













When Bad Relatives Happen to Good People

The study collected responses via an online survey of 706 individuals in July of 2009. Margin of error is approximately 3%.

1. Have you ever been to a family reunion or holiday gathering (your family's or your spouse's) that you would describe as "miserable"?		Count	Percent
No		144	18.60%
Yes		630	81.40%
Total		774	100%

2. Which of the following problems have you experienced at a holiday gathering or reunion you've attended?		Count	Percent
Cold Wars—people who dislike each other and avoid one another.		450	14.44%
Factionalism—people who require that you not talk to certain others as a sign of loyalty to them.		159	5.1%
Boredom—events and festivities that drag on way too long (i.e. a family program, etc.).		320	10.27%
Me Monsters—people who showcase their own kids, family, or personal success at the expense of others.		316	10.14%
Politics—people who jockey for position with others and try to curry favor.		181	5.81%
Stress—overplanned activities that distract from just being together.		222	7.12%
Conflict—people who have never gotten along start "acting out."		346	11.1%
Bad Attitudes—people who are grumpy, demanding, or irritable.		507	16.27%
Problem Children—children who are out of control, troublesome, and distracting.		326	10.46%
Under the Influence—people who can't handle their alcohol or drugs – with hilarious or disastrous consequences.		290	9.3%
Total		3117	100%

3. When you think about your last few family gatherings, to what extent were they spoiled by any of the problems previously mentioned (or other family problems we haven't thought of)?		Count	Percent
Not at all		37	4.87%
To a small extent		232	30.57%
To a moderate extent		295	38.87%
To a great extent		138	18.18%
To a very great extent		57	7.51%
		Total	759
			100%

4. To what extent did you get involved in any problem-solving conversations related to any of the problems above—either before, during, or after the get together?		Count	Percent
Not at all		233	30.66%
To a small extent		308	40.53%
To a moderate extent		152	20%
To a great extent		54	7.11%
To a very great extent		13	1.71%
		Total	760
			100%

5. The problem-solving conversations you had most resembled:		Count	Percent
Complaining to my spouse or partner		131	25.39%
Discussing the situation with a relative I know agrees with me		125	24.22%
Talking to everyone except the person(s) at the root of the problem		67	12.98%
Having a candid conversation with the person(s) at the root of the problem		138	26.74%
Confronting a problem-relative about his or her behavior		55	10.66%
		Total	516
			100%

6. To what extent did the problem-solving discussion help to either reduce the problem at the event or for future gatherings?		Count	Percent
Not at all		256	49.9%
To a small extent		172	33.53%
To a moderate extent		62	12.09%
To a great extent		23	4.48%
To a very great extent		0	0%
		Total	513
			100%

7. To what extent do you expect that your next family gathering will be spoiled by the kinds of family problems we've discussed above—or by others we haven't described?		Count	Percent
Not at all		62	8.44%
To a small extent		287	39.05%
To a moderate extent		231	31.43%
To a great extent		105	14.29%
To a very great extent		50	6.8%
Total		735	100%

8. How confident are you in your ability to step in and resolve the kinds of family problems anticipated at your next family reunion?		Count	Percent
Not at all		240	32.74%
To a small extent		254	34.65%
To a moderate extent		192	26.19%
To a great extent		38	5.18%
To a very great extent		9	1.23%
Total		733	100%

9. How many of the problems you experience with your family members do you believe would go away if people knew how to talk candidly, honestly, and respectfully with one another?		Count	Percent
None		26	3.54%
A few		230	31.34%
Most of them		402	54.77%
All of them		76	10.35%
Total		734	100%

10. When you think about the problems you experience at your family gatherings, to what extent are you willing to step in and try and resolve any issue?		Count	Percent
I wouldn't touch them with a 10-foot pole		115	15.75%
I've tried but nothing I do makes a difference		180	24.66%
I'm willing to try, but not sure how to even begin		227	31.1%
I've tried with some success and will continue to intervene		196	26.85%
I've been successful and solving many problems and plan to continue.		12	1.64%
Total		730	100%

11. To what extent are you looking forward to attending your next family reunion or holiday gathering?		Count	Percent
Not at all		121	22.87%
To a small extent		118	22.31%
To a moderate extent		157	29.68%
To a great extent		93	17.58%
To a very great extent		40	7.56%
Total		529	100%