

6-2019

FAMILY STRUCTURE CORRESPONDING WITH DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS

Miranda Santiago

California State University – San Bernardino, 005786101@coyote.csusb.edu

Shirley Tamayo-Contreras

California State University – San Bernardino, 004256368@coyote.csusb.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/etd>



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Santiago, Miranda and Tamayo-Contreras, Shirley, "FAMILY STRUCTURE CORRESPONDING WITH DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS" (2019). *Electronic Theses, Projects, and Dissertations*. 840.

<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/etd/840>

This Project is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Graduate Studies at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Electronic Theses, Projects, and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@csusb.edu.

FAMILY STRUCTURE CORRESPONDING WITH
DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts
in
Social Work

by
Miranda Santiago
Shirley Tamayo-Contreras
June 2019

FAMILY STRUCTURE CORRESPONDING WITH
DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

by
Miranda Santiago
Shirley Tamayo-Contreras

June 2019

Approved by:

Armando Barragan, Research Advisor

Janet Chang, Chair

© 2019 Miranda Santiago & Shirley Tamayo-Contreras

ABSTRACT

The significance of this research study is to identify if an adolescents family structure impacts their developmental behaviors. The research design for this study was a quantitative design. The data analysis includes the independent variable (IV) and dependent variable (DV). For this study the IV was family structure and the DV in this study was delinquent behaviors. The findings suggest that during the pre-assessment tool researchers found there was no significance between family structure and delinquent behaviors. However, during the post assessment researchers found that there was significance between family structure and delinquent behavior. Although this study did not find significance during the pre-assessment, there were significant findings in the post-assessment that demonstrated that social workers should continue to consider family dynamics when assessing adolescents' developmental behaviors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
Problem Formulation.....	1
Purpose of the Study	2
Significance of the Project for Social Work	3
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	5
Introduction.....	5
Family Structure Corresponding with Delinquent Behaviors.....	5
Family Structure	6
Juvenile Delinquency	8
Theory Guiding Conceptualization.....	9
Summary	11
CHAPTER: THREE METHODS	12
Introduction.....	12
Study Design	12
Sampling.....	13
Data Collection and Instruments.....	14
Independent Variable	14
Dependent Variable	14
Procedures	15
Protection of Human Subjects	15

Data Analysis.....	16
Summary	17
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS.....	18
Demographics of Participants	18
Family Structure Pre-Disciplinary Action.....	20
Family Structure Post-Disciplinary Action	21
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION	23
Introduction	23
Discussion	23
Limitations.....	24
Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy, and Research	25
Conclusion	26
APPENDIX A: DATA COLLECTION GUIDE	27
APPENDIX B: INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL LETTER	28
REFERENCES.....	29
ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILTIES	33

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Demographics of the Participants.....	19
Table 2. Additional Demographics of the Participants	20
Table 3. Family Structure Pre-Disciplinary Action Crosstabulation.....	21
Table 4. Family Structure Post-Disciplinary Action Crosstabulation	22

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem Formulation

Family structure has been changing over the past decades in the United States. There has been a drastic increase in divorces and single-parent households which has eluded from the nuclear family structure. Approximately, one-third of children born in the United States, either are born to single mothers or at some point in their life will be raised in a single parent household (Demuth & Brown, 2004). Single parent households have generated adolescents to demonstrate higher levels of aggressiveness, defiant, delinquent behaviors, and mental health issues. This demonstrates that there is a clear link between adolescents' behavioral problems to their family structure.

According to Sogar (2017), defined juvenile delinquency as the behavior's adolescents undertake that eventually influences them to be involved with law enforcement. It has been demonstrated that adolescence initiates through the development of puberty and it finishes when individuals accomplish self-identity acceptance. This period ranges from ages 11 to 19 years old.

Family structure and juvenile delinquency are factors that can affect an adolescent's behavior. Delinquency rates have dramatically increased within the past couple of years among adolescents. For example, in 2002 over 61,000 juveniles were convicted of violent crimes that included murder, robbery, and assault (Keller, Catalano, Haggerty, Flemin, 2002). When looking at these

factors, the argument is not that a single parent is less caring. Rather they face a multitude of life demands and responsibilities that they might not be able to give the attention their adolescent needs (Muehlenberg, 2002). Single parents need to provide extra support and guidance to their adolescent(s), resulting in monitoring their behaviors and more opportunities for them to engage. In situations where these needs are not met, juvenile delinquent behaviors can arise.

At the micro level, ramifications include adolescents being raised in a single parent household. This complicates social work practice because numerous resources that are available for parents who are struggling with raising their adolescents alone are not being used adequately. Researcher Muehlenberg (2002) found that single parents are not as successful in parenting as those that are two parent households. Single parents have a more challenging time succeeding due to all the pressure falling under one individual instead of two. Having the opportunity of having two parents collaborate in the development of a child increases the chances of obtaining successful child rearing practices.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the research study was to assess if an adolescent's family structure has a connection between juvenile delinquent behaviors. The correlation between family structure and adolescents indicate that families who represent a nuclear family structure are at lower risk of criminality compared to adolescents who come from broken homes. Researchers Ikäheimo, Laukkanen, Hakko, and Räsänen (2013), estimate that 10-15% of adolescents from broken

homes have higher rates of delinquency. There has been a dramatic increase in delinquent behaviors that may be due to mental health symptoms. According to researcher Underwood (2016), statistics show that approximately 50 to 70 percent of adolescents who have been involved with the juvenile justice system have mild to severe mental health disorders.

The overall research method that was used in this research study was quantitative design. Archival data was utilized to obtain data for this study. Some of the questions that we will be asking during our research study are demographics such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity. Also, we will be inquiring about adolescent's grade level and assessing if adolescents live in a single parent, nuclear family, or other households. Our study will be an explanatory study, because it infers cause-effect and directional relationships.

Significance of the Project for Social Work

The need to conduct this study ascended with the need to educate families about how their roles are significantly imperative to their adolescent's development. Families need to be educated on how family structure impacts adolescent's delinquent behaviors. The results of our study will provide a clear understanding of the high-risk adolescent population that demonstrate delinquent behaviors. The results will also verify that there is a need for services to be developed within the school districts as well as other resources to attend these needs. The generalist intervention model has a total of seven steps that include, engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, and

follow-up. The phase that our study will be in is the assessment stage. This stage consists of assessing for possible resources or lack of resources within the community as well as identifying social problems.

Social workers may utilize the results of these findings that can contribute to social work practices by advocating for parents to become more aware and attentive to their adolescents resulting in less involvement with law enforcement. As social workers, it is important to encourage young adolescents from following the path of becoming homeless and/or incarcerated. It is important to assist parents with parenting and coping skills. As well as helping them recognize the signs that their adolescent might be displaying delinquent behaviors. This study will allow the examination for social workers to assist adolescents from reaching juvenile delinquency. The current study will address the question: Does family structure correspond delinquent behaviors amongst adolescents?

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter consists of an examination of the research relevant to family structure corresponding with juvenile delinquent behaviors. The subsections will include family structure and juvenile delinquency. The final subsection will examine the attachment theory and social bonding theory, which are relevant to this population.

Family Structure Corresponding with Delinquent Behaviors

A preliminary study reported that 11% of children came from intact families living with biological parents while 89% had disruption in their family structure (Behere, Basnet, & Campbell, 2017). Family structure impacts individuals at an early age and continues to affect them throughout adolescence. Effects can include but are not limited to mental health and juvenile delinquency. Adolescence is contemplated as an important developmental stage that formulates an individual's mental, emotional, physical, and social functions (Kutcher & McDougall, 2009). Without family involvement, adolescents' developmental stage will not reach its full potential leading both parent and adolescents to hardship.

Family Structure

Family dynamics is a crucial part of an adolescent's development. There are many roles a parent should act upon for their child to have a smooth transition into their adolescent years. For example, in a traditional family (i.e. married, 2 biological parents) environment both parents are part of their child's life. The mother takes up the emotional part of the adolescent's developmental stage, while the father usually focuses on the adolescent's behavior. The mother acts as the primary caregiver of the child by assisting them with their daily needs, while the father typically assumes the role of the breadwinner and head of household (Maurya, Parasar, & Sharman, 2015). Juby and Farrington (2001) found in a longitudinal survey of 411 participants that delinquency behaviors were higher among adolescents who were residing in a single parent household.

Adolescents who live in a two-parent household have the ability to develop more positive progressive outcomes than adolescents who live in a single parent household. Maurya, Parasar, & Sharman (2015), sought to explain that parents can ensure that they are both engaging in quality time with their children, develop a relationship, and monitor one another on their discipline. Not only is having a two-parent home beneficial for the adolescent's development but also having two parents' means having two incomes. These traditional families are economically more stable, which limits their stressors. Two parent households in the United States have more resources such as higher income, higher education, steady

employment, and access to benefits like health insurance than single parent households (Reczek, Spiker, Liu, & Crosnoe, 2016).

On the other hand, single parent households are more at risk socially, emotionally and economically. This socioeconomic disadvantage can increase the single parents stress. Single parent families have a harder time when dealing with stress, which raises economic challenges and can cause a strain between the parent and adolescent (Behere, Basnet, & Campbell, 2017). Single parent families are challenged with facing poverty. It has been estimated that 50% of single parent families face poverty while only 5% of two-parent families are affected by poverty (Behere, Basnet, & Campbell, 2017). Due to these financial challenges and stressors, this can cause a parent to work more hours and become socially isolated. This can cause a parent to adopt a less involved parenting style.

When a parent becomes less involved, adolescents tend to be less supervised. Amato & Patterson (2017) reported that adolescents being unsupervised have poorer school performances. They are likely to be teen parents and engage in more risk-taking behavior than adolescents being raised in a two-parent household. The changes within the family structure can disrupt the balance of these adolescents causing triggers of emotional distress that can affect their developmental growth (Alami, Khosravan, Sadegh Moghadam, Pakravan, & Hosseni, 2014). Researchers Price and Kunz (2003) found in a

meta-analysis of 72 adolescent participants that adolescents who are from divorced homes have higher levels of delinquency.

Juvenile Delinquency

There is a clear knowledge that the transition from childhood years to adolescent years can be a difficult one. Adolescents have a challenging time identifying themselves, as well as following the rules and authority, and knowing their boundaries. Not only are these individuals at risk, their ecological background and family structure can also be a factor to delinquency. Adolescents have difficulties and insecurities. Vanassche, Sodermans, Matthijs, & Swicegood, (2014), stated that having a stable home environment is often the key for a good transition from a child to an adolescent. When children grow up in a single parent household, they are more prone to delinquent behavior. Farrington (2000) have documented strong predictors of future delinquent behavior factors including living in poverty, living in a single parent household, and suffering from mental health. Often time these three factors lead an adolescent to enter the juvenile justice system.

The juvenile justice system was created with the purpose of protecting society and rehabilitating the youth (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999). However, within the last 20 years, the incarcerations of youth and adolescents have increased (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006). In recent years, the status of an adolescent's mental health has become a concern. These adolescents exposed to criminality can have a negative effect on their health (Egley, 2014). There are about 2 million

children and adolescents arrested each year in the United States and about 65 percent have a mental health disorder (Mental Health Needs of Juvenile Offenders, 2010). One of the reasons an adolescent can be delayed in reaching their developmental milestones is because they don't have any attachment to their parents or caregivers. Having poor attachment can also lead to behaviors such as aggression and being withdrawn (Cicchetti & Rogosch, 2002). As these kids continue through their adolescent years these behaviors, social and emotional problems can lead to additional challenges such as welfare involvement, severe mental disorders, and criminal justice problems (Stagman & Cooper, 2010).

Theory Guiding Conceptualization

The attachment theory first outlined by John Bowlby in 1969 and explored more in 1973 by Mary Ainsworth, is described as a meaningful connection with a close person that has a pleasurable affect during interaction (Bretherton, 1995). Attachment theory emphasizes the importance of mother and child or father and child emotional connection. This helps the relationship-building process. There are four stages of attachment that includes: pre-attachment, attachment in the making, true attachment, and reciprocal relationships. Each stage is subsequent to the development of future behavior and relationships (Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman, 2015).

Children that have secured attachment with their parents have positive relationships with peers, on the other hand, children who do not successfully

secure attachment have a much harder time developing social skills (Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman, 2015). Children might not have secured attachment due to the fact that they are being raised by a single parent who is often working to support the child. However, when that child becomes an adolescent, they have trouble developing social skills. This may lead to mental health issues such as deviance, and behavioral issues, which can then lead to criminality.

In addition, another theory that relates to attachment theory would be social bonding. Social bonding theory was introduced in 1969 by Travis Hirschi, he stated that the important components of social bonding theory include attachment to families, commitment to social norms and institutions, and involvement in activities (Hirschi, 1969). Glueck and Glueck (1950) discussed that family influences delinquent behavior. According to Hirschi (1969), school also plays a role in the adolescent's behavior and delinquency. Desertion, separation, divorce, or death of one or both parents can be some of the causes for single parent households. This makes it difficult for parents to help with the development of self-control that include monitoring behavior, recognition of deviant behavior, and punishment for engaging in deviant behavior (Owens-Sabir, 2007). These adolescents with single parent households lack family connectedness which leads an adolescent to seek approval and support from peers. Disruption in the family structure can weaken a parent-child bonding, this child will go through adolescent with loss of family cohesiveness and defiance (Owens-Sabir, 2007).

Summary

This study will identify if indeed family structure corresponds with juvenile delinquency among adolescents. Many services have been implemented within the school districts and juvenile justice system to accommodate these needs. However, there is still not enough education about understanding the core of this problem. Barriers to this issue also consist of lack of resources.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

Introduction

This study sought to examine if family structure corresponds with juvenile delinquency amongst adolescents. This chapter provides specific details that explain how this study was performed. The following sections will be covered: study design, sampling, data collection and instruments, procedures, protection of human subjects, and data analysis.

Study Design

The purpose of this study was to explore if family structure corresponds with mental health and juvenile delinquency amongst adolescents. This partnership with a school district's is to assess the effectiveness of the district's newly developed Department of Behavioral and Mental Health (DBMH) in meeting the needs of its students. The study will involve the participation of District administrators, School of Social Work liaisons, and students who are in the master's Social Work Program.

This study examined the effects of being raised in a single parent household compared to an adolescent who is raised in a two-parent household or other types of households. This was an explanatory research study, because it inters cause-effect and directional relationships. The schools district and DBMH provided us with data.

Additionally, there were numerous benefits that came with the utilization of an explanatory, quantitative approach. First, utilizing an explanatory research design allowed us to identify the cause-effect relationships. A strong point in using an explanatory, quantitative approach was utilizing archival data. Also, utilizing an explanatory, quantitative approach provided us with evidence to support or refute an explanation.

A limitation with using archival data is that there is a limit to the population size that is being targeted. Students whose parents agreed with agencies regulations are the only participants eligible for selection. However, there is another limit that is presented and that is that not all parents will agree to the research study being presented by the school of social work. Parents may not feel comfortable with their child's de-identified data used for this research.

Sampling

This study utilized all adolescent's cases ranging from ages 11-18. These adolescents are students who are currently receiving services from a Department of Behavioral and Mental Health. Parents who have agreed to DBMH services have also been given forms that provide information on this partnership between the school district and California State University of San Bernardino's (CSUSB) School of Social Work. For this study, there is a total of 40 participants that data was used. The data was utilized through archival data in the form of student records.

Data Collection and Instruments

As mentioned previously, quantitative data was collected through archival data that is in the form of student records. The frequency of collecting data has been established and will be no less than once a quarter. CSUSB School of Social Work graduate-level students collaboratively worked alongside the primary investigator and the school district. The Memorandum of Understanding that is between the School of Social Work and the school district states that the de-identified data that is retrieved by staff on site was and will continue to be securely placed with the primary investigator. The staff on site included CSUSB School of Social Work graduate-level students and administrators of the school district.

Some of the data that was collected included information that was related to the students' academic performance such as GPA, pre and post disciplinary actions such as detentions and suspension, attendance, and tardiness.

Independent Variable

This study's, independent variable is the family structure of an adolescent. The independent variable was measured based on whether an adolescent is raised in a single parent, nuclear family, or other households. The level of measurement is nominal, categorical.

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable that was used in this study was the delinquent behaviors of an adolescent. Delinquent behaviors were measured by the

following categories: suspensions, detentions, both, or none. This study will utilize a pre and post measurement tool. The level of delinquent behaviors nominal, categorical.

Procedures

The procedure initiated with students from the school district being referred to the DBMH for either but not limited to behavioral issues, ADHD, gender identity difficulties, anger outburst, self-injuries, and bipolar or eating disorders. The next step was getting the parents' consent to receive services from DBMH. Once consent was provided forms explaining the relationship between the school district's DBMH, and the CSUSB School of Social Work were given. The parents can either give their consent for data to be collected or have the option to deny it. The liaison collected data alongside the school district administrator. Once the data was collected it was then provided to the School of Social Work graduate-level students.

Protection of Human Subjects

For this proposed study, only adolescents who received services from DBMH and whose parents have agreed to DBMH services are eligible for selection. As mentioned previously, parents were to sign an Office Policy Form that verified parents understanding of information prior to initiation of study. To ensure confidentiality and anonymity of participants, a randomly generated identifier was allocated for each case. Also, in cases that participants had

specific circumstances or demographic that might have exposed their identity, the unusual circumstance and demographic was recorded in unspecific form. This action protected adolescent's confidentiality. All electronic data that was gathered was secured in an electronic folder with a 256-bit AES encryption. This AES encryption was stored on the primary investigator's work computer. All paper data collected was stored in primary investigator's file cabinet in his University office with a secured lock to continue confidentiality. Copies of files were then transferred to a HIPAA compliant, file container with combination locks. No other participants would have access to either the electronic or paper data collected.

Data Analysis

All data was gathered and provided to us by primary investigator and the school district's staff involved in the research study. This research study was a quantitative study design. As previously mentioned, the IV for this study was family structure and the level of measurement is nominal, categorical. The DV for this research study was delinquent behavior. The level of measurement was nominal, categorical. Based on the statistics decision tree the IV and DV are independent samples since different groups are being compared. This statistical design for this study is a chi square for independent samples. Once data was provided, we analyzed if the data collected matched our data collection guide. In this case the data collected indeed matched our data collection guide which then allowed us to categorize our data. These categories included: a pre and posttest

tool that was utilized to assess an adolescent's delinquent behaviors. These delinquent behaviors consisted of suspensions, detentions, none, or both. After this was conducted further investigation was done to see if adolescent's family structure correlated with these categories. We compared these categories and their family structure. For example, we compared participants that have been raised in a nuclear family to the participants who have been raised in a single parent household or other households.

Summary

This study assessed if family structure corresponds with delinquent behaviors among adolescents. The proposed study included collaborative work from the school district's administrators, school of social work liaison, and graduate-level students.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

Demographics of Participants

The current study consisted of 40 participants who were currently enrolled in the school district (see table 1). Table 1 provides demographics of the 40 participants who were used for this research. Of the 40 participants, 20% were White, 62.5 % Hispanic, and 17.5% other. For the purpose of this study researchers combined other ethnicities and categorized them as other. The sample consisted of 45% males and 55% females. Fifteen percent were in 6th grade, 20% in 7th grade, 20% in 8th grade, 10% in 9th grade, 20% in 10th grade, 5% in 11th grade, and 10% in 12th grade. A total of 67.5% participants reported English as their primary language, as opposed to 32.5% participants reporting Spanish.

Table 1. Demographics of the Participants

Variable	Frequencies (n)	Percentages (%)
Ethnicity		
White	8	20.0
Hispanic	25	62.5
Other	7	17.5
Gender		
Male	18	45.0
Female	22	55.0
Grade Level		
6 th grade	6	15.0
7 th grade	8	20.0
8 th grade	8	20.0
9 th grade	4	10.0
10 th grade	8	20.0
11 th grade	2	5.0
12 th grade	4	10.0
Primary Language		
English	27	67.5
Spanish	13	32.5

Fifty-five percent of participants reported living in a single parent household, 27.5% participants were nuclear families, and 17.5% participants were in other types of households. For this study guardianship and blended families were combined. Prior to the study beginning, the researchers were able to gather disciplinary action data. In this case, 47.5% of participants had been suspended, 1.2% of participants received detention, and 50% of participants received both suspensions and detentions. Once participants completed the school year, a posttest data collection of disciplinary action was gathered. Five percent of participants received suspensions, 2.5% of participants received a

detention, 37.5% of participants received both detentions and suspensions, and 55% of participants did not have any disciplinary actions (see Table 2. Additional Demographics of Participants).

Table 2. Additional Demographics of the Participants

Variable	Frequencies (n)	Percentages (%)
Family Structure		
Single	22	55.0
Nuclear	11	27.5
Other	7	17.5
Pre-Disciplinary Action		
Suspension	19	47.5
Detention	1	1.2
Both	20	50.0
None	0	0
Post Disciplinary Action		
Suspension	2	5.0
Detention	1	2.5
Both	15	37.5
None	22	55.0

Family Structure Pre-Disciplinary Action

A Chi-square test for independence indicated no significant association between family structure and pre-disciplinary action, $X^2(4, n = 40) = 4.5, p = .35$. In this study, we identified 8 participants who are currently residing in a single parent household who received suspensions. While only 1 participant received

detention, 13 participants received both suspensions and detentions. For participants who reported residing in a nuclear family household, 8 received suspensions, none received detentions, and 3 participants received both suspensions and detentions. Of the participants who reported either residing in another households, 3 participants received suspensions, none received detentions, and 4 participants received both suspensions and detentions. There were 47.5% participants that received suspensions, 2.5% received detention, and 50%. Of participants received both suspensions and detention (see Table 3. Family Structure Pre-Disciplinary Action Crosstabulation).

Table 3. Family Structure Pre-Disciplinary Action Crosstabulation

Variable	Suspension	Detention	Both
Family Structure			
Single	8	1	13
Nuclear	8	0	3
Other	3	0	4
Percentage (%)	47.5	2.5	50.0

Family Structure Post-Disciplinary Action

A Chi-square test for independence indicated a significant association between family structure and post-disciplinary action, $X^2 (6, n=40) = 15.03, p=.02$. Table 4 provides a description of family structure and the post-disciplinary action

crosstabulation. Analysis supports that among students who were suspended and served detention, 73.3% came from single-family households after being enrolled in the mental health program whereas 54.5% of respondents who did not have any disciplinary action after being enrolled in the mental health program came from nuclear or other family structures.

Table 4. Family Structure Post-Disciplinary Action Crosstabulation

Variable	Suspension	Detention	Both	None
Family Structure				
Single	1	0	11	10
Nuclear	1	0	0	10
Other	0	1	4	2
Percentage (%)	5.0	2.5	37.5	55.0

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

Introduction

This chapter will discuss the major findings from the study that was conducted to existing literature. Researchers also discuss the limitations of the study, and any recommendations for social work practice, policy and future research.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to identify if family structure correlates with delinquent behaviors amongst adolescents. Archival data was utilized to assess delinquent behaviors prior to adolescents beginning DBMH program. Delinquent behavior data was also collected for those adolescents at the end of the school year. When family structure and pre-disciplinary actions were cross- tabulated, it was found that there was no significance.

The quantitative results indicated that family structure does not affect delinquent behavior amongst adolescents. This result is inconsistent with previous studies. Majority of the research indicates that adolescents who are from broken homes demonstrate higher levels of delinquent behaviors. For example, Juby and Farrington (2001) found in a longitudinal survey of 411 participants that delinquency behaviors were higher among adolescents who were residing in a single parent household. Also, researchers Price and Kunz

(2003) found in a meta-analysis of 72 adolescent participants that adolescents who are from divorced homes have higher levels of delinquency.

When family structure and post disciplinary actions were cross-tabulated, the quantitative results indicated that there was a significance. The post data reports that family structure does have an impact on delinquent behaviors amongst adolescents. These results showed a significance due to the participants receiving services from the school district's DBMH program. The results showed the reduction of delinquent behavior once participants completed the program, regardless of their family structure. However, these results showed an inconsistency with the pre crosstabulation, stemming from the limited sample size utilized for this research study.

Limitations

The sample size was pulled from the school district's DBMH newly established program. With this program being in its first year, the number of referrals seeking mental health services were significantly low. Many of the schools were unaware of this program. The newly established program had about 150 referrals and about 60-70 students were seen by mental health interns. Data was collected for the 150 potential participants however, for the purpose of this research the data was collected for the ages of 11-18 years old. This brought the sample size down to 40 participants, which was a limitation to our study. In addition, the data collected only came from this one the school district as oppose to collecting from other nearby school districts as well. This

prohibited researchers from having the ability to have diverse populations within the sample size.

Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy, and Research

Through a pre and post archival data collection, the study's finding demonstrated that there were significant findings. This study found a significance in the post assessment. Social workers should continue to pursue positions in the school-based field due to family structure affecting delinquent behaviors in adolescents. Social workers should also pursue licensure as well as obtain a Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC). As mentioned previously, most of the other research studies found a significance between these variables. Social workers should implement evidence based theoretical approaches while working with adolescents. Such theoretical approaches can include but are not limited to solution focused therapy, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and dialectical behavior therapy (DBT). Essentially, adolescents would be educated about positive healthy coping skills that can ultimately be beneficial for their developmental well-being.

Moreover, various research has demonstrated the need for school districts to develop fundamental preventative programs that assist adolescents who are displaying delinquent behaviors. For example, in their study, researchers Demuth and Brown (2009) emphasized the importance of prevention acts focusing on promoting prevention programs and address adolescents' therapeutic needs. Additionally, researchers should increase the number of participants in order to

obtain better results. With the increased sample size researchers would be able to find a detailed significance without any inconsistencies.

Conclusion

Due to the commonality of family structure and delinquent behaviors amongst adolescents, there is a continued need for social workers in the school-based field. Programs such as DBMH at this the school district have shown a significance in decreasing delinquent behaviors by utilizing social work graduate student interns. As a newly programs develop there continues to be a need for social workers whom are licensed and have a PPSC. In this study, the post assessment tool demonstrated that there was a connection between family structure and delinquent behaviors. Previous studies have also shown the connection and prove that family dynamics can impact an adolescent's behavior.

APPENDIX A
DATA COLLECTION GUIDE

- Age
- Gender
- Education level
- Employment status
- Socioeconomic status
- Ethnicity/race
- Family structure: single, nuclear, or other households
- History of delinquent behaviors: suspension, detention, both, or none

APPENDIX B

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL LETTER

*CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee*

Researcher(s) Miranda Santiago & Shirley Tamayo-Contreras
Proposal Title Family Structure Corresponding with Mental Health and Juvenile Delinquency
SW 1853

Your proposal has been reviewed by the School of Social Work Sub-Committee of the Institutional Review Board. The decisions and advice of those faculty are given below.

Proposal is:

approved
 to be resubmitted with revisions listed below
 to be forwarded to the campus IRB for review

Revisions that must be made before proposal can be approved:

faculty signature missing
 missing informed consent debriefing statement
 revisions needed in informed consent debriefing
 data collection instruments missing
 agency approval letter missing
 CITI missing
 revisions in design needed (specified below)

Janet Ch
Committee Chair Signature

4/25/2018
Date

Distribution: White-Coordinator; Yellow-Supervisor; Pink-Student

REFERENCES

- Age limits and adolescents. (2003). *Paediatrics & child health*, 8(9), 577–578.
- Alami, A., Khosravan, S., Sadegh Moghadam, L., Pakravan, F., & Hosseini, F. (2014). Adolescents' self-esteem in single and two-parent families. *International Journal of Community Based Nursing and Midwifery*, 2(2), 69–76.
- Amato, P., & Patterson, S. (2017). Single-parent households and mortality among children and youth. *Social Science Research*, 63253-262.
- Behere, A. P., Basnet, P., & Campbell, P. (2017). Effects of family structure on mental health of children: A preliminary study. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 39(4), 457–463. <http://doi.org/10.4103/0253-7176.211767>.
- Bretherton, I. (1995). The origins of attachment theory: John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth. *Attachment Theory: Social, Developmental, and Clinical Perspectives.*, 45-85.
- Cicchetti, D., & Rogosch, F. A. (2002). A developmental psychopathology perspective on adolescence. *Journal Of Consulting And Clinical Psychology*, 70(1), 6-20. doi:10.1037/0022-006X.70.1.6.
- Demuth, S., & Brown, S. L. (2004). Family structure, family processes, and adolescent delinquency: The significance of parental absence versus parental gender. *Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency*, 41(1), 58-81. doi: 10.1177/0022427803256236.

- Egley, A., et al. (2014). *Highlights of the 2012 National Youth Gang Survey*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- Farrington, D. (2000). Epidemiology of juvenile violence. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 9(4), 733.
- Glueck, S. & Glueck, E. (1950). *Unraveling juvenile delinquency*. Cambridge, Mass.: *Harvard University Press*.
- Hirschi, T. (1969). *Causes of delinquency*. Berkeley: *University of California Press*.
- Ikäheimo, O., Laukkanen, M., Hakko, H. h., & Räsänen, P. (2013). Association of family structure to later criminality: A population-based follow-up study of adolescent psychiatric inpatients in northern Finland. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, 44(2), 233-246.
- Juby, H. & Farrington, D.P. (2001). Disentangling the link between disrupted families and delinquency. *British Journal of Criminology*, 41, 22-40.
- Keller, T. E., Catalano, R. F., Haggerty, K. P., & Flemin, C. (2002). Parent figure transitions and delinquency and drug use among early adolescent children of substance abusers. *American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse*, 28(3), 399.
- Kutcher, S., & McDougall, A. (2009). Problems with access to adolescent mental health care can lead to dealings with the criminal justice system. *Paediatrics & Child Health*, 14(1), 15–18.

- Maurya, A. K., Parasar, A., & Sharma, A. (2015). The effect of single parent and both parent's family on emotional and behavioral problems. *Indian Journal Of Health & Wellbeing*, 6(12), 1235-1237.
- Muehlenberg, B. (2002). The case for the two- parent family part II. *National Observer*, (53), 49.
- Owens-Sabir, M. C. (2007). Effects of race and family attachment on self-esteem, self-control, and delinquency.
- Price, C., & Kunz, J. (2003). Rethinking the paradigm of juvenile delinquency as related to divorce. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 3, 109-133.
- Reczek, C. R., Spiker, R., Liu, H., & Crosnoe, R. (2016). Family structure and child health: Does the sex composition of parents matter? *Demography*, 53(5), 1605-1630.
- Rothbaum, F., Rosen, K., Ujiie, T., & Uchida, N. (2002). Family systems theory, attachment theory, and culture. *Family Process*, 41(3), 328.
- Snyder, Howard N., and Sickmund, Melissa. 2006. *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- Snyder, Howard, N. and Sickmund, Melissa. (1999). *Juvenile offenders and victims: A national report*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

- Sogar, C. (2017). The influence of family process and structure on delinquency in adolescence-An examination of theory and research. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 27*(3), 206-214.
doi:10.1080/10911359.2016.1270870.
- Stagman, S. (2010). Children's mental health: What every policymaker should know. *Children's Mental Health: What Every Policymaker Should Know*.
- Underwood, L. A., & Washington, A. (2016). Mental illness and juvenile offenders. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 13*(2), 228. <http://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph13020228>
- Vanassche, S., Sodermans, A., Matthijs, K., & Swicegood, G. (2014). The effects of family type, family relationships and parental role models on delinquency and alcohol use among flemish adolescents. *Journal Of Child & Family Studies, 23*(1), 128-143. doi:10.1007/s10826-012-9699-5
- Zastrow, C. H., & Kirst-Ashman, K. K. (2015). Understanding human behavior and the social environment. *Cengage Learning*.

ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES

For this partnership we have agreed that we would share responsibilities for this research project. Every paper leading up to the research proposal has been done collaboratively. We each have different strengths that are utilized during the writing process. No concerns have risen during this partnership that would change our responsibilities.