

What would be the potential outcomes of those who didn't grow up under biological parental supervision?

- Group 4 -



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Research Topic

Our research is looking to find if adults who grew up in homes without their biological parent(s) (adoption, foster care, family member) are more pre-dispositioned to commit crime than adults who were raised by biological parent(s).

Previously: “The Impact of crime on adults raised by non-biological parents”

We were in need of changing the title of our research altogether to study both non-biological parents and biological parents to compare the differences and have more accurate results.

Hypothesis

Non-biological parents do have an effect on the potential criminality of individuals

Charles Manson
Ted Bundy
David Berkowitz
Larry Bittaker and Roy Norris, etc..

Survey Confidence Level

In our anonymous online survey provided by the IRI, all participants will be chosen at random and are unidentifiable by name. Minimal risk will be presented to each participant because their identity is not necessary to conduct this research and/or the results.

Demographic questions were not asked- race, gender, religion etc... (These variables were not pertinent to our research).

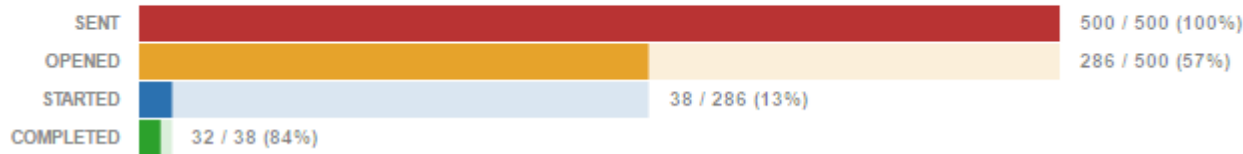
UVU students are chosen at random by the IRI to include both male and female participants over age 18 years.

Implied consent was given out with each survey explaining it's purpose, the utilization of the survey, participants rights and the survey's confidentiality.

The return of the survey served as their consent.

Survey Response Rate - UVU STUDENTS

DISTRIBUTIONS



INVITATIONS

Sent	Status	Emails Sent	Emails Failed	Emails Opened	Surveys Started	Surveys Finished
Feb 26, 2016 2:51 PM		500	0	286	38	32

Survey Improvements:

- Emailed survey reminders 3 times to the original 500 UVU Students
- Reached out to social media networking- Facebook

Survey Response Rate - IMPROVEMENT

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Biological Parents		228	97%
2	Adoptive/Foster Parents		2	1%
3	Relatives		6	3%
	Total		236	100%

43%

EMAILS OPENED

245

TOTAL RESPONSES

245

SURVEYS STARTED

4%

DROPOUT RATE

Literature Review

Children growing up without a biological parent are much more likely than children of intact families to fall victim of poverty and welfare dependence themselves in later years.

A mother's strong affectionate attachment to her child is the child's best buffer against a life of crime along with a father's authority and involvement in raising his children.

Children raised in intact married families are more likely to attend college, are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to be physically or sexually abused, less likely to use drugs or alcohol and to commit delinquent behaviors, have a decreased risk of divorcing when they get married, are less likely to become pregnant/impregnate someone as a teenager, and are less likely to be raised in poverty.

Problems Encountered

IRB denied our first request

Based on their review of your application materials, the IRB requires the following modifications, correction and/or documentation to be on file with the IRB prior to providing full authorization for this study.

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Problems Encountered

1. The title of the study suggests the inclusion/exclusion criterion of “Adults Raised by Non-biological Parents” which means probability sampling does not fit the research purpose. Rather, a non-probability, purposive sample of Adults Raised by Non-biological Parents is required. Moreover, confining the population to UVU Students makes this non-random anyway and will likely produce skewed results. Within UVU’s student body, only those who were raised by non-biological parents are eligible to participate. That number ($N = x$) might be significant, but it won’t be representative of the general population because most adult people are not college educated nor are they current college students. We might even ask if adults who were juvenile delinquents and raised by non-biological parents are more likely in college or prison. In sum, the population and sampling method cannot provide genuine scientific findings that answer the research question.
2. Survey designs are by nature self-report methods of data collection. No inference about biological parenting can be drawn from the opinions of a self-report questionnaire. Qualitative designs that go deeper into particular psychosocial issues may provide some indications from the participants’ experiences about their value of parents being biological or non-biological. Qualitative research is meant to get the subjective perspective of the participants from their lived-experiences, whereas surveys are meant to capture a broad scope of opinions from the participants. Nothing more can be said in a survey than that the opinions of the participants were _____. With the salient acceptance of Cartesian based Nature v. Nurture, false attributions to one or the other are common when asking someone why they are this way or that way. Even the father of a little league football player says “that’s my boy” when his son does well, but blames external circumstances when the little lad drops the ball. This study proposes to answer biological questions but should clarify that it is the subjective meaning and valuing of biological parent from the participants perspective that can be achieved. There is a huge difference between “is” and “perceived to be” when it comes to human science research. And again, quantitative research is not meant to get at subjective meaning, but to measure and make predictions.
3. Data collection instruments should be as uncomplicated as possible. There are many contingent questions here that may be resolved by simply automating the electronic administration system to skip when the contingent item is answered in a way that would require other items to be skipped. The qualitative data section (open-ended questions) should stand apart from the demographic and content items. I recommend collecting demographic data first. This gets the respondent to answer questions and comfortable with the process before getting into the content. Then the content items and finally the qualitative items asking for a short narrative. The content items will get the respondents thinking and reflecting about their experiences.
4. Questionnaire items must be germane to the research question. So demographic information may in this case be out of bounds. If there is reason to believe from the extant literature that one’s race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc. are possible variables to the person’s criminal/law-abiding choices, then it needs to be argued and cited. This application has no accompanying literature review, so I have no basis upon which to believe that dimensions of human difference play a role in one’s criminality or not.
5. Malfeasance is a minimal risk in this survey study. Respondents are not likely to be harmed in any way by participating.
6. Beneficence is not obvious here in terms of providing a benefit to respondents. Moreover, the general value of the knowledge as product is not likely to be sufficient because the sampling and design of the study really will not provide general scientific knowledge about Adults Raised by Non-biological Parents. There is literature that provides theories for how children from broken homes struggle and can act out. But this study places adoption without age consideration, foster homes, and etc. all in a category that is not operationally defined in a sound way. So the results will be dubious at best.
7. Justice for the participant or society is not served in the design of this study. Rather, it seems biased toward biological nuclear family structure as the “one by which others can be judged.” While this is certainly and openly the dominant view of the regional culture of UVU, there are many family structures that are marginalized by this presupposition. Because the family can be a constellation of many different members from a cross-cultural perspective, this implied standard is simply not sound science.
8. Autonomy is best served in this study because a survey design is completely voluntary. There is no pressure on the participant to participate or complete the whole process. As such, the strongest ethical point on this research project is the survey design.
9. Summary, the research purpose and question need to be reformulated so that survey design can answer them. Or, the design needs to change to a qualitative mode of research to get at the deeper meanings and experiences of those parented by Non-biological Parents who also transgressed the law. In both cases, the inclusion/exclusion criteria need to be part of the recruitment process of a non-probability, purposive sampling strategy. The questionnaire needs to be reformatted and items not justified in the extant literature need to be removed. A literature review to accompany the re-submission would aid in the subsequent reviews and authorization to conduct research. Finally, Malfeasance, Beneficence, Justice and Autonomy need to be addressed in the application so that it is clear that the research can make a positive contribution beyond being an academic exercise.
10. My main suggestion is to have the research team further develop their research question and re-formulate the questionnaire as needed to answer the research question. Based on the research question there seems to be a number of survey questions related to running away, drug use, guns, and violence that aren’t necessarily part of the actual research question. By asking survey questions not directly related to the question is putting subjects at unnecessary risk.

Problems Encountered

Lack of response from the 500 random UVU students the surveys were sent out to

Only 15 responses with first email request

2nd request sent - only 11 additional responses

3rd request sent - no additional responses

We only received a 5% response rate in 2 months

Problems Encountered

Angry students:

I don't know you or how you got my email but I will not participate in your study. From the experiences in my life, kids who are adopted or in foster care are given a chance at a normal life and a happy, successful adulthood that would NEVER have been the case had they stayed with their birth parents.

Please don't contact me again.

Problems Encountered

Sent out the survey request to our Facebook friends to generate more responses

We had 218 responses that same day

Although we had more than enough people take our survey, only 2 grew up with adoptive/foster parents and only 6 grew up with relatives

Our Results

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
Please rate your attendance in each of the following: - Elementary School	Extremely good	187	1	6	194
	Moderately good	34	0	0	34
	Slightly good	5	0	0	5
	Neither good nor bad	0	0	0	0
	Slightly bad	1	0	0	1
	Moderately bad	0	0	0	0
	Extremely bad	0	1	0	1
Total		227	2	6	235
Please rate your attendance in each of the following: - Middle School	Extremely good	168	0	6	174
	Moderately good	44	1	0	45
	Slightly good	7	0	0	7
	Neither good nor bad	4	0	0	4
	Slightly bad	1	0	0	1
	Moderately bad	2	0	0	2
	Extremely bad	1	1	0	2
Total		227	2	6	235
Please rate your attendance in each of the following: - High School	Extremely good	137	1	6	144
	Moderately good	53	0	0	53
	Slightly good	15	1	0	16
	Neither good nor bad	6	0	0	6
	Slightly bad	5	0	0	5
	Moderately bad	5	0	0	5
	Extremely bad	6	0	0	6
Total		227	2	6	235

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
Did you have truancy problems as a teen? (Truancy definition: the action of staying away from sch...	Far too much	6	1	0	7
	Moderately too much	6	0	0	6
	Slightly too much	21	0	0	21
	Neither too much nor too little	59	1	0	60
	Slightly too little	10	0	0	10
	Moderately too little	18	0	0	18
	Far too little	108	0	6	114
	Total	228	2	6	236

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
What was your GPA in High School?	4.0-3.2	180	1	5	186
	3.1-2.5	41	0	1	42
	2.4-2.0	5	0	0	5
	1.9 or below	2	1	0	3
	Total	228	2	6	236

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
Did you receive counseling or therapy sessions when you were a child or teenager?	Yes	52	2	3	57
	No	176	0	3	179
Total		228	2	6	236

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
How effective was therapy/counseling for you as a juvenile?	Extremely effective	2	0	0	2
	Very effective	8	0	0	8
	Moderately effective	12	1	2	15
	Slightly effective	9	0	1	10
	Not effective at all	20	0	0	20
	Total	51	1	3	55

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
How much do you agree with this statement: Teenagers today should have more respect for adults.	Strongly agree	110	0	2	112
	Agree	66	1	1	68
	Somewhat agree	28	0	2	30
	Neither agree nor disagree	12	0	1	13
	Somewhat disagree	3	0	0	3
	Disagree	2	0	0	2
	Strongly disagree	2	0	0	2
	Total	223	1	6	230

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
How did you look at adult figures below the age of 18?	Extremely positive	67	0	0	67
	Moderately positive	99	1	4	104
	Slightly positive	21	0	0	21
	Neither positive nor negative	24	0	2	26
	Slightly negative	6	0	0	6
	Moderately negative	4	0	0	4
	Extremely negative	1	0	0	1
Total		222	1	6	229

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
How easy is it for you to follow directions from authority?	Extremely easy	84	0	4	88
	Moderately easy	100	1	1	102
	Slightly easy	17	0	0	17
	Neither easy nor difficult	7	0	1	8
	Slightly difficult	10	0	0	10
	Moderately difficult	3	0	0	3
	Extremely difficult	1	0	0	1
Total		222	1	6	229

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
How much do you agree with this statement: My parents and I had a good relationship while I was g...	Extremely good	76	1	1	78
	Moderately good	77	0	0	77
	Slightly good	26	0	0	26
	Neither good nor bad	19	0	0	19
	Slightly bad	10	0	2	12
	Moderately bad	8	0	2	10
	Extremely bad	6	0	1	7
	Total	222	1	6	229

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
Did you commit any crimes below the age of 18?	Yes	27	1	1	29
	No	196	0	5	201
Total		223	1	6	230

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
What kind of crime was committed?	Affiliations with substance abuse or illegal drug use	10	0	0	10
	Physical or Emotional Abuse	0	0	0	0
	Truancy	0	0	0	0
	Theft	6	1	0	7
	Vandalizing or destroying of property	3	0	0	3
	Alcohol Offense	5	0	0	5
	Assault or Battery	0	0	0	0
	Carfew Violations	0	0	0	0
	Traffic Violations	0	0	0	0
	Trespassing	1	0	0	1
	Other: _____	2	0	1	3
	Total	27	1	1	29

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
Did you ever runaway below the age of 18?	Yes	13	0	1	14
	No	209	1	5	215
Total		222	1	6	229

		Who were you raised by when you were a child?			Total
		Biological Parents	Adoptive/Foster Parents	Relatives	
Did you have any gang affiliations below the age of 18?	Always	0	0	0	0
	Most of the time	2	0	0	2
	About half the time	0	0	0	0
	Sometimes	3	0	0	3
	Never	217	1	6	224
	Total	222	1	6	229

Our Results

Our purpose in conducting this study was to unravel the differences of academic and criminal outcomes between adults who were raised by their biological parents, relatives, or adoptive/foster care parents. Our research sought to find if adults who grew up in homes without their biological parent(s) (adoption, foster care, family member) are more pre-dispositioned to commit crime than adults who were raised by biological parent(s).

Our conclusion: Based on our few results, we did not find enough evidence to associate a link between adults who grew up without their biological parents and criminality.

Was this research beneficial?

For the purpose of this class, it might seem as if not finding a correlation between biological parents and criminality is a bad thing. However, the big picture tells us that based on our results, children who are raised by adoptive or foster parents or other relatives do not have a higher likelihood of poor academia or criminality.

This is a good thing!

Had this research proved otherwise would people be more reluctant to take on the responsibility of a child who is not biologically their own?

Conclusion

Overall, if the researchers had more time to collect data and also had more adults raised by non-biological parents participate, our results would have likely been more diverse and accurate as to whether or not adults raised without their biological parents are actually more prone to commit crime.