

Family Structure: Adolescents OK with Having a Child Out-of-Wedlock

The percentage of adolescents (aged 13 to 19) who would consider having a child outside of marriage is lowest among those who were raised in intact families.¹

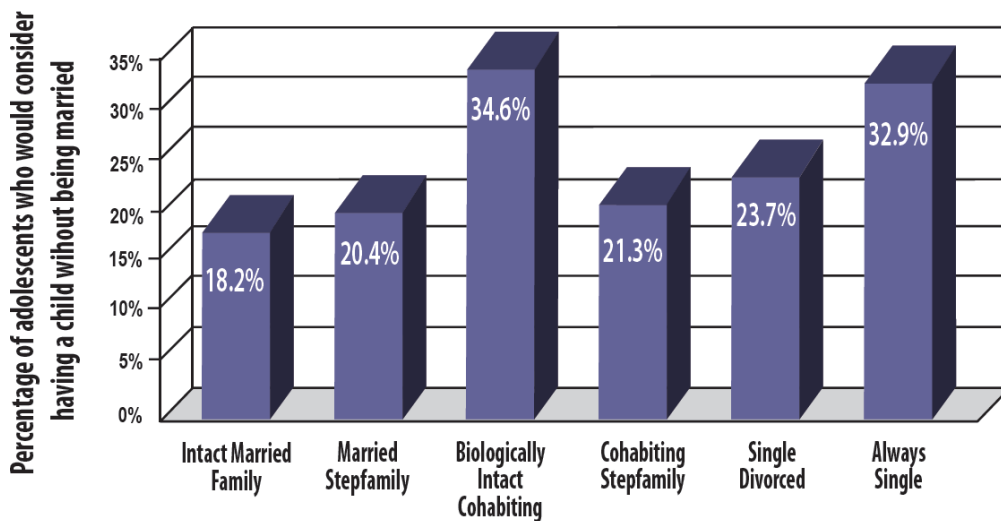
For teenagers aged 13 to 19, the likelihood of their considering having a child out of wedlock differs significantly from one family structure to another as the following illustrate:

- **Intact Married Family (18.2%): Least likely.**
- **Married Step Families (20.4%).**
- **Cohabiting Stepfamilies (21.3%).**
- **Single-Divorced-Parent Families (23.7%).**
- **Always Single Families (32.9%).**
- **Biologically Intact Cohabiting Families (34.6%): Most likely.**

Adolescents raised in biologically intact cohabiting families were almost twice as likely as those raised in intact married families to be ok with having a child out-of-wedlock (34.6% versus 18.2%, respectively).

Adolescents OK with having a child out-of-wedlock by Family Structure

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



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¹The data come from Wave 1 of the *National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (Add Health)*. Respondents were asked to respond to the question "Since January 1, with how many people in total have you had a sexual relationship?" Their answers choices were to give a specific number or to answer "refused," "legitimate skip," "don't know," or "not applicable."