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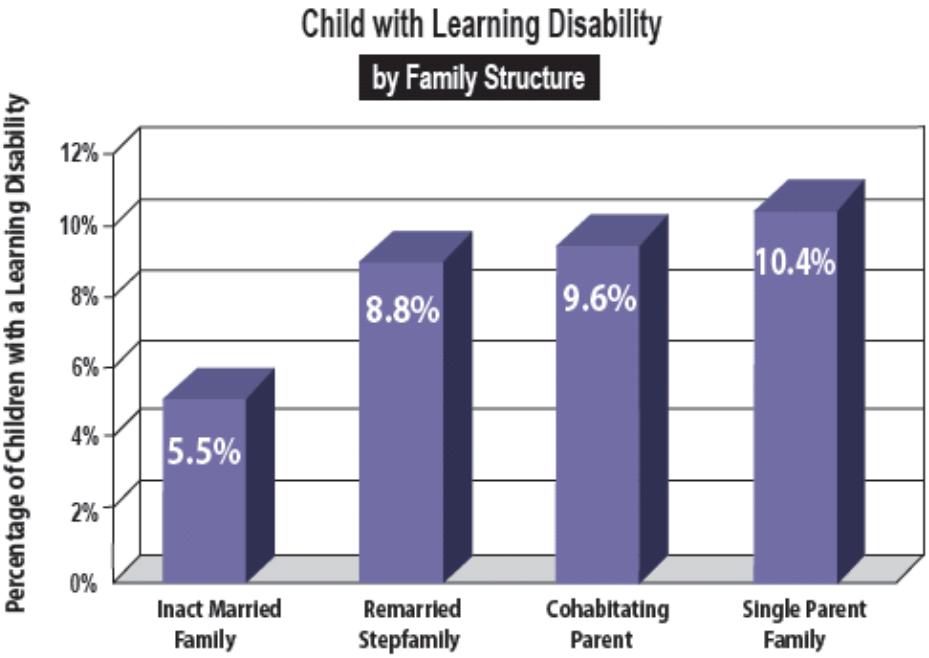
Percentage of Children with a Learning Disability by Family Structure

The 2001 cycle[1] of the *National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)* found that children in intact families[2] were least likely to have been told by a school representative or health professional that they had a learning disability.[3]



Family Structure

At the time of the survey, fewer children in intact married families had ever been told they had a learning disability (5.5 percent) than children in remarried stepfamilies (8.8 percent), cohabiting families (9.6 percent) or single parent families (10.4 percent).

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[1] The 2001 cycle of the *National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)* was chosen because that year had a measure of religious attendance, permitting our regular Mapping America analysis.

[2] The intact married family consists of children who live with their two biological parents who are married. Non-intact includes all other family types.

[3] According to the 2000 NHIS Field Representative's Manual, "learning disability" for this question was defined as: "a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written. It may be evident by an inability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations."