Abstract
Family structure influences an individual’s relationships with their parents, but individuals from divorced families receive added effects on their relationships with their parents throughout life. Divorce affects individuals at a significant level due to the changing of family structure, especially with the absence of the father in a child’s life. The trauma resulting from a divorce can impact a student’s nuclear family ends in divorce then students report poorer relationships in adulthood, especially with father.

Introduction
Family structure impacts relationships with your parents, but divorced families get the added effects on their relationships with their parents throughout their life. This research explores this belief and finds that if a student’s nuclear family ends in divorce then students report poorer relationships in adulthood, especially with father.

Hypothesis
Family structure influences relationships with your parents, but the structure of divorced family gets the added consequences on their relationships with their parents throughout their life.

Literature Review
This research study found that relationship difficulties for children, which can last into adulthood of individuals whose parents had a divorce. Individuals as adults who went through a divorce of their parents are more likely to have less years or education, weaker ties with their parents, and have more conflicts within their own marriages (Clark-Stewart, Alison & Dunn, Judy 2006: 179).

Theory
To examine this topic social exchange theory was used. Social exchange theory indicates that people are most likely in pursuit of rewards and try to avoid punishment. Social exchange theory is also a basic way to analyze the interaction between actors within the situation.

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Methods
The creation of the survey came from an interest of how and why people act the way they do within society. The survey was approved through an IRB at Mansfield University. The survey was a non-random survey and quantitative survey of students from a North-Central Pennsylvania state university. Voluntary respondents were a sample of convenience for this research. The respondents came from sociology classes at Mansfield University.

The variables are as follows:
Dependent variable; relationships
Independent variable; family structure with a focus specifically on divorce.

The most important questions of the survey were:
Rate your relationship with your parents both before and after a divorce. This question also consisted of different categories that we see within parents.

The Likert scale for these questions is as follows:
Not at all, Sometimes, Half of the time, Most of the time, & All of the time

Description of Sample
My sample size is 92. Margin of error of 10.047%. Number of participants who’s family structure is divorce consisted of 27 participants.

The cause for divorce for the majority of respondents parents were for multiple reasons. Most parental divorces happened while the participants were in preschool or grade school, both had a total of 7 participants.

Dependent variable: relationships
Independent variable: family structure with a focus specifically on divorce.

Findings
This table shows the perceived relationship with their father within the family structure.

This table shows the perceived relationship with their father after a divorce. The percentages are for entire data set and not just the 27 participants who are from divorced families.

This table shows the perceived relationship with their father after a divorce. The percentages are for entire data set not just the 27 participants who are from divorced families.

Conclusion
Family structure influences an individual’s relationships with their parents, but individuals from divorced families receive added effects on their relationships. Respondents perceived their relationships with their mother and father to decrease after a divorce occurs. Poor relationships were reported with fathers. Recommendations for this research is to research traditional college students and specifically their relationships with the their parents. Another recommendation is to continue this research over a long period of time to see any changes of anything that may occur.

References


Demographics

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<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Range</td>
<td>18-39</td>
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Family Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Structure</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents are still married</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other lost</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>Divorced/Single parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single parent/never married</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stopped</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Demographics of Participants

Table 5. Summary of Family Structure

Table 6. Summary of Relationships

Table 7. Summary of Hypothesis

Table 8. Summary of Literature Review

Table 9. Summary of Theory

Table 10. Summary of Findings

Table 11. Summary of Conclusion