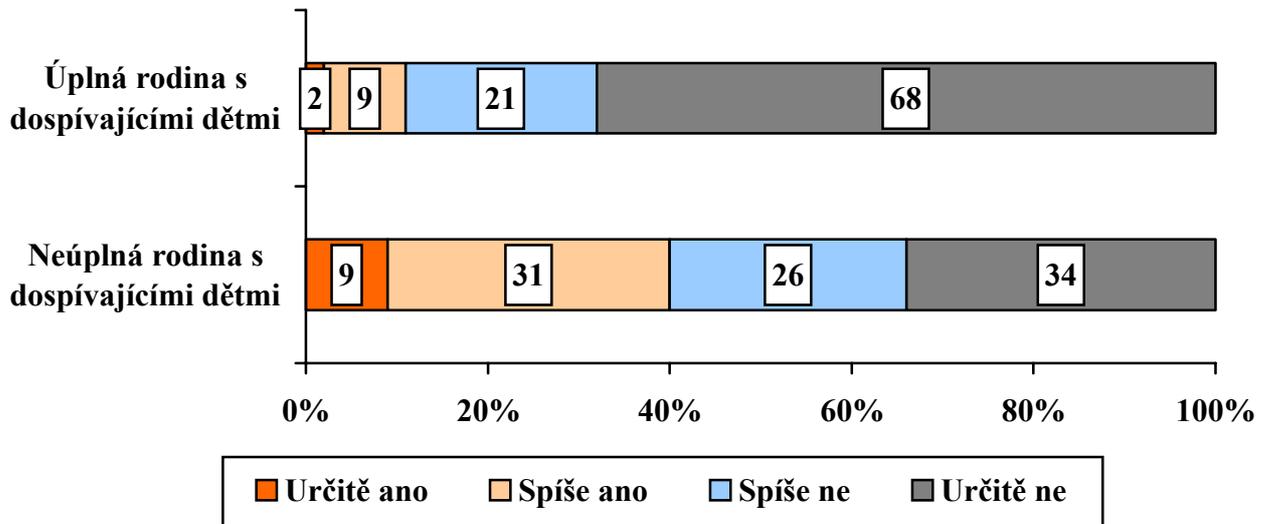
Definitely yes

Rather yes

Rather not

Definitely not]

„Parents provide me/us with regular financial and material support“



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

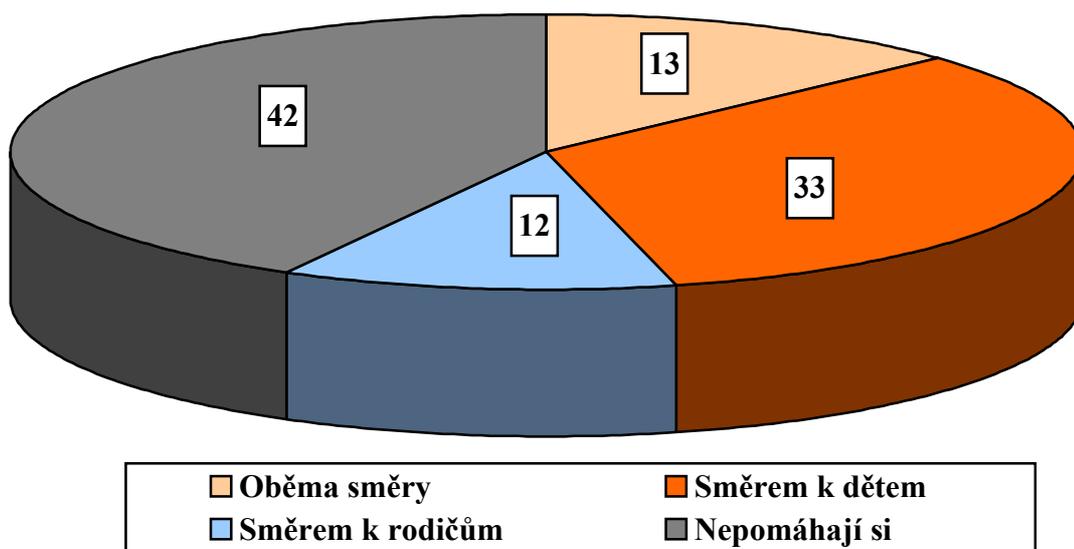
[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Two-parent family with adolescent children

Single-parent family with adolescent children

Definitely yes Rather yes Rather not Definitely not]

Direction of intergenerational assistance in the care of children and household among single-parent families with adolescent children

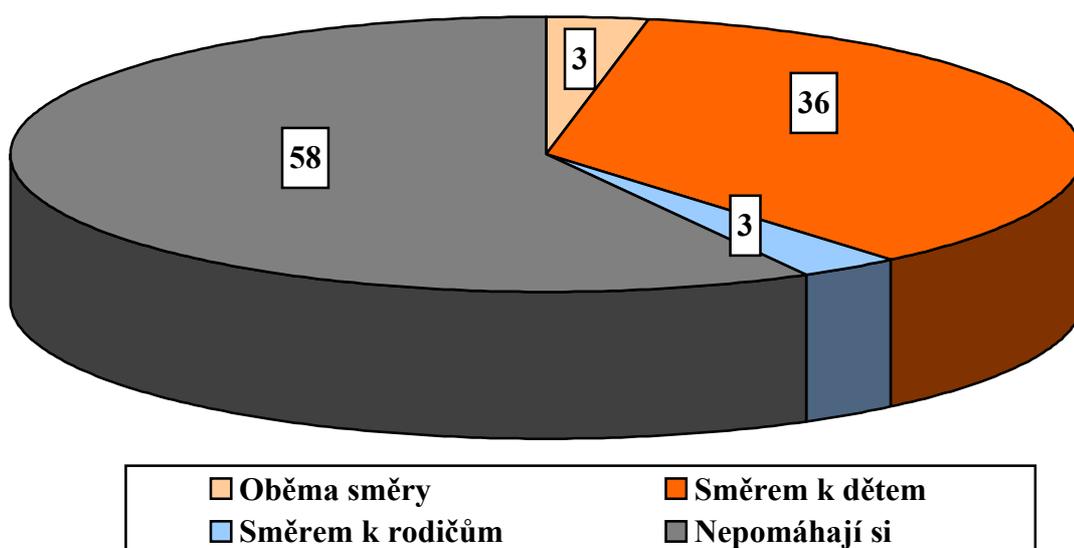


The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

In both directions Towards children
 Towards parents Do not help each other]

Direction of intergenerational financial assistance among single-parent families with adolescent children



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

In both directions	Towards children
Towards parents	Do not help each other]

Answers to the question examining to what extent a family is able to resolve critical situations on its own and to what extent it is dependent on assistance of other parties, show that middle-aged families consider themselves to be in many respects more self-sufficient than families at the early stage of the family life cycle. Again, however, this applies in particular to married couple families.

Independence of single-parent families is even in this period significantly lower and compared to lone mothers taking care of small pre-school children it has been improved considerably only in those areas of their life that are associated with the higher independence of adolescent children (problems surrounding the care of a sick child, difficulties with securing the functioning of household, etc.).

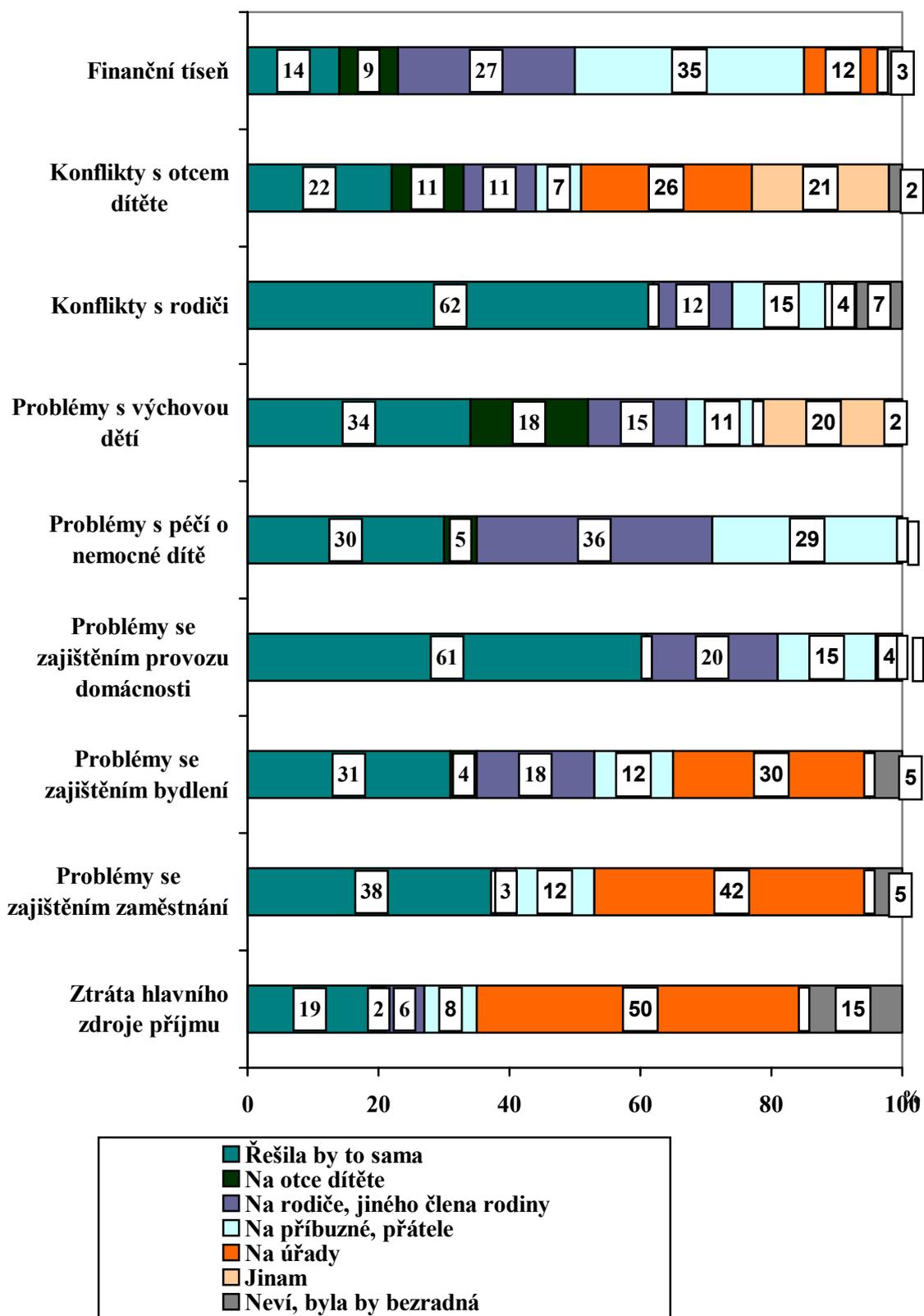
Also lone mothers with adolescent children consider the possibility of relying on the assistance from the children's father in a situation where the family is faced with serious problems to be very limited. Weak support expected from the children's father also concerns upbringing problems which can play an important role at the age of adolescence. Only less than one fifth of lone mothers stated that in the case of serious upbringing problems they would seek assistance from the children's father (among married couple families with adolescent children, upbringing problems would be addressed together with a partner by 87 % of people). Problems with the upbringing of children constitute an area where lone mothers would seek assistance from the children's father most frequently in general, cooperation in other spheres of life is absolutely minimum or is out of the question.

Despite the fact that relationships with the child's father in single-parent families with adolescent children are a little bit less tense than in young single-parent families, they

constitute even at this stage of the family life cycle a particular sphere of life, in which possible conflicts and problems pose for a vast majority of lone mothers a situation they are unable to resolve. This is even more stressful because in this case they cannot rely too much on the help from their closest circle of parents, relatives and friends.

A relatively higher level of self-sufficiency of lone mothers with adolescent children, compared to mothers who take care of small pre-school children alone, manifests itself in particular in higher independence of these mothers of their parents, relatives and friends. A tendency to rely on the assistance from the authorities is among lone mothers at this stage of the family life cycle basically the same, as among single-parent young families.

"Na koho byste se obrátila s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"



The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Would resolve it herself

The child's father

Parents, another family member

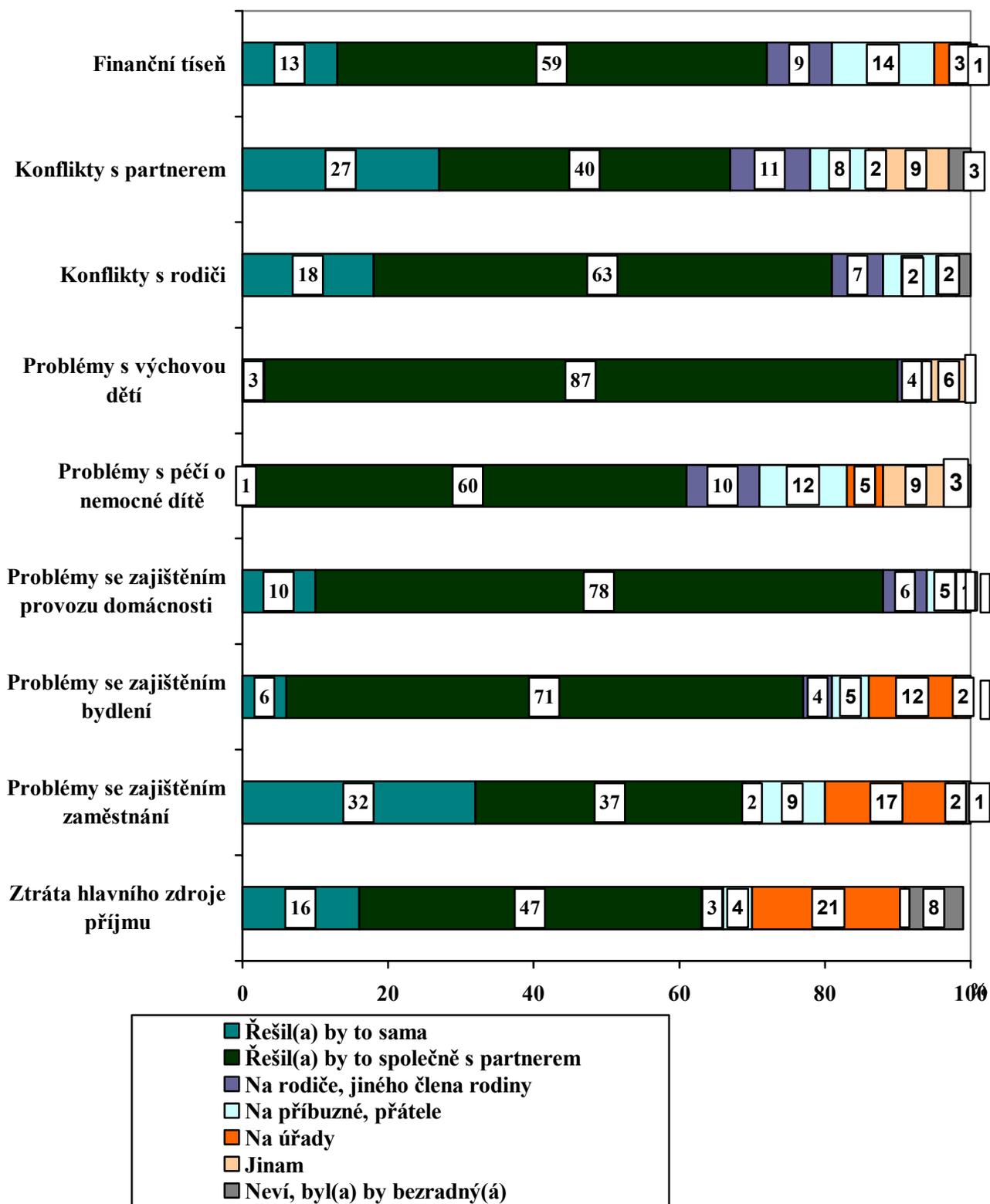
Relatives, friends

Authorities

Other parties

Does not know, would be helpless]

"Na koho byste se obrátil(a) s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"



[*Translation of the text in the above graph:*

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

Financial distress

Conflicts with a partner

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing

Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Would resolve it herself/himself

Would resolve it together with a partner

Parents, another family member

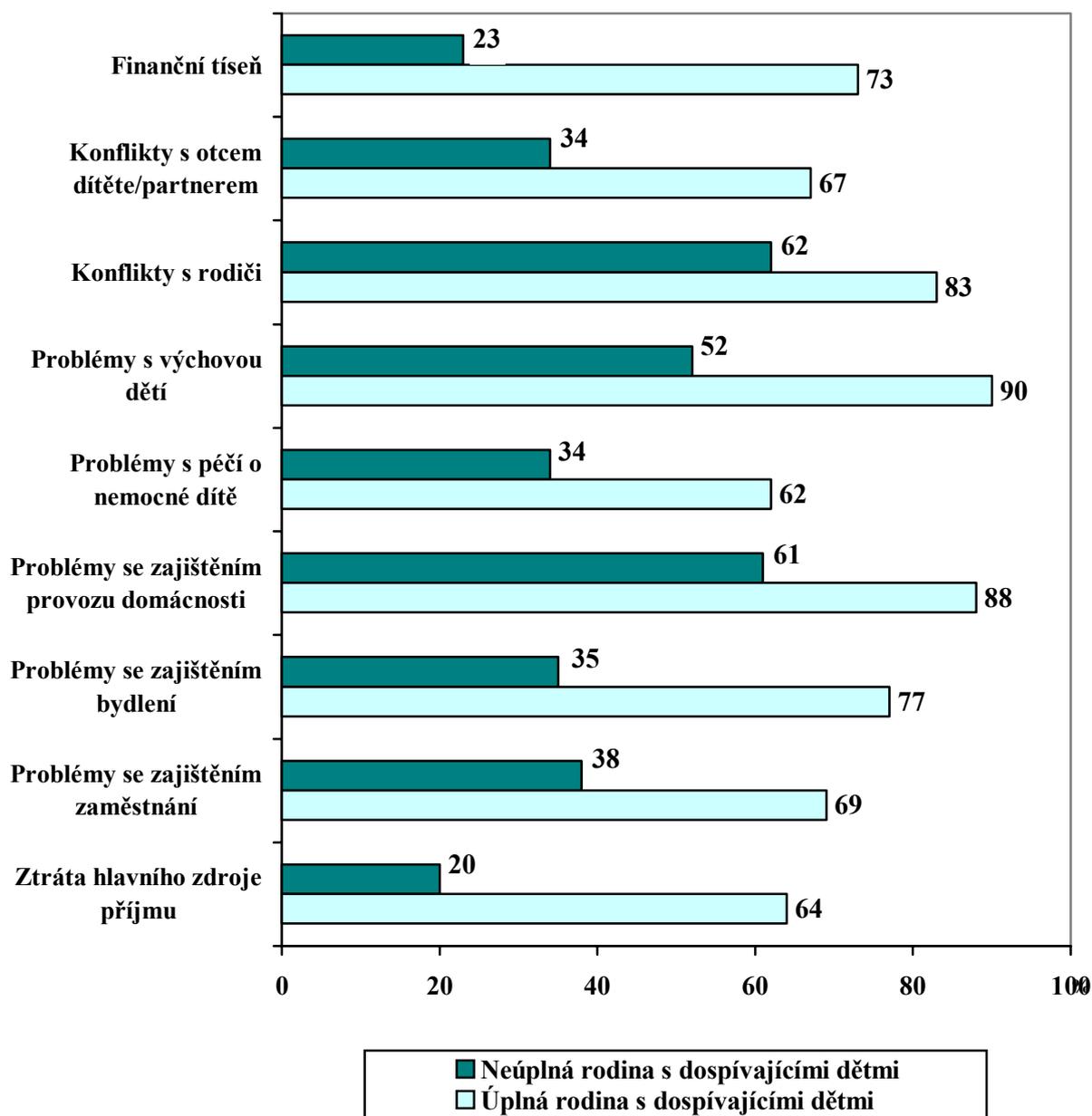
Relatives, friends

Authorities

Other parties

Does not know, would be helpless]

***"Na koho byste se obrátil/a s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"
podíl odpovědí "řešil/a bych to sám/a nebo společně s otcem dítěte/partnerem (%)***



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

the share of answers "would resolve it myself or together with the child's father/partner (%)

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father/partner

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing

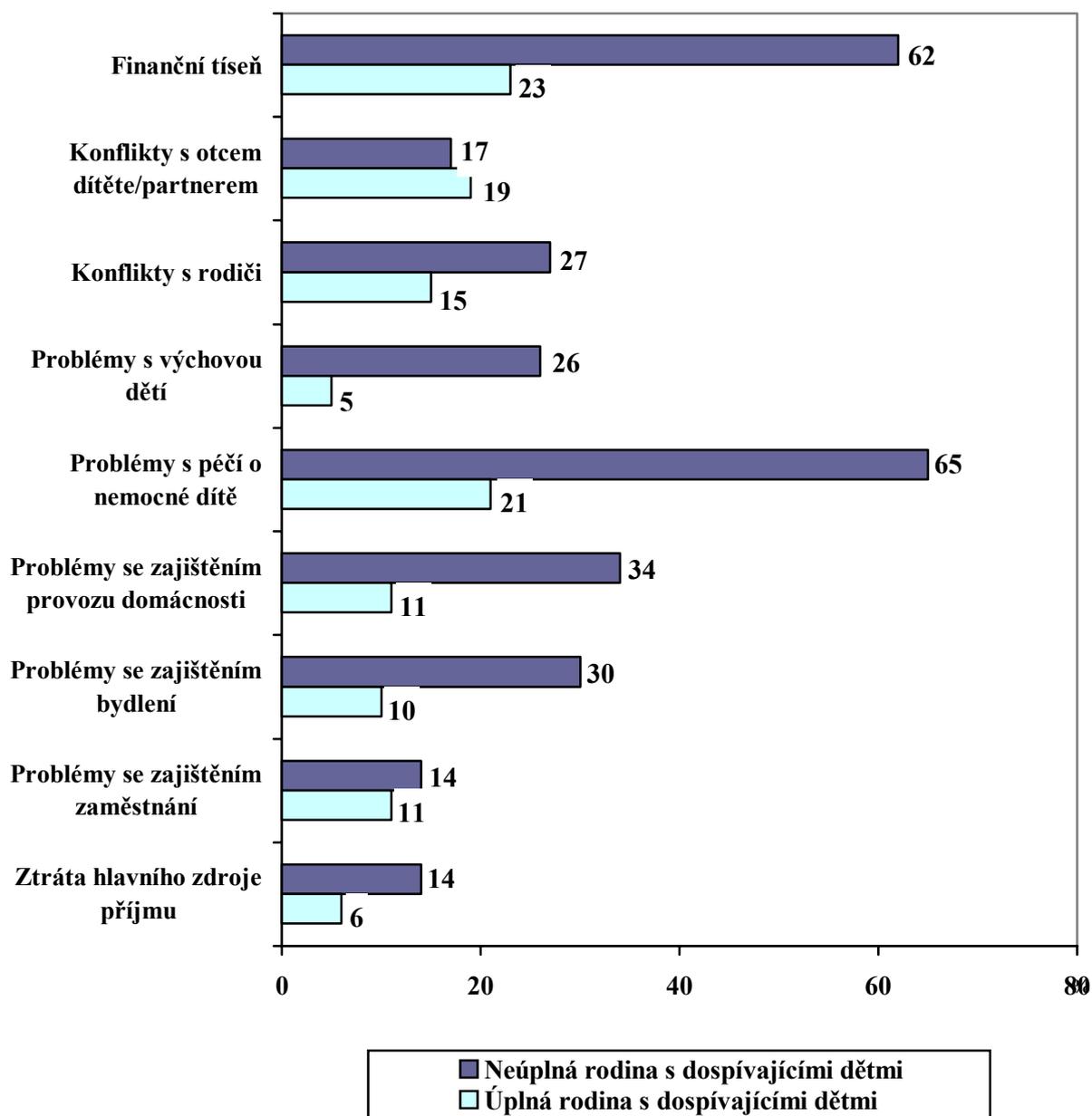
Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Single-parent family with adolescent children

Two-parent family with adolescent children]

**"Na koho byste se obrátil/a s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"
podíl odpovědí "obrátil/a bych se o pomoc na rodiče, příbuzné a přátele" (%)**



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent young family and Two-parent young family

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

the share of answers "would ask for help parents, relatives and friends (%)

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father/partner

Conflicts with parents

Problems with the upbringing of children

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing

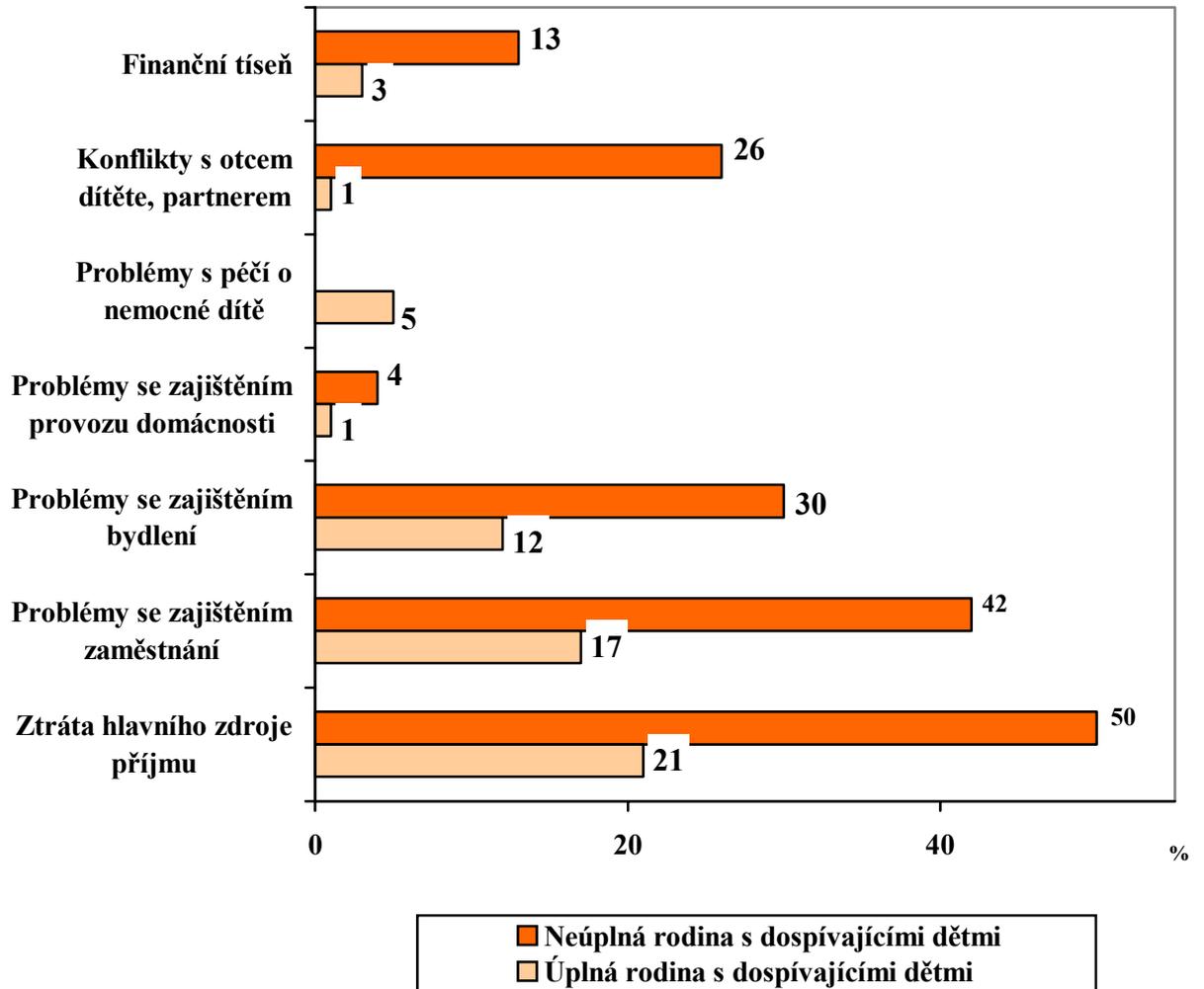
Problems with getting a job

Loss of the main source of income

Single-parent family with adolescent children

Two-parent family with adolescent children]

"Na koho byste se obrátil/a s žádostí o pomoc, pokud by ve Vaší rodině nastaly následující situace?"
podíl odpovědí "obrátil/a bych se o pomoc na úřady (%)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

"Whom would you ask for help, if the following situations occur in your family?"

the share of answers "would ask for help the authorities (%)

Financial distress

Conflicts with the child's father, partner

Problems with the care of a sick child

Problems with securing the functioning of household

Problems with securing housing
Problems with getting a job
Loss of the main source of income

Single-parent family with adolescent children
Two-parent family with adolescent children]

6. Material and income situation

Also lone mothers with adolescent children state in their answers poor material and financial conditions as a problem which worries them most, despite the fact that their subjective assessment of individual aspects of the standard of living is slightly more favourable than among women who take care of small pre-school children alone. Although the perception of better material conditions among lone women with adolescent children is not marked, nonetheless it shows again, how ambiguous and complicated the subjective assessment of the material situation really is. For instance, interesting thing is that despite the fact that among lone mothers with adolescent children there is a lower number of those stating that it is difficult for them to make ends meet on their income, compared to single-parent young families, the share of families considering themselves to be poor in both types of single-parent families is the same.

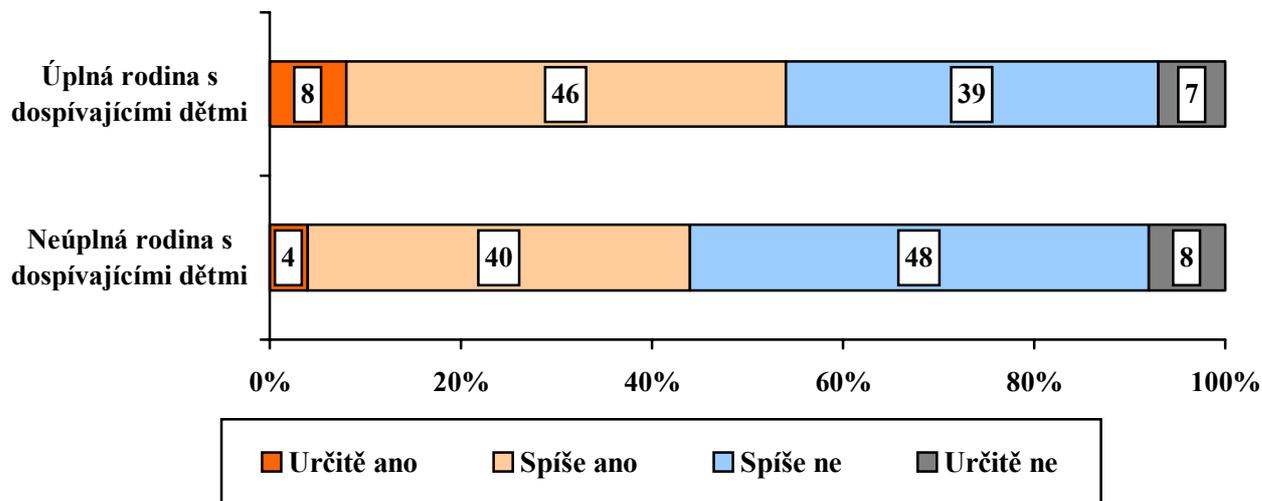
Subjective assessments of individual aspects of the standard of living among lone mothers at this stage of the family life cycle are better only in comparison with young single-parent families, when compared to two-parent families with adolescent children, their parameters are significantly worse in all aspects. It needs to be stressed that material and financial conditions of families at the middle stage of the family life cycle are generally assessed better, not only in comparison with young families, but also in comparison with the average figures for the population in general. It is symptomatic that despite this fact, people living in a two-parent family with adolescent children have the feeling that poor material and financial conditions pose the problem that worries them most.

Similarly, as among young single-parent families, also in households of lone mothers with adolescent children there are relatively small differences when analyzed by the number of children. The sole exceptions are the ability to save, which is significantly lower among families with more children (28 %, whereas among families with one child 41 %) and slightly tighter budget (24 % of families with one child and 17 % of households with more children). However, mother's education is an important aspect affecting subjective assessments. This conclusion does not imply any specific feature of a single-parent family, on the contrary, it corresponds to general trends confirmed also in other surveys, according to which material conditions of families are influenced more markedly by education and the overall socio-professional status than by the demographic composition of households.

In the case of lone mothers with adolescent children, also the comparative viewpoint comparing the standard of living of their households with the average standard of living in the Czech Republic shows only slightly more favourable results compared to single-parent young families. Even in this case, however, there are significant differences between a single-parent family and a two-parent family. While half of the people living in a married couple family are convinced that the standard of living of their own household is better than that of the average of the whole population, among lone mothers this is only less than one fifth (18 %, among young single-parent families 14 %).

There are obviously smaller differences between a single-parent family and a two-parent family as regards expectations of further development of the standard of living. In this context, we may say that the situation in families with adolescent children is similar to that of families at the beginning of the family life cycle – single-parent families view their future in this respect similarly and only slightly less optimistically than two-parent families.

„Do you think that the standard of living of you family will improve in the near future (approximately within 2 years)?



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Two-parent family with adolescent children

Single-parent family with adolescent children

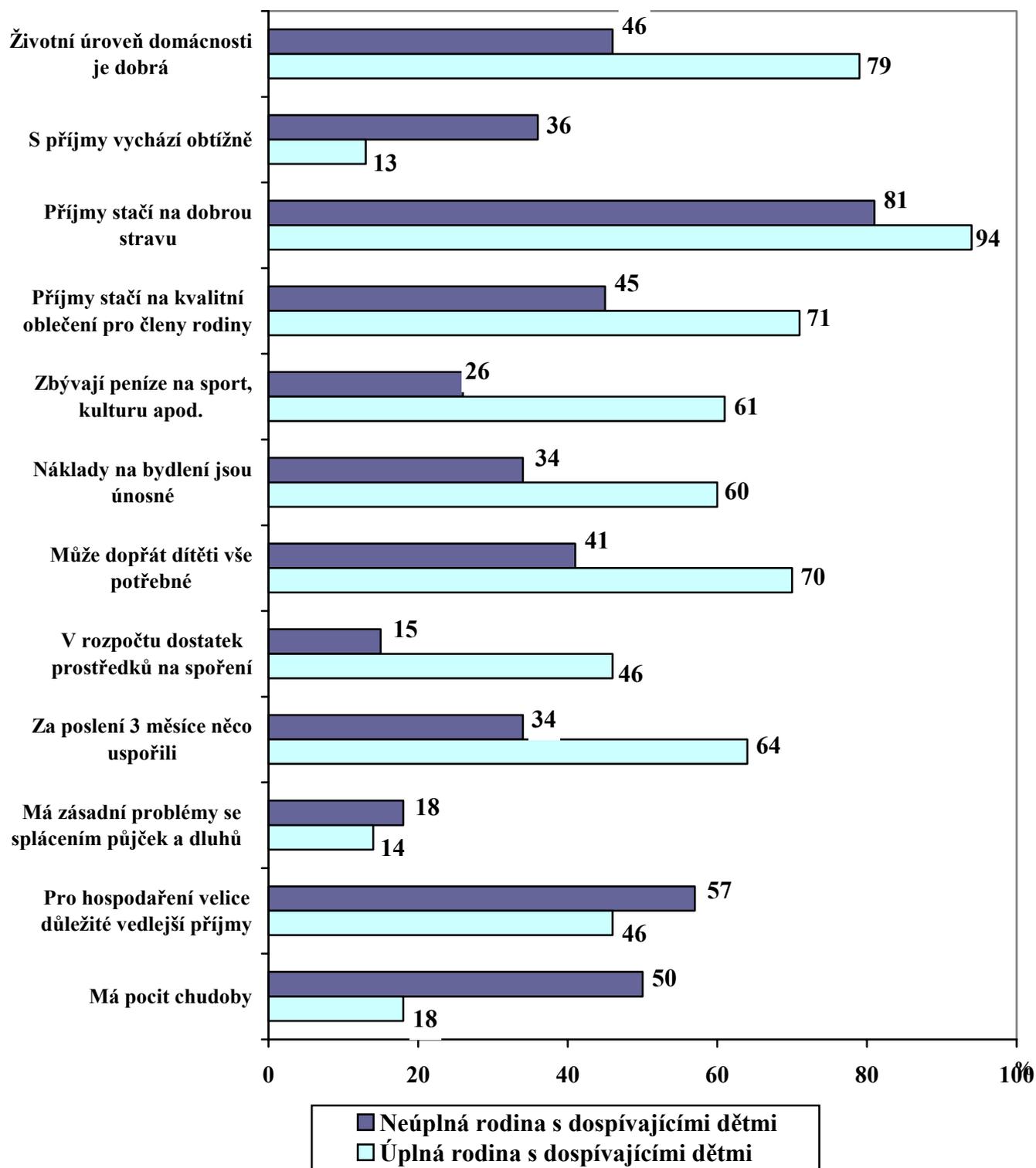
Definitely yes

Rather yes

Rather not

Definitely not]

Subjektivní hodnocení životní úrovně a finanční situace podíl odpovědí ano (%)



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and Two-parent family with adolescent children

[*Translation of the text in the above graph:*

Subjective assessment of the standard of living and financial situation

The share of answers yes (%)

The standard of living of household is good

Difficult to make both ends meet on her/his income

Income is sufficient for quality food

Income is sufficient for quality clothing for family members

There is money left for sports, culture, etc.

Housing costs are affordable

Can give a child everything it needs

The budget is sufficient for saving money

Have saved some money in the course of the past 3 months

Has fundamental problems with the repayment of loans and debts

Extra income very important for housekeeping

Has a feeling of poverty

Single-parent family with adolescent children

Two-parent family with adolescent children]

7. Position in the labour market

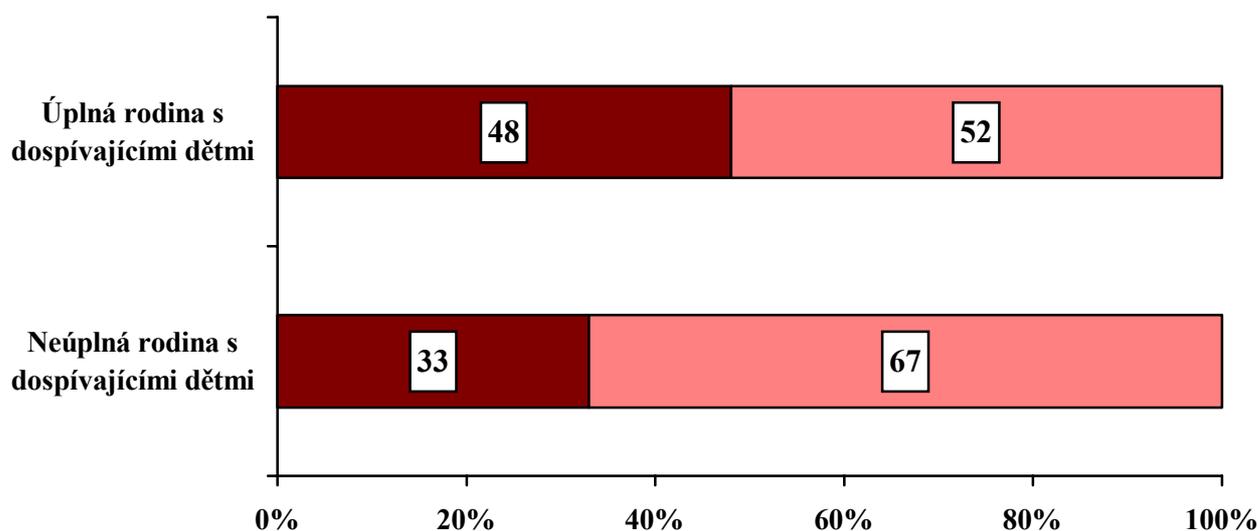
Longer work experience and in particular the lower level of dependence, in terms of the time required for the care of children and household, makes mothers who raise alone adolescent children relatively more free in the labour market. This is an obvious improvement, compared to the situation of young lone women with pre-school children. Despite this fact, for more than two fifths of women from single-parent families, in which adolescent children live, finding a job is a problem, for a quarter of them even a completely insoluble one or the one which can be hardly overcome (in young single-parent families 74 %, including 42 % considering it to be an insoluble problem).

More free position of middle-aged lone mothers in the labour market is only relative, a large proportion of them face the same dilemma as young lone mothers – to maintain their position in the labour market and at the same time have a job which gives them enough time to meet family responsibilities and to take care of children. The absolute majority of lone women with adolescent children (78%) view their chances to find a job also as a long-term problem which is not going to be resolved in the near future, one quarter of them even expect that their situation is going to be worse. The fact that more free position of middle-aged lone mothers is not absolute, compared to lone young mothers, is proved also by their fear of unemployment and worries that if they lose their job, they would be seeking a new one for more than half a year, if they get any at all. These worries among lone women with adolescent children are as frequent as among lone mothers with pre-school children (47 % of women from single-parent families with adolescent children expect that they would seek a new job for more than half a year, while 15 % have doubts whether they would get any job at all).

The higher age of lone mothers with adolescent children is one of the weaknesses that neutralize the advantage arising from lower time requirements for taking care of children and household. The consequences of the higher age are obvious also when comparing individual two-parent families. For people at the middle stage of the family life cycle, the range of jobs available is more limited and also their ability to adapt to a

new job is worse than among people from young families. The incompleteness of a family (i.e. the lone parent status) makes this situation even worse, despite the fact that middle-aged mothers are markedly more willing to work full time than lone mothers with small children.

„Which of the following two statements expresses better your plans for the future?“



- **Hodně pracovat a zajistit si tak dostatek peněz na kvalitní služby pro rodinu, děti, volný čas apod.**
- **Pracovat uváženě a mít dostatek času věnovat se sobě, svým dětem apod.**

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and the Two-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

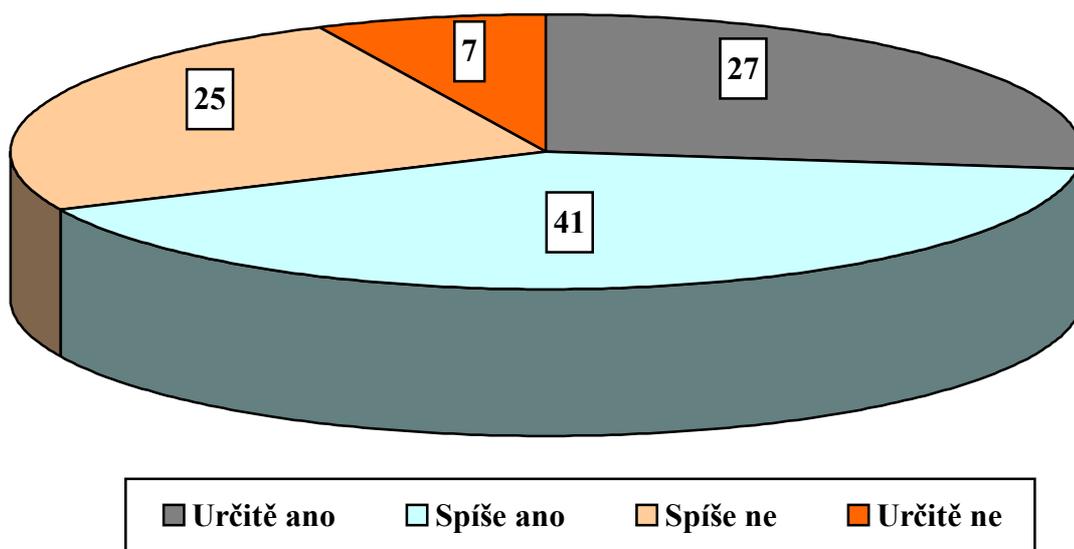
Two-parent family with adolescent children

Single-parent family with adolescent children

To work a lot and thereby get enough money for quality services for family, children, leisure time, etc.

To work for reasonable time and have enough time for own interests, children etc.]

„Are you personally afraid of unemployment?“



Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The survey Single-parent family with adolescent children

[Translation of the text in the above graph:

Definitely yes Rather yes Rather not Definitely not]

„Should you lose your job now, how long would it take, in your opinion, to get a new job?“

	Lone mothers with adolescent children	Women from two-parent families with adolescent children
Less than a month	9 %	20 %
1 – 3 months	24 %	36 %
3 – 6 months	20 %	18 %
6 months – 1 year	22 %	16 %
More than year	10 %	3 %
I would only have a negligible/no chance to get a new job	15 %	7 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002,
The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and the Two-parent family with adolescent children

Ideal and actual working regime of mothers with adolescent children

	Lone mothers		Women from two-parent families	
	Ideal	Actual	Ideal	Actual
Full-time job	75 %	78 %	70 %	78 %
Part-time job	4 %	4 %	11 %	4 %
Work on a flex-time schedule	16 %	8 %	14 %	6 %
Work at home	3 %	xx	1 %	Xx
No work	2 %	10 %	4 %	12 %

Source: The Centre for Empirical Surveys (STEM) 2002, The surveys Single-parent family with adolescent children and the Two-parent family with adolescent children

Summary of the main findings

- The results of surveys of young single-parent families and single-parent families with adolescent children confirm that a single-parent family represents a heterogeneous type of family cohabitation. Its diversity is not influenced by the internal structure only, but depends to a considerable extent also on the stage of the family life cycle.
- The differences arising from a particular stage of the family life cycle manifest themselves in particular in the level of adaptation to a given situation and in general life feelings of women heading these families.
- The comparison of single-parent families at the initial and at the middle stage of the family life cycle shows that mothers at the middle stage of the family life cycle can deal with lone parenthood more easily. In comparison with young lone mothers with pre-school children they view their life period more frequently as happy and more frequently they also have a feeling that their family lives relatively without worries, without any big problems.
- In comparison with a married couple family, subjective assessments of the existing situation in single-parent families are always markedly worse, both in general terms and in the appreciation of individual aspects of family life. In this respect, there are no significant differences between single-parent families at the initial and middle stage of the family life cycle.
- Also the range of problems young families wrestle with most frequently is the same. However, differences between both types of single-parent families consist in the perception of seriousness of these problems. Women at the middle stage of the family life cycle generally perceive them as slightly less thorny.
- A secondary analysis has shown that the difficulties with the financing of family needs and their general economic situation are among the problems that worry them most. However, the comparison between the assessments of the standard of living of lone mothers and two-parent families has also proved that subjective assessments of the material situation reflect more aspects than a mere factual state of finances and the feeling of a poor economic situation need not necessarily always mean significantly substandard conditions.

- Relationships with the children's father pose a problem whose solution is difficult for single-parent families. These relationships are especially complicated at the early stage of the family life cycle.
- Also participation in the labour market is among the most serious problems. A position in the labour market is viewed as a problem hard to solve or even a completely insoluble problem more frequently by mothers with small children. The fear of unemployment and considerable doubts about chances to find a new job if they lose one, however, were expressed also by the large majority of lone women with adolescent children.
- Women from single-parent families view the housing issues and the availability of household equipment as less thorny problem. A positive finding is that in comparison with other areas of life, also the upbringing of children poses a less serious problem. It is worthy of attention that lone mothers at the middle stage of the family life cycle consider the upbringing of children to be less problematic, despite the fact that in connection with adolescence problems of their children it would be reasonable to expect in their case bigger worries in this area than among lone mothers with small pre-school children.
- The absence of a firm partner increases to a considerable extent the dependence of single-parent families on the help of parents, relatives and friends. Also the tendency to seek assistance from the authorities is more frequent among lone mothers than in two-parent families.
- Dependence on parents, relatives, or friends is higher among single-parent families at the initial stage of the family life cycle. Higher self-sufficiency of lone mothers with adolescent children (relative to a young single-parent family, since in comparison with a married couple family with adolescent children, lone mothers are markedly less self-sufficient), arises in particular from the higher ability of these women to overcome the problems they are faced with on their own. Their possibility to rely on the help from the children's father is as limited as in single-parent young families.
- The above overview summarizes only the basic findings about two types of single-parent families. The secondary analysis has shown a number of other links, some of which would be worthy of updating and expanding by the viewpoint of the internal structure of these families. A more extensive survey

reflecting both criteria, the family life cycle and the structure of families, would be beneficial not only for the social policy implemented with respect to families, but also from the viewpoint of the position of women who are heading and, as can be assumed, will remain to head even in the future, single-parent families most frequently.

Preferential treatment of single-parent families (lone parents) with unprovided for children in social security benefit systems as the prevention of a poverty trap.

A. Description of preferential treatment of single-parent families in individual systems:

Pension insurance (Act No. 155/1995 Coll., as amended).

The system contains the most important legal institute of the social protection of a family which becomes single-parent due to the death of one of the spouses. In the event that one of the spouses dies, a single-parent family which has arisen in this manner, is secured by the following pension insurance survivors' benefits:

a) Widow's and widower's pension

A widow (widower) is entitled to a widow's (widower's pension), if the late husband (wife) was a recipient of an old-age, full disability or partial disability pension, or had, as of the day of his/her death complied with the condition of the period required for entitlement to an old-age pension or full disability pension, or if he/she has died due to an industrial accident. A widow (widower) is entitled to a widow's (widower's) pension for one year, following the death of her husband (his wife) and thereafter provided that the survivor :

- a) is taking care of an unprovided for child
- b) is taking care of a minor child suffering from a severe long-term disability who requires an extraordinary care, or of a major child, who is predominantly or totally helpless

- c) is taking care of a predominantly or totally helpless parent of hers/his or parent of her husband/his wife who lives with her/him in a common household, or of such a parent who is partially helpless and is more than 80 years old or
- d) is fully disabled, or
- e) has reached the age of 55 years (or 58 years in the case of a widower), or pension-age if the pension age is lower.

It is comprised of the basic amount (CZK 1,400) and the percentage amount (50 % of the percentage amount of the old-age or full disability pension to which the deceased person was entitled or would have been entitled).

Entitlement to the pension will expire upon entry into a new marriage. In that case a widow (widower) will be entitled to a lump-sum amount of 12 monthly pension payments.

b) Orphan's pension

An unprovided for child is entitled to an orphan's pension if her/his (adoptive) parent, or the person who has taken the child to the substitute family, died, and the child was, at the time of that person's death, primarily dependent for maintenance on her/him, the maintenance not being provided by the child's parents for serious reasons. The deceased person had to comply with the condition of the period required for entitlement to an old-age pension or disability pension. A child will not be entitled to an orphan's pension after her/his foster parent or her/his spouse. A child orphaned by both parents will be entitled to an orphan's pension after each of them. A child's entitlement to an orphan's pension expires with the child's adoption.

The amount of an orphan's pension for each orphaned unprovided for child is comprised of the basic amount (CZK 1,400) and 40% of the percentage amount of the old-age or full disability pension to which the deceased person was entitled or would have been entitled at the time of her/his death.

Note:

In the case of death of the child's parent in a family where his/her parents are not married, the family in which the child lives, becomes entitled to an orphan's pension only.

Sickness insurance (Act No. 54/1956 Coll. on sickness insurance of employees, as amended and Act No. 88/1968 Coll., on extended maternity leave, on maternity benefits.....,as amended)

The system prefers the so-called lone employee (a man or a woman) or more precisely, lone employees are entitled to receive it for a longer period than other employees, hence the preferential treatment of a single-parent family is indirect.

a) Maternity benefit (benefit in cash)

This benefit is awarded to a woman (a female employee), if she participated in the sickness insurance scheme for at least 270 calendar days in the previous two years before the childbirth for a period of 28 weeks, including 6 weeks before the childbirth. Also a woman who took a child into permanent care as a substitute for mother care based on a decision of the relevant authority or who took a child whose mother has died, namely for a period of 22 weeks is eligible for this benefit.

The law in Section 10 (2) of Act No. 88/1968 Coll., as amended, gives preferential treatment in terms of awarding a maternity benefit (benefit in cash) for a period longer by 9 calendar weeks to an unmarried, widowed, divorced or for other serious reasons lone woman who does not live with a (male) cohabitee, i.e. for a period of 37 weeks and 31 weeks, respectively. Under Section 12a benefit in cash is provided to a man (a male employee) who is single, widowed, divorced or for other serious reasons lone, who does not live with a (female) cohabitee, if he takes care of a child based on a decision of the relevant authority or a child whose mother has died. In this case, the benefit is awarded for 31 weeks.

It amounts to 69 % of the daily assessment base (up to CZK 480 of the gross daily wage 100%, between CZK 480 and CZK 690 of the gross daily wage 60 %, over CZK 690, it is not included into the calculation), the maximum base is CZK 606, i.e. CZK 419 per calendar day.

For self-employed people, sickness insurance is voluntary and therefore the benefit is voluntary for them!

b) Financial support for care of family members

An employee (male or female), who cannot work, due to the following responsibilities:

- a) nurse a sick child under the age of 10,
- b) take care of a child (under the age of 10), since the educational establishment or a school, in whose care the child was placed, has been closed, or
- c) a child is in quarantine and cannot attend the establishment or a school or
- d) a person who had taken care of a child up till now fell ill or was put in quarantine,
- e) nurse another family member

is entitled to this benefit.

The entitlement is subject to the condition of living in a common household with the nursed person (this does not apply to children under the age of 10 who are nursed by a parent). Self-employed people are not entitled to it, despite the fact that a self-employed person participates in the sickness insurance scheme voluntarily.

Financial support for care of family members is awarded for a maximum of 9 calendar days, it amounts to 69 % of the daily assessment base (up to CZK 480 of the gross daily wage 90 %, between CZK 480 and CZK 690 of the gross daily wage 60 %, over CZK 690, it is not included into the calculation), the maximum base is CZK 558, i.e. CZK 386 per calendar day.

For the purposes of an entitlement to the financial support for care of family members an employee (male or female) into whose care at least one child at the age of up to the completion of the compulsory school attendance has been placed and who is otherwise lone is considered to be lone and the period for which this benefit is awarded is extended for up to 16 calendar days, if in this period the need for nursing (care) continues. In such a case from the 15th calendar day the daily assessment base is increased, up to CZK 480 of the gross daily wage it is calculated from 100%, between CZK 480 and CZK 690 of the gross daily wage 60%, over CZK 690 it is not included into the calculation), the maximum daily assessment base is increased from CZK 558 to CZK 606 and therefore also the maximum daily amount of benefit is increased from CZK 386 to CZK 419 per calendar day.

The State Social Support (Act No. 117/1995 Coll., on state social support, as amended)

The preferential treatment of single-parent families under the Act on state social support is reflected in several principles:

- a) The Act on state social support when determining the scope of jointly assessed persons for the purposes of entitlement to income tested benefits expressly stipulates that jointly assessed persons are always unprovided for children and their parents or persons who effectively assume the parental role regardless of whether they have maintenance obligation in respect of the unprovided child under the Family Act or not. If children live together with their parents who are not married, the family is considered to be a two-parent one and this consensual couple is not given any preferential treatment or is on equal footing with a married couple family. On the other hand, in practice, this means that a parent who does not live with a child in a common household is excluded from the scope of jointly assessed persons or can be excluded from the scope of jointly assessed persons, despite the fact that they will have a permanent residence at the same address (in the same dwelling).
- b) For the purposes of an entitlement to income-tested benefits, alimony paid by obliged persons is included into the decisive income in the amount in which it is actually paid, or if not paid at all, then it is not included into the calculation, although it has been determined by the court.
- c) For the purposes of this Act, under Section 7 (8), a parent who is single, widowed or divorced, if he/she does not live with his/her cohabitee is considered to be a lone parent. The preferential treatment of these persons and therefore the preferential treatment of a single parent family applies to a single benefit only – the social allowance:

Social allowance (SA)

This is the right of a parent tied to the care of at least one unprovided for child and to a fixed family income limit which amounts to 1.6 multiple of the family's subsistence level (SL). It is determined based on the following formula:

$$SA = CHSLA * (1 - P / MSL * 1.6)$$

If the family income (I) is lower than SL, SL will be substituted for income into the formula.

The preferential treatment consists in higher coefficient whereby the (unprovided for) child's subsistence level amount (CHSLA) and the sum of subsistence level amounts decisive for determination of the family's subsistence level are multiplied in the basic formula for determination of the amount of the social allowance. For lone parents, 2 coefficients are used:

- a) lone parent is severely handicapped in the long-term (coefficient of 1.40)
 - b) parent is lone (coefficient of 1.05).
- d) Within the system of state social support benefits there is a special benefit – providing-for benefit, which provides for the family and its members in case that a family with unprovided for children becomes single-parent due to the fact that a man is a conscript on military or community service or on a reserve training or alternative non-combatant service and is not entitled to the reimbursement of wage, salary or another income. In connection with changes in the status of the Czech Republic army going professional, this benefit was not needed anymore. However, due to its concept it secures a single-parent family arisen in this manner against a poverty trap or prevents it from being dependent on social care benefits.

Social care (Act No. 100/1988 Coll. on Social Security, as amended and Act No. 482/1991 Coll., on Social Need as amended, Decree No. 182/1991 Coll., implementing the Act on Social Security as amended)

Within the system of social care benefits, under the Act on Social Need (Section 5 of Act No. 482/1991 Coll., as amended) a special benefit – child maintenance benefit – is a cash benefit intended for an unprovided for child in respect of whom the obliged person does not fulfill his/her maintenance obligation. The fact that the child is in need as defined under the Act on Social Need is a necessary prerequisite for eligibility for this benefit. This benefit takes precedence over other social support benefits under the Act on Social Need.

Child maintenance benefit

This benefit is intended for an unprovided for child in need in respect of whom a parent not living with the child in a common household does not fulfill his/her maintenance obligation determined by court.

The benefit is provided in the amount of the alimony stipulated by a court order, however, up to the maximum amount of the difference between the child's income and his/her subsistence level increased, where relevant, by the amount determined pursuant to Decree No. 308/2003 Coll., laying down the amounts by which for the purposes of social need subsistence level of persons, whose health condition requires higher costs of dietary food, is increased.

Note:

Currently, the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic discusses a proposal for a change in the construction of the subsistence level from a two-component to a single-component one, differentiated by the order of persons in a household. The new amounts determined in this manner are based on an in-depth analysis of the living costs of the population and individual size groups of families. Consequently, this means that unprovided for children living in single-parent families (specifically, this means a child which ranks second in the family order) are given more preferential treatment than children living in two-parent families. (In view of the existing development, it cannot be assumed what the final result will be and whether this legal construction will be enacted or not).

Other benefit systems (Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended, Act No. 65/1965 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended)

The Act on Employment does not reflect any aspects of preferential treatment of single-parent families with unprovided for children.

The Labour Code defines in Section 274 the term lone which means „unmarried, widowed or divorced women, single, widowed or divorced men, as well as men and women lone for other serious reasons, if they do not live with a (male or female) cohabitee. „Under the Labour Code, the preferential treatment is given to single-parent families or more precisely, the Labour Code provides for a special protection of lone women and men taking care of a child under the age of 15. The protection consists in the possibility to post a lone parent on a business trip outside of the district of the municipality in which his/her workplace or his/her permanent residence is located only with the previous consent of a lone parent or transfer a lone parent outside of the district of the municipality in which his/her workplace or his/her permanent residence is located only upon his/her request (Note: The status of a lone parent is awarded under Section 270 of the Labour Code also to an employee who predominantly alone and in the long-term continuously takes care of a predominantly or completely helpless natural person)

The Labour Code, in the case of death of an employee in consequence of an industrial accident or an occupational disease, imposes on the employer, inter alia, the obligation to indemnify to the extent of his/her liability the survivors by a lump sum compensation payment (a child which is entitled to an orphan's pension and a husband are eligible – the Labour Code stipulates the amount of CZK 80,000 for a child and CZK 50,000 for a husband, whereas under the collective agreement even higher amount can be awarded) and to reimburse the survivors for the costs of maintenance of those survivors who were maintained by the deceased person or whom he/she was obliged to maintain (the total amount is limited by the average earnings of the deceased person or the reimbursement for the loss of earnings of the deceased person). However, the entitlement to such compensation is subject to the

condition that these compensations are not covered by pension insurance benefits provided on the same grounds.

Within the state-contributory supplementary pension insurance system (defined contribution pension plans) which is voluntary, the survivors' pension is not defined on a mandatory basis, the survivors are entitled in the case of death of the participant (in the pension plan) to the so-called lump-sum settlement and the scope of the survivors is not limited at all. Each natural person whom a participant specifies in the contract is considered to be a survivor, and if more persons are specified, the participant must at the same time define the manner of distribution of the lump-sum settlement to individual persons.

A similar procedure applies to life assurance contracts concluded on a voluntary basis with commercial insurance companies where the scope of the so-called survivors is not limited at all.

B. Evaluation of the situation concerning preferential treatment of single-parent families in benefit systems.

The benefit systems of the social protection of citizens in the Czech Republic provide the highest level of protection from (or preferential treatment in respect of) poverty to single-parent families which have arisen due to the death of one of the parents who were married at the time of the death.

The lower level of protection (preferential treatment) is then secured in the Czech Republic for orphaned unprovided for children, regardless of whether they live in a single-parent or two-parent family.

Single-parent families of single or divorced parents are given preferential treatment only to a very limited extent or in a specific situation where the basic necessities of life are not secured for unprovided for children, or where securing basic necessities of life is significantly at risk, i.e. where children are at imminent risk of poverty. The

preferential treatment of these families effectively consists only in the provision whereby in cases where the child maintenance benefit is provided under Section 5 of the Act on Social Need, the enforcement of the due alimony determined by the court shall be the responsibility of the state. A single or divorced parent in whose care the child has been placed will be fully responsible in other situations.

Hence, it is obvious that the current system of social protection of the Czech Republic's population prefers married status of parents of all unprovided for children.

The issue of single-parent families in European documents

I. Introduction

The subject matter of a study which is presented on the following pages, is an overview of opinions on the shaping of a specific policy toward single-parent or lone families, as presented in various foreign and international documents, analyses and reports, political messages, programmes, surveys, etc. It endeavours to point to various trends, tendencies and also problems which Member States face in this context.

The text has been prepared in the form of a summary literature research, information sources and a sort of comment are set out at the conclusion of the report. The formulations borrowed from foreign documents have been Czechified to a minimum necessary extent and instead of their literal translation their content has been expressed as accurately as possible. The principal points, which the authors of the study consider to be significant, have been highlighted in bold.

II. The issue of single-parent families in European documents

The number of single-parent families has risen significantly over the past twenty years. Currently, we can note that every third child up to the age of 16 spends some part of its childhood in a single-parent family.

According to a survey conducted by the OECD (The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), the overwhelming majority (80% or more) of lone parents are women. This trend will probably continue in the coming years, in particular, for two reasons: Firstly, the divorce rate is increasing, while at the same time the rate of re-marriages is decreasing and secondly, the number of women who have their children completely outside of marriage and whom we can label as single mothers (i.e. those that have never got married and probably never will) has risen.

It has been reiterated a number of times that among single-parent families many problems accumulate, including in particular the following key problems:

- Insecure financial situation
- Accumulation of social roles by single parents who are thereby overburdened can have an adverse impact on the child's development
- Impaired socio-emotional life (crisis due to the loss of a partner, etc.)

Hence, social policy (family policy) of all states of the whole Europe faces a problem how to deal with this specific group.

III. Latest trends in demographic and socio-economic characteristics of single-parent families

It has been generally noted that the family, as the basic unit of society has been subject to significant changes in particular over the last decades. Despite the fact that the traditional family still remains to be the most frequent type of a family in all countries of the European Union, even consensual unions are at present considered to be normal types of families, etc.

Also the number of single-parent families and lone families has been rising. The wave of rising number of single-parent families started in the 60's in North America and gradually spread further. In the early seventies, the number of these families also slightly increased in some European countries, such as e.g. in France, Switzerland, etc. Their number has risen by about 20%. Great Britain was faced at that time with an extreme situation, with the rate of single-parent families at 50%. Also the divorce rate increased markedly and the marriage rate dropped significantly.

In general, we may say that problems of single-parent families are associated with those experienced by other large social groups: families in general, the poor, women, the employed and the unemployed. All these groups in the course of their life encounter a situation which is a sort of interruption or disruption of their life cycle, namely in various forms.

Despite the fact that individual problems of single-parent families differ across individual countries, we can highlight several common or general features:

- Single-parent „female“ families are much more at economic risk, either relative to their previous status or in absolute terms.
- Income, (wage, salary), despite the fact that these are very important elements, do not guarantee that this disadvantage will be offset. It is not so much surprising, since anyway women on the average are far more frequently employed on a part-time basis and less paid.
- The important difference between individual types of lone mothers – maybe the most important one – is the relation to the ability to make money. Obviously, this ability is subject to a wide range of circumstances, such as the level of education, possible previous experience of the labour market, etc. We may say that this whole situation is a sort of vicious circle, since the very fact that someone is a lone parent, influences itself future development which, however, is already determined by this status.
- A sort of duality of the problem is a significant aspect. Financial matters need to be combined with the care of dependent children.

To sum up the above, the problems faced by single-parent families, have a number of reasons: the lack of support from the other partner (e.g. after divorce, etc.), inappropriate income, or limited ability to participate in the labour market, be it due to the nature of the labour market itself (inflexible) or for other reasons, a demanding household work, or the combination of all these factors.

Among single-parent families, this is in particular the combination of financial or economic difficulties which can result even in the problem of poverty of these families. The poverty rate among single-parent families in the whole of Europe is higher, compared to other „subgroups“ single-parent families generally come from.

For single-parent families with children, the threat can be summed up in one phrase *„vulnerability due to economic disadvantage“*.

Single-parent families are exposed to the risk of poverty and social exclusion. In Europe, growing interest in poverty among children and families with children is obvious. In most OECD countries, the rate of child poverty exceeds

that of the older people who constituted the traditional demographic group of persons exposed to the highest risk of poverty.

Poverty among older people of most industrialized countries – in particular due to the expanded coverage by and the level of pension benefits – has been in recent decades referred to and commented upon less frequently than poverty among families with children. The latter is subject of interest of the social policy. **Yet, there is a basic consensus that an increase in social expenditure needs to be avoided.** This consensus has been justified with respect to the older generation by the expected intensified pressure on government budgets due to the population ageing in the next decades. With respect to the families, on the other hand, it has been assumed that families with children will become „more self-sufficient“ in the future, will be able to rely on own resources and will manage to get out of poverty through their own efforts.

IV. Occurrence of poverty in various types of families

It has been generally noted that single-parent families (also families of lone mothers) are faced with much higher risk of poverty trap than two-member families. This is the case in all OECD countries. Nevertheless, apart from these types of families, in some European countries, poverty occurs also among multi-member families (i.e. families with three or more children). This is the situation of e.g. Belgium, Spain, Finland, Italy and Great Britain. The risk of poverty among large families is generally much higher in these particular families than in the families without children, except for Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands. In many European countries larger families with more children are increasingly more frequent than the single-parent ones. **The percentage distribution of poor children among individual types of families shows that in some countries (Belgium, France, Spain, Italy), there are much more poor children among two-parent families with three or more children than among single-parent families.** The share of single-parent families which are poor is higher in particular in those states where the poverty rate is generally low (Denmark, Sweden and Germany).

1. New social risks and causes of poverty among families with children

In many European countries, the single breadwinner model was applied, i.e. on the assumption that the single breadwinner's income was sufficient to cover all financial costs related to the upbringing of children. Under this model, a mother stayed at home and took care of children. The whole time and costs of care of children were, a sort of, an internal affair of a particular family and were invisible in social terms. The poverty in such a family then occurred at the moment when a breadwinner fell ill or there were too many children in a family or the breadwinner was otherwise incapable of work. In such a case, the traditional social insurance system was available to the family and through its instruments, such as e.g. family benefits, sickness benefits, disability pension benefits, unemployment benefits, etc., the family was assisted with a view to overcoming the difficulties. Although the reality has changed to such an extent that this single-breadwinner model is not traditional anymore, it has transpired that in the course of the 60's and the 70's, i.e. at the time of relatively full employment and limited involvement of women in the labour market, the traditional social insurance system worked satisfactorily. Nonetheless, the benefits, in particular the unemployment benefits, were often too low to avoid the exposure to the risk of poverty on the part of their recipients.

These causes of poverty remain to be relevant even today. Yet, they were eclipsed by new social risks which arise from long-term socio-economic changes. Key terms for these changes are as follows: individualization, technology development and globalization. We can identify a three-pronged observable development which leads to new social risks among families with children.

- In practice, in all European countries we can observe much higher involvement of women in paid work outside their home resulting from continued education and the emancipation of women. Obviously, this means that women cannot take care of children during working hours. Hence, in modern countries „ a childminder's work“ became much more socially visible and has received „a price tag“. The care which has been some time ago provided by housewives quite naturally and without any

expectation of payment, is now a commodity in the market of private and public services.

- People with a relatively low level of education have a very difficult position in the labour market. The thing is that the number of traditionally well paid positions in the area of the industrial production where people with the lower level of education used to find a job in the past is constantly decreasing. Now, these people are forced to seek a job in the services sector where salaries for such workers are significantly lower and the overall chances in the job-seeking process are very limited. Moreover, men with the lower level of education tend to marry women at the same or similar level of education and therefore the chance for any change in the situation of the existing involvement in the labour market for women is slim, too. This trend creates a completely new category of the population in society which is exposed to an enormous risk of poverty, namely mothers with the low level of education. While mothers with the high level of education generally have a paid work, they are involved in the labour market, even in traditional societies, such as e.g. Spain and Italy, this does not apply to women with the low level of education and working habits and practical experience. This huge gap between women with the high and low level of education is especially marked in the continental Europe and South Europe, nevertheless significant features of this situation can be traced also in traditional social democratic states of Scandinavia. For women with the low level of working experience and habits it is very difficult to cover the costs of care of their child. When comparing the option of accepting a well-paid job outside of home on one hand or stay at home and take care of a child on the other and then deciding which one should be preferred, women are also strongly influenced by the fact whether they are entitled to receive any social support benefits, even in case that these benefits are very low. Moreover, these tendencies are intensified by the fact that in most European countries, women with the low level of education have on average more children they take care of than women with the higher level of education.

- Primary causes of lone-mother status or single-parent family status have changed recently. Widowhood and divorce rate became less significant and self-inflicted lonely status became much more often. This implies that the number of lone mothers with very small children is increasing. The main cause of poverty and chronic dependence on social systems among lone mothers with average income capacities is their inability to combine full work commitment and the care of a child. Moreover, social insurance techniques are not appropriate for the protection from the risk of divorce or a single family income (compared to the risk of widowhood which is covered to a certain extent).

The opinion that public policy, in particular in the form of income policy, is not commensurate with the actual needs of single-parent families has been reiterated repeatedly. This can be explained partly due to adverse attitudes towards such types of families and partly due to the fact that in the modern industrial society in which a woman who has children and who does not work will be granted a sort of an exception. At the same time, however, these societies are far less inclined to believe that single mothers should remain outside the labour market. Moreover, although a large number of countries provide social support for lone mothers or single-parent families in the form of family benefits, child benefits, housing contribution and preferential tax treatment, on the other hand, there is a strong tendency to keep these women in the labour market and avoid putting them into the role dependent on social benefits.

2. Participation in the labour market

Non-involvement or inadequate involvement in the labour market is obviously an important, if not the most immediate case of poverty among single-parent families with children. Most poor single-parent families are not involved in the labour market and therefore the efforts to reintegrate them into the labour market is in most countries the primary effective way how to get such families out of poverty.

One thing is common for all countries of Europe. The major source of poverty, and hence also of the subjective feeling of poverty is in particular the unemployment.

The growth of the labour market within the whole European Union has been currently stagnating. Only 63% of all Europeans between 15 – 64 are active in the labour market. 68 million Europeans live under the constant pressure of being at risk of poverty.

Consequently, in the light of these facts, the European Union decided in February 2005 to put forward the so-called Social Agenda for 2005 – 2010. This agenda is meant to serve as a political plan which is based on the idea that the best prevention of social exclusion is to have a job.

The first socio-political programme that was focused on positive interaction between economic, employment and social policy was the social agenda adopted in Nice in 2000. The European Employment Strategy developed in connection with this agenda has accomplished some objectives. For instance, the employment of women increased by 3.2% in the period 1999 – 2003 to 56.1% within the whole EU which was close to the Lisbon objective of 57%.

The social inclusion policy is the primary policy to combat poverty and provide care to the most needy people in society. It endeavours to enable to the disadvantaged groups of the population to develop their abilities and experience and mediate opportunities for them in order to be able to integrate into society more easily. Also the measures that enable to combine career and family life properly, such as e.g. child care services which enable to parents to accept a job and stay at work are an integral part of the quality social policy commensurate with the needs of the current society.

To put it in more general terms: social policy must help people to ensure security: This security must be always the focal point of every social policy, i.e. security which means the acquisition of own abilities and possibilities to handle economic and social changes in one's life.

Social agenda 2005 – 2010, has two key priorities:

- 1) Shift towards full employment
- 2) Modernization of social systems, extension of equal opportunities and combating social exclusion, support for a fairer society.

V. POLITICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The process of shaping a social policy that would be able to prevent or resolve child and family poverty is not an easy task. Policy tools must reflect both the old social risks and the newly arising risks which lead to poverty. It is obvious, that expenditure incurred for these purposes must be commensurate with budget limits and the relevant measures should rather promote than discourage from the involvement in the labour market.

So, obviously, we can conclude that the low level of poverty requires high social expenditure. We can support such statement by specific clear and also less clear reasons.

The fact that **the general system of child benefits (family benefits) must be part of the overall strategy of the state focused on combating poverty is one of those more obvious reasons. A child benefit should primarily cover the child's direct costs and should, as far as possible, be subject to the number of children in a family and their age, but, if possible, be independent of income of parents/parent.** Some figures show that family benefits play an important role in terms of mitigating the risk of a poverty trap in all OECD countries, except for Italy and Spain which do not have income non-tested family benefits and also except for Sweden where the level of poverty is generally very low. This effect of family benefits is particularly obvious among at-risk groups, such as e.g. single-parent families or multi-member families (It needs to be stressed that family benefits, for the purposes of this study, mean income non-tested benefits.)

Nevertheless, an increase in the level of family benefits is not the sole strategy and a panacea for combating child and family poverty. In this respect, it is not possible to rely fully on social transfers only. **It is necessary to accept the idea that most**

families with children should be able to secure most part of the required income from their own resources and through its own efforts.

The single-breadwinner model is untenable for economic, social and societal reasons. This means (also with respect to lone mothers) that securing the possibility of combining work and child care, for all women, both the educated ones and those whose level of education is low and do not have much work experience is the most important task of social policy. Such policy should enable to women to enter the labour market and earn a reasonable wage. This strategy contains a number of partial elements.

The price for child care services is the central strategy element. The price should be affordable for all. In many countries, there is a very limited supply of supported (public) services on one hand and there are very high prices charged for private services which only some women are willing to pay on the other. Hence, many women need to rely on their own social safety net in the form of relatives and acquaintances who secure child care while the mother is at work. Those less lucky then must stay at home.

Consequently, more massive expansion of supported (public) care should be the key priority.

On the other hand, account needs to be taken of the fact that not all mothers wish to work full-time and for the whole year. Consequently, for employment policies it is important that they reflect with respect to the working conditions particular life situations and circumstances, as well as the overall distribution of work by individual stages of the lifecycle with its various needs and possibilities.

This objective can be achieved by such means as e.g. part-time work or flex-time schedule.

It is logical that lone parents are much more willing to participate in the labour market and do so much more easily in the case that they have previous work experience prior to their becoming lone parents. For this reason, it is necessary to consider, for instance, in the area of social policy, appropriate measures to be taken, such as e.g.

further education and the regulation of parental leave in such a manner that would allow parents to participate in the labour market as soon as possible.

The total number of lone parents involved in the labour market (mostly women) differs in individual countries, with the main criterion being the overall structure of the labour market in a given country, the availability of various types of work schedules, the general level of education of women, and, of course, the role of the traditional child care – formal or informal – and also the quality of social security at the time of the parental leave.

The tools of social policy which is based on the principle of social inclusion include seeking of such measures (in particular in benefit systems) which would maintain financial incentives for work.

These financial incentives for work are often relatively very inefficient precisely with respect to single-parent families and families with a single breadwinner with children which receive social security benefits. These groups must face limited motivation for work after their return to work. And moreover, the rule applies to this low-income group that if its members work more (longer working hours) for more money, this need not always necessarily mean more net income. Also people who are momentarily unemployed and should start a new job for less money than previously might consider such a situation to be a serious barrier to their reintegration into the labour market.

The improvement of the level of financial incentives can be done either by „reducing“ the level of benefits or the introduction of a new type of benefits – the so-called „in-work benefits“.

A policy without any social security would be obviously the best way for maximum support of the labour market, but it would not be fair.

It becomes evident that the so-called in-work benefits play a positive role as an incentive for work precisely for people in low-income groups.

In-work benefit systems have been already introduced in some OECD countries. Obviously, these programmes differ in individual countries by the level of „generosity“, level of income and the limit from which benefits are reduced. In this respect, only those programmes that have sufficient impact on the financial motivation to work manage to translate this impact into actual growth taking the form of higher employment. Should in-work benefits be too low, they will not probably have any major effect on the level of employment. On the other hand, an excessive generosity is accompanied by limited possibility to focus the assistance on the most needy groups and at the same time maintain the programme cost-efficiency.

The level of benefits and the timing or setting of the levels from which the benefits are reduced relative to the increasing wage, should be subject to a clearly defined government concept. If its main objective will be to get people back to work, the most appropriate way would be the average reduction of benefits at the low level. Nevertheless, this implies that in this situation, benefits will continue to be paid at a relatively high level (relative to income) and a number of barriers and disincentive factors will be created in connection with the increasing income. Eventually, if the government focuses in particular on professional advancement or a change in working hours of those who are already at work, it will accomplish high level of benefits and at the same time quicker pace of benefit reduction relative to the increasing income. Furthermore, if a sort of time limit is incorporated into the in-work benefits system (benefits are paid over a certain period of performed work), it can be assumed that recipients of these benefits will become sooner self-sufficient or more independent of any external assistance.

In-work benefits are most effective, if targeted on lowest-income groups. A general awareness of the system among the target group and its relatively easy administration are necessary prerequisites for the proper functioning of such system.

Obviously, in-work benefits system can work properly only in connection with other measures that are part of a comprehensive strategy facilitating the transition from the dependence on the security system to a work-based self-sufficiency. Especially support for child care is an appropriate supplementary strategy, in particular in view of specific needs of certain groups, such as e.g. lone parents, etc. Precisely these

groups are very vulnerable to the „welfare to work“ policy. And obviously, active employment policy is an integral part of successful policy helping people to find a job.

VI. NEW DEAL

The British programme New Deal for Lone Parents can be an example of application of the in-work benefits system.

New Deal for Lone Parents is a special programme whose objective is to help lone parents who wish to participate in the work process to find a job that would suit them. The programme is intended for lone parents who work for less than 16 hours a week or do not work at all and whose youngest child is under the age of 16.

Each participant in this programme has his own personal advisor. Such an advisor is a sort of a guide throughout the whole period of the programme. His/her obligation is to:

- Know about a particular person only information necessary to understand what sort of job this person is looking for.
- Calculate the improved financial situation of this person if starts working
- Discuss what sort of job this person is looking for.
- Help to look for a job and seek a job.
- Help to find training courses and participate in them.
- Develop an action plan that will help to find a job and keep it.
- Help to find and arrange for an official child care service.
- Help with costs that can be incurred when seeking a job.
- Explain what sort of benefits a particular person will be eligible for, once he/she starts working
- And, of course, continue the advisory work, even if such person gets a job, should it be interested.

The participation in the New Deal programme is divided into individual steps.

Step 1 – Before New Deal

During the first contact with a personal advisor, a job-seeker receives the same benefits, if he/she participates in training courses, he/she becomes eligible for higher benefits, if he/she manages to get a job through the programme, advisors will inform a job-seeker about various benefits and tax bonuses, he/she will remain to be eligible for even afterwards.

Participation in the programme is voluntary. Should life circumstances of a job-seeker change or a job-seeker decides not to continue the programme, he/she can leave the programme and further receive the benefits he/she has received before.

A personal advisor right from the start seeks to gain maximum understanding and approval of the activities a job-seeker will participate in, the job they will seek together, on the basis of personal qualities and skills a job-seeker has or wishes to have.

Step 2 – Meeting a personal advisor

The first meeting is only the beginning, during the programme a job-seeker can meet his/her advisor as many times as necessary.

Advisors undergo special training and courses that are focused on work with people, they are fully familiarized with the situation in the labour market and are also well versed in benefit systems.

Most people who participate in the New Deal programme get on with their advisor very well. Nevertheless, if there are any problems, it is possible to communicate them to a Job Centre manager. He will recommend another advisor, if the need arises.

Step 3 – Further procedure

There is a wide range of areas in which the programme offers help. For instance, vocational guidance, selection of training courses, etc. Also for instance debt

management strategies and household assistance are areas in which an advisor can help. A personal advisor will also help to develop an action plan whereby it is possible to identify the problems and needs in the job-seeking process.

A personal advisor can help to find an appropriate training or retraining course. His/her obligation is to make sure that everything works properly. If a job-seeker has any problems with a particular position, a personal advisor is obliged to help to resolve this problem.

A personal advisor can help to prepare, for instance, a curriculum vitae, prepare an interview or to recommend the participation in a course that will help to develop communication skills.

Travelling expenses and also the so-called registered child care are fully covered for participants in the programme. The travelling expenses include the expenses for transport to a meeting with a personal advisor, travelling expenses for work meetings and other activities that have been agreed in advance with a personal advisor.

Step 4 – After New Deal

A personal advisor will work with a job-seeker until he/she succeeds. Obviously, a hundred percent success in the job-seeking process cannot be guaranteed, but the participation in this programme enhances the chances for success.

Under the programme, it is possible to offer a wide range of training opportunities that will help the trainees in their future life when seeking a job, possibly even outside of the New Deal.

VII. CONCLUSION

We may say that the policy towards single-parent families is treated in the European context as a partial problem only. This highly specific area of social policy is viewed as „a mere“ aspect of wider issues that arise from the revised Lisbon strategy. This strategy is based on sustainable development of Europe which is based on

(balanced) economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy aiming at full employment...and a high level of protection.

The issue of single-parent or lone families needs to be understood in this overall context. **Currently, social policies of all countries of Europe are not based on the solution of individual partial problems of specific population groups but they are rather geared towards the formulation of a single objective: To achieve social inclusion of all people through work.** Social security systems contain concepts such as e.g. „in-work benefits“, „welfare to work“, etc. The key driver behind the current social policy is the growth and creation of jobs. The European Union declared 2010 the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

VIII. OVERVIEW OF BENEFITS FOR LONE PARENTS

Belgium:

No special benefits

The Czech Republic:

Coefficient increasing the social allowance

Denmark:

The amount of EUR 140 per quarter per each child is granted, in addition to the basic benefits.

Additional benefit of EUR 142 is granted on a quarterly basis per household.

Necessary prerequisite: once a year the lone status of a parent needs to be reviewed

Estonia:

An allowance amounting to double the amount of the child benefit is granted to a lone parent, in addition to the basic family benefit (i.e. child benefit)

Finland:

The basic child benefit is increased per each child living in a single-parent family by EUR 36.60.

France:

A benefit in the form of a minimum guaranteed income for a lone parent with at least one child or for a pregnant lone parent.

Monthly amount: EUR 530.39 plus EUR 176.80 per child. The benefit is granted in the amount of a difference between this sum and monthly income of the beneficiary.

The maintenance benefit – children with respect to whom paternity was not recognized or whose parent does not meet his maintenance obligation, are granted the monthly amount of EUR 79.56.

Ireland:

Payments (benefits) for lone parents are part of the special income-tested benefit system.

Applicant: EUR 134.80 per week

Additional sum for a dependent child: EUR 19.30 per week per each child

Iceland:

A lone parent benefit can be provided to a parent who maintains a child under the age of 18 and who has a permanent residence in the territory of Iceland.

The annual amount of a benefit for two children is EUR 636, the annual amount of a benefit for three or more children is EUR 1,653.

Italy:

Increased family allowance granted to a lone parent.

Greece:

If the child's parent is a lone widow/widower, a person with disability or a soldier whose survivors' or other pension does not exceed certain limit, such lone person is entitled to the family allowance increased by a coefficient of 3.67 per each child.

Cyprus:

No special benefits

Liechtenstein:

Additional monthly lone parent benefit (EUR 64 per child)

Lithuania:

Payments in pre-school establishments are reduced by 50% for lone parents.

Latvia:

No special benefits

Luxembourg:

No special benefits

Hungary:

Increased amount of the family allowance

Malta:

Lone parents are entitled to apply for social assistance benefits. (The amount of benefits: EUR 74 per week per person and additional EUR 8.21 per each additional household member. Child benefit is paid to lone parents in the highest amount.

Germany:

No special amount

Children under the age of 12 who live in a household of a lone parent, in cases where the other parent does not pay the determined alimony, are granted the maintenance benefit of up to EUR 164 or EUR 145 in new federal countries.

Netherlands:

No special benefits

Norway:

Child benefit for the second child aged between 0 and 3 years raised by a lone parent, if he/she receives the so-called state compensatory allowance.

Educational allowance

Child care related allowance (if the care is secured by another person – 64% of the total costs of such care which must not exceed EUR 325 per month (in the case of care for one child), EUR 424 for two children and EUR 481 for three or more children.

Poland:

Lone parent benefit for a parent who raises a child and is no longer eligible for the unemployment benefit, the benefit is paid up to the age of 3, however, up to the age of 7 years as a maximum, in the amount of EUR 83.

Portugal:

No special benefits

Austria:

Lone parents in low-income brackets may receive an additional allowance of EUR 6 per day to the family allowance which, however, must be reimbursed by the second parent.

Tax credit reducing tax by EUR 364.

Slovakia:

No special benefits

Slovenia:

If a child lives in a single-parent family, the basic child benefit is increased by 10%.

Spain:

No special benefits

Switzerland:

No special benefits

Great Britain:

Special benefits for single-parent families were abolished in 1998.

(The New Deal programme is not a benefit system, but rather the social work programme)

The data taken from the Mutual Information System on Social Protection - MISSOC (status as at 1 May 2004)

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Technical report

The National Centre of Social Studies, o.p.s. (a public benefit organization), carried out between June and the end of December 2005, under the contract No. GK MPSV-01-126/05, a research project „Socio-demographic analysis of single-parent families with minor children in the Czech Republic“ – identification code: HR135/05.

PhDr. Jiří Šandera, together with PhDr. Věra Haberlová were project managers.

The project work was carried out on an ongoing basis and individual stages immediately followed. In the course of the project work project, managers were not faced with any problems that would put the outcome of the project at risk.

At the end of September, The National Centre of Social Studies, o.p.s. (a public benefit organization) asked the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the transfer of funds amounting to CZK 40,000,--. Under the amendment No. 1 to the contract No. GK MPSV-01-126/05 for the project HR 135/05 a change was permitted.

A total of two site meetings took place.

- beginning of September:

Attendees:

Mgr. Marksová, for the customer

PhDr. Šandera, for the project managers

The representative of the project managers informed the professional guarantor as the representative of the customer that immediately after signing of the contract No. GK MPSV-01-126/05 the project work was started. A time schedule of work was prepared according to which the project implementation proceeds.

The first stage included the period between the signing of the contract and the end of July and in this period international comparison was drawn up.

By the end of August, statistical data pertaining to single-parent families with minor children were prepared and by the end of September the secondary analysis was completed.

As it has transpired in the course of the project work that it is not possible to prepare a part of the project by contracting staff under the agreement to perform a job, The National Centre for Social Studies, o.p.s. asked for the possibility to transfer from staff costs to costs of services a total sum of CZK 40,000.

It has been concluded that the project work proceeds in compliance with the contract (both with respect to its terms of reference and the project)

- 22 November 2005

Attendees:

For the customer: Mgr. Kateřina Příhodová – head of the department of family policy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Mgr. Lenka Peroutková – an employee of the department of family policy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs – on behalf of Mgr. Michaela Marksová – a professional guarantor of the project

For the project managers: PhDr. Jiří Šandera, director of the National Centre for Social Studies, o.p.s.

The representative of the project managers informed the representative of the customer about implementation of individual parts of the project: The international comparison/brief analysis of approach of EU Member States towards single-parent families has been already completed (20 pages).

Furthermore, a detailed socio-demographic analysis of single-parent families in the Czech Republic is under preparation. The analysis of social benefits intended for single-parent families is nearing completion.

The secondary analysis of researches, surveys and studies which dealt in the course of the last three years with the issues of single-parent families was delayed,

according to the representative of the project manager, however was completed on time.

It has been concluded that the project work was slightly behind the schedule, nevertheless the project will be completed on schedule (31 December 2005).