Does Household Type Matter for School Suspensions?

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Research Questions
- Does household type affect the rates at which students are suspended?
- Does gender moderate the association between household type and adolescent suspension?

Significance
- Little research on relationship between family processes and school suspensions (Fleming, et al. 2015).
- Children living without both parents show evidence of reduced engagement, such as lower grades, school attendance, and educational aspirations (Astone & McLanahan, 1991).
- Growing suspension rates predict major negative life outcomes, including adult incarceration and unemployment (Okonofua, Paunesku, & Walton, 2016).

Dependent Measure
- Have you ever received an out of school suspension?
  - Yes: 27.8 %
  - No: 72.2%

Independent Measure
- What type of household do you currently live in?
  - Two-Biological Parent: 52.4%
  - Two Parent: 14.1%
  - Single Mother: 24.1%
  - Single Father: 3.4%
  - Other Type: 5.9%

Data and Sample
- The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health.
- Middle and high school students in the United States in 1994-95.
- Public-use data.
- Sample size of 6,488.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suspensions by Household Type</th>
<th>Percentage Suspended by Household Type and Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Biological Parents</td>
<td>Other Household Types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>Single Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Suspension</td>
<td>Single Mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Suspension</td>
<td>Single Fathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Suspension</td>
<td>Two Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Suspension</td>
<td>Two Biological Parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* T-test significant at p < 0.001.

Summary of Findings
- Adolescents from single-father households had the highest chance of being suspended at 50%.
- There was a strong association between household type and suspension regardless of gender.
- Boys more likely to be suspended.

Ideas For Future Research
- Finding ways to combat suspension rates for at-risk groups.
- Further research on if race or income level is as significant as gender and household type are for predicting suspension rates.

Select References