THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF SEX/DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY?
Oct. 10, 2008

SEXUAL SATISFACTION BY TYPE OF UNION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Union</th>
<th>Physical Pleasure</th>
<th>Emotional Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noncohabiting</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohabiting</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
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MEASURING HOMOSEXUALITY

- Kinsey emphasized continuum of sexuality
- Lifetime male-male sexual contact (37%)
- 10% had only homosexual experience during any three-year period between 16-55
- 4% reported sex only with men since adolescence
- NHSLS studied three aspects of homosexuality
  - Desire: same-sex sexual attraction
  - Behavior: having same-sex sex
  - Identification

DIFFERENT MEASURES OF HOMOSEXUALITY

- The 2002 National Study of Family Growth found higher rates of identification: 3 times for women and 1.5 times for men.
IS THE AMERICAN FAMILY DECLINING?

- Evidence of decline: divorce, single-parent families, unsupervised children
- However, there has been no golden age of the American family. Each generation has believed the family was declining.
- Children in the 19th Century were more likely to live in single-parent families than today
- In 1900, 20% of children lived in orphanages
- In 1900, rates of alcohol & drug abuse, school dropouts and domestic violence were higher than today
- Extended family rates have never risen above 20%

WHAT ABOUT THE 1950S?

- 1950s weren’t as we remember them
  - < 60% of children lived in “traditional” family
  - Many women were unhappy with non-work role
  - Blacks faced worse discrimination than later decades
- 1950s family was “experimental,” not “traditional”
  - Dad-works, mom-stays-home model began in 19th century
  - Women began entering office jobs in 1920s
  - After WWII many women left factories for home
  - But female labor market participation began rising again in 1950s

WHAT ABOUT THE 1950S?

- What was different about the 1950s?
  - Divorce rate, high during Depression & WWII, dropped
  - Age of marriage fell to 100-year low
  - Birth rate soared (Baby Boom)
- What led to the 1950s family experiment?
  - Women were forced out of jobs after WWII
  - Economic growth and government programs allowed for prosperity with one wage earner
  - Ideal of dad-works, mom-stays-home family established
  - New ideal was supported by experts and media