

# Missed Measurement: Strategies for Inclusive Data Collection on Intimate Relationships

*Beyond Coresidence: Measuring Intimate and  
Familial Ties Within and Across Households*  
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# Perspective

Family demographer focused on child well-being in diverse and dynamic family systems

Producer and consumer of national longitudinal survey data obtained from household-based probability samples

# What does a focus on coresident intimate relationships assume?

Shared residence – intimate relationships are between people who live together

Sole residence - intimate relationships occur in a common primary residence

Bounded intimacy – the household is the exclusive site where intimate relationships are enacted through the committed joint investment of resources, time, and emotional energy

# What does a focus on coresident intimate relationships overlook?

Shared residence	Sole residence	Bounded intimacy
<p>Overlooked outside of households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New relationships</li><li>• Established LAT couples</li><li>• Border-divided couples</li><li>• Partners who are in institutions or unhoused</li></ul> <p>Overlooked within households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undisclosed household membership</li><li>• Relationships with non-“intimate” labels</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partners dividing time between households</li><li>• Transient, contingent or ambiguous coresidence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coresident relationships where resources (especially income/assets) are not shared</li><li>• Relationships that transition to non-coresidence</li></ul>

# What are inclusive sampling strategies to overcome these assumptions?

Shared residence	Sole residence	Bounded intimacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sample dyads across households</li><li>• Household-based samples with random subsampling from networks</li><li>• Use terminology that matches how respondents perceive/present their coresident relationships</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Household membership obtained over a period of time rather than point-in-time</li><li>• Paired with information about other/secondary residences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include both partners as sample members</li><li>• Follow (former) partners into new arrangements</li></ul>

Oversample subpopulations that are more likely to be in non-coresident relationships:

- Older adults
- Non-White racial and ethnic identities, including interracial couples
- SES: Younger adults with less than 4-year college education, low earned income or low job security
- Sexual orientation and gender identity minorities

# What are inclusive data collection and analysis strategies to overcome these assumptions?

Shared residence	Sole residence	Bounded intimacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask respondents to identify the relationships that are most <b>meaningful</b> within and outside the household</li><li>• Time diaries/GPS: where do pairs spend their <b>time</b> together?</li><li>• Passive data collection on interaction (apps): how do pairs <b>communicate</b> across households?</li><li>• Transfer rosters: how do pairs share <b>resources</b> between households?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time diaries/GPS: Where else do partners spend their time?</li><li>• Passive data collection on interaction (apps): Who else do partners communicate with outside of the household?</li><li>• Transfer inventories: Who else do partners share resources with?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish how individuals invest their time, money, and emotional energy separately or jointly</li><li>• Questionnaire content that is inclusive of ongoing investments in non-resident (former) partners and their kin</li></ul>

Thank you!

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