

Abstract

The relation between family structure and youth psychopathology was examined. Structural Family Interaction Scale-Revised (Perosa, 1996) and the Youth Self Report scale (Achenbach, 1991) were completed by 785 secondary school boys and girls. The results indicated that the family structure was predictive to general youth symptomatology, but not specific with internalizing or externalizing problems. The findings also suggested that Chinese participants were less vulnerable to psychological symptoms by more enmeshed family subsystem boundaries. Sex differences emerged in which various aspects of family structure related to boys' Internalizing problems and Externalizing problems but only with girls' Internalizing problems. Limitations of the present study were discussed.