Significant changes have occurred in US household structure in the past thirty years. There are more single person households, more elderly households and more households headed by a female. The typical man and wife household is no longer so rigidly imposed by cultural norms. Divorce, separation, and the greater economic independence of many women now lead to more female-headed households. More than half the households in the US with children are now headed by a female.

The general pattern of the U.S. is for the eastern states to have values slightly below the national mean, while the western states are slightly higher than the national mean. Alaska at 72% (22.9% above the national mean [NM]) and Hawaii at 47.3% (19.3% below NM) represent the extreme limits.

Megalopolis has 56.6% female headed households compared to the national average of 58.6%, with a range from 69.7% (18.9% above NM) in Androscoggin ME to 38.9% (33.6% below NM) in Nassau, NY.

The Megalopolis map shows the variation of the county from the national mean. One broad pattern is for central city areas to have percentages lower than the national mean and rural suburban areas to have above the national mean. Thus Queens NY has only 45.5% (22.4% below NM) while Strafford NH has 67.3% (14.9% above NM).