

Ministerial Response to the Joint Select Committee (JSC) re: The Eight Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on an Examination of the Perceived Inequality Faced by Single Fathers in Trinidad and Tobago with Specific Focus on Custody Matters, Policies and Access to Programmes and Services

4.9.

“Given the increasing number of single parents in Trinidad and Tobago and the critical impact of data on the creation of programmes and services within Government agencies, the Committee recommends that the CSO include questions on single parenthood (inclusive of the sex of the single parent) in the 2020 Population and Housing Census.”

Response:

The 2000 and 2011 Housing and Population Censuses as well as the Continuous Sample Survey of Population (CSSP) conducted by the Central Statistical Office are possible sources of socio-economic data on single parent households. While there are no questions on the respective instruments that directly ask about single parenthood, the data can be gleaned by running carefully crafted program scripts so as to query the rich databases that emanate from the National Censuses and the CSSP.

The National Censuses and the CSSP instruments gather significant amounts of national data on scores of socio-economic variables including sex of respondent, relationship to head of household (this indicates if the respondent is the head of the household or not) and marital status. Therefore certain cross-tabulations can be effected so as to ascertain which of the respondents are single males and are heads of households. The socio-economic characteristics of such respondents can then be examined. In this regard, data on certain social cohorts can be extracted and made available even if a specific question about such a group is not listed in the survey or census instrument.

Further, the 2019 Household Budgetary Survey and the Survey of Living Conditions (HBS/SLC) which will be conducted shortly, will contain a module on Single Parenthood. Additionally, the 2020 Population, Housing and Agricultural Census when completed will also have the potential to yield such data as per the method described above.
