**WHO ARE EMPTY NESTERS?**

Empty Nesters, are parents of adult children who have moved out (presumably to establish their own homes). They are defined largely by the absence of coresident children. Per the 2014 SIPP Wave 1 data, there are roughly 22.5 million Empty Nest couples in the United States.

**WHY CARE ABOUT FERTILITY IN EMPTY NESTS?**

Empty Nest couples are generally defined by the absence of their children. However, the absent children matter because adult children provide social, economic, and medical support to aging parents (Jennings, Perry, & Valeriani, 2014). Moreover, as more adults recouple over the lifespan, shared and non-shared fertility has been shown to matter for the level of support, and the sense of family cohesion (Kalmijn, 2013 and 2015).

**SAMPLE & DIMENSIONS OF COUPLE-LEVEL FERTILITY**

The Empty Nest sample consists of opposite-sex couples with only adult children with whom they do not live. In order to be in the sample, all of a parent's children must be 18 years old or older. To examine the correlates of shared and non-shared fertility, I divide these couples into three groups:

1. Empty Nest parent couples in which all children are shared
2. Empty Nest parent couples in which some (but not all) children are shared
3. Empty Nest parent couples in which no children are shared

These distinctions are made possible by new data from the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), which includes a complete fertility history for all adult respondents, including new questions to ascertain shared fertility between members of a coresident couple.

**ABOUT THE SIPP**

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the Census Bureau that collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility and participation in government assistance programs. For more information, please visit the SIPP website at www.census.gov/sipp.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THESE DATA**

Survey data are subject to error arising from a variety of sources. For information on sampling and nonsampling error see: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-statements.html. For additional information about methods and response rates, see: http://www.census.gov/sipp/tech-documentation/methods-reports.html. For more information on how the sample was selected, see: http://www.census.gov/sipp/tech-documentation/selection.html. For more information on the SIPP sample size and weights, see: http://www.census.gov/sipp/tech-documentation/sample-size-weighting.html.

**RESEARCH QUESTION:**

How are Empty Nesters different based on their shared and non-shared fertility?

**TABLE 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Couples with all children shared</th>
<th>Couples with some shared children</th>
<th>Couples with no shared children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult respondents, including new questions to ascertain shared fertility between members of a coresident couple.</td>
<td>Almost 40% of Empty Nest couples do not share any children.</td>
<td>Couples with no shared children are more likely to be racially or ethnically homogamous than are other couples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples with all children shared are the majority of Empty Nest couples.</td>
<td>Couples with no shared children are more likely to be food insecure than Empty Nest couples who share all children.</td>
<td>Couples who share some but not all of their children are more likely to be Black in couples with no shared children.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Couples who share all children are more likely to be racially or ethnically homogamous than are other couples.</td>
<td>Couples with no shared children are more likely to be food insecure than Empty Nest couples who share all children.</td>
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Almost 40% of Empty Nest couples do not share any children.

**FIGURE 2:**

Couples with all children shared are the majority of Empty Nest couples.

**FIGURE 3:**

Couples who share all children are more likely to be food insecure than Empty Nest couples who share all children.

**FIGURE 4:**

Couples with no shared children are more likely to be food insecure than Empty Nest couples who share all children.

**FIGURE 5:**

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Couples with all children shared are the majority of Empty Nest couples.

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Couples who share all children are more likely to be food insecure than Empty Nest couples who share all children.

**FIGURE 8:**

Couples with no shared children are more likely to be food insecure than Empty Nest couples who share all children.

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