

The Rise of Singlehood among Younger Population in a Global Perspective

This study explores the rise of singlehood among younger adults aged 20–49 from a global perspective, examining its evolution and diversification around the world. We utilise data from 104 countries or areas, focusing on indicators such as never-married, divorced, and solo-living life expectancy, alongside cohabitation proportions. Adopting a multidimensional framework, the research integrates marital and residential perspectives to uncover distinct singlehood patterns across societies. Results reveal six typologies of singlehood, shaped by socioeconomic development and institutional factors. The study challenges uniform narratives of family change, emphasising divergent pathways and persistent global heterogeneity. These findings underscore the need for nuanced theoretical frameworks to understand the contemporary rise of singlehood.