

STATISTICHE

UNDERSTANDING VENETO IN FIGURES AND DIAGRAMS

FLASH

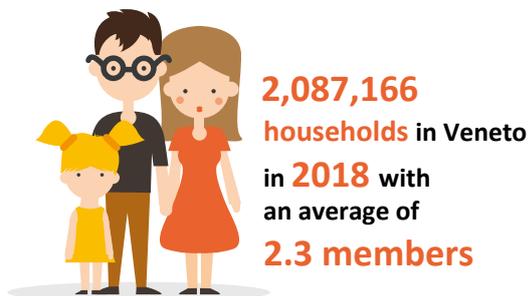
The image we have of family today is different from that experienced by our parents or grandparents. In the last fifty years, the family has gone through a process of profound transformations that have changed its structure, relationships and how it is created.

The family is getting smaller and is fragmented, getting closer and closer to the "Nordic" model: even in Italy, in fact, phenomena that Northern European countries have been experiencing for some time are spreading, such as the decline in marriages and the increase in de facto couples, the diffusion of step families and single parents, the dissociation between parenthood and marriage, as well as the legal recognition of civil union for same sex couples. However, some peculiarities of our family system persist, such as low fertility, the progressive delay of starting a family and the late stage at which children leave home.

In 2018, there were 2,087,166 households in Veneto, 5.1% more than 10 years earlier and almost double compared to 1971, but they are much smaller: in almost 50 years, they went from 3.6 members to little more than 2. In particular, there is an increase in single-member households, which in 1971 were only 10% of the total, while today they account for almost 31%, and those with five or more members are decreasing (from 26% to 6%). In 2017, there were 624,000 people living alone and, for a good part, they were elderly, especially over 74s, accounting for 30% of all single-member households. About 187,000 people over the age of 74 live alone (+39% in ten years), mostly women (82%). In the last decade, single-member households aged between 45 and 64 also increased, generally the result of a separation or divorce; however, there are fewer and fewer youth and young adults under 45 who live alone.

HOUSEHOLDS: HOW THINGS CHANGE

FROM THE PLURAL TO THE SINGULAR



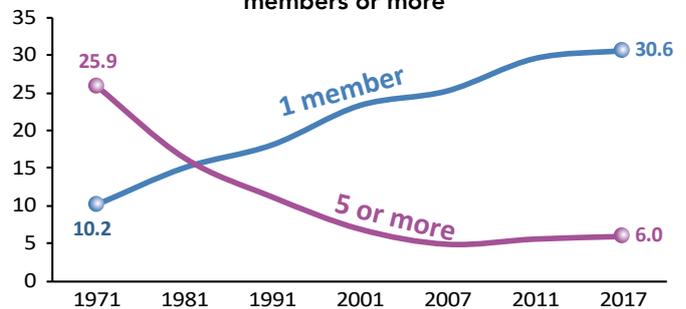
More households
Smaller size



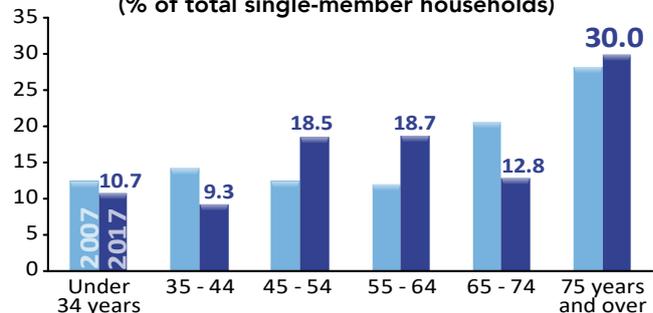
There were **1,135,212** in 1971
with an average of **3.6 members**



Percentage of families with only 1 member and with 5 members or more



People living alone by age (% of total single-member households)



187,000 OVER74s live alone
82% are WOMEN

Source: Processing of data from Istat by the Statistical Office of Regione Veneto

WEB
Flash

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- Statistical Report 2019- Veneto tells its story, Veneto is compared
- Sport in Veneto January 2019
- Male and female employment 2019

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

The traditional couple with children remains the most widespread form of household, even if in decline: in Veneto there were 717,000 in 2017, 6% less than in 2007; on the other hand, couples without children increased (+11%). Among couples with children, 45% have only one, 44% have 2 and the remaining 11% more.

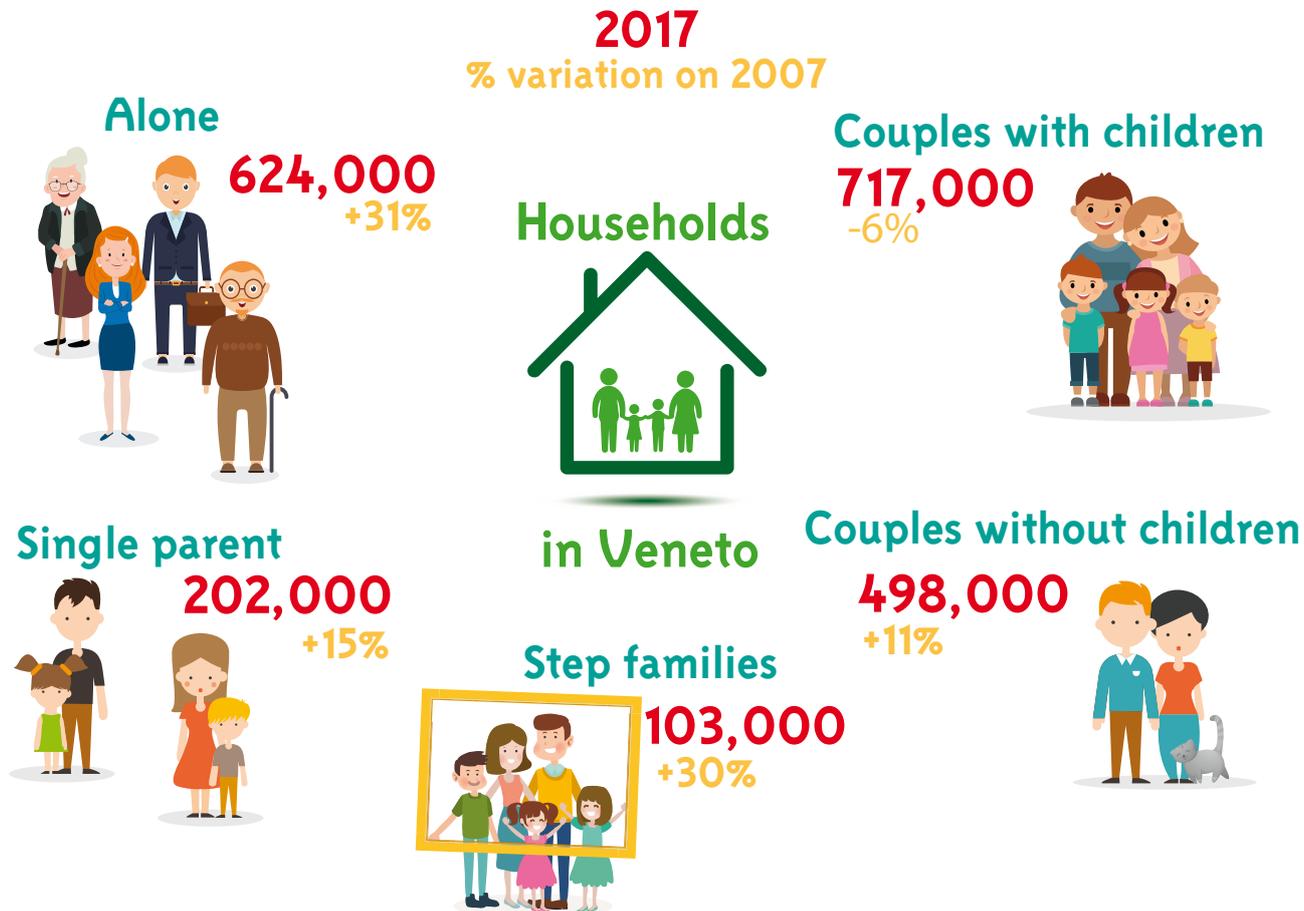
Due to growing marital instability, new household types are becoming more common, such as step families, i.e. where at least one of the two partners comes from a previous marriage, and single parents. There were around 103,000 step families in 2017, up 30% in ten years, so much so that they now represent 8.5% of all couples (in 2007 they accounted for 6.5%). In 60% of cases, the partners have chosen to marry again, while 40% live together without marrying. The majority have children (60%), so there are also increasing numbers of children and young people who live in an "extended" family. There were 202,000 single parents (+15% since 2007) and 36% of them had at least one dependent child. These are particularly fragile and financially vulnerable households, more at risk than others of slipping into situations of poverty or social exclusion, especially if they are young.

Finally, the "new" households also include civil unions in same sex couples, legally recognised in Italy in 2016 (Law no. 76 of 20 May 2016, known as the "Cirinnà Law"). In Veneto, a total of 502 civil unions were established between the entry into force of the law and the end of 2017, 7.5% of the national total, mainly male couples (69%).

Whilst it is undeniable that the ways and times of creating a family are changing, this does not indicate a crisis in the family as the site of affective relationships and the main support network; on the contrary, the role of the family is increasingly central, also to compensate for the shortcomings of the public welfare system.

NEW HOUSEHOLDS GROW

THE VARIETY OF HOUSEHOLDS



In Veneto, as in general in Italy, fewer and fewer people get married: whilst, in the early 1980s, almost 24,000 marriages were celebrated every year, about 5.4 per 1,000 population, in 2017 it fell to 14,270, just 2.9 every 1,000 population. And when people choose to get married, they increasingly opt for a civil ceremony, so much so that civil marriages have overtaken religious marriages and now account for almost 60% of all marital unions, greater than the national average (49.5%). To think that civil ceremonies accounted for 11% of marriages in the early 1980s! The trend is constantly growing and recorded a strong acceleration especially in the last year (almost 4 percentage points more than in 2016). Many are second marriages, but even first weddings are increasingly celebrated with by civil ceremony (48% in 2017 vs 9% in the early 1980s), highlighting the progressive spread of more secularized behaviour also in our region.

The decline in marriages is associated with a significant increase in people living together outside marriage: in 2017, in Veneto, unmarried couples accounted for 10% of couples (9.4% in Italy), whereas 10 years earlier they accounted for just 6% and 20 years earlier not even 2%. In just ten years, the number of unmarried couples grew by 60%.

The birth of children outside or before marriage is an event that is no longer so rare, marking the end of the traditional association between marriage and parenthood. Whilst, in 2007, only a minority of unmarried couples had children (27%), within ten years the situation reversed and as many as 56% of unmarried couples have children. However, marriage has not gone out of fashion, nor have informal marriages definitively replaced it; the majority of those living together tend to formalize the union sooner or later through the marital bond, wishing to confirm, to themselves and to others, the solidity of the family and the mutual commitments undertaken. However, more and more often, the "I do" comes after the birth of the first child!

DIFFERENTLY MARRIED COUPLES

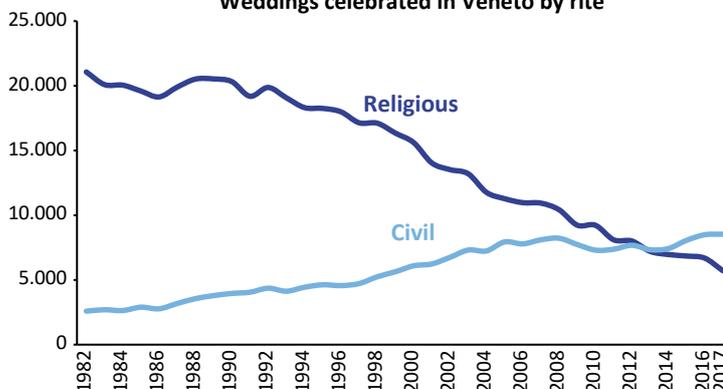
MARRIAGE: YES OR NO

Married couples in 2017

1,092,000
-4% compared to 2007



Weddings celebrated in Veneto by rite

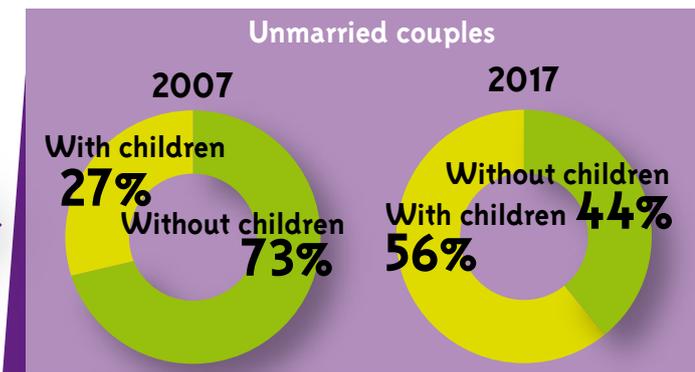


Unmarried couples in 2017

122,000
+60% compared to 2007



Unmarried couples



In Italy, more than in other European countries, there is a general tendency to postpone the main family milestones, such as getting married and having children; but Italian youth also delay the step towards financial independence and leaving home. Most young Italians stay with their parents for a long time, on average up to 30 years or more, whilst in countries like Sweden and Denmark, they leave home at just 21 years old!

There is certainly a cultural basis to this phenomenon, given that in Mediterranean countries, and even more so in Italy, the bond between parents and children is very strong and remains so for a long time. The family invests heavily in children, both emotionally and materially, and supports them until they find the best opportunities for their future. Added to this are the difficult economic situation that has hit our country in recent years and a welfare system that is not very generous towards young people and families. Without the help of parents, it can be really complicated for a young person to achieve independence, given the high costs of housing and rent and the difficulty of finding a job, which is often temporary and with low wages. This is another reason why young people delay leaving the family home

YOUTH, THE STRUGGLE TO CREATE A FAMILY

and do so only when they have reasonable financial security and mostly to go and live with their partner and not to live alone.

In Veneto, 61% of young people aged 18 to 34 continued to live with their parents (in line with the national average, 63%), an increase of almost 4 percentage points compared to 2007. Of these, just over a third were students, about 16% were unemployed, while the majority, almost half, already had a job. About 25% of 18-34 year olds live in couples, outside the family home, almost equally divided between those who have children (13%) and those who do not (12%). The percentage of young people living in couples without children remains substantially stable over time, while young families with children are in sharp decline (20% in 2007). Finally, only 8% of young people live alone, confirming that this is a marginal choice concerning a minority of young people.

IS THE CRISIS AN OBSTACLE TO INDEPENDENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

% of Veneto youth aged 18-34 who

	2007	2017
are still living in the family home	57.5	61.2
live alone	6.3	8.1
live as a couple but have no children	12.1	12.3
live as a couple and have children	20.1	13.2

On average, young people live with their parents up to the age of:



Source: Processing of data from Istat by the Statistical Office of Regione Veneto



Veneto Region

- Regional Council Administration
- Secretary General of Planning
- Regional Statistical System Section

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