

Where's my Daddy? Living Arrangements of American Fathers

Findings from the 2004 SIPP

Amie Emens, University of Michigan

Jane Lawler Dye, U.S. Census Bureau

For presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in New York, NY

August 11-14, 2007.

This report is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. The views expressed on statistical, methodological, technical, or operational issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Purpose

- Research on fathers and fatherhood was almost nonexistent only a few years ago, but now the interest and availability of data is growing rapidly.
- This poster describes the number and characteristics of American fathers who live with none, at least one, or all of their biological children.
 - Characteristics include age, marital status, race and Hispanic origin, nativity, educational attainment, labor force participation, family income, work related disability, poverty status, and receipt of government assistance.

Data Source

- **2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)**
- The SIPP provides a large, nationally representative sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 15 and over with data on income, labor force participation, and participation in government assistance programs, as well as other characteristics.
 - Data in this presentation are from a sample, and therefore are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. For more information about the source and accuracy of the data go to <http://www.bls.census.gov/sipp/source.html>
 - For more information about the SIPP go to www.sipp.census.gov/sipp

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Fertility History Topical Module (wave 2), 2004.

Fertility History Topical Module

- The 2004 SIPP Panel collected fertility data from men and women in Wave 2 during the summer of 2004 in the Fertility History Topical Module.
 - One limitation should be noted. Differences in the proportions of parents living with none, all, or some of their children may be the result of differences in: the number of children born; and the age structure of the population.
 - We begin the analysis with all parents ages 15 and over. Then to account for differences in the age structure of the population, we narrow it down to fathers 15 to 54 years old who are more likely to be living with one or more biological children.

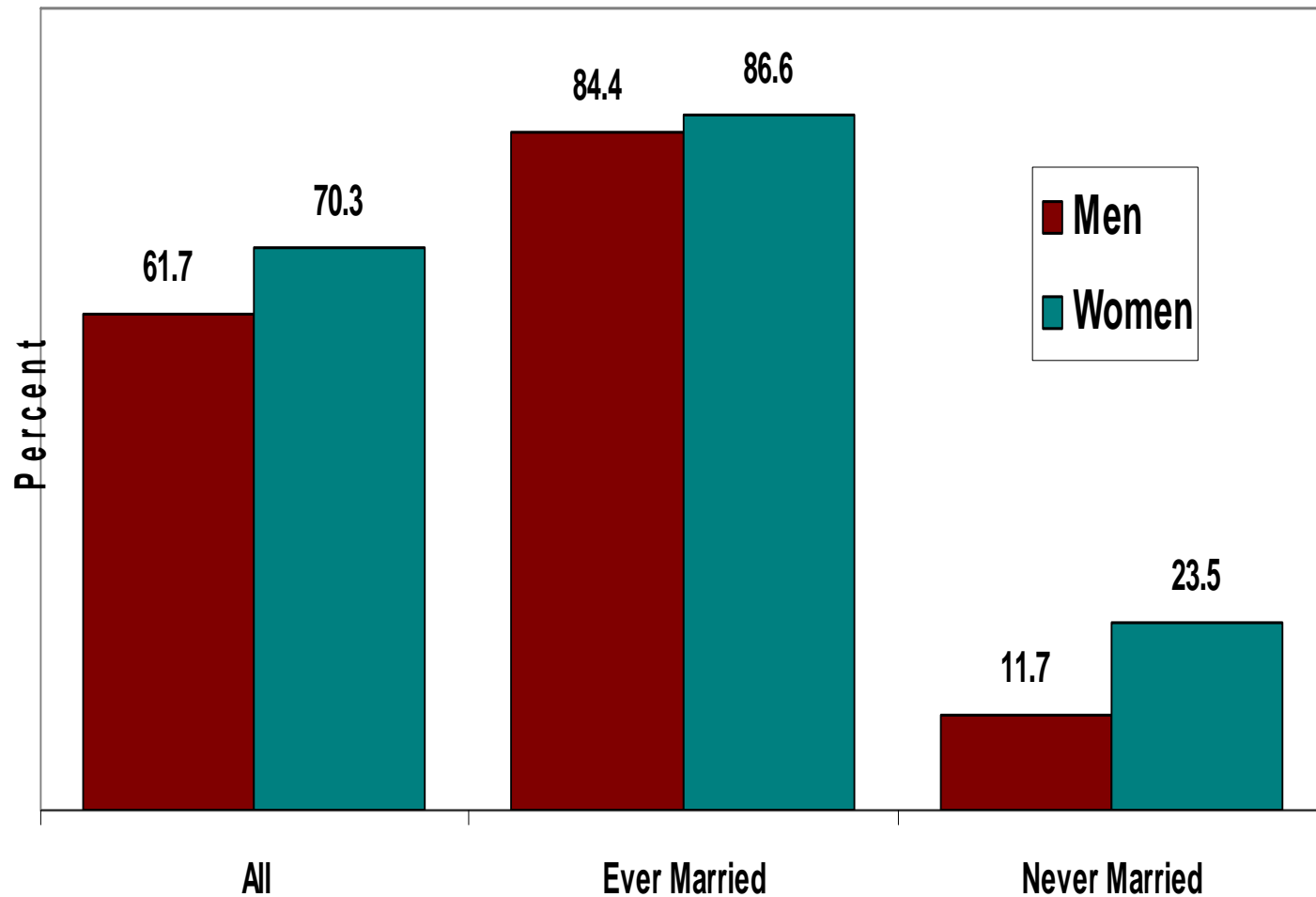
How many are parents?

- In 2004, there were an estimated 67.8 million fathers and 82.8 million mothers ages 15 and over in the United States.
- Overall, 61.7 percent of men and 70.3 percent of women 15 years and over were parents.
 - Ever-married men and women were almost equally likely to have had children (84.4 and 86.6 percent, respectively).
 - Never-married women were twice as likely as never-married men to have had a child (23.5 and 11.7 percent, respectively).

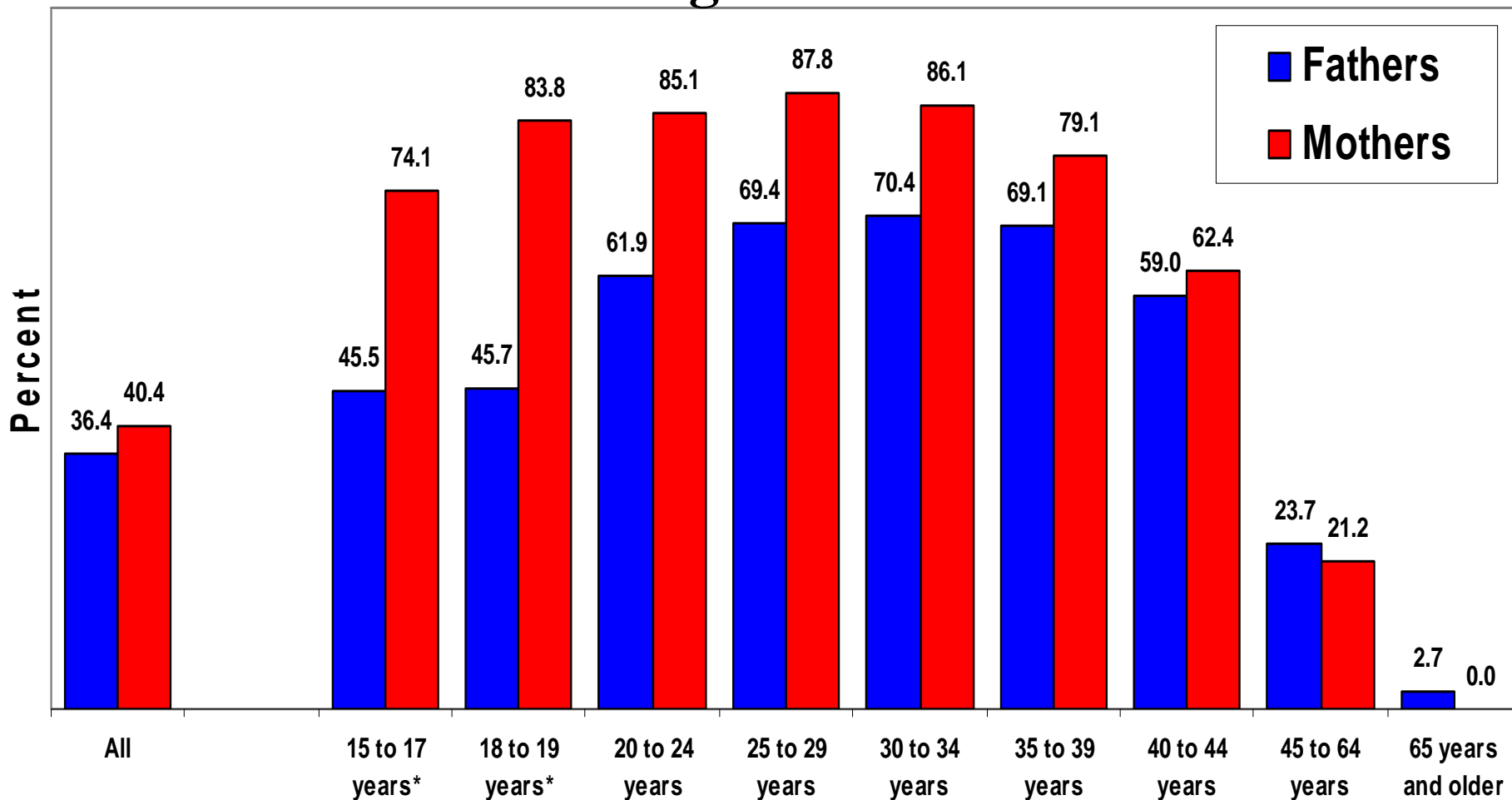
Age of Parents

- Fathers 15 years old and over were less likely than mothers to live with all of their biological children at all ages.
- Fathers between the ages of 25 to 39 were most likely to live with all of their biological children.

Percent of Men and Women 15 Years Old and Over with Biological Children, by Marital Status: 2004



Percent of Fathers and Mothers 15 Years Old and Over Living with All their Biological Children by Age: 2004



*Note Concerning Small Estimates and Small Differences: Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that estimates will reveal useful information when computed on a base smaller than 200,000.

Number of Children

- On average, women 15 years old and over have 1.8 children.
- Men 15 years old and over reported having an average of 1.5 children.
 - The discrepancy could be due to underreporting in the survey or men not knowing about their offspring.
 - Men tend to be slightly older than the women they have children with.¹
 - With the exception of 15 to 24 year olds, the gender gap between the number of children ever born was smaller for older parents who were more likely to be finished having children.

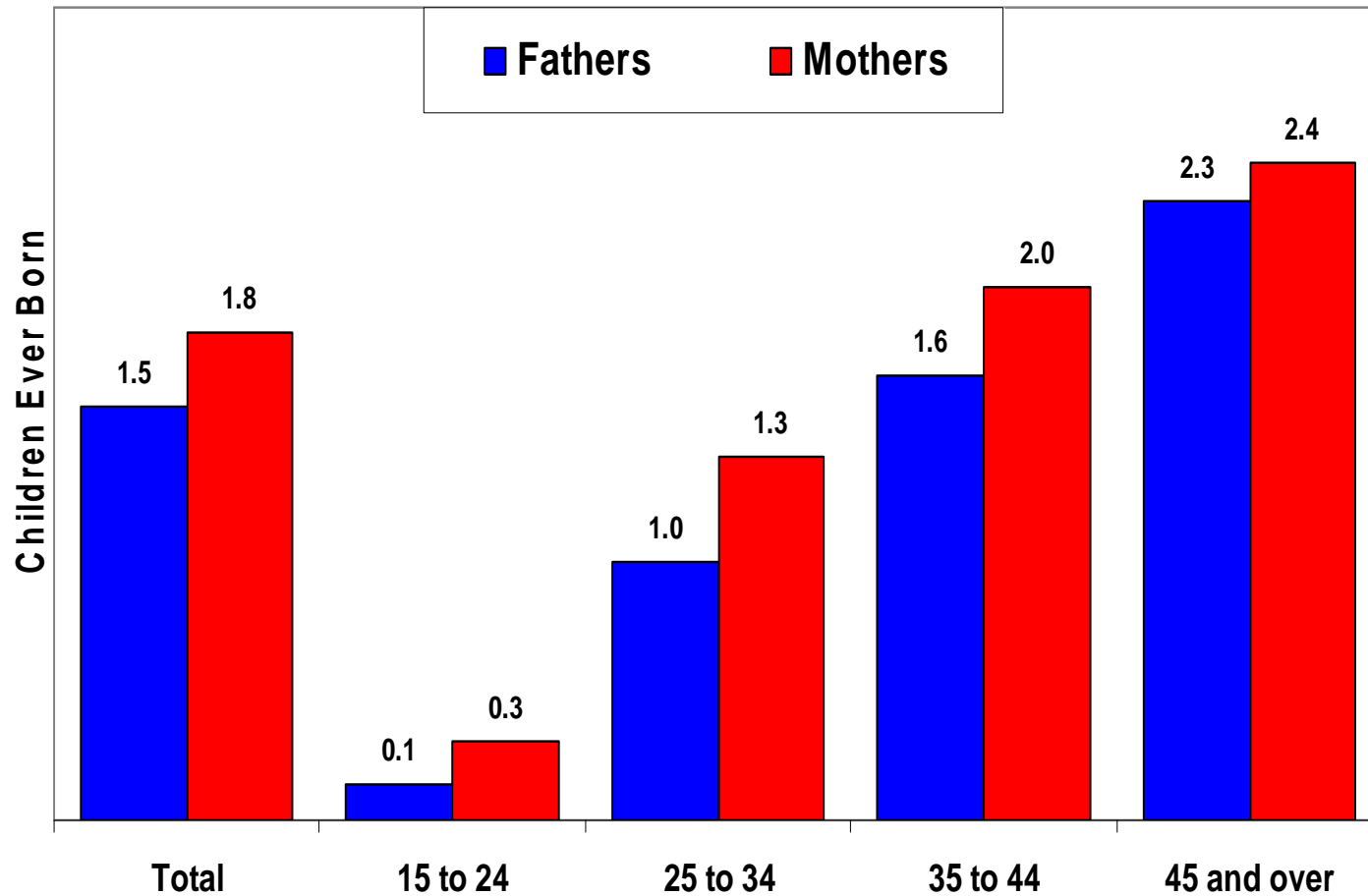
1. Bachu, Amara. Fertility of American Men: Population Division Working Paper No. 14. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 1996

Marital Status of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

- Over 70 percent of all fathers between the ages of 15 and 54 lived with at least one of their biological children.
- 74 percent of ever-married fathers lived with at least one child.
- Less than half of never-married fathers lived with any biological child.

Average Number of Children Ever Born per Person 15 Years Old and Over by Age and Sex: 2004

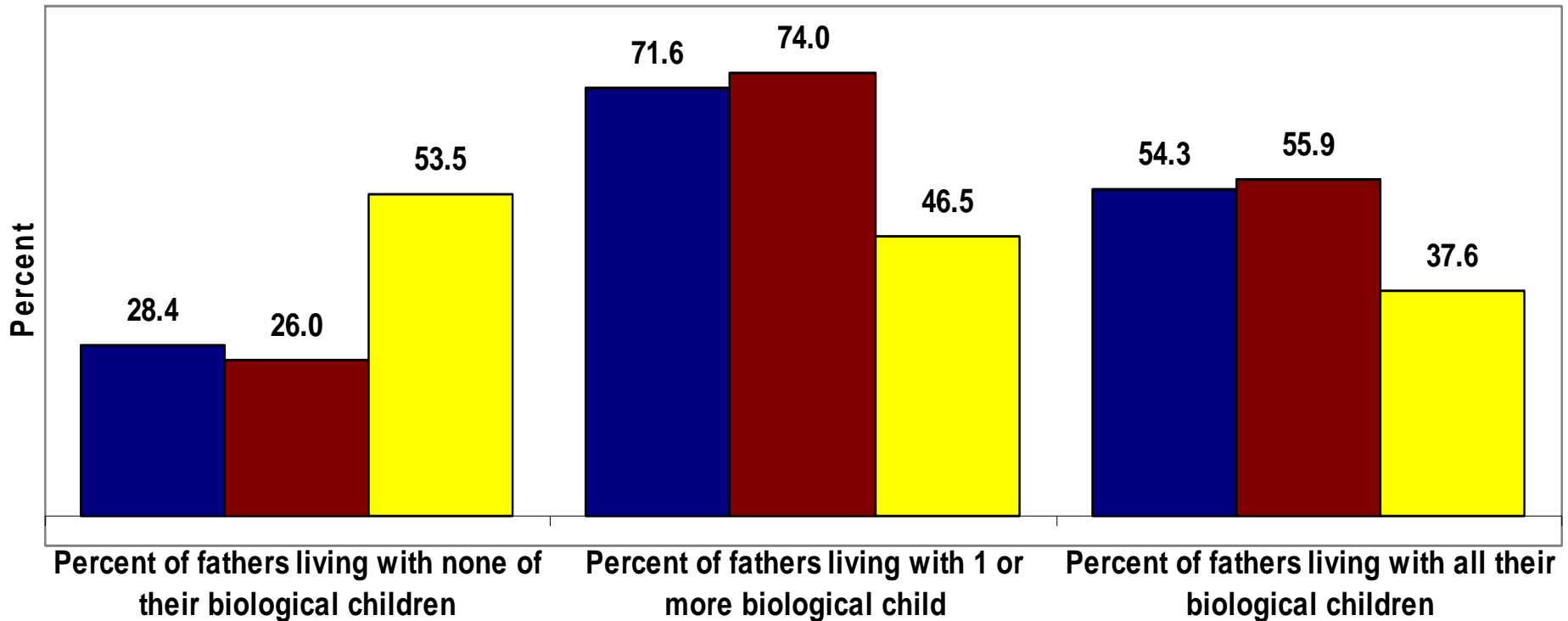


Fathers 15 to 54 Years Old by Living Arrangements and Marital Status: 2004

■ All

■ Ever married

■ Never married



Race and Hispanic Origin of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

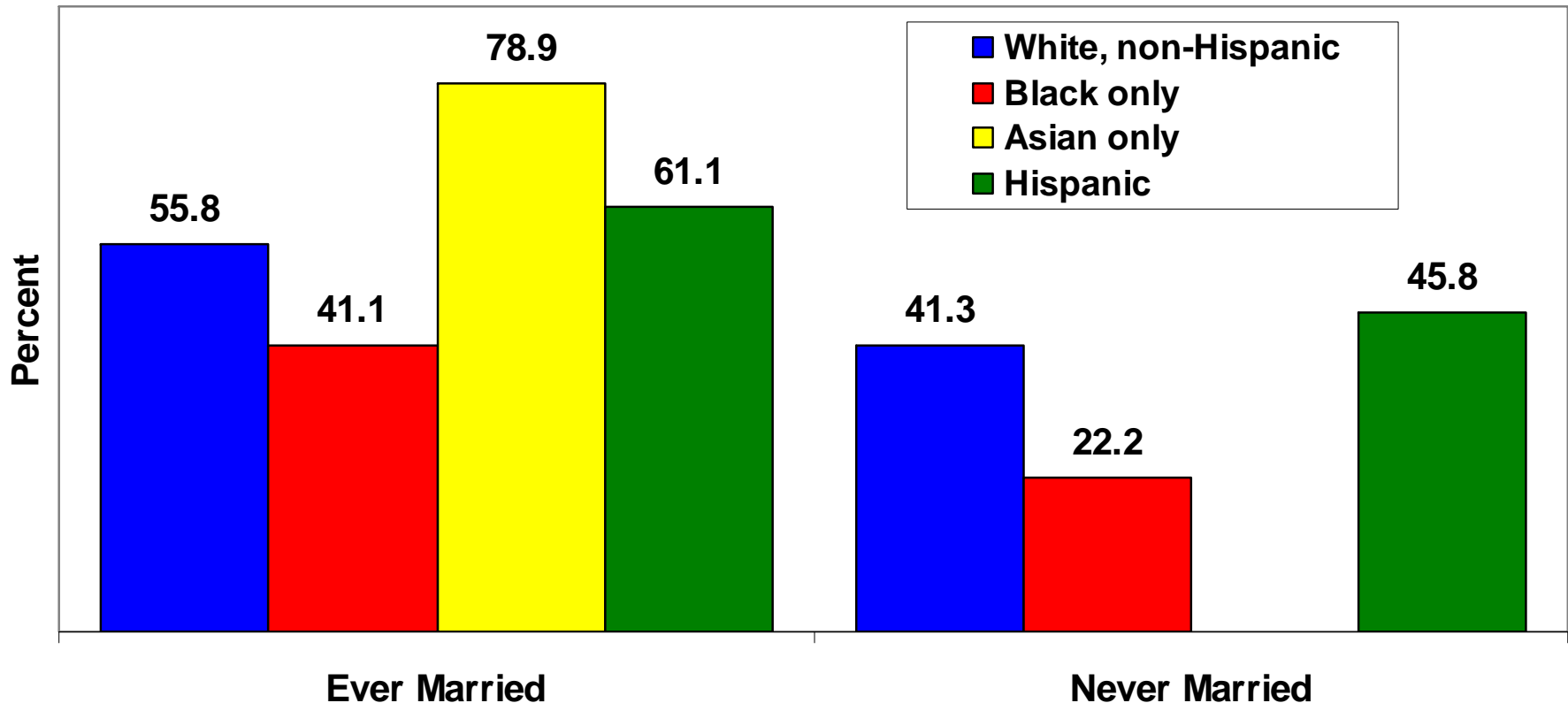
- Of ever-married fathers, Asians were the most likely to live with all their biological children (79 percent), while Blacks were least likely (41 percent).
- Of never-married fathers, non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics of all races were nearly equally likely to live with all their children (41 percent and 46 percent, respectively).

Nativity of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

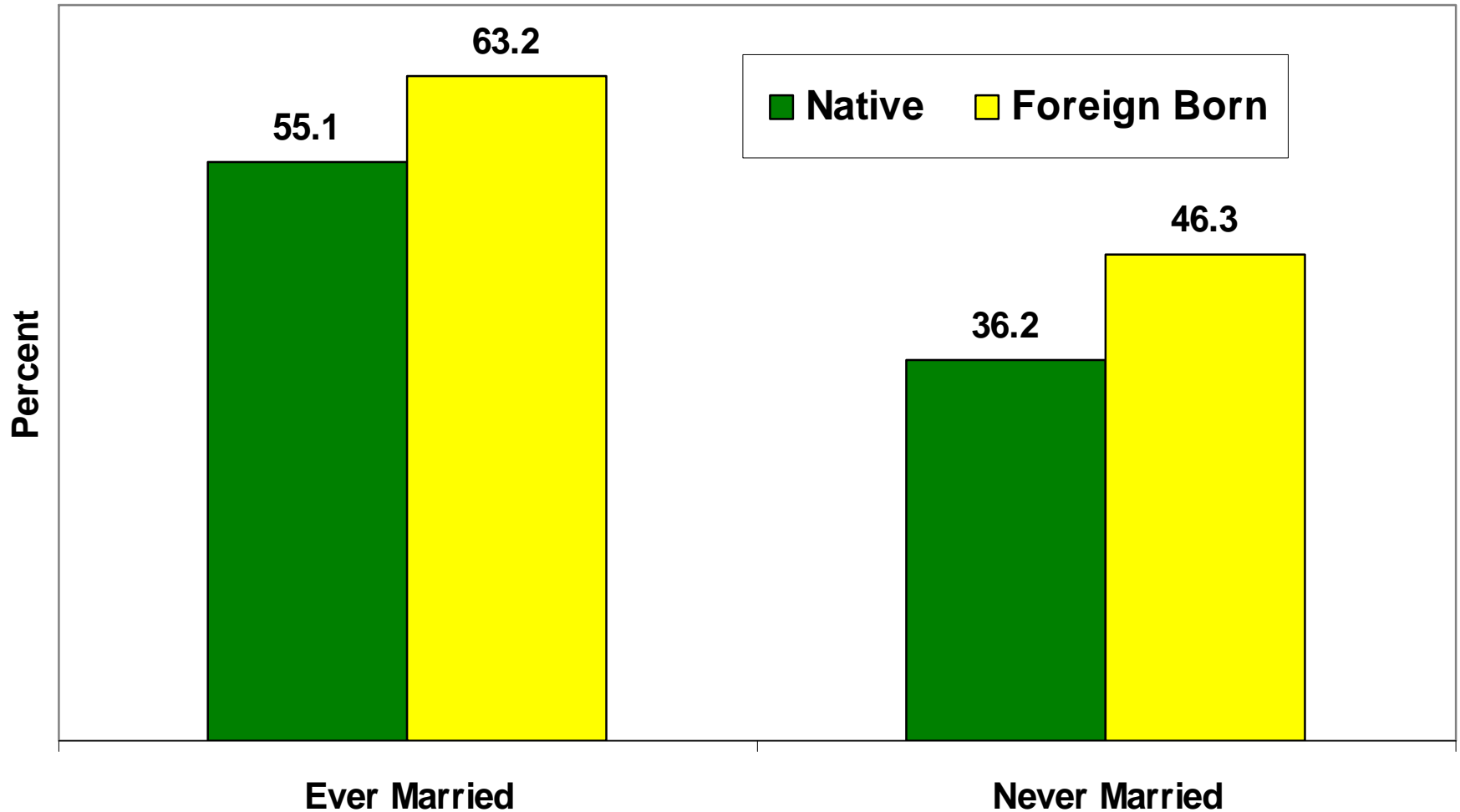
- Of those who were ever-married, foreign born fathers were more likely to live with all of their biological children (63 percent) than native fathers (55 percent).
- Never-married men of both groups were less likely to live with all their children than their ever-married counterparts.

Percent of Fathers 15 to 54 Living with All of their Biological Children, by Marital Status and Race/Hispanic Origin: 2004



*Cell size for "Never Married, Asian only" was too small to meet statistical standards.

Percent of Fathers 15 to 54 Living with All their Children, by Marital Status and Nativity: 2004



Educational Attainment of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

- Fathers with at least some college were most likely to live with at least one or all of their biological children.
- Interestingly, fathers without a high school diploma were more likely than fathers who graduated from high school to live with at least one or all of their children.

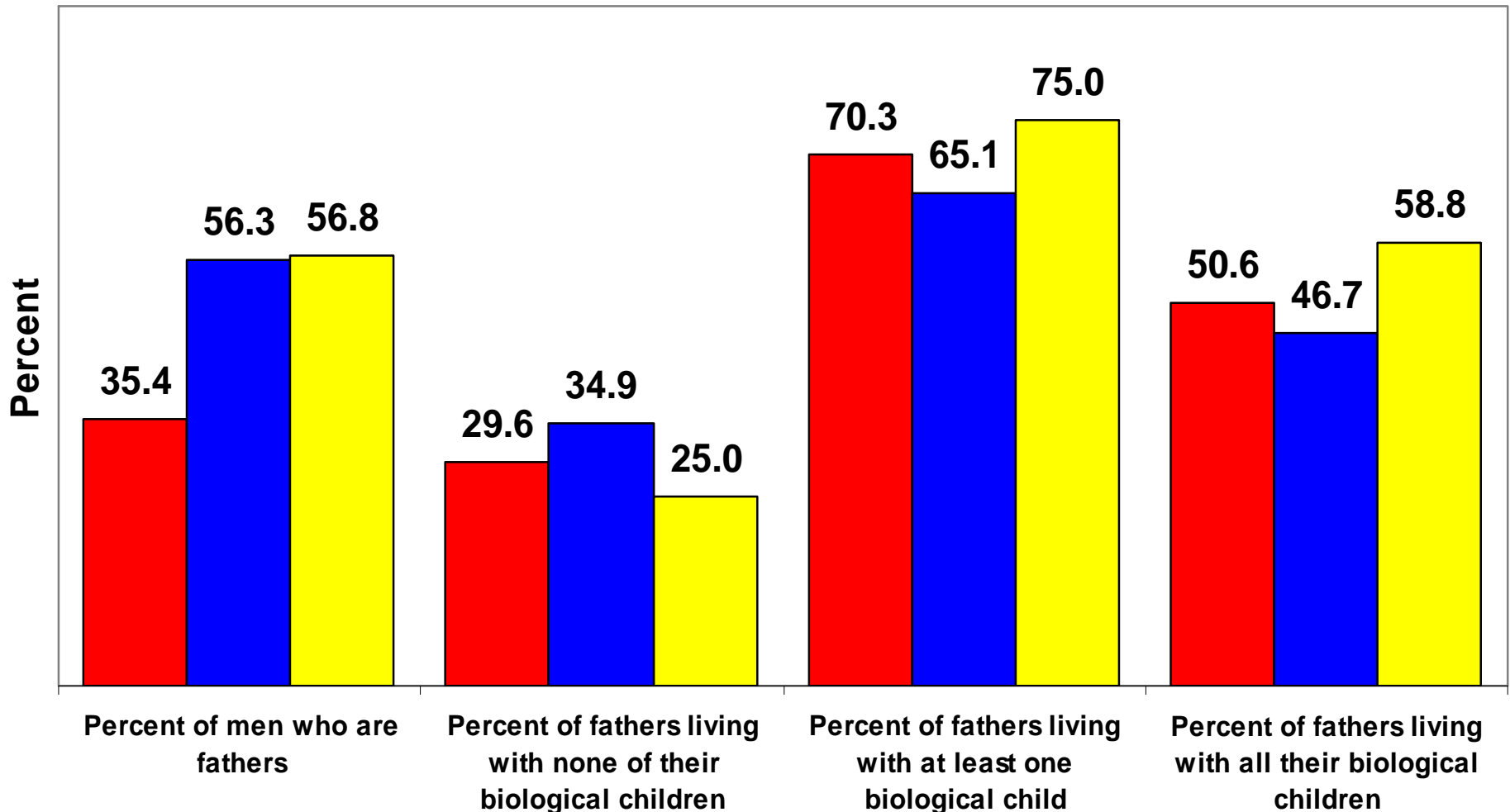
Labor Force Participation of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

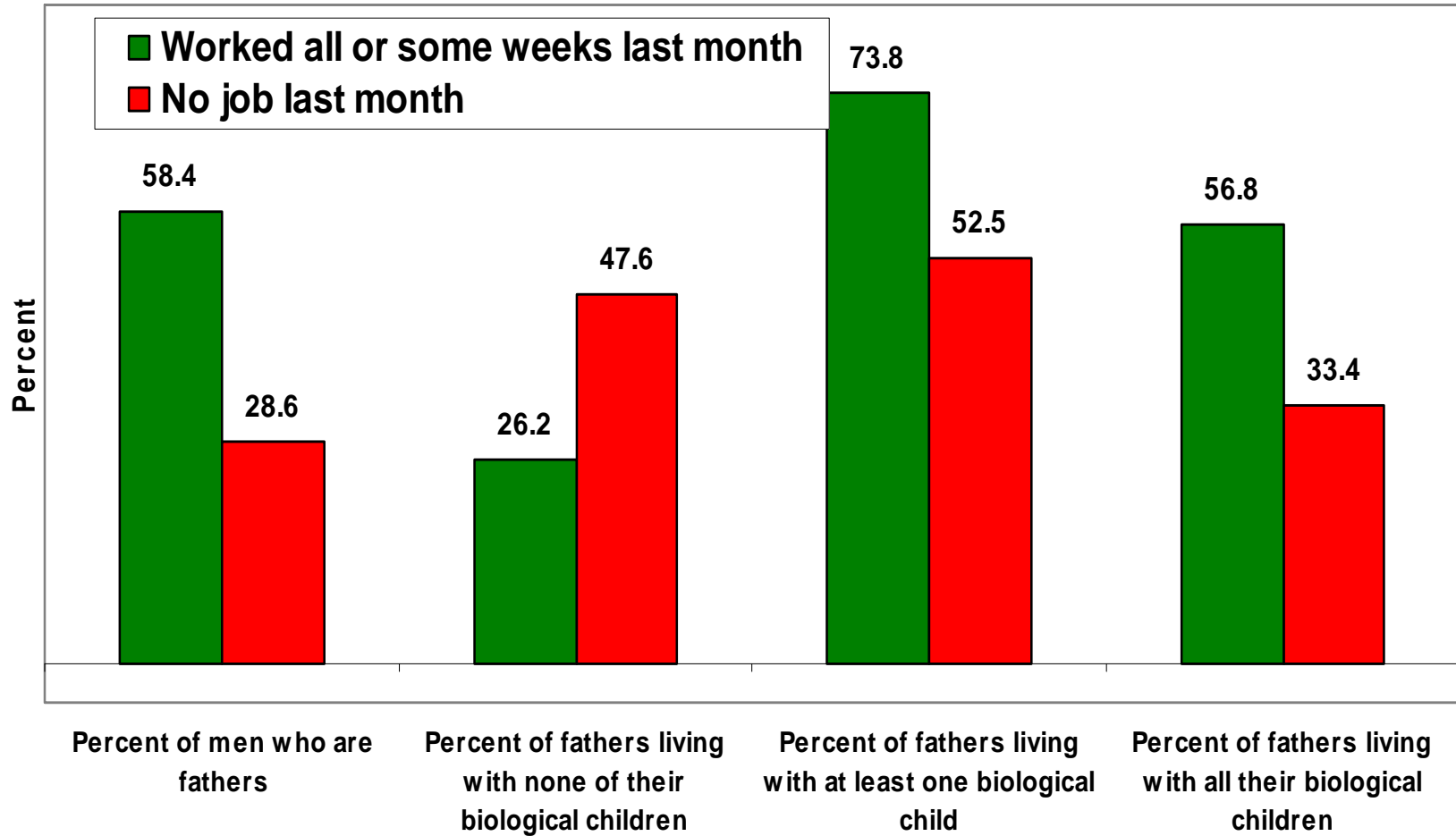
- Men who worked in the previous month were twice as likely to be fathers than men who did not work, 58 percent and 29 percent, respectively.
- Fathers who worked were much more likely to live with their children than fathers who did not work.
 - 57 percent of working fathers lived with all of their biological children, compared with 33 percent of nonworking fathers.

Living Arrangements of Fathers Aged 15 to 54 by Educational Attainment: 2004

■ Not a high school graduate ■ High school, 4 years ■ College: 1 or more years



Living Arrangements of Fathers Aged 15 to 54 by Labor Force Participation: 2004



Monthly Family Income of Fathers 15 to 54 Years Old

- Fathers with higher monthly family income were more likely to live with at least one biological child.
 - 57 percent of fathers with income of less than \$1,500 per month lived with at least one child, compared with 80 percent of fathers with income of \$6,000 per month or more.
- The difference in proportion of fathers living with at least one and all biological children was about the same for all income groups.

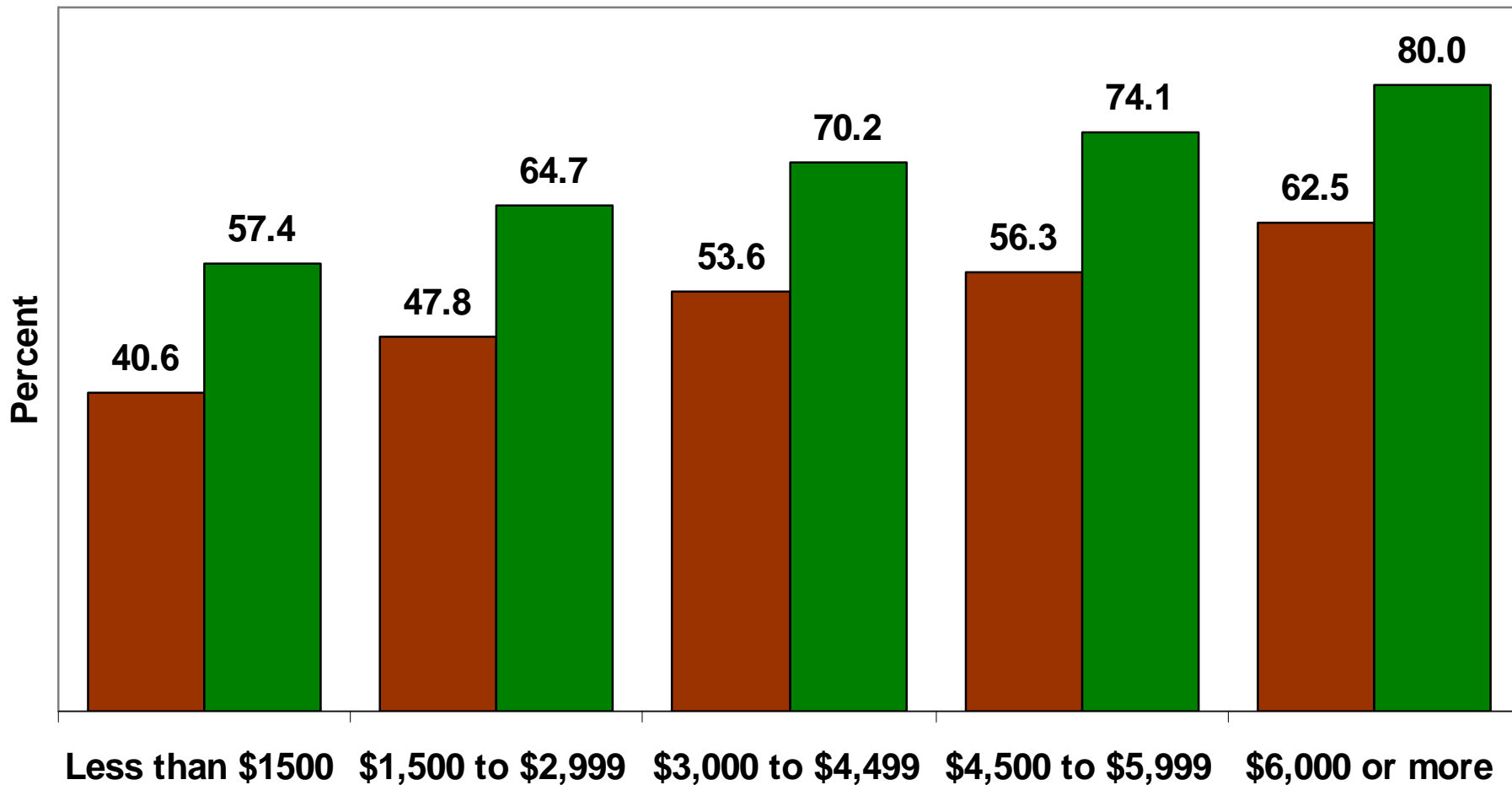
Work Related Disability of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

- 47 percent of fathers with a work related disability lived with none of their biological children.
- Fathers with no work related disability were more likely to live with at least one child.
 - 53 percent of fathers with a work related disability lived with at least one child, compared with 73 percent of fathers without a disability.

Percent of Fathers Aged 15 to 54 Living with Children by Total Monthly Family Income: 2004

■ Living with all biological children ■ Living with at least one biological child



Note: Fathers living with all biological children in the \$3,000 to \$4,499 group and the \$4,500 to \$5,999 group were not significantly different.

Percent of Fathers Aged 15 to 54 Living with Children by Work Related Disability: 2004



Poverty Status of Fathers

15 to 54 Years Old

- Fathers with a family income at or below 100 percent of poverty level were less likely than fathers above 100 percent of poverty to live with any of their biological children.
- There was no significant difference between fathers at 100-199 percent of poverty level, and those at or above 200 percent of poverty level in the proportion living with their biological children.

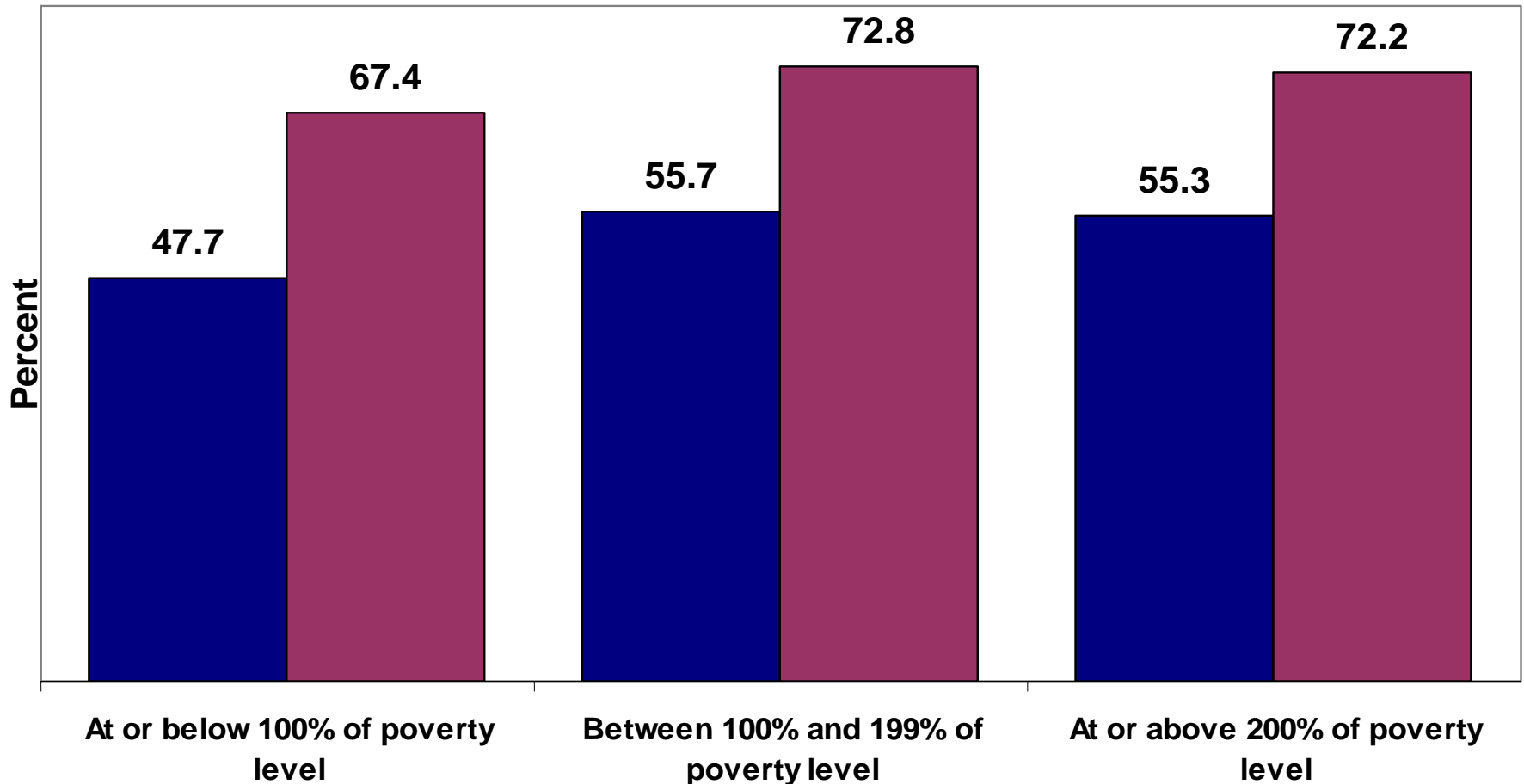
Participation of Fathers in Government Assistance Programs

15 to 54 Years Old

- Fathers receiving aid were less likely than fathers not receiving aid to live with all of their biological children (46 percent and 55 percent, respectively).
- Fathers receiving government assistance, were also less likely than those not receiving aid to live with at least one biological child (68 percent and 72 percent, respectively).

Percent of Fathers Aged 15 to 54 Living with Children by Poverty Status: 2004

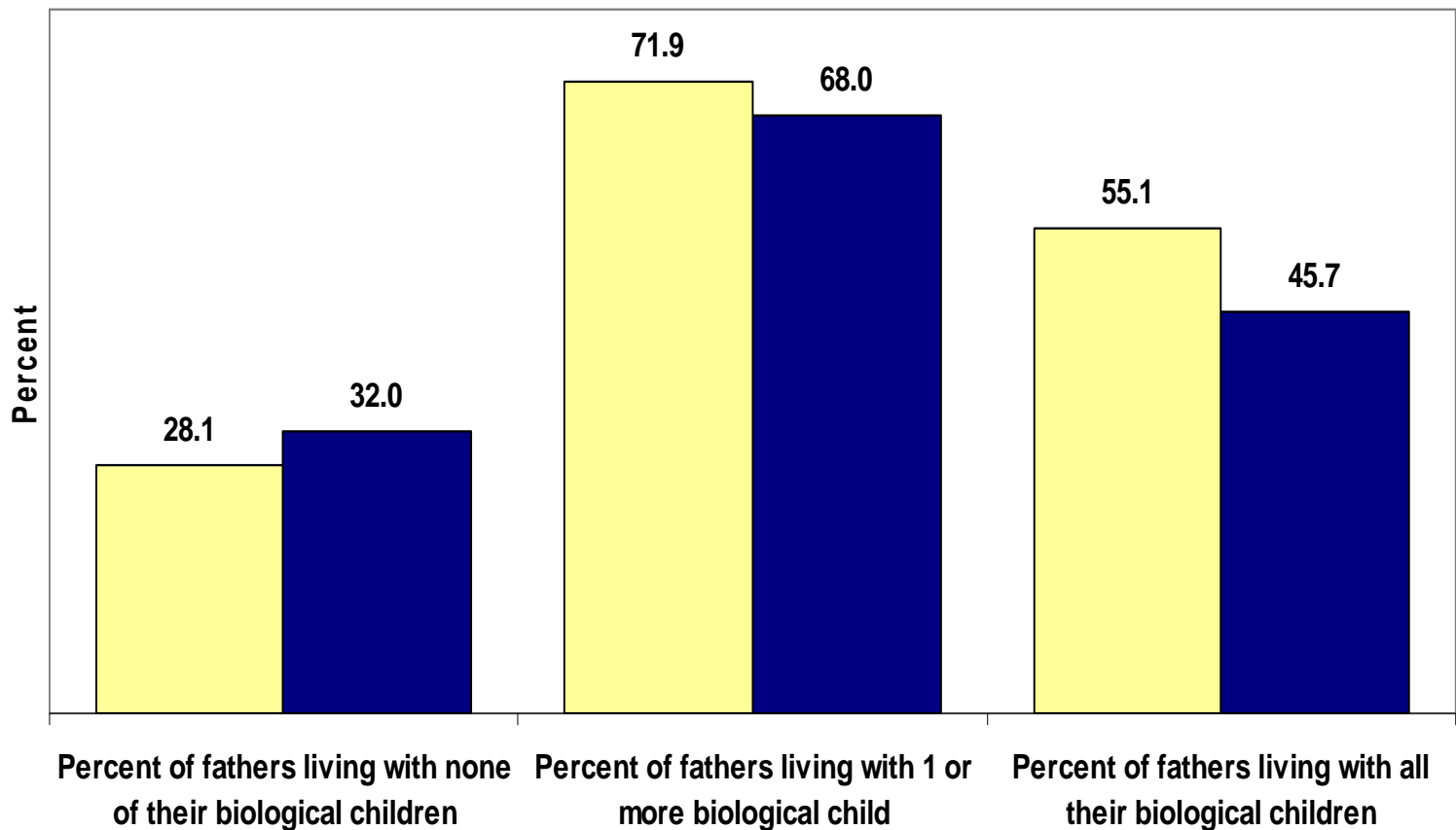
■ Living with all biological children ■ Living with at least one biological child



Note: Fathers living with all biological children with incomes between 100% and 199% of poverty and those at or above 200% of poverty were not significantly different.

Percent of Fathers Aged 15 to 54 Living with Children by Participation in Government Assistance Programs: 2004

■ Received any aid from TANF, food stamps, general assistance, other welfare or medicaid
■ Did not receive any aid



Odds of Fathers 15 to 54 Years Old Living with All of their Biological Children

Interpreting the Odds Ratio: The odds ratio for ever married versus never married fathers is 3.4. This implies that the odds of living with all of their biological children are about 3.4 times as large for ever married fathers compared to never married fathers. The odds ratio is greater than one so the interpretation is “more likely.” When the odds are less than one, the interpretation is “less likely.” For example:

- Fathers who were ever married were more likely to live with all of their biological children compared to never married fathers.
- Fathers with three or more children were less likely to live with all of their children than fathers who had fewer children ever born.

•**Other Results in Brief:** Odds of living with all of their biological children;

- Older fathers aged 40 to 54 were less likely than younger fathers.
- Black fathers were less likely than non-Hispanic White fathers.
- Asian fathers were more likely than non-Hispanic White fathers.
- Hispanic fathers were more likely compared to non-Hispanic fathers.
- Fathers with a college education or more were more likely than fathers with less education.
- Fathers with a work related disability were less likely than fathers without a work related disability.
- Fathers in the labor force were more likely than fathers not in the labor force.

Multivariate analysis

Odds of fathers living with all of their children.			
Characteristics	Comparison groups	Odds Ratio	
Ever married	Never married	3.43	***
Age 40 to 54	Under age 40	0.31	***
One biological child	Three or more children ever born	2.42	***
Two biological children	Three or more children ever born	2.01	***
Black	Non-Hispanic White	0.56	***
Asian	Non-Hispanic White	2.36	***
Other race (excluding NHW, Black, Asian)	Non-Hispanic White	0.83	
Hispanic	Not Hispanic	1.29	**
Foreign born	Native	1.10	
College	Less than college	1.61	***
No disability	Has a work related disability	1.79	***
Not in poverty	In poverty	1.01	
In labor force	Not in labor force	1.60	***
Received government assistance	Not receiving assistance	1.23	
*** significant at .001 level; ** significant at .01 level, *significant at .05 level			

Note: Income was not included in the multivariate analysis because it is highly correlated with poverty status.

Conclusion

- **Men aged 15 and over had an average of 1.5 children,**
 - were less likely to be parents, and
 - less likely to live with all of their biological children than women.

- **Which fathers were more likely to live with all their children?** Those who were:
 - Ever married
 - Under 40 years old
 - Fathers of fewer than three biological children
 - Asian
 - College educated
 - In the labor force.

For more information contact:

Jane Lawler Dye

U.S. Census Bureau

Housing and Household

Economic Statistics Division

Fertility and Family Statistics Branch

Phone: (301)763-6057

Email: Jane.L.Dye@Census.gov