Children's Coresidence with Half Siblings

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For presentation at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America Dallas, TX April 15-17, 2010

Part 1: What percentage of children live with a half sibling?

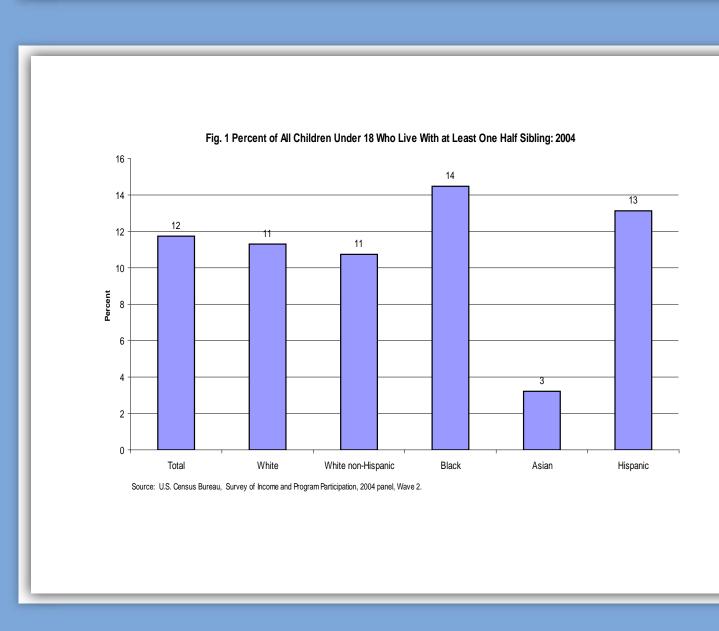
- Why look at coresidence with half-siblings?
- A substantial proportion of children will live with half siblings at some point during their childhood. Recent research has shown that children who live with half siblings tend to fare worse on some measures of child well being.
- First, this poster provides a cross sectional profile of detailed living arrangements for all children living with half siblings.
- Second, we consider differences in child well-being measures by whether children live with half siblings.

Dat

- Survey of Income and Program Participation—a large, nationally representative data set, which includes coresidence with half siblings for all kids
- 2004 panel, Waves 2 and 3 (for those in Wave 2)
- 27,946 unweighted records for children under 18 in Wave 2 (residence with half siblings reported for all children)
- 24,813 unweighted records for children under 18 in both Wave 2 and Wave 3 (child well being measures)
- 89 percent of the children in Wave 2 have a Wave 3 interview

What proportion of children live with half siblings?

- 12 percent of children under 18 live with a half sibling
- Compared with White non-Hispanic children:
 higher proportions of Black and Hispanic children and
- lower proportions of Asian children live with a half sibling



- How does the proportion living with half siblings vary by number of coresident parents?

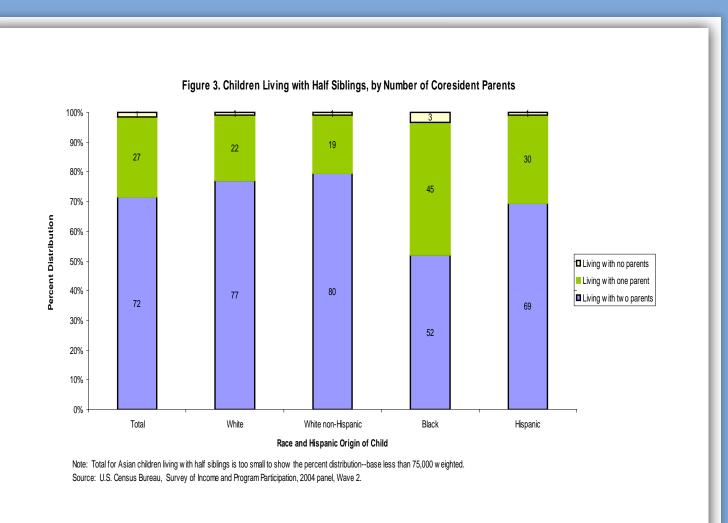
 Overall, 12 percent of children living with two
- parents lived with a half sibling, the same as for children living with 1 parent
 Estimates for White non-Hispanic and Hispanic
- children did not differ by whether they lived with 1 or 2 parents
- Estimates for Black children differed
 20 percent who lived with 2 parents lived with half siblings
- ➤ 12 percent of those with 1 parent lived with half siblings.
- 4 percent of children living with no parents lived with a half sibling

Figure 2. Percentage of Children Living with Half Siblings, by Number of Coresident Parents

TOTAL White White non-Hispanic Black
Race and Hispanic Origin of Child

- Many studies miss a significant proportion of children living with half siblings.
- Studies that are only able to include children living with two parents and half siblings miss a significant proportion of children living with half siblings
- Percentage of children living with half sibs who did not live with two parents:
 20 percent of White non-Hispanic children
 31 percent of Hispanic children
 48 percent of Black children

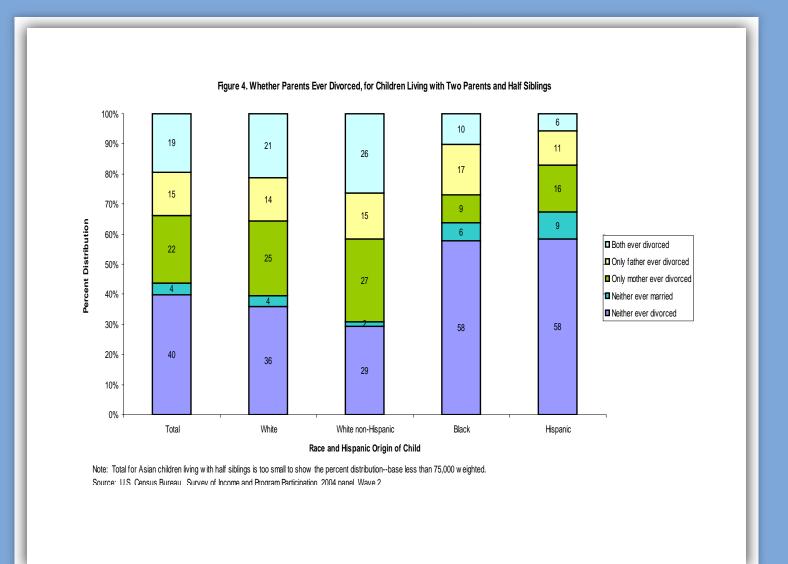
- Of children living with half siblings, what proportion lived with 2 parents?
- Of the 8.6 million children under 18 who lived with a half sibling:
 ▶6.1 million (72 percent) lived with two parents
- 2.3 million (27 percent) lived with one parent
 Percent who lived with two parents varied by race:
- ▶80 percent of White, non-Hispanic children
 ▶52 percent of Black children
 ▶69 percent of Hispanic children



- How common is a parent's history of divorce for children living with half siblings?
- Multipartner fertility is always involved in families in which children live with a half sibling.
- Divorce and remarriage is sometimes part of the picture.
- Variation in marriage and fertility patterns by race and Hispanic origin are reflected in the marital history characteristics of children's coresident parents, as seen in Figures 3 and 4.

Children living with two parents and half siblings

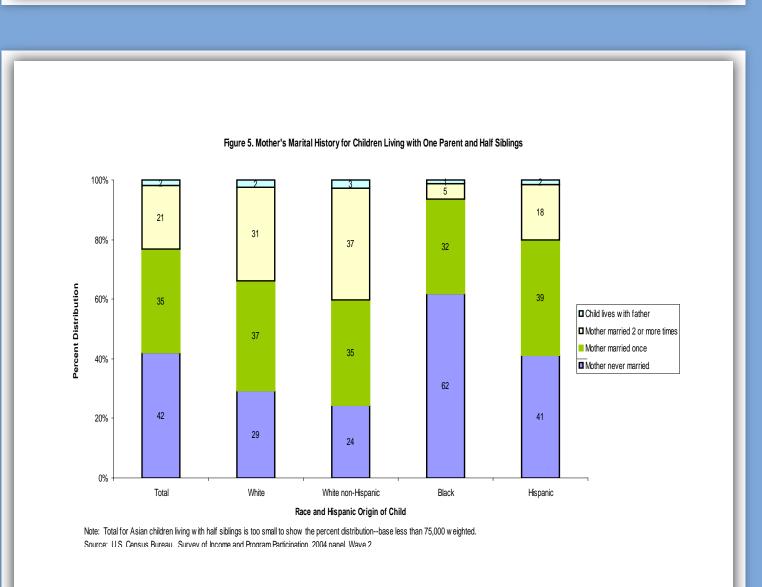
- Higher percentages of White non-Hispanic children lived with at least one parent previously divorced parent (69 percent) than Black (36 percent) or Hispanic children (33 percent).[1]
- Higher percentages of White non-Hispanic children also had both parents who had experienced a divorce (26 percent) than either Black children (10 percent) or Hispanic children (6 percent). [2]
- [1] The percentages of Black and Hispanic children living with half siblings and two biological parents who live with at least one previously divorced parent do not differ statistically.
 [2] The percentages of Black and Hispanic children living with half siblings and two biological parents who live with both parents who divorced do not differ statistically.



Children living with one parent and half siblings

- Figure 5 shows times married for mother only, since few of these children live with their father. [1]
- Although a majority of these children, regardless of race/origin group, lived with an ever-married mother (56 percent), higher proportions of Black (62 percent) and Hispanic children (41 percent) lived with a never married mother than White non-Hispanic children (24 percent).
 Thirty-eight percent of the White non-Hispanic children
- Thirty-eight percent of the White non-Hispanic children lived with a mother who had been married two or more times, compared with 5 percent of the Black children, and 18 percent of the Hispanic children.
- These differences show that marriage and remarriage are bigger factors in creating living situations where children coreside with a half sibling for White non-Hispanic children than for Black or Hispanic children.

[1] The denominator is still all children living with a half sibling who live with one parent.



with well-being measures?

• Previous research has showed that children living with half siblings tend to do worse on measures such as achievement test scores and well-being measures (Wood Strow and Kent Strow 2008, Ginther and Pollak 2004, Halpern-Meekin and Tach 2008).

Is living with half siblings associated

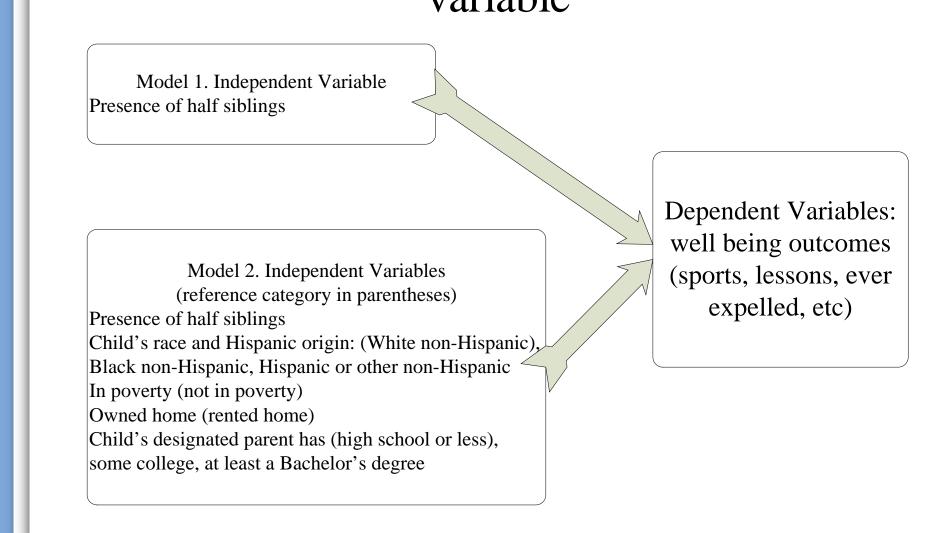
• We test this idea with SIPP data by running logistic regressions predicting 12 different child well-being measures as outcomes, while including an indicator variable for presence of half siblings as a predictor.

Dependent Variables

Child well-being outcomes include:

- Extracurricular activities:
- SportsClubs
- Lessons
- All three of the above activities
- Academic Experiences:
- Enrolled in gifted classes
- Ever changed schools
- Ever repeated a gradeEver expelled
- Parent's assessment of interaction with child:
 Child is often hard to care for
- Child often bothers them
- Child often takes more time than expected
- Parent says they are often angry with the child

Logistic Regression Models for each of the well being measures as the dependent variable



Full model with demographic and Initial model with only half siblings indicator economic indicators Odds of the dependent half siblings Error² half siblings of Error² Dependent Variable **Extracurricular activities** 0.56 0.41 0.74 0.42 Participates in all 3 above activities **Academic Experience** Enrolled in gifted classes Ever changed schools Ever repeated a grade Ever expelled 0.41 Parent's assessment of interaction with child

Part 2: Is living with a half sibling associated with child well being?

Parent says they are often angry with child

Odds ratios highlighted in green indicate that the half siblings variable was significant at below p>.05.

Full model controls for child's sex, race and hispanic origin, whether child's family is in poverty, whether child lives in an owned home and whether the child's designated parent has some college or at least a Bachelor's degree (compared with high school or less).

This number, when added to or substracted from the estimate, represents the 95 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Results of Model 1

Parent says child is often hard to care for

Parent says child often takes more time than expected

Parent says child often bothers them

• Living with a half sibling is associated with a negative outcome for most of the well-being outcomes.

Results of Model 2

1.50 0.20

1.20

1.70

 After including controls for socioeconomic indicators, living with a half sibling becomes NON-SIGNIFICANT for most of the well-being outcomes.

Conclusion

- We find, as previous research has found, that living with half siblings appears to be associated with negative outcomes.
- However, this negative association is related to characteristics that show the child to be living in less privileged socioeconomic situations.
- Outcomes for which the association was not mitigated by socioeconomic predictors are those which may be inherent in the partner transition necessary to create the coresidence of half siblings.

All comparative statements in this presentation have undergone statistical testing, and unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

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