

# Information sources about Australian families

Lecture to John Paul II Institute for Marriage  
& Family

28 August 2009



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# Overview

- Levels of data - who do you want to know about?
  - ◆ World trends
  - ◆ Australian trends
  - ◆ Communities & neighbourhoods
  - ◆ Families
  - ◆ Individuals



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# World trends

- United Nations: demographic yearbook:  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm#2001>
- Europe: European Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/psi/demo\\_and\\_social\\_situation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/psi/demo_and_social_situation_en.htm)  
(Eurobarometer Surveys)



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# National trends

- UK National Statistics:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/index.html> → actual tables of data, summary reports, etc
- USA - their census bureau collects/reports only limited information:  
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/marr-div.html>



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# National trends...

- National Center for Health Statistics → Center for Disease Control & Prevention:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/Default.htm> (then hunt around...)
- Specific studies/sources of information:
  - ◆ Fragile Families:  
<http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/>
  - ◆ Institute for American Values:  
<http://www.americanvalues.org/>



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# Studies & sources...

- National Marriage Project:  
<http://marriage.rutgers.edu/> (Yearly report:  
State of Our Unions)
- Center for Family & Demographic  
Research: <http://marriage.rutgers.edu/>  
(excellent publications)



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# Canada

- The Vanier Institute - Contemporary Family Trends papers:  
<http://www.vifamily.ca/library/cft/cft.html>
- Canadian Statistics  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca>



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# Australian sources/studies

- Demographic trends: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>
  - ◆ Australian Social Trends (quarterly)  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4102.0>  
(click on 'all articles')
  - ◆ Family & Community Statistics (marriages, divorces, births, time use, child care, work, income, mental health, etc)
  - ◆ SEIFA Index (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas) - aim to capture range of indicators of advantage & disadvantage
- Australian Early Development Index



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# AIFS studies

- Australian Living Standards Survey  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm/fm43dd.pdf>
- Australian Family Life Course Study  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm/fm48glezer.pdf>
- LSAC (Growing Up in Australia)  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/>



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# AIFS studies

- Australian Temperament Project  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/atp/>
- Family Pathways (separated families)  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/familypathways/>
- Evaluation of Family Law Reforms  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/familylawevaluation/>



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# Other Australian studies

- Negotiating the Life Course (ANU)  
<http://lifecourse.anu.edu.au>
- Housing, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA)  
<http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda>



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# AIFS

- An independent statutory authority originating in Family Law Act (1975) to examine factors that affect marital and family stability
- Primary dissemination methods: *Family Matters* ([www.aifs.gov.au](http://www.aifs.gov.au)) and website



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# Clearinghouses: Australian Family Relationships C'house

- Collects and disseminates information and resources in a certain field
- Similar to a library, but also collates, organises & disseminates
- AFRC specifically supports practitioners, service providers & policy makers in the family relationships sector



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# AFRC

- AFRC website
- Newsletter – *Family Relationships Quarterly*
- *AFRC Briefing*
- *AFRC Issues*
- *AFRC-alert*  
(<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/afrcalert.html>)
- *www.aifs.gov.au/afrc*



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# AFRC Website

- Hosts information & resources including:
  - ◆ AFRC publications
  - ◆ Resources (bibliographies, links)
  - ◆ Conferences (links to AIFS site)
  - ◆ Links to other websites



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# Other Clearinghouses

- National Child Protection Clearinghouse  
[www.aifs.gov.au/ncpc](http://www.aifs.gov.au/ncpc)
- Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault  
[www.aifs.gov.au/acssa](http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa)
- Communities & Families Clearinghouse Australia  
[www.aifs.gov.au/cafca](http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca)
- Domestic Violence & Family Violence  
<http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au>



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- Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies <http://acys.info/home>
- List of social science clearinghouses in Australia:  
<http://www.acys.info/resources/biblio/clearinghouses>



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# Australian Government sites

- Family Relationships Online (for families)  
<http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au>
- State/territory depts of human services, community services, etc
- Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)
- Dept of the Attorney-General [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)
- Family Relationship Services Australia  
[www.frsta.org.au](http://www.frsta.org.au)



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# Other places...

- National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (USA) <http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org>
- National Family & Parenting Institute (UK) <http://www.familyandparenting.org>
- Smartmarriages (USA) <http://www.smartmarriages.com>



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