Percent of Households Headed by Single Mothers

Comparative Norms
U.S.: 12.5%
MO: 11.9%
IL: 12.5%
U.S. Census Bureau,
American Community Survey (2007).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the percent of children living in households headed by single mothers increased from 11 percent in 1970 to 24.4 percent in 2007. During the same time period, the percent of children being raised by single fathers grew from 1 percent to 6.8 percent. However, children raised by single mothers are more likely to be raised in poverty than those in single father or in married couple households. In 2007, 42.9 percent of children in female-headed families were living below the federal poverty level. By comparison, only 9.5 percent of children in all other family types lived in poverty.