

Parental Relationship Dissolutions and Adolescent Well-Being

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Abstract

Children continue to experience the marital and cohabitation dissolution of parents. Some children are able to excel in spite of the aversive conditions that can take place during and after the dissolution. This study utilizes the *National Survey of Households and Families* to explore adolescent well-being after parental relationship dissolution. This research addresses the influence of family and adolescent protective characteristics and processes, specifically parent-child relationship quality and adolescent self-esteem, on adolescents' academic and behavioral functioning during this family structure transition. Additionally, this research tested the moderating effects of parental education, economic resources, and parental conflict on parent-child relationship quality and adolescent self-esteem while holding constant parent age, sex and race, time since dissolution, household type (biological or step) prior to dissolution, adolescent age and adolescent sex. No significant interactions were found. However, using longitudinal lagged hierarchical multiple regressions, results indicate that adolescent age and self-esteem, parent-child relationship quality, family income, and parent conflict were related to adolescent problem behaviors and academic achievement.