

# #38 Baby Mama Drama (Stats & Facts)

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**Episode Description** Baby Mama DRAMA!: What are the EFFECTIVE ways to deal with issues with Baby MAMAs and Baby Daddys from visitation, custody, child support, co / parenting to the dreaded "new spouse or love interest!" Can't we all just get along?

## Focus of Research

Children born to unwed parents

Domestic violence committed by unmarried couples with kids

Statistics on unwed couples suing each other for child support/custody

## Birth Rate for Unwed Parents

Based on 2012 data, a CDC report shows a continuing decline in the birth rate for unmarried women. Down by 2% the birth rate for unmarried women was 45.3 births per 1000 women aged 15–44, the lowest rate since 2003.

**Table C. Births and birth rates for unmarried and married women: United States, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2000–2012**

| Year      | Births to unmarried women |                   |                      | Birth rate<br>for married<br>women <sup>3</sup> |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---|
|           | Number                    | Rate <sup>1</sup> | Percent <sup>2</sup> |   |
| 2012..... | 1,609,619                 | 45.3              | 40.7                 | 86.0  |
| 2011..... | 1,607,773                 | 46.0              | 40.7                 | 85.1  |
| 2010..... | 1,633,471                 | 47.5              | 40.8                 | 84.3  |
| 2009..... | 1,693,658                 | 49.9              | 41.0                 | 85.6  |
| 2008..... | 1,726,566                 | 51.8              | 40.6                 | 86.9  |
| 2007..... | 1,715,047                 | 51.8              | 39.7                 | 89.1  |
| 2006..... | 1,641,946                 | 50.3              | 38.5                 | 88.7  |
| 2005..... | 1,527,034                 | 47.2              | 36.9                 | 87.9  |
| 2004..... | 1,470,189                 | 46.0              | 35.8                 | 88.1  |
| 2003..... | 1,415,995                 | 44.7              | 34.6                 | 88.4  |
| 2002..... | 1,365,966                 | 43.6              | 34.0                 | 86.9  |
| 2001..... | 1,349,249                 | 43.7              | 33.5                 | 86.6  |
| 2000..... | 1,347,043                 | 44.1              | 33.2                 | 87.4  |
| 1995..... | 1,253,976                 | 44.3              | 32.2                 | 82.6  |
| 1990..... | 1,165,384                 | 43.8              | 28.0                 | 93.2  |
| 1985..... | 828,174                   | 32.8              | 22.0                 | 93.3  |
| 1980..... | 665,747                   | 29.4              | 18.4                 | 97.0  |

<sup>1</sup>Births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44.

<sup>2</sup>Percentage of all births to unmarried women.

<sup>3</sup>Births to married women per 1,000 married women aged 15–44.

Nonmarital birth rates declined for all race and Hispanic origin population groups except Asian Pacific Islander women, for whom the rate increased by 2% from 22.4 in 2011 to 22.9 per 1000 in 2012.

- Hispanic women had the highest nonmarital birth rate of all groups in 2012 (72.6) but also the largest percent decline between 2011 and 2012, a 3% drop (from 75.1 in 2011).
- Rates for non-Hispanic white women (32.1) and black women (62.6) fell 1% and 2%, respectively, in 2012.

**Source:** [\(CDC\) National Vital Statistics Reports 2012](#)

In a 2011 American Community Survey Report, 4.1 million women reported that they had a birth in the last year. Of these women, 35.7 percent were unmarried at the time of the survey.\*

Births outside of marriage are often associated with disadvantage for both children and their parents. Women and men who have children outside of marriage are younger on average, have less education, and have lower income than married parents. Children who are born to unmarried parents are more likely to live in poverty and to have poor developmental outcomes.

### **Recent Births to Unmarried Women Aged 15 to 50, by Selected Characteristics: 2011**

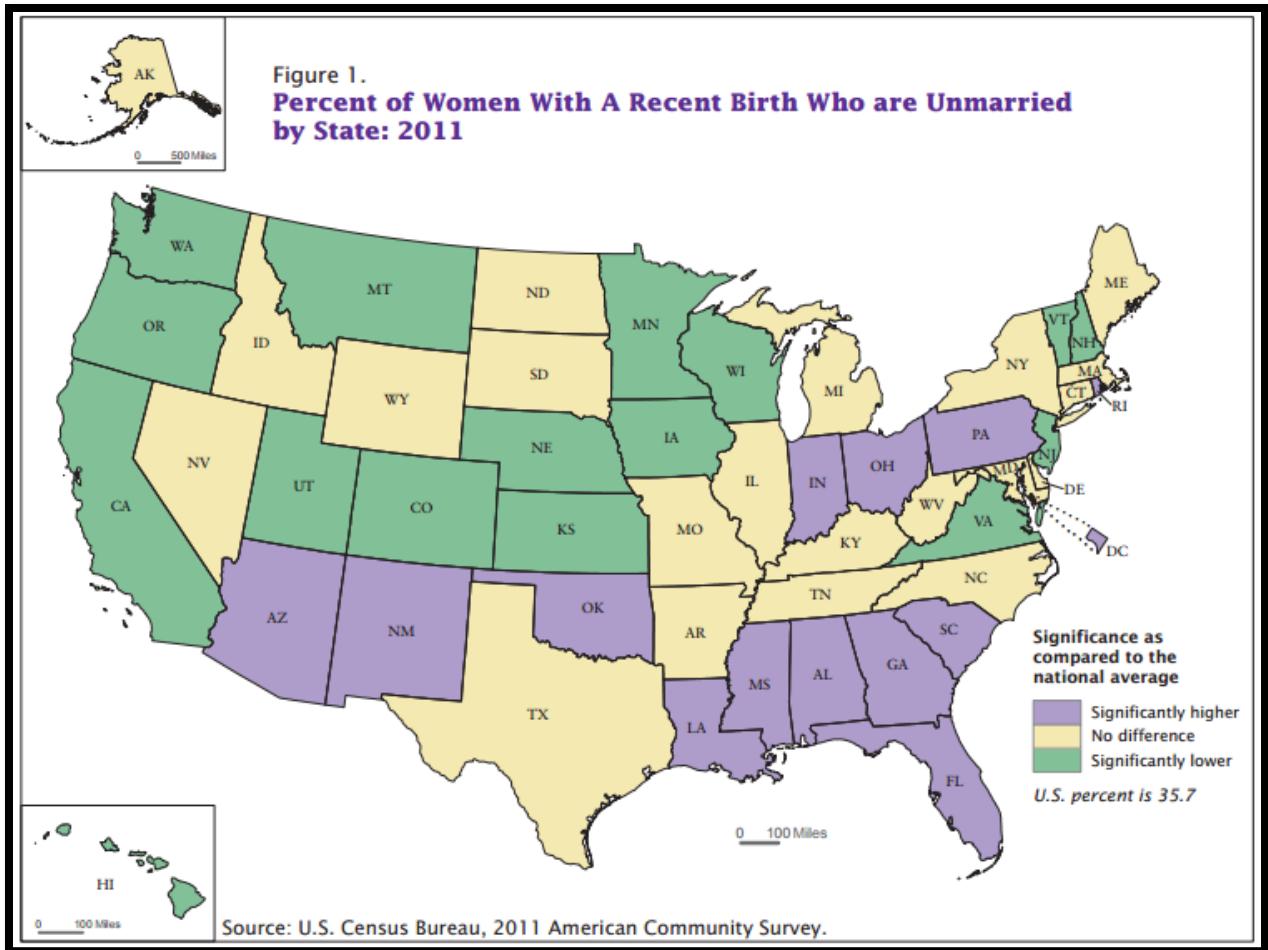
For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

| Characteristics  | Total births     |                              | Nonmarital births |                              | Percent nonmarital births |                              |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | Number           | Margin of error <sup>1</sup> | Number            | Margin of error <sup>1</sup> | Percent                   | Margin of error <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>U.S. total . . . . .</b>                                | <b>4,113,472</b> | <b>38,125</b>                | <b>1,467,435</b>  | <b>22,785</b>                | <b>35.7</b>               | <b>0.5</b>                   |
| <b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>                              |                  |                              |                   |                              |                           |                              |
| Less than high school . . . . .                            | 675,127          | 16,572                       | 384,605           | 11,099                       | 57.0                      | 1.1                          |
| High school graduate . . . . .                             | 941,463          | 16,769                       | 460,974           | 12,446                       | 49.0                      | 1.0                          |
| Some college . . . . .                                     | 1,295,505        | 21,041                       | 515,912           | 13,326                       | 39.8                      | 0.7                          |
| Bachelor's degree or more . . . . .                        | 1,201,377        | 19,043                       | 105,944           | 6,032                        | 8.8                       | 0.5                          |
| <b>HOUSEHOLD INCOME<sup>2</sup></b>                        |                  |                              |                   |                              |                           |                              |
| Less than \$10,000 . . . . .                               | 314,630          | 9,766                        | 216,777           | 8,709                        | 68.9                      | 1.5                          |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 . . . . .                             | 190,684          | 6,978                        | 116,416           | 6,133                        | 61.1                      | 2.1                          |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 . . . . .                             | 419,568          | 12,612                       | 221,662           | 8,141                        | 52.8                      | 1.4                          |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 . . . . .                             | 406,314          | 12,153                       | 188,907           | 7,850                        | 46.5                      | 1.3                          |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .                             | 546,395          | 14,937                       | 215,029           | 9,390                        | 39.4                      | 1.3                          |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 . . . . .                             | 748,000          | 16,248                       | 221,478           | 10,035                       | 29.6                      | 1.1                          |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 . . . . .                             | 533,085          | 13,094                       | 117,818           | 7,286                        | 22.1                      | 1.2                          |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 . . . . .                           | 558,394          | 13,624                       | 102,425           | 6,440                        | 18.3                      | 1.0                          |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 . . . . .                           | 197,011          | 8,056                        | 27,250            | 3,374                        | 13.8                      | 1.5                          |
| \$200,000 and above . . . . .                              | 166,796          | 7,549                        | 15,045            | 2,186                        | 9.0                       | 1.2                          |
| <b>AGE</b>   |                  |                              |                   |                              |                           |                              |
| 15 to 19 . . . . .   | 251,460          | 9,487                        | 216,436           | 9,153                        | 86.1                      | 1.2                          |
| 20 to 24 . . . . .   | 871,445          | 14,724                       | 535,779           | 14,226                       | 61.5                      | 1.0                          |
| 25 to 29 . . . . .   | 1,094,949        | 18,613                       | 349,305           | 10,714                       | 31.9                      | 0.8                          |
| 30 to 34 . . . . .   | 1,032,090        | 16,703                       | 199,462           | 8,237                        | 19.3                      | 0.7                          |
| 35 to 39 . . . . .   | 565,148          | 13,991                       | 98,284            | 6,218                        | 17.4                      | 1.0                          |
| 40 to 44 . . . . .   | 208,275          | 8,159                        | 43,266            | 3,566                        | 20.8                      | 1.5                          |
| 45 to 50 . . . . .   | 90,105           | 5,040                        | 24,903            | 2,798                        | 27.6                      | 2.7                          |
| <b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>                            |                  |                              |                   |                              |                           |                              |
| White alone . . . . .                                      | 2,812,958        | 34,048                       | 820,975           | 18,327                       | 29.2                      | 0.5                          |
| White, non-Hispanic . . . . .                              | 2,209,244        | 29,691                       | 575,107           | 15,915                       | 26.0                      | 0.6                          |
| Black alone . . . . .                                      | 595,983          | 12,796                       | 403,820           | 11,025                       | 67.8                      | 1.2                          |
| American Indian or Alaska Native alone . . . . .           | 46,902           | 3,502                        | 30,040            | 3,015                        | 64.0                      | 3.5                          |
| Asian alone . . . . .                                      | 243,814          | 8,865                        | 27,514            | 3,180                        | 11.3                      | 1.2                          |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone . . . . . | 11,602           | 2,089                        | 4,703             | 1,436                        | 40.5                      | 9.6                          |
| Some Other Race alone . . . . .                            | 289,582          | 11,028                       | 130,111           | 7,164                        | 44.9                      | 1.9                          |
| Two or More Races . . . . .                                | 112,631          | 5,777                        | 50,272            | 3,693                        | 44.6                      | 2.7                          |
| Hispanic (any race) . . . . .                              | 944,717          | 21,698                       | 405,836           | 12,987                       | 43.0                      | 1.1                          |
| <b>NATIVITY</b>  |                  |                              |                   |                              |                           |                              |
| Native . . . . .   | 3,264,025        | 33,520                       | 1,266,807         | 20,939                       | 38.8                      | 0.5                          |
| Foreign born . . . . .                                     | 849,447          | 18,705                       | 200,628           | 8,983                        | 23.6                      | 0.9                          |

<sup>1</sup> Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

<sup>2</sup> Only women living in households have household income. Women living in group quarters are not included.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey.



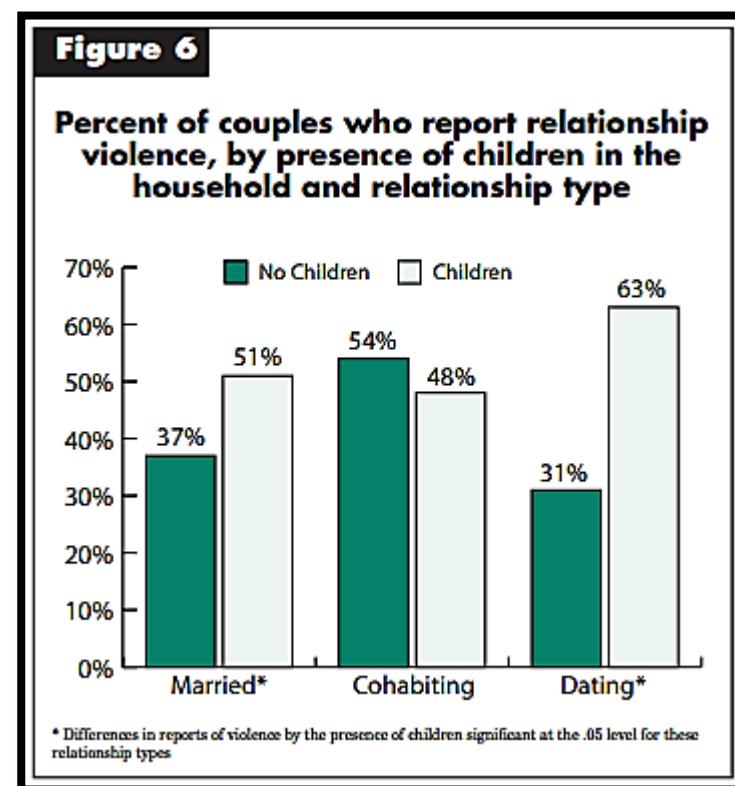
*\*(National-level ACS estimates of the percentages of women with a birth in the last year who are unmarried, as well as state-level estimates discussed later in this report, differ from the NCHS vital statistics estimates of nonmarital births for two main reasons. First, while the NCHS's vital statistics system records information on all births, the ACS is a survey, and while it is nationally representative, it does not have information on every birth that occurred in the United States. Second, the time frames covered by vital statistics and the ACS are quite different. Birth records reported through the vital statistics system are collected at the time of the birth itself and reported for a 1-year period. The ACS interviews respondents throughout a calendar year, asking them whether they had a birth in the 12 months prior to the interview.)*

**Source:** [\(American Community Survey Report\) Socioeconomic Characteristics of Currently Unmarried Women With a Recent Birth: 2011](#)

## Unwed Couples and Domestic Violence

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is a nationally representative survey of U.S. students who were in the seventh through 12th grades in 1994-1995. The third round of the survey (Wave III) interviewed participants again in 2001-2002, when they were between the ages of 18 and 28. This Research Brief used data from the Romantic Pairs subsample (“couples sample”) of the Wave III survey, which provides individual and relationship information on 1,507 randomly selected respondents and their partners, who were interviewed separately.

Slightly more than one-half (51 percent) of married couples and nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of dating couples with children living in one or both of their households reported past-year relationship violence, compared with 37 percent of married couples and 31 percent of dating couples with no children living in the household.



Source: [\(Child Trends - 2012\) Relationship Violence Among Young Adult Couples](#)

## **Unwed Couples and Child Custody/ Child Support**

According to a 2011 Census report, about 18.3% of custodial parents were fathers. 28.1% of all children under the age of 21 in families lived with only one of their parents while the other parent lived elsewhere.

- About half (50.6%) of all Black children lived in custodial-parent families.
- Other Highlights from the Report
  - The proportion of custodial mothers with incomes below poverty (31.8%) was about twice as high as that for custodial fathers (16.2%).
  - About half (48.9 percent) of all custodial parents had either legal or informal child support agreements, and custodial mothers were more likely to have agreements (53.4 percent) than custodial fathers (28.8 percent).
  - About three-quarters (74.1 percent) of custodial parents who were due child support in 2011 received either full or partial payments, including 43.4 percent who received full payments.
  - Over half (56.3 percent) of custodial parents with joint-custody arrangements received full child support payments, and 30.7 percent received full payments when there was no contact between the child and the child's noncustodial parent(s).
  - About 62.3 percent of the \$37.9 billion in child support due in 2011 was reported as received, averaging \$3,770 per year per custodial parent who was due support.

## Demographic Characteristics of Custodial Parents by Award Status and Payments Received: 2011

(Numbers in thousands, as of spring 2012. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf))

| Characteristic   |        | With child support agreements or awards |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
|--|--------|---|-------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|---------|-------|
|  |        | Due child support payments in 2011      |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
|  |        | Total                                   | Total | Percent | Total | Average due<br>(in dollars) | Average received<br>(in dollars) | Percent received | Total | Percent | Total |
| <b>All Custodial Parents</b>                               |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| Total .....  | 14,440 | 7,057                                   | 48.9  | 6,262   | 6,052 | 3,771                       | 62.3                             | 2,716            | 43.4  | 1,621   | 25.9  |
| Standard error.....  | 293    | 208                                     | 1.1   | 196     | 136   | 122                         | 1.2                              | 130              | 1.0   | 100     | 0.7   |
| <b>Sex</b>   |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| Male.....  | 2,643  | 760                                     | 28.8  | 674     | 5,527 | 3,015                       | 54.6                             | 279              | 41.4  | 216     | 32.0  |
| Female.....  | 11,797 | 6,297                                   | 53.4  | 5,588   | 6,115 | 3,862                       | 63.2                             | 2,438            | 43.6  | 1,405   | 25.1  |
| <b>Age</b>   |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| Under 30 years .....                                       | 3,083  | 1,313                                   | 42.6  | 1,170   | 4,090 | 2,063                       | 50.4                             | 428              | 36.6  | 368     | 31.5  |
| 30 to 39 years .....                                       | 5,315  | 2,818                                   | 53.0  | 2,575   | 6,220 | 3,705                       | 59.6                             | 1,070            | 41.6  | 625     | 24.3  |
| 40 years and over .....                                    | 6,041  | 2,926                                   | 48.4  | 2,517   | 6,791 | 4,633                       | 68.2                             | 1,219            | 48.4  | 627     | 24.9  |
| <b>Race and Ethnicity<sup>1</sup></b>                      |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| White alone .....  | 9,829  | 5,257                                   | 53.5  | 4,664   | 6,158 | 3,895                       | 63.3                             | 2,046            | 43.9  | 1,167   | 25.0  |
| White alone, not Hispanic .....                            | 7,244  | 4,030                                   | 55.6  | 3,585   | 6,257 | 4,159                       | 66.5                             | 1,642            | 45.8  | 821     | 22.9  |
| Black alone .....  | 3,677  | 1,390                                   | 37.8  | 1,265   | 5,442 | 3,309                       | 60.8                             | 532              | 42.1  | 340     | 26.9  |
| Hispanic (any race) .....                                  | 3,021  | 1,378                                   | 45.6  | 1,202   | 6,086 | 3,147                       | 51.7                             | 450              | 37.4  | 386     | 32.1  |
| <b>Current Marital Status<sup>2</sup></b>                  |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| Married .....  | 2,630  | 1,431                                   | 54.4  | 1,276   | 5,611 | 3,388                       | 60.4                             | 546              | 42.8  | 326     | 25.5  |
| Divorced .....   | 4,772  | 2,669                                   | 55.9  | 2,404   | 6,811 | 4,435                       | 65.1                             | 1,164            | 48.4  | 559     | 23.3  |
| Separated .....  | 1,813  | 804                                     | 44.3  | 666     | 6,017 | 3,947                       | 65.6                             | 327              | 49.1  | 153     | 23.0  |
| Never married .....  | 5,060  | 2,076                                   | 41.0  | 1,857   | 5,438 | 3,131                       | 57.6                             | 652              | 35.1  | 564     | 30.4  |
| <b>Educational Attainment</b>                              |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| Less than high school diploma .....                        | 2,183  | 917                                     | 42.0  | 800     | 5,048 | 2,536                       | 50.2                             | 291              | 36.4  | 268     | 33.5  |
| High school graduate.....                                  | 4,557  | 2,101                                   | 46.1  | 1,809   | 5,924 | 3,570                       | 60.3                             | 765              | 42.3  | 525     | 29.0  |
| Less than 4 years of college .....                         | 5,072  | 2,707                                   | 53.4  | 2,425   | 5,891 | 3,563                       | 60.5                             | 1,040            | 42.9  | 569     | 23.5  |
| Bachelor's degree or more .....                            | 2,628  | 1,332                                   | 50.7  | 1,228   | 7,212 | 5,281                       | 73.2                             | 621              | 50.6  | 259     | 21.1  |
| <b>Selected Characteristics</b>                            |        |   |       |         |       |                             |                                  |                  |       |         |       |
| Family income below 2011 poverty level.....                | 4,180  | 1,992                                   | 47.7  | 1,707   | 5,448 | 3,273                       | 60.1                             | 676              | 39.6  | 466     | 27.3  |
| Worked full-time, year-round.....                          | 7,289  | 3,518                                   | 48.3  | 3,160   | 6,258 | 3,777                       | 60.4                             | 1,406            | 44.5  | 802     | 25.4  |
| Public assistance program participation <sup>3</sup> ..... | 5,675  | 2,749                                   | 48.4  | 2,389   | 5,368 | 3,180                       | 59.2                             | 954              | 39.9  | 693     | 29.0  |
| With one child .....                                       | 8,209  | 3,543                                   | 43.2  | 3,149   | 5,458 | 3,155                       | 57.8                             | 1,349            | 42.8  | 832     | 26.4  |
| With two or more children .....                            | 6,231  | 3,513                                   | 56.4  | 3,113   | 6,653 | 4,394                       | 66.0                             | 1,367            | 43.9  | 788     | 25.3  |
| Child had contact with other parent in 2011.....           | 9,313  | 4,855                                   | 52.1  | 4,322   | 6,314 | 4,257                       | 67.4                             | 2,120            | 49.1  | 988     | 22.9  |
| Child had no contact with other parent in 2011.....        | 5,127  | 2,202                                   | 42.9  | 1,940   | 5,467 | 2,689                       | 49.2                             | 596              | 30.7  | 632     | 32.6  |
| Joint physical or legal custody.....                       | 3,527  | 2,081                                   | 59.0  | 1,847   | 6,859 | 4,957                       | 72.3                             | 1,040            | 56.3  | 323     | 17.5  |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those reporting one race alone and not in combination with any other race.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes 165,000 with marital status of widowed.

<sup>3</sup> Received either Medicaid, food stamps, public housing or rent subsidy, TANF, or general assistance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2012.

Source: [\(Census - 2011\) Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support](#)