

## HM1.4 LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE GROUPS

### Definitions and methodology

People's living arrangements change over the life cycle. When young people move out of their parents' home, they frequently share dwellings with other young people before setting up their own home when moving in with a partner and starting a family. At the same time, when children leave home, elderly parents often would like to downsize as household size has diminished.

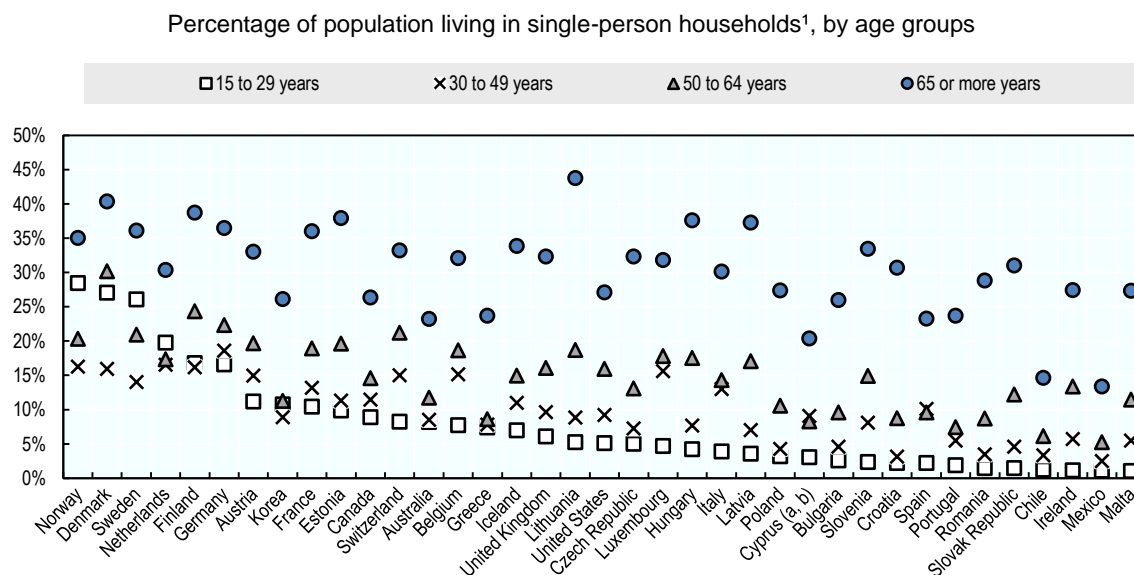
This indicator shows how living arrangements vary across age groups and looks particularly at youth and seniors. The population of youth is defined as 15 up to 29 year olds, whereas those 65 years or older are considered as senior. The data presented here are based on household survey microdata and concern population level data. The data analysis considers living arrangements in the latest year available for different age groups.

### Key findings

Less than half of the population, no matter the country or age group, live by themselves (see Figure HM1.4.1 and online Appendix HM1.4.A1 for earlier years). The share of one-person households ranges from 43.8% among the senior population in Lithuania to about 1% among the youth population in Mexico and Malta.

In most countries the share of one-person households among private households (not including group quarters such as nursing homes, hospitals and military quarters) rises with age. The population of seniors is most likely to live by themselves (between 13.4% in Mexico and 43.8% in Lithuania), followed by those aged 50 to 64 years (between 5.3% in Mexico and 30.2% in Denmark). The share of one-person households among the 30 to 49 year old population lies between 2.5% in Mexico and 17.8% in Luxembourg. In most countries, youth (15 to 29 years) are least likely to live on their own (between 1% in Mexico and Malta and 28.42% in Norway), except for in Nordic countries, the Netherlands and Korea.

**Figure HM1.4.1. Share of population living alone, 2014 or latest year available**



1. Only private households are considered.

a) Note by Turkey: The information in this document with reference to “Cyprus” relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus issue”.

b) Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union: The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Sources: OECD calculations based on European Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) 2014 except Germany; the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics Survey (HILDA) for Australia (2014); the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) for Canada (2011); Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional (CASEN) for Chile (2013); the German Socioeconomic Panel (GSOEP) for Germany (2014); the Korean Housing Survey (2014); Japan Household Panel Study (JHPS) for Japan (2014); Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares (ENIGH) for Mexico (2014); American Community Survey (ACS) for the United States (2014).

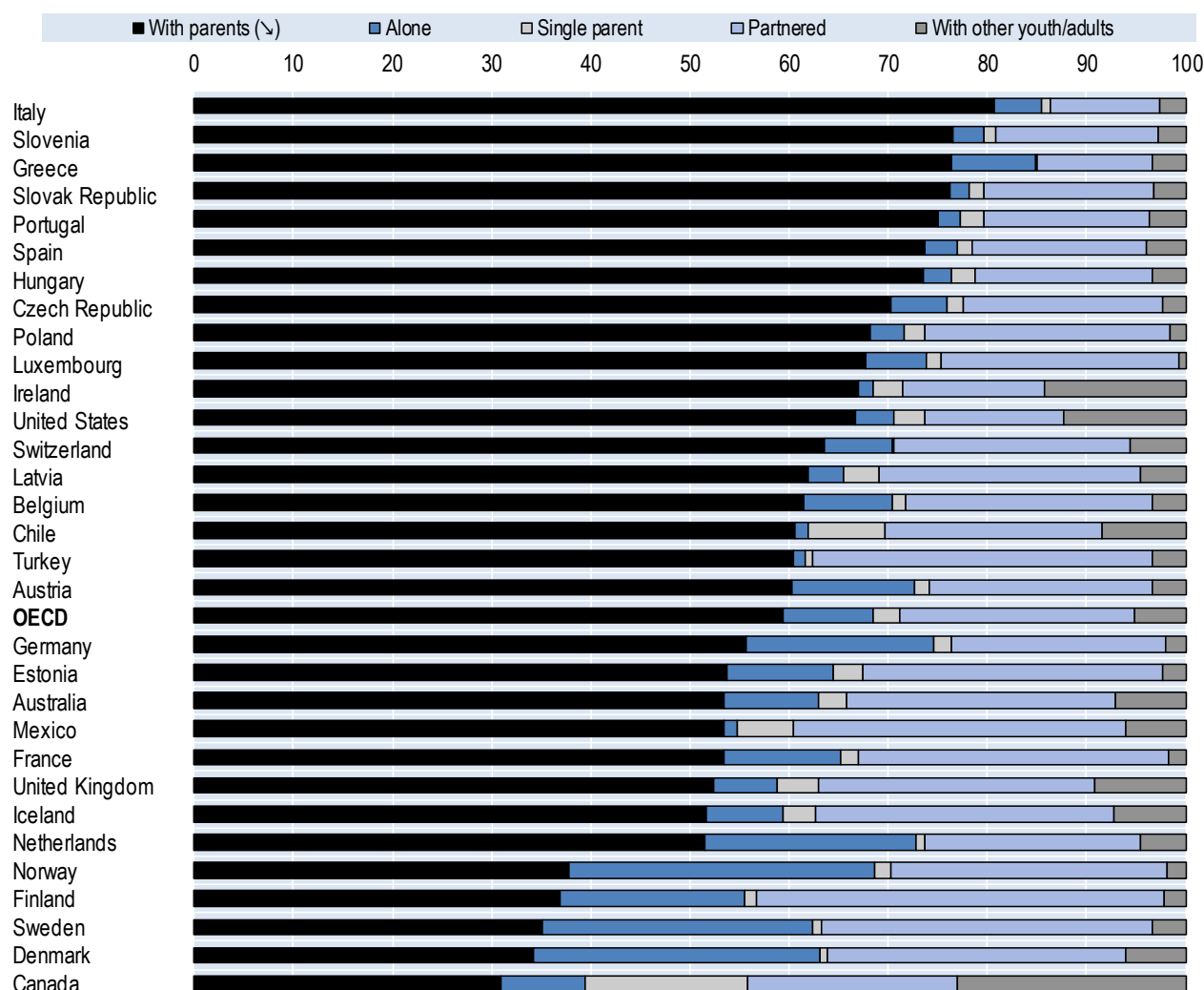
Living arrangements of youth vary widely across OECD (Figure HM1.3.2, Panel A and OECD, 2016a). In countries such as Italy, Slovenia and Greece more than three quarters of 15-29 year-olds live with their parents. In others, such as Canada and the Nordic countries, a small proportion live with their parents and youth are much more likely to live independently. On average, around a quarter of young people (15-29) live with a partner ranging from 11% in Italy to 41% in Finland.

The recession appears to have had a small overall impact on the living arrangements of youth across the OECD but the average change masks larger changes in some countries (Figure HM1.3.2, Panel B). For example, in France there was a 12.5 percentage point rise in the share of youth living with their parents. Countries hit strongly by the crisis, such as Greece and Italy saw smaller increases but these countries already had some of the highest shares of youth living in their family home.

Overall across the OECD there was an increase of 0.7 percentage point in the proportion of youth living with their parents and a 1 percentage point decline in the proportion of youth living with partners or spouses between 2007 and 2014 (refer to online appendix for data). This seems to suggest that the

recession may have lengthened the time young people live at home and delayed their transition to forming their own families.

**Figure HM1.4.2: Living arrangements of youth, 2014 or latest year available<sup>1</sup>**



1. Data for 2014 refer to 2013 for Australia and Switzerland, 2012 for Turkey and 2011 for Canada; data for 2007 refer to 2006 for Chile.

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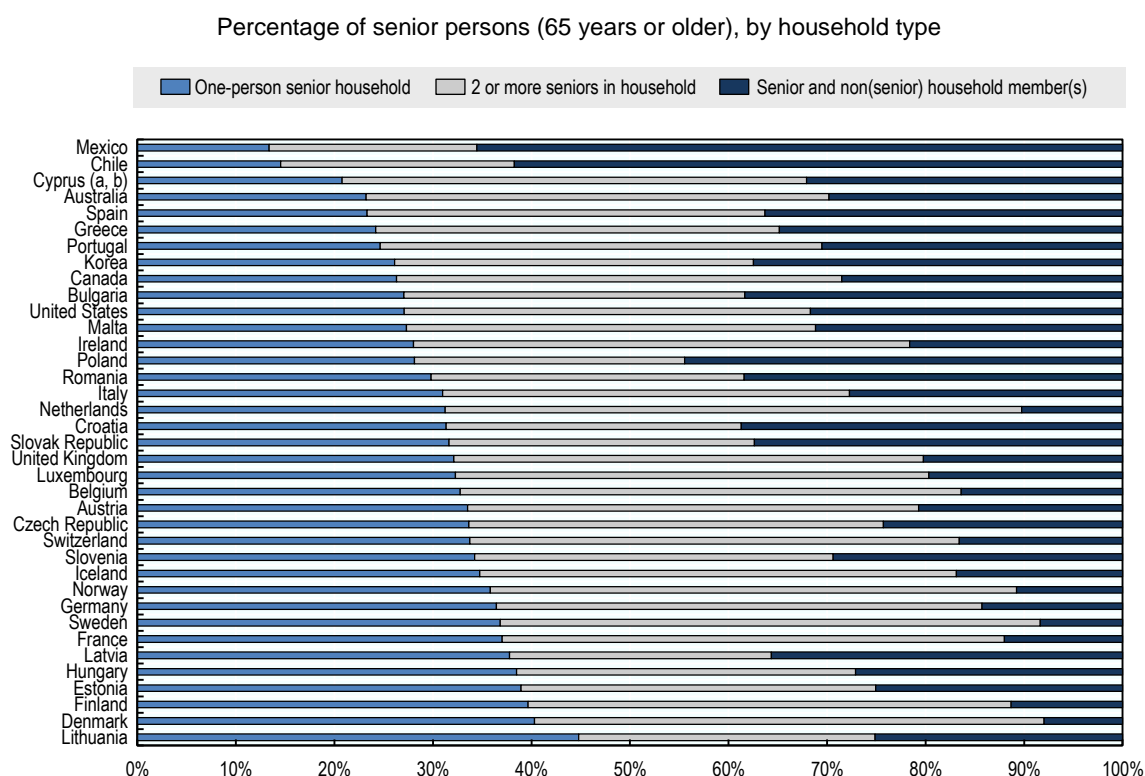
b) Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union: The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Source: Based on Chart 3.10. of [OECD Society at a Glance 2016](#).

The senior population living in private households (refer to data and comparability section for more on the limitations of this approach), by contrast, is compared to other age groups most likely to live on their own (Figure HM1.4.3, see online annex for earlier years). Nevertheless, one-person households are

only in Hungary (38.5%) and Estonia (38.9%) the most common household type among the senior population. Instead living with one or more senior(s) is the most common household type among the senior population in most countries, ranging between 58.8% in the Netherlands and 21.1% in Mexico. Only in most Central and Eastern European countries is the likelihood for seniors to live alone higher than the likelihood to live with one or more senior(s). In Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Korea, Mexico, Poland and the Slovak Republic in turn the most common living arrangement of seniors is a household that includes at least one person below the age of 65. In these countries multi-generational households thus seem more common than in the rest of OECD countries.

**Figure HM1.4.3: Share of senior population living in private households by household type, 2014 or latest year available<sup>1</sup>**



1. No information for Japan, New Zealand and Turkey due to data limitations.

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### **Data and comparability issues**

This indicator is calculated based on household surveys. For European countries the European Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) is used except for Germany where the German Socioeconomic Panel (GSOEP) is used; for Canada the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID); for Chile the Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional (CASEN); for Korea the Korean Housing Survey; for Mexico the Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares (ENIGH); and for the United States the American Community Survey (ACS).

The analysis considers only private households and excludes individuals living in institutional households such as nursing homes, hospitals and military quarters. The analysis of living arrangements of elderly people on the basis of household survey data has its limits. Population and census data that also consider institutional households provide evidence that with age the probability to live in an institutional household increases. In 2011 the proportion of persons aged 65-84 years living in an institutional household was 1.7% (Eurostat, 2016 ; also see OECD, 2016b). For those 85 years and older, by contrast, this share was 12.6%.

#### **Sources and further reading:**

Eurostat (2016), *Statistics explained: People in the EU – statistics on an ageing society*, Eurostat.

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/People in the EU %E2%80%93 statistics on an ageing society#The elderly living alone:](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/People_in_the_EU_%E2%80%93_statistics_on_an_ageing_society#The_elderly_living_alone)

OECD (2016a), *Society at a Glance 2016: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264261488-en;](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264261488-en)

OECD (2016b), *Long-Term Care Resources and Utilisation: Long-term care recipients*, OECD, Paris.

<http://stats.oecd.org>.