

Four in 10 say marriage is becoming obsolete

A third of children in the US brought up with a parent who is divorced, separated or never-married

WASHINGTON, Thursday

Is marriage becoming obsolete in America?

Nearly one in three American children is living with a parent who is divorced, separated or never-married. More people are accepting the view that wedding bells aren't needed to have a family.

A study by the Pew Research Center highlights rapidly changing notions of the American family. And the Census Bureau, too, is planning to incorporate broader definitions of family when measuring poverty, a shift caused partly by recent jumps in unmarried couples living together.

About 29 per cent of children under 18 now live with a parent or parents who are unwed or no longer married, a fivefold increase from 1960, according to the Pew report being released Thursday. Broken down further, about 15 per cent have parents who are divorced or separated and 14 per cent who were never married. Within those two groups, a sizable chunk — 6 per cent — have parents who are live-in couples who opted to raise kids together without getting married.

Indeed, about 39 per cent of Americans said marriage was becoming obsolete. And that sentiment follows US census data released in September

that showed marriages hit an all-time low of 52 per cent for adults 18 and over. In 1978, just 28 percent believed marriage was becoming obsolete.

When asked what constitutes a family, the vast majority of Americans agree that a married couple, with or without children, fits that description. But four of five surveyed pointed also to an unmarried, opposite-sex couple

with children or a single parent. Three of five people said a same-sex couple with children was a family.

"Marriage is still very important in this country, but it doesn't dominate family life like it used to," said Andrew Cherlin, a professor of sociology and public policy at Johns Hopkins University.

"Now there are several ways to

have a successful family life, and more people accept them."

One American family tradition isn't changing though. About nine in 10 Americans say they will share a traditional Thanksgiving holiday meal next week with family, sitting at a table with 12 people on average. About one-fourth of respondents said there will be 20 or more family members.

The changing views of family are being driven largely by young adults 18-29, who are more likely than older generations to have an unmarried or divorced parent or have friends who do. Young adults also tend to have more liberal attitudes when it comes to spousal roles and living together before marriage, the survey found.

—AP

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Group Scheme Advisors

The advisors will provide financial services advice and products to existing and potential clients within the designated group scheme areas under the management of the Group Scheme Manager.

The key roles and responsibilities for this role include:

- Actively participating in marketing the life company products with support from the Group Scheme Manager
- Identify potential markets for Old Mutual Kenya life products and secure potential clients
- Ensure completion of relevant company documentation once a sale has been completed
- Ensure client satisfaction by actively responding to client needs and requests
- Enhance and safeguard the Old Mutual brand in the day to day external interactions

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