

Title	Intergenerational Patterns of Union Formation and Marital Quality: New Results from the NSFH 3		
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Abstract	<p>About 40 percent of American children growing up in the 1980s and 1990s experienced the breakup of their parents' marriages. Many of today's young adults lived through parents' cohabitation following a divorce, as well as parental remarriage. This paper explores the ramifications of fluidity in origin family structure on the romantic relationships of today's youth. We examine whether young adults from disrupted families have different relationship trajectories than those who spent their childhood in intact families. We differentiate between various types of parental relationships that can follow upon a divorce, such as remarriage (preceded or not by cohabitation), cohabitation, or no coresidential relationship. We further extend the contribution of this paper by exploring the association between perceived relationship quality of parents and young adult children's type of union and reported relationship quality.</p> <p>Data are from Waves I and II of the National Survey of Families and Households, and from the newly released wave III of the NSFH collected in 2002, which provides information on focal children's early adult relationships. Preliminary results indicate that parental marital transitions exert different effects for men and women. Parental remarriage significantly increases men's odds of being married themselves, whereas it does not have a similar effect for women. Parents' relationship quality also impacts young adults' relationships – if they are married. Parental disagreement increases focal children's level of disagreement with their current partner, and elevates their perceptions that their own marriages will end in divorce. We therefore find considerable evidence of intergenerational transmission of family patterns.</p>		