

# Recently Divorced Adults with Resident Minor Children



Kasey J Eickmeyer

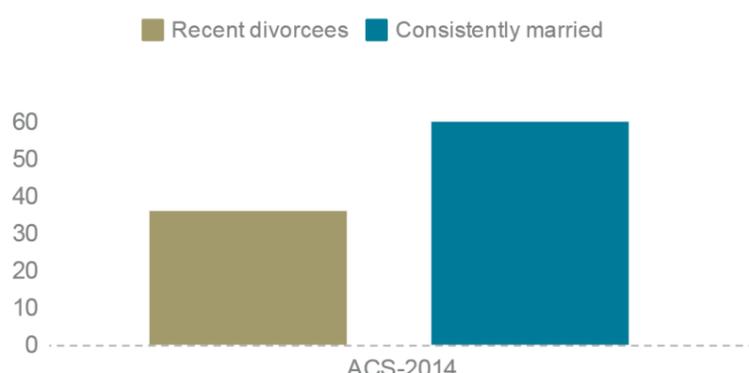
The U.S. divorce rate has dropped by nearly 25% since 1979 (FP-15-18) with 17.6 women divorcing per 1,000 married women in 2014. Many of these divorces are among parents, yet there is no recent data on parenthood status among divorced individuals (Amato, 2000). This profile addresses this gap by using data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates to identify whether there are children present in the household among individuals ages 15-55 who experienced a divorce (“divorcees”) in the past year. Some divorcees have nonresident children, so these estimates of the proportion of recent divorces involving children are conservative. We compare divorcees to their counterparts—married parents who did not experience a divorce in the past year (“consistently married”). We also examine the prevalence of resident minor children among recent divorcees by race/ethnicity and educational attainment.

## Household Presence and Age of Minor Biological Children

### Reports of Minor Children

- In 2014, 36% of all recent divorcees reported having at least one minor biological child living in their household.
- Among those consistently married, 60% had at least one minor child.

Figure 1. Percentage of individuals reporting minor biological children, by divorce status



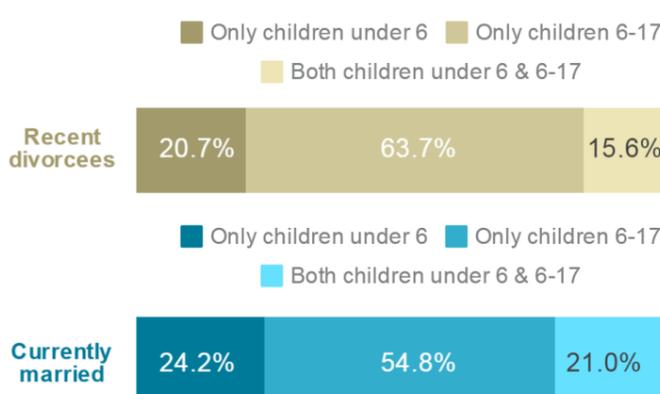
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr estimates, 2014

### Minor Children by Age Group

Of those who have a biological child in the household, the share of minor children in different age groups varies between recently divorced and consistently married individuals

- Over four out of five (84%) recently divorced parents have a preschool aged child in the household, as do 81% of consistently married parents. One in five (21%) of divorced and nearly a quarter (24%) of consistently married individuals only have preschool children present in the household.
- A greater share of consistently married parents (21%) only have school age children (ages 6-17) living in the household, in contrast to 16% of divorced parents.

Figure 2. Age Groups of Resident Minor Children among Recently Divorced and Currently Married Parents



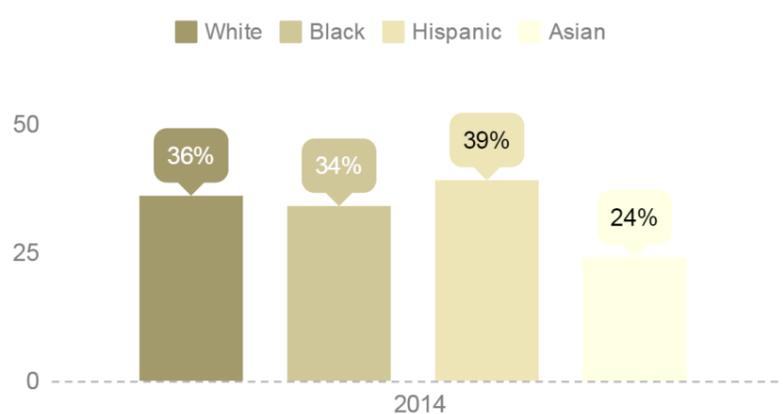
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr estimates, 2014

## Recent Divorcees with Resident Minor Children

### Race & Ethnicity

- Minimal race/ethnic variation exists in the share of recent divorcees living with minor children, with the exception of Asian parents.
- Almost 40% of recently divorced Hispanics report a minor child in the home compared to only a quarter of Asians.
- Comparable shares of Black and White divorcees report having a minor child in the home (34% and 36%, respectively).

Figure 3. Percentage of recent divorcees reporting minor children, by race/ethnicity



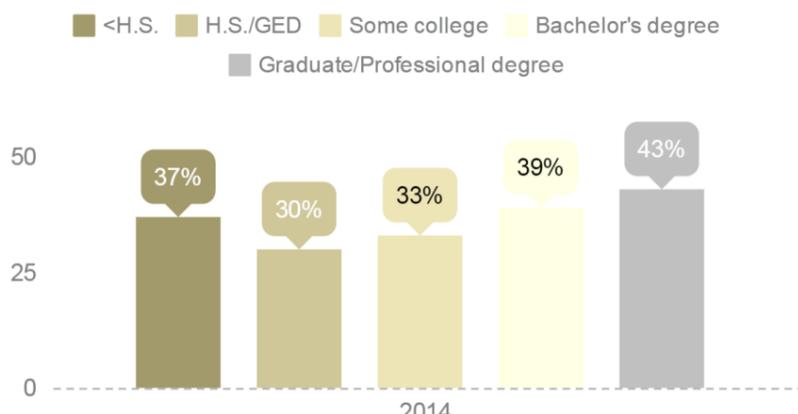
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr estimates, 2014

### Educational Attainment

A curvilinear association between education and the presence of children in the household exists.

- The proportion of recent divorcees with a minor biological child is highest among those without a high school degree (37%) and those with a college degree.
- The proportion of recent divorcees with a minor biological child is lowest among those with only a high school degree (30%).

Figure 4. Percentage of recent divorcees reporting minor children, by educational attainment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr estimates, 2014

### References:

- Amato, P. R. (2000). The consequences of divorce for adults and children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62(4): 1269-1287.
- Eickmeyer, K. J. (2015). Divorce rate in the U.S.: Geographic variation. *Family Profiles*, FP-15-18. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles/eickmeyer-divorce-rate-us-geo-2014-fp-15-18.html>

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005 Williams Hall  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403

419.372.3119

[ncfmr@bgsu.edu](mailto:ncfmr@bgsu.edu)