

# THE INFLUENCE OF ATTITUDES ON MARRIAGE FORMATION AFTER A NONMARITAL BIRTH: EXPLORING DIFFERENCES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

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*The number of families that begin with a birth in American society continues to increase. Researchers are only recently catching up with this trend and working to provide insight into family formation practices in this group. This article investigates the influence that attitudes have on marriage formation among unmarried African American mothers and examines racial and ethnic variation. I posed the following three main questions: Do African American and White mothers espouse different views toward marriage? Can attitudes help explain racial differences in the rate of marriage? and Do attitudes influence marriage formation differently for African American and White, unmarried mothers? Overall, African American mothers were found to espouse more positive views toward marriage than White mothers. Attitudes could not explain the differences in marriage found by race. However, attitudes toward marriage were useful for predicting marriage among African American mothers, but not among White mothers. Implications for future research are discussed.*