



# The Relationship Between Single-Parent and Two-Parent Households and their Financial Well Being Score



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## Introduction

- In 1950 only 5% of kids were born to unmarried parents while in 2014 40% of kids were born to unmarried parents (Kearney, M. S., & Levine, P. B. 2017).
- The median household income from 1992 to 2013 has a \$37,922 difference when comparing married to unmarried mothers (Kearney, M. S., & Levine, P. B. 2017).
- The Panel Study of Income Dynamics reveals that the poverty rate goes from 40% for non-high school single parents to only 4.1% for some college-education single parents (McLanahan, S., & Sandefur, G. D. 1994).

## Research Questions

- How does financial well-being score vary between single and two-parent households?
- Does this relationship differ between those with different education levels?

## Methods

### Sample

- Parents who have distinctions as to whether they are single parents or not (n=1782) were drawn from the National Financial Well-Being, a nationally representative sample of adults in the U.S.

### Measures

- Number of parents was constructed based on the respondents' living arrangements and marital status. If they are unmarried or have no partner or spouse, they are coded as 1. If they live with a parent or are married they are coded as 2.
- Financial Well-Being Score is determined based on respondents' savings, hardships, and credit.
- Education Level is respondents' highest achieved level of education.

## Results

### Univariate

- 85.53% of the dataset is two-parent households while the remainder is single-parent households

### Bivariate

- Anova test shows that there is a significant relationship between number of parents and financial well being score (p=.0001)
- There was shown to be greater financial well-being score for two-parent households opposed to single parent households. (Fig 1.)

### Multivariate

- Multiple Linear Regression showed a significant relationship between financial well-being score and number of parents. There is also a significant relationship between financial well-being score, and education level.
- As number of parents and education levels increases we see an increase in median financial well-being score (Fig 2.)
- For a change from single to two-parent households, we see a 4.6976 increase in financial well-being

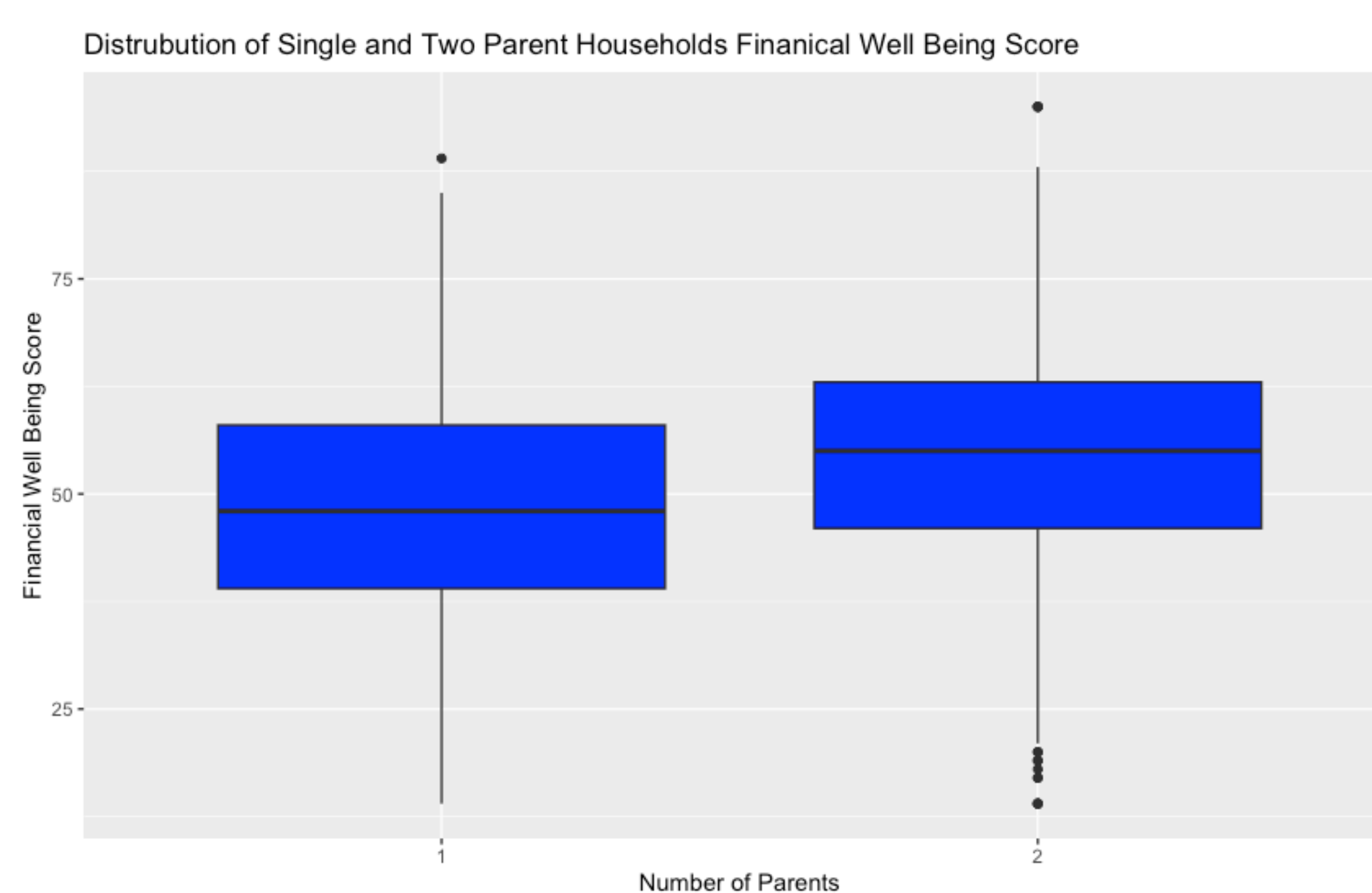


Figure 1: The Distribution of Financial Well Being Score of Single and Two-Parent Households

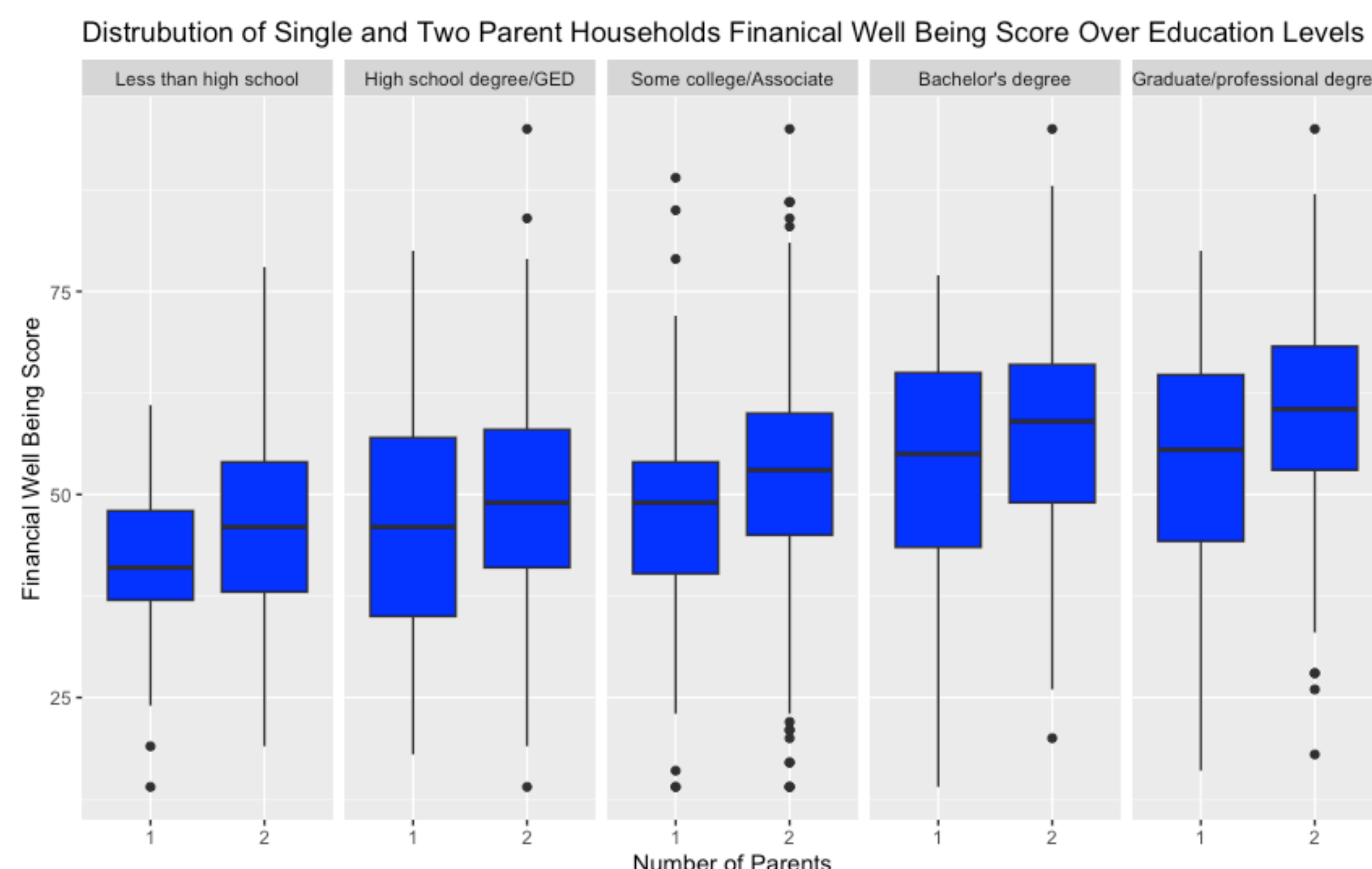


Figure 2: The Distribution of Financial Well Being Score of Single and Two-Parent Households over Education Levels

## Discussion

- As number of parents increases from 1 to 2 and education level increases financial well-being also increases.
- These findings may contribute to research regarding parents and their savings. This is due to savings playing a role in the calculation of financial well-being
- Future research is needed to determine the role that financial well-being plays on the overall well-being and life satisfaction of single parents

## References

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