

## Family Structure and Adolescent Cigarette/Alcohol Use\*

*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18*

**Growing up in an intact family helps safeguard adolescents from participating in risky behavior, like smoking and drinking. Social science research shows that:**

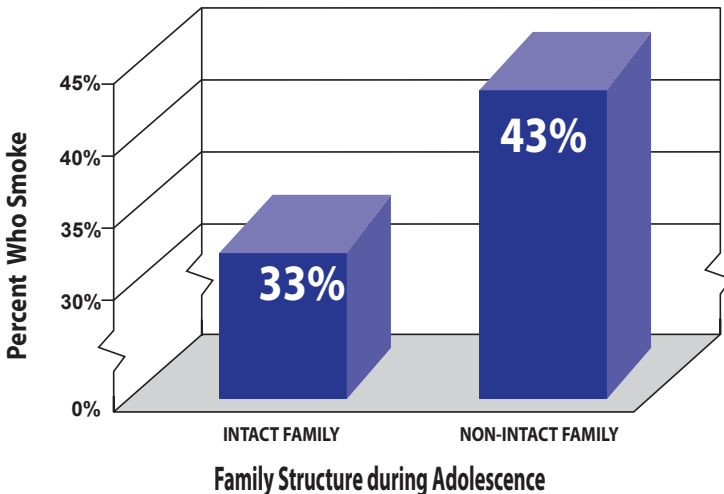
- 18 percent of adolescents living in two-parent homes said they had smoked in the last 30 days, compared with 31 percent in single-parent homes.
- The odds for adolescent drinking are 93 percent higher for cohabiting families than for intact families.
- The likelihood for teenage girls to start drinking nearly doubles from 19 percent to 37 percent among those who transition from a divorced single-parent family into a married stepfamily.
- The odds of alcohol initiation for boys in divorced single-parent families rise by 13 percent when they transition to stepfamilies.

**Children's family structure impacts their willingness to smoke cigarettes or drink at an early age. As a parent your example of attending to God first will have a great protective effect on your child's use of alcohol. Are you a good role model for them?**

The accompanying graph illustrates that children who grow up in intact, married families are less likely to smoke in adulthood. An adolescent's family structure shapes habits that can last a lifetime.

### Smoking in Adulthood by Family Structure in Adolescence

Source: General Social Survey (GSS) 1972-2006



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit [www.marri.us/one-pagers/](http://www.marri.us/one-pagers/)

\*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.



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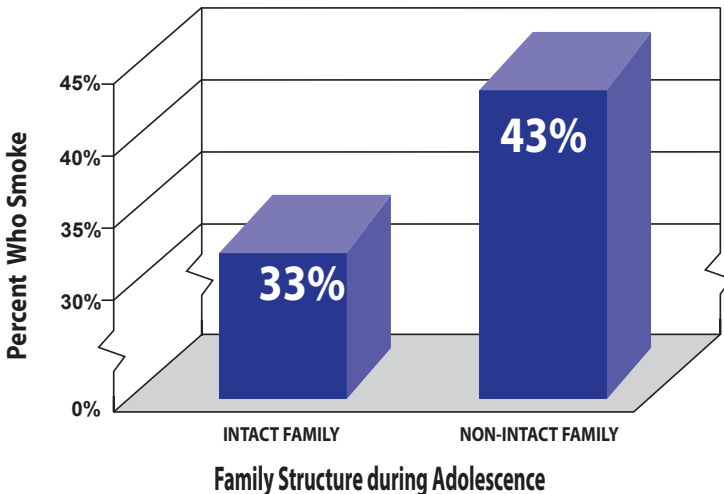
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