

A Critical Analysis on the Behavior of Child After their Parents Divorce

¹Kanak Verma and ²Dr Yugal Kishore

¹Research Scholar, Himalayan University

²Assistant Professor, Himalayan University

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 30 November 2017

Keywords

Behavior, Divorce, Academic, adolescents, behavioral problems

ABSTRACT

This research investigated the relationship between childhood parental divorce and problem of behavior in children. In both the short and long term, the consequences associated with divorce impact the children of the couple. The pair also experience consequences after divorce, including reduced levels of satisfaction, change in economic status, and emotional issues. In these study behavioral problems of children's are analyzed through the changes that take place after their parents got separated. Academic, behavioral, and psychological issues have the effects on adolescents. Studies show that children from divorced families are more likely than those from non-divorced families to exhibit such behavioral problems.

INTRODUCTION

The act of ending a marriage or civil partnership is divorce, also known as marriage breakup. Divorce typically means cancelling or reorganizing the legal duties and obligations of marriage, thus dissolving the marriage relations between a married couple under the rule of law of the nation or state in question. Divorce laws differ widely internationally, but in most countries, in a civil proceeding, divorce involves the approval of a court or other body, and can include issues of property sharing, child custody, alimony (spousal support), child visitation / access, parenting time, child support, and debt division. Monogamy is mandated by law in most countries, so divorce allows each former spouse to marry another person.

It is referred to as breakup, rather than divorce, when those in a common-law partnership split up. Divorce is distinct from annulment, which declares the marriage to be null and void, with legal separation or de jure separation (a legal mechanism through which a married couple may (formalize a de facto) separation while remaining legally married) or with de facto separation (a mechanism in which the spouses quit cohabiting informally). Divorce factors range from marital incompatibility or lack of freedom for either or both partners to a conflict of personality.

In all developed countries, the past few decades have seen drastic shifts in family life. In the second half of the 20th century, the rise in the divorce rate was striking; literally, from 1960 to 1980, the divorce rate more than doubled in most Westernized countries. For children, the rise in divorces has been especially important, as millions of them have undergone parental divorce. In addition, recent rises in non-marital births, driven primarily by increasing rates of childbearing among cohabiting couples, have also resulted in the separation of their never-married parents from a greater number of children. Since cohabiting partnerships are less stable than marriages,

when the cohabiting relationship ends, several children born into these unions will also experience the breakup of the union of their parents.

The kids often felt more divorce-related anxiety and did not feel a sense of their parents' emotional support. A parental divorce affects the actions of a child in a negative way that contributes to resentment, frustration, and depression. In their academic and personal lives, this destructive behavior is cast outward. Relocating is described as when a parent moves away from their children for more than an hour. These negative results were not induced by children from divorces where both parents remained close together.

The long-term negative effects of divorce on children were recorded in a longitudinal study by Judith Wallerstein.

Using the National Survey on Family and Households, Linda Waite studied the relationship between marriage, divorce and happiness and found that unhappily married families who had divorced were no happier than those who had remained together. A broad-based research also indicates that in contrast to a divorce, individuals have a smoother time to heal after the death of a parent. This study found that children who lose a parent are typically able to achieve the same level of happiness they had prior to death, whereas children of divorced parents are frequently unable to achieve the same level of happiness they had prior to divorce.

A child impacted at an early age by divorce will display consequences later in life. They can make early transitions to adulthood, such as early departure from home or parenting their own child. Recent scholars have concluded that a significant cost to kids comes long after: when they themselves try to shape healthy marriages. Parental divorce causes a child to have poorer faith in potential relationships. Children of divorced parents have more optimistic attitudes towards divorce and less favorable attitudes towards marriage compared with children of always married parents.

Children of divorced parents have also been reported to be more likely than children of married parents to have behavioral issues and to be more likely to suffer abuse than children in intact families. Researchers also found that children of divorced or separated parents:

- Higher rates of psychiatric depression raise the long-term risk of major depression through family disturbance and low socioeconomic status in early childhood.
- At higher rates, seek formal psychiatric treatment.
- In the case of men, suicide is more likely and life expectancy is lower.
- Acute infectious diseases, diseases of digestion, diseases of parasites, diseases of respiration, and serious injuries.
- Cancer- Married patients with cancer are also more likely than divorced patients to recover.
- Strokes.
- Heart Problems.
- Rheumatoid and osteoarthritis arthritis.
- Increased risk of arthritis later in life for kids.

Each child experiences various degrees of psychological distress during and after the divorce process. Research has shown that, along with increased delinquent and violent behavior, children who undergo divorce also have an increase in antisocial behavior, anxiety, and depression. Kids involved in school fighting and cheating are much more likely to come from dysfunctional families than kids who are well-behaved. Children of divorced families are more than twice more likely than children from stable families to drop out of high school. Other research has shown that there are more behavioral issues

for children with divorced parents than for children from stable families. In the years following their parents' breakup, boys whose parents separated when they were in elementary school appeared to experience issues. Although problem in behaviour increases among boys whose parents divorced when they were in middle school immediately after the divorce, their problem behavior gradually changes in the year after the divorce.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are illustrated below:

To ascertain the behavioral changes in children after the divorce o their parents.

To ascertain the problems faced by the children’s

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Data of this study is collected on the basis of primary and secondary source of information. And all the data collected in this study is analyzed on the basis of problems faced by the children’s’ and the aforesaid data accumulated.

1. Children’s Behavior at School

Divorce and separation correlate favorably with reduced progress and performance in school. In school, children from intact families have less behavioral issues. First-grade children born to married mothers, for instance, are less likely than children born to cohabiting or single mothers to display destructive actions, such as disobeying a teacher or aggressively acting towards peers.

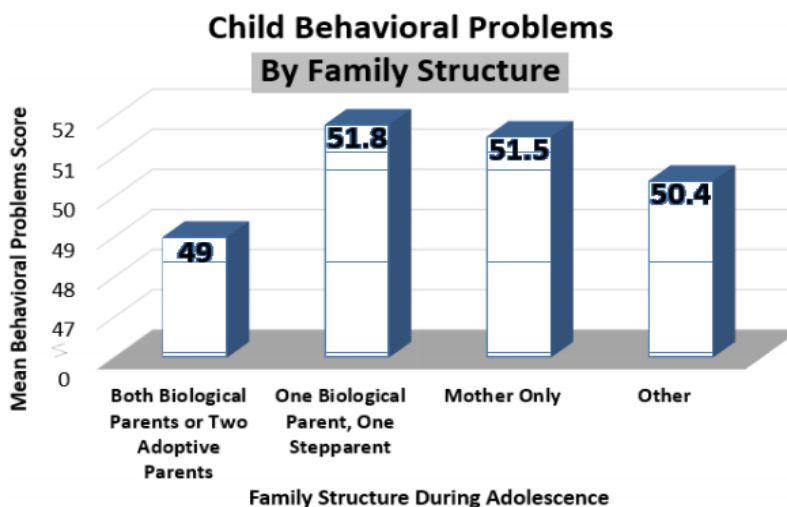
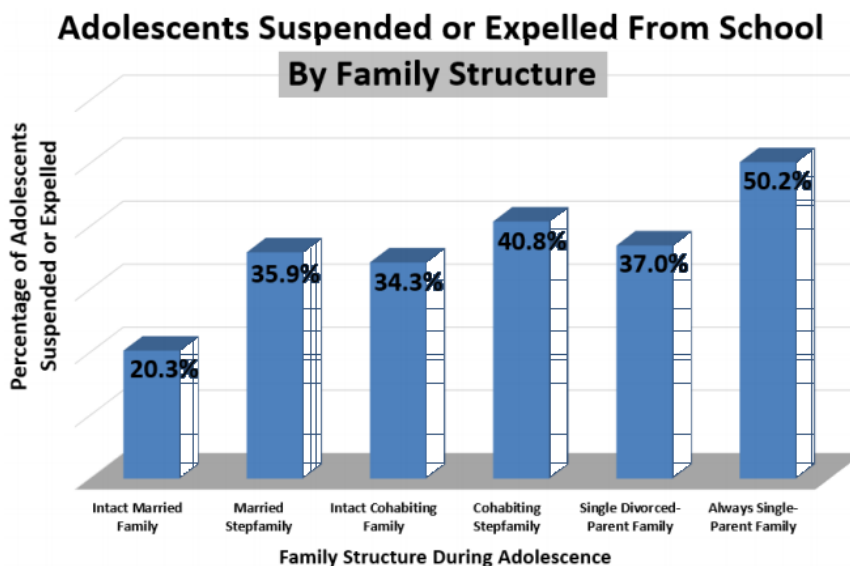


Chart-1 Children’s behavioral problems at school
 Source: National Source of Children’s Health

Children who live with both biological parents are less likely to display behavior issues than those who do not, according to the National Survey of Children's Health. Likewise, the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent

Health indicates that teenagers are less often suspended, withdrawn, or delinquent from intact married families and less commonly encounter school issues than children from other institutions of the family.



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Chart-2 Children’s suspended from the school

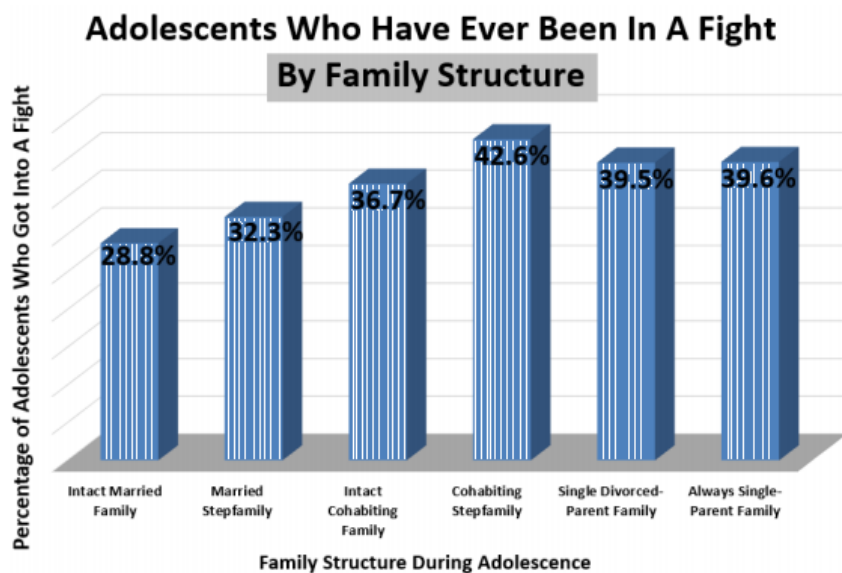
2. Conflict Handing Ability

Divorce reduces the willingness of children to resolve conflict. The distinction between staying intact marriages and those resulting in divorce lies mainly in the willingness of the couple to cope with marital tension and step towards compromise. Parental divorce modelling reduces the potential of many children to have a stable marriage later in life, although some children will respond by doubling their efforts to ensure stability.

For example, college students from divorced families use violence more often to settle disputes compared to students from intact families, and are more likely to be hostile and physically abusive towards their peers, male or female. 16)

Parental divorce during adolescence also leads to more violent relationships in adolescence and adulthood.

Children of separated parents are more likely to be dissatisfied in their own relationships, to exacerbate conflict, to interact less, to quarrel often, and to scream or physically attack their partner while arguing. 18) The risk of divorce is thus passed down through generations.



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I and II. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Chart-3 Children’s who ever been in a fight

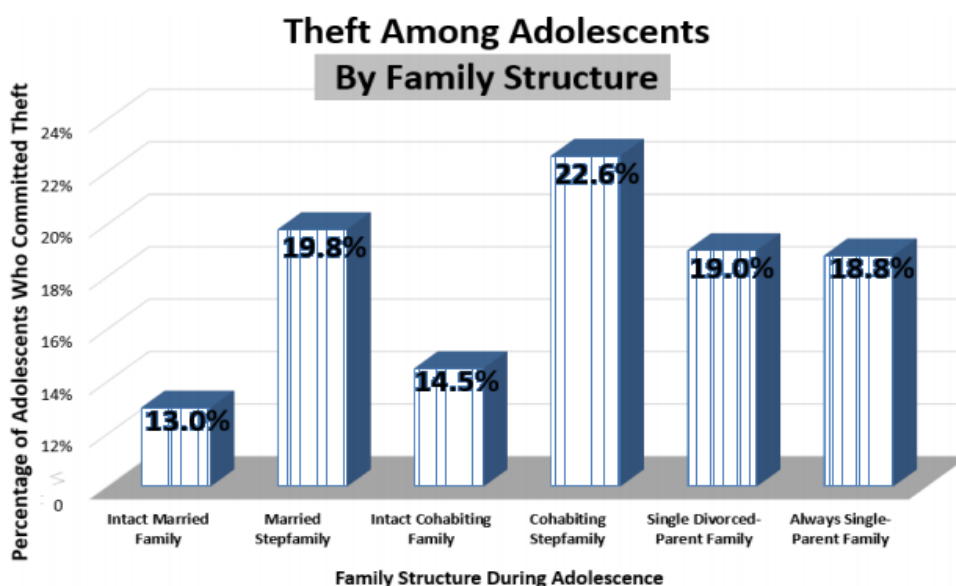
42.6 percent of teenagers living with one biological, cohabiting parent have been in a fight, according to the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, while only 28.8 percent of those with two married parents have ever been in a fight. 32.3 percent of teenagers residing in step-families, 36.7 percent of those living with two cohabiting biological parents, 39.5 percent of those whose parents are divorced, and 39.6 percent of those whose parents have never been married have never been in a war, among other family structures.

3. Indulge in Crime

Children of divorced parents are substantially more likely to be delinquent by age 15 than children of intact married families, irrespective of when the divorce took place. A 1985 study that monitored 1,000 families for six years with children

between the ages of six and 18 found that children living in intact married families had the least violence, whereas children with stepfathers were more likely to have the most destructive behavior. The conduct of single-parent children falls between that of children of intact families and stepfathers in this report.

Parental divorce leads to what some studies refer to as "externalizing habits," including carrying guns, fighting, drug abuse, and binge drinking. Another research showed that if the mother and father "engage in professional parenting," the sons of divorced parents are at no greater risk of participation in criminal conduct than boys living in intact families. According to this same report, good parenting on the part of divorced fathers yielded no such results for the daughters of divorce. There is a clear association between family structure and delinquency, aggressive conduct, drug use, larceny, skipping school, and alcohol addiction among teenage girls.



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Chart-4 Children's indulge in crime

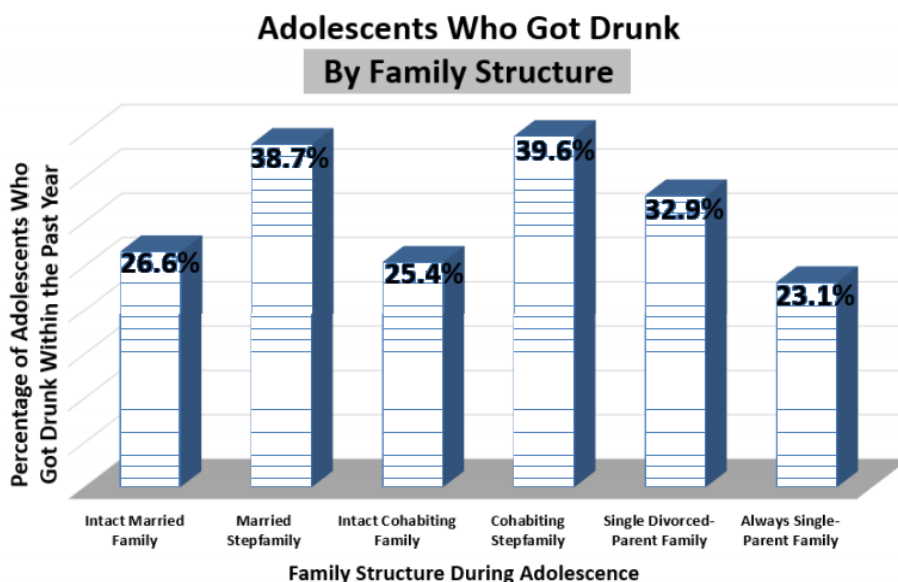
13 percent of children living in an intact married family confess to having stolen at least 3500rs worth of products, according to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. By contrast, 19 percent of children whose parents are never married or divorced, 20 percent of children living with a stepparent, 15 percent of those living with biological parents, and 23 percent of those living with one biological parent have stolen goods worth at least 3,500 rs.

4. Consumption of Drugs and Alcohol

Externalizing activity, such as tobacco usage, alcohol consumption and binge drinking, and marijuana usage, is predicted by parental divorce (as previously stated). Parental

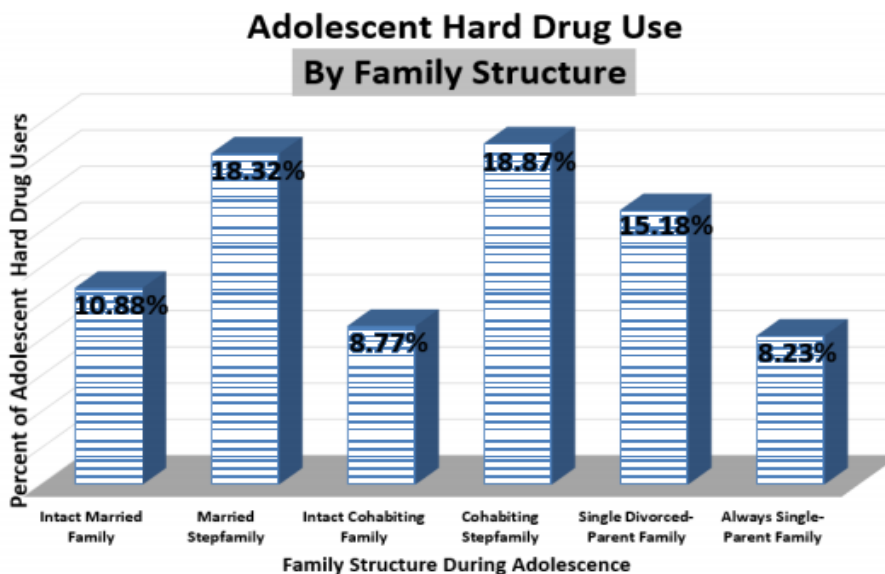
divorce or breakup often predicts heightened use of other illicit drugs by teenagers. The harmful effects of divorce on the use of drugs by adolescents are not transient and appear to continue over time.

Men who have undergone divorce from their parents as kids (between the ages of seven and 16) are more likely to smoke as adults. Males who have experienced parental divorce are also more likely to use alcohol and drugs. Women who have experienced parental divorce between the ages of seven and 16 (but not those whose parents split later) are more likely to smoke and drink excessively as adults than women whose parents have stayed together.



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves I. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Chart-5 Intake of drugs and alcohol by children's



Source: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Wave I. Adolescents Grades 7-12.

Chart-6 High consumption of drugs by children's

Children living with both biological parents are less likely to get intoxicated than adolescents with stepparents, one biological co-habiting parent, or divorced parents, according to the National Longitudinal Analysis of Adolescent Health. More than 15 percent of teenagers whose parents are divorced have used illicit drugs, according to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health; this number rises to about 18 percent for children living with a stepparent or one biologically cohabiting parent.

CONCLUSION

Conflict between parents is often followed during a divorce by less intimacy, less reactivity, and more willingness to punish their children, leaving their children feeling emotionally insecure. It is more likely that these children view their social world as chaotic and uncontrollable.

The study is concerned on Children of divorced or separated parents display increased behavioral difficulties and the marital tension that follows the divorce of parents puts the social maturity of the child at risk. Also in intact families with low to medium conflict levels, children also have "less

behavioral problems than those in high-conflict, dysfunctional families." Another study indicates that parental conflict influences the outcomes of behavioral problems of children,

irrespective of the marital status of parents, and often "there is no statistical difference in the degree of behavioral problems observed."

REFERENCES

1. Donna R. Morrison and Mary Jo Coiro, "Parental Conflict and Marital Disruption: Do Children Benefit When High-Conflict Marriages Are Dissolved?" *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 61, (1999): 626.
2. Jennifer M. Weaver, and Thomas J. Schofield, "Mediation and Moderation of Divorce Effects on Children's Behavior Problems," *Journal of Family Psychology* 29, no. 1 (2015): 39, 43, 45.
3. Donna R. Morrison and Mary Jo Coiro, "Parental Conflict and Marital Disruption: Do Children Benefit When High-Conflict Marriages Are Dissolved?" *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 61, (1999): 634.
4. D.R. Morrison and M.J. Coiro, "Parental Conflict and Marital Disruption: Do Children Benefit When High-Conflict Marriages Are Dissolved?" *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 61, (1999): 632.
5. Juliana M. Sobolewski and Paul R. Amato, "Parents' Discord and Divorce, Parent-Child Relationships and Subjective Well-Being in Early Adulthood: Is Feeling Close to Two Parents Always Better Than Feeling Close to One?," *Social Forces* 85, no. 3 (2007): 1121.
6. Patrick T. Davies and E. Mark Cummings, "Marital Conflict and Child Adjustment: An Emotional Security Hypothesis," *Psychological Bulletin* 116, (1994): 387-411. As cited in Paul R. Amato and Arland Booth, *A Generation at Risk*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 137.
7. K.P. McCoy, et al, "Constructive and Destructive Marital Conflict, Parenting, and Children's School and Social Adjustment," *Social Development* 22, no. 4 (November 2013): 641.
8. Paul R. Amato, *Children in Australian Families: The Growth of Competence*, (Sydney: Prentice Hall of Australia, 1987). As cited in Paul R. Amato and Alan Booth, *A Generation at Risk*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 137.
9. R. Forehand, "Family Characteristics of Adolescents Who Display Overt and Covert Behavior Problems," *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry* 18, (1987): 325-328.
10. Chunyan Song, Mary Benin, and Jennifer Glick, "Dropping Out of High School: The Effects of Family Structure and Family Transitions," *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage* 53, no. 1 (2012): 28-29.
11. Jeffrey J. Wood, Rena L. Repetti, and Scott C. Roesch, "Divorce and Children's Adjustment Problems at Home and School: The Role of Depressive/Withdrawn Parenting," *Child Psychiatry and Human Development* 35, no. 2 (2004): 131.