

I. Expanding Data and the Definition of Families

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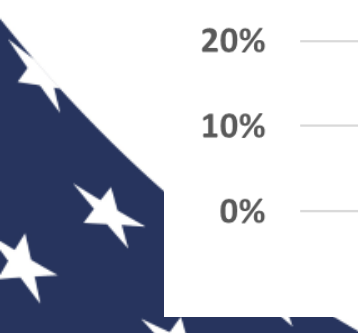
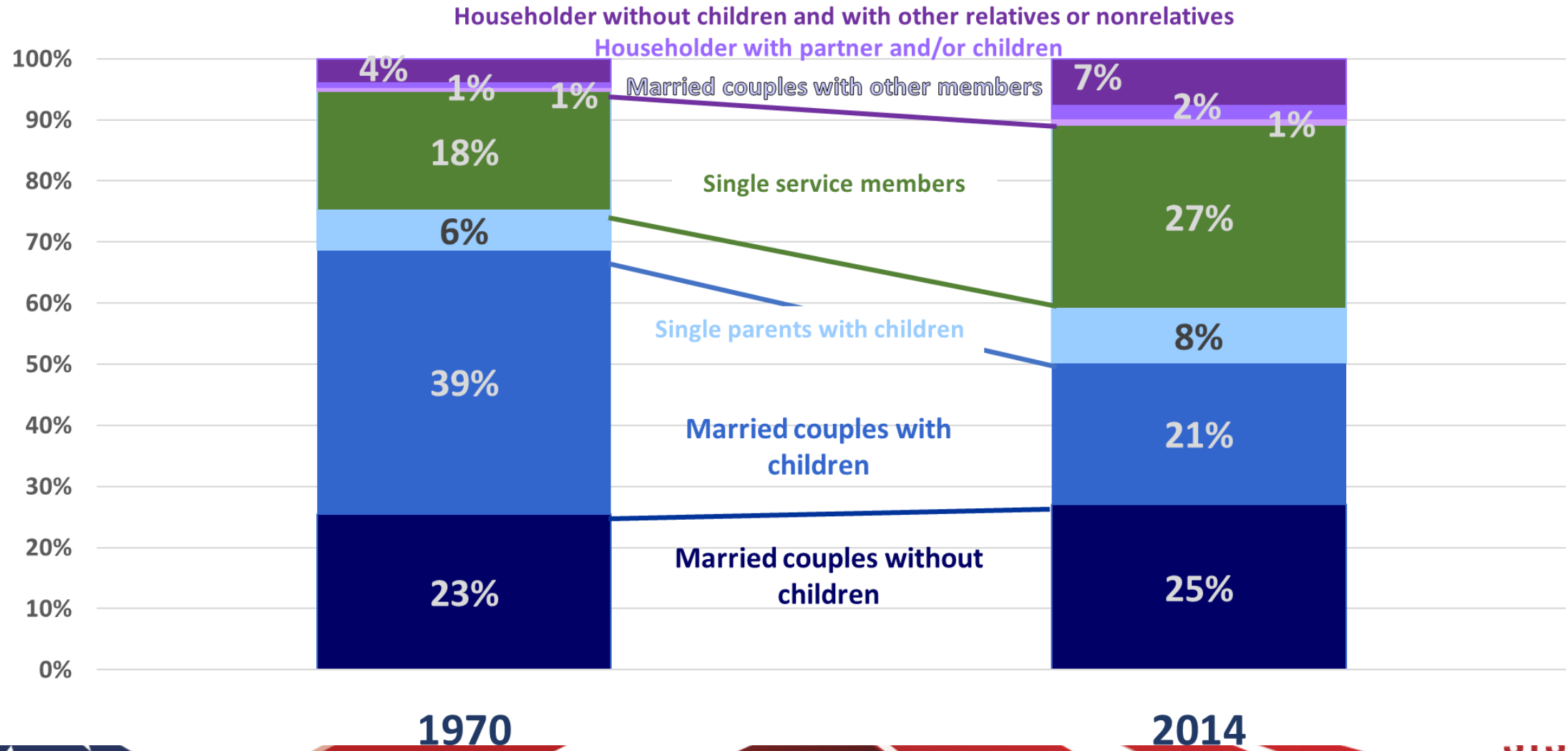
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Study Sponsor:
Office of Military Community and Family Policy
U.S. Department of Defense

Growing Family Diversity



SOURCE: <https://flowingdata.com/2016/08/09/household-types-then-and-now/>
Data was from the one-year American Community Survey from 2014, made more accessible by the [Integrated Public Use Microdata Series](#).

Key Issues to Consider

- **WHO** provides care and support for service members, both married and unmarried?
- **WHO** should be the targets of the Military Family Readiness System?
- **WHICH** parts of the Military Family Readiness System can address which parts of service members' support systems?

RECOMMENDATION 2: To establish policies, procedures, and programs that will better support military family readiness, the Department of Defense should

- (1) take immediate steps to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the diversity of today's military families and their needs, well-being, and readiness to support service members; and**
- (2) develop policies and procedures to continuously improve and strengthen the information it collects, analyzes, and publicly reports about service members and their families to keep pace with societal, organizational, and operational changes.**

Recommendation #2: CONCLUSION: Data Collection and Analyses May Not Fully Reflect Changing Military Families

- The Department of Defense's existing data on military families may be insufficient for understanding societal shifts in family structure. Existing reports lack information on, for example:
 - long-term nonmarital partners
 - parents of Service members
 - ex-spouses and ex-partners
 - others who play a significant role in the care of Service members and military children
 - family well-being among racial and ethnic minority groups

Recommendation #2: Goal and **Actions**

- Establish policies, procedures, and programs that will better support military family readiness, and keep pace with societal, organizational and operational changes.
- Take immediate steps to gain more comprehensive understanding of diversity of today's military families and their needs, well-being, and readiness to support service members
- Develop policies and procedures to continuously improve and strengthen information it collects, analyzes, and publicly reports about service members and their families

DISCUSSION

Strengthening the
**MILITARY FAMILY
READINESS SYSTEM**
for a Changing American Society

