

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Econ Focus: Melissa Kearney](#)

Article Link: https://www.richmondfed.org/publications/research/econ_focus/2023/q3_interview

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| Author(s) | David Price and Melissa Kearney |
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Tweet: [@kearney_melissa](#) argues that the rise of single-parent households is leading to lower social mobility for children raised in those households relative to two-parent households.

Summary: The decline in marriage and the rise in the share of children being raised in a one-parent home has happened predominantly outside the college-educated class. Over the past 40 years, while college-educated men and women have experienced rising earnings, they continue to get married, often to one another, and to raise their children in a home with married parents. Meanwhile at the same time, the earnings among adults without a college degree have stagnated or risen only a bit. And these groups have become much less likely to marry and more likely to set up households by themselves. So just mechanically, these divergent trends in marriage and family structure mean that household inequality has widened by more than it would have just from the rise in earnings inequality. Related: [US Births Are Down Again, After the COVID Baby Bust and Rebound](#) and [Wage Inequality and the Rise in Labor Force Exit: The Case of US Prime-Age Men](#) and [Bringing Home the Bacon: Have Trends in Men's Pay Weakened the Traditional Family?](#)

Primary Topic: Demographics

Topics: Database, Demographics, Family/Marriage, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Unemployment/Participation, Weekly, Workforce

Permalink: https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/kearney_melissa-argues-that-the-rise-of-single-parent-households-is-leading-to-lower-social-mobility-for-children-raised-in-those-households-relative-to-two-parent-households?view=detail

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