

A scoping review of research on well-being across diverse family structures: Rethinking approaches for understanding contemporary families

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Abstract

In the United States and across the globe, demographic trends have coalesced to produce an increasingly diverse set of family structures, fueling international interest in exploring diverse family structures as key developmental contexts for adults and children. Given the persistence of research focused on well-being differences across family structures, and in order to move this research into the future productively, it is critical to rigorously chart and evaluate how this research is being conducted. In this scoping review, we evaluate 283 studies that examined associations between family structure and well-being. We reflect on dominant methodological trends across four primary domains: (a) approaches to measuring family structure, (b) approaches to analyzing associations between family structure and well-being, (c) the application of theory, and (d) conceptualizations of well-being. In evaluating observable trends, we offer recommendations for rethinking where we can (and perhaps should) go next to better understand and support contemporary families.

KEYWORDS

families, family, family composition, family structure, methods, well-being

INTRODUCTION

In the United States and across the globe, demographic trends have coalesced to produce an increasingly diverse set of family structures, fueling international interest in exploring diverse family structures as key developmental contexts for adults and children (Raley & Sweeney, 2020; Sessler & Lichter, 2020; Umberson & Thomeer, 2020). From researchers to policymakers to laypersons, family structure is often pointed to as consequential to well-being.

Rarely, however, is attention given to critical analysis of the methodological underpinnings of research examining this premise. Given the persistence of research focused on well-being differences across family structures, efforts are warranted to ensure methodological approaches accurately capture ever-changing family experiences, avoid perpetuating myths or monolithic stereotypes about particular family structures, and yield accurate, nuanced, and contextualized findings that can inform practice and policy to strengthen and support youth and adults living in diverse family structures (Russell, Coleman, & Ganong, 2018). To evaluate recent literature along these fronts, we present a scoping review of published research from the turn of century onward that focuses on associations between family structure and well-being. Scoping review methodology is suitable when the aim is to examine broadly *how* research is being conducted on a certain topic (Munn et al., 2018). We highlight trends in this literature and offer recommendations for the conduct of research moving forward.

Trends in family demography

Scholarly interest in well-being across diverse family structures can be linked to several demographic trends in high-income and other countries that have given rise to increasingly dynamic and diverse family structures. First, an increasing number of children are part of sexual and gender minority families (including families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual, intersex, and other [LGBTQAI+] parents or family members; Reczek, 2020). Second, rates of individuals currently married or ever married have declined over time, whereas rates of nonmarital cohabitation have increased (Sassler & Lichter, 2020), giving rise to both a growing number of never-married, single-parent families and cohabiting families. Third, although declining since their peak in the 1980s, divorce rates remain notably high and have even increased among individuals aged 50 or older (Raley & Sweeney, 2020). Fourth, remarriage is common; individuals in remarriages represent an ever-increasing share of all married individuals (Raley & Sweeney, 2020). Fifth, because most remarriages (63%; Stykes & Guzzo, 2015) include stepchildren, rates of stepfamily formation (i.e., families in which one or both adults in a new committed relationship bring a child or children from a previous relationship) are high, and rates of cohabiting stepfamilies are even higher (Ganong & Coleman, 2017). Finally, there is structural complexity *within* stepfamilies. Stepfamily formation can result in *stepsibling* relationships (i.e., children who are not genetically related but are linked to each other because their parents have partnered) and *half-sibling* relationships (i.e., children who share a biological connection to one parent only), producing horizontal structural complexity that is often overlooked (Sanner et al., 2018; Sanner & Jensen, 2021). Together, these demographic trends (among others) have contributed to a family structure landscape that is rich and vast.

Extant reviews of literature

In response to the diversification of family forms, researchers have devoted attention to examining associations between family structure and dimensions of well-being, and recent efforts have been made to synthesize this literature. For instance, Cavanagh and Fomby (2019) and Hadfield et al. (2018) conducted systematic reviews of studies examining the “instability hypothesis,” a stress mediation perspective that posits a link between family transitions and developmental outcomes via stress and its effects (e.g., changes in parenting practices). Evidence related to this hypothesis appears to be mixed, with variation across specific outcomes, types and timing of transitions, and family contexts (Cavanagh & Fomby, 2019; Hadfield et al., 2018). Sanner et al. (2018) synthesized research focused on half-sibling and stepsibling relationships, including associations between sibling complexity and individual outcomes. This literature is marked by

growing methodological sophistication, although studies also continue to foreground a *deficit-comparison perspective* by which dynamics related to half- and stepsibling relationships are contrasted with those of full biological siblings in nuclear families (M. Coleman et al., 2000; Sanner et al., 2018). Senkowski et al. (2019) conducted a systematic review focused on family-structure measures used specifically in studies seeking to predict adolescent risk behaviors. This review found that studies often incorporate unidimensional assessments of family structure, such as whether a family is “intact” or “non-intact,” whether a family transition has occurred, parental marital status, or the reported sex of the head-of-household (Senkowski et al., 2019).

In the context of a broader literature review featured in the 2020 Decade in Review issue of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Raley and Sweeney (2020) summarized research related to individual well-being in the context of divorce and repartnership. Their review presented strong evidence in support of an association between divorce and decreases in adults’ mental health. The review also concluded that family transitions can reduce children’s well-being, although this observed association might be spurious in some contexts. Selection effects (i.e., the propensity of experiencing a family transition due to individual characteristics, which are also associated with well-being; e.g., Jensen et al., 2017, 2014) have been posited to be a primary explanation of spurious associations between family structure and well-being.

Rationale of current scoping review

Although extant reviews have generated valuable syntheses of literature related to diverse family structures and their associations with other variables of interest, there remain important opportunities to rigorously chart and evaluate the conduct of research focused on associations between family structure and well-being. That is, whereas most previous reviews overview subsets of *research findings* from this literature, we stand to benefit from a review that overviews *how such research is being conducted*—a task for which scoping review methodology is well suited. A broad, scoping review of the literature could be useful and instructive on several fronts. For one, it is not clear which specific family structures have been either studied often or largely overlooked. Building on the work of Senkowski et al. (2019), a scoping review could attend to this issue and reach beyond a focus on youth adjustment outcomes and examine a larger body of studies focused on well-being more broadly. It would also be useful to determine whether research in this area has been guided by relevant theory, and if so, which theories have demonstrated utility and promise. Especially warranted are efforts to assess whether theories associated with race have been thoughtfully applied to studies of family structure; scholars have illustrated how placing emphasis on family structure can mask racial stratification in family research (Cross, 2020; D. Williams, 2017; D. T. Williams, 2019). In addition, to our knowledge there does not exist a rigorous and detailed overview of the precise analytic approaches used by researchers to study associations between family structure and well-being in recent years. An overview of this sort could generate valuable insights and recommendations for future research. Taken together, a scoping review of research on well-being across diverse family structures could be an asset to scholars who are situated within this area of study.

At this point, a few caveats are worth highlighting. The utility of research focused on well-being differences across diverse family structures is often argued to be its ability to highlight important variation in family experience with respect to family composition and structural characteristics. In addition to a *family systems perspective* (Cox & Paley, 1997), these arguments generally align with the *transactional model* as articulated by Hetherington et al. (1998). The *transactional model* posits that family structure can influence well-being through its ability to (a) shape family processes and (b) yield economic change and stress when family structure shifts (Hetherington et al., 1998). Although we acknowledge these perspectives, we do not necessarily aim to encourage a between-group approach to the study of well-being across diverse family structures. A between-group

approach centers differences between family structures, often positioning stable, two-parent, biologically related families as the standard of comparison—an approach reflecting a *deficit-comparison perspective* (M. Coleman et al., 2000), a “nuclear family bias” (Gamache, 1997), and other issues raised in recent calls to surface family privilege (Letiecq, 2019).

Consistent with a *normative-adaptive perspective* and admonitions from family scholars at the turn of the century (M. Coleman et al., 2000; Sweeney, 2010), we generally advocate for a within-group approach to the study of diverse family structures. A within-group approach centers malleable processes within a particular family structure that are linked to variation in well-being (e.g., Jensen, 2017; Jensen & Lippold, 2018). Such malleable processes can, once identified, be leveraged by programs, practices, and policies to promote well-being in families of a particular structure. Nevertheless, as will soon be made clear by our scoping review findings, research marked by the between-group approach persists well into the 21st century. Consequently, our goal is to review existing scholarship focused on well-being across diverse family structures in order to chart where we have been and to rethink where we can—and perhaps *should*—go next to better understand and support contemporary families.

For the purposes of this scoping review, we incorporate the following inclusive definition of well-being: any indicator of the general welfare, health, and adjustment of adults, children, and families. We conceptualize family structure as a general representation of a family system’s composition, dyadic components, and/or relationship statuses. Thus, our review does not include studies that focus on counts of family structural transitions without also detailing the dimensions of family structures before or after a transition.

METHODS

Identifying literature

We employed scoping review procedures to identify and synthesize relevant literature. Scoping reviews, although similar to systematic reviews (e.g., both incorporate rigorous and replicable literature search protocols), are particularly optimal for determining “the scope or coverage of a body of literature on a given topic . . . , as well as an overview of its focus” (Munn et al., 2018, p. 2). Whereas systematic reviews are suitable when addressing a relatively narrow, specific, and focused research question that is often intended to inform practice; scoping reviews aim to more broadly identify, map, report, and discuss the characteristics of studies pertaining to a general area of inquiry (Munn et al., 2018). Indeed, a central indication for the use of a scoping review methodology is “to examine how research is conducted on a certain topic or field” (Munn et al., 2018, p. 2)—a primary aim of our review. As a result, scoping reviews often do not include formal assessments of research-design quality or bias, registration of a review protocol prior to the conduct of the review, or a formal synthesis of findings from individual studies and the generation of summary findings (Munn et al., 2018).

Search terms

The following search string was used to identify relevant literature: (diverse family structure OR family structure OR family composition [in title]) AND (well-being OR wellbeing OR health OR adjustment OR functioning OR behavior OR problems OR achievement OR child outcomes [in abstract]). As reflected in our search string, we intentionally sought studies self-identifying as “family structure” research, allowing us to assess how researchers are conceptualizing and applying the term family structure in their work. [Correction added on 29 October 2021, after first online publication: In the first sentence of the first paragraph in the Methods section and the first sentence of the second paragraph in the Methods section, “identity” was updated to “identify”.]

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The following inclusion criteria were employed: studies must (a) represent an empirical investigation (i.e., analysis of quantitative or qualitative data) intended to identify the nature of association between family structure and individual well-being; (b) be published in a peer-reviewed journal; (c) be available in English; and (d) be published in 2000 or later. In terms of exclusion criteria, the following types of articles were omitted from our review: (a) non-empirical articles (e.g., book reviews, literature reviews, conceptual/theoretical articles); (b) studies focused on identifying predictors of family structure; (c) studies focused exclusively on family-transition counts as a correlate of well-being, rather than specific family structures; (d) psychometric studies (i.e., studies focused on establishing the reliability and validity of a particular measure); (e) studies focused exclusively on perceptual differences between children and adults with respect to family structure characteristics; (f) biomedical analyses of risks for genetic conditions or disorders; and (g) studies only offering peripheral attention to family structure by assessing the number of children in a household as a model covariate.

Study identification, screening, and selection

We incorporated the following four electronic databases into our search for relevant literature: PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, and Social Services Abstracts. The final search was conducted in August 2020, and all retrieved articles were entered into Covidence, a web-based platform designed to support the conduct of rigorous literature reviews. After removing duplicate records, our search yielded 476 potentially relevant articles. The titles and abstracts of articles were then reviewed with respect to their alignment with our inclusion criteria, resulting in 317 articles warranting full-text review. For efficiency, full-text review and data extraction procedures were conducted simultaneously. That is, as each full text was reviewed and determined to be relevant, pertinent data points were then extracted. To begin, both authors reviewed and extracted data from the same 10 articles to determine rater consistency (rater agreement of 96%), resolve any points of discrepancy or uncertainty, and establish consensus. The remaining articles were then divided evenly between both authors for full-text review and data extraction. The authors met together virtually throughout the full-text review process to discuss any points of uncertainty and ensure consensus (this applied to approximately 10 studies and pertained primarily to optimal strategies for identifying whether studies captured information about outcome variation across family structures). The full-text review yielded a final set of 283 relevant studies for inclusion in the scoping review (see Appendix for list of included studies). The majority of studies were conducted in North America (largely the United States and Canada; $n = 186$, 66%), followed by Europe ($n = 52$, 18%), Asia ($n = 18$, 6%), Africa ($n = 13$, 5%), Australia ($n = 8$, 3%), and South America ($n = 2$, 1%). Four studies used cross-continental data.

Data extraction

As informed by the stated aims of the scoping review, specific data points were extracted from each relevant article, including: (a) sample size; (b) sample racial/ethnic composition; (c) geographic location of study; (d) research questions or study aims; (e) whether theory was used explicitly to frame the study (and if so, what theories); (f) the specific family structures measured and analyzed; (g) whether family-structure transitions over time were measured and analyzed; (h) whether stable, two-biological-parent families were positioned in analysis as the reference point for other family structures; (i) whether sibling complexity was addressed in

measures of family structure (e.g., presence of biological siblings, half-siblings, or stepsiblings); (j) specific measures of well-being; (k) whether well-being was measured for a child, adult, or both; (l) whether longitudinal data were used in analyses; (m) the analytic approach used to assess associations between family structure and well-being; (n) whether information was provided about continuous well-being outcome distributions across family structures (e.g., standard deviations); and (o) key study findings.

RESULTS

Family structures assessed

In our scoping review of research examining linkages between family structure and well-being, the family structures most commonly assessed were *two-parent families* broadly ($n = 283$, 100%) and *two-married-biological-parent families* specifically ($n = 270$, 95%). With few exceptions, the nuclear family structure was the family form to which others were compared. This trend was apparent across time. Indeed, the percent of studies in our review using stable, biological two-parent families as the reference group in analyses was 71%, 82%, 87%, and 72% respectively across 2000–2004, 2005–2009, 2010–2014, and 2015–2020 time-periods. *Single-parent families* were next most common, assessed alongside two-parent families in 91% of reviewed studies ($n = 257$). In fact, more than one-in-five articles in our review ($n = 58$, 20.1%) made well-being comparisons between two-parent families and one-parent families. Only in 21 studies (7%) did researchers include both single-mother and single-father families and distinguish between these family forms in their analyses. Some studies further distinguished between single parents who were never married, divorced, or widowed (e.g., Reneflot, 2011; Zilanawala, 2016). In two studies, researchers distinguished between single parents who were dating and single parents who were not dating, counting these as two distinct family groupings (Gibson-Davis, 2008; Zito & De Coster, 2016).

The next most common family structure studied was *stepfamilies* ($n = 152$, 54%). Though researchers explicitly identified stepfamilies as a family structure in 54% of studies, many family structure classifications (e.g., two-parent families, one biological parent families) likely included stepfamilies in them. Twenty-nine studies (10%) distinguished between stepmother and stepfather families. Another 20% of studies ($n = 56$) assessed *cohabiting families* as a distinct family structure, sometimes distinguishing between cohabiting biological-parent families and cohabiting stepfamilies (e.g., Russell, Beckmeyer, & Su-Russell, 2018). Other distinct family structures included *grandparent families* ($n = 17$), *foster families* ($n = 10$), *monogamous families* ($n = 10$), *polygamous* or *polygynous families* ($n = 10$), *extended families* ($n = 9$), and *same-sex parent families* ($n = 3$). One study assessed *multiple-birth families* (i.e., families with twins, triplets, etc.) as a distinct family form. [Correction added on 29 October 2021, after first online publication: polyamorous was changed to polygamous.]

Most measures of family structure focused on (a) parents' marital status by grouping children on the basis of whether their parents were single, married, cohabiting, divorced, remarried, and so forth, or (b) the nature of children's relationships to adults in the household by grouping children on the basis of whether their caregivers were biological parents, grandparents, or foster parents. Very few studies used measures of family structure that accounted for children's relationships to non-adult family members in the household, such as siblings, half-siblings, or stepsiblings. Only nine studies in our review (3.2%) accounted for *sibling complexity* (i.e., the presence of half-siblings or stepsiblings in the household) in their measures of family structure (e.g., Brown et al., 2015; Nilsen et al., 2019).

Studies varied on the extent to which they used static versus fluid measures of family structure. Fewer than one-in-five studies ($n = 51$, 18%) measured transitions between family structures over time. Figure 1 shows the diverse approaches taken to measuring family structure in

our review. The most common approach was the *static approach*, whereby participants were classified by a single variable into distinct family groupings at one point in time (e.g., two-biological-parent families, single-parent families, and stepfamilies) The *piecewise approach* also was a measurement of family structure at one point in time, but these studies used multiple variables to assess various elements of family structure like a switchboard, where that family characteristic was either present or not (e.g., adults in the household being married; presence of children in the household). The *proportional approach* assessed, either prospectively or

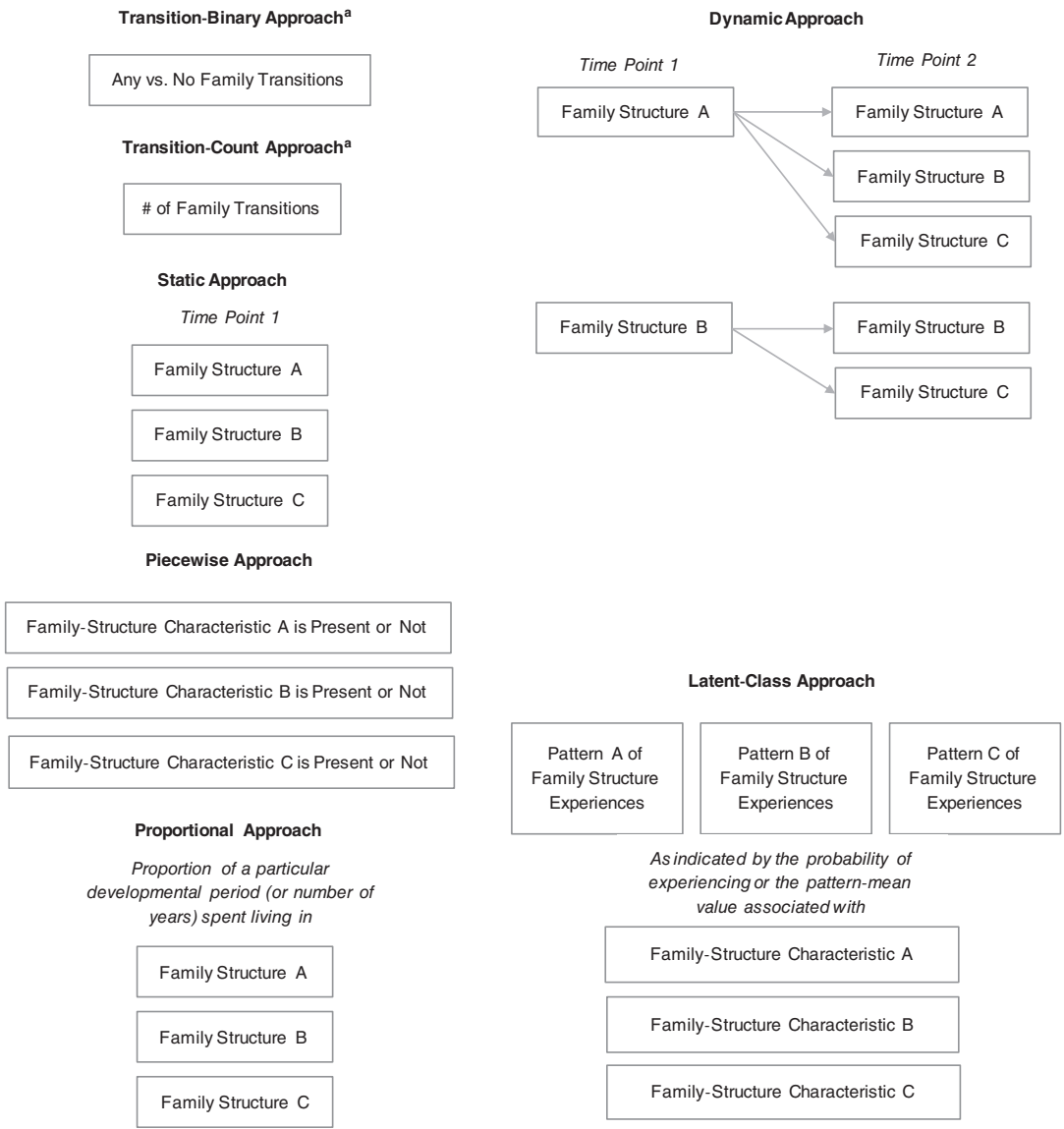


FIGURE 1 Visualizations of approaches used to measure family structure. ^aStudies employing only a transition-binary approach or transition-count approach were not included in the scoping review per exclusion criteria; the approaches are illustrated here because of their frequent application in combination with other approaches

retrospectively, the proportion of a particular developmental period (or number of years) that children spent living in a specific family structure. Other approaches identified were *dynamic approaches*, which assessed change in participants' family structure over time to identify distinct family-structure trajectories. Also focused on family transitions were *transition-binary approaches*, which distinguished between participants who had ever or had never experienced a family-structure transition, and *transition-count approaches*, which assessed the cumulative number of structural transitions ever experienced. Per our exclusion criteria, studies employing only transition-binary or transition-count approaches were not included in our review, but we describe them here because of their frequent application in combination with other approaches. Finally, the *latent-class approach* was illustrated in one identified study (Harcourt & Adler-Baeder, 2016), whereby latent family-structure patterns among sample members were probabilistically derived across a range of family-structure variables.

With an understanding of which family structures have been studied and how they have been measured, we turn now to the analytic approaches applied in testing hypotheses about family structure.

Analytic approaches

Figure 2 illustrates the various analytic approaches represented across studies in the scoping review. Whereas some studies incorporated one approach ($n = 151$, 53%), others incorporated two approaches ($n = 107$, 38%), three approaches ($n = 23$, 8%), or even four approaches ($n = 1$, 0.4%). As shown in Figure 2, we have assigned tentative labels to each approach for quick reference and accessibility (i.e., Approach A–Approach G). *Approach A* features family structure as a direct correlate of well-being—an approach represented in the vast majority of studies ($n = 245$, 87%). Many of the studies using this approach included various sociodemographic and family-process covariates in an effort to more precisely estimate the association between family structure and well-being. Very few studies addressed possible selection effects rigorously, using methods such as propensity score matching or weighting, among others (Cid & Stokes, 2013). *Approach A* is limited to research questions focused on whether well-being differences are observed between particular family structures. Analyses of this sort are not equipped to identify the mechanisms by which such differences might emerge, marking them as having limited utility from a practical standpoint. That is, studies employing *Approach A* can assess *whether* well-being differences are observed between particular family structures but cannot assess *why* or *how* such differences manifest.

Approach B, on the other hand, features family structure as an indirect correlate of well-being via mediating variables. This mediation approach was represented in nearly one-fourth of the studies included in the scoping review ($n = 65$, 23%). Analyses of this sort aim to test hypotheses about the mechanisms that plausibly associate family structure with well-being. Some studies were quite rigorous in the assessment of mediational pathways between family structure and well-being, using theory to test and compare competing hypotheses about plausible mediators (e.g., Bernardi et al., 2019; Carlson & Corcoran, 2001; Zito, 2015). Common mediators assessed include measures of family resources, parenting practices, and other family processes. A key strength of *Approach B* is that it facilitates understanding of *why* or *how* well-being differences are observed between particular family structures, rather than focusing solely on *whether* such differences are observed.

Also building on *Approach A*, *Approach C* identifies the conditions under which family structure appears to be associated with well-being. Said another way, *Approach C* examines moderators of the direct association between family structure and well-being. Nearly one-third of studies included in the scoping review incorporated *Approach C* ($n = 87$, 31%). Although this approach shares some of the limitations inherent in *Approach A*, it offers a more nuanced

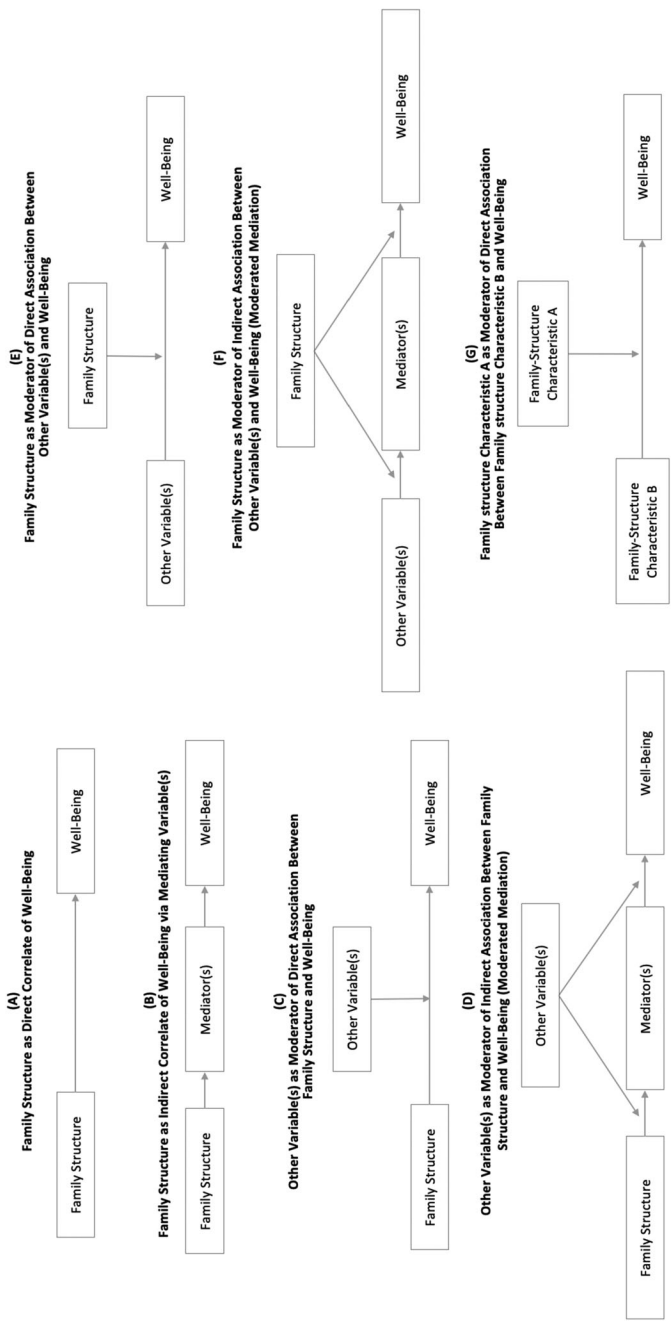


FIGURE 2 Visualizations of analytic approaches used to assess associations between family structure and well-being

assessment and understanding of associations between family structure and well-being. Individual characteristics; such as racial/ethnic identity, nationality, and sex; were commonly specified moderators of associations between family structure and well-being (e.g., Areba et al., 2018; McConley et al., 2011; Takeda et al., 2004; Troxel et al., 2014). Other studies assessed measures of family resources (e.g., social support, household income) as moderators (e.g., Ryan et al., 2015). Because scholars have noted that emphasizing family structure can mask racial stratification in family research (Cross, 2020; Williams, 2017, 2019), positioning racial/ethnic identity as a moderator of the association between family structure and well-being could signal efforts to mitigate this important issue.

A very small number of studies incorporated *Approach D* ($n = 3$, 1%), which assesses moderators of the indirect association between family structure and well-being (i.e., moderated mediation; Broman et al., 2008; Cross, 2020; Rees, 2017). This approach specifies a model by which associations between family structure and well-being are hypothesized to occur via a mediating variable, and another variable is specified as a moderator of this mediational pathway. As a result, *Approach D* combines the strengths of *Approach B* and *Approach C* by highlighting (a) *how* and *why* well-being differences are observed between particular family structures, as well as (b) *under what conditions* these observations hold.

Rather than assessing other variables as moderators of the direct association between family structure and well-being (i.e., *Approach C*), *Approach E* features family structure as a moderator of the direct association between another variable and well-being. This approach was represented in 12% of the studies included in the scoping review ($n = 35$). Common correlates of well-being in these models included measures of family processes (e.g., communication, involvement, closeness, parenting, relationship quality; Beckmeyer & Russell, 2018; Carlson, 2006; Leiber et al., 2009; Levin & Currie, 2010; Russell, Beckmeyer, & Su-Russell, 2018), family resources (e.g., income, social capital; Flouri et al., 2016; Shriner et al., 2010), and individual characteristics (e.g., parent mental health, gender identity, youth assets; Oman et al., 2007; Schleider et al., 2014; Tyrell et al., 2019). *Approach F*, represented in less than 1% of the studies in the scoping review ($n = 2$; Gayles et al., 2009; King et al., 2018), expands upon *Approach E* by assessing family structure as a moderator of the indirect association between another variable and well-being via a mediating variable (i.e., moderated mediation).

Although very scarce among studies included in the scoping review, one study (Kang & Cohen, 2017) incorporated *Approach G*, which assesses one aspect of family structure (e.g., number of parents present in household) as a moderator of the association between another aspect of family structure (e.g., number of extended family members in household) and well-being. Thus, *Approach G* examines how features of family structure interact with each other to exert influence on well-being.

Distribution-overlap perspective

Another important consideration with respect to analytic approaches used in this literature is whether researchers have attended to well-being variation *within* family structures in addition to well-being variation *between* family structures. Information about outcome variation within family structures is critical to understanding the extent to which outcome distributions across family structures overlap. Previous research suggests family structures can yield disparate magnitudes of variability in well-being (Hetherington & Elmore, 2003). As a result, focusing solely on mean levels of well-being across family structures can oversimplify or exaggerate apparent group differences, overlook meaningful similarities, and fail to acknowledge the proportion of individuals within a particular family structure who are faring well (or at least no worse than members of other groups; Amato, 2012). Among the 269 studies with continuous outcome

variables (whereby outcome variation can be estimated), 20% reported outcome variation (e.g., standard deviations), in addition to outcome means, across family structures.

Use of theory

“A body of empirical knowledge is just a pile of findings ... Without theories, we cannot determine how and why things happen the way they do” (White et al., 2018, p. 14). The majority of studies in our review (63%) were atheoretical. We coded a study as atheoretical if the authors did not explicitly identify a theory or perspective that framed their research questions or hypotheses pertaining to family structure. This somewhat conservative measure for capturing theory was used to sensitize us to clarity and precision of theoretical application, distinguishing approaches that were “stated clearly, specifically, and [left] nothing implied” from those that contained “implicit (underlying or unstated)” assumptions (Allen & Henderson, 2016, p. 13).

Atheoretical studies, though diverse in their specific research inquiries, were remarkably consistent in their framing of research questions and hypotheses. Across disciplines and sub-fields, family structures that differed from the nuclear family (e.g., single-parent families, step-families) were predicted to engender negative outcomes for family members. In place of theory, researchers pointed to previous findings showing worse outcomes for children and adults in non-nuclear family forms to justify their hypotheses.

When theory *was* used, it was used almost exclusively as a basis for explaining why the two-parent nuclear family would promote best outcomes for its members and why other family structures would be problematic for individual well-being. Most frequently used were resource and investment theories ($n = 44$), which proposed that two-biological-parent families fare best because they have greater financial, material, and emotional resources than other family forms. In short, these studies argued that “deficits of socioeconomic resources and parental involvement are the key disadvantages that children from alternative families experience,” and these deficits largely explain lower levels of well-being (Wu et al., 2015, p. 205). Similarly, stress and instability theories ($n = 35$) proposed that parents and children who experience family-structure transitions and accompanying changes (e.g., in residence, routines, family roles) are likely to experience elevated levels of family stress, strain and conflict, thus placing them at higher risk for negative outcomes. Also used were social learning theories ($n = 22$), which suggested that family transitions put parents at risk for delinquent and problematic behavior (or are the result of delinquent or problematic behavior), thus affecting children in single-parent families or step-families who model adults’ conduct. A close relative of social learning theories was inter-generational transmission theories ($n = 5$), which proposed that negative traits or experiences among parents (e.g., conflict, divorce) would pass down to children.

Other, more broad theoretical approaches were also applied. For instance, life course theories ($n = 15$) were used to justify the decision to measure either (a) family-structure transitions (as opposed to static measures of family structure), and/or (b) the *timing* of family change, with the assumption that children are more vulnerable to family transitions during some developmental periods compared to others. In addition, ecological theories ($n = 11$) were used to emphasize (a) families as key proximal environments for children, and (b) family structure specifically as a key factor in the proximal processes affecting child outcomes. These frameworks were generally accompanied by explanations that not all family structures yield similar outcomes. For example: “Family structure is a salient factor in the proximal environment, with some types of family structure often co-occurring with maternal depression” (McConley et al., 2011, p. 345). Finally, 11 studies used structural functionalist theories (e.g., father absence framework, broken homes hypothesis, family structure perspective) to frame their investigations. These frameworks aligned with aforementioned theories (e.g., resource and investment theories) in that they proposed that certain family structures (namely single-parent families)

lacked the resources and/or parenting capacity of two-biological-parent families, but their emphasis was more explicitly on the value of adhering to a specific role structure in families (i.e., that of the nuclear family) to avoid structural “deficiencies” that produce negative outcomes. For instance, studies cited J. S. Coleman (1988) who proposed that “[t]he most prominent element of structural deficiency in modern families is the single parent family” (p. S111). To be sure, all deficit-comparison research designs driven by the underlying assumption that family members in non-nuclear family structures fare worse than their counterparts are driven by structural functionalism, but these studies named it explicitly.

Though some scholars grounded their research questions in an overarching framework, more often, scholars described the above theories in multiples, offering a smorgasbord of theoretical possibilities as to why family structure should impact well-being (e.g., economic resources, parental time and attention, family conflict and stress, and social selection; Magnuson & Berger, 2009). Regardless of the number or types of theories applied, their thread of commonality was clear. Many investigations presumed, with or without theory, that two-biological-parent families would exceed other family forms in their ability to bolster outcomes for parents and youth.

Conceptualizations of well-being

In assessing the impact of family structure on individual outcomes, scholars focused on six domains of well-being: *academic outcomes* (e.g., educational attainment, achievement scores, grade retention, college attendance); *physical health outcomes* (e.g., cardiovascular health, body mass index [BMI], consumption and exercise patterns, immunization status, child maltreatment, early life mortality); *mental health outcomes* (e.g., depressive symptoms, anxiety, psychological distress, emotional problems, self-esteem, suicidal ideation); *behavioral outcomes* (e.g., aggression, delinquency, substance use, early sexual debut, number of sexual partners); *socioeconomic outcomes* (e.g., household income, family income-to-needs ratio, food insecurity, receipt of public assistance), and *relational outcomes* (e.g., family relationship quality, adolescent relationship status, teenage cohabitation, adult marriage and divorce patterns). Studies with infant and early childhood samples tended to focus on physical health outcomes (e.g., infant mortality, childhood vaccination, body mass index), whereas studies with school-aged children tended to focus on academic (e.g., reading and math scores) and behavioral outcomes (e.g., hyperactivity-inattention). For adolescents, researchers primarily studied family structure in connection with academic (e.g., grade point average, college expectations, dropout status), behavioral (e.g., substance use, early sex and pregnancy, delinquency), and mental health outcomes (e.g., psychological distress, depressive symptoms, self-esteem), with occasional focus on physical health (e.g., eating and sleeping patterns) and relational outcomes (e.g., romantic relationship status, peer networks). When the impact of family structure on well-being was studied among adults, researchers conceptualized well-being primarily as mental health (e.g., psychological distress, maternal depression, parenting stress) and physical health (e.g., pain, fatigue, sleep disturbance).

The overwhelming focus in these studies was on problems and pathology. Consistent with the theoretical framings of these studies, researchers investigated the extent to which non-nuclear family structures would put individuals at risk for a variety of negative outcomes. Only five studies (1.8 % of reviewed studies) explicitly measured positive aspects of well-being: two investigations explored prosocial behavior (e.g., charitable giving and volunteering; Bandy & Ottoni-Wilhelm, 2012; Ottoni-Wilhelm & Bandy, 2013) and three studies explored positive developmental outcomes (e.g., youth flourishing, psychosocial maturity, positive friendship network, school bonding; Beckmeyer & Russell, 2018; Beckmeyer et al., 2020; Russell, Beckmeyer, & Su-Russell, 2018).

DISCUSSION

The diversification of family forms over the last half century has sparked considerable social, political, and empirical interest. Despite the many efforts to understand the impact of family structure on well-being, little explicit attention has been given to the methods researchers use to pursue these questions. Our review highlights a number of methodological and theoretical trends in this literature that warrant closer examination.

New methodological directions

As noted earlier, one objective of our review was to assess how researchers are conceptualizing family structure (i.e., what types of families are being represented by this term?). Overwhelmingly, *family structure* appears to be synonymous with parents' marital status; researchers often are referring to two-married-biological-parent families, single-parent families, and stepfamilies when they use this term, despite that many other family forms exist (some of which were captured in our review). For example, although many studies have compared children raised in sexual-and-gender-minority-parent families to children in cisgender-heterosexual-parent families (see Reczek, 2020 for a review), our review shows that these studies are very rarely framed as *family-structure research*. Although many different characteristics of a family's makeup could be featured in these studies, parental marital status appears to receive primacy.

Conceptualizations of family structure that center the role of marriage in describing family reinforce Eurocentric definitions of kin (i.e., definitions that favor a white, European-settler view of the world; Sanner & Jensen, 2021). For one, white European settlers and their descendants have historically held more narrow definitions of family based on marriage and biological ties than many historically oppressed groups, such as Black and Indigenous populations (Sanner & Jensen, 2021). Current measures of family structure illustrated in this literature largely are not representative of the many groups and cultures that have historically embodied more fluid and comprehensive definitions of family. Equally problematic is that the returns of marriage and family structure have been found to vary across racialized groups; for example, white children benefit more from two-parent families than Black children (Cross, 2020). By defining family structure as marital status, researchers draw upon definitions of family found to matter more for white youth than Black, Hispanic, or Indigenous youth.

One way in which researchers could broaden conceptualizations of family structure is by attending to non-adult family members in children's households, such as siblings, half-siblings, or stepsiblings. Only 9 of the 283 studies in our review accounted for sibling complexity as a feature of family structure. Given recent evidence that accounting for sibling complexity has been found to better predict children's outcomes than parents' marital status alone (e.g., Brown et al., 2015; Harcourt et al., 2015), researchers should consider adopting more expansive and accurate measures of household composition. At the very least, we urge researchers to move beyond reductive comparisons between one-parent families and two-parent families, which remain relatively common (21.2% of studies in our review). Crude groupings of family structure strip away meaningful nuance that distinguishes people's family realities. Adopting expansive measurements of family structure would both honor participants' lived experiences and allow researchers to better understand how unique family structures may yield unique outcomes.

In doing so, we hope that researchers will better attend to the evolving nature of children's living arrangements. Our review shows that static approaches to assessing family structure are prominent. Although life course estimates suggest that children experience an average of one family structure transition by age 12, and over a quarter experience an average of two or more transitions by age 12 (Brown et al., 2016), only 19% of studies assessed transitions in family structure from one time-point to another. We caution, however, against measures of family-

structure transitions that merely count the number of transitions as opposed to attending to the *types* of transitions children have experienced; researchers have noted the capacity of varying types of structural transitions to yield differential impacts on outcomes (Hadfield et al., 2018; Lee & McLanahan, 2015).

Still, there are promising examples of more nuanced assessments of family structure in recent years. Rare but noteworthy attempts have been made to broaden conceptualizations of family structure; that is, to move beyond parents' marital status and account for the presence of other family members in the household (e.g., siblings, extended kin; Brown et al., 2015; Causey et al., 2015). In addition, studies examining family-structure trajectories captured impressive heterogeneity in children's movement across family forms, with some commendable attention to how the *timing* of these transitions matters for child outcomes (e.g., Ottoni-Wilhelm & Bandy, 2013; Slade et al., 2017). Finally, some researchers are using multiple complementary or competing approaches to better understand the nature of the relationship between family structure and well-being. For example, studies employed dynamic approaches in combination with proportional approaches and transition-count approaches to determine if time spent in various family structures or the number of structural transitions better explained outcomes relative to family-structure trajectories alone (e.g., Cavanagh, 2008; Tillman, 2007). In any case, we acknowledge the constraints of existing data (e.g., cross-sectional data, limited information about family-structure characteristics) with which researchers must contend when studying family structure as a key variable of interest.

We also see opportunities for advancing the sophistication of analytic approaches used to study family structure. Of the seven approaches that are represented in this literature, the approach most frequently utilized by researchers is *Approach A*, where family structure is analyzed as a direct correlate of well-being. Because *Approach A* can only assess *whether* well-being differences are observed between family structures, but not *why* or *how* these differences exist, we recommend that *Approach A* be applied sparingly, and if so, be applied with a high degree of intentionality, rationale, and theoretical guidance. Instead, we encourage more use of *Approach B*, which allows researchers to identify *why* or *how* family structure is associated with well-being by testing mediational pathways. To the extent that analyzed mediators are malleable in nature, or subject to influence, studies incorporating this analytic approach can begin to highlight possible intervention targets for policies, programs, and family life education. *Approach C*, which identifies *for whom* or *under what conditions* family structure exerts influence on well-being, also would advance a more nuanced agenda of family-structure research. Even better, *Approach D* positions researchers to identify both *why and under what conditions* family structure matters for child outcomes.

Though used infrequently, we consider *Approach E* and *Approach F* to be very promising analytic approaches that warrant application in future research. Multiple group comparison analysis in a structural equation modeling framework could be a suitable method for applying these approaches (as well as *Approach D*). Foremost, *Approach E* and *Approach F* introduce the advantages of within-group analyses of family structures by assessing direct or indirect correlates of well-being distinctly within each included family structure. As a result, findings from these models can highlight for which family structures certain variables exert influence on well-being. Information of this sort can inform the development of intervention strategies aimed at supporting the well-being of individuals embedded within various family structures.

Approach G, which examines how specific features of family structure interact with each other to exert influence on well-being, also offers a promising direction for future research. Researchers should consider applying this approach to enrich our understanding of family structure as a complex and nuanced developmental context for parents and children. We also believe finite mixture modeling could be applied with greater frequency in this literature. For instance, researchers could apply finite mixture modeling to identify latent classes within

samples marked by particular patterns of family processes—patterns that could be associated with aspects of family structure and well-being. This approach was not represented in the scoping review, but we believe it could enrich our understanding of complex patterns of family processes and their interface with family structure and well-being.

Finally, we strongly recommend that researchers explicitly report, display, or model outcome variation across the family structures represented in their studies—an approach we refer to as the distribution-overlap perspective. Reporting only mean levels of well-being across family structures without discussing the extent to which outcome distributions overlap across family structures can reinforce exaggerated narratives about differences between family structures. Data visualization techniques might prove beneficial on this front. For instance, Nilsen et al. (2019) used raincloud plots to intricately visualize outcome variation across family structures. Histograms, kernel density plots, box plots, and other parsimonious data visualization tools could also be instructive.

Statistical techniques could also be implemented, such as the distribution-free overlapping index (Pastore & Calcagni, 2019). The distribution-free overlapping index is used to quantify similarities (η) or differences ($1 - \eta$) between empirical distributions and serves as an alternative measure of effect size (e.g., Cohen's d), where a value of 1 for η indicates perfect distributional overlap between groups, and a value of 0 indicates perfect distributional separation between groups (Pastore & Calcagni, 2019). Importantly, the overlapping index does not make any assumptions about the distributional form of the focal variable, so it can be applied flexibly. Statistical techniques such as these can enrich investigations of well-being differences across family structures by more fully accounting for the distributional form of well-being measures in the particular family structures being compared. At the very least, studies incorporating continuous outcome measures should report measures of outcome dispersion for each family structure included in the analysis, allowing readers to discern, even if informally, distributional overlap between groups.

New theoretical directions

One clear theme of our review is that the “nuclear family as best” ideology described by Smith (1993) and critiqued by Letiecq (2019) is pervasive to this literature. Many scholars continue to presuppose that living in a two-biological-parent family is best for children and adults. The fact that so many reviewed studies were atheoretical warrants reflection. Theory is highly regarded in the family science discipline. When scoring proposal submissions, reviewers for national conferences are required to evaluate their strength of theoretical support. Although not all articles in our scoping review were published in family science journals, many were, and the absence of clear theoretical underpinnings to frame investigations of family structure begs the question: Is the assumed superiority of the nuclear family so strong that theory is rendered unnecessary? Is it a theoretical proposition so widely internalized that its absence on paper goes unnoticed? We encourage consumers of family-structure research to ponder these possibilities. The inherent and unchallenged bias toward the nuclear family model looms large in this literature.

Beyond a call for more explicit application of the theories and assumptions driving these investigations, we see opportunities for shifting theoretical foci more broadly. Specifically, prominent theories in this field remain focused on *family-level* explanations as to why family structure may shape individual outcomes (e.g., resources, parenting, stress), with a lack of attention to how broader social systems have created family-level disparities. In other words, family-structure research tends to disconnect micro-level phenomena from their macro-level catalysts. Perhaps in no way is this more evident than in the tendency to study family structure separate from racial, gendered, and socioeconomic power. For example, although there are clear racial and ethnic differences in trends of marriage and childbearing (e.g., the two-parent nuclear

family often upheld as best for well-being is disproportionately white), family structure is generally studied and discussed in non-racialized contexts, with little or no attention to how systemic racism has created racial differences in family structure or how the impact of family structure is not equal across racialized groups (Cross, 2020; Williams, 2017, 2019).

Research on family structure is ripe with opportunity to utilize theories that move beyond family-level explanations of why families struggle or thrive to confront socially structured privilege and oppression; that is, to connect family-structure research to the discussion of how and why our systems, laws, and policies have been designed to benefit some family structures to the disadvantage and exclusion of others (Letiecq, 2019; Russell, Coleman, & Ganong., 2018). As illustrated, extant research is predominantly guided by variants of structural functionalism (named or unnamed) that favor homeostatic equilibrium in families, or the maintenance of the two-parent family as optimal for children and society. We see opportunities for moving away from these well-worn approaches toward theories that offer more critical and holistic perspectives of how, why, for whom, and under what conditions family structure exerts influence on well-being. Critical theories (e.g., critical race theory, feminist theory, queer theory, intersectional perspectives) are well positioned for guiding more contextualized analyses of family structure that connect family-level differences to their broader systemic precursors. Interlocking systems of oppression are the proverbial “elephant in the room” in family-structure research. We hope scholars will embrace theoretical frameworks that help them address the elephant and explore its role in shaping family-structure influences.

Finally, just as we would like to see researchers broaden their conceptualizations of family structure, we encourage broadened conceptualizations of well-being. Specifically, opportunities are ripe for shifting focus from problems and pathology to resilience and functionality. Less than 2% of studies in our review measured positive aspects of well-being. Our collective understanding of family-structure effects is invariably skewed, with greater attention being placed on negative outcomes relative to positive outcomes. Positive outcomes almost certainly co-exist with challenges, and researchers should pursue more nuanced and comprehensive investigations of family structure as a complex developmental context. Outcomes such as prosocial behavior (Ottoni-Wilhelm & Bandy, 2013) and youth flourishing (Beckmeyer et al., 2020) are noteworthy examples, as are emerging concepts such as grit (i.e., the tendency to pursue goals with perseverance) and growth mindset (i.e., the belief that abilities are malleable rather than fixed; Park et al., 2020). Such shifts will enable scholars to foreground correlates, antecedents, and processes related to the positive outcomes we often seek to promote among individuals and families, as well as spur theoretical development that more accurately depicts family-structure realities, contextualizes existing differences, and moves us beyond a nuclear family bias.

CONCLUSIONS

As family structures diversify, there is considerable and well-placed interest in understanding associations between family structure and well-being. Despite the scope and progress of this literature, results from our scoping review suggest that research has not yet realized its potential in generating understanding of family structure as a complex and nuanced developmental context for parents and children—a context that is embedded within a larger web of social systems. Although there remain some stagnant trends in the corpus of family-structure research, we see exciting possibilities for rethinking approaches for understanding contemporary families. Much could be gained from incorporating and expanding upon some of the nuanced and innovative approaches—both theoretical and analytical—that we have offered in this article, among others. Efforts to bolster family-structure research ultimately should seek to enrich our understanding of the ways in which family structure fits into a larger set of social forces that shape contemporary families and the well-being of its members.

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How to cite this article: Jensen, T. M., & Sanner, C. (2021). A scoping review of research on well-being across diverse family structures: Rethinking approaches for understanding contemporary families. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, *13*(4), 463–495. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12437>

APPENDIX

#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
1	Abada 2007	Family diversity and children's behavioral outcomes in Canada: From structure to process	Sociological Focus
2	Ackerman 2001	Family structure and the externalizing behavior of children from economically disadvantaged families	Journal of Family Psychology
3	Ajayi 2019	Transactional sex among Nigerian university students: The role of family structure and family support	PLoS ONE
4	Akinyemi 2017	Family structure and full vaccination coverage among children aged 12–23 months in West Africa: Analysis of the interaction effects of maternal education	Etude de la Population Africaine
5	Allendorf 2013	Going nuclear? Family structure and young women's health in India, 1992–2006	Demography
6	Amoateng 2017	Family structure and children's schooling in Sub-Saharan Africa	African Sociological Review
7	Antognoli-Toland 2001	Parent-child relationship, family structure, and loneliness among adolescents	Adolescent & Family Health
8	Apel 2008	On the relationship between family structure and antisocial behavior: Parental cohabitation and blended households	Criminology
9	Areba 2018	Relationships between family structure, adolescent health status and substance use: Does ethnicity matter?	Journal of Community Psychology
10	Augustine 2014	Maternal education and the unequal significance of family structure for children's early achievement	Social Forces
11	Avison 2007	Family structure, stress, and psychological distress: A demonstration of the impact of differential exposure	Journal of Health and Social Behavior
12	Bandy 2012	Family structure and income during the stages of childhood and subsequent prosocial behavior in young adulthood	Journal of Adolescence
13	Bankston 2000	Majority African American schools and the family structures of schools: School racial composition and academic achievement among Black and White students	Sociological Focus
14	Barrett 2005	Family structure and mental health: The mediating effects of socioeconomic status, family process, and social stress	Journal of Health and Social Behavior
15	Barrett 2006	Family structure and substance use problems in adolescence and early adulthood: Examining explanations for the relationship	Addiction
16	Bass 2011	Family structure and child health outcomes in the United States	Sociological Inquiry
17	Bassani 2008	The influence of financial, human and social capital on Japanese men's and women's health in single and two-parent family structures	Social Indicators Research
18	Bastaits 2016	Parenting as mediator between post-divorce family structure and children's well-being	Journal of Child and Family Studies
19	Baxter 2011	Family structure, co-parental relationship quality, post-separation paternal involvement and children's emotional wellbeing	Journal of Family Studies

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
20	Beaver 2010	A biosocial interaction between prenatal exposure to cigarette smoke and family structure in the prediction of psychopathy in adolescence	Psychiatric Quarterly
21	Beckmeyer 2018	Family structure and family management practices: Associations with positive aspects of youth well-being	Journal of Family Issues
22	Berger 2004	Income, family structure, and child maltreatment risk	Children and Youth Services Review
23	Bernardi 2019	Childhood family structure and the accumulation of wealth across the life course	Journal of Marriage and Family
24	Biblarz 2000	Family structure and children's success: A comparison of widowed and divorced single-mother families	Journal of Marriage and the Family
25	Blum 2000	The effects of race/ethnicity, income, and family structure on adolescent risk behaviors	American Journal of Public Health
26	Breivik 2006	Adolescents' adjustment in four post-divorce family structures: Single mother, stepfather, joint physical custody and single father families	Journal of Divorce & Remarriage
27	Broman 2008	Family structure and mediators of adolescent drug use	Journal of Family Issues
28	Brown 2004	Family structure and child well-being: The significance of parental cohabitation	Journal of Marriage and Family
29	Brown 2006	Family structure transitions and adolescent well-being	Demography
30	Brown 2010	Family structure, family processes, and adolescent smoking and drinking	Journal of Research on Adolescence
31	Brown 2015	Family structure and child well-being: Integrating family complexity	Journal of Marriage and Family
32	Brown 2016	Family structure and children's economic well-being: Incorporating same-sex cohabiting mother families	Population Research and Policy Review
33	Browne 2018	Black family structure and educational outcomes: The role of household structure and intersectionality	Journal of African American Studies
34	Buchanan 2020	Helicopter parenting and the moderating impact of gender and single-parent family structure on self-efficacy and well-being	Family Journal
35	Burnett 2009	Poverty and family structure effects on children's mathematics achievement: Estimates from random and fixed effects models	The Social Science Journal
36	Bzostek 2016	Children living with uninsured family members: Differences by family structure	Journal of Marriage and Family
37	Bzostek 2017	Family structure experiences and child socioemotional development during the first nine years of life: Examining heterogeneity by family structure at birth	Demography
38	Cabrera 2014	Family structure, maternal employment, and change in children's externalizing problem behaviour: Differences by age and self-regulation	European Journal of Developmental Psychology
39	Cain 2005	Family structure effects on parenting stress and practices in the African American family	Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare
40	Capron 2007	Brief report: Effect of menarcheal status and family structure on depressive symptoms and emotional/behavioural problems in young adolescent girls	Journal of Adolescence
41	Carballo 2013	Sibship size, birth order, family structure and childhood mental disorders	Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
42	Carlson 2001	Family structure and children's behavioral and cognitive outcomes	Journal of Marriage and Family
43	Carlson 2006	Family structure, father involvement, and adolescent behavioral outcomes	Journal of Marriage and Family
44	Causey 2015	Family structure, racial socialization, perceived parental involvement, and social support as predictors of self-esteem in African American college students	Journal of Black Studies
45	Cavanagh 2006	Marital transitions, parenting, and schooling: Exploring the link between family-structure history and adolescents' academic status	Sociology of Education
46	Cavanagh 2008	Family structure history and adolescent romance	Journal of Marriage and Family
47	Cavanagh 2008	Family structure history and adolescent adjustment	Journal of Family Issues
48	Cayuela 2018	Assessing the influence of working hours on general health by migrant status and family structure: The case of Ecuadorian-, Colombian-, and Spanish-born workers in Spain	Public Health
49	Chan 2017	Can family structure and social support reduce the impact of child victimization on health-related quality of life?	Child Abuse & Neglect
50	Chen 2006	Effects of family structure on children's use of ambulatory visits and prescription medications	Health Services Research
51	Chen 2008	Family structure and the treatment of childhood asthma	Medical Care
52	Chen 2017	Implications of changes in family structure and composition for the psychological well-being of Filipino women in middle and later years	Research on Aging
53	Childs 2020	The role of family structure and family processes on adolescent problem behavior	Deviant Behavior
54	Cid 2013	Family structure and children's education outcome: Evidence from Uruguay	Journal of Family and Economic Issues
55	Clark 2010	Is the United States experiencing a "matrilineal tilt"? Gender, family structures and financial transfers to adult children	Social Forces
56	Cleveland 2000	Behavior problems among children from different family structures: The influence of genetic self-selection	Child Development
57	Colton 2015	Family structure, social capital, and mental health disparities among Canadian mothers	Public Health
58	Conway 2012	Family structure and child outcomes: A high definition, wide angle "snapshot"	Review of Economics of the Household
59	Cooper 2009	Family structure transitions and maternal parenting stress	Journal of Marriage and Family
60	Craigie 2012	Family structure, family stability and outcomes of five-year-old children	Families, Relationships and Societies
61	Crawford 2008	Parent-child relations and peer associations as mediators of the family structure-substance use relationship	Journal of Family Issues
62	Crosnoe 2011	Nonmarital fertility, family structure, and the early school achievement of young children from different race/ethnic and immigration groups	Applied Developmental Science
63	Crosnoe 2014	Changes in young children's family structures and child care arrangements	Demography

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
64	Cross 2020	Racial/ethnic differences in the association between family structure and children's education	Journal of Marriage and Family
65	Crouch 2016	Impact of family structure and socio-demographic characteristics on child health and wellbeing in same-sex parent families: A cross-sectional survey	Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health
66	Davids 2016	Family structure and functioning: Influences on adolescents psychological needs, goals and aspirations in a South African setting	Journal of Psychology in Africa
67	Davis 2001	Adolescent sexuality: Disentangling the effects of family structure and family context	Journal of Marriage and Family
68	DeLeire 2002	Good things come in threes: Single-parent multigenerational family structure and adolescent adjustment	Demography
69	Demuth 2004	Family structure, family processes, and adolescent delinquency: The significance of parental absence versus parental gender	Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
70	Dinisman 2017	Family structure and family relationship from the child well-being perspective: Findings from comparative analysis	Children and Youth Services Review
71	Dissing 2017	Parental break-ups and stress: Roles of age & family structure in 44,509 pre-adolescent children	European Journal of Public Health
72	Doron 2007	Family structure and patterns and psychological adjustment to immigration in Israel	Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work
73	Dufour 2008	Who are these parents involved in child neglect? A differential analysis by parent gender and family structure	Children and Youth Services Review
74	Eitle 2013	Family structure and adolescent alcohol use problems: Extending popular explanations to American Indians	Social Science Research
75	Elbedour 2000	Scholastic achievement and family marital structure: Bedouin-Arab adolescents from monogamous and polygamous families in Israel	The Journal of Social Psychology
76	Elbedour 2003	Behavioral problems and scholastic adjustment among Bedouin-Arab children from polygamous and monogamous marital family structures: Some developmental considerations	Genetic, Social, and General Psychology Monographs
77	Elbedour 2007	The relationship between monogamous/polygamous family structure and the mental health of Bedouin Arab adolescents	Journal of Adolescence
	Monahan 2019	Examining how community poverty, family structure, and community involvement influence the earnings of youth	Poverty & Public Policy
78	Evans 2004	Effect of family structure on life satisfaction: Australian evidence	Social Indicators Research
79	Feigelman 2001	Comparing adolescents in diverging family structures: Investigating whether adoptees are more prone to problems than their nonadopted peers	Adoption Quarterly
80	Flouri 2016	Socio-economic status and family structure differences in early trajectories of child adjustment: Individual and neighbourhood effects	Health & Place

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
81	Freistadt 2013	Family structure differences in family functioning: Interactive effects of social capital and family structure	Journal of Family Issues
82	Friedman 2000	Family structure versus family relationships for predicting to substance use/abuse	Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse
83	Fučík 2016	Where are the effects of family structure? The educational level, current partnership, and income level of the Czech adult population socialised in single-parent families	Sociologicky Casopis
84	Gayer 2006	Family structure and mothers' caregiving of children with cystic fibrosis	Journal of Family Nursing
85	Gayles 2009	Parenting and neighborhood predictors of youth problem behaviors within Hispanic families: The moderating role of family structure	Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences
86	Gibson-Davis 2008	Family structure effects on maternal and paternal parenting in low-income families	Journal of Marriage and Family
87	Ginther 2004	Family structure and children's educational outcomes: Blended families, stylized facts, and descriptive regressions	Demography
88	Gorman 2008	Family structure differences in health care utilization among U.S. children	Social Science & Medicine
89	Gosselin 2014	Canadian portrait of changes in family structure and preschool children's behavioral outcomes	International Journal of Behavioral Development
90	Griesbach 2003	Adolescent smoking and family structure in Europe	Social Science & Medicine
91	Griffin 2000	Parenting practices as predictors of substance use, delinquency, and aggression among urban minority youth: Moderating effects of family structure and gender	Psychology of Addictive Behaviors
92	Hampden-Thompson 2013	Family policy, family structure, and children's educational achievement	Social Science Research
93	Han 2003	The importance of family structure and family income on family's educational expenditure and children's college attendance: Empirical evidence from Taiwan	Journal of Family Issues
94	Harcourt 2016	Determining latent classes of cumulative family structure experiences in emerging adulthood	Journal of Divorce & Remarriage
95	Hatos 2013	Family structure and school results: Multivariate analysis of answers of teenage students in a Romanian city	Child Indicators Research
96	Haugan 2019	Residential mobility, family structure, and completion of upper secondary education—A registry-based cohort study of the Norwegian adolescent population	Frontiers in Psychology
97	Hayatbakhsh 2013	Family structure, marital discord and offspring's psychopathology in early adulthood: A prospective study	European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
98	Hayles 2018	Family structures, family relationship, and children's perceptions of life satisfaction	School Psychology Forum
99	Heard 2007	Fathers, mothers, and family structure: Family trajectories, parent gender, and adolescent schooling	Journal of Marriage and Family
100	Heard 2007	The family structure trajectory and adolescent school performance: Differential effects by race and ethnicity	Journal of Family Issues

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
101	Heard 2008	Family structure and self-rated health in adolescence and young adulthood	Population Research and Policy Review
102	Heiland 2006	Family structure and wellbeing of out-of-wedlock children: The significance of the biological parents' relationship	Demographic Research
103	Henretta 2012	Family structure and the reproduction of inequality: Parents' contribution to children's college costs	Social Science Research
104	Hernandez 2009	Income volatility and family structure patterns: Association with stability and change in Food Stamp Program participation	Journal of Family and Economic Issues
105	Hofferth 2010	Family structure and the transition to early parenthood	Demography
106	Hoffmann 2002	The community context of family structure and adolescent drug use	Journal of Marriage and the Family
107	Hoffmann 2006	Family structure, community context, and adolescent problem behaviors	Journal of Youth and Adolescence
108	Hoffmann 2017	Family structure and adolescent substance use: An international perspective	Substance Use & Misuse
109	Hsu 2019	Family structure, birth order, and aggressive behaviors among school-aged boys with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology
110	Huang 2012	Resource allocation in families with children in Taiwan: Do poverty and family structure make a difference?	Journal of Poverty
111	Innstrand 2010	Work-home conflict and facilitation across four different family structures in Norway	Community, Work & Family
112	Iruka 2009	Ethnic variation in the association between family structures and practices on child outcomes at 36 months: Results from Early Head Start	Early Education and Development
113	Irvin 2018	Family structure and children's unmet health-care needs	Journal of Child Health Care
114	Jablonska 2007	Risk behaviours, victimisation and mental distress among adolescents in different family structures	Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology
115	Janisse 2004	Physical activity, social support, and family structure as determinants of mood among European-American and African-American women	Women & Health
116	Jarvis 2020	Family structure and child well-being in a non-western context: The role of parent-child relations and parental conflict in South Korea	Population Research and Policy Review
117	Jelić 2015	Age differences in effects of family structure and quality on attachment to family and romantic partners	Psihologijske Teme
118	Jeynes 2000	The effects of several of the most common family structures on the academic achievement of eighth graders	Marriage & Family Review
119	Jeynes 2002	The predictive value of parental family structure on attitudes regarding premarital pregnancy and the consumption of marijuana	Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
120	Jeynes 2005	Effects of parental involvement and family structure on the academic achievement of adolescents	Marriage & Family Review
121	Kalmijn 2017	Family structure and the well-being of immigrant children in four European countries	The International Migration Review

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
122	Kang 2017	Extended kin and children's behavioral functioning: Family structure and parental immigrant status	Social Science & Medicine
123	Kerr 2007	Family structure and children's hyperactivity problems: A longitudinal analysis	Canadian Journal of Sociology
124	Kierkus 2002	A social control explanation of the relationship between family structure and delinquent behaviour	Canadian Journal of Criminology
125	Kierkus 2003	Does the relationship between family structure and delinquency vary according to circumstances? An investigation of interaction effects	Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice
126	Kierkus 2009	The contextual nature of the family structure/delinquency relationship	Journal of Criminal Justice
127	Kim 2009	Barriers to work among poor families: Health limitations, family structure, and lack of job opportunities	Journal of Policy Practice
128	Kim 2018	Impact of household composition and family functioning on health of Hispanic mothers in mental health treatment: A secondary analysis study	Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing
129	King 2009	Family composition and children's exposure to adult smokers in their homes	Pediatrics
130	King 2018	Parent-adolescent closeness, family belonging, and adolescent well-being across family structures	Journal of Family Issues
131	Kowaleski-Jones 2006	Family structure and community context: Evaluating influences on adolescent outcomes	Youth & Society
132	Kravdal 2007	A fixed-effects multilevel analysis of how community family structure affects individual mortality in Norway	Demography
133	Kumar 2013	Influence of family structure on child health: Evidence from India	Journal of Biosocial Science
134	Langton 2011	Family structure and adolescent physical health, behavior, and emotional well-being	Social Service Review
135	Lansford 2001	Does family structure matter? A comparison of adoptive, two-parent biological, single-mother, stepfather, and stepmother households	Journal of Marriage and Family
136	Laukkanen 2016	Does family structure play a role in depression in adolescents admitted to psychiatric inpatient care?	Child Psychiatry and Human Development
137	Lee 2015	Family structure transitions and child development: Instability, selection, and population heterogeneity	American Sociological Review
138	Lee 2016	The association of level of internet use with suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in South Korean adolescents: A focus on family structure and household economic status	The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry
139	Leiber 2009	Family structure, family processes, economic factors, and delinquency: Similarities and differences by race and ethnicity	Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice
140	Leidy 2011	Fathering and adolescent adjustment: Variations by family structure and ethnic background	Fathering
141	Leininger 2008	Reexamining the effects of family structure on children's access to care: The single-father family	Health Services Research
142	Lemmon 2018	Mothers' time and relationship with their adolescent children: The intersecting influence of family structure and maternal labor force participation	Journal of Family Issues

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
143	Lenciauskiene 2008	The effects of family structure, parent–child relationship and parental monitoring on early sexual behaviour among adolescents in nine European countries	Scandinavian Journal of Public Health
144	Lerman 2017	Family structure and economic success across the life course	Marriage & Family Review
145	Leung 2010	Incidences of sexual contacts of children: Impacts of family characteristics and family structure from a national sample	Children and Youth Services Review
146	Levin 2010	Family structure, mother–child communication, father–child communication, and adolescent life satisfaction: A cross-sectional multilevel analysis	Health Education
147	Levin 2012	The association between adolescent life satisfaction, family structure, family affluence and gender differences in parent–child communication	Social Indicators Research
148	Levin 2012	Adolescent risk behaviours and mealtime routines: Does family meal frequency alter the association between family structure and risk behaviour?	Health Education Research
149	Levin 2012	Irregular breakfast consumption in adolescence and the family environment: Underlying causes by family structure	Appetite
150	Lin 2012	The impact of family structure on utilization of preventive care services among children under national health insurance in Taiwan	Journal of Family and Economic Issues
151	Lin 2019	Family functioning and not family structure predicts adolescents' reasoning and math skills	Journal of Child and Family Studies
152	Lonzak 2007	Family structure and substance use among American Indian youth: A preliminary study	Families, Systems, & Health
153	Lopoo 2014	Family structure and the economic wellbeing of children in youth and adulthood	Social Science Research
154	Louis 2002	Effects of family structure, family SES, and adulthood experiences on life satisfaction	Journal of Family Issues
155	Mack 2015	The effects of family structure and family processes on externalizing and internalizing behaviors of male and female youth: A longitudinal examination	Deviant Behavior
156	Magnuson 2009	Family structure states and transitions: Associations with children's well-being during middle childhood	Journal of Marriage and Family
157	Martin 2012	Family structure and the intergenerational transmission of educational advantage	Social Science Research
158	McArdle 2002	European adolescent substance use: The roles of family structure, function and gender	Addiction
159	McConley 2011	Mediators of maternal depression and family structure on child BMI: Parenting quality and risk factors for child overweight	Obesity
160	McGregor 2012	Family structure, interparental conflict and parenting as correlates of children's relationship expectations	Journal of Relationships Research
161	McKee 2012	The moderation effects of family structure and low self-control	American Journal of Criminal Justice
162	Meadows 2008	Stability and change in family structure and maternal health trajectories	American Sociological Review

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
163	Meadows 2009	Family structure and fathers' well-being: Trajectories of mental health and self-rated health	Journal of Health and Social Behavior
164	Mendoza 2013	Family structure, substance use, and child protective services involvement: Exploring child outcomes and services	Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions
165	Merten 2011	Family structure, mother–daughter relationship quality, race and ethnicity, and adolescent girls' health risks	Journal of Divorce & Remarriage
166	Miller 2012	Racial and socioeconomic status differences in depressive symptoms among Black and White youth: An examination of the mediating effects of family structure, stress and support	Journal of Youth and Adolescence
167	Miller 2015	Parental work schedules and child overweight or obesity: Does family structure matter?	Journal of Marriage and Family
168	Mokrue 2011	The interaction between family structure and child gender on behavior problems in urban ethnic minority children	International Journal of Behavioral Development
169	Molina 2013	Household structure, family ties, and psychological distress among US-born and immigrant Latino women	Journal of Family Psychology
170	Monahan 2019	Examining how community poverty, family structure, and community involvement influence the earnings of youth	Poverty & Public Policy
171	Monahan 2019	The role of neighborhood disadvantage and family structure during adolescence in young adults' experiences of multiple partner fertility	Journal of Family Issues
172	Moor 2012	The impact of family structure and disruption on intergenerational emotional exchange in Eastern Europe	European Journal of Ageing
173	Mostafa 2018	The impact of complex family structure on child well-being: Evidence from siblings	Journal of Marriage and Family
174	Nevarez 2009	Ethnic and marital differences in family structure, risk behaviors, and service requests among young minority fathers	Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
175	Nikolakopoulos 2008	Family structure and risk behaviors in Greek adolescents: A short report	International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health
176	Nilsen 2018	Divorce and family structure in Norway: Associations with adolescent mental health	Journal of Divorce & Remarriage
177	Nilsen 2019	Complex families and health complaints among adolescents: A population-based cross-sectional study	Scandinavian Journal of Public Health
178	Nlewem 2017	Family characteristics and structure as determinants of sexual abuse among female secondary school students in Nigeria: A brief report	Journal of Child Sexual Abuse
179	Nobes 2002	Family structure and the physical punishment of children	Journal of Family Issues
180	Nobile 2009	The influence of family structure, the TPH2 G-703T and the 5-HTTLPR serotonergic genes upon affective problems in children aged 10–14 years	Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry
181	Nobile 2016	Effect of family structure and TPH2 G-703T on the stability of dysregulation profile throughout adolescence	Journal of Affective Disorders
182	Oliva 2014	Family structure and child adjustment in Spain	Journal of Child and Family Studies

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
183	Oman 2005	Youth assets, aggression, and delinquency within the context of family structure	American Journal of Health Behavior
184	Oman 2007	Does family structure matter in the relationships between youth assets and youth alcohol, drug and tobacco use?	Journal of Research on Adolescence
185	Omariba 2007	Family structure and child mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa: Cross-national effects of polygyny	Journal of Marriage and Family
186	Oni 2014	Parental socio-economic status, family structure, and living arrangements as predictors of violence against children in Lagos, Nigeria	Bulgarian Journal of Science & Education Policy
187	Osborne 2012	Family structure transitions and changes in maternal resources and well-being	Demography
188	Oshi 2019	Association between single-parent family structure and age of sexual debut among young persons in Jamaica	Journal of Biosocial Science
189	Otten 2007	Parental smoking and adolescent smoking stages: The role of parents' current and former smoking, and family structure	Journal of Behavioral Medicine
190	Ottoni-wilhelm 2013	Stage-specific family structure models: Implicit parameter restrictions and Bayesian model comparison with an application to prosocial behavior	Review of Economics of the Household
191	Owili 2016	Family structure types and adequate utilization of antenatal care in Kenya	Family & Community Health
192	Paclikova 2018	What role do family composition and functioning play in emotional and behavioural problems among adolescent boys and girls?	International Journal of Public Health
193	Pain 2020	Is teen risk of having sex with strangers associated with family environment? Family processes, household structure, and adolescent sex with strangers	Youth and Society
194	Panico 2019	Family structure trajectories and early child health in the UK: Pathways to health	Social Science & Medicine
195	Pasqualini 2018	Parents who exit and parents who enter family structure transitions, child psychological health, and early drinking	Social Science & Medicine
196	Paxton 2007	Is there a relationship between family structure and substance use among public middle school students?	Journal of Child and Family Studies
197	Pearce 2013	The role of poverty in explaining health variations in 7-year-old children from different family structures: Findings from the UK Millennium Cohort Study	Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health
198	Pearson 2006	Parental involvement, family structure, and adolescent sexual decision making	Sociological Perspectives
199	Peek 2000	Race, aging, and care: Can differences in family and household structure account for race variations in informal care?	Research on Aging
200	Perales 2017	Family structure and childhood mental disorders: New findings from Australia	Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology
201	Peres 2008	Family structure and adolescent sexual behavior in a poor area of Sao Paulo, Brazil	Journal of Adolescent Health
202	Phillips 2012	The influence of family structure vs. family climate on adolescent well-being	Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
203	Pilgrim 2014	Family structure effects on early sexual debut among adolescent girls in Rakai, Uganda	Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies
204	Pilgrim 2015	Multiple sexual partnerships among female adolescents in rural Uganda: The effects of family structure and school attendance	International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health
205	Pong 2000	The effects of change in family structure and income on dropping out of middle and high school	Journal of Family Issues
206	Pratt 2018	Perceived child weight status, family structure and functioning, and support for health behaviors in a sample of bariatric surgery patients	Families, Systems, & Health
207	Quarmby 2011	Associations between children's physical activities, sedentary behaviours and family structure: A sequential mixed methods approach	Health Education Research
208	Quarmby 2015	Informal mealtime pedagogies: Exploring the influence of family structure on young people's healthy eating dispositions	Sport, Education and Society
209	Ram 2003	Changes in family structure and child outcomes: Roles of economic and familial resources	Policy Studies Journal
210	Ram 2005	Sex differences in the effects of family structure on children's aggressive behavior	Journal of Comparative Family Studies
211	Rattay 2018	Health and health risk behaviour of adolescents—Differences according to family structure Results of the German KiGGS cohort study	PLoS ONE
212	Ravanera 2010	Measuring social capital and its differentials by family structures	Social Indicators Research
213	Raymo 2008	Family structure and well-being at older ages in Japan	Journal of Population Research
214	Ready 2018	Who, being loved, is poor? Poverty, marriage, and changing family structures in the Canadian Arctic	Human Organization
215	Reczek 2016	Family structure and child health: Does the sex composition of parents matter?	Demography
216	Reesa 2017	Family structure and children's subjective well-being: A comparative analysis in eight European countries	Enfance
217	Regnerus 2012	Parental same-sex relationships, family instability, and subsequent life outcomes for adult children: Answering critics of the New Family Structures Study with additional analyses	Social Science Research
218	Regnerus 2012	How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study	Social Science Research
219	Reneflot 2011	Childhood family structure and reproductive behaviour in early adulthood in Norway	European Sociological Review
220	Robinson 2016	Work-to-family profiles, family structure and burnout in mothers	Journal of Managerial Psychology
221	Robson 2010	Changes in family structure and the well-being of British children: Evidence from a fifteen-year panel study	Child Indicators Research
222	Rocheleau 2012	Adolescent work and alcohol use revisited: Variations by family structure	Journal of Research on Adolescence
223	Rogers 2020	Family structure and early life mortality in the United States	Journal of Marriage and Family

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
224	Rosenfeld 2015	Revisiting the data from the new family structure study: Taking family instability into account	Sociological Science
225	Russell 2018	Family-centered care and positive developmental outcomes for youth with special health care needs: Variations across family structures	Journal of Family Nursing
226	Ryan 2013	Associations between family structure changes and children's behavior problems: The moderating effects of timing and marital birth	Developmental Psychology
227	Ryan 2015	Associations between family structure change and child behavior problems: The moderating effect of family income	Child Development
228	Samm 2010	Suicidal thoughts and depressive feelings amongst Estonian schoolchildren: Effect of family relationship and family structure	European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
229	Santín 2016	Does family structure affect children's academic outcomes? Evidence for Spain	The Social Science Journal
230	Santelli 2000	The association of sexual behaviors with socioeconomic status, family structure and race/ethnicity among US adolescents	American Journal of Public Health
231	Schleider 2014	Relation between parent psychiatric symptoms and youth problems: Moderation through family structure and youth gender	Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology
232	Schmeer 2012	Family structure and obesity in early childhood	Social Science Research
233	Schwarz 2009	Adolescents' individuation, romantic involvement, and mothers' wellbeing: A comparison of three family structures	European Journal of Developmental Psychology
234	Seabrook 2015	Family structure and children's socioeconomic attainment: A Canadian sample	Canadian Review of Sociology
235	Shaff 2008	Family structure transitions and child achievement	Sociological Spectrum
236	Shriner 2010	Variations in family structure and school-age children's academic achievement: A social and resource capital perspective	Marriage & Family Review
237	Sisson 2014	Influence of family structure on obesogenic behaviors and placement of bedroom TVs of American children: National Survey of Children's Health 2007	Preventive Medicine
238	Slade 2017	Family structure and young adult health outcomes	Review of Economics of the Household
239	Smith-Greenaway 2014	Polygynous contexts, family structure, and infant mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa	Demography
240	Somefun 2018	The protective role of family structure for adolescent development in Sub-Saharan Africa	PLoS ONE
241	Stark 2016	Family structure and sexual and reproductive health outcomes among adolescents in rural Sierra Leone	Global Public Health
242	Steele 2020	Family context and adolescent risky sexual behavior: An examination of the influence of family structure, family transitions and parenting	Journal of Youth and Adolescence
243	Stephoe 2000	Gender, family structure and cardiovascular activity during the working day and evening	Social Science & Medicine

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
244	Stewart 2009	Family structure, nonresident father involvement, and adolescent eating patterns	Journal of Adolescent Health
245	Strohschein 2009	Family structure histories and high school completion: Evidence from a population based registry	Canadian Journal of Sociology
246	Susukida 2016	The association of lifetime suicidal ideation with perceived parental love and family structure in childhood in a nationally representative adult sample	Psychiatry Research
247	Takeda 2004	Multigenerational family structure in Japanese society: Impacts on stress and health behaviors among women and men	Social Science & Medicine
248	Theodorakis 2004	Relations between family structure and students' health-related attitudes and behaviors	Psychological Reports
249	Thompson 2001	Influence of family structure on health among youths with diabetes	Health & Social Work
250	Tillman 2007	Family structure pathways and academic disadvantage among adolescents in stepfamilies	Sociological Inquiry
251	Troxel 2014	Single-parent family structure and sleep problems in Black and White adolescents	Sleep Medicine
252	Turner 2007	Family structure variations in patterns and predictors of child victimization	American Journal of Orthopsychiatry
253	Turner 2013	Family structure, victimization, and child mental health in a nationally representative sample	Social Science & Medicine
254	Turunen 2013	Family structure, gender, and adolescent emotional well-being	Journal of Divorce & Remarriage
255	Tyrell 2019	The unique effects of maternal and paternal depressive symptoms on youth's symptomatology: Moderation by family ethnicity, family structure, and child gender	Development and Psychopathology
256	Ulveseter 2010	Health-related adjustment of adolescents in various postdivorce family structures with main focus on father custody with and without a stepmother	Journal of Divorce & Remarriage
257	Valle 2014	Childhood family structure and romantic relationships during the transition to adulthood	Journal of Family Issues
258	VanderValk 2005	Family structure and problem behavior of adolescents and young adults: A growth-curve study	Journal of Youth and Adolescence
259	Verropoulou 2002	Migration, family structure and children's well-being: A multi-level analysis of the second generation of the 1958 Birth Cohort Study	Children & Society
260	Vu 2018	Mental health service use in Australia: The role of family structure and socio-economic status	Children and Youth Services Review
261	Vukovic 2007	Risky sexual behavior of adolescents in Belgrade: Association with socioeconomic status and family structure	Journal of Adolescence
262	Wade 2011	Prevalence of psychiatric disorder in lone fathers and mothers: Examining the intersection of gender and family structure on mental health	The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry
263	Wagner 2010	Associations between family structure, family functioning, and substance use among Hispanic/Latino adolescents	Psychology of Addictive Behaviors
264	Walper 2015	Effects of family structure and the experience of parental separation: A study on adolescents' well-being	Comparative Population Studies

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#	First author and year	Study title	Journal
265	Walton 2010	Family structure, family processes, and well-being among Asian Americans: Considering gender and nativity	Journal of Family Issues
266	Warren 2008	The effects of Mexican origin family structure on parental monitoring and pre-adolescent substance use expectancies and substance use	Journal of Substance Use
267	Wen 2008	Family structure and children's health and behavior: Data from the 1999 National Survey of America's Families	Journal of Family Issues
268	Westbrook 2010	Pathways among exposure to violence, maternal depression, family structure, and child outcomes through parenting: A multigroup analysis	American Journal of Orthopsychiatry
269	Wikle 2020	Adolescent interactions with family and emotions during interactions: Variation by family structure	Journal of Family Psychology
270	Williams 2000	African American family structure: Are there differences in social, psychological, and economic well-being?	Journal of Family Issues
271	Wolfinger 2003	Family structure homogamy: The effects of parental divorce on partner selection and marital stability	Social Science Research
272	Wright 2013	Family structure and music as a model of dyadic behavior	Marriage & Family Review
273	Wu 2008	Family structure and children's psychosocial outcomes	Journal of Family Issues
274	Wu 2015	Family structure, academic characteristics, and postsecondary education	Family Relations
275	Wu 2015	Family structure transitions and early childhood development in Taiwan: Evidence from a population-based birth cohort study	International Journal of Behavioral Development
276	Yelick 2017	The effects of family structure on consumption and exercise patterns for adolescent youth	Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal
277	Zeiders 2011	Family structure and family processes in Mexican-American families	Family Process
278	Zhang 2018	Adolescent depression and the use of services and psychotropic medications in relation to family structure and race/ethnicity	Children and Youth Services Review
279	Zilanawala 2016	Women's time poverty and family structure: Differences by parenthood and employment	Journal of Family Issues
280	Ziol-Guest 2014	Complex living arrangements and child health: Examining family structure linkages with children's health outcomes	Family Relations
281	Zito 2015	Family structure history and teenage cohabitation: Instability, socioeconomic disadvantage, or transmission?	Journal of Family Issues
282	Zito 2016	Family structure, maternal dating, and sexual debut: Extending the conceptualization of instability	Journal of Youth and Adolescence
283	Zullig 2005	Associations among family structure, demographics, and adolescent perceived life satisfaction	Journal of Child and Family Studies