



BEING A FAMILY IN VENETO

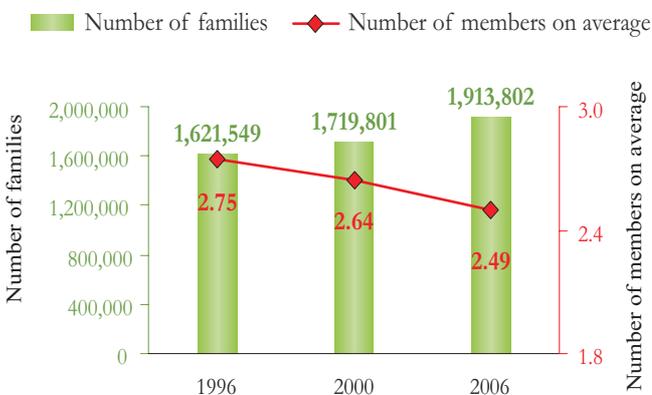


The question of the family has been central to numerous cultural and political debates on the national and international level for some time. This is a result of the profound changes that the institution of the family experienced during the years that mark the transition from the second to the third millennium and which have their roots in the second half of the last century: the decline in the birth-rate, the entry of women in the workforce, the growth of migratory flows, the increase in separation and divorce. These transformations do not, however, challenge the central role of the family, which represents the very place where affection, plans for the future, support, and care come together, the place where we are given our formal and informal education and where important economic decisions are made. Before providing appropriate economic and social programmes to protect the family, the priority is to understand and analyse the ongoing transformations, also from a quantitative perspective, in order to outline the essential features of the family in Veneto today. The national context faces phenomena that have a direct influence on the

structure and the quality of family life. The drop in fertility has already continued for twenty years, the population is aging, families are formed ever later and the instability of marriage as well as problems tied to the combination of work and family have increased. There are 300,000 more families in Veneto in 2006 than ten years earlier, but one of the effects of the ongoing transformation can be seen in the decreasing average size of the family, which is now at 2.49 people. There is, therefore, a growing number of families, but of smaller size, a fundamental trend that must be kept in mind when it comes to social and land management planning. Recognition of these transformations and giving families the opportunity to find an equilibrium and a role in today's society is one of the essential keys for an organic and harmonious social development. The information found in this issue of Statistics Flash is taken primarily from the latest update (2006) of the annual multipurpose Istat surveys.

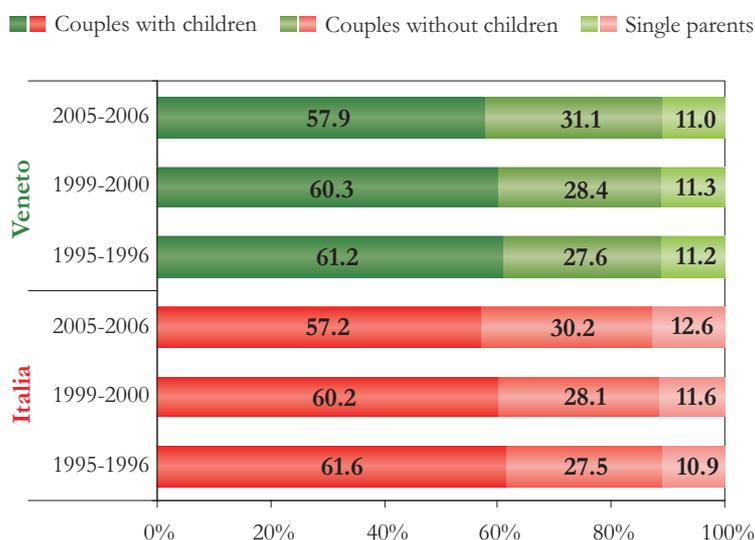
Changes in nuclear families

Families and the average number of members in Veneto



Average number of children per woman in 2007: **1.38** in Veneto and **1.34** in Italy

Percentage distribution of nuclear families by type



In line with national trends, the number of couples with children out of the total number of nuclear families in Veneto decreased by nearly 4 percentage points, while the number of couples without children is on the rise. Most of these couples are elderly people. For the other age groups, this upward trend is due in part to the fact that most women, and consequently most couples, decide to have children at a later point in life. The number of single parents has remained quite constant and amounts, according to the most recent available data, to 11% of nuclear families, which are mostly made up of single mothers with children (83%).

Source : Processing by Regione Veneto – Direzione Sistema Statistico Regionale on Istat data

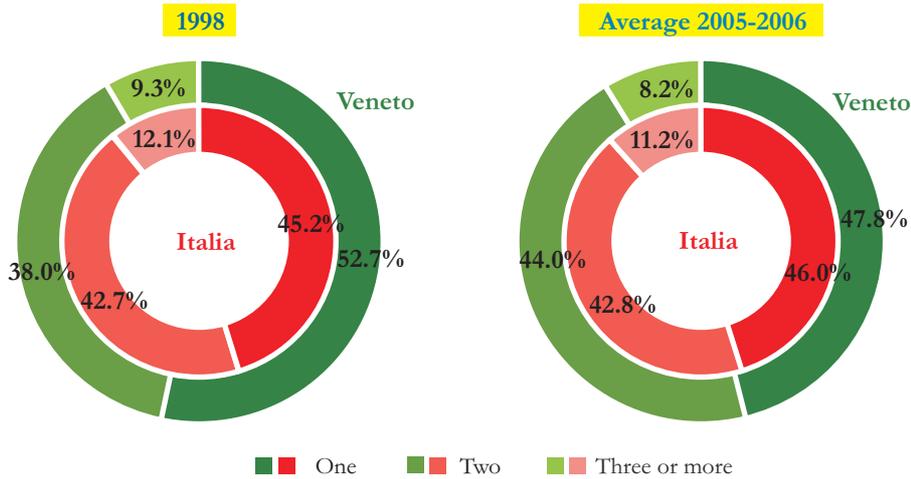


also available
 - Road accidents - 2006
 - Tourism in 2007 (provisional data)

<http://www.regione.veneto.it/statistica>

Couples with children

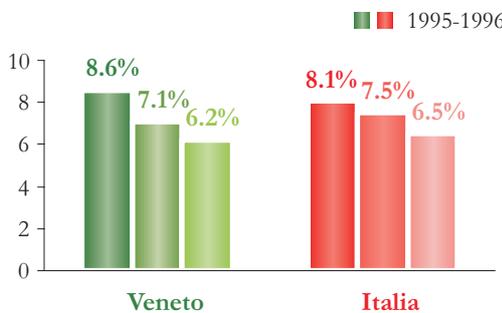
Number of children per couple 1998



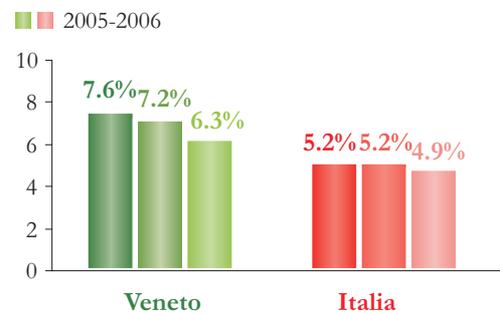
On the one hand, the number of couples with children decreases, while on the other families who decide to have children mostly choose to have at least two. In Veneto this tendency seems to have increased by nearly 5 percentage points from 1998 to 2006, while in Italy a slight increase in couples with only one child has been recorded. 44% of couples in Veneto have two children, while 8.2% have at least three. Even if most children are born later, the couples in Veneto who want children and have the possibility, tend not to stop after the first.

Large families and extended families

Families with at least 5 members



Families with more than one nucleus or with other members

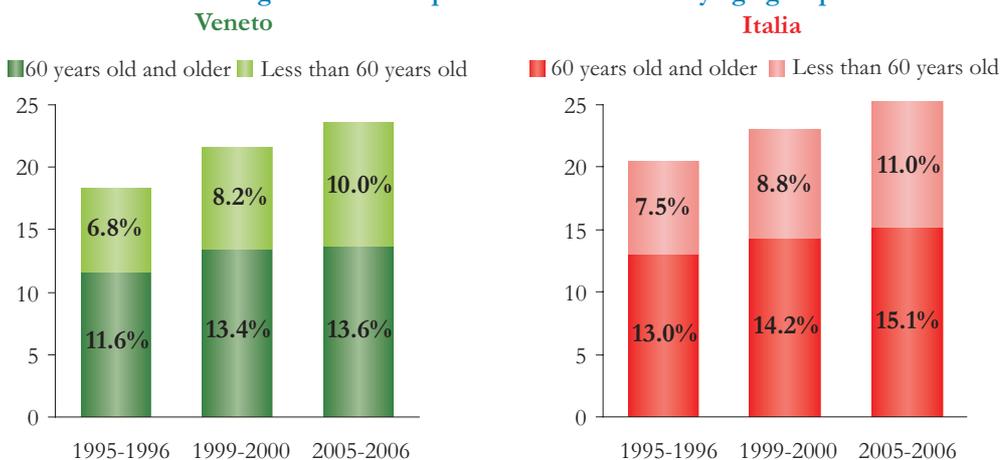


The number of families with at least five members has been decreasing from 1995 to today throughout Italy, while in Veneto a more rapid fall of 2.4 percentage points has been observed.

Even if in decline, in Veneto there is still the model of the extended family which consists of more nuclei or other family components such as elderly or other relatives in addition to the traditional family members. The share of this type of family is 6.3% out of the total of families, and thus lies well above the 4.9% for Italy as a whole.

One-person households

Percentage of total one-person households of by age group



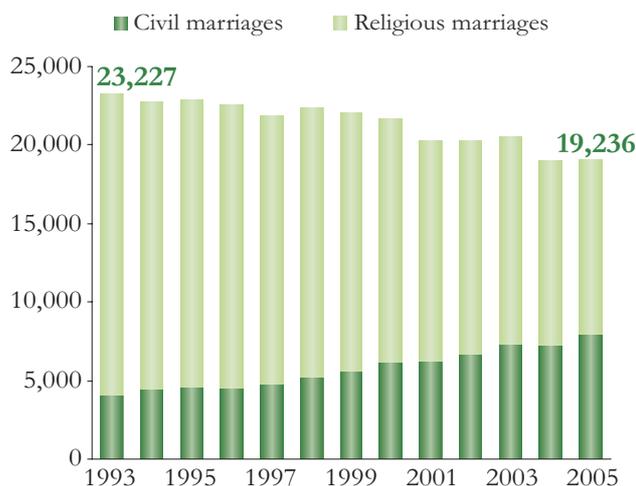
One-person households by age group and sex

	Veneto			Italia		
	Less than 60 years old	60 years old and older	Total	Less than 60 years old	60 years old and older	Total
Male	64.0	36.0	100	65.0	35.0	100
Female	30.4	69.6	100	28.2	71.8	100
Total	42.4	57.6	100	42.2	57.8	100

One-person households have been increasing in recent years. This increase involves principally the elderly in Veneto: the aging of the population and the increase in life expectancy have consequently led to an increase in the number of the elderly living alone, which in Veneto in 2005-2006 are 13.6% of families. Of the women living alone 69.6% are at least 60 years old. Both in Veneto and in Italy the number of single people who are less than 60 years old is increasing. So, even if young people stay longer in the home of their original family (in Veneto 53.6% of 20-34-year-old unmarried people live at home), there is still an increase in the number of one-person households because of the repercussions of unstable marriages.

Marriage

Marriage by rite in Veneto



Spouses celebrating their 2nd or later marriage, in % of total marriages

	1993		2005	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Veneto	4.9	3.8	10.2	9.4
Italia	5.3	3.7	8.4	7.4

Marriages in Veneto are declining: since 1993 a drop of nearly 18% has been recorded. However the option of forming a family without being married or before getting married, is ever more common. Children outside of marriage, for example, were 14.3% in 2004 compared 6.8% in 1995. The trend to marry later has also become more evident: the average age at the first marriage in Veneto has gone up from 29.3 to 33 years of age for the grooms and from 26.5 to 30.2 for brides. The number of civil marriages celebrated has increased by 93% from 1993 to 2005. This tendency, is ever more common even for the first marriages of Italian citizens (23% on a national level), and may partly be explained by the increase of second marriages.

Total marriages and marriages with at least one foreign spouse in Veneto



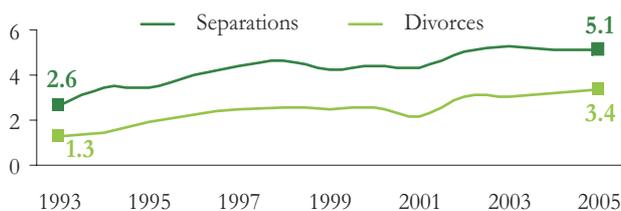
Marriages by citizenship of the spouses

	% of marriages			
	with at least one foreign spouse	of which both spouses are foreigners	of which there is an Italian groom and a foreign wife	of which there is a foreign groom and an Italian wife
Veneto	19.3	6.6	8.7	2.3
Italia	13.3	3.5	7.0	1.8

One of the emerging phenomena in family behaviour are marriages in which at least one of two spouses is a foreign citizen, which reflects the increasing presence and integration of non-Italian citizens. This was the case in Veneto with 7.1% of weddings in 1998, while in 2005 the share increased to 19.3% (13.3% national average). About half of these unions involve an Italian husband with a foreign wife.

Dissolution of couples

Separations and divorces per 1,000 married couples in Veneto



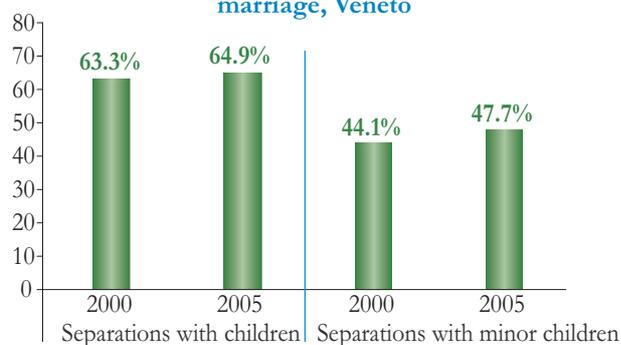
Separations granted

	Separations granted		Separations per 1,000 married couples	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
Veneto	5,160	6,157	4.4	5.1
Italia	71,969	82,291	4.9	5.6

Marriages by duration at the time of separation in Veneto



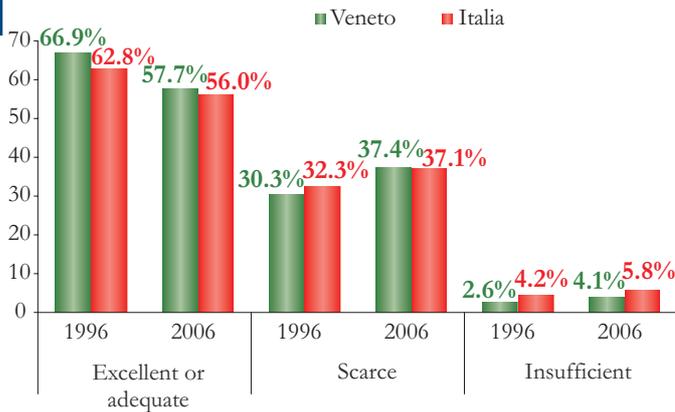
Separations of couples with children born from the marriage, Veneto



The share of separations of married couples has nearly doubled from 1993 to 2005. At the time of separation marriages had lasted on average 13 years. Separations decline within the fifth year of marriage and are relatively stable in couples married for at least 20 years. Separations that involve children have increased (64.9%), even if to a smaller extent than on the national level (70.4%). The minors involved in separations were 5.4 per 1,000 minors resident in Veneto in 2005, compared to a national value of 6.4 per 1,000, against the 4.3 recorded in 2000.

Family satisfaction

Families' personal opinion of their economic resources

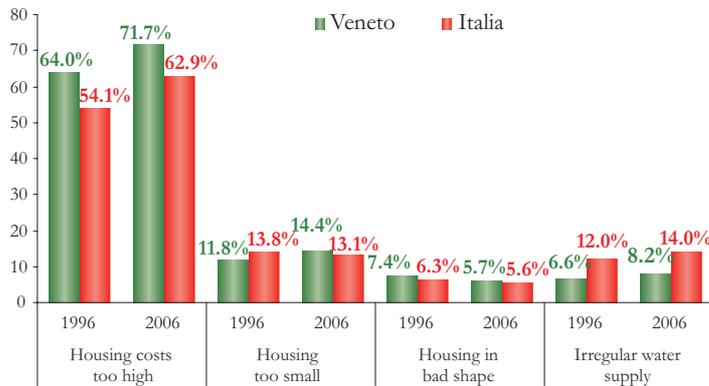


Compared to Italy, Veneto is still one of the regions where most people consider their financial resources as adequate. On the other hand, families that have scarce or completely inadequate resources are more moderate in number (41.5% in Veneto as opposed to 42.9% in Italy).

Families with problems related to housing costs - 2005

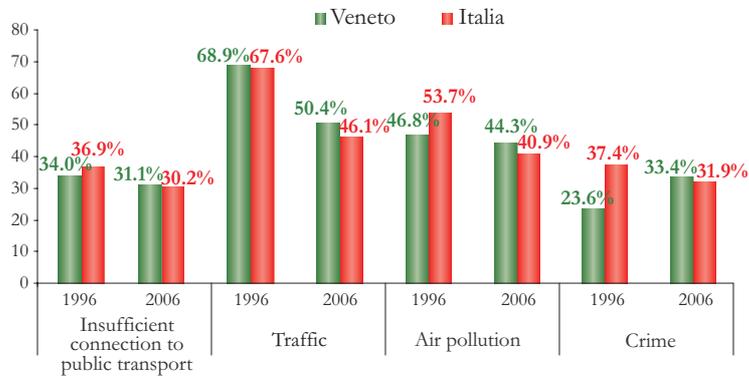
	Rent in arrears per 100 renting families	In arrears with mortgage payments (per 100 families with mortgages)	Inadequate heating of the house	In arrears with utility bills
Veneto	6.0	5.2	8.1	6.5
Italia	13.6	4.5	10.9	9.0

Families with problems related to the housing in which they live



In Veneto the number of families who own their own homes (72.2%) is increasing and is larger than nationwide, and in 17.6% of the cases they are subject to mortgage. The costs to bear for housing have been a widely felt and increasing problem for about a decade, but families in Veneto feel the pressure of rent and bills much less than the national average. Homes are becoming ever smaller, but they are in better conditions than 10 years before. The figure on the irregularity of water supply is also of interest, as it only involves 8.2% of the families, which is a much better situation than the national average (14%).

Families with problems related to their neighbourhood



As regards problems in the neighbourhood, the most commonly cited criticism is traffic, both in Veneto (50.4%) and in Italy (46.1%), but in clear decline as compared to 10 years before. Second is pollution, but this percentage is also decreasing. Satisfaction with connections to public transport has improved over the decade, while the perception of the risk of crime is ever stronger.

Relatives and how close they live

	% of people who are very satisfied with their relatives		% of families who live too far away from their relatives	
	1996	2006	1996	2006
Veneto	42.2	39.0	11.9	17.1
Italia	41.4	33.7	17.4	20.8

In times of need 82% of the families in Veneto can count on the help of relatives, a similar number to the Italian average. The number of families that can ask for the help of friends (57.1%) or neighbours (43.7%) is decisively lower. Even if in decline, the number of persons satisfied with their relationships with their parents is greater than that of Italy. It is accompanied by an increase in the number of families who live too far from their relatives; the number is still lower than Italy's, indicating a more pronounced tendency in Veneto to not move away from the original family.

Source : Processing by Regione Veneto – Direzione Sistema Statistico Regionale on Istat data

In accordance with Regional Law no. 8 of 2002, Ufficio di Statistica della Regione Veneto gathers, analyses and disseminates statistical information for the benefit of the region. The processed data herein is the patrimony of the entire region and is published in brochures as well as on the Regione Veneto website at www.regione.veneto.it/statistica.



**Direzione
Sistema Statistico Regionale**

Regione del Veneto

- Department for economic affairs, development, research and innovation
- Secretary general of planning
- Direzione sistema statistico regionale

Rio del Tre Ponti - Dorsoduro 3494/A
30123 Venezia
tel.041/2792109 fax 041/2792099
e-mail: statistica@regione.veneto.it

<http://www.regione.veneto.it/statistica>

Direzione Sistema Statistico Regionale

Manager: Maria Teresa Coronella

Coordination: Valeria Vonghia

Production: Piera Belluardo, Cristiano Vanin

Layout: Massimo Zuin