Annotated Bibliography

How does a parent’s marital status affect their child physically, mentally, and emotionally?

Chui, Wing H. and Wong, Matthew Y. H. “Association Between Parents’ Marital Status and the Development of Purpose, Hope, and Self-Esteem in Adolescents in Hong Kong.” *Journal of Family Issues* vol. 38 issue 6 (2017): 820–838. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 April 2017. This article analyzes how the role of parental marital status influences their child’s mental well-being; their purpose in life, hope, and self-esteem. Their research showed that these factors are surprisingly lower in children that are raised in two-biological-parent families. They explain that, “Such development is highly conditional on participants’ family background—in particular, their parents’ marital status… perhaps surprisingly, the reverse is true for teenagers from families with divorced/separated parents” (832). Against popular belief the children raised by single or divorced parents end up having higher levels of purpose in life, hope, and self-esteem. They explain the reason behind this idea by saying, “[The children raised in this] environment of upbringing forces them to be independent, bear greater responsibility, and understand the reality of the world quicker, which in turn leads to the positive development of their own identity and these attributes” (832). Although this article would suggest an argument against my claim, I believe it will be useful for the refutation component of my paper. Since it obviously has a good point saying that divorced or single parenting could promote positive emotional stability in a child’s life it will give me the chance to develop my claim farther, and prove that even though this may be true, the repercussions for this parenting style is still greater than the benefits. One of the authors of this article, Wing Hong Chui, graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong and now works there as a Professor in the Department of Applied Social Sciences and focusses on Social work, youth work, probation, prison, and criminal justice. His other articles include *Voices of the incarcerated father: Struggling to live up to fatherhood*, *The Role of Psychology in Policing: An Overview*, and *Factors Associated With Whether Caregivers Choose to Disclose Incarceration Information to Children With Imprisoned Fathers*. The other author, Matthew Y. H. Wong, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong in the Department of Politics and Public Administration. He graduated with a Ph.D. at the University of Essex.

Keeports, Christine R. and Pittman, Laura D. “I Wish My Parents Would Stop Arguing! The Impact of Interparental Conflict on Young Adults.” *Journal of Family Issues* vol. 38 issue 6 (2017): 840-857. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 April 2017. This article explores the repercussions of interparental tension on the parents child’s mental health. It touches on the fact that interparental conflict occurs in higher rates of parents that are in the process of, or currently divorced and it explains that, “Young adults’ exposure to interparental conflict appears to be positively associated with symptoms of depression and anxiety. This finding is similar to what has been found among children and adolescents” (850). It also explains that not only does interparental tension negatively affect children but it also impacts young adults that do not necessarily see their parents all the time. This article will help strengthen my claim by suggesting that interparental conflict negatively affects children and that the conflict stays with them into their adult life, impacting their mental and emotional health throughout their entire existence. Keeports is a graduate student at Northern Illinois University. She currently has an internship at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio focusing on the Clinical Child Track. Some of her other publications include *Young adults perceptions of grandparenting in multigenerational households* and *Stressful events and adolescent internalizing symptoms: Examining open parent-adolescent communication as a protective factor*. The other author, Laura D. Pittman, received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Connecticut. Her credentials include an internship in New York at the Crestwood Children’s Center and a postdoctoral research fellowship with the NIMH Family Research Consortium. She also wrote an article titled, *Low-Income Multigenerational Households: Variation in Family Functioning by Mothers' Age and Race/Ethnicity*.

Langton, Callie E. and Berger, Lawrence M. “Family Structure and Adolescent Physical Health, Behavior, and Emotional Well-Being.” *The Social Service Review* vol. 85 issue 3 (September 2011): 323-357. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 April 2017. In this article, they explored the effects of dramatic parental changes in a child’s life including divorce or moving from a two parent family to a single parent family. The article explained that, “moving from a two-biological-parent family to a single-parent family is found to be associated with adverse outcomes in most domains” (346). They went on to say that children raised by married parents do not have as many adverse outcomes. They said, “This analysis of adolescent-reported measures of physical health finds that the health outcomes of adolescents residing with both of their biological parents are better than those for adolescents in all other family types” (346). They postulated that the reason for the differences in outcomes for children in married parent families and the various other types could be a reflection of the fewer health-related investments by single parents, that children with single parents are monitored and supervised less, and that these children experience exposure to health risk factors that kids who live with married parents aren’t. These factors could leave children in single parent families more prone to to illness, accidents, and injury (347). Langton graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Ph.D in Public Policy and currently works there as a professor. Berger received a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He works at the University a=of Wisconsin as the Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Vilas. He is also a Distinguished Achievement Professor and the Ph.D. Program Chair at the School of Social Work for the university. Through his research he has focused on how financial resources public policies affect parental behavior, children, and their family’s prosperity. He has written many other articles pertaining to his research including *Parental Debt and Children's Socioemotional Wellbeing*, *Poverty and child maltreatment: What we know and what we still need to learn*, *Home environment and child maltreatment*, and also *Families at the Intersection of the Criminal Justice and Child Protective Services Systems*. This article will aid my claim by helping prove that non-two-biological-parent families promote negative effects for children; physically, emotionally, and mentally and that two-parent families are better for children in those three aspects.

Rhoades, Galena K. et al. “Parents' Marital Status, Conflict, and Role Modeling: Links With Adult Romantic Relationship Quality.” *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* vol. 53 issue 5 (2012): 348-367. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 April 2017. In this article, the authors explained that they performed a set of surveys on adults pertaining to their satisfaction with intimate relationships and marriage in three different groups; those that were raised with a single parent, those raised in a divorced family, and those raised with married parents. The goal of their research was to find evidence explaining how a parent's marital status affects their child's ability to hold a healthy, long lasting relationship later in life. In their article they explained,“Those with married parents reported stronger commitment to their relationships and less physical aggression than those with never-married parents. For each of these indexes of relationship quality, those whose parents never married tended to have the lowest quality relationships” (359). They explain that parents who are divorced cannot be role models for their children in relationship matters. They also touch on how children with parents who were never married have an even worse outcome in developing healthy relationships than those with separated parents. In contrast, their research showed that children who grew up in with married parents disclosed higher relationship adjustment and less negative communication in the surveys (359). This is because the children raised by married parents are taught everyday through their parent’s actions how to communicate in a relationship. Rhoades works as a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Denver. She received a doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed psychologist. She has written over 10 other articles pertaining to marriage and psychology including *Working with Cohabitation in Relationship Education and Therapy*, *Using Individual-Oriented Relationship Education to Prevent Family Violence*, and *Predictors of Extradyadic Sexual Involvement in Unmarried Opposite-Sex Relationships*. Rhoades’ article will help strengthen my claim by allowing me to use researched evidence that children raised by parents that are married will have healthier intimate relationships later in life than those raised by separated or single parents. This will allow me to move closer to my goal of proving that married parenting is better for children than other forms of parenting.

Schmeer, Kammi K. “The Child Health Disadvantage of Parental Cohabitation.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* vol. 73 issue 1 (February 2011): 181-193. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 April 2017. This article investigates the mental effects on children who are raised by married parents as opposed to cohabiting parents. The research found that, “Biological parents' union status at the child's birth and between birth and age 5 mattered for child health status at age 5. Children born to cohabiting parents were less likely to be in excellent health than those born to married parents 5 years later” (190). This evidence proves that the outcomes for children whom were born to married parents were better than those that were born to cohabiting parents. This will help strengthen my claim by showing that marriage improves a child’s health even compared to a family whose parents are still living in the same household, but just not married. It will take my claim even farther and prove that even just the marriage between two people is important and not just the living conditions. The author, Kammi Schmeer, received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and currently works as an Associate Professor at Ohio State University. Some of her other publications include *Socioeconomic status inequalities in low-grade inflammation during childhood* and *Home Sweet Home? Home Physical Environment and Inflammation in Children*.