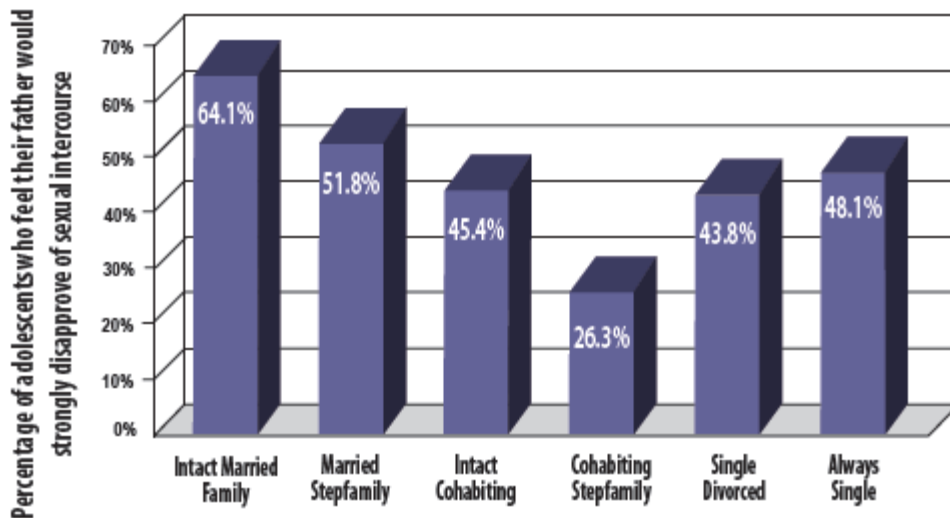


Father Disapproves of Adolescent Sexual Intercourse by Family Structure

Wave 1 of the *National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health)*¹ found that adolescents aged 13 to 19 in intact families were most likely to feel that their father would strongly disapprove² if they engaged in sexual intercourse at this time in their life.

Father Would Disapprove of Adolescent Sexual Intercourse by Family Structure

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health Wave 1, ages 13 to 19



Paul Sullins and Patrick F. Fagan

Family Structure

Adolescents in intact married families were most likely to feel that their father would strongly disapprove of their engaging in sexual intercourse (64.1%). They were followed by teens raised in a married stepfamily (51.8%), an always-single-parent family (48.1%), an intact cohabiting family (45.4%), a single-divorce-parent family (43.8%), and a cohabiting stepfamily (26.3%). Notably,

adolescents raised in an intact married family were more than twice as likely as adolescents raised in a cohabiting stepfamily to think their father would disapprove of sexual intercourse (64.1% versus 26.3%, respectively).

¹ The National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is a congressionally-mandated longitudinal survey of American adolescents. Add Health drew a random sample of adolescents aged 13-19 in 1995 from junior high and high schools (Wave I) and has followed them in successive waves in 2001 (Wave III) and 2009 (Wave IV).

² Respondents were asked to react to the statement "How would [your father] feel about your having sex at this time in your life?" Their options included: "strongly disapprove," "disapprove," "neither disapprove nor approve," "approve," "strongly approve," "refused," "don't know," or "not applicable."