

## Why Measure Families With Children?

The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. However, they are also the most vulnerable population group in the country. Therefore, measuring and staying informed about the well-being of the nation's children is vital to ensuring the future success of the nation as a whole.

In order for the country to know what is needed—how folks are doing and where they need help—we must conduct surveys such as the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to produce that information.

Because our country is so populous (over 300 million people), we can only survey a scientific sample of the whole population. Thus, your answers to this survey represent thousands of Americans!

Americans work hard everyday, achieving triumphs and facing struggles. By studying both our successes and setbacks, we can help our nation make informed decisions. By law, all personal information collected for this study is kept strictly confidential.

Thank you for participating in this survey, and for helping to represent our nation's most important asset...

*People Just Like You.*



## Mission and Purpose

Data from SIPP are used to evaluate changes in:

- Income
- Movement into and out of government assistance programs
- Effects of our changing family and social situations for individuals and households

For more information, visit SIPP online at:

[www.census.gov/sipp](http://www.census.gov/sipp)



# SIPP

*Families With Children*

United States  
**Census**  
Bureau

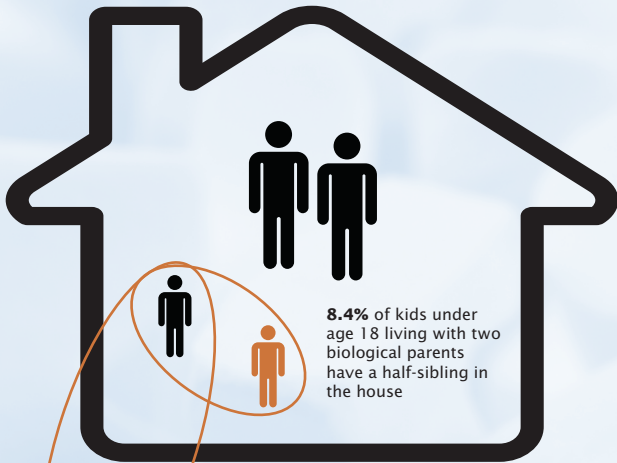
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

Issued September 2017

## SIPP Captures Complex Families

- Families in the United States have become more complex in recent decades, due in part to high rates of divorce and nonmarital fertility.
- New data from the U.S. Census Bureau allow us to examine the prevalence of multiple partner fertility (MPF) across individuals and families within the United States.

### Prevalence of parental MPF for children under age 18 living with two biological parents



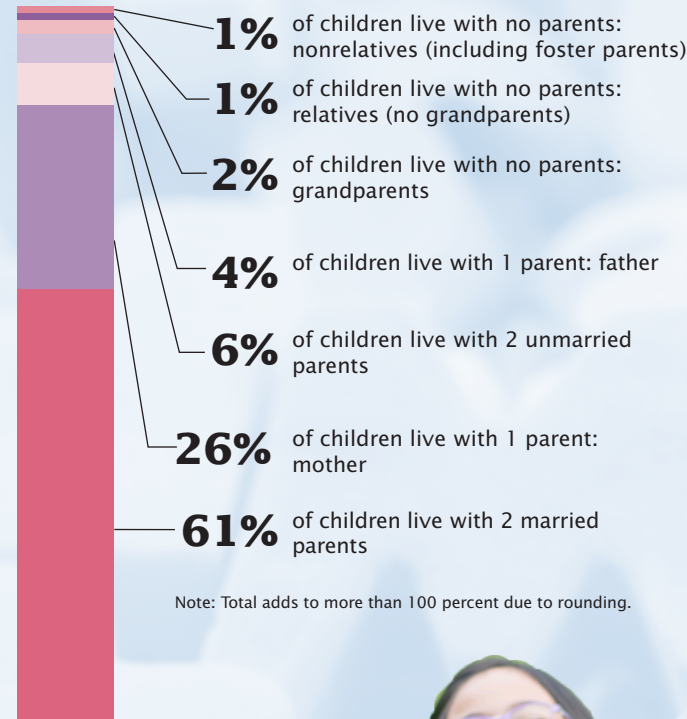
15.6% of kids under age 18 living with two biological parents have a half-sibling who lives elsewhere



## Children's Living Arrangements

Children today have increasingly diverse living arrangements. In 1991, 73 percent of children under age 18 lived with two parents. In December of 2013, 67 percent of children under age 18 lived with two parents.

Using SIPP data from the 2014 Panel, we've learned the following:



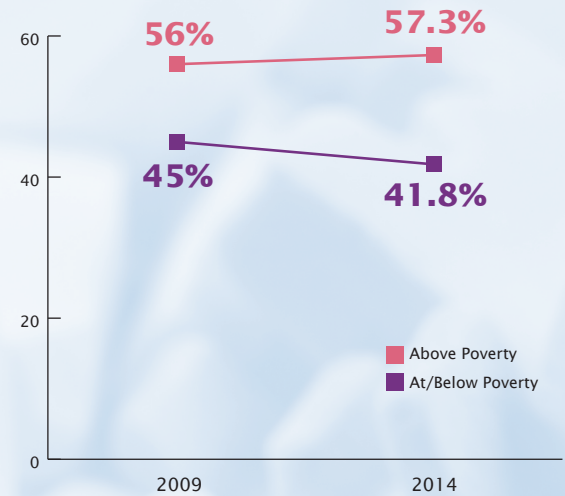
Note: Total adds to more than 100 percent due to rounding.

## Child Well-Being

Children living above the poverty level are read to more often than children living below the poverty level.

However, over the last 5 years, the gap has narrowed during the critical development period between 1- and 2-year-old children.

### Read to 7 days a week (1- and 2-year-olds)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 1996 and 2008 Panels.

