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How Single Parent Households Affect the Sociability of Children

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How Single Parent Households Affect the Sociability of Children

Roland Jonathan
Antonio Casiquin

Background Literature

Adopted children of single mothers scored lower in social competence than children of partnered mothers. The opposite was found for ART families (Díez et al., 2021).

High levels of relative deprivation experienced increased aggression over a period (Greitmeyer & Sagiolou, 2019).

Warm relationship quality with the sibling predicted more supportive interactions with peers (Smorti & Ponti, 2018) and positive interactions with siblings promoted the children's development (Hou et al., 2022).

The quality of the parent-child relationship lessened engagement in delinquency (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2022).





Relative Deprivation



Relative deprivation suggests people observe others similar to themselves having something they desire and develop frustration when it is unattainable (Runciman, 1966).

People often chose counterparts who have greater financial advantage, and, as a result, people felt greater resentment towards them (Kim et al., 2018).

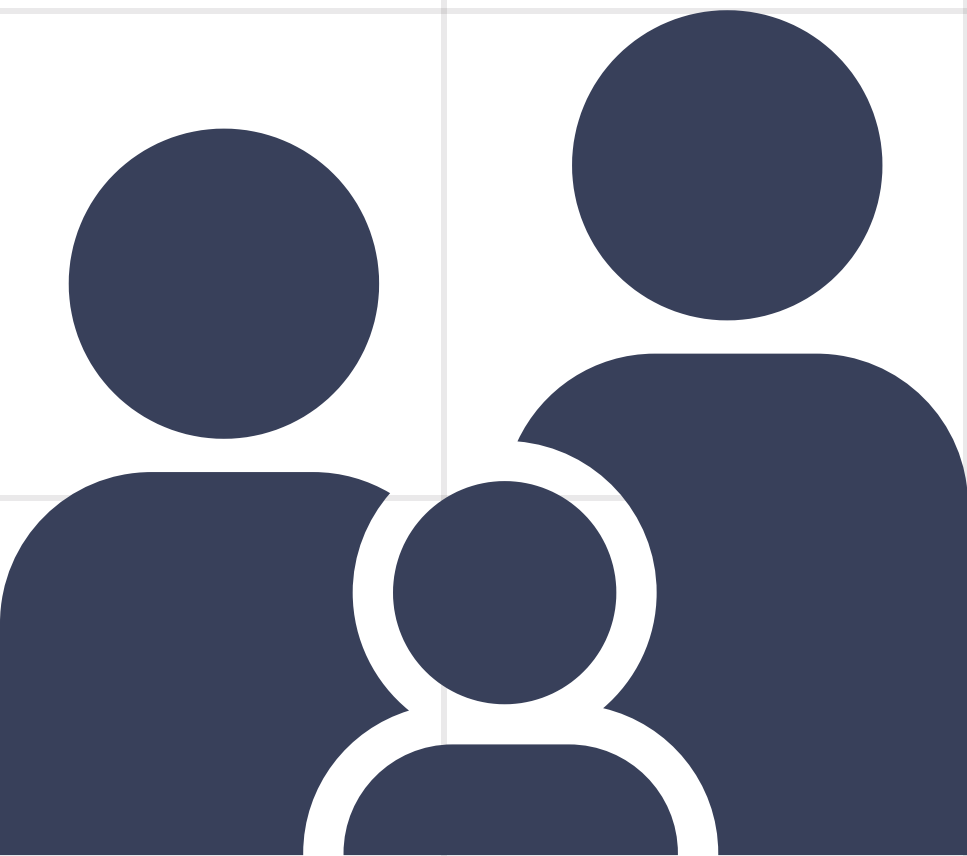
Hypotheses

H1: Children in homes that remain single have greater sociability than children in homes with a parent that remarries/cohabitates.

H2: Children whose parent remains single for a longer duration before remarriage/cohabitation have less sociability than children whose parent remains single for a shorter duration.

H3: Children with siblings in remarried/cohabited households have greater sociability than children without siblings in remarried/cohabitant homes.

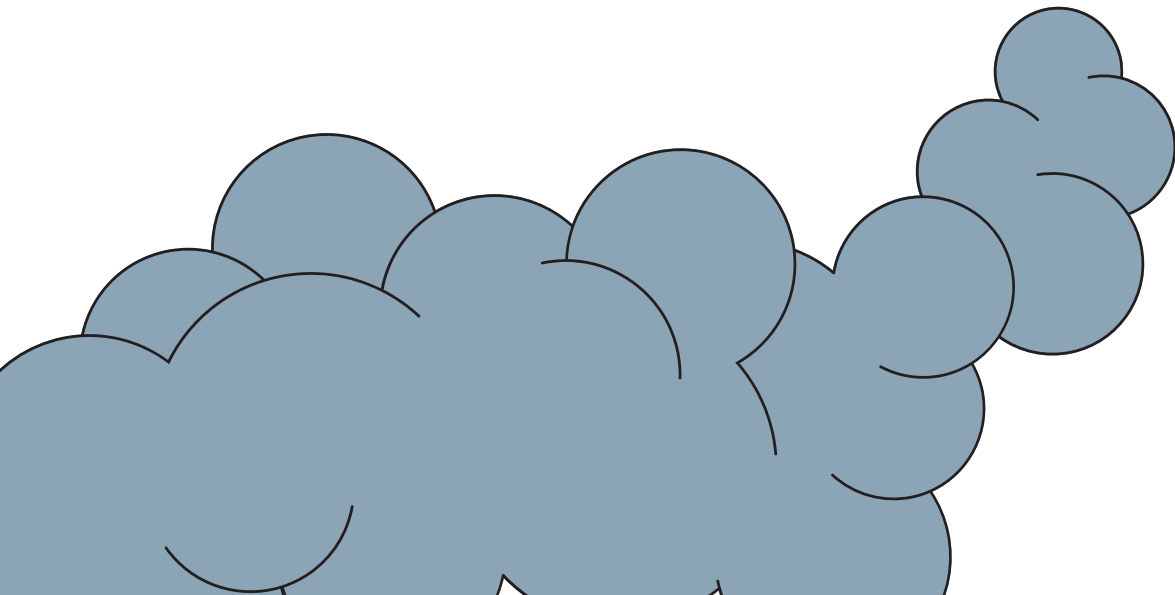
H4: Increased strength in a child and parent's relationship in a remarried/cohabited household will be associated with greater sociability compared to those with lesser strength.



Participants

26 Chapman Students

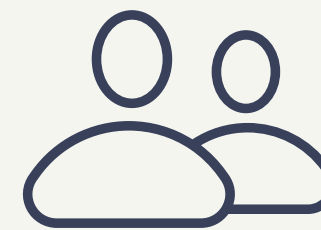
- 3 (11.5%) Males
- 23 (88.5%) Females
- Mean age = 19.15 (s.d. = 1.08)
- Race/Ethnicity
 - 2 (7.7%) African American
 - 6 (23.1%) Asian
 - 2 (7.7%) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - 5 (19.2%) Other race not listed



Additional Demographics



- 18 (69.2%) single parent
- 8 (30.8%) remarried/
cohabited parent



- 25 (96.2%) siblings
- 1 (3.8%) no siblings



Measures

Cheek & Buss Sociability Scale

(Bruch et al., 1989)

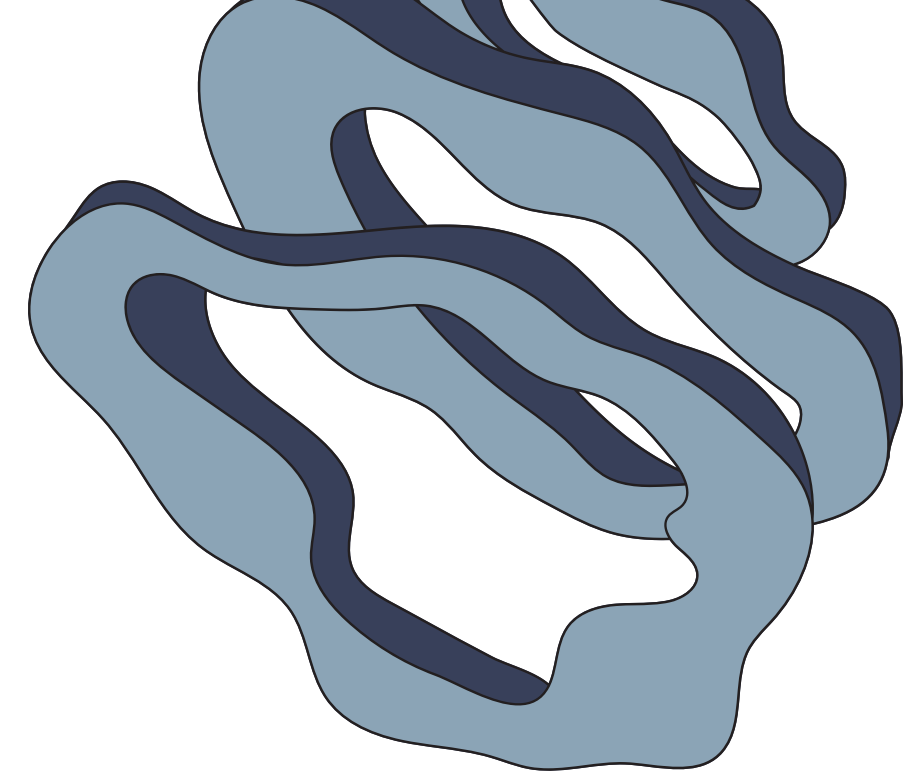
- Measured on a 5-point Likert Scale
- Greater score indicates great sociability

Parent-Child Relationship Quality Assessment

(King et al., 2014)

- Measured on a 5-point Likert scale
- Higher scores indicate greater levels of parent-child relationship quality

Procedures



- Completed mostly within psychology department
- Screening:
 - Were your parents married or cohabitating (i.e. living together) at any point in your childhood?
 - At any point did your parents separate?
 - $N = 26$
- Single vs remarried/cohabited condition
- Cheek & Buss Sociability Scale and Parent-Child Relationship Quality Assessment

H1: Children in homes that remain single have greater sociability than children in homes with a parent that remarries/cohabitates.

$t(24) = .133, p = .448$

- the hypothesis was not supported

| | N | Mean | SD |
|-----------|----|---------|---------|
| Single | 18 | 17.444 | 5.36023 |
| Remarried | 8 | 17.1250 | 2.21551 |



H2: Children whose parent remains single for a longer duration before remarriage/cohabitation have less sociability than children whose parent remains single for a shorter duration.

$n = 8, r = .359, p = .382$

- the hypothesis was not supported



H3: Children with siblings in remarried/cohabited households have greater sociability than children without siblings in remarried/cohabitant homes.

$t(6) = -.462, p = .330$

- the hypothesis was not supported

| | N | Mean | SD |
|-------------|---|---------|---------|
| Siblings | 7 | 16.7143 | 6.65117 |
| No siblings | 1 | 20.0000 | - |



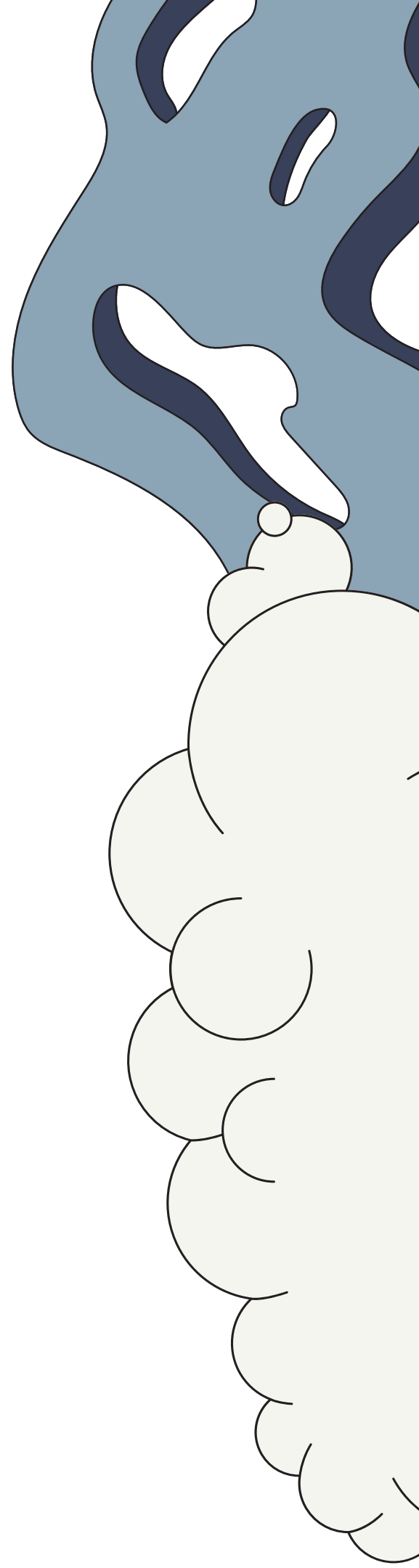
H4: Increased strength in a child and parent's relationship in a remarried/cohabitant household will be associated with greater sociability compared to those with lesser strength.

Parent relationship: $n = 8, r = .737, p < .05$

- As strength in relationship increased, sociability increased.

Stepparent relationship: $n = 5, r = .927, p < .05$

- As strength in relationship increased, sociability increased.





Discussion

- One of the four hypotheses was supported
 - Both parent and stepparent
- Limitations
 - Retrospective
 - Data collection duration
 - Small sample size
- Future research
 - Sibling relationship
 - Duration of remarried relationship
 - Moderating effects

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Desi and class
- Dr. Glynn
- Psychology Department



Thank You!
Questions?