

Profile of the divorced person



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INTRODUCTION

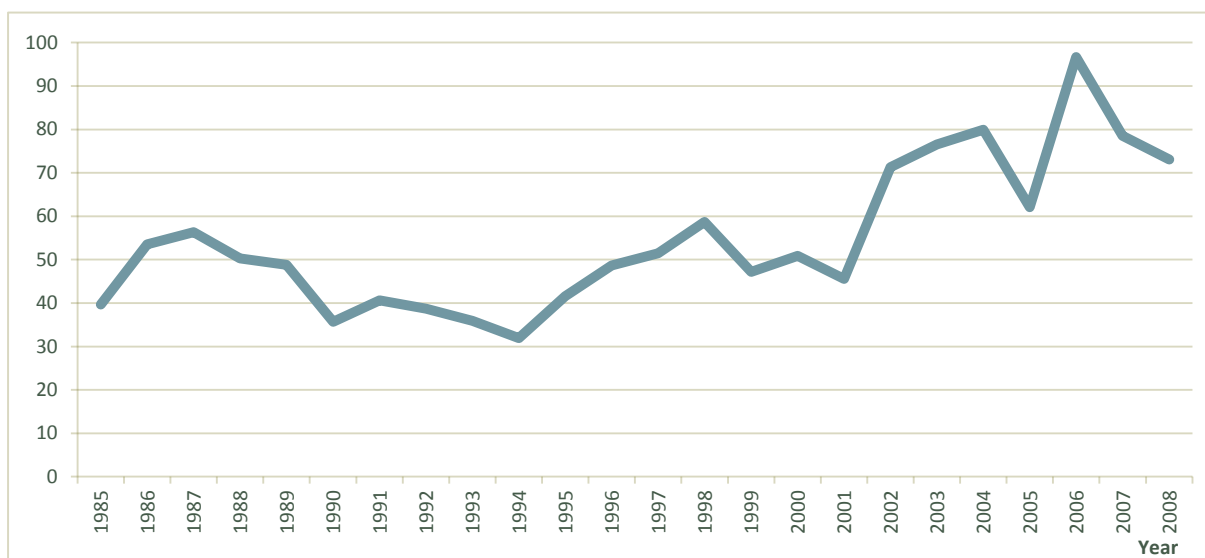
The composition of households in Aruba has known drastic changes during the last decades. This is what the results of the Census indicate starting from 1972. When analyzing the trends on marital status, according to the categories: never married, married, divorced and widowed, it can be noticed that the percentage of persons indicating that they were never married decreased from 64% in 1972 to 51.7% in 2010. In the same period of time, the percentage of individuals indicating they were married increased from 31.9% to 34.7%, while the percentage of persons that indicated being divorced has increased from 1.6% to 9.6%. Furthermore, an increase was observed in the category widowed, which represented 2.5% of the population of Aruba in 1972 and increased to 3.9% of the population in 2010¹. It must be noted that the percentage of the population that reported being married did not increase gradually from 1971 up to 2010. On the contrary, between 1972 and 1991, the percentage of married individuals showed a slight increase, followed by a slight decrease in the decades to follow. In 1972 the percentage of the population that was married was 31.9%, increasing to 36.1% in 1981, and to 37.7% in 1991, and decreasing to 37.2% in 2000. In 2010 the married population was registered at 34.7%. On the other hand the percentage of divorced persons has known a steady increase. In 1972 the percentage of divorced persons was 1.6%, increasing to 3.3% in 1981, to 6.2% in 1991, to 7.3% in 2000, and finally it reached 9.6% in 2010. In numbers, the group of divorced persons has always been smaller than the group of married persons or the group of persons that was never married. Nevertheless divorce has many implications for divorcees, for their children, for their family members, and for the community as a whole. Among others, the absence of cohabitation between family members, financial implications and implications regarding the upbringing of the children, are to be mentioned. This article describes the divorced persons based on characteristics such as: age, sex, religion, country of birth, nationality, education, age at marriage, family composition, childcare, labor and income of divorced persons based on information collected during the 2010 Aruba Census and on other administrative sources.

DIVORCE RATE

In the community of Aruba, mention is made of a high percentage of divorce. However, the percentage often referred to is the divorce/marriage rate, which is actually the number of divorces per 100 marriages in a specific year, and not the percentage of divorces in relation to the total population. Figure 1 presents the development of the divorce rate since 1985, and shows the increase in the number of divorces relative to the number of marriages up to the year 2008. It must be noted that since 2001 there was a drastic increase in the number of divorces, probably because

of the introduction in 2001 of a new law which facilitates the divorce process. The only argument that is necessary to finalize a divorce since 2001 is that one of the two parties in a marriage indicates that the couple has irreconcilable differences. After 2001, couples that were already physically separated went on to formalize their separation legally. The new law most probably contributed to the increase in the number of divorces between 2001 and 2002, but the increase did not stop there. In 2006, the number of divorces peaked again with 96.7 divorces for every 100 marriages. During that year there were 528 divorces and 546 marriages registered.

Figure 1: Number of divorces per 100 marriages, 1985-2008*

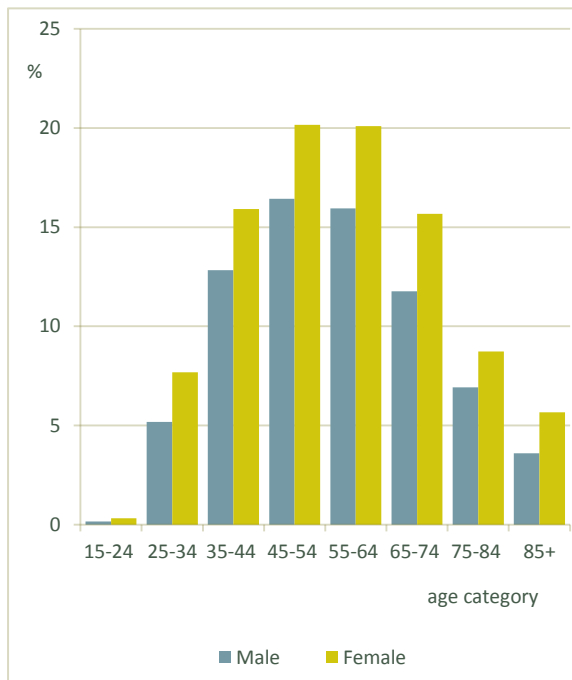


Source: Population Registration Office

AGE & SEX

According to data collected during the 2010 Census, 3,913 males and 5,827 females were divorced, which amounted to 10.4% of males and 13.6% of females aged 15 years and older. Figure 2 presents the distribution of age and sex of the group of persons that indicated during the 2010 Census that they were divorced. The highest percentage of divorced persons is in the age category 45 to 54 years for both sexes.

Figure 2: Distribution of divorced persons by age and sex



RELIGION

The largest group of divorced persons was Roman Catholic with 77.6%, which is in accordance with the fact that 75% of the total population of Aruba is Roman Catholic. In total, 79.1% of divorced males and 76.6% of divorced females was Roman Catholic. Figure 3 presents the distribution of divorced persons according to their religion, including Protestantism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Methodism, Adventism, Anglicanism, and Judaism. Notable is that all these religions have a percentage below 5%. Only the category “other” has 10.3%. This is a reflection of the distribution of religion within the population. Within all the different religions, between 20% and 30% of persons are divorced. There is not one specific religion that stands out for having more divorced persons. This is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Distribution of divorced persons by religion

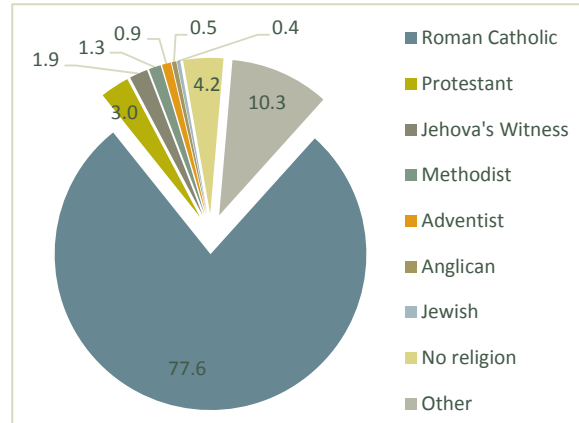
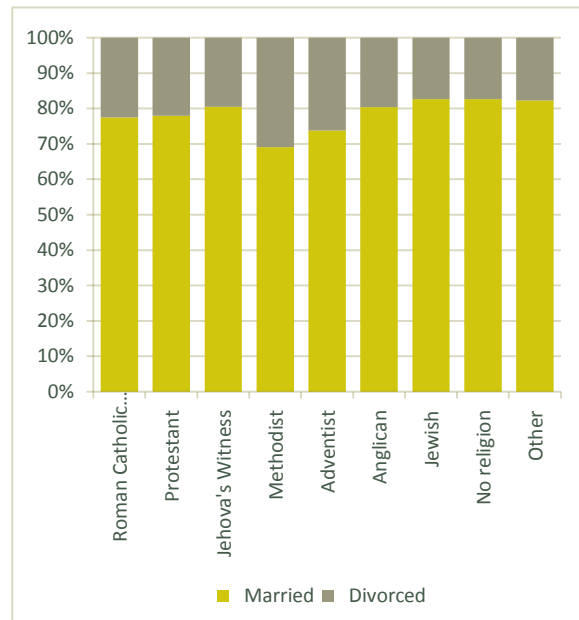


Figure 4: Percentage of married and divorced persons by religion



COUNTRY OF BIRTH/NATIONALITY

The distribution of the group of divorced persons by country of birth is presented in Figure 5. This figure shows that the largest group of divorced persons (66%) was born in Aruba, which is a reflection of the total population of Aruba, of which 66% was born in Aruba.

Figure 5: The distribution of divorced persons by country of birth

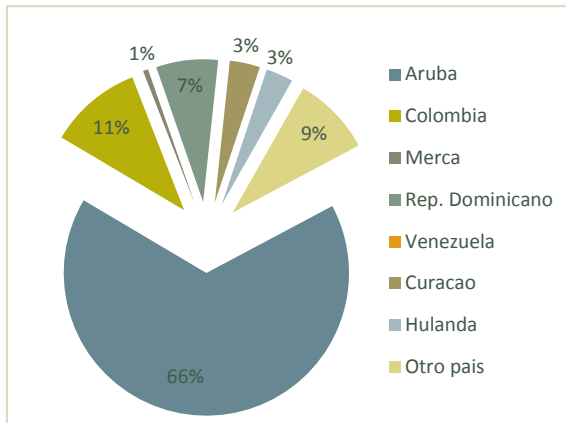
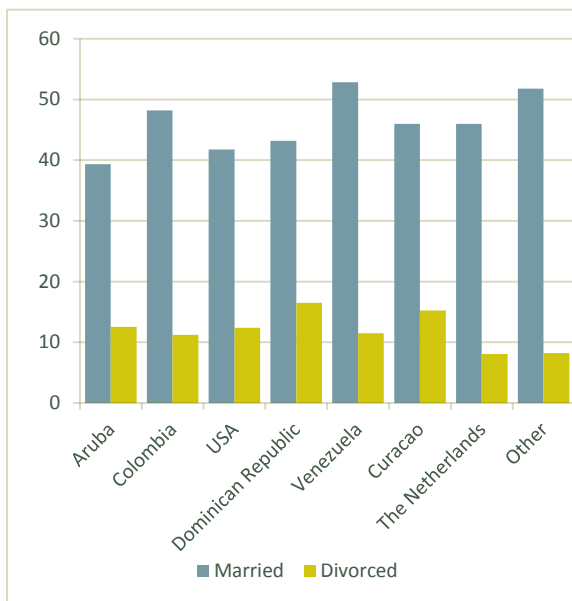


Figure 6 presents the percentage of married and divorced persons by country of birth. It is notable that there were no big differences between the various countries of birth. The Dominican Republic had the highest percentage (17%) of divorced persons and The Netherlands had the lowest percentage. On the other hand, when considering married persons, Venezuela had the highest percentage of married persons (53%) and Aruba the lowest (39%).

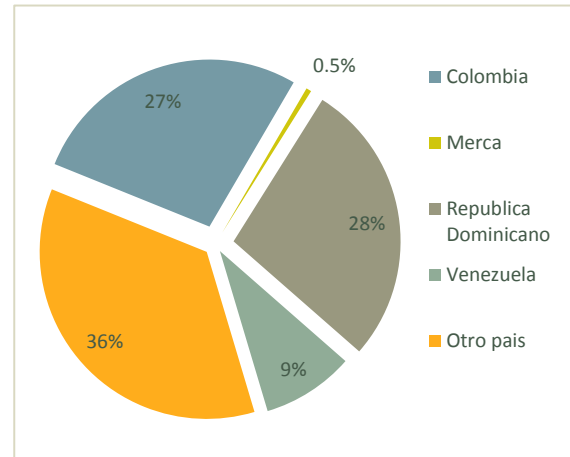
Figure 6: Divorced/married persons by country of birth



Regarding nationality, the largest group of divorced persons did have the Dutch nationality; 8,311 persons in total, which equals 85%. The other nationalities were: Colombian (5.9%), Dominican (2.9%) and Venezuelan (2.4%). Keep in mind that not all divorced persons with the Dutch nationality were born in Aruba or in the Dutch Kingdom. In fact, 34%

of divorced Dutch nationals were not born in Aruba or in any other country belonging to the Dutch kingdom. In Figure 7, the distribution of this group of persons is presented according to their country of birth. This group consists of 1,490 persons, of which 28% was born in the Dominican Republic and 27% was born in Colombia.

Figure 7: Distribution of divorced persons not born in the Dutch Kingdom, by country of birth



With regards to the group of persons with the Dutch nationality that was not born in Aruba, 90% had lived in Aruba for over 10 years. This is a reflection of the migration policy of Aruba, which grants a person with a legal status of more than 10 years on the island the possibility of petitioning the Dutch nationality and at the same time the Dutch passport.

Table 1: Divorced persons with the Dutch nationality but not born in the Dutch Kingdom by duration of settlement in Aruba

Duration of settlement	
Less than 1 year	0.7%
1-4 years	3.2%
5-9 years	6.1%
More than 10 years	90.0%

LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Comparing the divorced persons and the total population of Aruba by level of education, it is notable that there are no big differences, the trends are similar. Figure 8 presents the percentages of divorced persons, 15 years and older, who were not attending school by level of highest education attained.

Figure 8: Divorced persons by level of education attained compared to total population by level of education attained

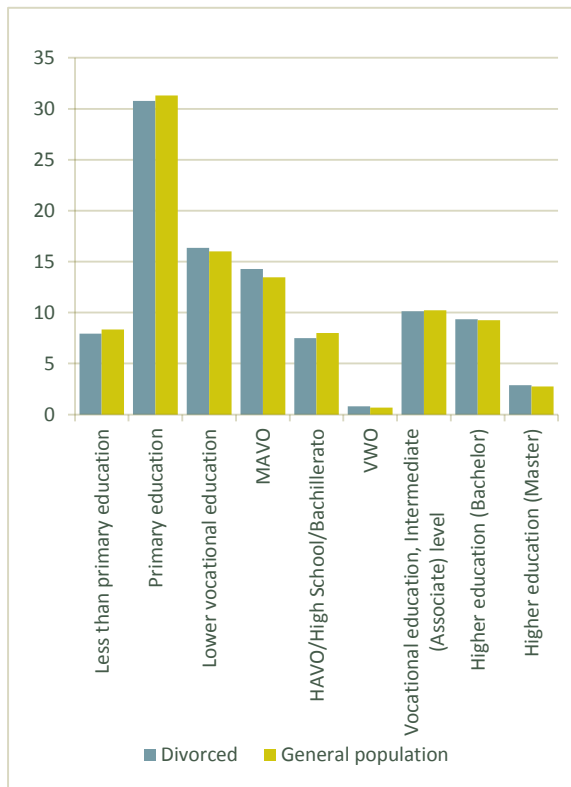


Figure 9: Distribution of divorced persons by level of education attained, by sex

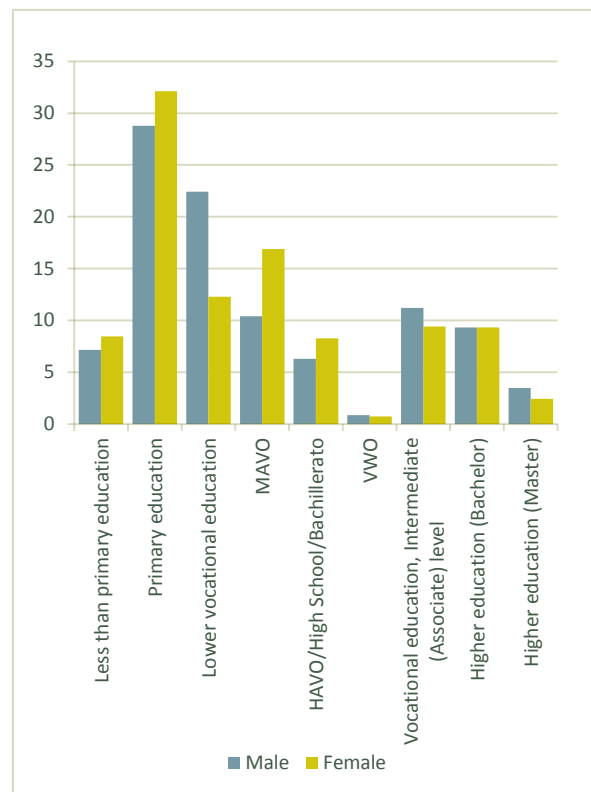


Figure 9 shows the distribution of divorced persons by highest level of education attained and by sex. The largest group of both divorced females (32.1%) and divorced males (28.8%) reported having primary education as their highest level of education attained.

Figure 9 illustrates that the second largest group of divorced men reported having a lower vocational education as their highest educational attainment (22.4%). For divorced women, the second largest group was the group with a diploma at a general level of education (MAVO). This group represented 16.9% of all divorced women.

As can be seen in Figure 9, the main difference between the sexes was found in the category of persons who attained a diploma at a lower vocational level of education (LBO). In this category 12.3% of divorced women have a lower vocational education against 22.4% of divorced men. In the category MAVO it is the opposite situation with 16.9% of women having a general education (MAVO) against 10.4% of divorced men.

AGE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE

In this chapter an analysis will be made of the age at the time of marriage for both the divorced group as the married group. According to a 2011 report by Bucx², the combination of age and level of education can lead to divorce. According to Bucx², both men and women with a lower level of education have a higher divorce frequency than those with a higher level of education. Age at the time of marriage also plays an important role. Those with a lower educational level tend to get married more frequently at a younger age and have a higher probability of having their relationship end in divorce.

This is a trend that can also be seen in Aruba, for example Figure 10 makes a comparison between the persons that were still married at the time of the 2010 Census and those that were divorced, by age category at the time of last marriage.

Graph 10: Divorced and married persons by age at time of last marriage



The figure 10 shows that 56.3% of all divorced persons were married in the age category of 20 to 29 years, followed by age category 30 to 39 years. It is notable that the majority of married persons also got married in this same age category. Differences in the groups of divorced and married persons were present in the group of persons younger than 19 years, where there was a higher percentage of divorced persons, and in the group of persons older than 30 years, with a higher percentage of married persons.

Figure 11 presents the number of divorced and married persons by age at time of last marriage and by sex. When analyzing the age category in which most persons got married, it should be noted that the majority got married in the age category 20 to 29 years. In addition, Figure 11 illustrates that as age at time of marriage increases, the percentage of divorced males and females decreases. The percentage of divorced males and females is highest in the group of persons married at age 19 years or less and lowest in persons married at age 60 years and above.

During the 2010 Census, participants were asked to report the date of their last marriage and, if they were divorced, the date of their divorce. Not all divorced participants indicated both the date on which they were married and the date on which they were divorced. It seemed as if they had a better recollection of the date of their divorce than of the date they got married. By asking these questions, it was possible to analyze the duration of marriage for those participants who answered both questions.

Figure 11: Number of married persons and number of divorced persons by age at time of marriage and by sex

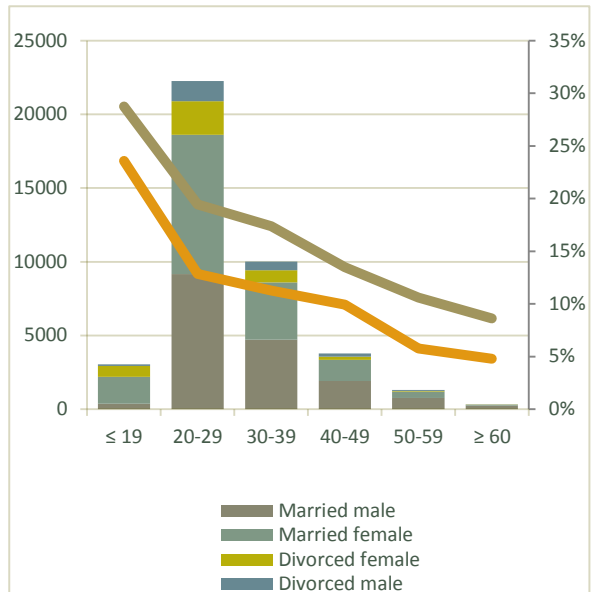
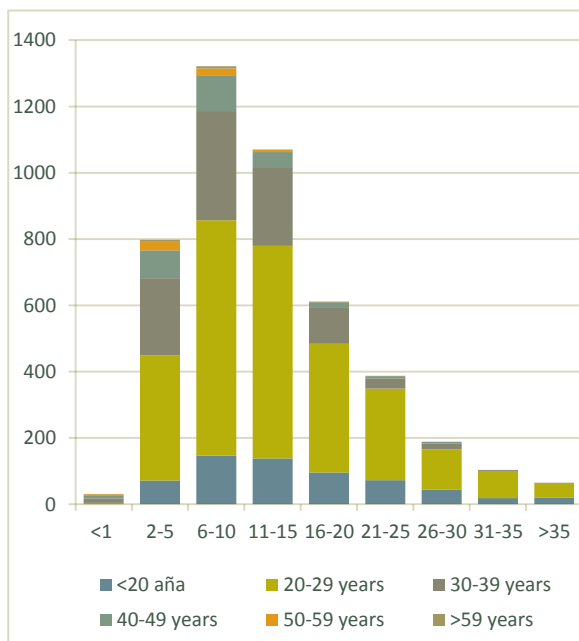


Figure 12 shows that the largest group of divorced persons had been married for a period of 6 to 10 years prior to their divorce. The second largest group was composed of persons who had been married for 11 to 15 years. As persons are married for a longer period of time, the number of divorcees decreases gradually.

Besides the aspects of age at the time of marriage and duration of marriage, another interesting aspect to analyze is family composition. This topic will be addressed in the next chapter.

Figure 12: Number of divorced persons by duration of marriage and by age at time of marriage



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

The family composition changes after a divorce. The changes that take place after a divorce can be particularly difficult for couples with children. The family composition changes from a family with a father, mother and child(ren) into different forms, for example mother and child(ren), father and child(ren) mother, stepfather and child(ren), father, stepmother and child(ren). For example, according to 2010 Census data, of the group of divorced persons, 25% were living together with a partner after their divorce, which comes down to 2,416 persons. There are also divorced persons who move back in with their parents. This brings diversity into the family composition and into the composition of the household. One must also keep in mind that there are couples who keep on living together in the same house despite being divorced.

When considering partners that have children and how their family composition changes after a divorce, it must be noted that according to the 2010 Census, of all children younger than 18 years, 62.5% live with both parents, regardless of the marital status of the parents. Nearly one third (31.3%) lives with their mother, 2.7% lives with their father, and 3.5% lives with neither of their parents. In most cases children younger than 18 years stay with their mother or leave the home to go live with their mother after a divorce. According to the 2010 Census, 75% of divorced mothers live with their child(ren) younger than 18 years.

Figure 13 illustrates the marital status of mothers living in the same household as their child(ren) younger than 18 years. The group of interest in this article is the group of divorced mothers living with their child(ren). According to the 2010 Census, this group constituted 15% of all mothers. From this group of mothers, 75% were living with their child(ren) without a partner and 25% were living with their children and with a new partner.

Figure 13: The marital status of mothers living with their children (younger than 18 years)

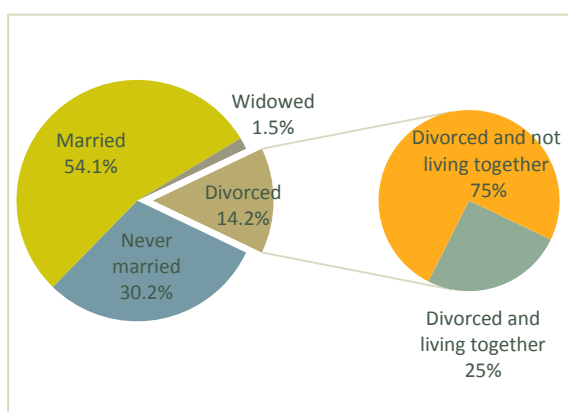


Table 2 indicates that 60.4% of divorced mothers who were not living together with a partner lived with their child(ren) in a nuclear household. The other 25% lived in a household with their child(ren) and with one or more other persons, for example with a grandmother, a sibling, a cousin, etcetera.

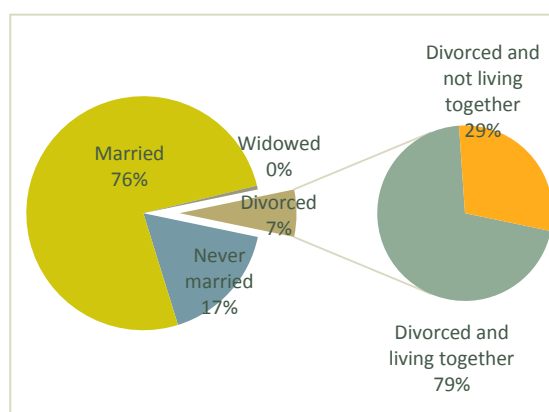
Table 2: Type of households with divorced mothers with children younger than 18 years who are not living together with a partner

Type of household	Percentage
Nuclear household	60.4%
Extended household with at least one related person	17.6%
Extended household with two or more nuclei related to each other	13.9%
Composite household with at least one nuclear household	8.0%

The same analysis can be done for children who after the divorce live with their father. The results from the 2010 Census indicated that 71% of divorced fathers who lived with their child(ren) were also living together with a partner and 29% were not living together with a partner. In conclusion, there were more divorced fathers living together with their child(ren) and a new partner than divorced mothers living in the same situation.

Figure 14 presents the marital status of fathers living in the same household as their child(ren) younger than 18 years. In total, 7% of all fathers who were living in the same household as their child(ren), were divorced. This percentage is lower than that of fathers who lived with their children and who had never been married. The group of married fathers that lived together with a partner is still the largest group with 76% of all fathers. If we consider the 7% of divorced father, 75% of them live together with a partner and 25% live only with their children in a nuclear household.

Figure 14: The marital status of fathers living with their children (younger than 18 years)



Considering the 25% of divorced fathers who were not living together with a partner, it should be noted that approximately half of the group (52%) was living in a nuclear family, the father with his child(ren), without anyone else. The next group consisted of the 16.9% that lived in an extended family with at least one nuclear family and one person with family ties.

Table 3 gives an overview of the percentage of divorced fathers that were not living together with a partner, but lived with other persons. It also shows fathers living alone with their child(ren) in a nuclear household.

Table 3: Type of households with divorced fathers with children younger than 18 years who are not living together with a partner

Type of household	
Nuclear household	52.5%
Extended household with at least one related person	16.9%
Extended household with two or more nuclei related to each other	15.8%
Composite household with at least one nuclear household	14.7%

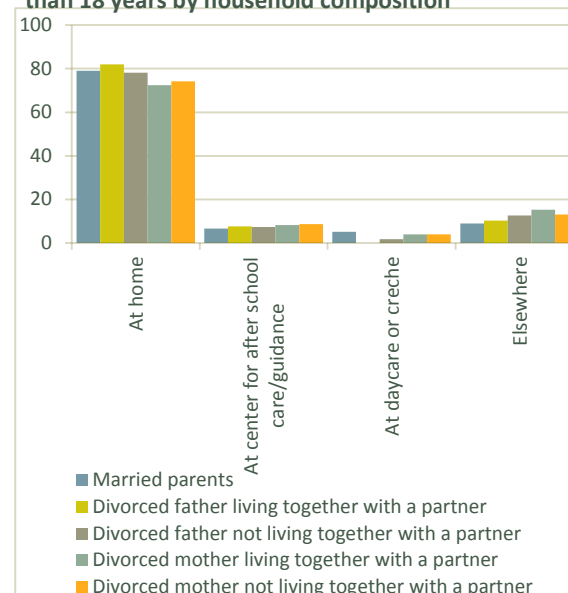
Considering the change in family composition after a divorce, it is notable that the majority of divorced fathers lived together with a partner, as opposed to divorced mothers, of whom the majority was not living together with a partner.

CHILDCARE

One of the relevant aspects when dealing with changes in family composition after a divorce is childcare. During the 2010 Census a specific question dealt with after-school childcare for children under the age of 18. Figure 15 shows where the school attending minors stayed after school for five different

family compositions. It can be concluded that there were no major differences between the different family compositions presented. The majority of the children stayed at their own home. The next largest group is the category 'other place', followed by daycare or a center for guidance with homework. The next interesting question would be with whom the children were staying at home.

Figure 15: After school care for children younger than 18 years by household composition



In observing table 4 the conclusion can be drawn that the majority of children that stayed at home after school, were in the care of their mother, father or guardian, followed by the category another adult 18 years or older. The table also indicates that this distribution is more or less the same for the different family compositions. What is also remarkable is the percentage of children that were alone at home after school. It is important to take into consideration that minors include 17 year old teens. The majority of the children that stayed alone at home were 12 years of age and older.

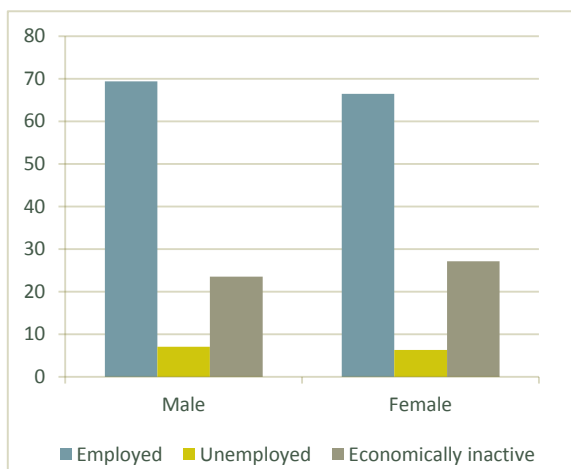
Table 4: After school care for children younger than 18 years by household composition (in %)

	Married parents	Divorced father living together	Divorce father not living together	Divorced mother living together	Divorced mother not living together
Mother/Father/Guardian	64.5	47.2	49.8	49.2	47.2
Other adult (18 years or older)	26.3	36.1	37.6	39.3	36.9
Other related children (younger than 18 years, family)	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.4	3.6
Other not related children (younger than 18 years, no family relationship)	0.3	2.8	1.0	1.8	0.8
Stays alone	4.7	11.1	9.2	6.4	10.0
Other	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.5

LABOR AND INCOME

Another important aspect to understand of the divorced person is labor and income. As shown in Figure 16, 69% of divorced men and 66% of divorced women were employed. Approximately a quarter of this group was economically inactive. More than half of economically inactives were pensioned, while health issues were the next reason for being economically inactive. It should also be noted that approximately 6% of both sexes were unemployed.

Figure 16: Status of employment of divorced persons by sex



Analyzing the employed group more closely, the distribution among both sexes becomes clearer. The highest percentage of divorced women was employed in service and sales (32%), followed by administrative workers (21%). In the group of divorced men the largest group also worked in the category service and sales (23%), followed by craft workers and related jobs (17%). The trend of labor distribution for the divorced persons was the same as for the total population.

Figure 17 presents the distribution by sex and by most important sector. The labor sector with the most employees for both sexes was the hotel and restaurant sector. For the men this was 17.1% and for women 24.1%. The sector that follows was the real estate sector, followed by the sector public administration. The sector construction indicated a difference between the sexes where 13.9% workers were men and only 2.1% were women. A similar situation can be seen in the industrial sector, where 8.5% males were employed and only 2.7% females. On the other hand in the wholesale and retail sector a higher percentage of females (18.3%) were employed compared to 10.6% males.

Figure 17: The distribution of divorced persons by sector of employment



The distribution of persons in the different labor sectors was related to their income. The family composition of the divorced persons that needs more in depth analysis, is the divorced parent who lives alone with his/her child(ren), thus not in an extended household, nor in a composite household.

Of the group of divorced fathers that lived in a nuclear household, alone with their child(ren), 69.4% had a monthly income between Afl. 1551 and Afl. 4500. The same was true for 62.6% of all divorced mothers that lived in a nuclear household with their child(ren). To get an idea of the financial situation of this specific group it is important to take into account that, in 2010, minimum wage was equal to Afl.1543 a month. In table 5 the income by household composition is presented.

Table 5: Income of divorced fathers and mothers who lived together with their child(ren)

Income from main job	Father with child(ren)	Mother with child(ren)
Below Afl. 1551	5.5%	17.8%
Afl. 1551-4500	69.4%	62.6%
Afl. 4500 and above	25%	19.6%

It is important to accentuate that the above mentioned income was only from main job, thus other sources of income were not considered. The group that had a monthly income below Afl. 1551, consisted of 17.8% of divorced mothers and 5.5% of divorced fathers. The group with a monthly income above Afl. 4500 consisted of 25% of all divorced fathers who lived with their child(ren) and 19.6% of all divorced mothers who live with their child(ren). These parents may have had other sources of income, for example, from a side job, from alimony they received for their child(ren) or from rent they

received from a room/apartment/house they rented. Table 5 does not take into consideration whether parents received any kind of support from their social network. A parent may have received support from, for example, his/her own parents with childcare, food, laundry, etcetera. All these forms of support influence the financial situation of parents, because they have no expenses in these areas.

CONCLUSION

When analyzing the profile of divorced persons, the same trends were visible in the group of divorced persons as were in the total population of Aruba. For example, with regards to the country of birth and nationality of divorced persons, comparable to the situation in the total population, the majority of divorced persons was born in Aruba and had the Dutch nationality. In addition, the majority of divorced persons was Roman Catholic, the religion which has also the broadest representation in the Aruban community. The level of education of divorced persons also shows the same trend, with the majority of divorced persons having primary education as their highest level of education. The majority of divorced persons were married in the age category 20 to 29 years, which is also the case for those who are still married. With regards to the household composition of divorced persons, it is apparent that the majority of divorced fathers are living together with a partner after their divorce. This, in contrast to divorced mothers, of whom the majority did not live together with a partner.

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