The Fourth Annual Index of Family Belonging and Rejection

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Index Highlights:

- Only 46 percent of American 15- to 17-year-olds were raised with both their biological parents married to one another (belonging to each other) since before or around the time of their birth.
- The parents of 54 percent of American 15- to 17-year-olds have rejected one another.
- Regionally, the Northeast (50 percent) has the highest Family Belonging Index and the South (42 percent) has the lowest.
- Utah (57 percent), Minnesota (56 percent), and Nebraska (55 percent) have the highest Family Belonging Indices of all the states.
- The District of Columbia (17 percent), Mississippi (32 percent), and Louisiana (36 percent) have the lowest Family Belonging Indices of all the states.
- Family belonging is strongest among Asians (65 percent) and weakest among Blacks (17 percent).

Introduction

The United States Family Belonging Index is 46 percent, with a corresponding Family Rejection Index of 54 percent, based on 2008-2011 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.[1] The action of parents determines the Family Belonging or Rejection Index within a nation, region, state, or racial or ethnic group—whether they marry and belong to each other, or whether they reject one an-

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[1] Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek, "Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]," (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010).

other through divorce or other means. Rejection leaves children without married parents committed to one another and to their children.

The Index of Family Belonging is determined by the fraction of children aged 15 to 17 in a given area who live with both their biological parents, who have been married since before or around the time of their birth. This Index value is slightly biased.[2]

Regionally, the Northeast had the highest Family Belonging Index, 50 percent. The South had the lowest Family Belonging Index, with 42 percent of 15- to 17-year-olds in intact married families.

Utah was the state with the highest Family Belonging Index in the nation, 57 percent. By contrast, the District of Columbia had the lowest fraction of 15- to 17-year-olds in intact families in the nation, with a Family Belonging Index of 17 percent. Note that the Family Belonging Index of Washington, D.C., varies sharply across racial and ethnic groups.

When the United States is assessed by race and ethnicity, Asians have the highest Family Belonging Index, 65 percent. The Black Family Belonging Index, 17 percent, is the lowest of all races and ethnicities in the United States.

The implications of half of America's children experiencing family rejection are grave. For an illustration of the ramifications of rejection and family brokenness, see "Family Intactness: Influence on Major State Social Policy Outcomes,"[3] generated from the second iteration of this report, and "U.S. Social Policy Dependence on the Family,"[4] generated from the third iteration of this report.

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[2] For an explanation, see "Correction of Bias in the Index of Family Belonging" at marri.us/index-correction. From this bias correction study we estimate that the fraction of American children who live with both their biological parents (married or not) through late adolescence is likely closer to just under one half. Note that throughout the document, we use the Index figure *uncorrected* for this bias, using the data derived directly from the American Community Survey.

[3] marri.us/state-policy

[4] marri.us/policy-2013

Levels of Belonging and Rejection

Figure 1: Percentage of U.S. Children Aged 15 to 17 Who Have Grown Up with Both Biological Parents Married, 2008-2011
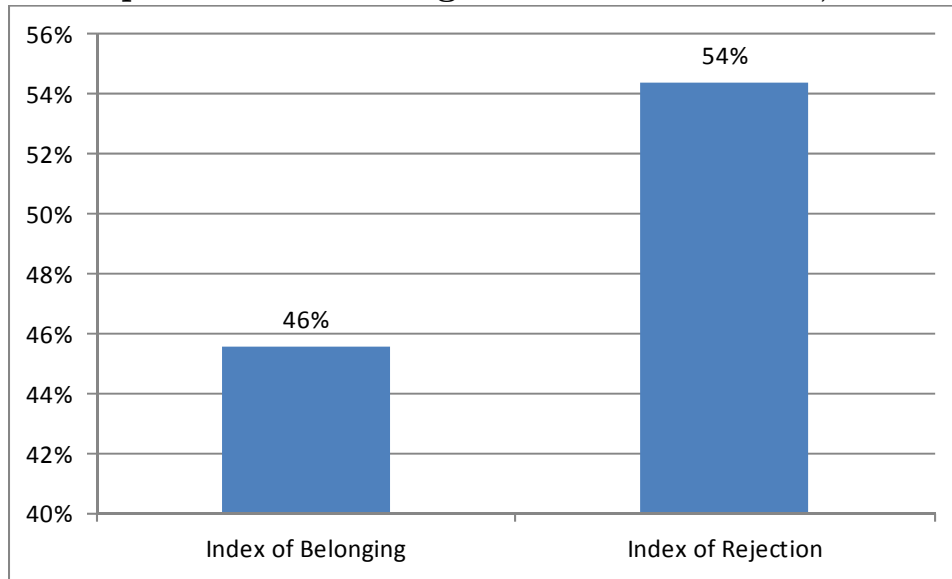
Less than half of teenagers have grown up with both biological parents married: The Index shows the proportion of children aged 15 to 17 who have lived with both biological parents through their childhood and whose parents have been married to one another since before or around the time of the teenager's birth. The national value for the Index using 2008-2011 data showed 46 percent of 15- to 17-year-olds belonged to an intact married family.

Though nominally altered, the national (as well as the regional and racial or ethnic) Family Belonging Index reported in this, the Fourth Annual Index, is not different in any statistically meaningful sense from those reported in previous Index reports.

Figure 2: Regions in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index, 2008-2011
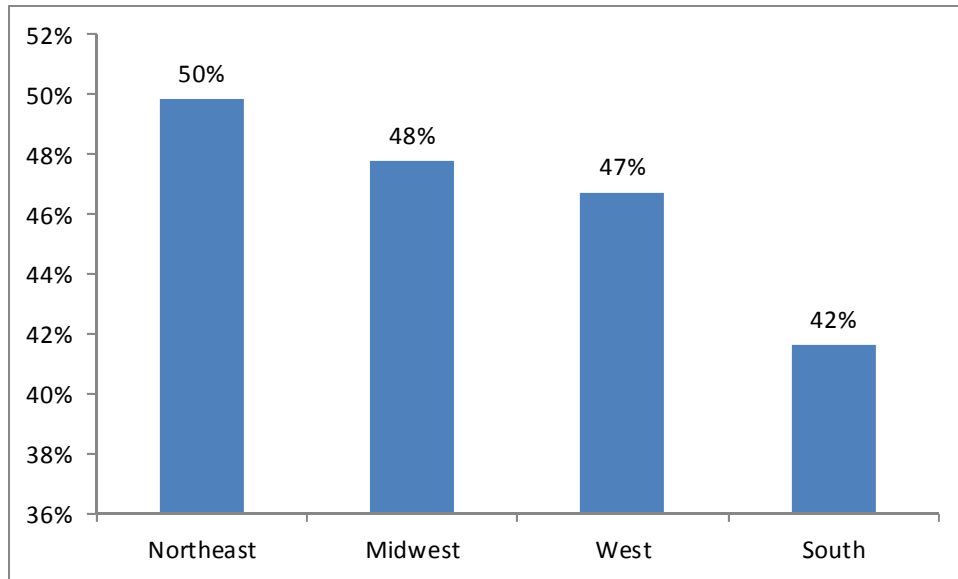
The Northeast has the highest Family Belonging Index (50 percent), followed by the Midwest (48 percent) and West (47 percent). The Family Belonging Index for the South is the lowest of the four Census regions at 42 percent. Again, none of the regional values reported in this, the Fourth Annual Index, differs markedly from previous versions of this report.

Figure 3: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index, 2008-2011

| State	Index
UT	57%
MN	56%
NE	55%
NJ	54%
ND	53%
NH	53%
MA	52%
IA	51%
CT	51%
ID	51%
HI	50%
WI	50%
KS	49%
IL	49%
VT	49%
PA	49%
SD	49%
VA	48%
NY	48%
CO	48%
MT	48%
WA	48%
CA	47%
OR	46%
MI	46%
WY	46%
MD	46%
TX	45%
OH	45%
AK	45%
ME	45%
IN	44%
RI	44%
MO	43%
KY	42%
NC	42%
DE	42%
WV	41%
AZ	41%
FL	40%
TN	40%
OK	39%
GA	39%
NV	39%
SC	39%
NM	39%
AL	38%
AR	37%
LA	36%
MS	32%
DC	17%
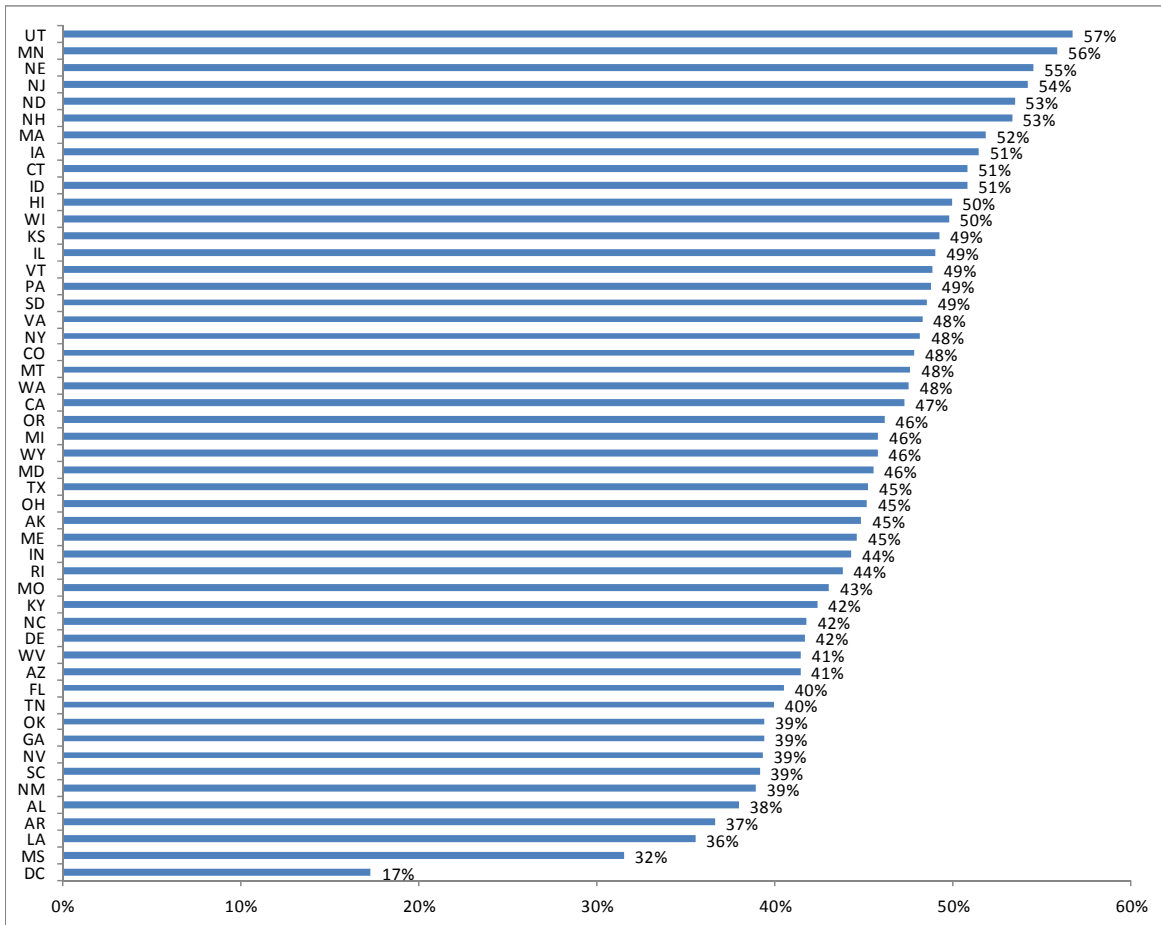
Utah, Minnesota, Nebraska rank highest in family belonging: In most states, less than half of 15- to 17-year-olds have grown up in intact married families. But in 10 states, a majority of teenagers have been raised by both parents. Utah leads the nation with a Family Belonging Index of 57 percent. Minnesota is second in the nation, with an Index of 56 percent, and Nebraska ranks third nationally, with an Index of 55 percent.

Other states with more than half of teenagers raised with both biological parents married are New Jersey (54 percent), North Dakota (53 percent), New Hampshire (53 percent), Massachusetts (52 percent), Iowa (51 percent), Connecticut (51 percent), and Idaho (51 percent).

No state in the South has a majority of teenagers living with both married parents. Virginia leads the South in family intactness, but even its Family Belonging Index (48 percent) is below half.

Washington, D.C., Mississippi, Louisiana rank lowest in family belonging: Washington, D.C., has the lowest Family Belonging Index in the nation, 17 percent. Mississippi ranks next-lowest, with an Index value of 32 percent. Only slightly higher are the Indices of the states of Louisiana (36 percent), Arkansas (37 percent), Alabama (38 percent), New Mexico (39 percent), South Carolina (39 percent), Nevada (39 percent), Georgia (39 percent), and Oklahoma (39 percent).

Figure 4: Race/Ethnicity in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index, 2008-2011
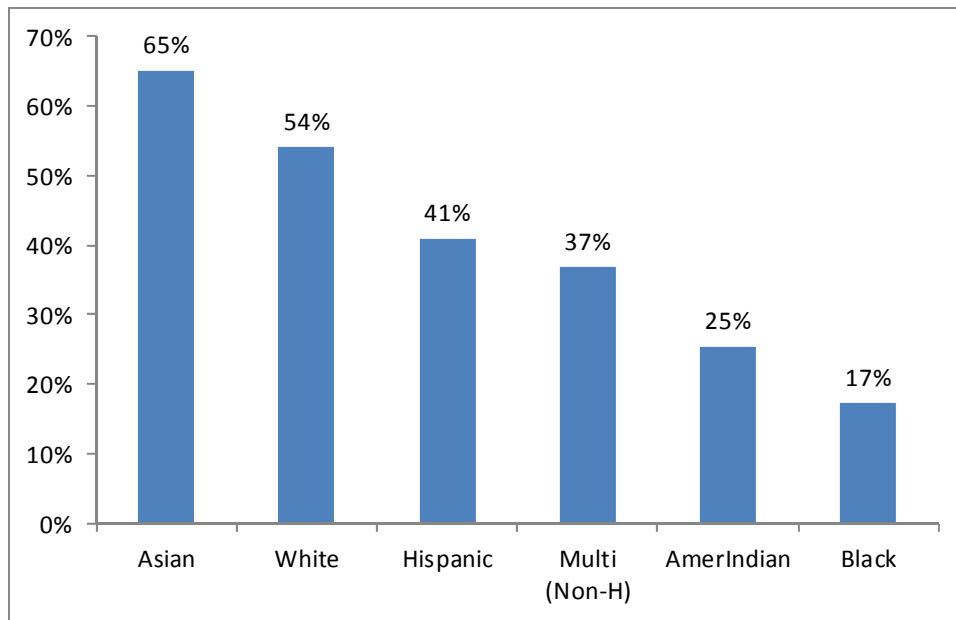
Asian teenagers grow up in intact married families most frequently: Teenagers from different racial and ethnic groups in the United States have markedly different family experiences. Growing up in an intact family married is over three times less common among Black teenagers than among Asian teenagers.

Sixty-five percent of Asian children in the U.S. aged 15 to 17 were raised with both married biological parents, as were 54 percent of White children aged 15 to 17. The Family Belonging Index among Asians and Whites is, thus, higher than the national average.

By contrast, the Family Belonging Index among Hispanics, Multiracial (non-Hispanic) children, American Indians, and Blacks is lower than the national average. Approximately 41 percent of Hispanic children aged 15 to 17 were raised with both married biological parents. Worse yet, 37 percent of Multiracial teenagers, 25 percent of American Indian teenagers, and a mere 17 percent of Black teenagers were raised in an intact married family.

Figure 5: Race/Ethnicity by Region in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index, 2008-2011
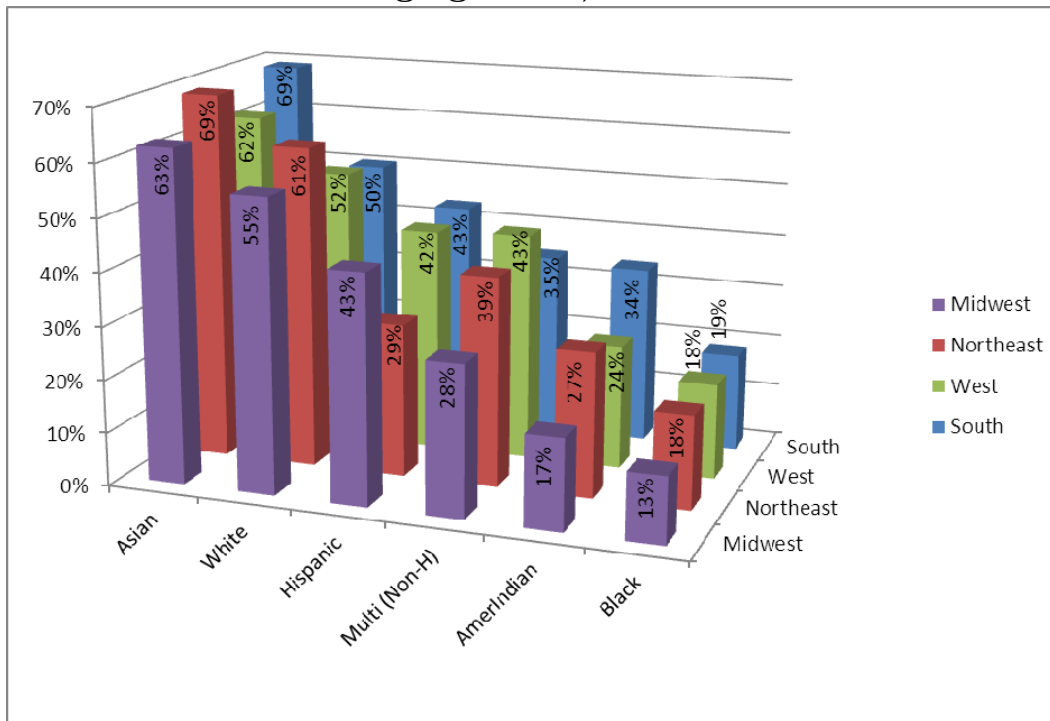
In the Midwest, Asians have a Family Belonging Index of 63 percent. Fifty-five percent of White teenagers, 43 percent of Hispanic teenagers, 28 percent of Multiracial (non-Hispanic) teenagers, 17 percent of American Indian teenagers, and 13 percent of Black teenagers in the Midwest grow up in intact married families.

In the Northeast, Asians have a Family Belonging Index of 69 percent. In the Northeast, the Family Belonging Index among White teenagers is 61 percent; among Hispanic teenagers, 29 percent; among Multiracial (non-Hispanic) teenagers, 39 percent; among American Indian teenagers, 27 percent; and among Black teenagers, 18 percent.

In the West, the Family Belonging Index among Asian teenagers is 62 percent. In the West, 52 percent of White teenagers, 42 percent of Hispanic teenagers, 43 percent of Multiracial (non-Hispanic) teenagers, 24 percent of American Indian teenagers, and 18 percent of Black teenagers grow up in intact married families.

In the South, the Family Belonging Index among Asian teenagers is 69 percent. Fifty percent of White teenagers, 43 percent of Hispanic teenagers, 35 percent of Multiracial (non-Hispanic) teenagers, 34 percent of American Indian teenagers, and 19 percent of Black teenagers in the South grow up in intact married families.

Figure 6: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index among Asians, 2008-2011

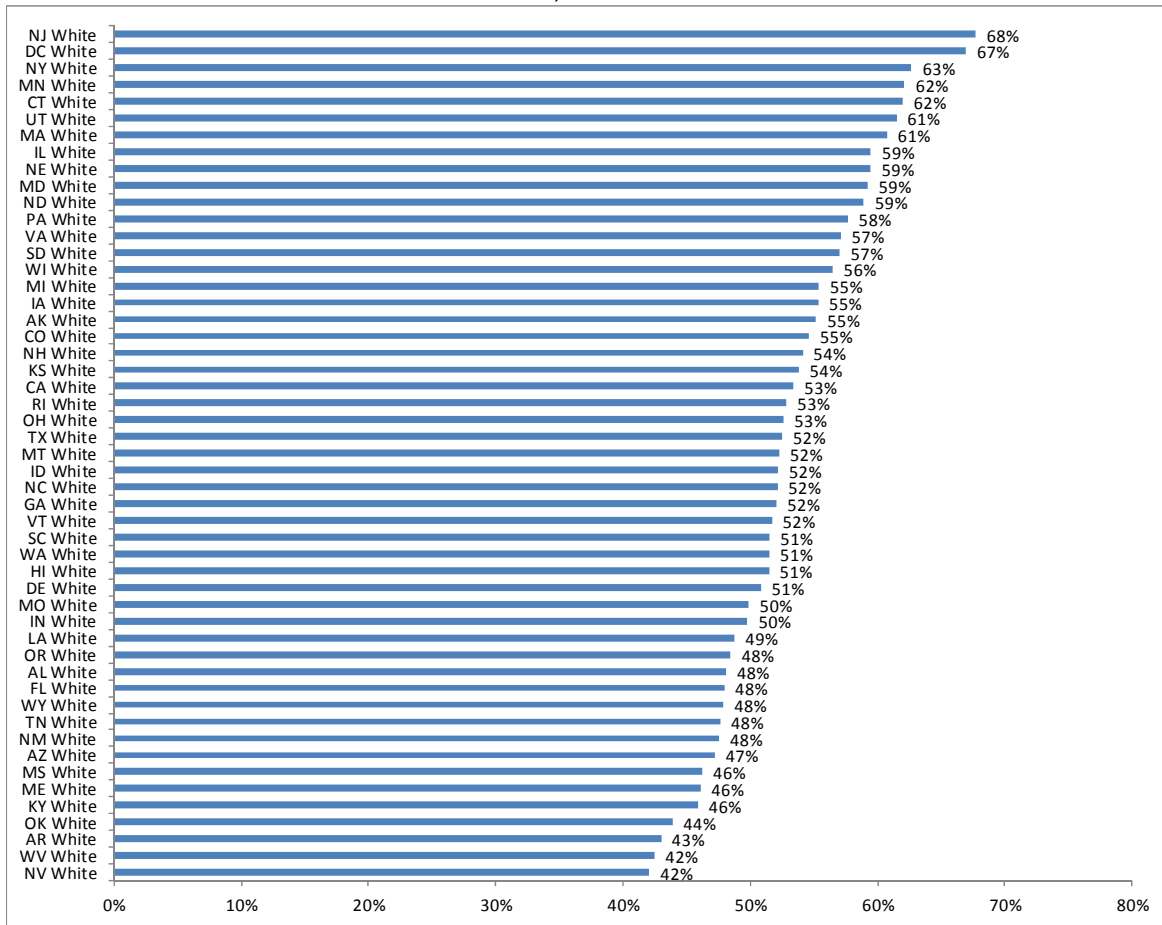| State	Family Belonging Index
NJ Asian	78%
MD Asian	77%
DE Asian	76%
VA Asian	75%
NC Asian	73%
IL Asian	72%
TX Asian	71%
NY Asian	71%
CT Asian	70%
GA Asian	68%
FL Asian	66%
CA Asian	65%
LA Asian	64%
MI Asian	64%
PA Asian	64%
OK Asian	62%
IN Asian	62%
MO Asian	61%
OH Asian	61%
AZ Asian	60%
WI Asian	59%
MA Asian	59%
WA Asian	57%
TN Asian	56%
HI Asian	56%
MN Asian	54%
CO Asian	53%
KS Asian	52%
OR Asian	52%
NV Asian	49%
UT Asian	46%
WY Asian*	
WV Asian*	
VT Asian*	
SD Asian*	
SC Asian*	
RI Asian*	
ND Asian*	
NM Asian*	
NH Asian*	
NE Asian*	
MT Asian*	
MS Asian*	
ME Asian*	
KY Asian*	
IA Asian*	
ID Asian*	
DC Asian*	
AR Asian*	
AK Asian*	
AL Asian*	

In nearly all states with a large enough Asian population to analyze, the majority of Asian children reach late adolescence in an intact married family. Note that in every state where the Asian population's family intactness is large enough to analyze, it is equal to or higher than the national Family Belonging Index. The starred states have Asian populations too small to analyze their family intactness.

New Jersey ranks highest in family belonging among Asians: New Jersey leads the nation in family intactness among Asians with a Family Belonging Index among Asians of 78 percent, followed by Maryland, with a Family Belonging Index among Asians of 77 percent, and Delaware, with a Family Belonging Index among Asians of 76 percent.

Utah ranks lowest in family belonging among Asians: Utah enjoys the least family intactness among Asians with a Family Belonging Index among Asians of 46 percent. Nevada has the next-lowest degree of family intactness among Asians, with a Family Belonging Index among Asians of 49 percent, and Oregon and Kansas have the third-lowest, with Family Belonging Indices among Asians of 52 percent.

Figure 7: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index among Whites, 2008-2011

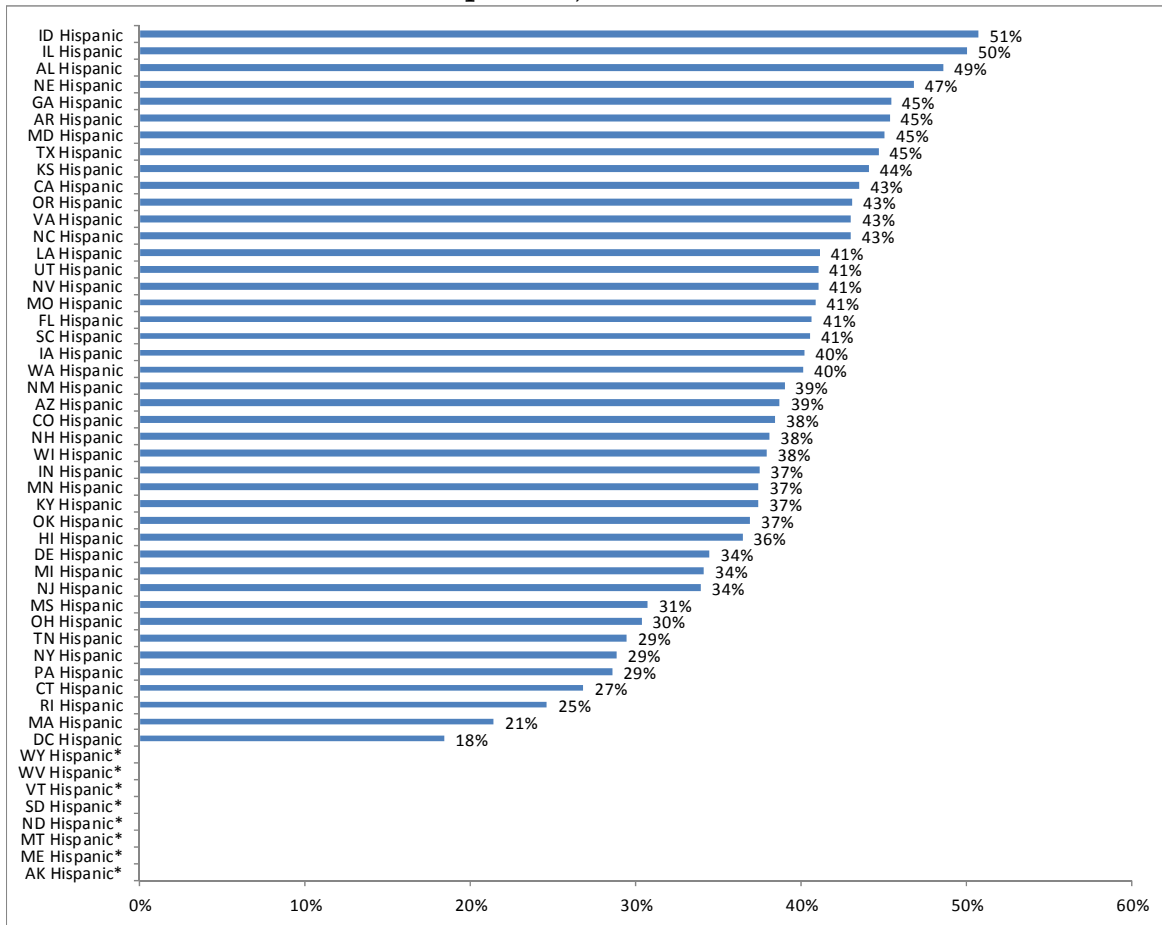| State	Value
NJ White	68%
DC White	67%
NY White	63%
MN White	62%
CT White	62%
UT White	61%
MA White	61%
IL White	59%
NE White	59%
MD White	59%
ND White	59%
PA White	58%
VA White	57%
SD White	57%
WI White	56%
MI White	55%
IA White	55%
AK White	55%
CO White	55%
NH White	54%
KS White	54%
CA White	53%
RI White	53%
OH White	53%
TX White	52%
MT White	52%
ID White	52%
NC White	52%
GA White	52%
VT White	52%
SC White	51%
WA White	51%
HI White	51%
DE White	51%
MO White	50%
IN White	50%
LA White	49%
OR White	48%
AL White	48%
FL White	48%
WY White	48%
TN White	48%
NM White	48%
AZ White	47%
MS White	46%
ME White	46%
KY White	46%
OK White	44%
AR White	43%
WV White	42%
NV White	42%

In approximately two thirds of American states, the majority of White children aged 15 to 17 were raised in an intact married family.

New Jersey ranks highest in family belonging among Whites: New Jersey leads the nation in family intactness among Whites with a Family Belonging Index among Whites of 68 percent. The District of Columbia—whose overall Family Belonging Index and Family Belonging Indices among Blacks and Hispanics are abysmally low—has the next-highest Family Belonging Index among Whites, 67 percent. New York has the third-highest Family Belonging Index among Whites, 63 percent.

Nevada and West Virginia rank lowest in family belonging among Whites: Nevada and West Virginia enjoy the least family intactness among Whites, with Family Belonging Indices among Whites of 42 percent. Arkansas has the next-lowest degree of family intactness, with a Family Belonging Index among Whites of 43 percent.

Figure 8: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index among Hispanics, 2008-2011

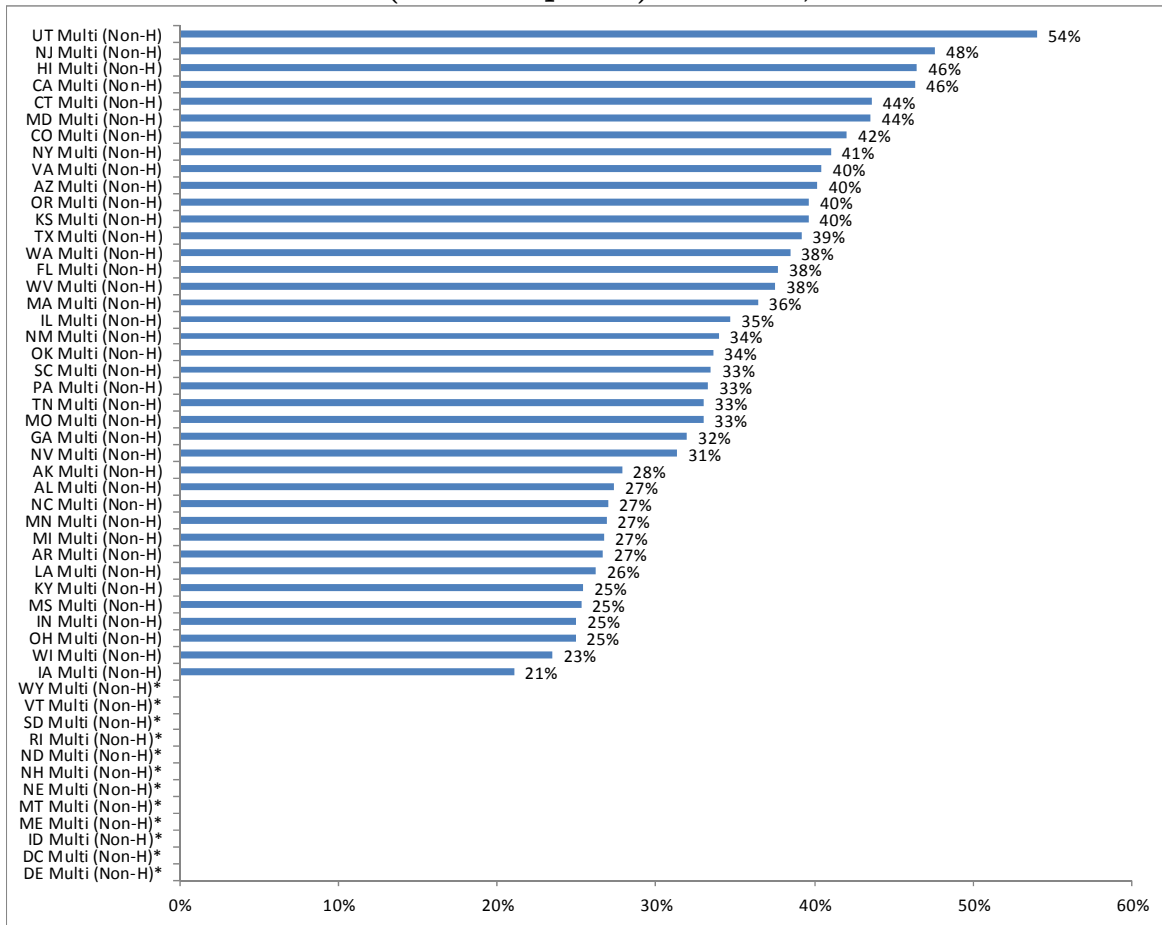| State	Value
ID Hispanic	51%
IL Hispanic	50%
AL Hispanic	49%
NE Hispanic	47%
GA Hispanic	45%
AR Hispanic	45%
MD Hispanic	45%
TX Hispanic	45%
KS Hispanic	44%
CA Hispanic	43%
OR Hispanic	43%
VA Hispanic	43%
NC Hispanic	43%
LA Hispanic	41%
UT Hispanic	41%
NV Hispanic	41%
MO Hispanic	41%
FL Hispanic	41%
SC Hispanic	41%
IA Hispanic	40%
WA Hispanic	40%
NM Hispanic	39%
AZ Hispanic	39%
CO Hispanic	38%
NH Hispanic	38%
WI Hispanic	38%
IN Hispanic	37%
MN Hispanic	37%
KY Hispanic	37%
OK Hispanic	37%
HI Hispanic	36%
DE Hispanic	34%
MI Hispanic	34%
NJ Hispanic	34%
MS Hispanic	31%
OH Hispanic	30%
TN Hispanic	29%
NY Hispanic	29%
PA Hispanic	29%
CT Hispanic	27%
RI Hispanic	25%
MA Hispanic	21%
DC Hispanic	18%
WY Hispanic*	
WV Hispanic*	
VT Hispanic*	
SD Hispanic*	
ND Hispanic*	
MT Hispanic*	
ME Hispanic*	
AK Hispanic*	

In all but two states with a large enough Hispanic population to analyze, the majority of Hispanic children reach late adolescence in a non-intact family. Note that the starred states have Hispanic populations too small to analyze their family intactness.

Idaho ranks highest in family belonging among Hispanics: Idaho leads in family intactness among Hispanics with a Family Belonging Index among Hispanics of 51 percent, followed by Illinois, with a Family Belonging Index among Hispanics of 50 percent, and Alabama, with a Family Belonging Index among Hispanics of 49 percent.

The District of Columbia ranks lowest in family belonging among Hispanics: Family intactness is lowest among Hispanics in the District of Columbia, which has the lowest average Family Belonging Index of any state in the nation. Among Hispanics, the Family Belonging Index in the District of Columbia is 18 percent. Massachusetts has the next-lowest degree of family intactness among Hispanics, with a Family Belonging Index among Hispanics of 21 percent, followed by Rhode Island, with a Family Belonging Index among Hispanics of 25 percent.

10

Figure 9: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index among Multiracial (Non-Hispanic) Persons, 2008-2011

State	Index
UT Multi (Non-H)	54%
NJ Multi (Non-H)	48%
HI Multi (Non-H)	46%
CA Multi (Non-H)	46%
CT Multi (Non-H)	44%
MD Multi (Non-H)	44%
CO Multi (Non-H)	42%
NY Multi (Non-H)	41%
VA Multi (Non-H)	40%
AZ Multi (Non-H)	40%
OR Multi (Non-H)	40%
KS Multi (Non-H)	40%
TX Multi (Non-H)	39%
WA Multi (Non-H)	38%
FL Multi (Non-H)	38%
WV Multi (Non-H)	38%
MA Multi (Non-H)	36%
IL Multi (Non-H)	35%
NM Multi (Non-H)	34%
OK Multi (Non-H)	34%
SC Multi (Non-H)	33%
PA Multi (Non-H)	33%
TN Multi (Non-H)	33%
MO Multi (Non-H)	33%
GA Multi (Non-H)	32%
NV Multi (Non-H)	31%
AK Multi (Non-H)	28%
AL Multi (Non-H)	27%
NC Multi (Non-H)	27%
MN Multi (Non-H)	27%
MI Multi (Non-H)	27%
AR Multi (Non-H)	27%
LA Multi (Non-H)	26%
KY Multi (Non-H)	25%
MS Multi (Non-H)	25%
IN Multi (Non-H)	25%
OH Multi (Non-H)	25%
WI Multi (Non-H)	23%
IA Multi (Non-H)	21%
WY Multi (Non-H)*	
VT Multi (Non-H)*	
SD Multi (Non-H)*	
RI Multi (Non-H)*	
ND Multi (Non-H)*	
NH Multi (Non-H)*	
NE Multi (Non-H)*	
MT Multi (Non-H)*	
ME Multi (Non-H)*	
ID Multi (Non-H)*	
DC Multi (Non-H)*	
DE Multi (Non-H)*	

In all but one state with a large enough Multiracial (non-Hispanic) population to analyze, the majority of Multiracial children aged 15 to 17 were raised in a non-intact family. Note that the starred states have Multiracial populations too small to analyze their family intactness.

Utah ranks highest in family belonging among Multiracial teenagers:
Utah leads in family intactness among Multiracial teenagers with a Family Belonging Index among Multiracial teenagers of 54 percent, followed by New Jersey, with a Family Belonging Index among Multiracial teenagers of 48 percent, and Hawaii and California, with Family Belonging Indices among Multiracial teenagers of 46 percent.

Iowa ranks lowest in family belonging among Multiracial teenagers:
Family intactness is lowest among Multiracial teenagers in Iowa, with a Family Belonging Index among Multiracial teenagers of 21 percent. Wisconsin has the next-lowest degree of family intactness among Multiracial teenagers, with a Family Belonging Index among Multiracial teenagers of 23 percent, followed by Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, and Kentucky, at 25 percent.

Figure 10: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index among American Indians, 2008-2011
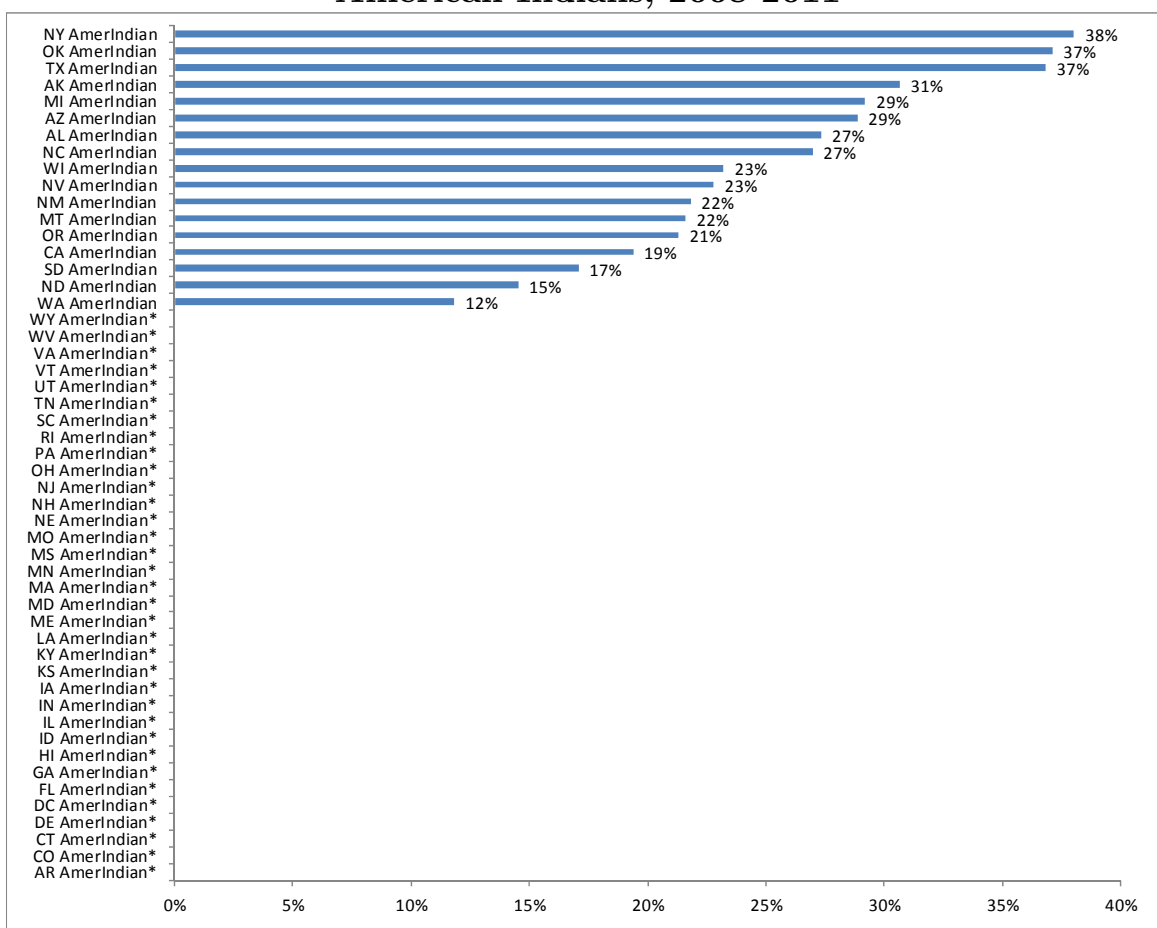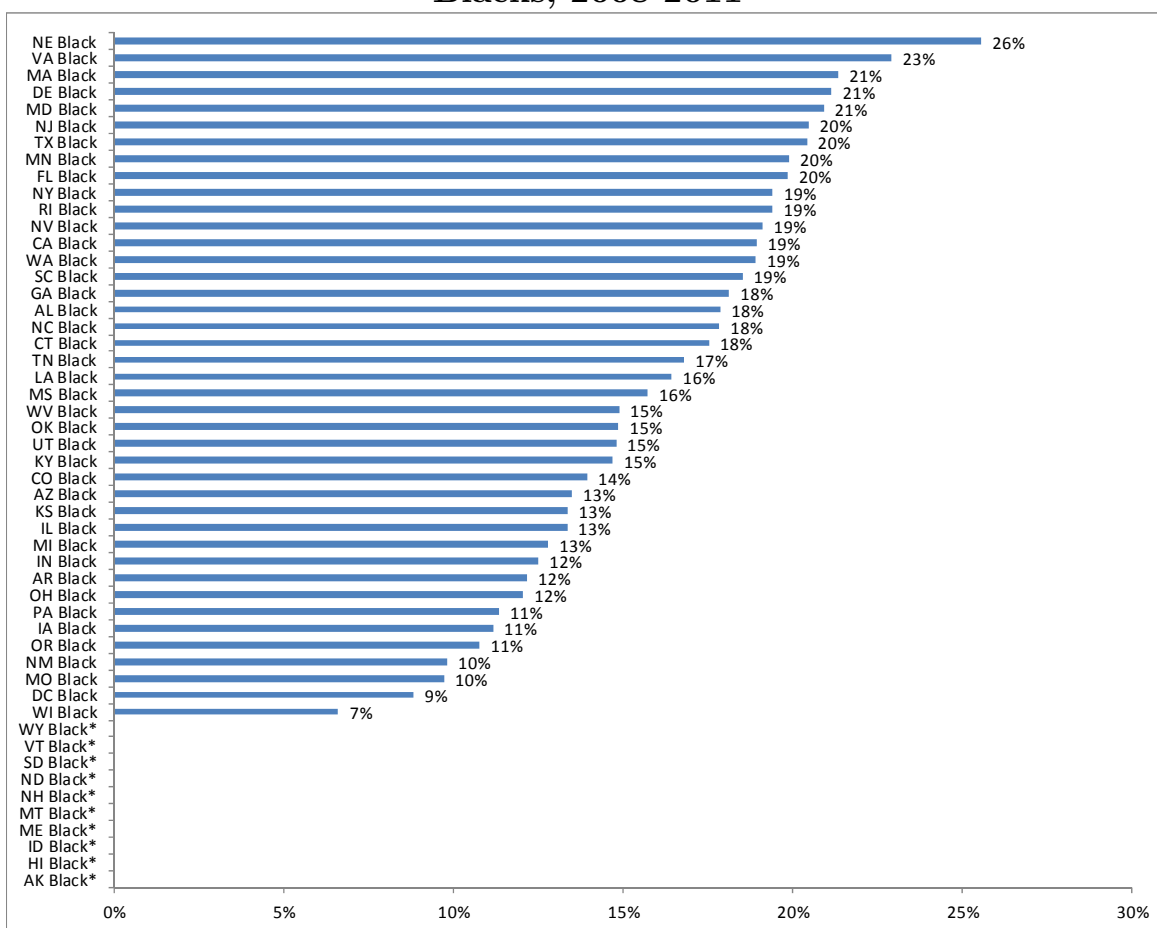

In all states with a large enough American Indian population to analyze, only a minority of American Indian children aged 15 to 17 were raised in an intact married family. Note that the starred states have American Indian populations too small to analyze their family intactness.

New York ranks highest in family belonging among American Indians: New York leads in family intactness among American Indians with a Family Belonging Index among American Indians of only 38 percent, followed by Oklahoma and Texas, with Family Belonging Indices among American Indians of 37 percent.

Washington ranks lowest in family belonging among American Indians: Family intactness is lowest among American Indians in Washington, with a Family Belonging Index among American Indians of 12 percent. North Dakota has the next-lowest degree of family intactness among American Indians, with a Family Belonging Index among American Indians of 15 percent, followed by South Dakota, with a Family Belonging Index among American Indians of 17 percent.

Figure 11: States in Rank Order by Family Belonging Index among Blacks, 2008-2011

State	Value
NE Black	26%
VA Black	23%
MA Black	21%
DE Black	21%
MD Black	21%
NJ Black	20%
TX Black	20%
MN Black	20%
FL Black	20%
NY Black	19%
RI Black	19%
NV Black	19%
CA Black	19%
WA Black	19%
SC Black	19%
GA Black	18%
AL Black	18%
NC Black	18%
CT Black	18%
TN Black	17%
LA Black	16%
MS Black	16%
WV Black	15%
OK Black	15%
UT Black	15%
KY Black	15%
CO Black	14%
AZ Black	13%
KS Black	13%
IL Black	13%
MI Black	13%
IN Black	12%
AR Black	12%
OH Black	12%
PA Black	11%
IA Black	11%
OR Black	11%
NM Black	10%
MO Black	10%
DC Black	9%
WI Black	7%
WY Black*	
VT Black*	
SD Black*	
ND Black*	
NH Black*	
MT Black*	
ME Black*	
ID Black*	
HI Black*	
AK Black*	

In all states with a large enough Black population to analyze, about one quarter or less of Black children aged 15 to 17 were raised in an intact married family. The starred states have Black populations too small to analyze their family intactness.

Nebraska ranks highest in family belonging among Blacks: Nebraska leads in family intactness among Blacks with a Family Belonging Index among Blacks of only 26 percent, followed by Virginia, with a Family Belonging Index among Blacks of 23 percent, and Massachusetts, Delaware, and Maryland, with Family Belonging Indices among Blacks of 21 percent.

Wisconsin ranks lowest in family belonging among Blacks: Family intactness is lowest among Blacks in Wisconsin, with a Family Belonging Index among Blacks of only 7 percent. The District of Columbia, which has the lowest average Family Belonging Index in the United States, has the next-lowest degree of family intactness among Blacks, with a Family Belonging Index among Blacks of 9 percent, followed by Missouri and New Mexico, with Family Belonging Indices among Blacks of 10 percent.

Appendix

Methodological Considerations

The procedure used to estimate the percentage of U.S. adolescents aged 15 to 17 living with both of their married biological parents in the 2008-2011 American Community Survey PUMS file[5] began by locating all persons in the public use data file who were in the target age range. We then checked the relationship of the teenager to the reference person of the household. (The reference person was the adult in the household in whose name the house or apartment was owned or rented.) If the teenager was coded as the biological son or daughter of the reference person, we checked to see if the parent was coded as being currently married. If so, we checked the date of the parent's most recent marriage. Was the marriage date before the year of the teenager's birth, or within two years of the birth year? If so, he or she was deemed to be living with both parents, who were continuously married throughout the teenager's childhood.

If the teenager was described as the grandchild of the reference person, we checked to see if he or she was coded as "child in married-couple subfamily." If so, the teenager was deemed to be living with both married parents in a multigenerational family. We followed a similar procedure if the adolescent was described as the brother or sister or "other relative" of the reference person, or as a roomer or boarder, housemate or roommate, or "other non-relative." So long as the teenager was also coded as "child in married-couple subfamily," he or she was deemed to be living with both married parents.

Teenagers who were the biological child of the reference person, but whose parent was divorced, separated, or never-married, were classified as not living with both married parents. Likewise, if the teenager's birth antedated the year of the reference person's latest marriage by more than two years, the teenager was classified as not living with both parents, but, rather, in a bioparent-stepparent family. If the parents were not married but cohabiting, the teenager was classified as not living with both married parents.

Teenagers who were described as the adopted son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, or foster son or foster daughter of the reference person were classified as not living with both married parents. Adolescents living in group quarters (e.g., correctional institution, halfway house) were classified as not living with both married parents. The number of teenagers living with both married bio-parents was divided by the total number of adolescents aged 15 to 17 in order to derive the percentage living with both parents.

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[5] Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek, "Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]," (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010).

This rather complicated procedure is necessary because, from 2008 on, the ACS questionnaire only asks about a teenager's detailed relationship to the reference person, and not to the reference person's spouse or partner. Thus, we must infer that relationship by looking at the reference person's marital history information. We know this procedure is not 100 percent accurate. It may be, for example, that even though the parents were married throughout the teenager's childhood, one of the partners in the marriage is not, in fact, the biological parent of the teenager. It is these possible problems that we attempt to mitigate in the below section.

Correction of Bias in the Index of Family Belonging and Rejection

The American Community Survey, from which our Index is derived, necessarily tracks the biological relationship of a child to only one of his or her parents. To attempt to determine family intactness, the Index thus must compare the year of a given child's birth with the year of his or her parent's marriage.

This is useful but entails a shortcoming: A child's biological parents may marry long after he or she is born, and thereby miss inclusion in our Index value. This would result in a lower Index. Conversely, a child's biological parent may choose to marry someone other than the child's biological parent soon after his or her birth, and thereby be incorrectly included in our Index value. This would result in a too-high Index.

Furthermore, the Index includes children aged 15 to 17. This skews downward the percentage of children whose parents have divorced (by the age for which the Index is measured). This may wrongly raise our Index value.

The Index as it is designed is thus biased in that it assumes too few biological parents eventually marry and assumes too few parents get divorced.

A correction of this Index, using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, permits us to add to our estimate of the Index those biological parents who marry long after their child is born. This correction shows the percentage of children who reach age 15 to 17 in a biologically intact—though not necessarily intact *married*—household to be about 49 percent, rather than 46 percent.

For a full explanation of our correction of bias in the Index of Family Belonging and rejection, see the accompanying document "Correction of Bias in the Index of Family Belonging and Rejection."[6]

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[6] marri.us/index-correction

Table 1: State Family Belonging Indices in Alphabetical Order

State	Family Belonging Index
AL	38
AK	45
AZ	41
AR	37
CA	47
CO	48
CT	51
DE	42
DC	17
FL	41
GA	39
HI	50
ID	51
IL	49
IN	44
IA	51
KS	49
KY	42
LA	36
ME	45
MD	46
MA	52
MI	46
MN	56
MS	32
MO	43
MT	48
NE	55
NV	39
NH	53
NJ	54
NM	39
NY	48
NC	42
ND	53
OH	45
OK	39
OR	46
PA	49
RI	44
SC	39

SD		49
TN		40
TX		45
UT		57
VT		49
VA		48
WA		48
WV		41
WI		50
WY		46

About the Authors

The Index of Family Belonging and Rejection was conceived by **Dr. Patrick F. Fagan** and **Dr. Nicholas Zill**, formerly of Westat and Child Trends. Dr. Zill has assisted in the design and analysis of multiple national surveys on child development and family function, including the Mother and Child Supplements to the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth and the National Survey of Children

Patrick F. Fagan, the author, is Senior Fellow and Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) at the Family Research Council. MARRI examines the relationships among family, marriage, religion, community, and America's social problems, as illustrated in the social science data. The Institute has a particular emphasis on the relationship between marital stability coupled with the practice of religion and their joint impacts on social infrastructure issues such as happiness, health, mental health and general well-being, income and savings, educational attainment, and family stability, as well as negative outcomes as poverty, crime, abuse, and drug addiction.

A native of Ireland, Fagan earned his Bachelor of Social Science degree with a double major in sociology and social administration, and a professional graduate degree in psychology (Dip. Psych.) as well as a Ph.D. from University College Dublin.

Fagan started his career as a grade school teacher in Cork, Ireland, and then returned to college to become a psychologist, going to Canada to practice. He went then to Washington, D.C., to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology. In 1984, Fagan moved from the clinical world into the public policy arena to work on family issues at the Free Congress Foundation. After that he worked for Senator Dan Coats of Indiana and was then appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Family and Community Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by President George H.W. Bush. He spent the next thirteen years at The Heritage Foundation, where he was a senior fellow.

Among Fagan's most notable publications are a series of Backgrounders written while at The Heritage Foundation on the effects of out-of-wedlock births and divorce on children; on the effects of religious practice; and on the family pathways to crime and delinquency. He also initiated the database of social science findings on family and religion now called Family Facts. At the Family Research Council he has authored syntheses of the literature on the effects of pornography on sexuality, the effects of adoption on children, the relationship between religious practice and educational attainment, and the relationship between marriage and economic well-being. He directs the Mapping America series and authored the first annual Index of Family Belonging and Rejection in 2010.