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Social Support and Well-being in College Students
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Introduction and Purpose
- Between 1960 and 2016, the percentage of children living in families with two parents decreased from 88 to 69 (Census Bureau Parents, 2016).
- The purpose of the present study was to examine the effects of different types of family structure on a diverse array of outcomes. The researchers defined family structure as whether the individual has lived in a single-parent, two-parent, cohabitant/joint, or adoptive/foster care household for the majority of their life or up until the age of 18.
- The researchers hypothesized that college students who grew up in a two-parent household would have higher academic achievement and fewer deviant behaviors than those in other family structures. There is a direct relationship between academic achievement and deviant behaviors (Fite et al, 2012; Savolainen et al., 2012).

Method
Participants
- Participants were recruited from the University of Texas at Tyler SONA system, as well as Facebook. The sample consisted of 100 participants. There were 26 men, 73 women, and an individual who preferred not to specify their gender.

Procedure
- Before beginning the survey, the participants were informed that the study was over family structure and had to give consent. The survey took approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Results
- Breakdown of Family Structures in the Sample
  - The majority (78%) of participants in our sample came from two-parent households (See Figure 1).

  ![Family Structure Breakdown](image)

  **Figure 1.** Breakdown of family structures.

- We found that participants' stress levels after their family structure changed to cohabiting/joint was correlated with their level of deviant behavior ($r = -.911, p < 0.05$).

- Furthermore, we found that those in two-parent households were more likely to commit deviant acts than women.

- The researchers found that, regardless of family structure, there was a significant gender difference in deviant behavior, such that men had significantly more deviant behaviors than women did, $t (94) = 3.05, p < .01$.

Discussion
- Our results indicated no significant difference between those...