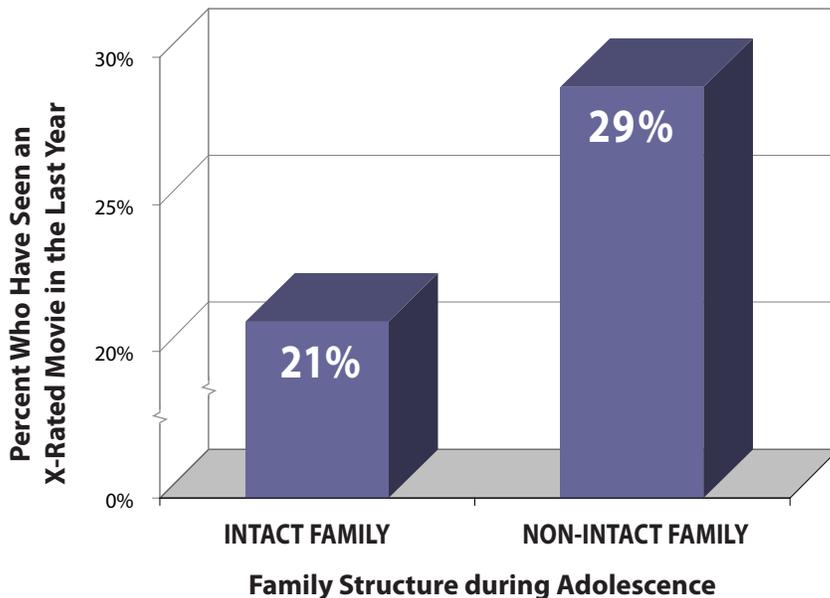




Marriage, Religion, and the Common Good – Number 38

## Intergenerational Links to Viewing X-Rated Movies: Family Structure

**Percent Who Have Seen an X-Rated Movie in the Last Year by Their Family Structure during Adolescence**



Source: General Social Survey (GSS)

*This chart is taken from a study conducted by Visiting Fellow Althea Nagai, Ph.D. for Family Research Council.*

Adults who grew up living with both biological parents are less likely to have viewed an X-rated movie in the last year.

According to the General Social Survey (GSS), 21 percent of adults who lived in an intact family as adolescents had viewed an X-rated movie in the last year, compared to 29 percent of those who lived in a non-intact family.<sup>1</sup>

### Other Studies

Several other studies corroborate the direction of these findings. Gina Wingood of the Rollins School of Public Health and colleagues found that, among black female adolescents, “[e]xposure to X-rated movies was associated with residing in a single-parent family and being monitored by someone other than one’s mother.”<sup>2</sup>

Jay Grosfeld of the Indiana University School of Medicine also found that children living in “single parent and broken homes” were more likely to be exposed to pornography.<sup>3</sup>

Elissa Benedek of the University of Michigan and Catherine Brown, executive editor of *Psychiatric News*, reported that children from single-parent homes are most at risk from exposure to televised pornography.<sup>4</sup>

As the data indicate, growing up in an intact family proves to be an effective protector against X-rated movie viewing in adolescence and in adulthood.

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- 1 This chart draws on data collected by the General Social Survey, 1972-2006. From 1972 to 1993, the sample size averaged 1,500 each year. No GSS was conducted in 1979, 1981, or 1992. Since 1994, the GSS has been conducted only in even-numbered years and uses two samples per GSS that total approximately 3,000. In 2006, a third sample was added for a total sample size of 4,510.
  - 2 Gina M. Wingood, et al., "Exposure to X-rated Movies and Adolescents' Sexual and Contraceptive-Related Attitudes and Behaviors," *Pediatrics*, vol. 107 (2001): 1116-1119.
  - 3 Jay Grosfeld, "The Plight of Children," *Annals of Surgery*, vol. 246 (2007): 343-350.
  - 4 Elissa P. Benedek and Catherine F. Brown, "No Excuses: Televised Pornography Harms Children," *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*, vol. 7 (1999): 236-240.



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