

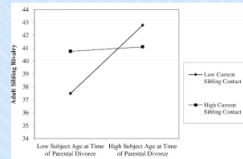
Does Divorce Have a Negative Effect on the Quality of Sibling Relationships?

Claire Gay, Brooklyn Hilley, Alyssa Hooper, Grace Kreul, & Mikayla Magee

Literature Review

Why is this important, and why should we care?

- Sibling relationships are longest lasting family relationships
- Siblings are an important source of comfort in the family
- Child development is super important
- To understand the HOW to eventually figure out how to help
- Divorce is growing "In western cultures it hovers around 40-50%"
- Adolescent children from separating families were significantly more likely than children from intact families to have affect-intense sibling relationships (relationships characterized by high levels of both hostility and warmth)
- Disharmonious family environments lead to siblings being much closer due to the lack of support from the parent
- Sibling relationship similar to parent-child relation in non distressed families
- Siblings in divorced families report more hostile sibling relationships



This figure explains the adult rivalry based on age of divorce and sibling contact to predict rivalry.

What do we know about this area/question?

- "Siblings from high-conflict families have less contact, lower relationship quality, and more conflict than do siblings from low-conflict families."
- Children ultimately find support in their sibling when their parents are going through a divorce if their parents are being unsupportive
- Do not know much else

What do we NOT yet know about this area/question?

- Understand the correlation but do not know:
 - How much
 - What age affected the most
 - Other affecting factors
- How sibling relationships are affected when they do not live at home anymore
- If boys and boys/girls and girls typically get along better when their parents are going through a divorce

Proposed Methods

Who is participating in your study and how will you find/enroll them?

- Pairs of adult siblings (18+) in the US that have experienced divorce
 - Use USA sample because that is where divorce rate is growing
 - Regarding SES, race, and ethnicity, we will ask questions about these factors to see if they cause a distinguished influence on the relationships
 - Will enroll them by creating a survey to be completed for convenience. The survey will be sent and posted through social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter).
 - Both siblings will take the self-administered survey
 - Can help generalizability and get large sample size
 - Random sampling due to percentage of population on social media platforms
- The reason behind this format is because since divorce is such a widespread event that can influence people in various ways, putting the survey public will allow us to get a wide range of participation.

What data collection procedures would you use?

- Questionnaire/survey format that will ask questions regarding the sibling relationship both before and after the divorce-- hoping to gather data on the influence of divorce on the "closeness" of siblings
- In order to gain triangulation and be more confident in our data's validity, we will do a follow up interview after the survey is taken.
- Cross-sectional data because our data gathered is coming from a one-time sample. We are focusing on the current opinion of the siblings.

How to exclude bias and gain generalizability?

- Being on social media allows for a variety of participants and can reach higher numbers than other approaches. If the sample is large enough (ideally, we would like around 50% of viewers to participate in the study), the sample should be representative of the population. In order to reduce bias, we would want a mix of different groups of people (SES, race, location etc.)

Justification & Conclusion

Survey Justification: We chose to gather this data to find the influence of divorce on the closeness of siblings. We relied on surveys because they allow us to collect data regarding the closeness of siblings through short answer questions that describe experiences and data in depth. These surveys provide us with both qualitative and quantitative data. Pairs of siblings participated because it is important to have both siblings' responses.

Importance: Our study is important because it allows us to expand our knowledge on the affects of divorce on sibling relationships. It would provide us with information on the factors we stated we do not yet know.

What measures would you use to answer your question?

- Question consumption: will include both multiple choice as well as open ended, longer response answers

Topics	# of questions	Answer format
Sibling Information (older/younger, age gap)	5	Free-response
Divorce (when, how/why)	5	Free-response
Sibling relationship during childhood	10	Likert Scale
Lifestyle now (distance from sibling, family? job?)	5	Free-response
Sibling relationship now	10	Likert Scale

Do you see any possible problems with what they are doing?

- The sibling answering survey could be bias and not answer in respect for the other sibling's perspective
- The adult age could influence the closeness variable because they are now living separate lives, and them having jobs/families could cause a greater divide besides the divorce itself

How could it be done better?

- Could give the survey to a certain group (cluster sample) instead of a convenience sample
- Make the sample age younger or incorporate both children and adults
- Ask more questions regarding the relationship during time at home
- Add in another type of measurement to help "triangulation"
- Add in group/family interview
- include mail surveys for those without social media