Parent’s Divorce Effect on Children’s Future Likelihood of Divorce

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**Executive Summary**

To the Society of Pediatric Psychology,

While human behavior is unpredictable, the results of this research will assist in predicting the effects of one’s parent divorce during childhood on future likelihood of their child’s divorce. While individual behavior differs with age, generation, education, upbringing, and religion, the way in which one is brought up by their parents proves to have a significant impact on one’s future decisions. Divorce happens to be one of those unfortunate decisions that one might have to make. It has been established that experiencing the divorce of one’s parents before the age of sixteen has a lasting impact on one’s emotional composition. The long-term emotional effects of having divorced parents has proven to affect the likelihood of divorce in the individual themself. Utilizing the General Social Survey from the years 2000, 2008, and 2014, the average divorce rate in the United States is reported to be 32%. Divorce seems to impact the female population more than it does the male population. Generally, a female is 6% more likely to be divorced than a male. Yet, females with divorced parents are 28% more likely than any other females whose parents aren’t divorced and a female with divorced parents are 34% more likely than any male whose parent’s were never divorced. While females are at higher risk of divorce, those whom are white are also at higher risk in that they have a 12% increased likelihood in comparison to other races.

Age and the year in which someone is born in proved to be the most relevant in determining the likelihood of divorce, holding constant the response of whether one’s parents were divorced or not. When looking at age, it is evident that the likelihood of divorce increases steadily, until the point at which individuals are around fifty to sixty years old. Following that average age, the likelihood of divorce begins to decrease. Examining the year in which individuals were born allowed for the analysis of generational views and trends on divorce. Given the data, those whom were born during the “Baby Boomer” generation have shown more of a tendency to get divorced. Those born in the generation X period show a decreased likelihood of divorce, while the millennial generation divorce trend is not yet accurately determined.

It happens to be that with each additional child one has, there is a higher likelihood of a result in divorce, until the birth of one’s fifth child, when at that point the possibility of divorce decreases. In regards to if the individual has siblings or not, it is not possible to be 95% confident in the correlation between divorce and siblings, yet there is a trend that shows the likelihood of divorce increases with each new sibling until five siblings, when the likelihood decreases.

When examining both the education of an individual and the education of their parents, higher-level education proves to be the only significant education level in relation to affecting divorce. Having a bachelor or graduates degree significantly decreases the chance of divorce by 28% and 24%. A mother’s education level proves to be insignificant when determining the outcome of her child’s divorce. The only effect that parent’s education has on their child becoming divorced is if their father has a graduate’s degree, in which the likelihood is decreased by 16%.

Family income at the time someone is sixteen years old has a significant effect on divorce as well. Having below average income as a child actually places an individual at an advantage of being less likely to be divorced, in that they are 8% less likely than those of average incomes. Having had an above average or far above average income proves to place individuals at a far greater risk of divorce than those of average incomes as children, in that they are at an increased vulnerability of 13% and 34%.

Having analyzed religion, those whom are Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Buddhist, and whom practice other religions not listed in the General Social Survey are the only religions practiced that significantly decreases chances of getting divorced.

In conclusion, the research explains 10% of the variation in divorce rates. By including these differing aspects of an individual’s life, this data represents an unbiased measure of how parent’s divorce does indeed affect their children’s divorce propensity.

**Introduction**

Society of Pediatric Psychology,

We as researchers at Boston University, are writing to inform you of our conclusion regarding the possible relationship between a child experiencing their own parent’s divorce at or before the age of sixteen, and the potential for them to become divorced or separated at some point in their lifetime. It is the general consensus that divorce is becoming highly common in modern day society, and it is important to examine the environment in which children are raised in, and whether witnessing their parents getting divorced affects their own likelihood of divorce. Divorce has been a prevalent topic of discussion and there have been many studies regarding the lasting effects that divorce has on children lasting into adulthood. It has been established over the years through other studies that children of divorce very frequently suffer emotionally both short term and long term. A child raised by separated parents, or the witnessing of a divorce, subsequently leads to a change in the emotional disposition of an individual, depending on the severity of the situation. Children with divorced parents in comparison to children whose parents remain together report high levels of anxiety, depression, and changes in behavior.[[1]](#footnote-1) It is reported that divorce results in high levels of stress, and differing forms of coping and resilience lend themselves as reactions. One of these potential long-term impacts could be PTSD and negative pre-conceived notions on divorce, therefore increasing the chances of an individual becoming divorced in their own lifetime thereafter. While divorce is an unfortunate outcome in one’s life, it is critical that to examine factors that they might make the relationship more clear. There are other confounding variables that could help explain the behavior of an adult whom has witnessed their parent’s divorce, and might lend clarity to possible biases that are leading to the general consensuses being made.

**Data Description**

The data that this analysis is based upon was collected from 7,326 individuals in the General Social Survey from the years, 2000, 2008, and 2014. The GSS is a sociological survey that is used to collect a large variety of information on demographics and differing views of those living in the United States[[2]](#footnote-2). The survey inquires about numerous aspects of one’s past, current life situation, and their opinions. The variables that were taken into consideration regarding this specific analysis were as follows:

* If parent’s are divorced
* Marital status/past status
* Gender
* Age
* Year born
* Children
* Siblings
* Race
* Degree
* Father’s degree
* Mother’s degree
* Family’s average income at the age one was 16
* Origin of birth (whether U.S or foreign)
* Religion

The main dependent variable in this regression is a combined variable of two differing questions. The first question asks the current relationship status of the individual. The second question asks if one is currently married, if that individual has been separated or divorced prior. Our analysis considered the response, “separated” equivalent to divorce, and a yes to either response was taken and then created into its own variable of “ever divorced”.

The survey spanned fourteen years and consisted 55% of females, and 44% of males. Each observation in this survey represented an individual, and the age of the individuals ranged from those of eighteen years old to those above eighty-nine years old, the average age being forty-seven. The average year in which the individuals were born in was 1960, and the range in which they were born was from 1911 to 1996. The survey was composed mostly of white individuals, in that they took up 77% of the responses, whereas black individuals occupied 15%, and the remaining other races only represented 8%. The average number of children that these individuals had was approximately two children, and they on average had three siblings themselves. The composition of the individuals consisted of 88% born in the United States, whereas the remaining were born overseas. Utilizing these variables, we first ran a simple regression examining the association of one’s parents being divorced before the age of 16 and being divorced one’s self, without controlling for any other variables. The remaining variables were then added into the regression in order to depict a more accurate, non-biased measurement of how parent’s divorce affected children’s divorce propensity.

**Results**

**Average Divorce Rate**

While the main question at hand is how parent’s divorce possibly impacts the future likelihood of their child being divorced, it is interesting to look at statistics on the divorce rate in general from three years in which the survey was taken: 2000, 2008, and 2014. The average divorce rate has not been consistent, in that it has decreased between the two years, but in the most recent year, 2014, it remains at 33%. The average likelihood of divorce from the three years on which the data is based upon is 32%. By specifically differentiating the overall average divorce rate between females and males, females yield a higher average of 34%, while males average at 30%.

**Average Relationship Between Parent’s and Children’s Divorce**

Given that male and female behavior differs greatly, it is necessary to allow for differing effects on divorce for a male that experienced his parents being divorced as a child versus a female who’s parents were divorced. This demanded of the research the creation of something called an interaction term. Through the construction of these terms, one has the ability to view the difference between male and female experiences with divorce. The average likelihood of any individual being divorced, regardless of any other factors is 32%, as previously mentioned above and referred to in Exhibit E. Looking at the coefficients in the multiple regression, it is evident that divorce affects females significantly more than males. Furthermore the likelihood of divorce for females is heightened for those who have been unfortunate to have experience with their own parents divorce as a child. A female in general is 2 percentage points more likely to be divorced than a male. A female with divorced parents is 8.9 percentage points more likely than any other female whose parents aren’t divorced. Lastly, a female with divorced parents is 10.97 percentage points more likely than a male whose parent’s were never divorced.

**Consideration of Other Possible Factors of the Outcome of Divorce**

The simple regression of the main explanatory variable, one’s parents having been divorced when they were young and the dependent variable, having been ever divorced, is likely to be picking up the impact of many other factors. Each of these variables could signify importance as to why one’s parents could have been divorced, which then transcends to a higher likelihood of one being divorced themselves.

**Age**

Upon observing the initial simple regression, in each new regression a possible confounding variable was added in order to analyze the extent that each of them had an effect. It’s necessary to examine age in regards to a confounding effect on parent’s divorce, in that the older one is, the older their parents are, and therefore raises the question of generational tendencies regarding divorce. Through testing the effect of each new variable in the multiple regression, age proved to only increase in the value of the coefficient of the main explanatory variable, parents divorce. The other variables which will be discussed later, did not change the measured fit of the data, while when age was added, the fit proved to be more relevant. This shows that there was an omitted variable bias that was skewing the data, and that the coefficient on ever having been divorced was picking up the effect on age. The initial simple regression only had an adjusted r-squared of .0001, so parent’s divorce seems to have little explanatory power. Yet once age was added, age proved to have more explanatory power, resulting in an adjusted r-square of .1008, as seen in Exhibit E. The coefficient of the variable of parents being divorced also increased from .018 to .078, which is approximately a 6 percentage point change from the original regression, as seen in Exhibit E, comparing Regression 1 to Regression 2. Age is an extremely critical factor to hold constant when looking at the effect of parent’s divorce.

Age was then enforced into the regression as a quadratic. The results of the regression including age indicated the relationship between ever divorced and the squared term with a significant t-stat of 7.18. Exhibit A graphs this relationship, and shows an upward slope until around the age of sixty, then begins leveling off as the coefficient value begins to decrease. With the possibility of serious relationships and marriages increasing with age, unfortunately the possible outcome of divorce also increases. The general dating and marrying age is within the range of 18 and 50, and with each year someone is older, the smaller the dating pool is. The younger someone is, the more comfortable they are with the idea of leaving the person they are with, in that they feel as though they have more time to seek out another partner. There are less and less dating prospects when someone is older, in that the majority of people are already committed in relationships. Those whom haven’t separated from their partners by the age of fifty or sixty are most likely not going to separate, which is the possible cause for the coefficient to begin to decrease in as depicted in the graph.

**Exhibit A:**

**­­­­­­­­**

**Year Born**

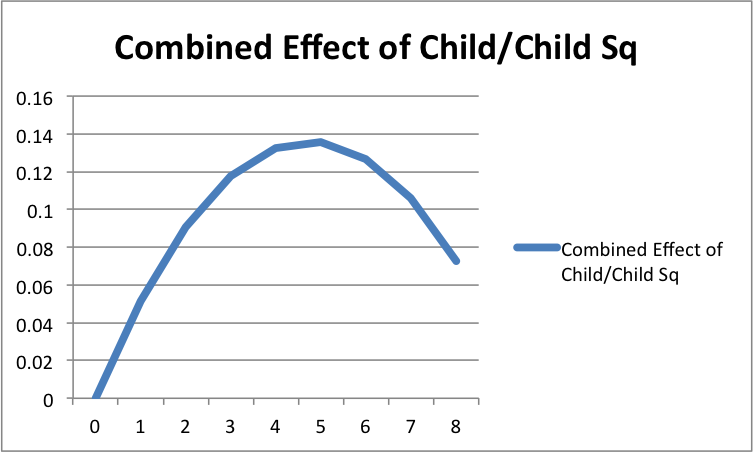
Conclusions regarding generational views on divorce can be made by examining the year in which individuals have been born in. The variable, “year born” was implemented into the regression as a quadratic, and proved to be very significant. The results of the years the individuals were born in is illustrated below in exhibit B. One would assume that the individuals whom are older would be less likely to be divorced, yet the results prove the opposite. Exhibit B shows that the likelihood of divorce beginning in 1911, increasing with every few years until it remains fairly consistent during the 1960’s. Following the 1960’s, the likelihood of divorce decreases with each year that someone is born in. This is interesting to examine when holding age constant, in that it is possible to separate the Cohort effect, which refers to the similarities in experiences and social influences across a particular age group. Leading up to the sixties, which are considered the years of the “baby boomers”, divorce was becoming increasingly prevalent. This transcends to the idea that those whose parents were born in that generation and whom could’ve likely been divorced, could be more susceptible to getting divorced themselves. During the birth of those in the generation X, divorce rates began to decrease. Following generation X is the millennial generation, whom seem to have an even less likely chance of divorce. Having said that, these results might not accurately depict generation x’s view on divorce, in that they remain at an average age of twenty years old, which means that they have most likely not been married yet. Therefore, the chance of divorce hasn’t been a decision they have had to make yet. It will be interesting to examine the divorce rate when generation x reaches their fifties and sixties, in by that time, they will have most likely have made their decision regarding divorce.

**Exhibit B:**

**Children**

Another variable examined in this survey is the number of children that the individual has. The coefficient on the variable, children shows that holding all other variables constant, the likelihood of divorce is increased by 5.6 percentage points with each child, and it is evident that this is a significant variable because it has a t-value of 7.11. We found this effect to be quadratic. A graph of the combined effect of children and children squared is depicted below in Exhibit C. The graph steadily increases with each child one has until the fifth child, and then beyond this steadily decreases. Between the third and sixth child, there isn’t much variation in the likelihood of divorce. While having children is a beautiful moment in one’s life, it does also in turn put a lot of stress on an individual, and ultimately a lot of stress on relationships. Sadly, many times children are being blamed for divorce and it is evident in this graph that children do increase the chance of divorce, holding all else constant. Given this, it is interesting to look at the decrease following five children. This could be interpreted in the sense that the more children that an individual has in a relationship following five children, the less likely they will want to file for divorce. In this survey specifically, out of the 7, 351 individuals who answered, there were 482 of those whom had more than five children. The more children a couple has, perhaps the more likely the individuals will contemplate the impact the divorce will have on the children and the hardships that it would bring to the family as a whole.

**Exhibit C:**



**Siblings**

The number of siblings that the individuals surveyed may also have an effect on divorce rate. It could be predicted that the more siblings that one has, the more likely they are to be compatible in living and sharing their life with someone else. Generally, only children can at times be considered more selfish, and their mindset can negatively impact any relations they have with others, in terms of friends or partners. Yet in this regression, with each increasing sibling one had, there was a 1.5 percentage point increase in the likelihood of divorce. The t-statistic of 1.36 proved that as researchers, unfortunately we can only be 86% certain that there is causal effect. The affect of siblings as a quadratic is shown below in Exhibit D. The likelihood of divorce is increasing with each sibling in the graph, yet similarly to the number of children in Exhibit B, after five siblings, the likelihood of divorce decreases with each additional sibling. Following the examination of the outcome of divorce given each additional sibling an individual has, it is important to look at the possible effect of simply being an only child. Yet this variable proved to be insignificant in it’s fit to the data model. Therefore it is more applicable to examine each additional sibling in this scenario.

**Exhibit D:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Race**

One of the most generally observed characteristic of an individual is their race. When observing divorce specifically, individuals whom are white are the only significantly differentiated individuals whom have an increased likelihood of divorce in comparison to other races. White individuals have a 3.7 percentage point increased chance of divorce, holding all other variables constant. While we cannot be 95 confident, we can be almost 93% confident that the relationship is not zero that there is some kind of causal relationship.

**Education**

Both an individual’s education and the education of his or her parents is of paramount importance in the examination of the outcome of divorce. Beginning with the evaluation of the individual themselves, and their educational success up to the point at which the survey was taken, a bachelor or graduate degree are the only degrees that prove to be significantly different than not having accomplished higher than a high school or associates degree. A bachelor degree was associated with a 9.1 percentage point decrease in likelihood of divorce compared to an individual of less than a high school or associates degree. Similarly, an individual with a graduate degree has a 7.7 percentage point lower chance of being divorced. Both of these terms are statistically significant in that they both have t-statistic values of 4.42 and 3.24. This is not surprising in that essentially anything of an associates degree or lower doesn’t add much substantial, life-changing education. It is when an individual graduates with a full degree from a university, in which students then gain the most knowledge on a deeper level.

Examining the education of a child’s parents affects both the parent’s decision to get divorced, but their education also ways heavily on how they bring up their child regardless of divorce. If their parents are educated, both the level of discussion in the household and the general knowledge differs remarkably. Given this, both the individual’s father and mother’s degree is taken into account. Yet having said that, when examining the parent’s education, we are also controlling for the family household income at the age the individual is sixteen. In this way, we are not solely examining the parent’s education, but rather we are looking at the possible status of the family. The wealthier a family is, the more flexible they can be with having spent money on their education. This also goes hand in hand with the fact that if one has an education, they are able to have a more prestigious occupation. This is turn, allows for a higher family income. Therefore, we both ran a regression including both parent’s education and family income at the age of sixteen in order to see if income was affecting education. It failed to significantly change the mother or father’s degree coefficients, indicating that there is no real relationship between these two specific variables.

Like the degree of the individual, the reference category for the father’s degree was less than a high school degree or an associate’s degree. Only a father’s graduate degree serves to prove significant difference amongst all of the other potential degrees. The regression reveals that an individual is 5.3 percentage points less likely to be divorced if a father has a graduate degree, compared to having accomplished less than a high school degree, with its significance at 2.03. As important as it is to examine a father’s degree, scrutinizing over the degree of a mother is also equally as important. However, a mother’s degree of education does not prove significant in this regression. This is interesting to examine that in this data, a father’s education in a child’s life has an effect on the development of a child, while a mother’s doesn’t. This may be the result because of many differing reasons. Perhaps the mother’s degree isn’t significant when examining the effect on one’s possible divorce because it’s something that when growing up, he or she wasn’t aware of it. Upon further analyzing the insignificant coefficients of mother’s degree levels, as mentioned before, the average age of the individuals surveyed is forty-seven. Therefore their norm when growing up was that the father would have gone to college and continued on to work and provide for the family. The father’s education could then be reflected in his job status. The mother would remain at home taking care of the children and the house. The individuals surveyed perhaps only saw their father utilizing his educational degree toward his occupation, while even if mothers had gone to college, they couldn’t utilize their education at full capacity. While this could be a generational difference, it could also be viewed as a sociological issue in society. Given changing viewpoints and household norms, it could be predicted that over time this statistic could change so that a mother’s degree could be relevant to the education and future decisions of a child, divorce being a major choice.

**Family Income as a Child**

As education of an individual’s parents is compelling, so is the financial position of the individual at the time of childhood. The family income of a child at sixteen could indicate a lot of things about the economic situation and/or the position his or her parents could have been in, increasing the risk of their divorce. Higher stress is placed on families with lower incomes, consequently resulting in more stress on relationships. Compared to families of average income, only families of below average income, above average income, and far above average income are significantly different, in the likelihood of a divorce. Very surprisingly, if one’s family at the time they were at the age of 16 was below average, they are 2.7 percentage points less likely to be divorced in their future than compared to those who grew up in a household of average income. In contrast, if he or she’s family income was above or far above average, he or she will be 4.2 and 11.9 percentage points more likely to be divorced. A major reason that individuals use to shy from the idea of getting divorced in the past was that the female in the relationship would not be able to get a decent paying job, and therefore would not receive a consistent income in order to support herself alone. The assets were in the man’s control, therefore leaving women very vulnerable. The data makes sense as a result of this, in that a family of less income, results in a decreased chance of divorce. Those of wealthier families had an increased chance of divorce, in that they were in a more stable financial position if they were to make the decision to become divorced.

**Religion**

Lastly, religion must be analyzed, in that depending on the religion one follows, the beliefs

about divorce may differ significantly. The General Social Survey asked people to choose their

religion given the following possible answers:

* Catholic
* Jewish
* Buddhism
* Hinduism
* Islam
* Orthodox Christian
* Christian
* Native American
* Other Eastern religion,
* Any other religion
* Nonreligious

Defining “non-religious” as the reference category, the only religious affiliation statistically significantly different divorce rates were Catholic, Hindu, Orthodox Christian, or “another religion”. One would assume that practicing any religion, one would be less likely to be divorced, but all of the other religions proved no different than those who don’t practice a religion whatsoever. In this sense, perhaps other religions are indifferent to the idea of divorce, and don’t reject it as such an extreme decision. Of the religions that are statistically different than no religious affiliation, Catholics are 8.1 percentage points less likely to be divorced, while Hindus, Orthodox Christians, and other religious practices are, 15.7, 20.1, and 9.5 percentage points less likely to end up in a divorce.

**Missing Variables**

Other variables that could possibly affect divorce are prior work status and income. Current work status is only available in the General Social Survey, and this does not fit as a variable in that the work status could have changed and most likely would have changed following divorce. Income also changes drastically after divorce settlements. If this information could have been available, perhaps inserting them as variables could have made the overall fit of the data in regards to our question even stronger. Generally, the comfort level of an individual, depends on job stability as well as income, and in turn heavily weights on the stress or lack of stress in one’s life. This could’ve confounded with the effect of one’s anxiety levels from having divorced parents and could’ve in turn made divorce even more likely holding these variables constant.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, holding age and year born constant has the greatest impact on the multiple regression. Variables that hold explanatory power in the multiple regression are the number of children one has, whether one has a graduate or bachelor degree, if one’s father has a graduate’s degree, poverty or extreme wealth as a child, and whether one is Catholic, Hindu, Orthodox Christian, or practices another religion. Each one of these variables has some form of impact on the possible outcome of divorce in one’s life, confounding with the disadvantage of already having witnessed their parent’s divorce as a child. Working as a society that researches the psychological effects on children, it is crucial when studying children and families who have personally dealt with trauma, such as divorce in their lives, to examine these other possible confounding variables in hopes of explaining their behaviors, feelings, and dispositions. Studies that are similar to the ones that the Society of Pediatric Psychology are conducting must continue, and the results must be shared with therapeutic and social worker organizations in order to ensure that children are being tended to through the process of their parents divorce, and a substantial time thereafter. The general consensus is that divorce is becoming more frequent, yet this particular data set over the span of fourteen years shows that it is in actuality decreasing with generation X individuals and the millennial generation. Having said that, it ultimately comes down to the fact that it is impossible to measure and predict human behavior. It is both ever changing and uncertain, and therefore no one can predict what the next trend of divorce will be in the coming years. It will be interesting to examine whether the rate of divorce changes when there will be readily available information as those in generation X getting married and divorced.

**Exhibit E:**

**Key:**

* \*\* Between 90% and 95% confident
* \*\*\* Significant in data with 95% confidence

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary of Regressions** | | | |
|  | **Simple Regression (1)** | **Simple Regression w/Age (2)** | **Main Multiple Regression (3)** |
| **everdiv** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **parentdiv** | **0.0183997** | **\*\*\* .0781276** |  |
|  | **[1.28]** | **[5.61]** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **maleparentdiv** |  |  | **\*\* 0.0311766** |
|  |  |  | **[1.47]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **femaleparentdiv** |  |  | **\*\*\* 0.0897186** |
|  |  |  | **[4.86]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **male (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **female** |  |  | **\*\* 0.0201308** |
|  |  |  | **[1.77]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **otherrace (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **white** |  |  | **\*\* 0.0374926** |
|  |  |  | **[1.77]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **black** |  |  | **-0.0014148** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.06]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **yearborn** |  |  | **\*\*\* 0.5281195** |
|  |  |  | **[5.48]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **yearbornsquared** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.0001349** |
|  |  |  | **[-5.48]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **age** |  | **0.041437** | **\*\*\* 0.0256664** |
|  |  | **[25.24]** | **[8.51]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **agesquared** |  | **-0.0003542** | **\*\*\* -0.0002095** |
|  |  | **[-22.29]** | **[-7.18]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **childs** |  |  | **\*\*\* 0.0562446** |
|  |  |  | **[7.11]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **childssquared** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.0058835** |
|  |  |  | **[-4.53]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **sibsnew** |  |  | **0.0161959** |
|  |  |  | **[1.4]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **sibsnewsquared** |  |  | **-0.0021746** |
|  |  |  | **[-1.3]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **foreignborn (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **usborn** |  |  | **-0.0044983** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.25]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **lessthanhighschoolnew (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **highschoolassociate** |  |  | **0.0021252** |
|  |  |  | **[0.13]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **bachelor** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.0911018** |
|  |  |  | **[-4.42]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **graduate** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.0777128** |
|  |  |  | **[-3.24]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **fatherlesshsdegree (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **fatherhighschoolassociate** |  |  | **-0.009402** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.73]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **fatherbachelor** |  |  | **0.0069175** |
|  |  |  | **[0.33]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **fathergraduate** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.053895** |
|  |  |  | **[-2.03]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **motherlesshsdegree (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **motherhighschoolassociate** |  |  | **0.0040705** |
|  |  |  | **[0.31]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **motherbachelor** |  |  | **-0.018387** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.83]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **mothergraduate** |  |  | **-0.0110489** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.35]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **farbelowavgincome16** |  |  | **-0.0170331** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.75]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **belowavgincome16** |  |  | **\*\* -0.0279735** |
|  |  |  | **[-1.76]** |
| **averageincome16 (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **aboveavgincome16** |  |  | **\*\*\* 0.0424078** |
|  |  |  | **[2.23]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **faraboveavgincome16** |  |  | **\*\*\* 0.119215** |
|  |  |  | **[2.65]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **nonreligious (ref. category)** |  |  |  |
| **protestant** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **-0.003728** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.25]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **catholic** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.0809088** |
|  |  |  | **[-4.9]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **jewish** |  |  | **-0.0335227** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.86]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **otherreligion** |  |  | **\*\* 0.0949918** |
|  |  |  | **[1.89]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **buddhist** |  |  | **0.0134845** |
|  |  |  | **[0.23]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **hinduist** |  |  | **\*\* -0.1573561** |
|  |  |  | **[-1.84]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **othereasternrelig** |  |  | **0.0134834** |
|  |  |  | **[0.08]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **islamist** |  |  | **0.0593918** |
|  |  |  | **[0.76]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **orthodoxchristian** |  |  | **\*\*\* -0.2011883** |
|  |  |  | **[-2.52]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **christian** |  |  | **-0.0048156** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.16]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **nativeamerican** |  |  | **-0.0441164** |
|  |  |  | **[-0.27]** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Observations** | **7,378** | **7,351** | **7,326** |
| **SEE** | **0.46727** | **0.4431** | **0.43583** |
| **Adjusted R-Squared** | **0.0001** | **0.1008** | **0.1299** |

**Exhibit F:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variable Name** | **Meaning** |
| everdiv | If the individual is currently divorced/separated or if someone has ever been divorced or seperated |
| parentdiv | If the individual's parents were divorced by the age they were 16 |
| male |  |
| female |  |
| maleparentdiv | A male who's parents are divorced |
| femaleparentdiv | A female who's parents are divorced |
| white |  |
| black |  |
| otherrace | The individual is another race than white or black |
| yearborn |  |
| yearbornsquared |  |
| agesquared |  |
| childs | The number of children the individual has |
| childssquared |  |
| sibsnew | The number of brothers and sisters the individual has. It includes born alive, no longer living, as well as alive now. Also includes stepbrothers and sisters, and children adopted by their parents. |
| usborn | If the individual was born in the U.S |
|  | **Education Level** |
| lessthanhighschoolnew | An education level less than high school |
| highschoolassociate | Highschool or Associate's Degree |
| bachelor | Bachelor's Degree |
| graduate | Graduate Degree |
|  | **Father's Degree** |
| fatherlesshsdegree | Less than a high school degree |
| fatherhighschoolassociatedegree | Highschool or Associate's Degree |
| fatherbachelor | Bachelor's degree |
| fathergraduate | Graduate's degree |
|  | **Mother's Degree** |
| motherlesshsdegree | Less than a high school degree |
| motherhighschoolassociatedegree | Highschool or Associate's Degree |
| motherbachelor | Bachelor's degree |
| mothergraduate | Graduate's degree |
|  | **Family Income at the Age of 16** |
| farbelowavgincome16 | Far below average |
| belowavgincome16 | Below average |
| avgincome16 | Average |
| aboveaverageincome16 | Above average |
| faraboveavgincome16 | Far above average |
|  |  |
| protestant |  |
| catholic |  |
| jewish |  |
| nonreligious |  |
| otherreligion | The individual practices another religion not listed in the survey |
| buddhist |  |
| hinduist |  |
| orthodoxchristian |  |
| christian |  |
| nativeamerican |  |

**Exhibit G:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary of Variables** | | | | | |
|  | **Obs** | **Mean** | **Std. Dev.** | **Min** | **Max** |
| **everdiv** | 7,378 | 0.3220385 | 0.4672893 | 0 | 1 |
| **parentdiv** | 7,378 | 0.1719978 | 0.3774041 | 0 | 1 |
| **maleparentdiv** | 7,378 | 0.0731906 | 0.2604667 | 0 | 1 |
| **femaleparentdiv** | 7,378 | 0.0988073 | 0.2984233 | 0 | 1 |
| **male** | 7,378 | 0.4472757 | 0.4972461 | 0 | 1 |
| **female** | 7,378 | 0.5527243 | 0.4972461 | 0 | 1 |
| **white** | 7,378 | 0.7674166 | 0.4225074 | 0 | 1 |
| **black** | 7,378 | 0.1485497 | 0.3556682 | 0 | 1 |
| **otherrace** | 7,378 | 0.0840336 | 0.277457 | 0 | 1 |
| yearborn | 7,351 | 1959.494 | 18.00238 | 1911 | 1996 |
| **yearbornsquared** | 7,351 | 3839942 | 70444.72 | 3651921 | 3984016 |
| **age** | 7,351 | 47.51286 | 17.42216 | 18 | 89 |
| **agesquared** | 7,351 | 2560.962 | 1796.559 | 324 | 7921 |
| **childs** | 7,351 | 1.845191 | 1.659925 | 0 | 8 |
| **childssquared** | 7,351 | 6.159706 | 9.643076 | 0 | 64 |
| **onlychild** | 7,378 | 0.0441854 | 0.2055208 | 0 | 1 |
| **sibsnew** | 7,378 | 3.209135 | 1.904466 | 0 | 6 |
| **sibsnewsquared** | 7,378 | 13.92505 | 13.2681 | 0 | 36 |
| **foreignborn** | 7,378 | 0.1206289 | 0.3257176 | 0 | 1 |
| **usborn** | 7,378 | 0.8781513 | 0.3271332 | 0 | 1 |
| **lessthanmiddleschool** | 7,378 | 0.0486582 | 0.215167 | 0 | 1 |
| **lessthanhighschool** | 7,378 | 0.0940634 | 0.2919367 | 0 | 1 |
| **highschool** | 7,378 | 0.5113852 | 0.4999042 | 0 | 1 |
| **associatejuniorcollege** | 7,378 | 0.076579 | 0.2659403 | 0 | 1 |
| **bachelor** | 7,378 | 0.1710491 | 0.3765774 | 0 | 1 |
| **graduate** | 7,378 | 0.0939279 | 0.2917481 | 0 | 1 |
| **fatherlessthanhsdegree** | 7,378 | 0.2716183 | 0.4448243 | 0 | 1 |
| **fatherhsdegree** | 7,378 | 0.3170236 | 0.4653482 | 0 | 1 |
| **fatherassociatejrcollege** | 7,378 | 0.0210084 | 0.1434219 | 0 | 1 |
| **fatherbachelor** | 7,378 | 0.0901328 | 0.2863914 | 0 | 1 |
| **fathergraduate** | 7,378 | 0.0543508 | 0.2267239 | 0 | 1 |
| **motherlessthanhsdegree** | 7,378 | 0.2924912 | 0.4549375 | 0 | 1 |
| **motherhsdegree** | 7,378 | 0.444836 | 0.4969813 | 0 | 1 |
| **motherassociatejrcollege** | 7,378 | 0.0456763 | 0.2087964 | 0 | 1 |
| **motherbachelor** | 7,378 | 0.0856601 | 0.2798804 | 0 | 1 |
| **mothergraduate** | 7,378 | 0.0371374 | 0.1891113 | 0 | 1 |
| **farbelowaverage16** | 7,378 | 0.0642451 | 0.2452056 | 0 | 1 |
| **belowavgincome16** | 7,378 | 0.1574953 | 0.3642918 | 0 | 1 |
| **avgincome16** | 7,378 | 0.2744646 | 0.4462743 | 0 | 1 |
| **aboveavgincome16** | 7,378 | 0.0993494 | 0.2991509 | 0 | 1 |
| **faraboveaverage16** | 7,378 | 0.0135538 | 0.115637 | 0 | 1 |
| **protestant** | 7,378 | 0.4995934 | 0.5000337 | 0 | 1 |
| **catholic** | 7,378 | 0.2378693 | 0.4258076 | 0 | 1 |
| **nonreligious** | 7,378 | 0.1696937 | 0.3753889 | 0 | 1 |
| **jewish** | 7,378 | 0.0192464 | 0.1373992 | 0 | 1 |
| **otherreligion** | 7,378 | 0.0109786 | 0.1042091 | 0 | 1 |
| **buddhist** | 7,378 | 0.0078612 | 0.0883203 | 0 | 1 |
| **hinduist** | 7,378 | 0.0037951 | 0.0614913 | 0 | 1 |
| **othereasterneligion** | 7,378 | 0.0009488 | 0.0307895 | 0 | 1 |
| **islamist** | 7,378 | 0.0046083 | 0.0677324 | 0 | 1 |
| **orthodoxchristian** | 7,378 | 0.0042017 | 0.0646884 | 0 | 1 |
| **christian** | 7,378 | 0.0326647 | 0.1777695 | 0 | 1 |
| **nativeamerican** | 7,378 | 0.0009488 | 0.0307895 | 0 | 1 |

1. Amato, Paul R. "Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments." Wiley Online Library. N.p., 18 June 2010. Web. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www3.norc.org/GSS+Website/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)