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# 2023 Seoul Family Report

Families in Seoul Today and 2018-2023 Trends

2018

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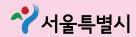
2020

2021

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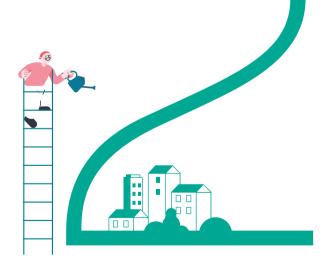






# 2023 Seoul Family Report

Families in Seoul Today and 2018-2023 Trends





The Seoul Family Report, an annual publication of the Seoul Metropolitan Government since 2015, describes the dynamics of families and family life in Seoul and examines the citizens' attitudes toward family-related issues and policies. This Report includes the results of the annual Seoul Family Survey along with an overview of public policies supporting families in Seoul. This English booklet serves a summary of the 2023 Seoul Family Report, which is written by Jaerim Lee (Seoul National University), Seohee Son (Sookmyung Women's University), and their research assistants in Korean. The complete 2023 Report can be accessed on the Family Seoul website (familyseoul.or.kr).

# **2023 Seoul Family Policy at a glance**



#### **Marriage & Young Adults**

- Public space rental for weddings
- Mortgage payment support for
- Seoul Premarital Education Program
- Seoul Newlywed Education Program
- Couple Check-Up
- Support for young adults' healthy diet

#### **Pregnancy & Childbirth**

- Total mental and physical care for new mothers
- Housekeeping services for pregnant and working mothers with multiple children
- Support for infertility treatments
- Support for tubal rehabilitation procedures
- Assistance with the cost of IVF
- Support for medical examinations for older mothers
- Support for child safety insurance for multiple births
- Mandatory paternity leave



#### **Diverse Families**

- Support for teen age parents
- Support for single parent families
- Child care support for unmarried
- parenting practices and their children's language development



#### **Families with Two or More Children**

- Greater benefits for families with 2+
- Expanding the supply of longterm rental housing for multi-child
- Seoul Learn online platform from the second child in households with 3+

familyseoul.or.kı



#### Children ages 2 and under

- Seoul-type childcare subsidy (24-36 months)
- Seoul-type task force for children under 1 (TF) pilot (~12 months)
- Seoul mom and dad taxi i.M (~24 months)



#### ✓ Children ages 5 and under

- Expansion of high-quality public childcare facilities in my neighborhood (~ 5 years)
- Opening of the Seoul Child Development Center (~ 5 years)
- Parenting coaching support from parenting experts (~ 5 years)
- Parenting Support Coordinator (~ 5 years)



#### ✓ Children ages 6 and under

- 365/24 Emergency Child Care for Infants and Toddlers
- Expansion of 120 Mother and Child Care Centers in Seoul
- Support for safe infant care
- Double security for working mothers and fathers! Provide dinner support for daycare centers
- Expansion of the the Seoul Toy Library



#### Children ages 9 and under

- Mentor's "Thank You" Lecture on Mom and Dad Happiness Parenting
- Father Parenting Mastery Program
- Free lunch during school breaks at our neighborhood nurturing centers
- Seoul Mom and Dad VIP Zone
- Family restrooms
- Family-friendly parking lot
- Seoul Kids Okay Zone
- Expansion of Seoul-type children cafes
- Healing Time Culture Project
- Mom and Dad Happytown
- Parenting portal for mothers and fathers "Mannungki"
- Fatherhood Class
- Family Chef
- Expansion of Public Infrastructure for Elementary Care
- Enhance emergency after-school care for elementary school students (6-12 years)

- Childhood parent education (8-13 years)
- Collaborating with major economic organizations to adopt a parentingfriendly corporate culture
- Investment and funding organizations promote work/life balance systems
- Support for parental leave subsidies for mothers and fathers
- Promote the use of parental leave
- Encouraging the use of reduced working hours during childcare
- Women's business project (support for women with experience)
- Temporary care for sick children/ hospital accompaniment service (~12 years)
- Dedicated transportation support to and from school (~12 years)
- Discounted lunch box/meal kit for families after work (~18 years)

# 2023 Seoul Family Report

# Chapter 1 Birth of Seoul Families



65% of Seoul citizens in their 20s and 30s intend to get married.

Increase in neither positive nor negative attitudes toward getting married

70% of Seoul citizens believe two children are ideal for families

Support for child care and education, the most effective policy response to low birthrates.

policies & services

#### ✓ Support for young adults' healthy diet

Cooking classes and health programs to help young adults form healthy habits and build social networks for single-person households

#### Public space rental for weddings

Finding public wedding venues that meet the needs of citizens and providing comprehensive support for personalized and meaningful weddings at an affordable cost

#### Support for infertility treatments

Subsidizing up to 22 treatments for all infertile couples, regardless of income or the type of treatment.

## Support for medical examinations for older mothers

Up to 1 million won in medical examination for pregnant women aged 35 or older

#### ✓ Greater benefits for families with 2+ children Lowering the multi-child threshold from three to two children, with the first two children entitled for free or half-price access to city utilities

# Chapter 2 Parenting of Seoul Families



Parenting, happy but difficult

Seoul parents, "Korean society is not supportive of parenting"

Gender inequalities in childcare persist

Work-life balance of parents is the key to reducing parenting stress

policies & services

## ✓ 365/24 Emergency child care for infants and toddlers

Providing extended, 24-hour, and holiday childcare for families with preschoolers for working couples, parents who work nights and weekends

#### 3 Seoul-type niche childcare services

Providing dedicated transportation to and from school, accompanying sick children to the hospital, and care support for families with children under the age of 12.

#### √ 3-piece Seoul Work-Life Balance Set

Introducing mandatory use of spousal maternity leave, creating an atmosphere for the use of parental leave, and encouraging the use of reduced working hours during parenting period.

#### ✓ Seoul Mom and Dad Taxi i.M

Taxi vouchers for families with infants up to 24 months old, equipped with spacious loading space, car seats for outings and trips.

#### ✓ Mom and Dad VIP Zones in Seoul

Creating and expanding spaces for parents and children in public facilities such as roads, cultural facilities, parks, and waterfront spaces.

#### 05

# Chapter 3 Relationships of Seoul Families



Less importance of family blood ties, more importance of psychological family ties in

Newlyweds as happy as dating couples; Need to help couples stay happy

Disparities in perceived equality between married men and women, contrasting trends in dating couples.

The younger they are, the more they feel they should support their aging parents financially

policies & services

#### ✓ Seoul Family Travel Support

Seoul Happy Travel provides family travel support for the underprivileged and provides Seoul-style travel vouchers to temporary workers to purchase domestic travel products.

#### ✓ Seoul Newlywed Education Program

Providing couple preparation education, in-depth relationship counseling, and financial counseling to help couples overcome problems and conflicts during the honeymoon period and lead a healthy marriage.

#### ✓ Marriage Check-Up

Family centers provide marriage checkups for couples who want to maintain a healthy relationship to help them identify problems and deal with conflicts proactively.

#### ✓ Support for young adult caregivers in Seoul

Supporting young adults who care for family members with physical illnesses and disabilities with customized services such as job placement, counseling, and caregiving services.

# Chapter 4 Life of Seoul Families



Housing costs, the most challenging living expense

32.7% of Seoul citizens in their 20s and 30s, state that the possibility of having their own house is "low"

Family-friendly organizational culture, the first step toward work-life balance

Seoul citizens of 30 or older, prioritize "family" over work, social relationships, and personal lives

policies & services

## Seoul Housing Support Policy for (Soon-to-be) Newlyweds

Reducing the burden of housing costs for (soon-tobe) newlyweds and expanding loan limits and interest support for rent deposits

Seoul Rent Support Center and Chatbot Service

Free expert counseling services through the center to help compensate for damages such as rental scams. A chatbot service through Seoul Talk providing guidance on how to prevent and respond to rental scams.

#### ✓ Seoul Work-Life Balance Support Center

Conducts research and corporate consulting on worklife balance.

#### ✓ Seoul Family Center's "Family Seoul" Website

Providing information on services offered by family centers in the city's 25 districts, including education, counseling, and culture.





# **01.** Birth of Couples



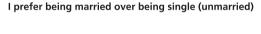
#### [Seoul Family Survey] Attitudes toward getting married

Attitudes toward (non-)marriage were measured by asking respondents to what extent they agreed with the statements "I prefer being married over being single (unmarried)" and "It is okay to be single (unmarried) without getting married."

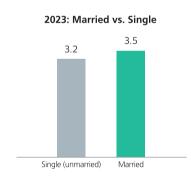
The level of agreement with the statement, "I prefer being married over being single (unmarried)" (Range: 1-5) was slightly higher than moderate at 3.3 in 2023. A similar trend has been maintained for the last six years, with an increase in the NCND (moderate) attitude toward marriage. Based on the average of 2023, men (3.5) and married people (3.5) are more significantly likely to agree with the statement than women (3.1) and single people (unmarried) (3.2).

#### Attitudes toward getting married: all, by gender and marital status (2018-2023)

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#### I prefer being married over being single (unmarried)



Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

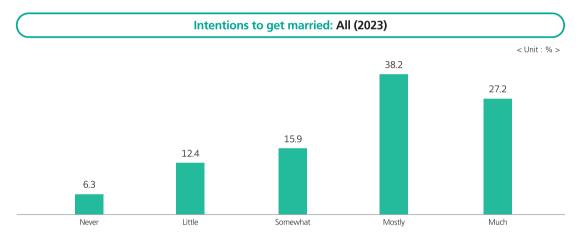
The level of agreement with the statement, "I prefer being married over being single (unmarried)" (Range: 1-5) was **slightly higher than moderate** among Seoul citizens, with **an increase in the NCND (moderate)** attitude toward marriage.

The level of agreement with the statement, "I prefer being married over being single (unmarried)" (Range: 1-5) was between "Neutral" and "Agree" at 3.3 in 2023, and women and single people were slightly more positive toward being single (unmarried) than men and married people.



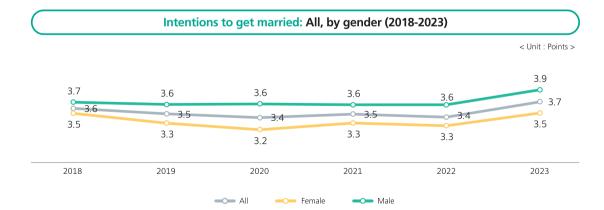
#### [Seoul Family Survey] Marital intentions

Marriage intentions (range: 1-5) among never-married, childless people in their 20s and 30s have remained higher than moderate over the past six years, with both women and men reporting an increase in marriage intentions in 2023 compared with 2022. In 2023, the share of respondents who are willing to marry ("Mostly" + "Much") is 65.4%, with a significant gender difference in the average intention to marry.



Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey (never-married, childless 20-to 30- year olds ( 555 respondents)

65.4% of never-married, childless 20- to 30-year olds in Seoul are somewhat or very willing to marry.



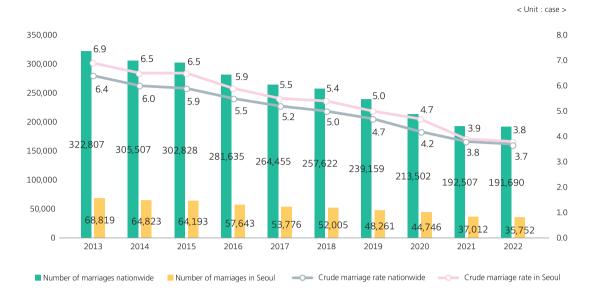
Note: The question was "Are you willing to get married in the future?" in 2018-2020, "Do I intend to get married" in 2021-2022, "Do I intend to get married (someday) (including remarriage)" in 2023, answered on a scale of 1-5.

Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year (never-married, childless 20-to 30- year olds: 266 respondents in 2018, 510 in 2019, 664 in 2020, 607 in 2021, 603 in 2022, 555 in 2023)

Unmarried 20-to 30- year olds in Seoul are "mostly" willing to marry, with men having higher marriage intentions than women (Range: 1-5).

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#### Number of marriages and crude marriage rates (2013-2022)



Note: The crude marriage rate is the total number of marriages that occurred in a year divided by the civil registration year (July 1) population for that year, expressed as a fraction of 1,000, meaning the number of marriages per 1,000 populations.

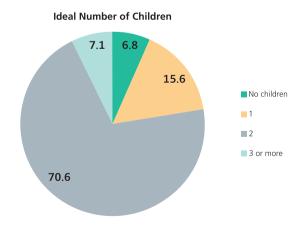
Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year.

The total number of marriages in Seoul was 35,752 and the crude marriage rate was 3.8 (as of 2022). Over the past 10 years, from 2013 to 2022, the number of marriages and the crude marriage rate in Seoul have steadily decreased.

# **02.** Birth of Parents

#### Ideal number of children: All (2023)

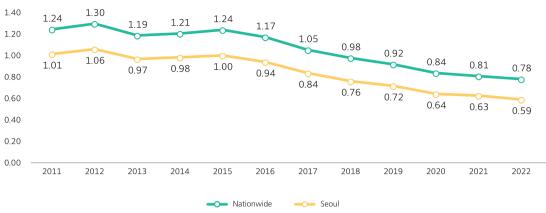
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Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey

70.6% of Seoul citizens believe that the ideal number of children is 2. There is a difference between Seoul's total fertility rate of 0.59 in 2023 and the ideal number of children.

#### Total fertility rates (2011-2022)



Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of live births a woman is expected to have during her childbearing years (15-49 years), and is the sum of age-specific fertility rates. Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year. Statistics Korea Press Release, 2022 December Population Trend, 2022.

The total fertility rate in Seoul has been on a steady decline for the last 13 years (2011 - 2022). It was 0.59 in 2022, which was both lower than the national average of 0.78 and the lowest in the country.

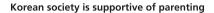


#### [Seoul Family Survey] Attitudes toward parenthood

The Seoul Family Survey has annually measured positive and negative attitudes toward parenthood from 2018 to 2023. Among positive attitudes toward parenthood, the level of agreement (range: 1-5) with the statement, "It is the greatest pleasure in life to watch my children grow up" has remained slightly higher than moderate. Among negative attitudes toward parenthood, the level of agreement with the statement, "It is a financial burden to raise children" has consistently been the highest.

#### "Korean society is supportive of parenting": All, by age of child (2023)

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Note: No child group means respondents without children regardless of their marital status.

Source: 1) 2023 Seoul Family Survey (All, No child 884 respondents)

2) 2023 Seoul Family Survey & 2023 Seoul Parenting Survey (923 with first child ages 0-9 years, 151 age 10-18 years, and 232 with first child age 19+ years.)

Seoul citizens agree with the statement "Korean society is supportive of parenting" (range: 1-5) at lower than moderate levels, with the group without children or with younger children disagreeing more.



#### [Seoul Family Survey & Seoul Parenting Survey] Effective Low Birthrate (Fertility) Policies

When asked to select three effective low birthrate policies, the most common response was "child care and education support." The second most common response varied by group: "economic support (prices, employment, wages)" for men and single people, "parental leave and reduced working hours" for women and childless people, and "institutional childcare and care" for married people. The third most popular answer was "housing" for men and childless group, "economic support" for women and married people, and "parental leave, reduced hours" for single (unmarried) people. Among the childless group, "institutional childcare and care" for those with infants, "parental leave, reduced hours" for people with toddlers, and "housing" for people with elementary school children were the responses.

#### Effective low fertility policies (3 choices) (2023)

< Unit : persons >

Group	1st		2nd		3rd	
All <sup>a)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	783	Economic support	607	Housing	562
Female <sup>a)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	356	Parental leave, Reduced working hours	322	Economic support	290
Male <sup>a)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	427	Economic support	317	Housing	306
Married <sup>a)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	419	Institutional care/care	278	Economic support	274
Single (Unmarried) <sup>a)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	327	Economic support	309	Parental leave, Reduced working hours	289
Childless <sup>a)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	403	Parental leave, Reduced working hours	326	Housing	307
Parents of infants <sup>b)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	149	Parental leave, Reduced working hours	116	Institutional care/care	107
Parents of toddlers <sup>b)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	171	Institutional care/care	145	Parental leave, Reduced working hours	117
Parents of elementary schoolers <sup>b)</sup>	Child care, education expenses	159	Economic support	111	Housing	109

Note: 1) This is a multiple choice question with 3 options to select from.

2) The childless group is the total number of respondents without children, regardless of their marital status.

Source: a) 2023 Seoul Family Survey (All, childless 884 respondents

b) 2023 Seoul Parenting Sample (284 parents of infants, 346 parents of toddlers, 293 parents of lower elementary school students)

When asked to select **three effective low birthrate policies**, the most common response among Seoul citizens was **"child care and education support."** 

2023 SEOUL FAMILY POLICY

#### **Seoul City Policies and Services for Parental Health**

#### Total mental and psychological care for new mothers

As part of the Seoul Mom and Dad Happiness Project, the city supports healthy parenting activities for new mothers through various health programs that support quick physical and psychological recovery after childbirth.

Source: https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/546681

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## **01.** Parental Roles and Childcare

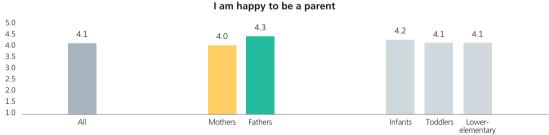


#### [Seoul Parenting Survey] Happiness and regrets as a parent

Parents of the first child aged 0-9 years were asked to rate their level of agreement with the statement "I am happy to be a parent" (range: 1-5), with a mean of 4.1. Fathers were significantly more likely to agree than mothers, however, there were no significant differences by child developmental stage. The mean of "I regret being a parent" (range: 1-5) was 1.8, lower than 2 ("Disagree"), and fathers were significantly less likely than mothers. There were no significant differences by child developmental stage for this statement either.

Happiness as a parent: Parents of the first child ages 0-9 years: All, by gender, by child developmental stage (2023)

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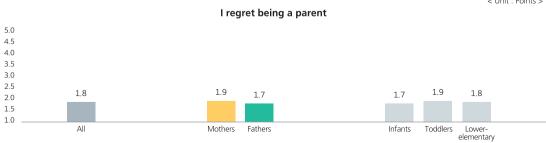


Note: Infant refers to children aged 0-2 years, toddler refers to preschoolers aged 3 years and older, and lower elementary refers to school children aged 9 years and younger (based on first child).

Parents in Seoul generally agree with the statement "I am happy to be a parent," with fathers agreeing at a higher level than mothers (range: 1-5).

Regret being a parent: Parents of the first child ages 0-9: All, by gender, by child developmental stage (2023)







#### [Seoul Parenting Survey] Difficulties of parenting

Parents of the first child aged 0-9 years were asked about the physical, mental, financial, occupational, relational, spatial/environmental, and caregiving challenges they experience as parents (range: 1-5). The average for each domain was: physical difficulties (3.6), followed by mental difficulties (3.5), occupational difficulties (3.5), financial difficulties (3.4), difficulties owing to caregiving gaps (3.2), spatial and environmental difficulties (3.1), and relational difficulties (2.8). By parental gender, mothers experienced significantly higher levels of physical, mental, and occupational difficulties and difficulties owing to caregiving gaps than fathers.

In terms of physical difficulties, parents of infants experienced more difficulties than parents of toddlers and parents of toddlers experienced more difficulties than parents of lower elementary school children. In terms of occupational difficulties, parents of toddlers reported significantly higher levels of difficulties than parents of lower elementary school children. In terms of spatial and environmental difficulties, the parents of infants and toddlers perceived significantly more difficulties than parents of children in the lower elementary grades. Finally, in terms of caregiving gaps, parents of infants and toddlers reported more difficulties than parents of lower elementary school children.

By working status, single-parent households experienced higher levels of financial hardship than dual-parent households. Conversely, in terms of caregiving gaps, dual-earner families experienced more difficulties than single-earner families. Apart from the aforementioned aspects, no statistically significant differences by gender, child's developmental stage, or working status were determined.

## **02.** Work-Life Balance and Leisure of Parents

This section introduces the results of a survey on work-life balance and leisure among parents having children aged nine and under, the target group of Seoul's Happy Mom and Dad Project.



#### [Seoul Parenting Survey] Work-Life Conflict for Parents

Work-Life conflict for parents who reported being economically active in the past week was examined by dividing it into work-family conflict, family-work conflict, work-leisure conflict, and work-growth conflict. Both work-family conflict (work  $\rightarrow$  family) and family-work conflict (family  $\rightarrow$  work) were lower than moderate, with an average score of 2.4-2.5 (range: 1-5). Both work-leisure conflict and work-growth conflict were moderate, with an average score of 3.0-3.1 (range: 1-5).



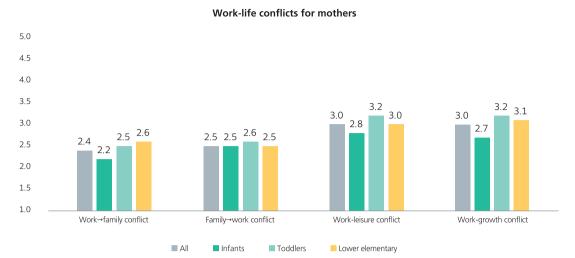


Source: 2023 Seoul Parenting Samples, 923 persons

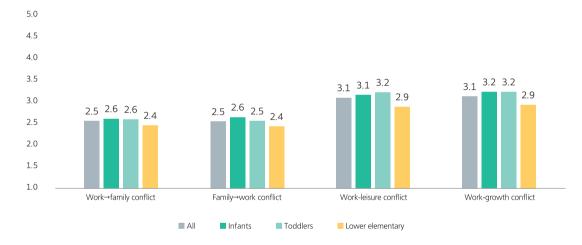
Among Seoul citizens with children aged 0-9, 61.7% of mothers primarily perform domestic chores, and 71.2% of mothers manage childcare and education. **Mothers are the most likely to perform household chores and caregiving.** 

## Work-life conflicts for mothers and fathers: Working parents with children aged 9 and under: All, by child developmental stage (2023)

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#### Work-life conflicts for fathers



Note: 1) Only parents who answered "Yes (1)" to the question, "In the past week, did you work for more than 1 hour for money, or did you work for more than 18 hours in a family-run shop, factory, farm without getting paid?" were analyzed.

Source: 2023 Seoul Parenting Samples (214 working mothers 402 working fathers)

Mothers of lower elementary school children experience more work-family conflict than those of infants and toddlers (range: 1-5). Fathers of infants and toddlers experience more work-leisure conflict than those of lower elementary school children.

<sup>2)</sup> The average of 5 work-family conflict questions, 4 family-work conflict questions, 5 work-leisure conflict questions, and 5 work-growth conflict questions was used.

<sup>3)</sup> Infant refers to children aged 0-2 years, toddler refers to preschoolers aged 3 years and older, and lower elementary refers to school-aged children aged 9 years and younger (based on first child).



#### **Seoul Policies and Services to Support Safe Care**

#### My Neighborhood Care Portal

Seoul operates the My Neighborhood Care Portal (https://icare.seoul.go.kr), which allows users to view childcare services for infants, elementary school students, and middle school students at a glance and apply for childcare services online.

Source: https://icare.seoul.go.kr/icare/index.do



#### 365/24 Emergency Child Care for Infants and Toddlers

Seoul City offers various types of childcare services for parents who require emergency and temporary childcare, parents of preschoolers, working couples with infants and toddlers who require emergency childcare, and parents who work nights or during weekends. Details are presented in the table below.

Source: https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/546692

#### Seoul-type 0-year-old TF 🔊 엄마아빠

Since March 2023, the city has been operating the "Seoul-type age 1 and under TF," which provides special care for infants under 12 months old, so that mothers and fathers can send their children to daycare centers with peace of mind while continuing their socioeconomic activities. Unlike the typical "0-year-old class" in daycare centers, which comprises infants under 24 months old, the TF comprises only infants under 12 months old. In addition, to safely care for infants under 12 months old who require special care, a specially trained childcare teacher cares for two children in a dedicated infant room, above the legal standard (three children per teacher). As of August 2023, a total of 69 daycare centers are operating the TF.

Source: 1) https://mediahub.seoul.go.kr/archives/2006902 2) https://iseoul.seoul.go.kr/portal/info/preSchoolList.do

#### 3 Seoul-type niche childcare services 🔊 ਰੂਪਾਮਾ

As a specialized project, Seoul bridges the gap in government-supported childcare services and provides high-quality childcare services ("dispatch of dedicated caregivers for infants, schoolchildren, and sick children") to suit the needs of Seoul's childcare population.

#### For infants

Provide a dedicated infant caregiver, experienced in caring for infants aged 3-36 months to help bridge the care gap created when a caregiver returns to work after maternity or paternity leave.

#### • Walking school bus program

Provides a dedicated caregiver service for children aged 12 and under from working families to attend daycare centers, kindergartens, academies, and schools, including pre-school preparation, accompanying children to and from school, and after-school play activities.

#### • For sick children

If a child aged 12 and under from a parenting gap family needs to visit a hospital for non-communicable infections such as stomach aches, vaccinations, and routine checkups, a caregiver dedicated to the sick child will accompany the child to the hospital and provide care at home.

Source: 1) https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/546692

2) https://icare.seoul.go.kr/icare/dolbomMENU2/dolbomMENU2\_3/dolbomMENU2\_3\_1.jsp

#### Seoul Community Child Center Emergency and Temporary Care Service

The emergency and temporary care service allows parents to leave their elementary school-aged children at the nearest local childcare center when they need childcare for a short period of time owing to sudden circumstances. This service is for unregistered children. Emergency care is provided on a daily basis and temporary care is provided on a weekly or monthly basis, and the centers provide childcare, educational and play programs, meals, and snacks.

Source: https://icare.seoul.go.kr/icare/user/fcltyInfoManage/BD\_selectLocalCenterContactList.do?q\_tap=1

#### **Seoul-type More Childcare Center**

A Seoul-type More Childcare Center is a futureoriented childcare model that organizes 3-5 nearby childcare centers into a sharing community to improve the quality of care by sharing programs and space, and to promote operational efficiency by jointly coordinating admission waiting period, so that childcare centers can benefit from each other and caregivers and children.

# Seoul-type More Childcare Center has the following directions:

- Joint operation through sharing of personnel (substitutes, aides) and space, joint purchase of goods
- **2)** Enhancing professionalism by sharing childcare programs and childcare-related information among childcare centers
- **3)** Encouraging parental involvement through joint parental involvement programs and events
- **4)** Strengthening community networking by using spaces near childcare centers, such as forests, parks, and cultural spaces, and connecting with organizations in the community





Source: 1) https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/546692

<sup>2)</sup> https://iseoul.seoul.go.kr/portal/info/content.do?page=0806

 $<sup>3) \</sup> https://iseoul.go.kr/portal/eco/shareCareCaseView.do?idx=11254\& amp; pageIndex=1\& amp; gubun=undefined and the property of the property$ 



#### Seoul Policies and Services to Support Work-Life Balance of Parents

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The city of Seoul will provide the "Seoul Parental Leave Subsidy" beginning in September 2023 to ease the financial burden of parents and promote the use of parental leave. The Parental Leave Subsidy targets citizens having a household income of 150% or less of the median income of those living in Seoul, are covered by employment insurance, and receive parental leave benefits. Six months after the commencement of parental leave, KRW 600,000 will be paid, and an additional KRW 600,000 will be paid after 12 months, totaling to KRW 1.2 million in parental leave incentives.

Source: https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/546668

#### Seoul 3-piece Work-Life Balance Set

The city of Seoul is promoting the Seoul Work-Life Balance Set to support parents' work-life balance by improving the workplace culture that makes it difficult to combine work and childcare. The set comprises mandatory maternity leave for spouses (fathers), creating an atmosphere for parental leave, and encouraging the use of reduced working hours during childcare. The program will be extended from public institutions to private companies. It is expected to contribute to fostering a work-life balance culture and creating a childbirth and parenting-friendly environment.

#### • Mandatory Mandatory paternity leave

Mandates that employers grant 10 days of maternity leave to fathers when their spouse gives birth, regardless of whether the employee requests it.

# 영화이에 행복 프로젝트 서울시 일·생활 균형 3종 세트 이 배우자 출산휴가 의무사용제 이 되아휴직 사용 분위기 조성 이 되아가 근로시간 단축 사용 권고제 이 되아 이 바이 일 생활 균형이 이루어지도록 지원합니다.

#### • Creating an atmosphere for using parental leave

Requires employers to regularly encourage the use of parental leave in writing, periodically monitor personnel disadvantages caused by parental leave, and establish training programs to help employees return to work after parental leave.

#### • Recommendation to use reduced working hours

Requires employers to regularly encourage mothers and fathers with children under the age of 8 or in the second grade of elementary school to use reduced working hours during the childcare period.

Source: https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/553534



#### Seoul Policies and Services to Support Leisure and Cultural Activities of Families Raising children

#### Seoul-type children cafes

Seoul-type children cafes provide indoor play spaces for children aged 9 and under (depending on the facility) to play regardless of season or fine dust and caregivers are deployed to deliver play and care services simultaneously.

Source: 1) https://news.seoul.go.kr/welfare/archives/546692 2) https://icare.seoul.go.kr/icare/user/kidsCafe/ BD\_selectKidsCafeList.do



#### Seoul Mom and Dad Taxi i.M @ 얼마아빠

Seoul Mom and Dad Taxi i.M project provides transportation for parents with infants up to 24 months old when they need to go out, including trips to the hospital. The vehicles are equipped with spacious cargo space and car seats, and power sliding doors, making it easier for parents with infants to commute. In 2023, the project will be piloted in 16 autonomous districts (Gangdong, Gangbuk, Gangseo, Gwanak, Gwangjin, Geumcheon, Dobong, Dongdaemun, Mapo, Seocho, Seongdong, Seongbuk, Yangcheon, Yeongdeungpo, Yongsan, and Jungnang), and thereafter, expanded to all autonomous districts in 2024. After downloading the i.M. app and signing up, parents can apply for the Seoul Mom and Dad Taxi service and upload the necessary documents such as the eligible infant's resident registration card. After reviewing their eligibility, their autonomous district will approve the service and provide them usage points (100,000 i.M. taxi usage points per infant). Thereafter, parents can call a taxi service or use the reservation service through the [i.M] app.













# Relationships of Seoul Families

# **01.** Overall Family Relationships

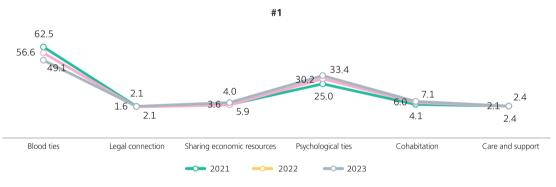


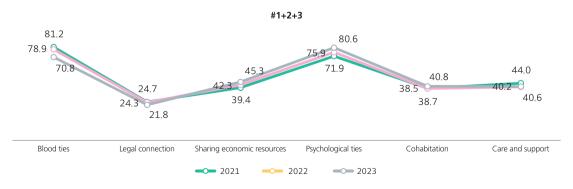
#### [Seoul Family Survey] Family Attributes

Seoul citizens were asked to rank the most important aspects of family attributes in order of importance (2021-2023). The proportion of "blood ties" decreased and the proportion of "psychological ties" increased. On simultaneously analyzing the responses ranked 1, 2, and 3, "blood ties" was the most popular choice for all three years, followed by "psychological ties."

#### Important family attributes: #1 overall and 1-3 (2021-2023)

< Unit : % >

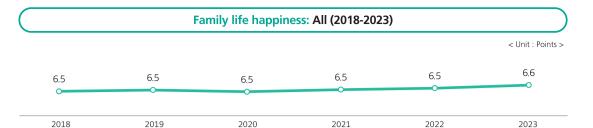




Note: Share of respondents that selected each option. Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

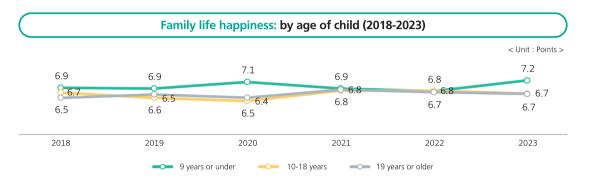
For Seoul citizens, the importance of **"blood ties"** as a family attribute is declining while the importance of **"psychological ties"** is rising.

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Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

Seoul citizens' Family Life Happiness (range: 1-9) remains at a higher than moderate level.

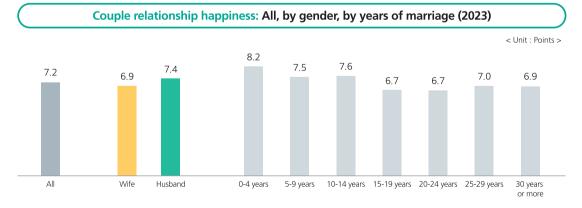


Note: Based on the age of the first child.

Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year (respondents with children: 2018 620 persons; 2019 844; 2020 888; 2021 765; 2022 773; 2023 700)

Seoul citizens whose **first child is 0-9 years old feel happier with their family life** than those whose first child is 10-18 years old and 19+ years old.

# **02.** Couple Relationships

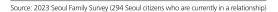


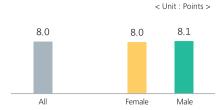
Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey (383 wives, 384 husbands; marriage duration 0-4 years 88 respondents, 5-9 years 78, 10-14 years 117, 15-19 years 84, 20-24 years 106, 25-29 years 102, 30+ years 192)

Married Seoul citizens report an average of 7.2 points of couple relationship happiness (range: 1-10). **Husbands** perceive their couple relationship to be happier than wives, and couples who have been **married for 0-4 years** are happier than those married for 15 years or more.

#### Relationship happiness

On average, Seoul citizens who are currently in a relationship have an 8 (range: 1-10) for relationship happiness. Comparing married couples and romantic relationships, the happiness of couples who have been married for 0-4 years is slightly higher than the romantic relationship happiness. While the gender difference was not statistically significant for romantic relationship happiness, husbands were happier than wives for married couples.





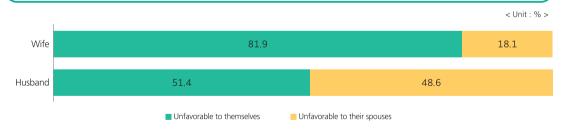
#### Perceived couple equality: All, by gender, by years of marriage (2023)

3.7 3.5 3.8 4.1 3.8 3.9 3.4 3.6 3.6 3.6 3.6 3.6 All Wife Husband 0-4 years 5-9 years 10-14 years 15-19 years 20-24 years 25-29 years or more

Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey (383 wives, 384 husbands; years of marriage 0-4 years 88 respondents, 5-9 years 78, 10-14 years 117, 15-19 years 84, 20-24 years 106, 25-29 years 102, 30+ years 192)

**Husbands** are more likely than wives to consider their relationship as **equal**, and couples who have been **married for 4 or under** are more likely than couples who have been married for 15-24 years and 30+ years (range: 1-5) to consider their relationship as equal.

#### Patterns of couple inequality: by Gender (2023)



Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey (married persons that answered their marital relationship is not equal: 149 wives, 105 husbands)

Married Seoul citizens, **both men and women**, are more likely to state their relationship is **unequal**, unfavorable **to them** than to their spouse. Eight out of ten wives believe that their relationship is unfavorable to them.

# **03.** Parent-Child Relationships



Attitudes toward children's support for their older parents: All (2018-2023)

< Unit : Points >

## Children should live with their aging parents



2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

## Children should financially support their aging parents



2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

#### There should be no distinction between sons and daughters regarding caring for aging parents

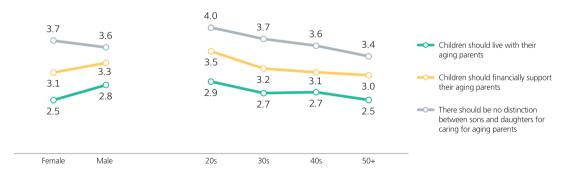


2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

#### Attitudes toward children's support for their older parents: by gender and age group (2023)

< Unit : Points >



Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey

**Men** are more likely than women, and **younger cohorts** are more likely than older cohorts, to believe that children should **support their aging parents financially** (range: 1-5).

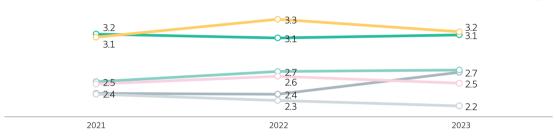


# Seoul Families

# **01.** Economic and Housing Lives

#### Difficulties in daily lives: All (2021-2023)

< Unit : Points >



Low wages, unstable income
 Housing environment (poor housing, frequent moving)
 Difficulty dealing with illness or emergency

Housing expenses (rent, interest of home equity loans)

Mental health problems (loneliness, depression)

Safety (violence, crime, hazardous facilities, transportation safety)

Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

Among the difficulties in daily lives, Seoul citizens mentioned "housing expenses" and "low wages and unstable income" as the most significant challenges (range: 1-5).

#### Future prospects for young people: All, by gender (2021-2023)

< Unit : Points >

#### The possibility of having a stable job (someday)

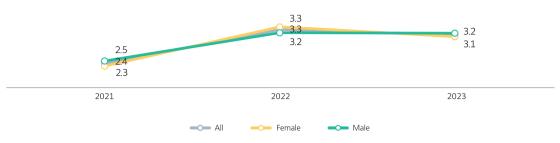




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#### The possibility of having my own house (someday)





Note: 1) In 2021, the question was asked as "buying a home" and as "likely to own my house" in 2022 and 2023.
2) 2021 and 2022 indicate responses from 20-39 year olds regardless of homeownership status; 2023 analyzes responses from 20-39 year olds who do not own a house

Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year (respondents aged 20-39 years: 720 in 2021, 746 in 2022; 693 likely to have a stable job, 536 likely to own a house in 2023)

# 02. Work and Life



#### [Seoul Family Survey] Importance of different life domains

We examined the importance of "work," the paid labor domain, and "life," which represents the rest domains. The average of the importance of each domain (range: 1-5), which was divided into family, social relations, and personal life, was "family" (4.2 points), "work" (4.2 points), "personal life" (4.0 points), and "social relations" (3.7 points). All age groups valued family the most, except for those in their 20s, who valued "work" the most.





Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey

#### Work hours and workplace flexibility: All workers, by gender (2021-2023)

< Unit : Points >

#### How freely can you adjust your work hours?



#### How freely can you adjust to your workplaces?



Note: Higher scores indicate greater flexibility in working hours and workplace (1 = Not at all adjustable, 2 = Mostly difficult to adjust, 3 = Somewhat possible to adjust, 4 = Always possible to adjust)

Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

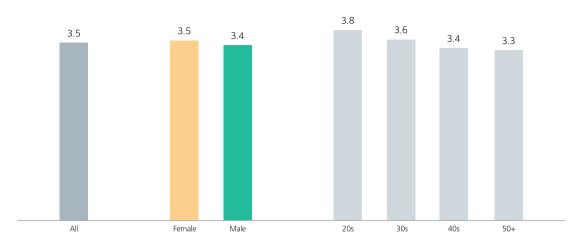
Workers in Seoul believe their work hour flexibility is moderate, and workplaces are mostly difficult to adjust to (range: 1-4)



Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey (905 regular workers)

#### Family-friendly organizational culture: All workers, by gender and age group (2023)





Note: 1) The average score of the following three items were used: "The employees who placed personal or family matters before work are seen unfavorably,"

"It is difficult to adjust work hours or take time off for personal or family matters," and "There is a tacit rule that it is not allowed to take care of family matters during work hours.

2) It was reverse-coded for analysis to mean higher scores represent more family-friendly organizational culture.

Source: 2023 Seoul Family Survey (1,178 respondents who worked at least one hour for pay or had a job in the past week)

When asked in a three-question survey whether the organizational culture at their current workplace is family-friendly, the average score was 3.5 (range: 1-5), indicating that Seoul workers consider their current workplace to be **slightly more** family-friendly than moderate levels.

#### Work-life balance: All workers, by gender (2019-2023)

< Unit : Points >

#### **Work-Family Conflict**



#### **Work-Leisure Conflict**





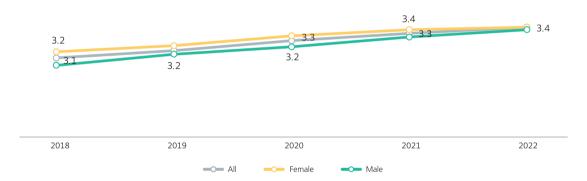
Note: Using the average of the same questions used in 2019-2023 (5 work-family conflict questions, 5 work-leisure conflict questions, and 5 work-growth conflict questions).

Source: Seoul Family Survey (Respondents who worked at least one hour for pay in the past week, 2019: 1,138 persons; 2020: 1,240 persons; 2021: 1,227 persons; 2020: 1,328 persons;

Workers in Seoul do not experience high levels of work-life conflict; however, compared with work-family conflict, they experience more work-leisure and work-growth conflicts (range: 1-5).

#### "Seoul ia a family-friendly city.": All, by gender (2018-2022)

< Unit : Points >

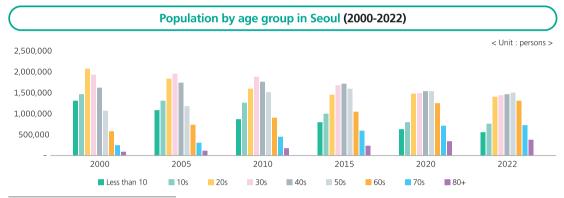


Source: Seoul Family Survey, for each year

The number of Seoul citizens who believe **Seoul is a family-friendly city** is (range: 1-5) gradually **increasing.** 



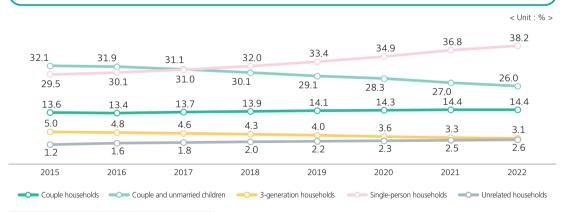
# **01.** Population and Households



Source: Statistics Korea, Population Census, for each year.

By age group, Seoul's population (as of 2022) comprises 1,476,712 people in their 50s, accounting for 15.66% of the city's total population. This is followed by 1,449,706 people in their 40s (15.4%), 1,425,808 people in their 30s (15.1%), 1,389,483 people in their 20s (14.7%), 1,297,787 people in their 60s (13.8%), 749,118 people in their teens (7.9%), 713,496 people in their 70s (7.6%), 545,317 people under 10 (5.8%), and 364,855 people over 80 (3.9%). Until 2003, people in their 20s accounted for the highest percentage, from 2004 to 2014, people in their 30s, from 2015 to 2020, people in their 40s, and from 2021, people in their 50s.

#### Number of households by household type in Seoul (2015-2022)



Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year.

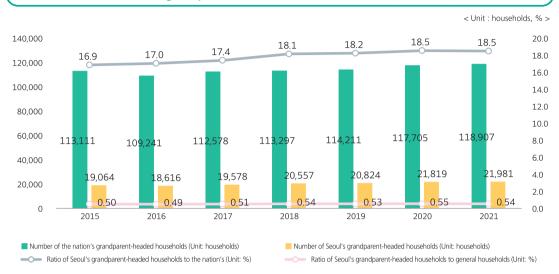
By household type, the proportion of Seoul's households comprising a married couple and unmarried children has been declining, whereas the proportion of single-person households has been increasing.

There are 1,564,187 (38.2%) single-person households, followed by 1,067,097 (26.0%) households comprising a married couple and unmarried children, 590,521 (14.4%) couple households, 125,014 (3.1%) three-generation households, and 107,951 (2.6%) unrelated households.

# 2018 ~ 2023

# **02.** Grandparent-Headed Household, Teenage Parents

#### Number of grandparent-headed households in Seoul (2015-2021)



Note: 1) Grandparent-headed households are categorized into grandparent-headed households comprising (maternal) grandparents and their legally unmarried grandchildren (hereinafter referred to as "maternal grandparent + unmarried grandchild households") and grandparent-headed households comprising either (maternal) grandfather or (maternal) grandmother and their unmarried grandchildren (hereinafter referred to as "maternal grandfather (mother) + unmarried grandchildren households").

2) A general household comprises a family, five or fewer people living together as a family, a single person, and five or fewer people who are not family members living together. Includes foreign nationals in households.

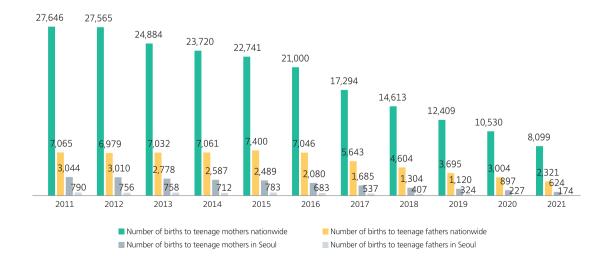
Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year.

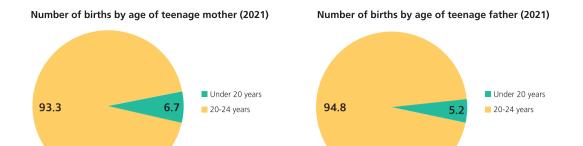
21,981 households, or 18.5% of the nation's grandparent-headed households, live in Seoul (as of 2021). The number of grandparent-headed households in Seoul has been increasing slightly since 2016, however, has remained around 0.5% of the total number of general households in Seoul.

#### Number of births to "teenage" mothers in Seoul (2011-2021)

< Unit : persons, % >

#### Number of births to "teenage" mothers (fathers) (age 9-24 years) nationwide and in Seoul (2011-2021)



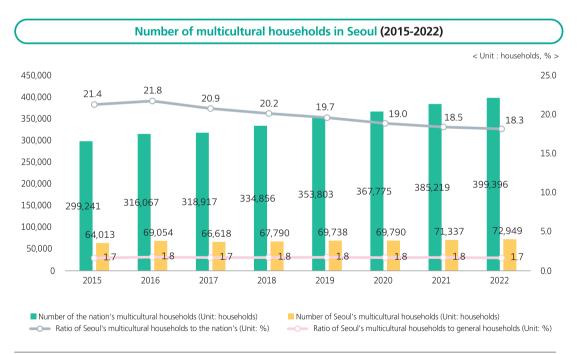


- Note: 1) A teenage parent is a person where both parents are "youth (aged 9 to 24 years)" who are raising a child (Article 2, Paragraph 6 of the Youth Welfare Support Act, Article 3, Paragraph 1 of the Framework Act). As official statistics on teenage parents are not available, this graph presents statistics on the number of births where the mother and father are aged 24 years or younger.
  - 2) Teenage ("youth") mother means a mother who is 24 years or younger, and teenage ("youth") father means a father who is 24 years or younger. Source: Statistics Korea, Population Census, for each year.

Of the 45,531 live births in Seoul, 624 (1.4%) have teenage mothers (age 9-24 years) and 174 (0.004%) have teenage fathers (age 9-24 years) (as of 2021). However, not many of them are minors.

Only 6.7% (42) of births with mothers aged 9-24 years and 5.2% (9) of births with fathers aged 9-24 years had a mother or father under the age of 20 years.

# **03.** Multicultural Households



Note: 1) A multicultural household comprises a person who has acquired nationality through naturalization or a foreigner who is married to a Korean (including a naturalized) spouse and includes their children.

2) A general household comprises a family, five or fewer people living together as a family, a single person, and five or fewer people who are not family members living together. Includes foreign nationals in households.

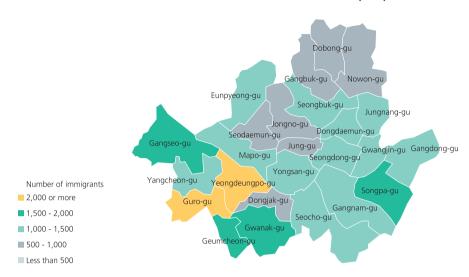
Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year.

72,949 households, or 18.3% of the nation's multicultural households, live in Seoul, which is equivalent to 1.7% of general households in Seoul (as of 2022).

#### Distribution of immigrants married to Korean citizens in Seoul: by Autonomous District (2021)

< Unit : persons >

#### Distribution of transnational wives (2021)



Source: Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Status of Foreign Residents in Local Governments, 2021.

Guro-gu and Yeongdeungpo-gu have the largest number of married immigrants, and Geumcheon-gu, Gwanak-gu, Gandseo-gu, Songpa-gu, Gwangjin-gu, and Dongdaemun-gu also have relatively large numbers of married immigrants (as of 2021).

#### Percentage of naturalized spouses and immigrants married to Korean citizens, by country of origin (2022)

< Unit : % >



#### Percentage of married immigrants, by country of origin



Note: 1) A married immigrant is a foreigner who is married to a Korean national born in the Republic of Korea or a Korean national who has acquired nationality by naturalization under the Nationality Act.

 A naturalized person means a person who has acquired nationality by naturalization under the Nationality Act and is currently a citizen of the Republic of Korea. Source: Seoul Metropolitan Government, National Survey on Foreign Residents and Multicultural Families in Seoul, 2022.

According to the 2022 Seoul Multicultural Family Survey, the country of origin of "naturalized" residents in Seoul is China (36.8%) > Vietnam(29.2%) > Korean Chinese(20.9%) > Mongolia(3.4%) > Japan(1.3%) (as of 2022). For "married immigrants" living in Seoul, the order is Vietnamese (38.2%) > Chinese(22.5%) > Japanese(12.9%) > Korean Chinese(7.1%) > Mongolian(3.0%).

#### Number of naturalized spouses and immigrants married to Korean citizens in Seoul: by gender (2015-2021)





Note: 1) A married immigrant is a foreigner who is married to a Korean national born in the Republic of Korea or a Korean national who has acquired nationality by naturalization under the Nationality Act.

2018

2019

- Female naturalized citizens

2020

Male naturalized citizens

2021

Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year.

Female married immigrants

9,478

2016

2017

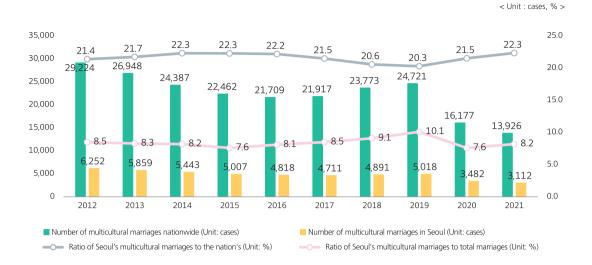
Male married immigrants

7,835

2015

<sup>2)</sup> A naturalized person means a person who has acquired nationality by naturalization under the Nationality Act and is currently a citizen of the Republic of Korea.

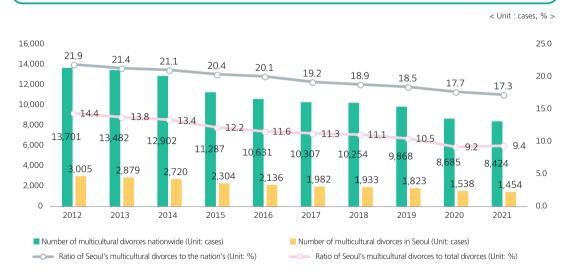
#### Number of multicultural marriages in Seoul (2012-2021)



Note: Multicultural marriage refers to marriage cases by "population (individual)" in "multicultural families" that include naturalized and recognized citizens and foreign nationals. Source: Statistics Korea, Population Census, for each year.

The number of multicultural marriages in Seoul is 3,112, or 8.2% of the total number of marriages in the city (as of 2021). It has decreased since 2020, after COVID-19 began.

#### Number of multicultural divorces in Seoul (2012-2021)

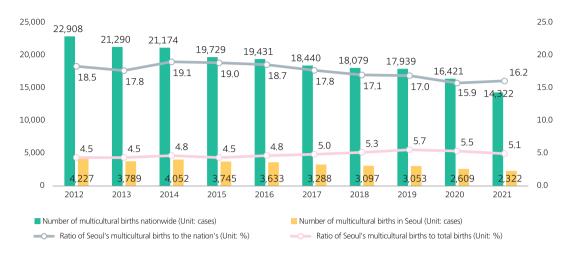


Note: Multicultural divorce refers to divorce cases by "population (individual)" in "multicultural families" that include naturalized and recognized citizens and foreign nationals. Source: Statistics Korea, Population Census, for each year.

The number of multicultural divorces in Seoul is 1,454, or 9.4% of the total number of divorces in Seoul (as of 2021). It has been steadily decreasing since 2012.

#### Number of multicultural births in Seoul (2012-2021)



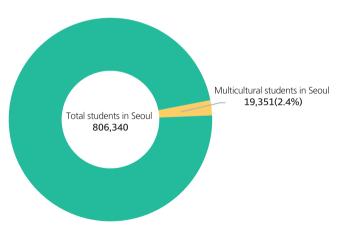


Note: A multicultural birth is a birth event by "population (individual)" in a "multicultural family" that includes naturalized and recognized citizens and foreign nationals. Source: Statistics Korea, Population Census, for each year.

The number of multicultural births in Seoul is 2,322, or 5.1% of the total number of births in Seoul (as of 2021). It has been steadily decreasing since 2014.

#### Number of multicultural elementary, middle, and high school students in Seoul (2022)

< Unit : persons >



Note: The number of multicultural students is calculated as the sum of children from international marriages and children from foreign families. Children from international marriages are children born to a Korean father (mother) and a foreign mother (father), and children from foreign families are children born to foreigners.

Source: Education Statistics Service, Korea Educational Development Institute, Class Size and Enrollment by Grade, 2022. Education Statistics Institute, Korea Educational Development Service, Multicultural Students (by Type), 2022.

There are 19,351 multicultural elementary, middle, and high school students in Seoul, which is 2.4% of the total number of elementary, middle, and high school students in Seoul (as of 2022).

#### Distribution of multicultural elementary, middle, and high school students in Seoul (2022)

< Unit : persons, % >



Note: 1) The number of multicultural students is calculated as the sum of children from international marriages and children from foreign families. Children from international marriages are children born to a Korean father (mother) and a foreign mother (father), and children from foreign families are children born to foreigners.

2) The number of students in various schools that do not fall under elementary, middle, or high school (e.g., alternative schools) is not included. The number of multicultural students in various school types is 162 (as of 2022).

Source: Education Statistics Institute, Korea Educational Development Service, Multicultural Students (by Type), 2022.

Of the multicultural students in Seoul, elementary students account for 66.0% (12,779), middle school students 22.7% (4,393), and high school students 11.3% (2,179) (as of 2022).

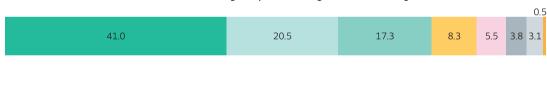
#### Difficulties of multicultural parents in raising children (2022)

< Unit : % >

#### Difficulties of naturalized parents living in Seoul in raising children



#### Difficulties of married immigrant parents living in Seoul in raising children



- Burden of paying for their children's education, pocket money

   Lack of information about their children's studies, advancement, and can
- Lack of information about their children's studies, advancement, and career

  Conflicts with children about gaming, smartphones, internet use
- Difficulty participating in parent activities such as PTA, volunteering
- Difficulty in guiding their children's studies and managing their studies
- Lack of communication with their children
- No difficulties
- Children's driniking, smoking, and runaway problems

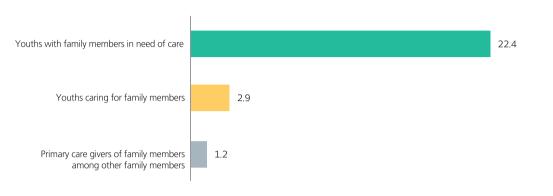
Source: Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul Multicultural Family Survey, 2022.

According to the 2022 Seoul Multicultural Family Survey, both naturalized and married immigrants ranked the burden of paying for their children's education, pocket money, and other expenses as the most significant challenge of raising children. Naturalized immigrants indicated lack of information about their children's studies, advancement, and career (21.3%), difficulty in guiding their children's studies and managing their studies (17.2%), and lack of communication with their children (10.3%), whereas married immigrants ranked difficulty in guiding their children's studies and managing their studies (20.5%), lack of information about their children's studies, advancement, and career (17.3%), and lack of communication with their children (8.3%).

# **04.** Young Caregivers



< Unit : % >



Note: 1) Youths with a family member who needs care refers to youths aged 13-34 years, who reported having a family member with limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs).

- 2) Youth caring for family members refers to those who reported providing care for a family member with a care need in the number of years.
- 3) Primary care givers of family members among other family members

Source: Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, Research on young caregivers and their support measures, 2022.

According to a 2022 study by the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, out of 35,101 respondents aged 13-34 years nationwide, 22.4% were youths with family members in need of care, 2.9% were youths caring for family members, and 1.2% were primary caregivers.

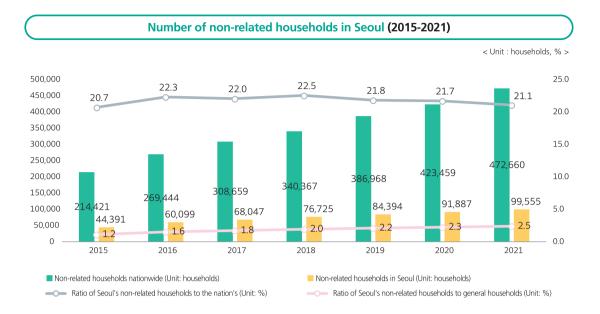




Source: Jeon, A-reum (2023, 4, 19). Seoul finds 900 "family caregiving youth"...plans to support them. https://www.ibabynews.com/news/article/lew.html?idxno=110781

In 2022, 30.1% of the 2,988 respondents to the Seoul Family Caregiving Youth Survey aged 14-34 years in Seoul were youth caring for family members.

# **05.** Non-Related Households



Note: 1) A non-related household is a household of five or fewer people living together who are not blood relatives. Households with six or more unrelated persons are classified separately as group households.

2) General households include family households, households with five or fewer people not related to the family, single-person households, and households with five or fewer people not related to the family (non-relative households). Includes foreigners in general households.

Source: Statistics Korea, Population and Housing Census, for each year.

21.1% (99,555 households) of the nation's non-related households live in Seoul, equivalent to 2.5% of all households in the city (as of 2021). The number and proportion of non-related households in Seoul is continuously increasing.



The average number of non-related household members in Seoul is 2.2, with 2-person non-related households accounting for 88.5% of unrelated households (as of 2021).

