

The Effects of Family Structure on Childhood Development

Laura Moore
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Statement of the Problem

- The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of children living in various family structures. The effects that different family structures have on children could enhance or decrease their educational, cognitive, behavioral, and social interactions.

Research Questions

- Are children in same-sex marriages being negatively affected?
- What are the effects on children from living in married homes vs. children living in unmarried homes?
- Do the effects of family structure change depending on the child's age at the time of disruption?

Abstract

- The paper provides an outlook on the different outcomes affecting children in various types of family structures. There are many theories that diverse types of family structure affect childhood development. These structures include heterosexual couples, same-sex marriages, single parents, low income families, and more. This paper investigates the effects that family change and structure have on a child's well being. It is theorized that children in a married household are more enhanced educationally and behaviorally than children in an unmarried household. (Ryan) Does same-sex marriage harm children? This study will seek to answer this question. By looking at family structures this paper will identify if household changes and different family types affect the development of children.

Methodology

- The study is intended to gather information about the effects of children in various types of family structure. Families will receive questionnaires through the mail. Families would also be given surveys while the researcher is present. The questionnaires will ask how their families are perceived by others and how it affects their happiness. The surveys would include happiness levels, arguments, quality family time, how many children they have, their drug and alcohol content. The surveys will measure the child's behavioral problems and how well they do in school. The surveys and questionnaires are meant to measure the general well being of the families. The families and children will be expected to answer each question truthfully and completely as possible. The surveys will be anonymous so the participants will feel comfortable and be more likely to answer honestly.