

Adolescents from divorced families:

Contact and relationship with nonresident father and physical health

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Sample

- ◆ Survey of 1850 students from a vocational school in Bern
 - 1372 (74 %) from nondivorced families:
63 % males and 37 % females
 - 478 (26 %) from divorced families:
61 % males and 39 % females

Topic of interest

Does the relationship with the nonresident father make a difference in terms of physical health outcome?

Instrumentation

- ◆ Questionnaire study:
 - Standardized scales and single questions on adolescent's experiences in their families
 - Divorce group: experiences before/during divorce, two years after, and in the present
 - Nondivorce group: experiences in the present

Measures

- ◆ Age at the time of parental divorce
- ◆ Quantity of father contact
- ◆ Satisfaction with father contact
- ◆ Quality of relationships with parents and stepparents (PAQ)
- ◆ Stress-induced parental conflict (9-item scale)
- ◆ Financial situation
(additional measures, but not relevant for this paper)

Outcome Measures

- ◆ Vulnerability to stress-related illnesses
 - Somatic symptoms (SCL-90)
 - Days sick
 - Doctor visits
 - Hostility (STAXI, Spielberger 1988)