



7 NOVEMBER 2022
PRESS RELEASE

1 in 3 Filipino youth grew up without both parents

Childhood and adolescence are critical stages of development that require close parental support and guidance. A third of today's Filipino youth, however, have had to navigate the challenges of growing up without the presence of both biological parents.

Results of the 2021 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS5) show that only 67% of young people were raised by both parents*; 65% among ages 15-19, and 68% among ages 20-24. This presents a distinctive decline from the percentages recorded from 1994 to 2013 (see Figure 1). Some 18% of all youth lived with their mothers only, while 4% lived with their fathers only. Meanwhile, 7% of the youth were raised by other people, mostly their grandparents.

While all regions experienced a decline in the percentage of youth raised by both parents, it is notably lowest in the country's richest regions, namely Central Luzon (38%), NCR (58%), and CALABARZON (61%) (see Table 1).

The most common reasons for not being raised by both parents include any parent working away (45%), marital separation (38%), and the death of any parent (17%) (see Figure 2). Between 2013 and 2021, the large increase in the share of youth not raised by both parents can be attributed to the increase in the share of those whose parents were working away within the country for much of their childhood.

Since 1994, the YAFS series has been collecting information on the persons who mostly raised the youth before they reached 18, given how parental support and family configuration during formative years and adolescence explain much of the youth's values, attitudes, and behaviors.

For instance, [regional studies](#) that used the 2013 YAFS data found that not having been raised by both father and mother is linked to a higher likelihood of early school leaving, teenage pregnancy, and cohabitation. It was also found to be associated with lower self-esteem, life satisfaction, and happiness levels.

The full results of the YAFS5 will be released in the form of a monograph and the data will be made available for public use in 2023. The preliminary findings are available [here](#).

** Note: In the 1994 and 2002 YAFS, respondents were asked about the persons who mostly raised them from birth up to age 15. In 2013 and 2021, the question was revised to the persons who mostly raised from birth to now (for respondents aged 18 or under) or until age 18 (for respondents over 18).*

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For more info on the study,
scan QR Code



Figure 1. Percentage of youth who were raised by both parents: 1994-2021

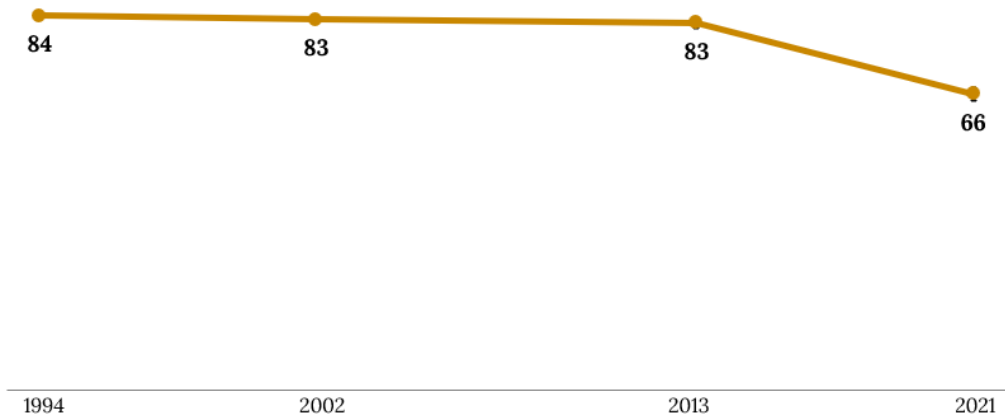


Figure 2. Most common reasons for not being raised by both parents: 2013 and 2021

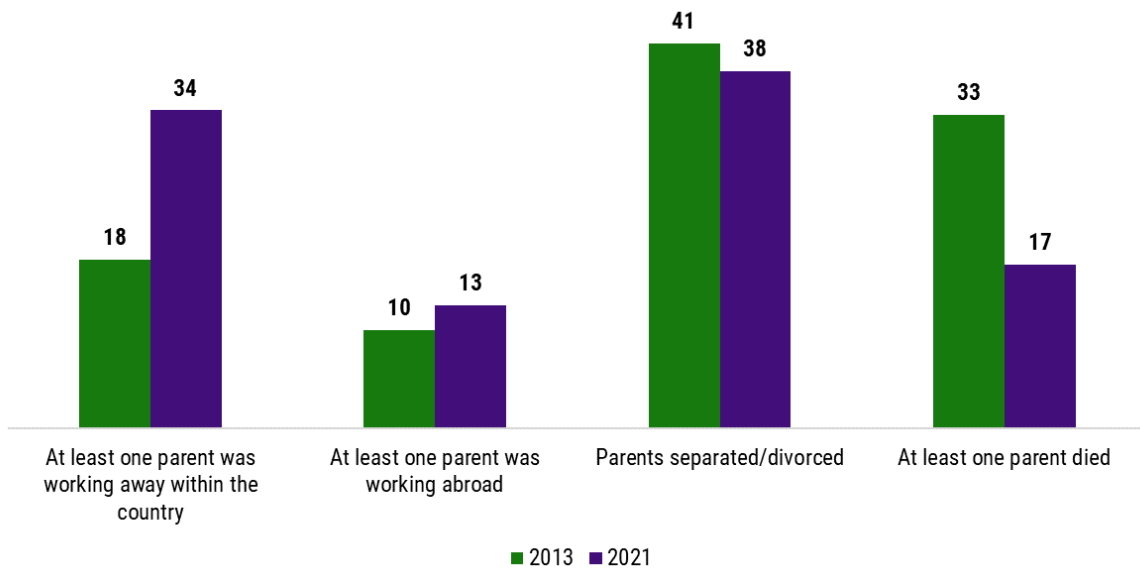


Table 1. Percentage distribution of youth by persons who mostly raised them, by region, Philippines 2021

Region	Both father and mother	Father only	Mother only	Father and others	Mother and others	Neither father nor mother	Total	N
National Capital Region	57.7	4.9	20.5	0.9	4.6	11.4	100	1,295
Cordillera Administrative Region	77.4	3.3	10.2	1.0	2.1	6.0	100	192
Ilocos	77.8	2.6	8.0	1.2	2.2	8.3	100	505
Cagayan Valley	74.2	6.8	9.5	0.4	2.0	7.1	100	351
Central Luzon	38.3	6.6	45.1	0.4	2.4	7.3	100	1,248
CALABARZON	61.3	5.1	20.6	0.6	4.8	7.7	100	1,633
MIMAROPA Region	75.1	2.6	16.3	0.1	1.4	4.5	100	290
Bicol	77.7	2.9	12.4	0.8	1.9	4.3	100	642
Western Visayas	69.6	4.8	12.8	1.2	3.5	8.2	100	789
Central Visayas	75.2	1.7	10.0	1.6	5.1	6.4	100	803
Eastern Visayas	78.6	2.6	7.5	1.5	3.8	5.9	100	499
Zamboanga Peninsula	71.1	3.3	17.3	0.3	1.8	6.3	100	401
Northern Mindanao	76.9	2.5	8.6	1.2	4.6	6.3	100	523
Davao	74.9	2.8	15.6	0.4	0.3	6.0	100	537
SOCCSKSARGEN	75.0	4.9	12.4	0.8	2.7	4.2	100	515
Caraga	74.3	3.7	12.7	0.5	2.2	6.7	100	285
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	67.9	4.9	15.4	0.7	1.0	10.2	100	440
Philippines	66.5	4.2	18.0	0.8	3.2	7.3	100	10,949

