

Abstract

Data was gathered from parents and focal children in 28 single-mother and 28 intact families. The Parent Perception Inventory (PPI), Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) and Teacher Report Form (TRF) were used to evaluate how parenting and children's behavioral problems differed across the two family structures and the association among them. Kinetic Family Drawing (K-F-D) and Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA) were used to investigate the extent to which drawing variables predicted children's attachment and whether they differed across the two family structures. The results suggested that the children's behavioral problems and parenting did not differ significantly across divorced and intact families. Parenting behaviors correlated with children's behaviors but no association was found between drawing variables and attachment to parents. Attachment to mothers was a predictor of children's behavioral problems. K-F-D drawing variables were significantly associated with children's behavioral problems and were predictors of negative parenting behaviors. No significant difference appeared in children's behavioral problems and parenting between divorced and intact families, but there was a clear trend for divorced families having more behavioral problems in children and negative parenting behaviors in mothers. This was determined to be the effect of a small sample size resulting in relatively low statistical power in data analysis.