

Winter 3-2022

Child Success and Parental Marital Status: the Impact of Mental Health, Poverty, and Trauma

Cambria Ort

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/honorsthesis>



Part of the [Child Psychology Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Ort, Cambria, "Child Success and Parental Marital Status: the Impact of Mental Health, Poverty, and Trauma" (2022). *University Honors Theses*. Paper 1171.

<https://doi.org/10.15760/honors.1236>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Honors Theses by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

RUNNING HEAD: CHILD SUCCESS AND PARENTAL MARITAL STATUS: THE
IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH, POVERTY, AND TRAUMA

Child Success and Parental Marital Status: the Impact of Mental Health, Poverty, and Trauma.

By

Cambria Ort

An undergraduate honors thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

Bachelor of Science

in

University Honors

Psychology

Thesis Advisor

Melissa Thompson, Ph.D.

Portland State University

2022

Abstract

Children are brought into this world under many different circumstances and to many different families. Some are planned, some are not; all come from families with a range of income, relationship status, and experiences. Throughout a child's life, there can be many changes in the family unit that impact the ways parents are available to care for their children. This includes divorce/separation, incarceration, co-parenting, married life, etc., relationship statuses may change over time. Different life stressors impact the financial wellbeing of a family and parents' ability to spend time with their children. This study used secondary data analysis of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study to study the impacts of parent engagement on child behavior, specifically suspension/expulsion. What was found throughout the study is single parents are more at risk for poverty and the family is more at risk for depressive symptoms and behavioral problems. Children whose fathers were not helping them with school assignments often were more likely to be suspended or expelled. Fathers who are married are more likely to have a higher income. Mothers making over \$20,000 were less likely to often miss their child's event.

Introduction:

Divorce and separation of two people is a topic many do not care to talk about, yet has only become more common throughout the last 20 years. (Census Bureau, 2021) The US Census Bureau reports among ever-married adults 20 years and over 34% of women and 33% of men have been divorced (Census Bureau, 2021). Women who have divorced within the last year are 10% more likely to be in poverty compared to their male counterparts(Census Bureau, 2021). Once couples (married or not) begin to invest their lives more in commitments such as a mortgage, children, individual jobs/goals, many relationships take on a whole new dynamic. That of a loan parent fighting to ensure survival. Other factors such as death and incarceration can influence the absence of a parent, having similar effects as divorce. Separation presents new responsibilities for the primary caregiver of children, and new roles must be taken on to keep providing a comfortable life for the family.

When parents ultimately decide to separate there may be little support financially and psychologically. Without the built-in support system of a two-person household, after a separation or divorce, one parent may find themselves taking on most or all of the responsibilities they had previously shared with their partner. Although this is not always the case and parents may choose to stay close to one another for children, the separation can still influence the amount of engagement one particular parent has in a child's social and school life. When one parent assumes the sole responsibility for their children, they also become the sole caretaker of emotional, social, physical, and financial wellbeing

According to the Oregon Department of Justice, child support is intended to meet the needs of most families. Unfortunately, there are many situations in which the guideline amount is inappropriate, and one caregiver must advocate for a more equitable financial distribution However, there are families for whom the support amount, even renegotiated, is not

sufficient for true equitable support and they rely on mutual agreements between parents when talking about their unique family finances (Oregon DOJ, 2021) According to US Census data, child support only makes up about 5-12% of family income; however, not receiving child support was often a major factor to a family entering poverty (Census Bureau, 2021). Financial support is one influence that can put immense stress on the family; thus influencing the progression of daily lives in the family, allowing for or hindering the sole parent's ability to engage with their children.

When one parent is forced to pick up the slack of a partner who is no longer in the home, it often leads to less engagement in their child's life by both parents. This includes their child's social life, their emotional wellbeing, and most notably their school life and educational career. Parents must engage themselves in many directions to compensate for their new situations. This can lead to the sole parent's mental health often struggling and the children feeling the consequences as well (Størksen et.al., 2005). A longitudinal study found women with divorced parents have elevated levels of depression, and both genders face an increased risk of premarital parenting and divorce (Størksen et.al.,2005). Further sole caregivers are more at risk for mood disorders and lower self-esteem (Størksen et.al.,2005) Emotions play a key role to increasing creativity, problem-solving, and self-efficacy (Cobo et.al., 2020). Depending on a family's resources, often financial or familial, there is still the capability to impact a child's ability to succeed to their fullest potential, even when a parent is faced with the burdens of raising a child alone.

This study uses secondary national data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS), a longitudinal study initiated in 1998-2000, exploring the outcomes of low-

income parents and their children given different life experiences (Lee & Joo, 2020). This study seeks to identify statistically which factors of life impact the child most if parents decide to separate, but all family types will be included in this study to compare different parent relationships. This data is still relevant today because many patterns and similar topics still stand true today in terms of life/family/child-raising and this has been the most comprehensive data available. My research questions are:

Is parent engagement in a child's school life impacted by marital status and income?

Do children with two engaged parents show fewer behavioral temperaments and perform better in school?

Literature Review:

Single-parenthood and health conditions among children receiving public assistance.

Children's physical health can impact the development of adaptive behaviors and learning capacities, both of which are influenced by the life circumstances a child grows up in. Furthermore, a child's wellbeing and health can impact their future economic productivity and mental health (Nishioka, et.al., 2021). As the percentage of single-parent households rises, single parenthood is becoming a risk factor for development of poor health conditions (Nishioka, et.al., 2021). Children are vulnerable to the conditions of their primary caretaker; such as overall lower-income, resulting in food insecurity, and psychological burdens due to the lack of support. Although there are services to provide food support and physical necessities there is still a lack of accessible support for the psychological and social needs of single caregivers. Raising children is difficult enough when a parent is coupled; when one parent is no longer receiving psychological and social support from a partner, the burden of providing those supports often

falls to the child. A primary caregiver may vent to or argue more with their children due to a psychological stress build-up and lack of available adults. Instead of engaging in positive ways with children, the impacts of single parenthood can cause high levels of stress and no safe outlet to express emotional needs. This issue is not unique to the US, Nishioka conducted a study of single parenthood in Japan as it relates to health conditions among children receiving public assistance. Their findings will continue to shed light on the immense burden that is single-parenthood(Nishioka, et.al., 2021).

The impact of poverty and increased psychological stress may include a higher risk for harmful stress-relieving behaviors such as smoking, drinking, etc. (Nishioka, et.al., 2021). Poverty rates of single-parent households are near 50%. Parents may use what is left of their income to continue their stress-relieving, possibly addictive, behaviors (Nishioka, et.al., 2021). Although disengagement can be seen in the form of risky behaviors such as smoking and drinking, stress can show itself in the form of depression or lashing out at children more than usual even if a parent is not under the influence of substances. For children in single-parent families, there are higher rates of chronic health conditions such as dental diseases, asthma, dermatitis, etc. (Nishioka, et.al., 2021). Many stressors in families' lives are a result of financial insecurity, lack of time, and lack of engagement with general issues (homework, social-emotional wellbeing, future planning, etc.).

Parental Incarceration and Child Trauma Symptoms in Single Caregiver Homes.

There are many reasons a parent may not be engaged in a child's life, resulting in a single-parent household; not only divorce but incarceration, death, unknown paternity, etc. In recent years incarcerations have spiked, often targeting under-resourced and minority communities (Robinson, 2017). There is much research on incarceration discussing the targeting

of Black and Brown bodies and their surrounding communities. One example is the phenomenon of ‘million-dollar blocks’ which describes the amount it costs to incarcerate residents of a single block. Studies show how these million-dollar blocks are often in inner-city blocks with high crime and large populations of Black people (NAACP.org, 1956) A study on parental incarceration looked to understand the effect of incarceration, as well as other factors associated with single parenthood, as incarceration often leads to an involuntary single-parent household (Glaze and Maruschak, 2008). They found that having a parent that is incarcerated can be traumatic in its own manner, and cumulatively, effects of trauma show in the form of social, behavioral, and health outcomes. Nationally, 52 % of state inmates and 63 % of federal inmates are parents with an estimated 1,706,600 minor children, accounting for 2.3 % of the US population under age 18 (Glaze and Maruschak, 2008). The issue of childhood trauma is critical due to the sheer number of children impacted by parental incarceration. Looking at the intersectionality of incarceration and divorce is beneficial when identifying causality of cases with a lack of financial and physical support in a separated couple. Often the outside parent or family tries to provide for the incarcerated parent so that they can have goods (commissary) while incarcerated and hopefully continue to stay engaged in family life.

Intersectionality of Gender, Race, and Poverty on single-parent families experience.

When focusing specifically on mothers in single parenthood, the gender pay gap is one of the most important things to understand. In the United States, women are lucky to have so many rights in this modern-day, but there are many stigmas and historical inequalities that have continued to impact women’s lives today. Intersectionality identifies multiple factors of overlapping social identities and how they may be oppressive or empowering (Crenshaw, 2017). The term has been coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw to explain the way gender, class, race, and

other characteristics intersect. One must look at the intersectionality of race and gender, and sexuality to understand how Black women are offered fewer jobs and wages compared to White women and other women of color; and how many women are offered lower wages than White men. Women work harder for the same positions as men and still often will be paid less (Provencher and Carlton, 2018). The US Census Bureau reports while the wage gap is narrowing a woman still on average makes 82 cents for every dollar a man makes (Laughlin and Wisniewski, 2021). Lone mothers are 13% more likely to live in poverty (Provencher and Carlton, 2018). About 7.6 million children live with their mother only (21% of US Children) and 3.3 million live with their father (4.5% of US Children) (US Census Bureau). For many single mothers, especially with young children, the small financial benefits from employment are outweighed by the costs of maintaining a job while raising one or more children (Provencher and Carlton, 2018). Thus, raising the risk factor for the mother and family unit to suffer from poverty and other adversities poverty includes. It is important to note the influences of generational poverty as well and how that can add struggles and limit resources available to families.

How children are impacted by a single primary caregiver.

As a single parent, one must often choose to spend time with their child or compromise to work as hard as they can to financially provide for their children. When parents are forced to make such sacrifices, it alludes to the inadequacy of current social structures support for single caregiver families. People use words like ‘be strong’, but the emotional and physical toll single parenthood has on the entire family unit is not recognized in modern culture. The working culture expects an individual to work 34-41 hours a week; however, if one is still not financially stable then the individual is to blame not the system. Often single mothers must choose to work

part-time to care for their family or compromise time engaging with their children to meet the financial and physical needs of their family (Oosterman et. al., 2018).

Schools often look to parents to fix a child's behavior deemed "unacceptable for school," and use exclusionary discipline to punish children. As a single parent, the burden to meaningfully work at a child's behavior becomes a lot harder. A parent must not only have the time and financial resources to take extra time out of their day with one child (or hire someone that can), but also must compromise engagement with potential other children. Often a sole caregiver is left without meaningful support. This support may look like another live-in parent or another income to meet childcare needs and engage with every child meaningfully. Sometimes families can rely on other family members for childcare or emergency financial assistance, but it still is the responsibility of the primary caregiver to coordinate that support or find the means to care for the child(ren). The financial burden of childcare is one many parents are aware of and financial status can impact the quality of care a child receives. So, while a family member may be amazing at taking care of a child's physical needs, there is not the same experience/privilege as having early childhood educators working with a child and family daily and being able to choose the childcare facility of choice.

This statistical study will explain the impacts of a single caregiver household, whose children are often at risk of depressive symptomatology, parenting stress, caregiver relationship quality, and nonparental care (Arditti &Salva, 2013). This is not said with the intent to shame single parents, rather showing the effects of being a single parent and the stress of being a sole primary caregiver raising an entire family while also being their sole provider and emotional support system.

Some research hypotheses for this study are

When one parent is left as a sole provider there is an impact on the amount of time they can invest into their child.

The amount of time a parent spends engaged with their child impact child behavior.

Methods:

This thesis serves as an analysis of parenthood and divorce, focusing on how the addition of a second parent help impacts the future and wellbeing of the family unit and child school success progression. This study uses biological and heterosexual couples; however, this is not representative of all families and couples. Understanding the impact a second parent's help has on the other parent and the children will give light to the importance of co-parenting and the disadvantages that single parents are weighed down by when the quality of their parenting decreases due to a new, more complex life dynamic.

In this study, there will be a focus on psychological and physical wellbeing as it pertains to school self-efficacy. Psychological wellbeing includes resiliency, optimism, stress level regulation, depressive systems, and perceived support. Physical wellbeing concerns itself with the economical side to wellbeing; does a family have enough resources to continue providing a fulfilling life for the family unit? Finally, how a child's family unit wellbeing impacts their school success and school self-efficacy. Self-efficacy is defined as an individual's belief in their ability to achieve the desired action. Self-efficacy in all its forms (social efficacy, academic efficacy, etc.) derives from four main sources: mastery experiences, social modeling, social persuasion, and choice process. Higher levels of efficacy have been proven predictors of performance, job satisfaction, wellbeing, stress, and anxiety (Finch, et.al., 2020).

When a single parent becomes the sole emotional, financial and physical provider, it begins to impact the parent and family dynamic that would have existed if both parents were

providing, collaborating, and actively working with their shared children to be engaged meaningfully in their lives. Typically, with a married couple, there are two adults' incomes and childcare abilities, allowing parents to balance each other out. When one parent is left on their own to pick up the slack, often there are places where the parent has to surrender in their lives; this may show up in the form of missing events, not being involved in their child's schooling, or child's emerging behavioral difficulties.

This study uses secondary nationally representative data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS). FFCWS is a longitudinal study initiated in 1998-2000 exploring the outcomes of parents and their children that are under-resourced. Recruitment took place in 20 cities with a population 200,000 or more. After recruitment, there were mothers surveyed (N=4,898) and fathers surveyed (N=3,830). Interviews began shortly after the mother gave birth in hospitals. Data is collected at birth, 1 y/o, 3 y/o, 5, y/o, 9 y/o, and 15 y/o, addressing different questions and interviewing multiple people in the family's life to have a modified view of each family's functioning and change in functioning over time. The study in its initial stage, attempted to address the questions: 1) What are the conditions and capabilities of unmarried parents, especially fathers? 2) What is the nature of the relationships between unmarried parents? 3) How do children born into these families fare 4) How do policies and environmental conditions affect families and children? Research reported in this publication was supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health under award numbers R01HD036916, R01HD039135, and R01HD040421, as well as a consortium of private foundations. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

Through secondary data analysis, independent variables related to the absence of a second parent and disengagement of the sole provider were chosen. Variables such as *the primary caregiver having no relationship with the other parent, a child that has not had their father's help with school assignments, and primary caregiver has missed an event recently*; are examined to understand its effects on child school self-efficacy and overall progression through school and plans beyond High School. These questions will identify with statistical significance the impacts compounded stressors and single parenthood has on the parent and child's life. To provide evidence to answer my research question, logistic regression and crosstabulations are conducted. Crosstabs and logistic regression are used based on the levels of measurement of the variables. Bivariate analysis of nominal and ordinal variables requires crosstabulation to understand how they relate to each other. Logistic regression is used for multivariate analysis of variables answered (1=yes) and (0=no) which is the requirement for logistic regression. The purpose of multivariate analyses is to isolate the effect of the independent variable (predictor) on the dependent (outcome) variable. This will allow talking about the unique effects of each independent variable on the outcome of interest.

Results

Descriptive statistics help give an overview of the population that is included in the study and different variables that are analyzed throughout. Table 1 shows the Dependent variables in this study are Primary Caregiver (PCG) missing an activity or event important to the child, Biological father helped with school assignments in the past month, Description of relationship with the other biological parent, and ever been suspended or expelled in the last two years. PCG

missed an event hopes to understand if parents can have a flexible job to attend child's events, 58% of PCGs never missed an event, 30.3% sometimes missed an event and 11.4% often missed an event important to the child. Biological father helping with school assignments can infer the father's proximity to the child, is he around often and helping out around the house. 42% of fathers never help with school assignments while another 37.5% only sometimes do. Description of relationship with the other biological parent, is trying to get an understanding of the different family dynamics in the study. 33.2% of the study is married and about 26.8% have no relationship to the other biological parent, and the rest are either divorced, cohabitating, or friends(41%). Ever been suspended or expelled in the last two years looks at behavior in school resulting in exclusion. About 24% of the children in the sample had been suspended or expelled.

Independent variables include mother and father income and to control for race, mother and father race. For the population of mothers studied about 53% earned less than 10k in the last 12 months and only 25% make over 20k. This shows that many of the mothers in this study are either living in poverty or relying on another income. For the group of fathers in this study, about 41% make between 20k-49999 and about 27% make under 20k. This shows fathers on average make more than mothers. Looking at races included in this study, most participants of both genders are Black or White. Mothers have 30.8% White and 49.7% Black this is almost identical for fathers' race as well. Other categories were Asian about 3%, American Indian about 4%, and Other about 13%.

To test the research hypotheses, a series of crosstabulations and logistic regressions were conducted to determine statistically significant relationships. Comparing parent characteristics and life circumstances displays how an individual's life stressors can impact engagement in a child's school and social life. The data shows the connection between family characteristics and

child school self-efficacy and progression. A side effect of low parent engagement often leads to children with ambiguous goals and low guidance on how to take the next steps in life past mandatory high school.

The crosstabulations with Chi-square test are used to examine the association between variables through bivariate analysis. Results (see Table 2) show a significant association between mother yearly income and Primary Caregiver (PCG) missing an important event in child's life ($\chi^2=20.03$, $df=4$, $p<.001$), it shows that mothers who make over \$20k are about half as likely to *often* miss events important to the child (6.7%) compared to those making lesser amounts of money (12.8% for those making \$10k-19999 and 13.6% for those making less than 10k).

The next crosstabulation is presented in Table 3, representing the relationship between the biological father helping with school assignments in the past month and his household income ($\chi^2=23.83$, $df=8$, $p=.002$). The total percent of fathers that never help with school assignments is 42.8%, and for the group of fathers whose yearly household income is less than \$5,000 the number is 53.4%. Almost 20% of all fathers *often* help with school assignments. Of fathers making less than \$5,000 up to \$9,999 a year (12.5% of fathers studied) only 14.8% of them helped with assignments often in the last month. Whereas of fathers who often help with school assignments 38.6% of those father are making 20k-49999 a year. These results suggest although fathers in general help with school assignments less often than mothers do, those fathers who have an income between or higher than 20k-49999 a year are more likely to sometimes or often help with school assignments.

Primary caregiver's relationship (often mother) with biological father is cross-tabulated with father household income and presented in Table 4 ($\chi^2=300.248$, $df=16$, $p<.001$). These results show statistical significance when a father's income goes up, the more likely he is to be married

to the other biological parent. Results show a total of 33.2% of Primary Caregivers are married to the other parent, 61.3% of married fathers make over \$75,000, and of fathers making less than 10,000 13.5% are married, suggesting that income and marital status impact one another.

Table 4 shows 30.4% of a total of 688 married fathers (33.2% of the sample) make 20,000-49,999 dollars and are married. Those making under \$19,999,(30.5% of the sample) 15.9% of that sample is married. Of fathers making 50-74999 49.1% are married. and 61.3% making >75k are married. Suggesting fathers are less likely to be low income if married and more likely to be married if they are making over 20k a year. Thus, concluding higher-income fathers are more likely to be married to the other biological parent than fathers who have lower incomes.

A crosstab of Child suspension within the last 2 years and biological father helping with school assignments is presented in Table 5 ($\chi^2=10.9$, $df=2$, $p=.004$). These results show a significant relationship, that as fathers help more with school assignments, their child is less likely to be suspended. Table 5 shows that of children that have been suspended in the last two years, only 18.6% of children whose fathers help often with school assignments have been suspended, whereas 26.6% of students whose fathers never help with school assignments and 23.2% whose fathers often help with school assignments have been suspended in the last 2 years. These results suggest that when fathers do not help with school assignments (engage in their child's school life) they are much more likely to face exclusionary disciplines such as suspension or expulsion. The impact of exclusionary is important to understand as it can impact child school self-efficacy and overall progression through life. A father's lack of engagement may infer the father is not seeing the child regularly or does not have time/energy to engage with the child.

Regression results

Logistic regression is used in statistics to accurately evaluate with dummy outcome variables that may or may not be impacted by the independent variables. Our main independent variable throughout will be mother household income, it is important to identify potential confounding variables to understand how much of the results being tested can be explained by the theory of this paper.

I will be looking at the impact of race and income on child suspension or expulsion in the last two years, then the impact of the father helping with school assignments in the last month on this same outcome. Results are presented in Table 6 and Model 1 shows that the mother's race being White (compared to the reference group, which in this case is everyone who is non-White/non-Black), is not significantly related to the dependent variable of being suspended within the past 2 years ($p > .05$). However, the other two variables: mother yearly income and mother identifying race as Black are both significant predictors of being suspended in the past 2 years.

The relationship between mothers' yearly earnings and a child being suspended in the past 2 years is negative ($B = -.470$), thus the more mothers earn, the less likely there is to be a suspension. Concerning race Black race compared to every other race category (white and non-black), the relationship is positive ($B = .461$). Black individuals are significantly more likely to report suspensions in the past 2 years. We will also look at the Nagelkerke R Square of this output showing that all of the predictors in Model 1 explain about 7.7% of the variation in suspensions in the past 2 years.

It will also be important to look at suspension and expulsion as it relates to fathers engaging with their child's school assignments. So, another logistic regression (Model 2) examined suspension and expulsion using mothers' race and whether the child's biological father

has helped with school assignments. The father helping with school assignments in the last month coefficient is negative and significant (-.176), indicating that a father's help impacts behavioral patterns and performance in school (routine). Black race respondents compared to every other race category (white and non-black), has a positive relationship ($B=.805$), Black individuals are significantly more likely to report suspensions in the past 2 years. We will also look at the Nagelkerke R Square of this output showing that the variables in Model 2 explain about 6.5% of the variation in suspensions in the past 2 years.

Discussion

Throughout this study, factors have been tested to identify if there is or is not a statistically significant relationship tying certain family characteristics such as income or relationship with the other parent that led to low levels of engagement with a child. Less parent engagement, lower income, and race are shown in this study to affect child school outcomes such as rate of suspension. What is shown is a significant relationship between income and the ability to engage in a child's life. In a divorced family the sole provider's income is often dependent on working and not being able to take time off for a child's event or to do daily homework/enrichment activities. This progression explains why there are significant trends that when a parent makes under 10 thousand dollars a year, they are much more likely than those making over 20 thousand to miss an event for their child. Further, separation can create new bills and more financial strain on the entire family. Now parents are paying potentially two rent amounts and other bills that are sometimes shared in a couple. Income and father engagement presented a significant relationship, that when fathers are married, they are more likely to engage with their child and make more money. Although not all families are one mother and one father,

this study hopes to relate diverse families to the similar idea that two parents are able to engage more with a child when there are two parents regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

The importance of engagement was shown through suspension rates. The results consistently show that income affects engagement which in turn affects suspension/expulsion rates of children. An assumption from the data presented infers suspension/expulsion is partially due to underlying behavioral causes potentially influenced by the parents' separation or effects of it such as lack of engagement or energy to actively work on behavioral challenges. It is important to note this study found that Black individuals are significantly more likely to be suspended or expelled than White and Non-Black students. This has been studied and is an important topic to continue addressing to hopefully counteract the racism and implicit biases that currently exist in schools.

All of this information presses how important it is to be involved in each child's life, although we talk about income as a big factor to parent engagement (which it is), for busy and single parents in general even if they are middle class or more it is hard to ensure you can show up and engage in meaningful ways. When separation of parents happens, it flips an entire world upside down and the children and parents have to figure out their new roles in the world. Some children may have to take on a parenting role, some children may begin to develop behavior issues or pull away from engaging with their parent, some children will be confused and hurt, maybe even lose a parent because of hostile communication between parents. Every situation is different but, in all cases, separation can cause a lot of emotion and changing roles for the entire family unit.

Psychological stability after divorce sometimes can be aided by resources available to a family, often through mental health assistance can be inaccessible dependent on income. Social

structures must show the importance of mental health by providing more social recourses that are there to support all parents and children going through the changes of divorce. Families can benefit from a neutral person to help the parents and children try to keep consistency.

Regulations could be put in place that allows parents to attend a child's event by possibly working with workplaces to become more empathetic and understanding of their (workplace) impact on a family. Creating safe spaces for both parents to engage with their child's life and have the resources to support them in the life they want to live.

By supporting a family's basic needs, it opens up an opportunity for less reliance on one person to be a sole provider and need to rely on their ex-partner. It allows for less hostile communication because a neutral person helps to talk about sensitive topics such as money and assets. Throughout the turbulence of divorce, all involved must remember to be aware of children's emotions, how they are adapting to divorce, and what resources a family may need. Divorce should not be about survival and trying to make one parent give everything they have, it should be about two parents who decide to split ways, and there needs to be resources to help parents with the next step in their life that consider what is known about divorced and blended families.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

Dependent Variables	Frequency	Percentage
PCG missed event or activity important to you		
Never	1193	58%
Sometimes	624	30.3%
Often	240	11.7%
Biological father helped with school assignments in the past month.		
Never	685	42.8%
Sometimes	600	37.5%
Often	316	19.7%
Description of relationship with other biological parent		
Married	688	33.2%
Separated/Divorced	377	18.2%
Cohabiting/Romantic	134	6.5%
Friends	319	15.4%
No Relationship/ Deceased / Unknown	556	26.8%
Ever been Suspended or expelled in the last two years		
No	1726	76.1%
Yes	542	23.9%
IV of Interest		
Mother Yearly Income (n=2057)		
<1000-9999	1084	52.7%
10k-19999	452	22%
>20k	521	25.3%
Father Yearly Income (n=1,601)		
<5000-9999	176	10.9%
10k-19999	265	16.6%
20k-49999	659	41.2%
50k-74999	253	15.8%
>75k	248	15.5%
Control Variables		
Mother Race (n=4804)		
White	1480	30.8%
Black	2389	49.7%
Asian	133	2.77%
American Indian	222	4.6%
Other	580	12.1%
Father Race (n=3755)		
White	1117	29.7%
Black	1870	49.8%
Asian	103	2.75%
American Indian	114	3.03%
Other	521	13.8%

Bivariate Outcomes:

Table 2. PCG missed event or activity that were important to you* Mother in the last 12 months how much money did you receive from earnings (compressed)

	Mother in the last 12 months how much money did you receive from earnings			
	<1000-9999	10k-19999	>20k	Total
PCG missed event or activity that was important to you	%	%	%	%
Never				
Frequency	603	225	335	1193
Percentage()	(55.6%)	(56.4%)	(64.3%)	(58%)
Sometimes				
Frequency	334	139	151	624
Percentage()	(30.8%)	(30.8%)	(29%)	(30.3%)
Often				
Frequency	147	58	35	240
Percentage()	(13.6%)	(12.8%)	(6.7%)	(11.7%)
Total				
Frequency	1084	452	521	2057
Percentage()	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)

Table 3 . Biological father helped with school assignments in the past month * Father household income before tax (compressed)

	Father Household income before tax (compressed)					Total
	<5000-9999	10k-19999	20k-49999	50k-74999	>75k	
Biological father helped with school assignments in the past month.	%	%	%	%	%	%
Never						
Frequency	94	114	297	101	79	685
Percentage()	(53.4%)	(43%)	(45.1%)	(39.9%)	(31.9%)	(42.8%)
Sometimes						
Frequency	56	93	240	100	111	600
Percentage()	(31.8%)	(35.1%)	(36.4%)	(39.5%)	(44.8%)	(37.5%)
Often						
Frequency	26	58	122	52	58	316
Percentage()	(14.8%)	(21.9%)	(18.5%)	(20.6%)	(23.4%)	(19.7%)

Table 5. Ever been suspended or expelled in the last two years * Biological father helped with school assignments in the past month.

	Biological father helped with school assignments in the past month.			
	Never	Sometimes	Often	Total
Ever been Suspended or expelled in the last two years	%	%	%	%
No				
Frequency	768	616	342	1726
Percentage()	(73.4%)	(76.8%)	(81.4%)	(76.1%)
Yes				
Frequency	278	186	78	542
Percentage()	(26.6%)	(23.2%)	(18.6%)	(23.9%)
Total				
Frequency	1046	802	420	2268
Percentage()	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)

Table 6. Logistic Regression Table:

	Model 1			Model 2	
	Exp. (b)	Sig.		Exp. (b)	Sig.
Constant	-.425	.015		-1.405	<.001
DV: Ever been suspended or expelled in the last two years			DV: Ever been suspended or expelled in the last two years		
What is your race mother - White	-.303	.081	What is your race mother - White	-.219	.189
Mother in the last 12 months how much money did you receive from earnings compressed	-.470	.001	Biological father helped with school assignments in the last month	-.176	<.001
What is your race mother Black	.461	.003	What is your race mother Black	.805	.011
Mediator(s): Nagelkerke R square	.077		Mediator(s): Nagelkerke R square	.065	
-2 Log Like.	2207.176		-2 Log Like.	2357.944	

References

- Arcia, E. (2006). Achievement and enrollment status of suspended students. *Education and Urban Society*, 38(3), 359-369. doi:10.1177/0013124506286947
- Arditti, J. A., & Savla, J. (2013). Parental incarceration and child trauma symptoms in single caregiver homes. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 24(3), 551–561. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-013-9867-2>
- Bureau, U. S. C. (2021, October 8). *Number, timing, and duration of marriages and divorces: 2016*. Census.gov. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2021/demo/p70-167.html>
- Bureau, U. S. C. (2021, October 8). *Percentage and number of children living with two parents has dropped since 1968*. Census.gov. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/number-of-children-living-only-with-their-mothers-has-doubled-in-past-50-years.html>
- Crenshaw, Kimberlé W., “On Intersectionality: Essential Writings” (2017) Faculty Books, 225. <https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/books/255>
- Child support guideline rules 137-050*. Oregon Department of Justice. (2021, June 29). Retrieved January 26, 2022, from <https://www.doj.state.or.us/child-support/calculators-laws/child-support-laws-and-rules/child-support-guideline-rules-137-050/>
- Cobo, R. R., Pérez, V. M. V., Páez, R. D., & Gracia, L. M. (2020). A longitudinal study: Affective wellbeing, psychological wellbeing, self-efficacy and academic performance among first-year undergraduate students. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 61(4), 518–526. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.pdx.edu/10.1111/sjop.12618>
- Craigie, T. A. L. (2011). The effect of paternal incarceration on early child behavioral problems: A racial comparison. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, 9(3). <https://doi.org/10.1080/15377938.2011.594349>
- Finch, J., Farrell, L.J. & Waters, A.M. Searching for the HERO in Youth: Does Psychological Capital (PsyCap) Predict Mental Health Symptoms and Subjective Wellbeing in Australian School-Aged Children and Adolescents?. *Child Psychiatry Hum Dev* 51, 1025–1036 (2020). <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.pdx.edu/10.1007/s10578-020-01023-3>
- Glaze, L. E., & Maruschak, L. M. (n.d.). *Parents in prison and their minor children*. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/parents-prison-and-their-minor-children>
- Kalu, S. R., Menon, S. E., & Quinn, C. R. (2020). The relationship between externalizing

behavior and school and familial attachments among girls from diverse backgrounds. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 116. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chidyouth.2020.105170>

Lee, W. K., & Joo, Y. S. (2020). Adolescent extracurricular activity participation: Associations with parenting stress, mother–adolescent closeness, and social skills. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 116. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chidyouth.2020.105110>

NAACP an American Organization. (1956). New York: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. [Naacp.org](http://naacp.org)

Nishioka, D., Saito, J., Ueno, K., & Kondo, N. (2021). Single-Parenthood and health conditions among children receiving public assistance in Japan: A cohort study. *BMC Pediatrics*, 21(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-021-02682-4>

Oosterman, M., Schuengel, C., Forrer, M. L., & De Moor, M. H. (2018). The impact of childhood trauma and psychophysiological reactivity on at-risk women's adjustment to parenthood. *Development and Psychopathology*, 31(1), 127–141. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0954579418001591>

Provencher, A., & Carlton, A. (2017). The poverty experience of Lone Mothers and their children. *Applied Economics Letters*, 25(6), 401–404. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2017.1327115>

Robinson, M. A. (2017). Black Bodies on the Ground: Policing Disparities in the African American Community—An Analysis of Newsprint From January 1, 2015, Through December 31, 2015. *Journal of Black Studies*, 48(6), 551–571. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44631324>

Størksen, I., Røysamb, E., Moum, T., & Tambs, K. (2005). Adolescents with a childhood experience of parental divorce: a longitudinal study of mental health and adjustment. *Journal of Adolescence*, 28(6), 725–739. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2005.01.001>