

6/15/2018

Dear friends:

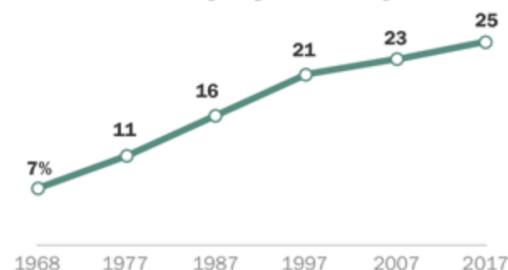
Less Than Half of Children Live in Stable Households Throughout Childhood

Presently, [only 44% of children](#) are in families that have remained intact through the child's 12th birthday.

[Children's instability has increased](#) by nearly 80% for Whites, by more than 50% for Blacks, and by 50% for Hispanics between 1995 and 2006- 2010.

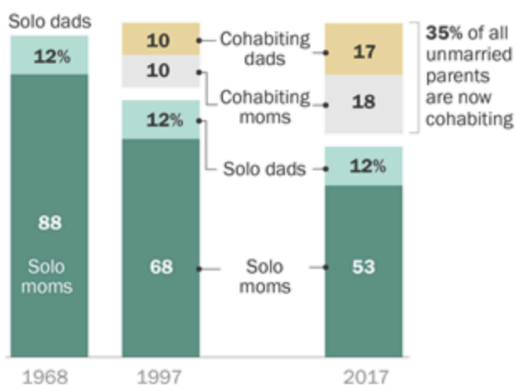
One-in-four U.S. parents are unmarried

% unmarried, among all parents living with a child



Growing share of unmarried parents are cohabiting

% cohabiting/solo, among all unmarried parents living with a child

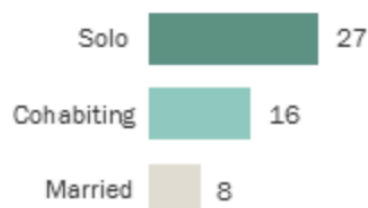


Note: "Parents" are all U.S. parents living with at least one child younger than 18. Data regarding cohabitation available since 1997 only. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey March Supplement (IPUMS).
"The Changing Profile of Unmarried Parents"

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About one-fourth of solo parents are poor

% living in poverty, by parent type



Among solo parents



Note: "Parents" are all U.S. parents living with at least one child younger than 18. Poverty is measured using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2017 Current Population Survey March Supplement (IPUMS).
"The Changing Profile of Unmarried Parents"

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The Role of Family Composition on Child Well-Being

Family scholars, Brown, Manning, and Stykes, recently determined that the benefits of intact family structures on children [diminish significantly when a family structure is complex](#) (the family is composed of biological children and half- or step siblings).

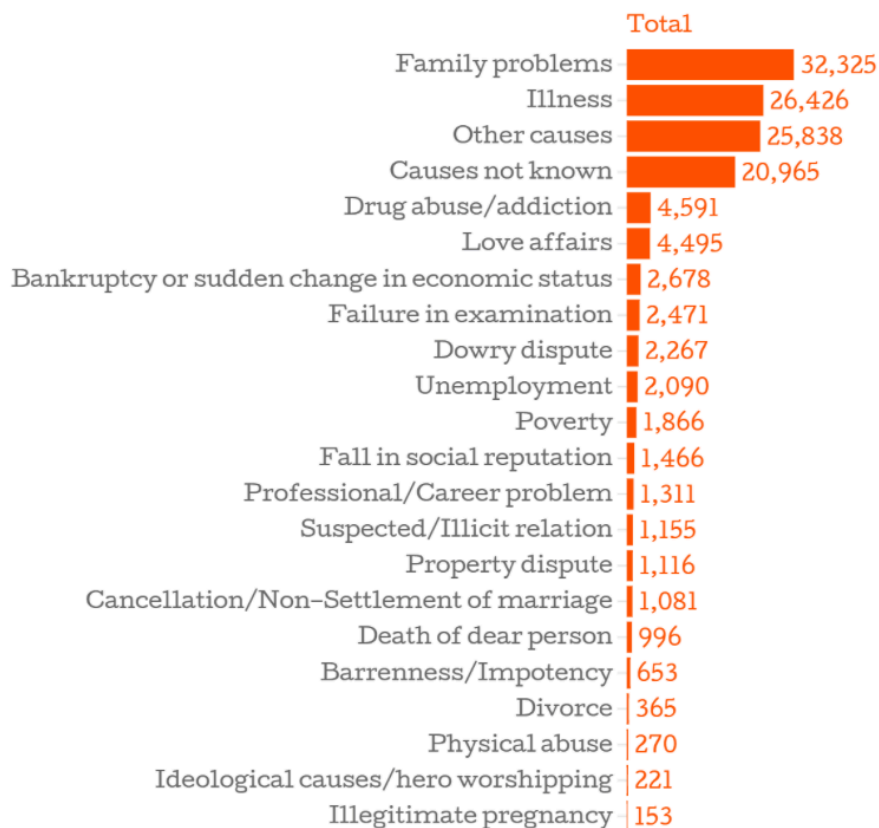
[Complex](#) two biological parent family structures are as likely as single-parent families to receive public assistance.

The Impact of Family Instability on Child Well-Being

Every family transition [significantly lowers children's educational, social, and behavioral indicators of well-being](#).

[Family instability](#) is associated with increased risks of [teenage pregnancy](#), [substance abuse](#), and lower [educational attainment](#).

Leading causes of suicide, 2013



Voices: A Child of Divorce Speaks

"Two years after their divorce, I was still having a hard time dealing with the fact that they were no longer married, especially when they both began dating new people. Even though I could not remember what it was like for them to be a couple, I desperately wished they would get back together.

When I was about four, my parents surprised me by taking me out for a special outing at a local park. We spent the entire day together, holding hands, and even stopping to have a family photo taken. It was the happiest day of my childhood. And my parents seemed happy too. I just knew that they were going to get back together!

But the next time my father picked me up, my dad told me he was going to marry his girlfriend. Shortly after that, my mom remarried too. My fantasy of my parents getting back together was shattered forever." [Continue reading...](#)

BLOG: Every Society Begins with Sex



A couple of weeks ago we returned after a hiatus of five or six weeks and I promised an explanation. Steeped in the sociological and demographic data on marriage, family and children I was overwhelmed by the disastrous picture which had been unfolding before me for years and felt the need to figure a way forward out of the mess deliberately created by people bent on the destruction of the

family and of religion...

The movements and institutions mentioned are flying in the face of the data, and contradicting universal, observable, realities. The two great loves --- of God and neighbor --- make the environment in which man has always thrived. In their absence (broken and unformed marriage and falling rates of worship of God) man wilts and breaks down. [Continue reading....](#)

With an eye to the child, the future of America,

Pat Fagan, Ph.D.

Director of the MARRI Project

Catholic University of America