

The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study changed its name to The Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS). Due to the issue date of this document, FFCWS will be referenced by its former name. Any further reference to FFCWS should kindly observe this name change.

Multiple Partners and Multiple Partner Fertility in Fragile Families

Laura Tach
Harvard University

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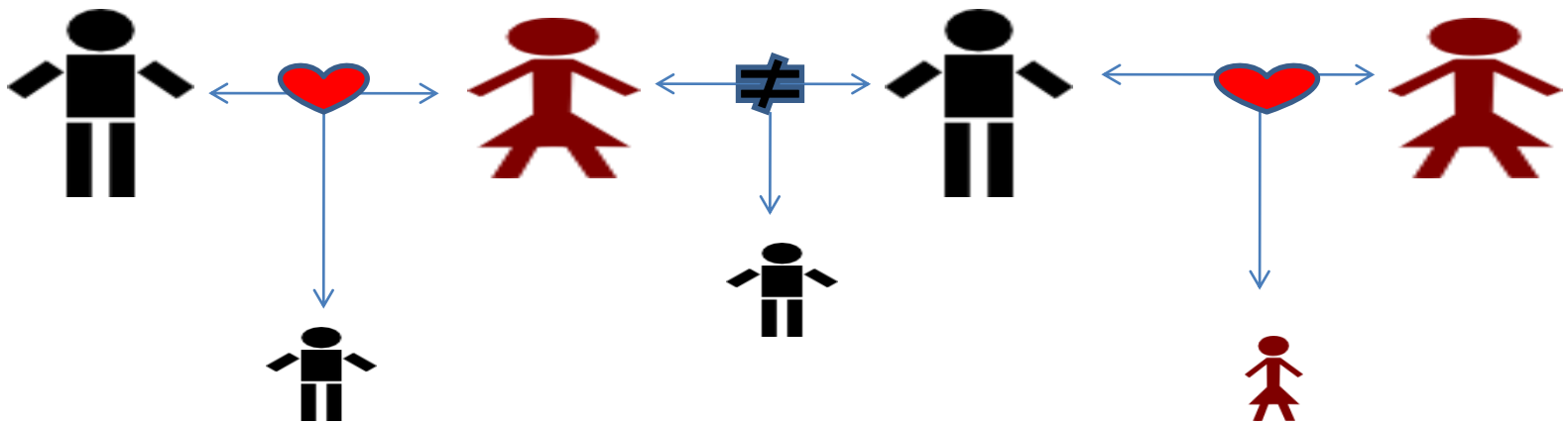
Sara McLanahan
Princeton University

Fragile Families Working Paper
WP11-10-FF

*The following figures were prepared for the Family Task Force Meeting at Brookings Institution on February 10th, 2011.

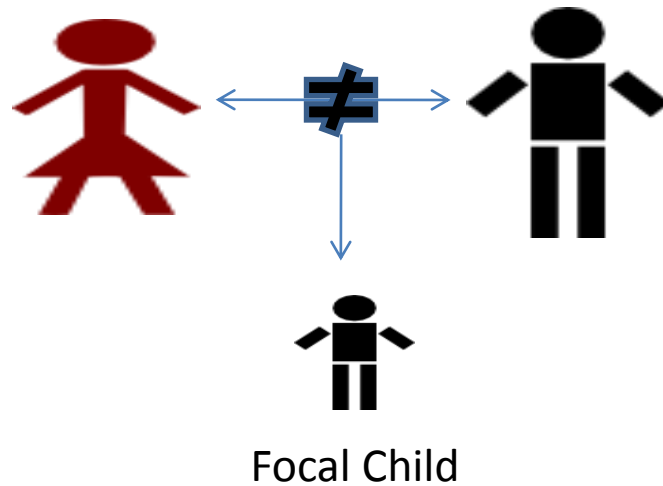
A Closer Look at Unmarried Families:

Children's Experiences of Relationship Instability
and Family Complexity

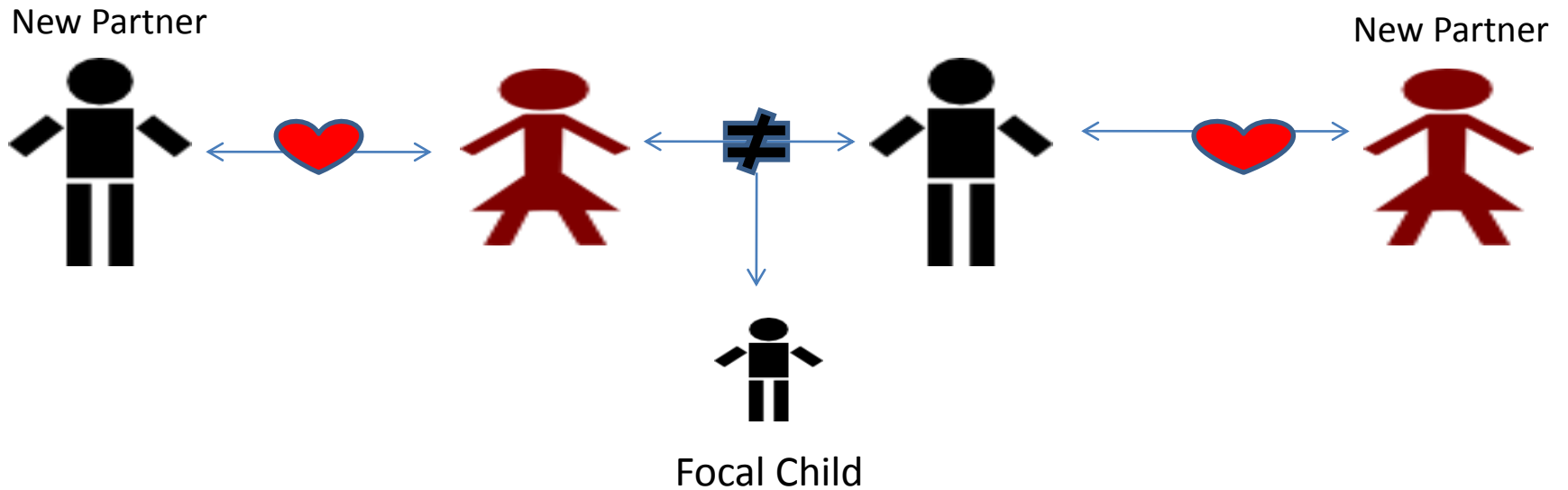


Family Taskforce Meeting
Brookings Institution
Feb 10th, 2011

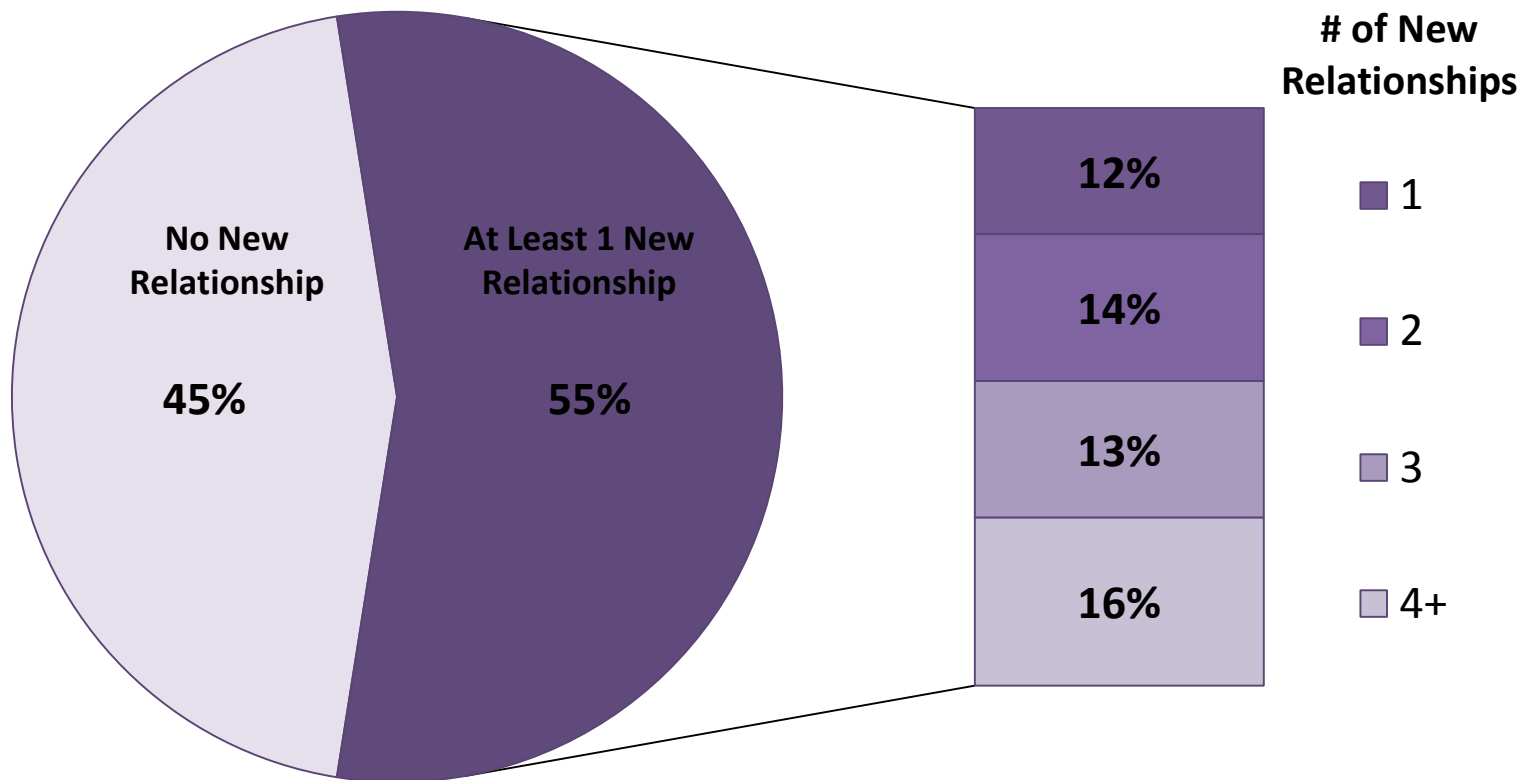
Part 1: Relationship Instability



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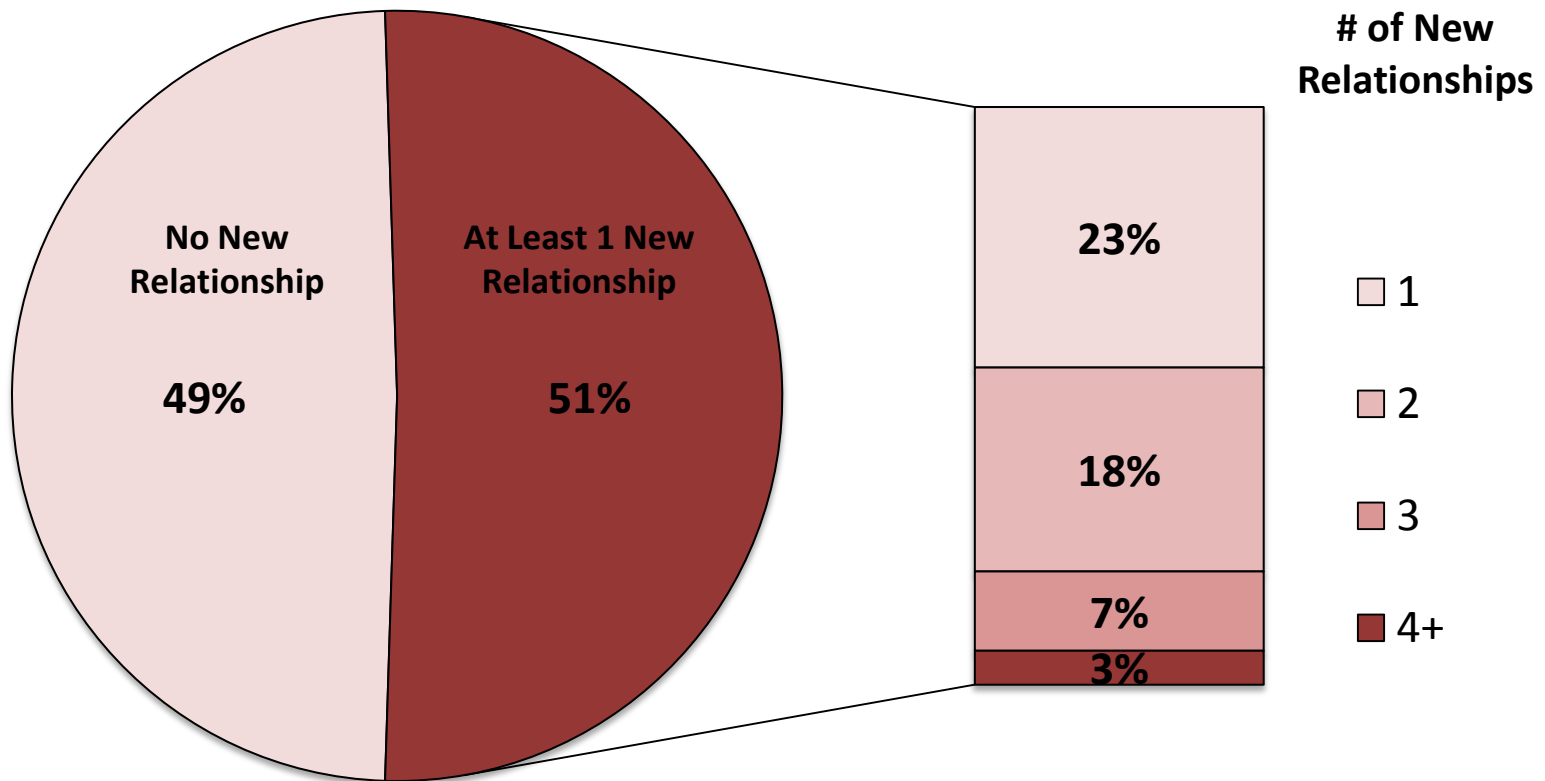


Total New Parental Romantic Relationships in Fragile Families, by Child's 5th Birthday



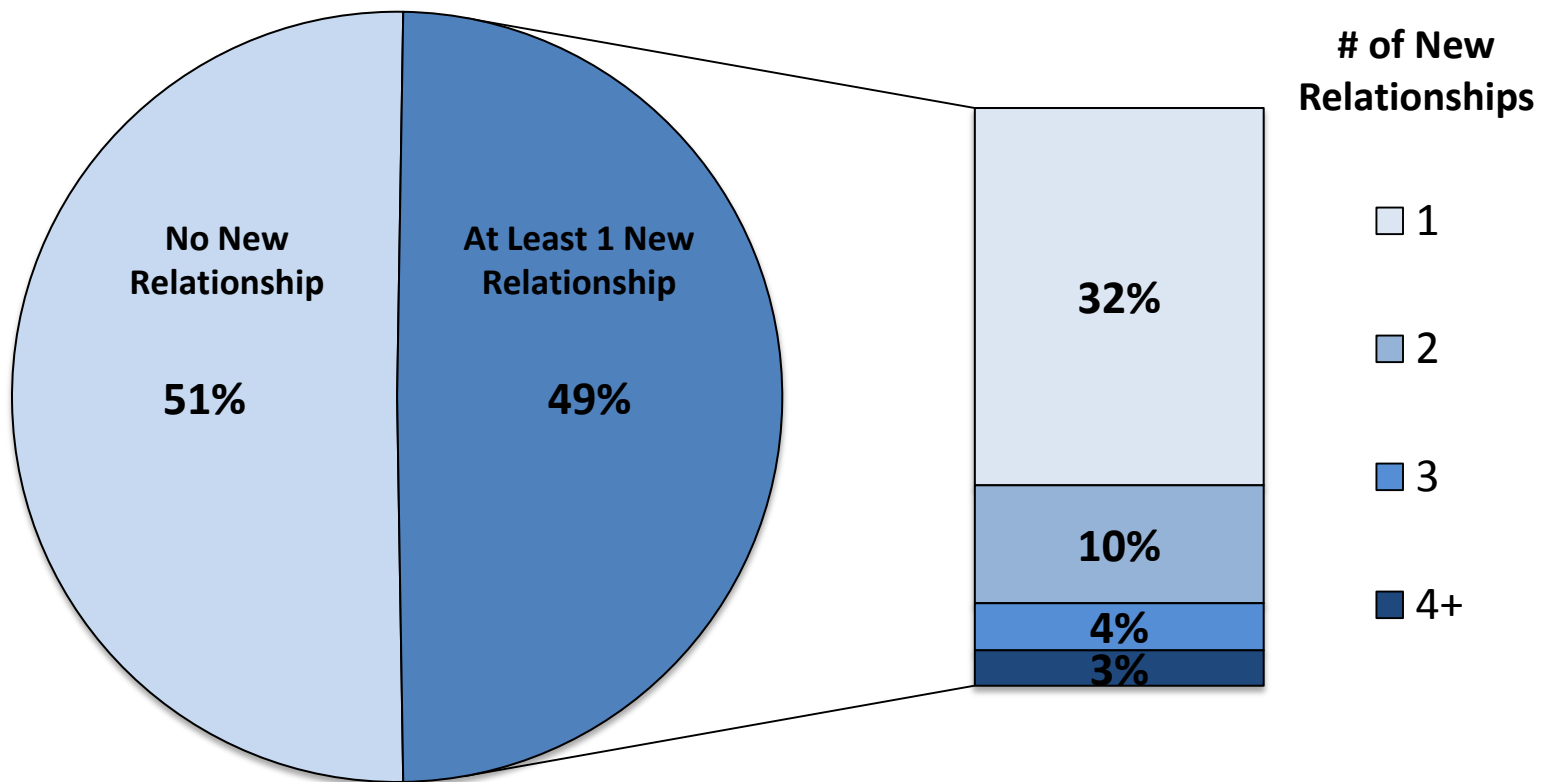
Source: Tabulated by Dr. Laura Tach from Waves 1-4 of the Fragile Families & Child Wellbeing Survey, a nationally representative sample of children born in the late 1990s in cities with populations of 200,000 or more. Counts total number of mothers' and fathers' new romantic relationships that lasted at least three months. Fragile Families are defined as biological parents who were unmarried at time of birth.

Mother's New Romantic Relationships in Fragile Families by Child's 5th Birthday



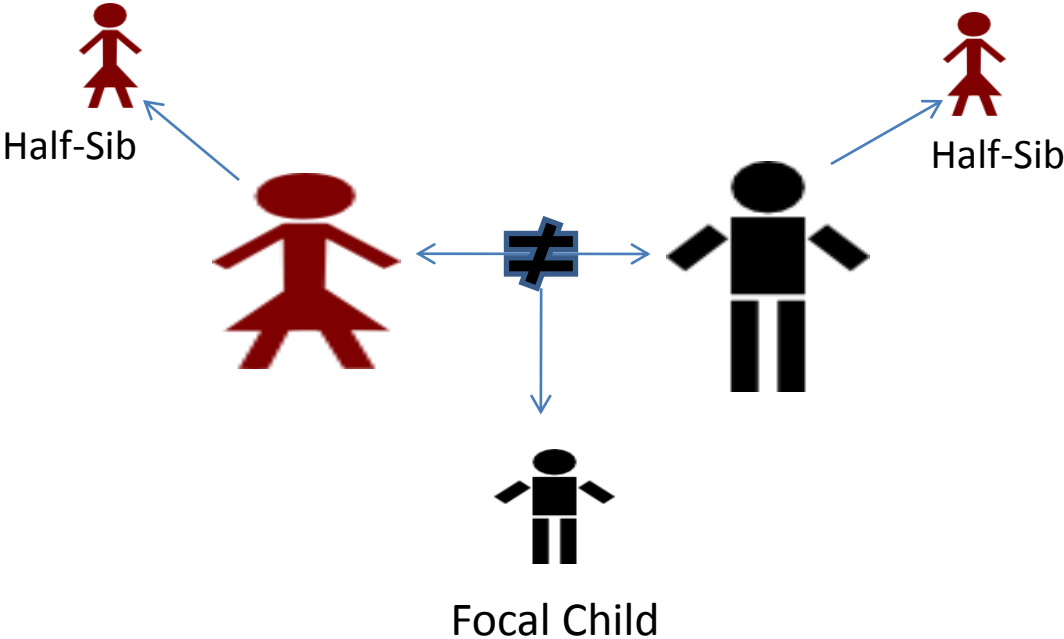
Source: Tabulated by Dr. Laura Tach from Waves 1-4 of the Fragile Families & Child Wellbeing Survey, a nationally representative sample of children born in the late 1990s in cities with populations of 200,000 or more. Counts total number of mothers' new romantic relationships that lasted at least three months. Fragile Families are defined as biological parents who were unmarried at time of birth.

Father's New Romantic Relationships in Fragile Families by Child's 5th Birthday

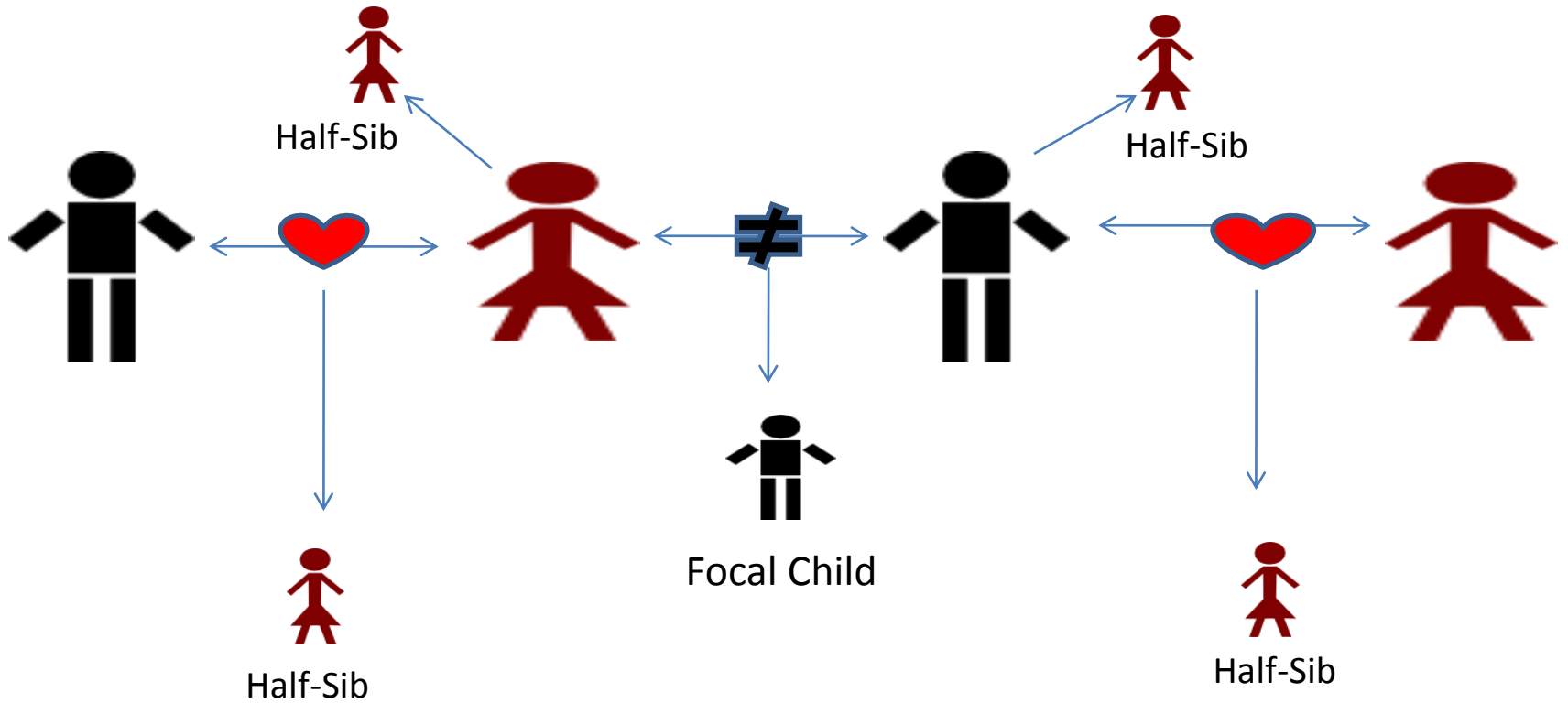


Source: Tabulated by Dr. Laura Tach from Waves 1-4 of the Fragile Families & Child Wellbeing Survey, a nationally representative sample of children born in the late 1990s in cities with populations of 200,000 or more. Counts total number of fathers' new romantic relationships that lasted at least three months. Fragile Families are defined as biological parents who were unmarried at time of birth.

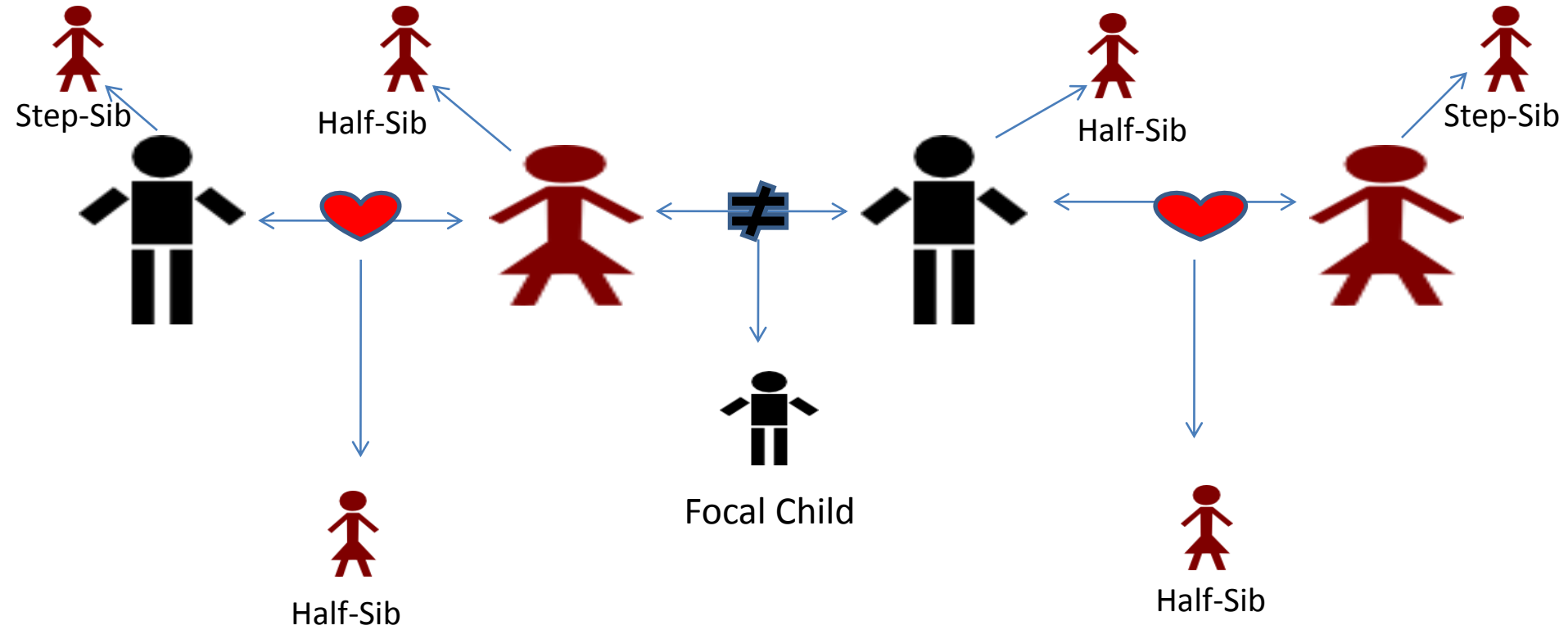
Part 2: Family Complexity



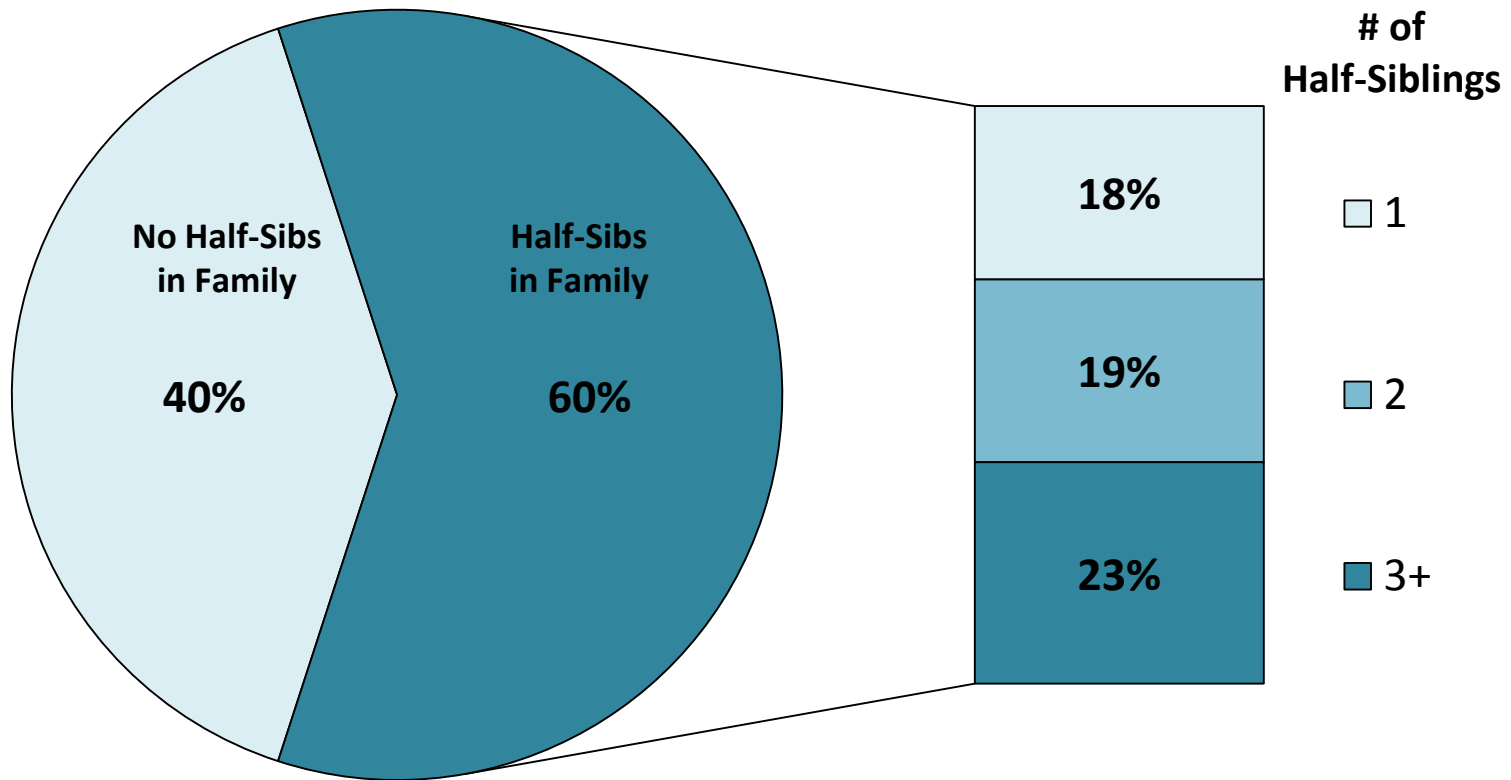
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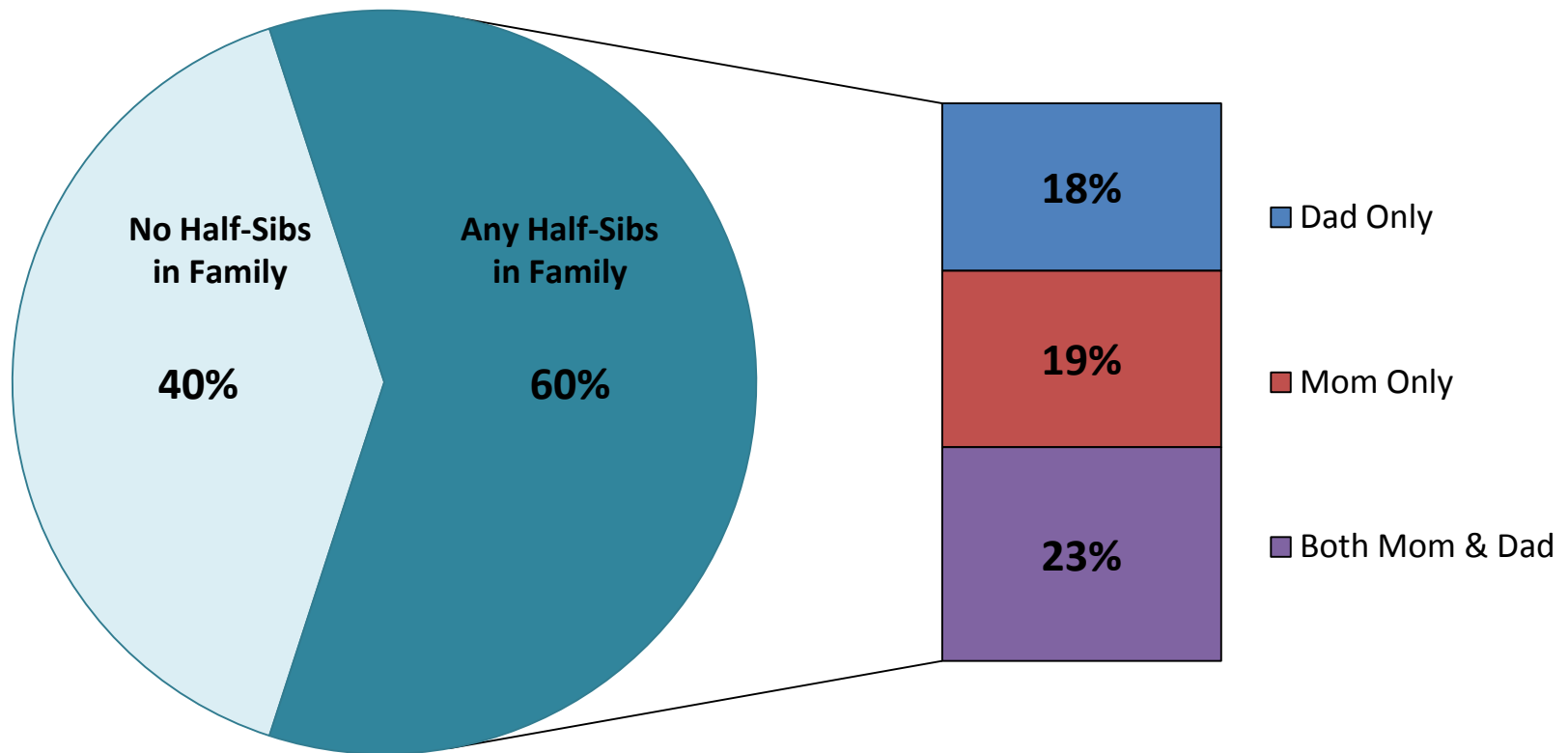


Amount of Multi-Partner Fertility (Half-Sibs) in Fragile Families by Child's 5th Birthday



Source: Tabulated by Dr. Laura Tach from Waves 1-4 of the Fragile Families & Child Wellbeing Survey, a nationally representative sample of children born in the late 1990s in cities with populations of 200,000 or more. Counts total number of half-siblings (biological children of either mother or father, but not both). Fragile Families are defined as biological parents who were unmarried at time of birth.

Type of Multi-Partner Fertility (Half-Sibs) in Fragile Families by Child's 5th Birthday

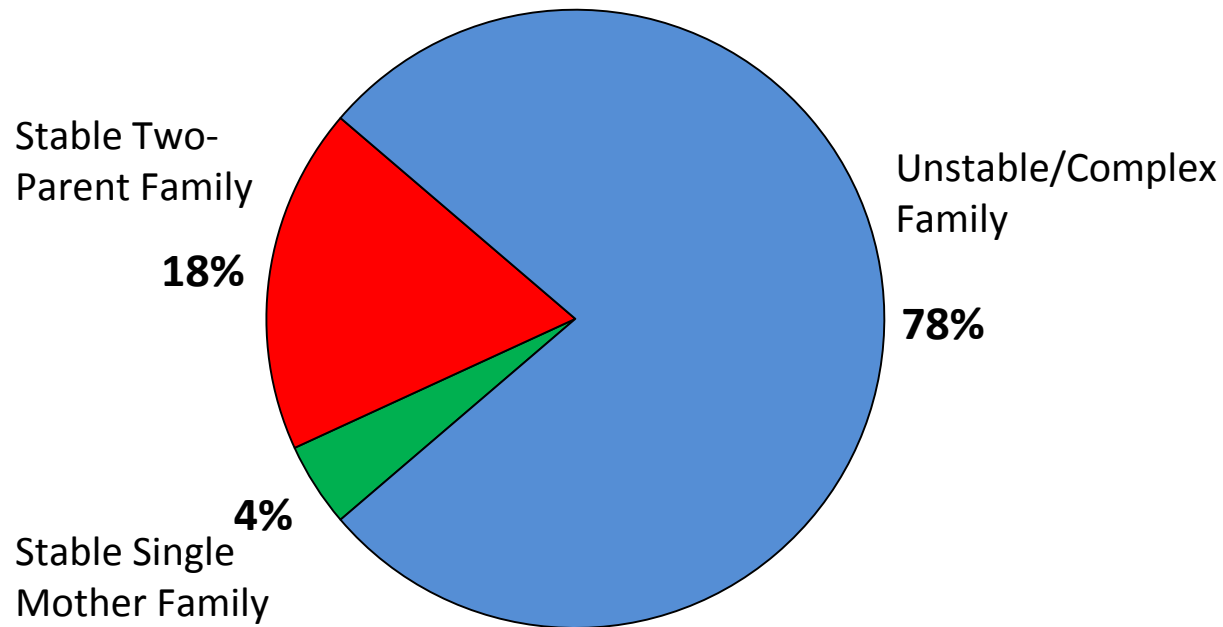


Source: Tabulated by Dr. Laura Tach from Waves 1-4 of the Fragile Families & Child Wellbeing Survey, a nationally representative sample of children born in the late 1990s in cities with populations of 200,000 or more.

Half-siblings are biological children of either mother or father, but not both.

Fragile Families are defined as biological parents who were unmarried at time of birth.

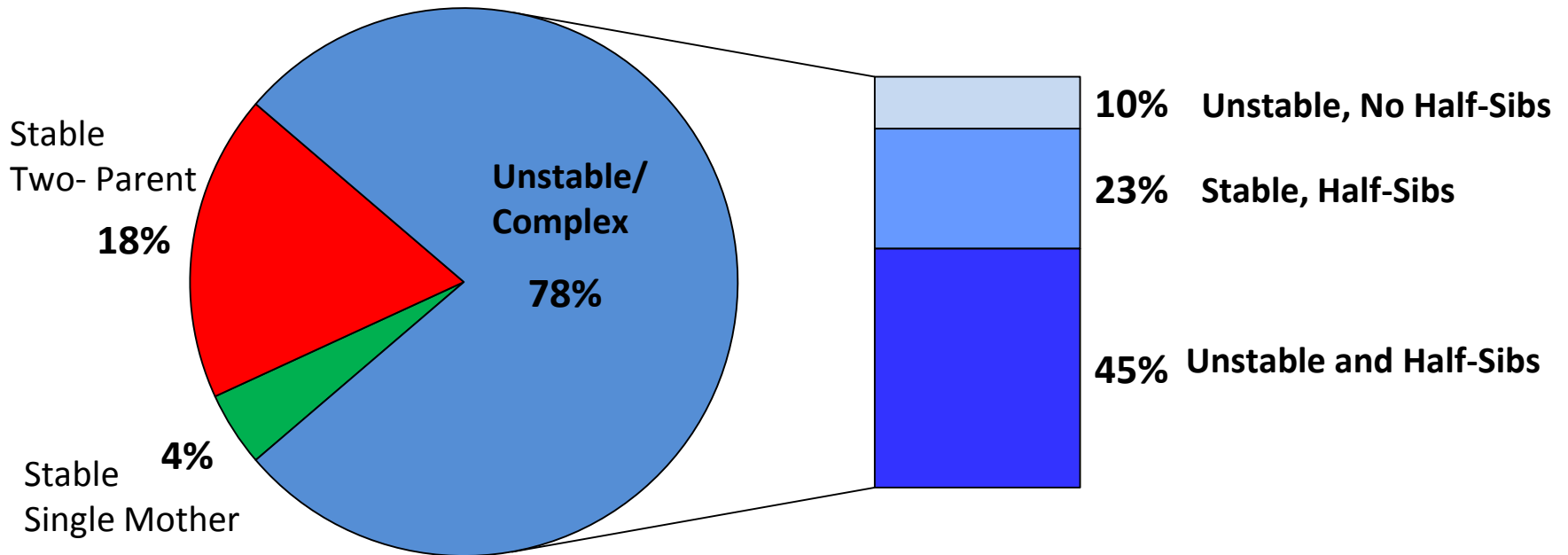
Children's Combined Experiences of Instability and Complexity in Fragile Families by 5th Birthday



Unstable: relationship between biological parents ends and/or relationship with new partner begins
Complex: one or more parents has children by a different partner

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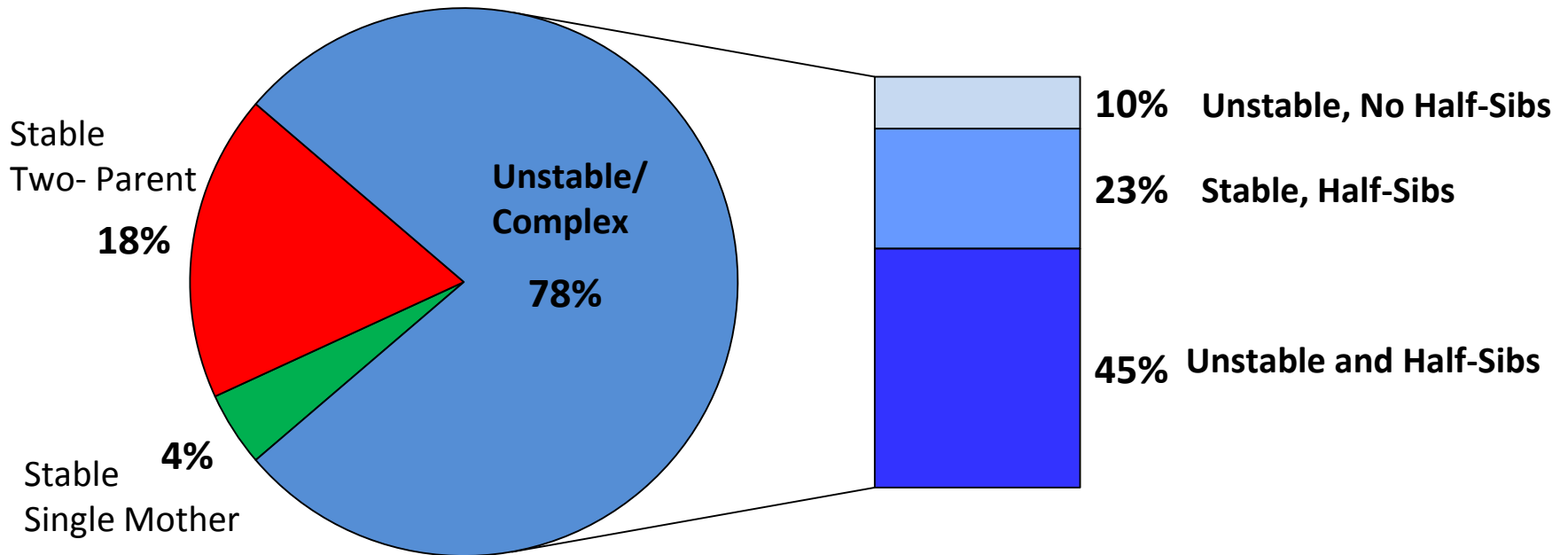
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Children's Combined Experiences of Instability and Complexity in Fragile Families by 5th Birthday



•18% of kids have step-siblings from either mom's or dad's current new partner.

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