

Does Household Type Matter for School Suspensions?

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).

Background

- Children who experience family transitions tend to report higher levels of delinquency, depression, and lower levels of school participation in comparison to children with two biological parents (Brown, 2006).
- Children before 18 years of age are likely to have spent a large portion of childhood in a single-parent home (Center for Marriage & Families, 2005).

Hypotheses

- Students who come from single parent households will have higher suspension rates than their peers.
- Boys from single-mother households are more likely to be suspended than girls.

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.

Dependent Measure

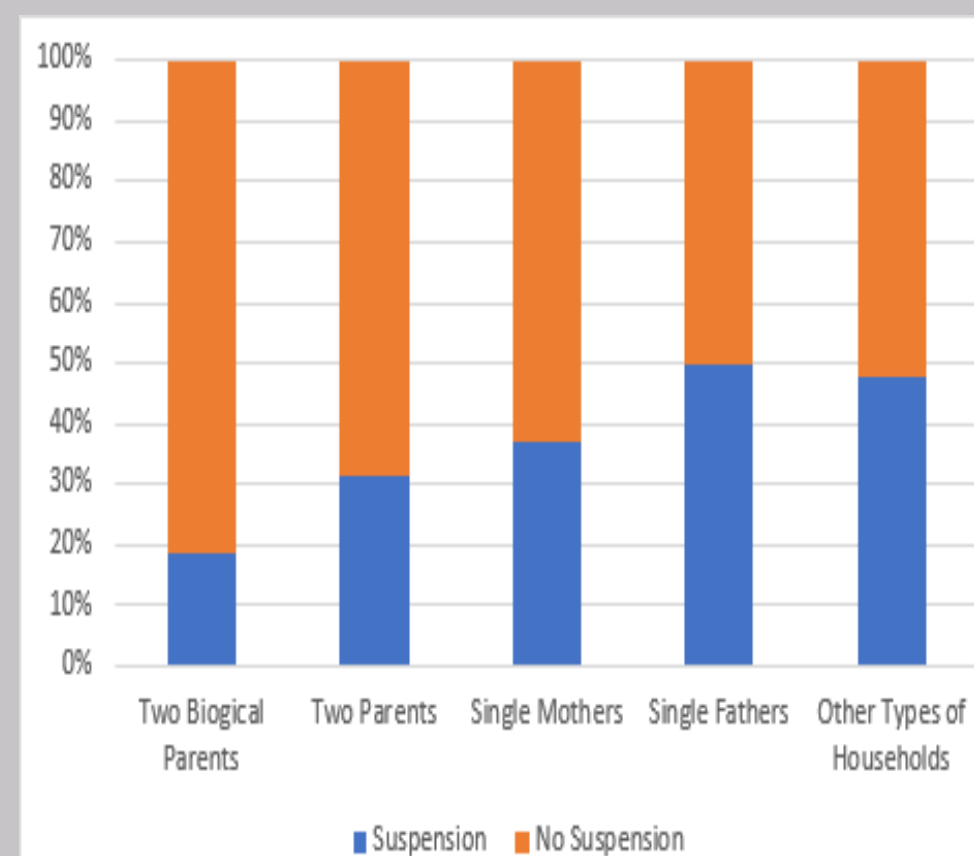
- Have you ever received an out of school suspension?
- Yes: 27.8 %
- No: 72.2%

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%

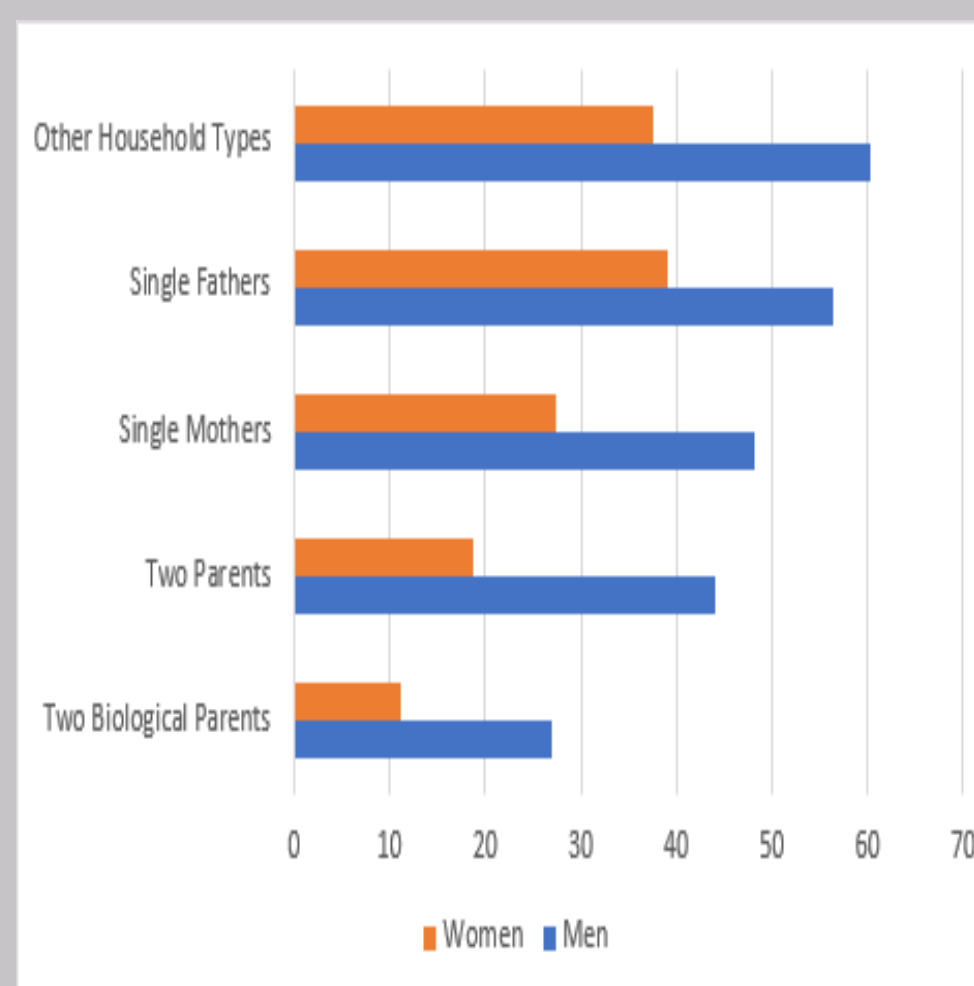
Results

Suspensions by Household Type



* T-test significant at $p < 0.001$.

Percentage Suspended by Household Type and Gender



* T-tests significant for both women and men 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

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