

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Americans' Ideal Family Size Is Larger Than the Birthrate Suggests](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/relationships/americans-ideal-family-size-is-larger-than-the-birthrate-suggests-9326b830#>

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**Summary:** Most Americans still overwhelmingly stick to an ideal of two to three children. In fact, the share of people saying they want three or more children has risen as the actual number of children being born has dropped. By the mid-1990s, about one-third of Americans said the ideal family had three or more children. But since then, the share of respondents citing an ideal of three or more children has gradually climbed. Despite dipping briefly after the pandemic, that group rebounded again in 2022 to 44%, according to the General Social Survey, the more than 50-year-old survey of Americans' social views conducted by the University of Chicago. Meanwhile, the share of people who say the ideal family consists of two children slipped to 51.7% in 2022 from 62% in 1998. On average, the ideal family is 2.5 children, which is up slightly from the 1990s but relatively little changed over the course of 50 years. Related: [Young Adults in the U.S. Are Reaching Key Life Milestones Later Than in the Past](#) and [Immigrants & Their Kids Were 70% of U.S. Labor Force Growth Since 1995](#)

**Primary Topic:** Demographics

**Topics:** Demographics, Family/Marriage, News article, Workforce

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