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# The Family Trajectories of Non-Resident Parents

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# Structure of the presentation

1-Background

2- Main objective of the analysis

3- Method

4- Results

- Family households of non-resident fathers and mothers
- Main predictors of non-resident parents living in one type of household to the detriment of others
- Structures of interdependence and differentiation between households, family trajectories and socioeconomic profiles

5- Conclusions

# Background

Research on the socio-demography and trajectories of non-residential parenting is scarce.

Focus on resident mothers (lone motherhood and family recomposition).

Non-resident fathers: father-child contact, parenting activities, child support payment .

Non-resident mothers: reasons for loosing custody, mother-child contact.

## Main goal of the analysis

To investigate whether the conjugal and parental trajectories, and the socioeconomic profiles of non-resident parents were related to how they reorganized their households after divorce/separation.

# Method

## Data

Fertility survey, 2019

Stratified by sex and age, representing the female residents (aged 18-49 years old) and the male residents (aged 18-54 years old) of reproductive ages in Portugal (INE, 2020: 5).

The database provides a weighting and extrapolating factor that considers the estimates of the resident population on 31/12/2019

Subsample of family nucleus with one or more non-resident children (biological or adopted) under 18 years old (N:177 858).

### Limitations

For the FS, non-resident children are those who are absent from the household most of the time.

This means the database does not provide information on parent-child contact or shared residence situations.

## Dimensions/Variables

**Family forms** (family nucleus and households)

### Parental trajectories:

*number of non-resident children*

*age groups of non-resident children*

### Conjugal trajectories:

*marital status*

*conjugal trajectory* (number of cohabitations and marriages)

### Socioeconomic variables

*sex of respondent*

*age groups of the parents*

*educational attainment*

*monthly income level of the household*

### Analytical steps

- Multinomial logistic regression analysis
- Multiple correspondence analysis (MCA), followed by a K-means cluster analysis.

**Table 1-Family forms of the non-resident fathers and mothers with one or more non-resident children under 18 years old, Portugal, 2019 (N: 177 859, %)**

	One person	Lone parent	Recomp. no mutual children	Recomp. mutual children	Couples with children	Couples without children	Total
<b>Family forms</b>	48,3	6,2	5,2	7,9	19,2	13,1	100,0
<b>Men</b>	<b>54,8</b>	4,2	5,3	<b>9,6</b>	15,3	10,8	82,4
<b>Women</b>	17,7	<b>15,7</b>	4,7	0	<b>37,9</b>	<b>24,0</b>	17,6

Source: Fertility Survey, 2019.

Notes: Chi<sup>2</sup> values for the associations between the family structures and the sex of the non-resident parents are statistically significant: p <.000. Numbers in bold show overrepresentations based on the analysis of standardized residuals.

Non-residential parenting is carried out in all simple families' households and in one person ones

The family trajectories of non-resident mothers and fathers are different

Non-resident fathers and mothers have parental ties and responsibilities both in their households and beyond them, with fathers being more involved than mothers in stepparenting.

**Table 2- Multinomial logistic regression model predicting whether non-resident parents live in households of couples (simple or reconstituted) with or without mutual children, and lone parent households, instead of in one-person ones (odds-ratios).**

	a) Couple mutual children	b) Couple no mutual children	c) Lone Parent
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	1,68***	2,08***	3,49***
Male <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>Age of parents</b>			
30-39	1,55***	1,56***	-1,35***
40-54 <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>Educational attainment</b>			
Up to the first cycle	2,62***	2,36***	-0,21**
Secondary	1,91**	1,46**	-0,21
Tertiary <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>Household monthly income</b>			
Up to €700	3,42***	6,72***	-17,36
€701-1500	3,02***	4,04***	-18,02
€1501-2200	1,97***	3,52***	0,62**
€2201 or more <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>Number of non-resident children</b>			
1 child	0,18**	0,78**	-0,21**
2 children	-1,18**	0,80**	-14,62
3 or more children <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>Age of the non-resident children</b>			
0-5	-2,60***	-0,51**	0,62
6-11	-1,89***	-1,34***	0,62*
12-17 <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>Conjugal trajectory</b>			
1 cohabitation	-23,29	-22,56	-14,62***
2 or more cohabitations	-21,18	-21,13	
1 marriage	-21,18	-21,72	-3,56
2 or more marriages <sup>b</sup>	1	1	1
<b>R<sup>2</sup> Nagelkerke:0,75</b>			

\*\*\*  $p < .000$ ; \*\*  $p < .00$ ; \*  $p < .05$  +  $p < .1$ .; b means reference category

The socioeconomic indicators had the higher predictive effects, followed by the parental trajectory's indicators, in establishing whether the non-resident parents lived in simple couple's households with and without mutual children rather than in one-person ones.

The indicators of the conjugal trajectories were only predictive of the chances of being a lone parent instead of living in one-person households.

## Multinomial Regression Analysis

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Model a) The younger woman who had the lowest educational attainment and household monthly incomes and had older non-resident only children had the higher chances of living in households of couples with mutual children (simple or reconstituted).

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Model b) The younger women with one or two older non-resident children, low educational attainment, and transversal monthly incomes were more likely to be part of childless couple's households (simple or reconstituted).

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Model c) For the older women who had not cohabitated once and had incomes at the €1501-2200 level, the higher was their educational attainment and number of children aged between 6-11 years old, the more likely they were to be lone mothers.



**Table 3** - Multiple correspondence analysis dimensions: discrimination measures

Active variables	Dimension 1	Dimension 2
<i>Inertia</i>	,421	,295
Sex	,016	<b>,258</b>
Age groups of parents	<b>,522</b>	,219
Family forms	,112	<b>,596</b>
Marital status	<b>,590</b>	,258
Age groups of children	<b>,510</b>	146
Conjugal trajectories	<b>,779</b>	,295
<i>Alpha</i>	,725	,523
Passive variables		
Number of children	,057	,002
Educational attainment	,052	,014
Household monthly income	,073	,016

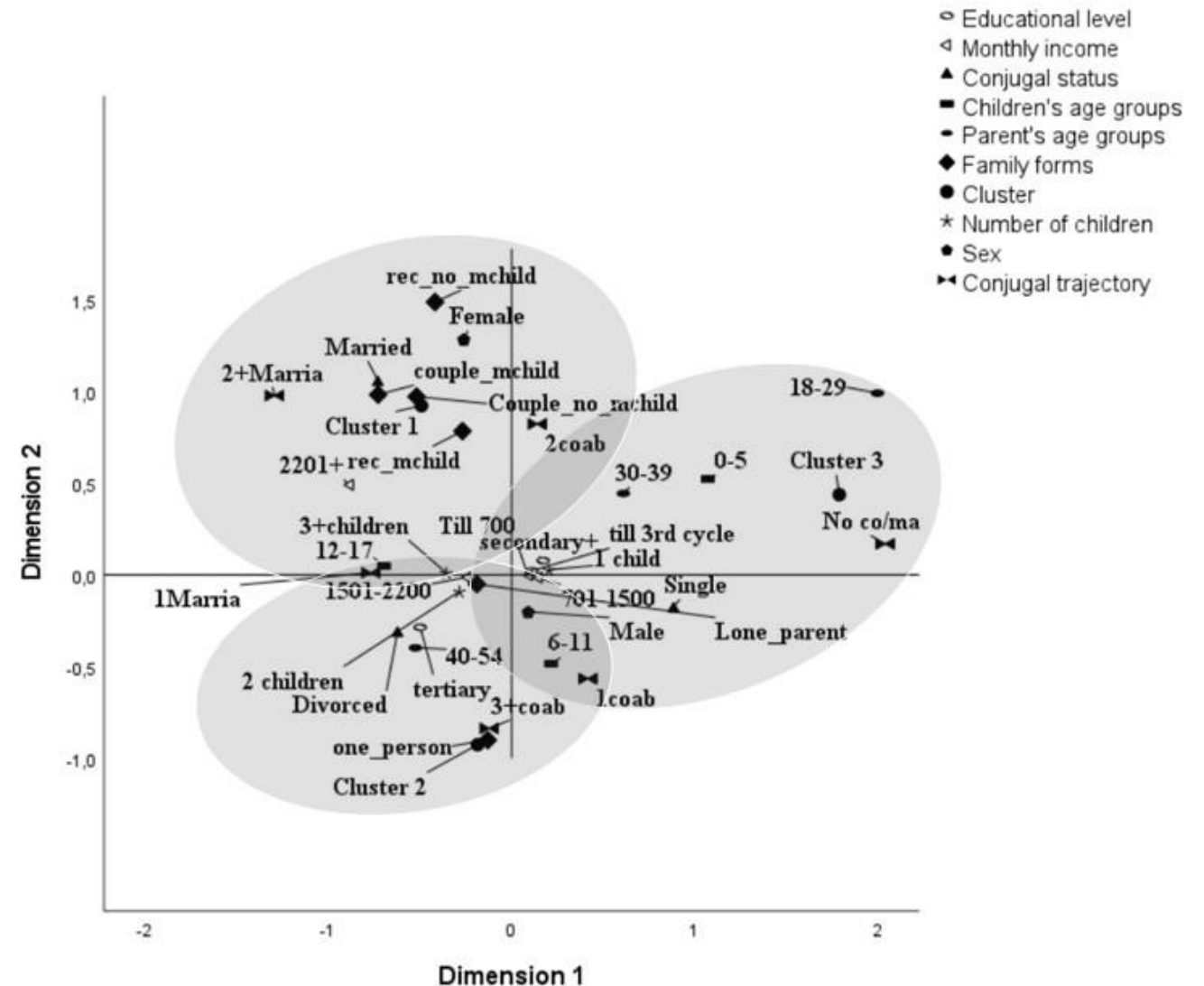
Total variance explained by each dimension: Dimension 1:19%; Dimension 2: 14%

**Dimension 1:** distinguished the non-resident parents according to their age groups, the age groups of their children, marital status, and conjugal trajectories.

**Dimension 2:** differentiated the non-resident parents according to sex, family forms, and number of cohabitations.

**Three social groups:** one composed by women, other by men and still other by both

**Figure 1** -Spatial Projection of MCA and Clusters



# Cluster analysis

## **Cluster 1: 37,1%**

Included non-resident married mothers with different conjugal trajectories and family forms: simple couples with or without mutual children and recomposed families without mutual children. Some had married once, others two or more times; and still others had cohabitated twice. They had three or more non-resident children, aged between 12 and 17 years old, and their households had monthly incomes at the €1501-2200 or €2201 or more levels.

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## **Cluster 2: 45,6%**

Included non-resident fathers aged between 40 and 54 years old. They lived in one-person households, were divorced, and had diverse conjugal trajectories: one marriage; one cohabitation; or three or more cohabitations. Their parental trajectories were also diverse: two or three or more non-resident children, aged either between 6-11 years old or between 12-17 years old. They attained the tertiary level of education and had a monthly income at the €1501-2200 level.

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## **Cluster 3: 17,3%**

An internally diverse group, regarding the sex of the parents, family forms, and conjugal trajectories. It comprised both non-resident mothers and fathers aged either between 18 and 29 years old or 30 and 39 years old. They were single and lived as lone parents, and either had cohabitated once or never lived as a couple. They all had one non-resident child, aged between 0-5 years old, had attained the lowest level of education (up to the first cycle) and had the lowest monthly incomes (till €700 and €701-1500). It was the most economically and socially vulnerable group.

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# Conclusions

Fathers and mothers differed in the family trajectories they undertook:

- more than a half of the fathers lived in one-person families and a small proportion in reconstituted families with mutual children
- over 60% of the mothers lived in simple couple's households, with and without mutual children, being also overrepresented in lone parent families.

Non-resident fathers and mothers have parental ties and responsibilities both in their households and beyond them, with fathers being more involved than mothers in stepparenting and mothers more involved than fathers in having more children

Both the regression and the MCA analysis revealed the conjugal and parental trajectories, and the socio-economic profiles of the non-resident parents shape how they reorganize their domestic life after parental separation.

Regression: Socio-economic profiles and parental trajectories are more predictive than the conjugal trajectories of the chance of non-resident mothers living as a couple, simple or reconstituted, with or without children, instead of in a one-person household. The conjugal trajectories are only predictive of the chance of mothers being lone parents rather than living in one-person households

MCA: Three main groups of non-resident parents. One of mothers, other of fathers and still other of both.

Each group was internally diverse either regarding family forms, conjugal trajectories, parental trajectories or socioeconomic profiles.