

CORRECTION

In the article "Family trends: Changing patterns of partnering", published in *Family Matters* no. 64 (Autumn 2003: 10-15), some figures in Table 1 on page 14 require correction.

The table reports the percentage of people in various age groups who were unpartnered at the time of the 1986, 1996 and 2001 census. The figures from the 1986 and 1996 censuses were based on those from Birrell and Rapson (1998). The 2001 figures were based on new analysis from the 2001 census.

Unfortunately, the definition of the population on which the 2001 figures were calculated varied from that on which the 1986 and 1996 figures were based. These differences in the specification of the populations in 2001 make it appear that the increase in the percentage of unpartnered individuals observed by Birrell and Rapson (1998) had stalled. However, when the same population specifications are used for 2001 as for 1986 and 1996 the increase in the unpartnered population for the 20-49 age group has continued on to 2001.

The table below produces the 1986, 1996 and 2001 figures using comparable population specifications in all three census years. These are the specifications employed by Birrell and Rapson (1998) and include domestic visitors and people in non-private dwellings where there are some difficulties in precisely estimating levels of non-partnering. Some other small adjustments are also made to minimise rounding errors.

The authors of the article, David de Vaus, Lixia Qu and Ruth Weston, thank Bob Birrell and Virginia Rapson for drawing their attention to this matter and for their permission to use their updated 2001 figures.

Age	Female			Male		
	1986 %	1996 %	2001 %	1986 %	1996 %	2001 %
20-24	61	73	76	80	85	87
25-29	33	43	47	47	57	59
30-34	23	30	34	29	38	41
35-39	20	27	30	23	30	34
40-44	21	26	29	21	27	31
45-49	22	27	30	21	25	29

Source: 1986 and 1996 figures from Birrell and Rapson (1998) based on special matrix tables from 1986 and 1996 census. 2001 figures from Birrell and Rapson (personal communication) based on special matrix tables from 2001 census. Figures include estimates including domestic visitors and people in non-private dwellings but exclude international visitors and people with a same-sex partner. See Birrell and Rapson (1998) for further details regarding population specifications.

FATHERHOOD RESEARCH

The Engaging Fathers Project at the Family Action Centre has released its *Fatherhood Research in Australia Report* to make available a description of recent research (1997-2004) on fathers in Australian populations.

The report describes published research on fathers (male carers) across the life cycle, from family formation – fertility, contraceptive use, abortion, and decision to have a child – to the role of fathers in family dissolution, and fathers of young adults. Research on groups of fathers, a review of information available on fathers in large data sets, and papers from leading researchers in the field are included.

Support for the initiative was provided by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, the Child Support Agency, and the Bernard van Leer Foundation. Copies are available from the Engaging Fathers Project at the Family Action Centre, the University of Newcastle. Phone (02) 4921 8640.

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The **FaCS LSAC Project Team** comprises Karen Wilson, Paula Chevalier, Jane Dickenson and Peter Walkear. Megan Grant and Jean Gifford were involved in the early development of the research questions and design.

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