

## Marriage and family blending

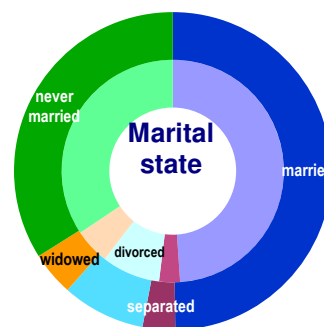
The high prevalence of divorce, coupled with a reluctance to marry amongst younger generations, has resulted in many families consisting of couples who may not be married to each other, living with children who may not be both of theirs by birth. A person's marital status can be a poor indicator of their lifestyle. To address this, the Census collects information on a person's legal marital status (eg married, divorced) and their social marital status (whether they live as a couple or a single). For children living with adults, the Census asked which adults were their parents, allowing families to be classified as either natural families (where children come from both parents, or were adopted), step-families (where all children came from one parent), or blended families (with children from both parents)

Of Gosnells' 71,376 residents aged 15+ in 2006, 50% were married, 34% had never married, and 16% were once married, now separated (3.3%), divorced (8.5%), or widowed (4.5%).

About 50.4% of residents in Gosnells reported they lived as a couple, which was similar to the 49.7% who were legally married. However, they may not be the same people.

Compared with Perth, relatively more residents were married (0.8% more), while fewer were widowed (0.7% fewer).

Over 2001 to 2006, the proportions of adults in Gosnells who were never married rose by 1.9% and the proportion divorced rose by 0.7%. The proportion who were married fell by 2.2% with the proportion who were separated down 0.6%.



The outer, darker ring is G'nells; the inner, lighter ring is Perth.

While the gender ratio of married couples should always be close to 1 to 1, it is often very imbalanced amongst other marital states. Generally, because women live longer, more tend to be widowed, but also separated and divorced. In Gosnells, among widowed people, there were 4.23 women per man, while there were 1.22 women per man among separated adults and 1.34 women per man among divorced adults. People who have never married tend to be male; in Gosnells, there were 1.24 men per woman among those who had never married.

For the first time, the 2006 Census asked couple families whether they included step-children. In Gosnells, 12% of these families included at least one step child (not including adopted children) – 3.3% were step families (where the children had one natural parent in the couple), and 8.5% were blended families (with both step and natural children of the couple). For comparison, Perth had 3.0% step-families, and 8.5% blended families. Overall, the proportion of blended or step families in Gosnells was very similar to Perth.

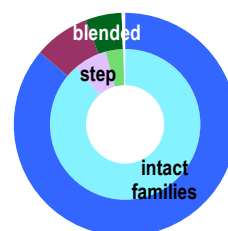
Legal marriage	Gosnells 2006		G'nells's		Gosnells 2006			G'nells in	change
	people	percent	% in Perth	difference	males	females	ratio	2001	from 2001
married	35,501	49.7%	49.0%	<b>0.8% more</b>	17,788	17,713	<b>1.00 M:F</b>	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
separated	2,380	3.3%	3.0%	0.3% more	1,074	1,306	<b>1.22 F:M</b>	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
divorced	6,032	8.5%	8.5%	<b>0.1% less</b>	2,576	3,456	<b>1.34 F:M</b>	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
widowed	3,193	4.5%	5.2%	<b>0.7% less</b>	611	2,582	<b>4.23 F:M</b>	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
never married	24,270	34.0%	34.3%	<b>0.3% less</b>	13,422	10,848	<b>1.24 M:F</b>	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
<b>residents aged 15+</b>	<b>71,376</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>35,471</b>	<b>35,905</b>	<b>1.01 F:M</b>	#DIV/0!	

Social marriage	Gosnells 2006		G'nells's		Gosnells 2006			G'nells in	change
	people	percent	% in Perth	difference	males	females	ratio	2001	from 2001
married	32,735	50.4%	49.8%	0.6% more	16,157	16,578	<b>1.03 F:M</b>	n.a.	n.a.
de facto	6,544	10.1%	9.3%	<b>0.8% more</b>	3,196	3,348	<b>1.05 F:M</b>	n.a.	n.a.
single	25,663	39.5%	41.0%	<b>1.5% less</b>	12,353	13,310	<b>1.08 F:M</b>	n.a.	n.a.
<b>residents aged 15+</b>	<b>64,942</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>31,706</b>	<b>33,236</b>	<b>1.05 F:M</b>	n.a.	

These tables excludes those who were temporarily absent on Census night, and people living in 'visitors only' households or non-private dwellings (eg nursing homes, barracks).

Blended and step families	Gosnells 2006		G'nells's	
	families	%	% in Perth	difference
intact families	10,234	86.2%	88.7%	<b>2.5% less</b>
step families	958	8.1%	7.1%	1.0% more
blended families	625	5.3%	3.8%	<b>1.4% more</b>
other families	59	0.5%	0.4%	0.1% more
<b>families</b>	<b>11,876</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Family blending



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