WHAT IS MULTIPLE PARTNER FERTILITY (MPF)?

A person who has multiple partner fertility is someone who has biological children with more than one partner. Multiple partner fertility (MPF) is not a new phenomenon; widowhood, divorce, and separation are all common precipitators of fertility in a second union. However, because multiple partner fertility families are complex and are almost always spread across multiple homes, measuring the prevalence of MPF has been difficult. New data from the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) provide the first nationally representative estimates of MPF.

ABOUT THE SIPP

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the Census Bureau that collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility and participation in government assistance programs. For additional information, please visit the SIPP website at www.census.gov/sipp.

New data in the redesigned 2014 SIPP

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THE 2014 SIPP DATA HAVE NUMEROUS MEASURES THAT CAN BE USED TO INFORM RESEARCH ABOUT MPF

The 2014 SIPP data have numerous measures that can be used to inform research about MPF and family complexity, including:

- Full household relationship matrix available in every month of the panel
- A full suite of income and program participation measures
- Child support paid and child support received
- Information on benefits received through someone not in the household (i.e., health insurance through a non-resident parent’s employer)
- Marital status and marital history
- Child well-being and school engagement

These data can be downloaded from: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/data/2014-panel/wave-1.html

OTHER SIPP DATA RELATED TO MPF

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COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER ESTIMATES

The content previously contained in the Fertility Topical module was

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