The Social Organization of Sex/Decline of the Family?

Feb. 25, 2005

http://www.iastate.edu/~soc.134

Frequency of sex in past 12 months

Frequency of sex by type of union

Frequency of sex by age

Sexual satisfaction by type of union

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

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Same-sex attraction
Same-sex sex appealing
Identification
Sex in past 12 months
Sex in past 5 years
Sex since 18
Sex since puberty


Interrelations of components of homosexuality

Women (8.6%)
- Desire 59%
- Behavior 15%
- Identity 0%

Men (10.1%)
- Desire 44%
- Behavior 24%
- Identity 2%

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 18th 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
- 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