

Amy Zhang

October 30, 2016

Independent Study and Mentorship

Research Assessment #6

Research Assessment #6

Subject: Family Pediatrics

Source(s):

"Family Pediatrics." N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2016.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/111/Supplement_2/1541.short>.

Analysis:

This article analyzes the effects of a task force on the family. As background information, the article begins by reflecting on how influential the family is on a child's health care. There is almost always the presence of a parent when health care services are provided for the pediatric patient. In this way, the health and well-being of children are inherently affected by their parents' physical, emotional, and social habits, social environment, and practices in raising children. Something to consider is that families are extremely diverse, with diversity in the family composition, ethnic and racial heritage, religious or spiritual orientation, communication habits, amounts of time spent with family

members, commitment to each other, connections to the community, personal experiences, and the ability to adapt in stressful situations.

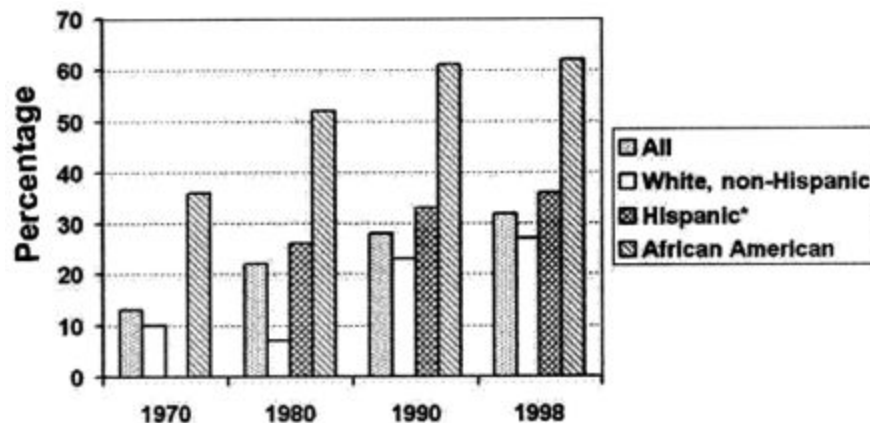
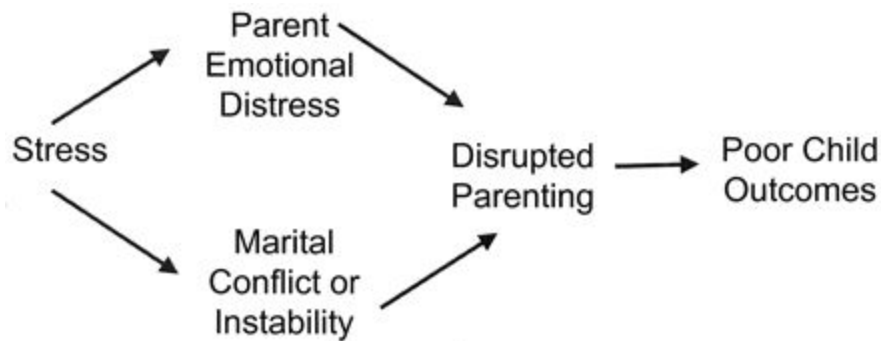
In recent years, family characteristics have changed substantially. Families without children younger than 18 have increased to become the majority. The average age to marry has increased, causing a greater proportion of births for women older than 30 years. The proportion of children in 2-parent families has decreased, and more children live with a single parent, typically the mother. There has been a dramatic increase in the births by unmarried woman. Additionally, there is still a slowly decreasing but still high divorce rate in America.

Family income holds a direct relationship to a child's health. With a steady increase in female-headed households, greater economic and personal need, and increased opportunities for women, there has been a greatly increasing proportion of mothers who are in the workforce.

With more families with busy and working parents, there has been a rise in dependence on child care, which is oftentimes not of good quality. Using child care generally creates longer days for both children and families, more stress from hectic schedules, more exposure to infections, and, of course, greater expenses. In addition, more and more parents are devoting time caring for their children children to that of their own parents. This "sandwich generation" of parents is a new phenomenon with the increasing parent workforce. Family time also has changed as workdays have lengthened, due to the increasing amount of commuting time from home to work, and the intrusion of media like television and computers into family life.

Ultimately, the importance of families on children is created through the long duration in which children are dependent on their guardians. Families impart values and life skills into children and shape them into the young adults that they become.

After reading this article, I now have a greater understanding on how the changing family dynamics in American families are affecting children in today's society. Families and parents play a vital role in a child's life, as they are the source of a child's socialization and upbringing. I agree with this factor because this concept holds true and is visible through a child's values, actions, and behaviors. Knowing this is important to a pediatrician's work because the physician should understand this delicate balance to provide the best care possible.



Characteristics of Strong, Healthy Families

Communication	Social connectedness
Encouragement of individuals	Ability to adapt
Expressing appreciation	Clear roles
Commitment to family	Time together
Religious or spiritual orientation	

Assessing Policy Statements for Family Orientation

Does the policy statement-
Potentially have an impact on families or family functioning?
Explicitly and positively mention the family or parents?
Respect the family's autonomy and values?
Address the ongoing role of the family in the child's care?
Acknowledge that parents are experts about their child and are the child's primary caregivers?

Identify and promote family strengths and skills?
Promote family involvement in decision making?
Consider the structure of the household and circumstances of the family?
Strengthen the partnership relationship between the family and the pediatrician?
Discuss the role of the pediatrician with regard to assisting and strengthening the family?
Promote the pediatrician's role in screening and referral of parents for physical and mental health problems?

Assessing Public Policy Positions for Family Orientation

Does the public policy, program, or service
Promote and support decision making by the family regarding their child's health care?
Strengthen the health, safety, and well-being of families?
Enhance family knowledge and skills regarding child rearing?
Require family involvement in the development of programs and public policies?

Increase services to children and families?

Support families to be primarily responsible for addressing the needs of their child?

Promote family connections to their community?

Promote marriage and social stability of families?