

Ties that Bind Across Racial Lines: Perceived Kin Support across Mixed-Race and Monoracial Families

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Interracial Unions, Children, and Families: We are family...aren't we?

- Interracial families represent a substantial share of American families housing children.
 - Increase in intermarriages and cohabitations (Qian and Lichter 2011), growth in population of multiracial youth (Humes et al 2011)



- Where are interracial “kin”?
 - Roughly 1/5th of adults are connected to a multiracial kin network (Goldstein 1999)
 - Narrative of kin relations as *strained* (Da Costa 2006) or *absent* (Rosenfeld and Kim 2005)
 - Extended kin are critical source of social support to couples (Harknett and Knab 2007; Sarkisian and Gerstal 2004; Stack and Burton 1993; Radey and Padilla 2009)
- **How Supportive are Mixed-Kin?**

Kin Support and Race: Race & Mixed Race Patterns

- **Kin Support as a Race/Ethnic Specific Practice?**
 - Race/ethnic differences reflecting “need” and “norms” (Stack and Burton 1993; Haxton and Harknett 2007; Radey and Padilla 2009)
 - **“Do I feel supported?” –*Perceived Support***
 - Perception of instrumental support (as opposed to provision) separates availability from need (Harknett and Knab 2007; Sarkisian and Gerstal 2004 ; Stack and Burton 1993)
- **Dynamics of mixed-kin may also be unique to specific race/ethnic community boundaries**

Do families housing mixed-race children have less access to support from extended-kin?

- Are **mothers** with biracial children, compared to other mothers, more likely to perceive support from family is unavailable to them during their children's first year?
- Does this vary by race/ethnic background of the mother?

Data:

Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study

- Longitudinal sample of 4,898 women who just gave birth (between 1998-2000), who live in large metropolitan areas (pop \leq 200,000).
 - Oversample of unmarried mothers
- Analysis draws from one-year follow up (N=3,901)
 - Eleven percent lost due to attrition from baseline to year 1.
 - Includes observations with valid information on race/ethnicity of mother & father, and independent and dependent variables.

Table 1. Distribution of Interracial partnership by Mother's Race (Baseline)

<i>Panel A. Total Sample</i>	Mother's Race		
	White	Black	Hispanic
Same race	77.7	92.5	83.6
Interracial	22.3	7.6	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
As of Year 1	876	1,828	1,048

*Excludes 153 mothers who are Asian, American Indian/Aleut, or Pacific Islander

Source:: Fragile Families Child Wellbeing Study at Baseline

Table 1. Distribution of Father's Race by Mother's Race for Interracial families (Baseline)

Child's Father's Race	Mother's Race		
	White	Black	Hispanic
White	<i>n/a</i>	10.8	31.9
Black	34.9	<i>n/a</i>	54.7
Hispanic	50.3	57.9	<i>n/a</i>
Other	14.9	31.2	13.3
Total	100	100	100
Sample Size	198	140	173

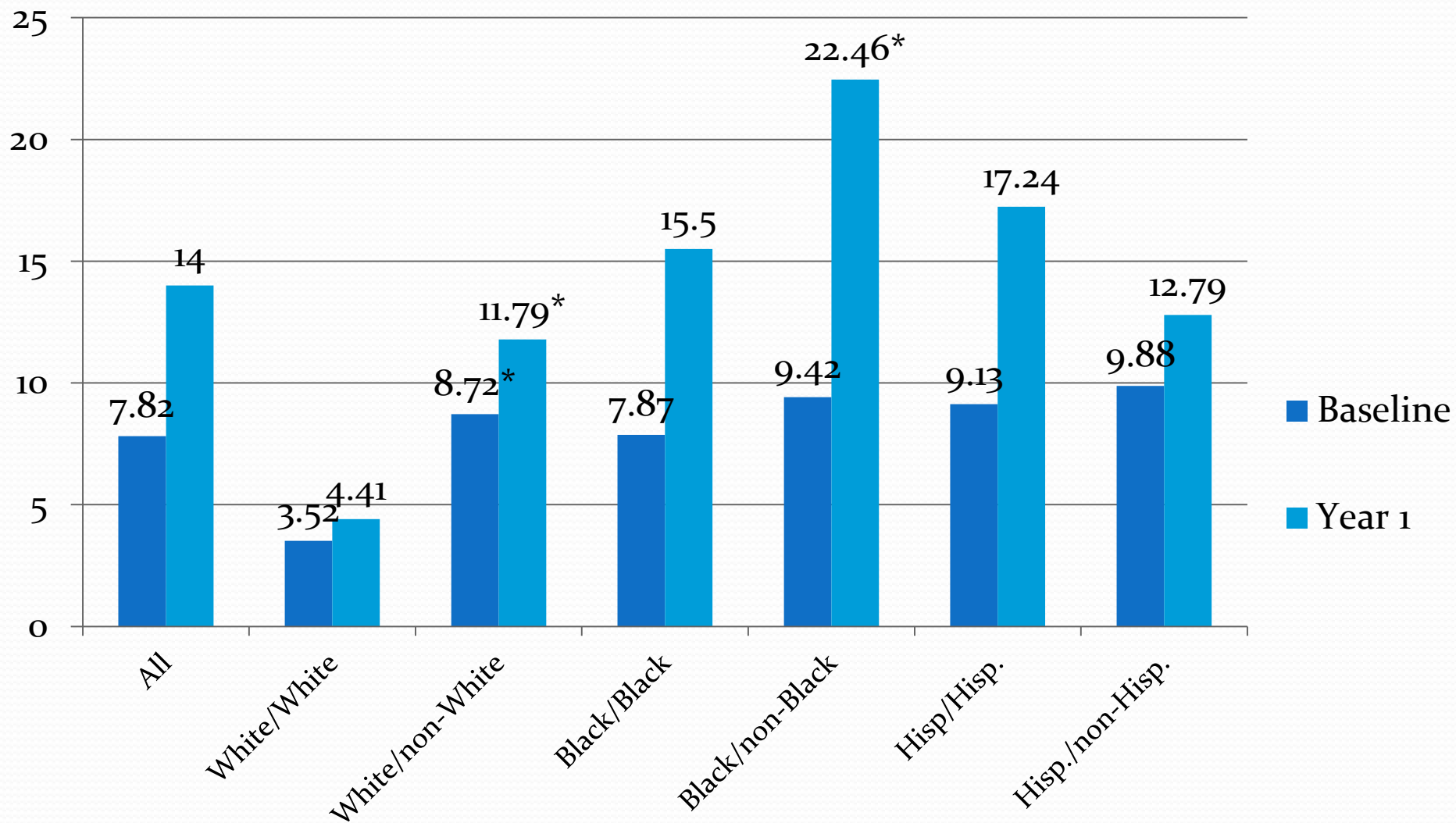
*Percentages calculated among mothers whose children have different race fathers. Source: Fragile Families Child Wellbeing Study at Baseline (unweighted)

Dependent Variable:

Odds of Perceiving support as “not available”

- (Baseline) During the next year, if you needed help, could you count on someone in your family to (yes/no):
 - Loan you \$200.00
 - **Provide a place to live**
 - Help you with babysitting or child care
- (Year 1) Is there someone you could count on to provide you with a place to live? (yes/no)?

Figure 1. Percent Perceiving support unavailable by racial combination of mother & father for baseline & Year 1



Control Variables

- *Ties to father*
 - Multi-partner fertility
 - Relationship status to father
- *Mother's Family background*
 - Grandmother's education
 - Mother Lived with both parents at age 15
- *Mother's Socioeconomic Profile*
 - Mother's Education & Employment
 - Father's employment
- *Mother's Demographic characteristics*
 - Age, Immigrant status (Latinos models)

Multivariate model

- Logistic Regression models predicting
 - odds of “no support” (ref=support avail.) at baseline & year 1
- Model 1= interracial partner
- Model 2= Interracial partner status + Ties with father
- Model 3: Interracial partner status+ ...+ Grandmother's ed+ Demog/SES of mother+ employment of father

Table 2. Results of Logistic Regression Predicting Lack of Perceived Support among White Mothers (Ref.: Support Available)

Independent Var.	Baseline			Year 1 Follow-Up		
	Model I	Model II	Model III	Model I	Model II	Model III
Race of Father (ref=same race)						
Non-White	2.614**	1.766	1.596	2.902***	2.078*	1.993*
Controls						
<i>Multiple Partners/Fertility Status</i> (Ref.: No Other Children)						
Other Child with Same Father		2.722*	2.210+		1.655	1.450
Other Child Different Father		4.197***	3.340**		4.888***	4.448***
Lived with Both Parents at 15			0.465*			0.718
Mother's Age			1.075*			1.021
<i>Mother's Education</i> (Ref.: Less than H.S.)						
High School			0.669			0.947
Any College			0.627			0.913
Mother Employed			1.339			0.664
Child's Father Employed			0.310*			0.483
N	876	876	876	876	876	876
pseudo R-sq	0.024	0.084	0.128	0.031	0.098	0.114

Exponentiated coefficients; +p<.10, *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

(Relationship Status to Father and Grandmother's Education Suppressed)

Source: Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, Baseline and Year 1 Follow-Up

Table 3. Results of Logistic Regression Predicting Lack of Perceived Support among Black Mothers (Ref.: Support Available)

Independent Var.	Baseline			Year 1 Follow-Up		
	Model I	Model II	Model III	Model I	Model II	Model III
Race of Father (ref=same race)						
Non-Black	1.218	1.341	1.391	1.579*	1.733*	1.862**
Controls						
<i>Multiple Partners/Fertility</i>						
<i>Status (Ref.: No Other Children)</i>						
Other Child with Same Father		2.794***	2.292**		2.122***	1.725**
Other Child Different Father		3.581***	2.733***		2.495***	1.899***
Lived with Both Parents at 15			0.755			0.739+
Mother's Age			1.044**			1.037**
<i>Mother's Education</i>						
<i>(Ref.: Less than H.S.)</i>						
High School			0.691+			0.732*
Any College			0.584*			0.480***
Mother Employed			1.018			0.918
Child's Father Employed			0.724			0.780
N	1828	1828	1828	1828	1828	1828
pseudo R-sq	0.000	0.039	0.059	0.003	0.027	0.062

Exponentiated coefficients; +p<.10, *p<.05, **p<..01, ***p<.001

(Relationship Status to Father and Grandmother's Education Suppressed)

Source: Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, Baseline and Year 1 Follow-Up

Table 4. Results of Logistic Regression Predicting Lack of Perceived Support among Hispanic Mothers (Ref.: Support Available)

Independent Var.	Baseline			Year 1 Follow-Up		
	Model I	Model II	Model III	Model I	Model II	Model III
Race of Father (ref=same race)						
Non-Hispanic	1.091	1.085	1.699	0.704	0.700	1.005
Controls						
<i>Multiple Partners/Fertility Status (Ref.: No Other Children)</i>						
Other Child with Same Father		1.274	0.936		1.331	1.021
Other Child Different Father		2.342**	1.477		1.883**	1.341
Lived with Both Parents at 15			0.497**			0.758
Mother's Age			1.073***			1.058***
<i>Mother's Education (Ref.: Less than H.S.)</i>						
High School			0.651			0.534**
Any College			0.426*			0.567*
Mother Employed			0.891			0.679*
Child's Father Employed			0.730			0.772
<i>Nativity (Ref.: US born)</i>						
Second generation			0.802			1.483
Immigrant			2.558***			1.758**
N	1048	1048	1048	1048	1048	1048
pseudo R-sq	0.000	0.022	0.107	0.002	0.013	0.075

Exponentiated coefficients; +p<.10, *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

(Relationship Status to Father and Grandmother's Education Suppressed)

Source: Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, Baseline and Year 1 Follow-Up

Do mothers of biracial children have distinctive support from extended kin?

- **Perception of support varies by *Race* ...**
 - Substantial shares of Black & Latina mothers perceive they could not find a place to live during the first year of their child's life.
- **But *Mixed Race families are still distinctive..mostly***
 - White and Black women with Mixed-race children *are more* likely, than their peers, to perceive support as unavailable,
 - *Time Dimension*: Differences between mono- mixed-race are most apparent at year 1
 - No differences by mixed-race status for Hispanic mothers

Implications

- Boundary blurring may be shifting norms around kin support
 - Despite long tradition of kin support among Black families, Black women with mixed-race children perceive less support.
- Dynamics of interracial unions need to move beyond marriage to capture the roles that racial boundaries play on family relationships.
 - Many of these dynamics would be invisible to analyses that focus on stable residential relationships
- Salience of interracial relationships depends on community in question as boundaries may have little to no salience for some groups (i.e. Hispanics)
 - May point to assimilation as boundaries become less relevant for Hispanics

Thank you for your
attention!!

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