



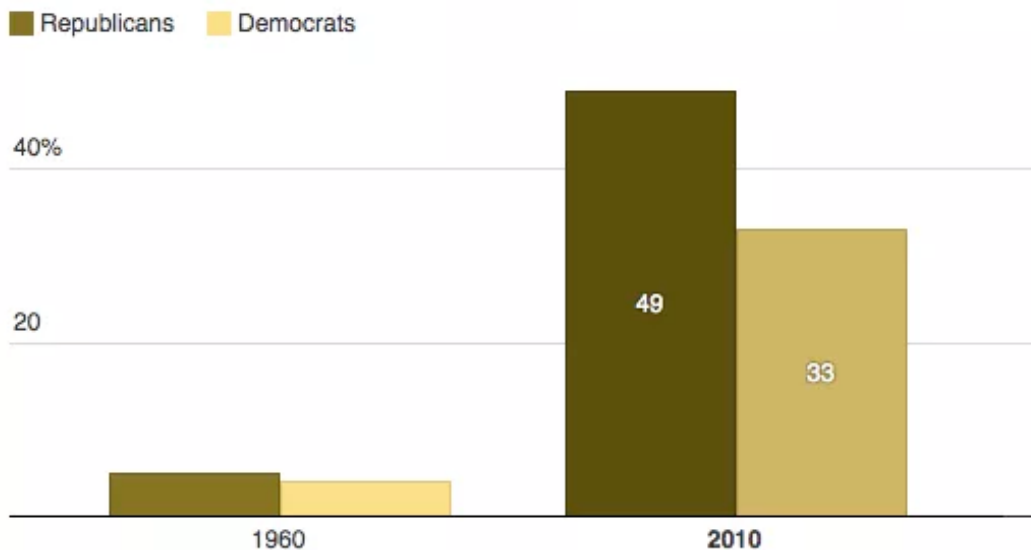
Here's how many Republicans don't want their kids to marry Democrats

Updated by *Andrew Prokop* on September 23, 2014, 8:43 a.m. ET

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In a Monday op-ed for Bloomberg View, Cass Sunstein (<http://www.bloombergvew.com/articles/2014-09-22/partyism-now-trumps-racism>) cites a stat that's pretty remarkable — the number of people who say they'd be "displeased" if their child married someone from the opposite party has soared over the past 50 years:

People who'd be "displeased" if their child married someone from the other political party



Source: Iyengar, Sood, & Lelkes 2012



In 1960, a mere 5 percent of Republican parents would have objected to this, but by 2010, 49 percent said they'd be displeased. Democrats also saw a huge increase, to 33 percent disapproval. This helps explain, for instance, this bumper sticker seen outside Washington, DC's Eastern Market:



(Photo: Eleanor Barkhorn (<http://instagram.com/p/pRfxegzgXW/?modal=true>))

Sunstein's stat comes from a 2012 political science paper (<http://pcl.stanford.edu/research/2012/iyengar-poq-affect-not-ideology.pdf>) by Shanto Iyengar, Gaurav Sood, and Yphtach Lelkes, which found that "both Republicans and Democrats increasingly dislike, even loathe, their opponents." Though the parties have grown increasingly polarized in voting behavior, these researchers argued that the increasing animus wasn't based on policy differences, but rather "the rhetoric of political campaigns" and "the tendency of the media to recycle the candidates' negative messages."

It's worth noting that a Pew survey (<http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/12/family-member-marrying-republican-democrat/>) asking a similar question earlier this year found less dramatic levels of disapproval — 22 percent of Republican parents, and 19 percent of Democratic parents said they'd be

unhappy. However, that question's hypothetical involved "a member of your immediate family" marrying a partisan foe, not specifically the respondent's child. Still, those levels are higher than the 1960 survey found.



dysfunction

What is political polarization?

Political polarization simply measures overlap between the two parties. A high level of political polarization means that Republicans agree with Republicans and that Democrats agree with Democrats.

There was a time, not so long ago, when this wasn't true — when many elected Republicans agreed more with the Democrats than with other Republicans, and vice versa — and leading political scientists

(<http://www.vox.com/cards/congressional-dysfunction/what-is-political-polarization>)

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