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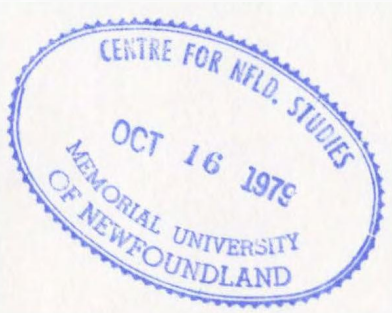
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# THE EFFECTS OF PARENTHOOD STATUS ON KINSHIP RELATIONS

by

Helen Marie Handrigan, B.S.W.

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
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Memorial University of Newfoundland

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## ABSTRACT

This research explored the effect of parenthood status on kinship relations. It was hypothesized that the one-parent family would have more contact with consanguinal kin than affinal kin, in order to fill the place that was vacated by the spouse. It was assumed that increased contact would be necessary as the one-parent family would be in need of extra support systems.

A random sample of one-parent families and dual-parent families was chosen to ascertain who maintained the most contact with kin. A mail questionnaire was used and questions were asked about the frequency of visiting, telephoning, letter writing, and the receiving of financial assistance. These questions were asked in relation to consanguinal kin and affinal kin.

The data were analyzed by using the t-test for significance and the Pearson's Product Moment correlation coefficient as a measure of association. It was shown through the findings that parenthood status does indeed affect kinship relations but the direction showed that the dual-parent family has significantly more contact with kin than the one-parent family.

The findings of this research have opened up many new areas of investigation surrounding the dynamics of the one-parent family. The reasons why the one-parent family

do not maintain contact should be researched to add to our understanding. In addition to this area, it would also be interesting to note who the one-parent family does use as a support, if indeed anyone.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

The family is a viable and dominant institution in Canadian society. Changes have been occurring but the Canadian family has not been replaced with an alternative form as much as modified in certain aspects of its existing structure (Veevers, 1977:63). Variant family forms--such as the single-parent family and the traditional nuclear family--may be seen largely as consequences of increased complexity and differentiation in societies. It is only reasonable that a pluralistic society, such as the Canadian society, should have a variety of family structures and living arrangements thus providing more options for self-and-group expression (Ishwaran, 1971:520).

The one-parent family is one of the variant family forms and it is an increasing phenomenon in Canadian society. Not a new phenomenon, certainly, the one-parent family has been around in many different shapes and forms since the beginning of time. In earlier times when life expectancy was shorter than it is today, it was a common experience to lose the mother, father or both (Canadian Council on Social Development, 1971:1).

> The phenomenon of one person, either by choice or default, undertaking the raising of one or more children has become a focus of attention of family life specialists,

social workers, sociologists and other professionals (Veevers, 1977:34).

Focus of Research

One-parent families are an important group as they form part of the total picture of family life in Canada. The one-parent family is a permanent and well-defined feature of Canadian society (CCSD, 1971).

In 1966, one-parent families comprised 8.2 percent of the total number of families. Between 1966 and 1971 the number of one-parent families grew at a rate which was almost triple the rate of growth of two-parent families. In that period, while the total number of Canadian two-parent families increased by 10.5 percent, the number of one-parent families surged ahead by 28.7 percent (National Council on Welfare, 1976:4-5). This trend has continued between 1971 and the present, as 1976 statistics show that one-parent families comprise approximately 10 percent of the total number of families in Canada.

In Newfoundland, one-parent families comprise 9.5 percent of all families while in St. John's they comprise 14.1 percent of all families (Table 1). What does this mean for Newfoundland and for St. John's? Our family structures are changing at a rate that is similar to the rest of Canada. In relation to this steady rate of change, it would appear that it is now time to look at our one-

TABLE 1

Frequency of One-Parent Families and Husband-Wife Families:
Canada, Newfoundland, St. John's

| | 1971 | Percentage of One-Parent | 1976 | Percentage of One-Parent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CANADA | | | | |
| All husband-wife families | 4,605,485 | 91.1 | 5,168,565 | 89.2 |
| All one-parent families | 407,605 | 8.9 | 559,335 | 10.8 |
| NEWFOUNDLAND | | | | |
| All husband-wife families | 98,555 | 90.2 | 113,855 | 90.5 |
| All one-parent families | 9,690 | 9.8 | 10,800 | 9.5 |
| ST. JOHN'S | | | | |
| All husband-wife families | 16,995* | 87.6 | 17,170* | 85.9 |
| All one-parent families | 2,115 | 12.4 | 2,415 | 14.1 |

Source: 1971 and 1976 Census Data

*Unpublished Census Data 1971 and 1976

1971 Census Data: Catalogue 93-718 Vol:11 - Part:2 July 1975

1976 Census Data: Ref. SDF AMA13

parent families so that we will be able to understand the different family forms in our province.

Social problems of the one-parent family include the difficulties of establishing new relationships with other adults and the community. Eighty percent of one-parent families are headed by women. In 1973, the incidence of poverty for one-parent families was 53 percent while it was 12.7 percent for two-parent families. The amount of acceptance of a single parent is related to the reason for single parenthood. The widowed tend to be treated more sympathetically; friends and relatives tend to blame the separated parent and feel that more effort or more acceptance of reality would have made a successful marriage; the divorced are often the object of outright disapproval and rejection; the least accepted are the unmarried (Schlesinger, 1972).

The factors associated with the increase in the incidence and acceptance of one-parent families are complex and remain a source of speculation. The past decade has made an increasing number of people question the previously taken-for-granted assumption that both a mother and a father were necessary for successful child-rearing. The increase in one-parent families may be attributed to an increased tolerance for nonmarital sexual relations and the reduction of stigma associated with illegitimate births in direct proportion to the acceptance of premarital sex. When one

looks at the rapid escalation of families headed by single persons--both men and women--one is forced to conclude that increasingly single parenthood is viewed as a viable option compared with induced abortions or with "forced" and "shotgun" weddings. Similarly, as public tolerance increases regarding the postmarital sexual activities of the formerly married, the widowed and the divorced may feel less pressure to remarry in order to reestablish an active sex life (Veevers, 1977:36-37).

With the increase in one-parent families, what are we, as Canadians, doing for one-parent families? Do we really understand what it is like being the head of a one-parent family? A considerable amount of research has been done on the one-parent family in recent years. Most of this research has focused upon the economic and social conditions of the family and how they are faring in comparison to the dual-parent family. While the above areas are important, there is a lack of information in Canada on the actual implications, beyond the financial, of life in the one-parent family. Areas of research, such as children's adjustment in the one-parent family, the self-concept of the single parent, and relationships with kin, are relatively untouched and warrant investigation at this time.

The one-parent family needs recognition, understanding and support if it is to perform the functions inherent in the family. Its special problems and characteristics have

to be studied, if we, as social workers are to work with them effectively and help them with the many difficulties they may be encountering as a result of being a one-parent family.

In this research, the one-parent family will be looked at and compared with the dual-parent family to ascertain if indeed the one-parent family has special characteristics and special problems. How they relate to others may be directly related to their parenthood status. Single parenthood may cause certain things to happen and some of Canada's social problems may be a result of one-parent families.

As stated earlier, single parenthood may bring along with it special problems and it is possible that the one-parent family may need extra support systems to carry out its role effectively and efficiently. One such support system would be kin and it is the intent of this research to show that the one-parent family becomes closer to kin so as to fill the place that was vacated by the marriage partner.

We all have basic needs, whether they be social and/or emotional which are to be satisfied if we are to become functioning members of society. We need to interact with our kin to fulfill these basic needs. If we are members of a stable nuclear family, it may be assumed that many of our basic needs are met within the family unit.

The kin network is one alternative system which families may use when under stress or in trouble. In relation to kin, it would be interesting to note whether one-parent families are closer to kin than dual-parent families and whether contact with kin increased when the family took over the single-parent status. Also, do one-parent families rely on kinfolk to fill the gap created in the family structure due to the absence of the spouse?

While this chapter has put the research problem in focus and has made one aware of the phenomenon of the one-parent family, the next chapter will review the literature related to the problem area. Research will be reviewed to ascertain what kind of research has been done in connection with the one-parent family and interaction with kin.

# CHAPTER II

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The family, like other institutions in society, has undergone a number of major changes over the years. One of the most evident and perhaps fundamental changes that has taken place in Canadian family life is the emergence of what may be called the urban family. It is different in many ways from the traditional family which is characteristically rural (Cavan, 1960:53-57).

When the family started to move from rural areas to urban areas, the isolated nuclear family emerged (Parsons, 1944). The modern industrial society, in theory, isolated the nuclear family from its kin. Thus it has been assumed that kin would no longer play an important role in the nuclear family, they were rendered less important to the functioning of modern society.

In the views pervading the literature of the 1940s and 1950s (Parsons, 1943, 1949; Linton, 1949, et al.), kin were considered to be relatively unimportant due to the change in the family as a result of industrialization. Industrialization with its concomitant unbanization gave way to a number of generalizations about the family, but in spite of the influence of urban ways, the kinship system has been able to adapt to urban, industrial society (Adams, 1968).

> Urbanization has also become a part of Canadian life, so much so that it is now taken for granted. Since joining Canada in 1949, Newfoundland has experienced a faster rate of urbanization than any other area of the country. Nearly 60 percent of the population now live in urban areas. The rush towards urbanization has been brought about through the direct encouragement and involvement of the Government of Newfoundland and the Government of Canada. Both have sponsored programs of community relocation designed to shift the population from small rural communities to large industrial centres (Matthews, 1976:x-xi).

Thus the generalizations regarding urban ways can also be applied to Newfoundland as our society is quickly being dominated by the nuclear family as opposed to the traditional extended family.

Kin are a dimension of the family's environment that is of particular emotional and social importance (Leitcher, 1967). Family and kinship relations will tend to remain relatively stable and important since families will adjust to the changing social structure and develop mechanisms such as family ritual to support the survival of family kinship systems under societal change (Sussman, 1970).

The pervasiveness of a viable kin network should not obscure the fact that in all societies, family structures along with value systems are changing over time. The most salient factor in producing differentiation in family forms

is the increased opportunities for women to be employed outside the home in urbanized areas; their increased incidence of participation in the educational systems of Canadian society; and concomitant autonomy, privacy and power (Ishwaran, 1971:520).

Investigation into the one-parent family and kin is a relatively untouched area and information is scarce. Information available showed, inconclusively, that parenthood status may have an effect on kinship relations (Bohanon, 1971; Spicer & Hampe, 1975; Anspach, 1976).

Despite the regular occurrence of marital disruption, as is shown by statistics on divorced heads of families, little is known about the impact of divorce on the structure of kinship (Anspach, 1976). It has been suggested that while divorce does not alter the relations of the kinship system, it necessarily has an affect on the way they are carried out (Bohanon, 1971). Another finding indicated that divorce does entail major alterations in the use of social and other resources of the kin network (Anspach, 1976:329).

There is a consensus in the kinship literature that says that while relationships with blood relatives and in-laws rests upon different basis, consanguinal and affinal kin are equally likely to be seen as long as one's marriage remains intact (Schneider, 1970; Farber, 1973). Relationships with kin depend on marital status in some situations whilst the intensity of interaction with kin will vary

depending on the marital relationship, as marital partners are said to provide the "pivotal connecting link".

In a recent study done on kinship interaction and divorce, it was shown that interaction with consanguinal kin remained the same or increased after divorce. It was also shown that being female and/or having custody of the children had the effect of increasing or maintaining a high level of interaction with consanguines and maintaining contact at a lower level of interaction with former affines. Also, as one progresses outward from the child-parent relationships, interaction among different kin in the kinship network decreases (Spicer & Hampe, 1975).

Summary

Our technology, our moves from the rural areas to the urban areas and our increased independence have had a tremendous impact on family life. Relationships with kin are important to the functioning of society. They are additions in some families whilst they may fill gaps in other families. The one-parent family carries out the functions necessary in maintaining a family as does the nuclear family. The one-parent family may have more difficulty doing it alone but support from other systems will help fill the place vacated by the other parent.

With these facts in mind, the next chapter will discuss the theory underlying the research and formulate

hypotheses to test the relationships between the one-parent family and their consanguinal kin and affinal kin.

# CHAPTER III

## THEORY AND HYPOTHESES

### Theoretical Rationale

The family is the most significant social unit to which individuals belong, and the majority of one individual's roles and relationships are heavily dependent upon such membership (Nye & Berardo, 1966:18).

The nuclear family, consisting of mother, father and offspring, is the type of family structure which dominates our society today (Nimkoff, 1965). The nuclear family is a universal social grouping, either as the sole prevailing form of family or as the basic unit from which more complex familial forms are compounded. It exists as a distinct and strongly functional group in every known society (Bell & Vogel, 1968:38).

The family is a basic institution in our society and like all institutions it has certain functions to perform if society is to survive. The effectiveness of the family in the performance of its functions depends largely on its possession of certain characteristics. Among the roles and functions of the family are to produce and care for the young; feed, house and clothe family members; guide the personality development of the children; teach and interpret cultural expectations to the family; establish

values and goals for the home; maintain social control; and interact with other families and institutions in society (Schlesinger, 1972:4). The degree to which the family is able to meet these responsibilities and needs is a measure of family functioning. Some family functions are essentially instrumental in character, serving to maintain the basic physical and social integrity of the family unit. Other functions are more expressive in character, designed to maintain and enhance the socio-emotional relationships and feelings among family members. These functions are highly interrelated, and their effective execution depends not only on the structure of the family, but also on the structure of society and the place of the family within that social structure (Billingsley, 1968:79).

Nurturant socialization and adult personality stabilization have been identified as the family's major functions (Reiss, 1972). It has been suggested that only a small kinship structured unit, the family, can adequately carry out these functions and thus the universality of the nuclear family (Parsons & Bales, 1959).

When studying families, one must remember that the family does not exist in isolation, it sustains relationships with other systems within the social structure. Usually the family has its own support systems and can help the members function adequately. If the family is unable to offer these support systems, then substitutes must be

found in other systems to meet the needs of family members. The same holds true for the one-parent family, although the structure may be incomplete, the functions, especially socialization of new members of society remain and have to be carried out. Therefore, it is necessary for substitutes to be found and/or supports brought in to complement the remaining structure.

The necessary functions can be maintained in the one-parent family by substituting kin. Kin have always played an important role in relation to the family and they are considered to be a dimension of the family's environment that is of particular emotional and social importance (Leitcher, 1967:6-7). In many societies, both primitive and sophisticated, relationships to ancestors and kin have been the key relationships in the social structure, they have been the pivot on which most interaction, most claims and obligations, most loyalties and sentiments turned (Fox, 1967).

In comparison to the dual-parent family, the one-parent family will rely on kin for the extra support that is usually taken for granted in the dual-parent family. One-parent families may tend to involve kin in family activities more than the dual-parent families just to have that extra support.

Considering the importance of kin and the significance of their relationships with the family, they are a

logical substitute for the position vacated by either parent. Kin will add to the structure and help carry out necessary roles and functions in the family. Consequently, the one-parent family will have more contact with kin than the dual-parent family due to the deficit in family structure and the need for additional support systems.

As stated previously, the family and its kin have important contributions to make to the adequate functioning of our society. The degree to which the family contributes to its kin network and vice versa may depend, in a large part, on family structure.

In view of what has been said in the preceding chapters about the following points: (1) the family and its necessary functions (2) the increase in one-parent families and some of the problems that have resulted, and (3) kin and the influence of urban ways, the following proposition is put forth: Parenthood status has a significant effect on kinship relations.

Since it is not possible to test the above proposition directly, a number of hypotheses will be put forward to measure the degree of contact with consanguinal kin (blood relatives) and affinal kin (relatives through marriage). The degree or frequency of contact will be measured on four levels: visiting, telephoning, letter-writing and receiving financial assistance. A comparison will be made on frequency of contact between one-parent

families and dual-parent families.

Contact is a fundamental attribute of the social relationship, so much so that its frequency has often been used essentially as an index of intimate personal involvement (Adams, 1968:33). Contact among kin is a necessary condition for social relationships and it tends to vary by marital status (Anspach, 1976:327).

One way in which the frequency of contact can be indicated is through personal visiting. This will include visiting which may occur at one home or the other, that is, the family or the kin.

Hypothesis I: One-parent families are likely to visit their consanguinal kin more than dual-parent families visit their consanguinal kin.

Hypothesis II: One-parent families are likely to visit their affinal kin less than dual-parent families visit their affinal kin.

Face-to-face contact alone cannot be the total measure of the frequency of contact in today's world of rapid communication. Telephoning and letter-writing are other measures used. This sort of communication is an indicator of the continuing interest of two persons or families in each other (Adams, 1968:14). Thus, the following hypotheses are put forth:

Hypothesis III: One-parent families are likely to phone their consanguinal kin more than dual-parent families phone their consanguinal kin.

Hypothesis IV: One-parent families are likely to phone their affinal kin less than dual-parent families phone their affinal kin.

Hypothesis V: One-parent families are likely to write letters to their consanguinal kin more than dual-parent families write letters to their consanguinal kin.

Hypothesis VI: One-parent families are likely to write letters to their affinal kin less than dual-parent families write letters to their affinal kin.

No other single aspect of urban kinship has received more attention than has the mutual aid which flows between relatives. The flow of aid between parents and their married children is chiefly from the parents, and includes a variety of tangible items, intangibles and services (Adams, 1968:51). One form of mutual aid is that of financial assistance.

Hypothesis VII: One-parent families will be more likely to receive financial assistance from their consanguinal kin than will dual-parent families.

Hypothesis VIII: One-parent families will be less likely to receive financial assistance from their affinal kin than will dual-parent families.

Since this study is being conducted in St. John's, an urban area, it can be assumed that the people in St. John's will relate to kin as is characteristic of any other urban area. Studies have shown that the urban kin network is seldom localized, in fact, it is often scattered, being held together by the telephone, the mails and periodic visits (Adams, 1968:7).

This chapter has put forth the ways in which frequency of contact with kin can be tested. The testing of the above hypotheses will give an indication of the differences between the dual-parent family and the one-parent family and their relation to kin. The next chapter will outline the methods used to obtain a sample and the tests that will be carried out to test the differences between one-parent families and dual-parent families and their relationships with kin.

# CHAPTER IV

## METHODOLOGY

This chapter will describe how the sample for the research project was obtained and the way in which the data were collected. Operational definitions of the key variables will be given and a description will be given of the key dependent variables. A brief description will be given of the tests to be used in the analysis of data.

### The Sample

The sample for this research was obtained from Polk's City Directory,1977. A random number was chosen and the population was sampled at a regular numerical interval of sixty. This selection process generated seven hundred and fifty (750) names, addresses and phone numbers.

There are few complete listings of the entire population, although Polk's City Directory lists the population as adequately as possible. Some of the limitations to using this method are that it is only published once a year and the people who move into the city, in between printings, have no opportunity of being listed. Therefore, not everyone had the opportunity of being included in the study.

Data Collection

The names selected were then contacted by telephone in order to ascertain whether they had dependent children. If they did have dependent children, they were asked to participate in the study. The people contacted were also asked to name one one-parent family and one two-parent family who may also wish to participate in the study. Over a period of two months, a total of eleven hundred and forty-seven (1,147) phone calls were made to obtain a sample of one and two-parent families.

As a result of the above procedure, three hundred and fourteen (314) questionnaire packages were sent to two-parent families while one hundred and seventy-seven (177) were sent to one-parent families.

The Dillman (1972) method was used in an effort to obtain the maximum return rate. Dillman's method was modified for this study in the following way: Initial contact was made by phone, instead of by mail. A questionnaire package, consisting of a questionnaire, a stamped, self-addressed return envelope and a personalized covering letter which explained the purpose of the study and assured anonymity of respondents, was sent to those who agreed to participate in the study. Two weeks after the mailing of the questionnaire package a follow-up postcard was sent encouraging completion of the questionnaire. If questionnaire was still not returned after two weeks, then another

phone call was made to ascertain whether the questionnaire had been mislaid or if the person had intentions of returning the questionnaire. If the questionnaire was lost or misplaced, a second questionnaire package was sent.

As a result of this method, two hundred and twenty (220) or 70.1 percent of the questionnaires were returned by two-parent families. One hundred and nine (109) or 61.6 percent of the questionnaires sent to one-parent families were returned. This return rate gave an overall return rate of 67 percent for all questionnaires.

This method of selecting the sample gave two well-matched groups. Table 2 shows the general demographic characteristics of age, religion, education and socioeconomic status. No major differences were demonstrated between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family in these areas. These distributions were tested statistically, using chi-square and no statistically significant differences were found.

Socioeconomic status was delineated by using the Duncan Reese index. This index is a standard way of coding occupations to indicate socioeconomic status. The coding is based on salary scales for the different occupations thus the high code numbers would indicate a high socioeconomic status.

Definitions

For the purposes of this study, the one-parent family is defined as any family unit consisting of at least

TABLE 2

Demographic Characteristics of One and Two-Parent Families*

| Age | Percentages Single | Dual | Religion | Percentages Single | Dual | Education | Percentages Single | Dual | Socioeconomic Status (Duncan Reese Index) | Percentages Single | Dual |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 and under | 1.0 | 0.0 | Roman Catholic | 46.9 | 40.1 | Grade 8 or less | 15.3 | 9.0 | 00-09 | 9.3 | 13.5 |
| 21 to 25 | 8.2 | 3.3 | Anglican | 24.5 | 25.9 | Some High School | 27.6 | 26.5 | 10-19 | 11.6 | 10.8 |
| 26 to 30 | 12.2 | 13.2 | United Church | 16.3 | 22.2 | High School Graduate | 14.3 | 15.6 | 20-29 | 1.2 | 2.7 |
| 31 to 35 | 25.5 | 26.9 | | | | | | | 30-39 | 3.5 | 3.2 |
| 36 to 40 | 16.3 | 23.6 | Salvation Army | 4.1 | 1.4 | Trades Training | 14.3 | 8.1 | 40-49 | 31.4 | 27.6 |
| 41 to 50 | 28.6 | 25.5 | Other | 5.1 | 9.4 | Some University | 9.2 | 8.5 | 50-59 | 5.8 | 3.2 |
| | | | | | | | | | 60-69 | 26.7 | 23.8 |
| 50 and over | 8.2 | 7.5 | None | 3.1 | 0.9 | University Graduate | 7.1 | 6.2 | 70-79 | 8.1 | 14.1 |
| | | | | | | Other | 12.2 | 26.1 | 80-89 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 |

*No statistically significant differences were found between single and dual-parent groups.

one dependent child of school age (5-18) and which has only one parent present. One parent may be absent, essentially on a permanent basis, whether by virtue of death, desertion, separation or divorce. Also included is the unmarried mother with dependent children.

Kin will include the core of the kin's network referred to as "intimate" kin, and would include parents, siblings, children and others whom the respondents may feel to be important relations. Consanguinal kin are the blood relatives and affinal kin are the relatives through marriage.

Measurement of Variables

The key dependent variables used in this study to measure the effects of one-parent families on kinship relations are different modes of contact. Contact, as previously defined in Chapter III, is considered to be a fundamental attribute of the social relationship, so much so that its frequency is often used as an index of intimate personal involvement.

This particular variable was chosen as it can be measured in various ways. For the purposes of this study, home visiting, phoning, letter-writing and receiving financial assistance, were chosen to measure contact with consanguinal and affinal kin.

The questionnaire used likert-type items to measure the frequency of occurrence of home visiting, telephoning,

letter-writing and receiving financial assistance. Six categories of responses were allowed: very often, often, sometimes, seldom, never and other.

The questionnaire was divided into two sections, one section dealt with the relationships with consanguinal kin. Questions were asked to ascertain how many times respondents visited relatives and how often relatives visited them; how often they talked on the phone with their relatives; how often they received letters from their relatives and finally, how often they received financial assistance from relatives.

The second section of the questionnaire dealt with contact with affinal kin and the same questions were asked in the same order. The naming of closest kin preceded each section with questions being answered in view of those named.

One final question was asked about relationship with other kin, with exception to those named in previous sections, to ascertain frequency of contact with kin other than those considered to be "intimate" kin.

The questions in both sections were devised by the researcher with help being obtained from the literature on the methods used to measure relationships with kin (Adams, 1968; Anspach, 1976).

Tests Used for Analysis of Data

The data will be analyzed by using a test of significance, namely the t-test which tests the differences between means to ascertain significance levels. The one-tailed probability will be used as it is a directional test and this research is interested in the direction of findings in relationship to parenthood status. The correlation coefficient will also be used to give a measure of association between the variables. The strength of the relationship between the variables and the family type will be shown through this statistic. The results will be further analyzed by using the square of the correlation coefficient. These results will be discussed in the summary of Chapter V in relation to the variance of the results.

This chapter outlined the methods used in this research project. The next chapter will set out the findings as they are related to all the hypotheses, stated in Chapter III.

# CHAPTER V

## FINDINGS

The findings of the research will be discussed in this chapter. The findings will be divided into two sections so that relationships with consanguinal kin will be discussed separately from relationships with affinal kin. This division is necessary to give a clear picture of which kin are more important to the one-parent family.

A summary table of each section is included and will be referred to during the discussion of findings. Graphs are also included in Appendix D on selected variables to help give an illustration of the differences between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family and their relationship with kin.

### Relationships with Consanguinal Kin

The differences in means, as may be seen in Table 3, show that dual-parent families visit their kin more than the one-parent family; and that kin have a tendency to visit the dual-parent family more than they visit the one-parent family.

The differences between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family are statistically significant at the .003 level for visiting relatives and the .040 level for

TABLE 3

Relationships With Consanguinal Kin

| Variable | Number of Cases | Mean | Standard Deviation | t-Value | One-Tailed Probability | r* | $r^2$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Visiting own relatives | Group 1 96 | 2.52 | 1.02 | 2.78 | .003 | -.16 | .025 |
| | Group 2 207 | 2.19 | 0.94 | | | | |
| Own relatives visiting you | Group 1 98 | 2.60 | 1.01 | 1.72 | .040 | -.10 | .010 |
| | Group 2 204 | 2.39 | 0.94 | | | | |
| Talk on phone with own relatives | Group 1 98 | 2.31 | 1.07 | 1.95 | .025 | -.11 | .012 |
| | Group 2 212 | 2.07 | 0.94 | | | | |
| Write letters to own relatives | Group 1 96 | 3.75 | 1.10 | 0.65 | .260 | -.04 | .002 |
| | Group 2 205 | 3.66 | 1.08 | | | | |
| Receive letters from own relatives | Group 1 95 | 3.77 | 1.13 | 1.29 | .099 | -.07 | .005 |
| | Group 2 206 | 3.60 | 1.04 | | | | |
| Receive financial assistance from own relatives | Group 1 98 | 4.40 | 0.98 | -2.16 | .015 | +.14 | .020 |
| | Group 2 211 | 4.64 | 0.69 | | | | |

*Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient

Group 1 One-parent Families
Group 2 Dual-parent Families

* "Mean" refers to the frequency of variable in question. An assumption was made that respondents would answer in relation to their present situation.

receiving visits from relatives which indicates that these differences are not due to chance alone. The correlation coefficient indicates that a negative relationship exists between parenthood status and the frequency of visits. As parenthood status changes so do the amounts and numbers of visits to kin.

It was predicted in the hypothesis stated in Chapter III that the one-parent family would likely have more contact with consanguinal kin through visiting than the dual-parent family. This prediction was not confirmed as the data showed that the dual-parent family has more contact with consanguinal kin through visiting than the one-parent family. Thus, the hypothesis should read: Dual-parent families are likely to visit their consanguinal kin more than one-parent families visit their consanguinal kin.

There are a number of reasons why this may be. A difference could be attributed to the reason for becoming a one-parent family. If divorced, separated or never married, this type of family could be ostracized by relatives.

A review of the demographic characteristics shows that 46.9 percent of the respondents were Roman Catholic and acceptance of the above imposed family form is contrary to religious belief. If one comes from a staunch religious background, in which divorce is not permitted, then one may have difficulty accepting the status of the one-parent family.

The acceptance of the one-parent family may be strained depending on the length of time the family has been headed by one parent. Reference to Table 4 shows that 26.5 percent of one-parent families lived with their spouses for more than 15 years before becoming a one-parent family.

TABLE 4

Comparison of the Length of Time One-Parent Family Lived With Spouse and Length of Time Apart From Spouse

| | Percentage of Time Together | Percentage of Time Apart |
|---|---|---|
| No response | 14.3 | 11.2 |
| *Never lived together | 5.1 | 7.1 |
| 1 year or less | 2.0 | 14.3 |
| 2 years to 3 years | 5.1 | 30.6 |
| 4 years to 5 years | 11.2 | 14.3 |
| 6 years to 10 years | 17.3 | 15.3 |
| 11 years to 15 years | 18.4 | 5.1 |
| more than 15 years | 26.5 | 2.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Another factor of particular importance is the length of time the one-parent family has been apart from the spouse. Reference to the same table shows that 30.6 percent of the sample has only been apart for two to three years.

*Never Lived Together refers to those never married.

In addition to the amount of time spent together and apart, age is also a factor: 28.6 percent of the sample were between 41-50 years of age. This could indicate that contact with kin is not as important as this age group may be more able to cope with problems as they present themselves.

These three factors, which are the amount of time spent together, the amount of time spent apart and the age of the respondents, may reflect why visiting relatives may be different insofar as the respondents were probably more settled in their ways and may have no reason to visit their consanguinal kin on a regular basis. Because of age, it may also be that their kin may be deceased. It should be noted that 33.3 percent of the respondents did indicate that they are not totally out of touch with their kin, just that the rate of visits is less than the dual-parent family.

Coupled with the reason for being a one-parent family, the one-parent family may feel isolated from kin. They may feel ashamed if divorce or separation broke up the family. Kin may feel uncomfortable around the one-parent family for fear of saying the wrong thing. In the first few years it may be a difficult situation for both the family and consanguinal kin for reasons already mentioned.

Prior to becoming a one-parent family, visiting consanguinal kin may not have been that frequent for one reason or another. Perhaps kin had interferred with the family and its affairs and contact was severed as a result.

Kin may have also interfered with the family during the process of separation or divorce, thus making contact after separation or divorce is legalized impossible for quite a while.

In some situations, the husband may not have wanted to maintain contact with kin, thus the family lived in isolation in relation to kin. If contact is not frequent prior to becoming a one-parent family, then there is less reason for contact now.

It should be noted that 50 percent of the sample were working full-time which would certainly cut into the amount of time available to visit kin.

Table 3 shows that dual-parent families talk on the phone with their relatives more than one-parent families. This difference is statistically significant at the .025 level which indicates that there is a difference between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family and their phoning habits in relation to kin.

The correlation coefficient indicates that the relationship between parenthood status and telephoning is weak but that the difference does exist. There is a pattern in relation to telephone calls and it may increase or decrease depending on parenthood status.

The reasons for the differences would be similar to those already stated in the findings related to visiting patterns. If the one-parent family did not visit their

consanguinal kin then it would logically follow that they would not call either, but that would also depend on the distance and the financial situation of those involved.

A comparison of the means of the frequency of visits and the frequency of phone calls indicates that one-parent families call their relatives more than they visit them. This could be attributed to the fact that 50 percent of the sample of one-parent families are working full-time and have little time available for visiting.

The hypothesis regarding telephoning, as stated in Chapter III, was not confirmed as it was found that dual-parent families talk on the phone with consanguinal kin more than one-parent families. The hypothesis should be stated as follows: Dual-parent families are likely to phone their consanguinal kin more than one-parent families phone their consanguinal kin.

Table 3 shows that there is no difference between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family in relation to letters written to consanguinal kin and letters received from consanguinal kin.

The data indicate that there is no relationship between parenthood status and the numbers of letters written to or received from relatives.

The obvious reasons for no differences could be the fact that the majority of the respondents lived in St. John's and it may be assumed that their relatives lived

around the same area as indicated by visiting patterns.

Also, many people would prefer to phone than write on a regular basis as there is more personal contact through phoning than through letter-writing.

A review of the schooling of the respondents indicates that 42.9 percent fell into the category of 'Grade 8 or less' and 'Some high school'. This may be an indication of the literacy of the respondents. The need, in earlier times, to provide an adequate living for your family far outweighed the need to attend school.

Table 3 shows that there is a difference between one-parent families and dual-parent families in relation to receiving financial assistance. The one-parent family receives financial assistance from consanguinal kin more than the dual-parent family. This difference is statistically significant at the .015 level which indicates that the amounts of financial assistance received depends on status.

The correlation coefficient indicates a positive relationship between parenthood status and receiving financial assistance. As parenthood status changes so does the amount of financial assistance received from kin.

The reason why the one-parent family may receive more financial assistance from consanguinal kin than the dual-parent family is due to the fact that in most cases the male breadwinner is gone from the family thus leaving

the family in a financial crisis. As indicated in Chapter I, 80 percent of one-parent families are headed by women and the incidence of poverty for the one-parent family is 53 percent. Since females answered the questionnaire, then it can be safely assumed that they may have financial difficulties.

Although the one-parent family may not be extremely close to consanguinal kin, as indicated through the findings, they may feel more comfortable approaching kin than non-kin for financial aid.

Also, blood relatives may feel some obligation toward the one-parent family in relation to financial help especially when there are children involved.

Relationships with Affinal Kin

The data in Table 5 show that one-parent families do not visit their spouses' relatives as often as dual-parent families; and that spouses' relatives do not visit the one-parent family as often as they visit the dual-parent family. This difference is statistically significant at the .0001 level which indicates that there is a difference in family types when visiting affinal kin.

The correlation coefficient shows that one-parent families visit affinal kin and receive visits from affinal kin less than the dual-parent family.

TABLE 5

Relationships With Affinal Kin

| Variable | Number of Cases | | Mean | Standard Deviation | t-Value | One-Tailed Probability | r* | $r^2$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Visiting spouses' relatives | Group 1 | 85 | 3.68 | 1.15 | 7.18 | 0.0001 | -.39 | .150 |
| | Group 2 | 209 | 2.67 | 1.08 | | | | |
| Spouses' relatives visiting you | Group 1 | 85 | 3.81 | 1.04 | 7.13 | 0.0001 | -.39 | .148 |
| | Group 2 | 209 | 2.86 | 1.04 | | | | |
| Talk on phone with spouses' relatives | Group 1 | 86 | 3.72 | 1.13 | 6.07 | 0.0001 | -.33 | .110 |
| | Group 2 | 212 | 2.89 | 1.07 | | | | |
| Write letters to spouses' relatives | Group 1 | 86 | 4.48 | 0.79 | 2.82 | 0.003 | -.15 | .022 |
| | Group 2 | 203 | 4.16 | 1.01 | | | | |
| Receive letters from spouses' relatives | Group 1 | 86 | 4.50 | 0.84 | 3.23 | .001 | -.17 | .029 |
| | Group 2 | 205 | 4.13 | 1.04 | | | | |
| Receive financial assistance from spouses' relatives | Group 1 | 87 | 4.78 | 0.66 | 0.17 | .432 | -.01 | .0001 |
| | Group 2 | 211 | 4.77 | 0.62 | | | | |

*Pearson's Produce Moment Correlation Coefficient

Group 1 One-parent Families
Group 2 Dual-parent Families

* "Mean" refers to the frequency of variable in question. An assumption was made that respondents would answer in relation to their present situation.

The hypothesis, as stated in Chapter III, was confirmed as the predicted difference between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family does exist. One reason for such a difference could be attributed partly to the way in which one becomes a single parent, or the degree of personal relationship that existed with affinal kin before becoming a one-parent family.

The absence of the marital partner, be it husband or wife, cuts down on contact with affines as the necessary link with kin is not being provided. In a study done by Anspach (1976), it was shown that the kin ties of the divorced do not represent a new kinship system, but result from the absence of the husband who provides the necessary link with his relatives. The kin network of the divorced are considered to be imbalanced because the absent husband cannot play the pivotal role of sponsor of social relationships with his kindred.

It is interesting to note that even dual-parent families do not visit their affinal kin as often as they visit their consanguinal kin. This could be attributed to the fact that women answered the questionnaire and in most cases females are more apt to provide the pivotal connecting link with their own families than their spouses' families. Spicer and Hampe (1975) found in their study on kinship interaction and divorce that "being female and/or having custody of the children had the effect of increasing or

maintaining high levels of interaction with consanguines and maintaining contact at a lower level of interaction with former affines" (p. 118). This finding can also be applied to the other forms of the one-parent family when it comes to maintaining contact with affines.

The number of children may also be a determining factor when speaking about affinal kin. In some cases, contact may be maintained just for the children so that there is not an abrupt change in the kin network of the child. Former affines are contacted when social variables define them as "family". Children are such a social variable, because they make a marriage into a family (Spicer & Hampe, 1975).

Figure 9 shows that one-parent families do not talk on the phone with spouses' relatives as often as dual-parent families. The difference reached statistical significance at the .0001 level which shows that differences were not due to chance alone. The extent of their differences is shown by the correlation coefficient. Parenthood status does have an effect on contact with relatives by phone, although the relationship may be considered to be relatively weak.

The data show that one-parent families do not write their spouses' relatives as often as dual-parent families; and that spouses' relatives write more letters to dual-parent families than they write to one-parent

families. There is a statistically significant difference at the .003 level for writing letters and at the .001 level for receiving letters.

The correlation coefficient shows that there is a weak relationship between parenthood status and letter-writing. This could indicate that as one moves further from the traditional dual-parent family, then letter-writing tends to decrease substantially.

Two reasons for these differences could be attributed to the amount of distance involved and the degree of personal relationship with affinal kin.

The last finding in relation to affinal kin has to do with receiving financial assistance. The data show that there is no difference between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family when it comes to receiving financial assistance from affinal kin.

The reason why there may be no difference is that affinal kin may feel less obligation toward the one-parent family as all ties may be severed depending on the reason for single parenthood.

The data indicate that affinal kin are less supportive financially toward either type of family.

Summary

The data show that parenthood status does have an effect on kinship relations. From the findings of this

research, it is apparent that the one-parent family does not maintain contact with consanguinal kin and affinal kin as much as the dual-parent family.

In Chapter III, the hypotheses were stated and predicted differences were put forward in relation to the one-parent family and the dual-parent family. Differences were found but all differences did not agree with the stated hypotheses. The possible reasons for the differences were cited throughout this chapter. They range from the reason for single parenthood to the stigma that may be attached and from the age of the respondents to the amount of time being a one-parent family.

Parenthood status and its' effect on a number of kinship variables was measured in this research. The amount of effect on any one variable is not high, as indicated by the square of the correlation coefficient, but it is consistent throughout the research.

The literature implied that the one-parent family would need more contact with kin but this research found that such is not the case in St. John's. The one-parent family may still need the extra support systems but they may have less difficulty communicating with non-kin and would probably turn to them for emotional support.

While this chapter showed the differehces between one-parent families and dual-parent families in relation to kin, the next chapter will make some conclusions and recom-

mendations about the findings. The implications for future research in the whole area of parenthood status and kinship relations will also be discussed in the next chapter.

# CHAPTER VI

## CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this research was to examine the differences between the one-parent family and the dual-parent family in relation to kinship relations. Whether the one-parent family was in need of extra support systems via the consanguinal kin was the major focus.

The findings of this research showed that parenthood status does have an effect on kinship relations. The direction of the findings showed that the dual-parent family has more frequent contact with kin than the one-parent family. Kin are important to the family life of the dual-parent family but, presumably, the one-parent family may have support systems other than the kin network, or they may be without any support systems.

The findings of this study may lead one to believe that the one-parent family unit in St. John's must find support in other sources. Ascertaining which sources may provide support is an area which warrants further study. The increase in the one-parent family population has brought about the establishment of a number of self-help groups across Canada. Such organizations are Parents Without Partners and People Alone Caring Enough (PACE). PACE is one of the organizations in St. John's consisting of widows, widowers, divorcees and single mothers. It is a self-help

program where the members show a willingness to help each other with the problems of bringing up children alone. These types of organizations enable the single parent to voice concerns about life in a one-parent family. The one-parent family population in St. John's may feel more comfortable discussing their problems with such non-kin organizations rather than kin. It may be a common feeling that those in similar circumstances would be better able to give support and guidance. Non-kin would be less likely to impose their values on one another and may be more objective in how they deal with problems.

The findings of this research differed from what is implied in the literature and theory. There the implication is that the one-parent family would have more contact with kin, especially consanguinal kin, because of their need for extra support systems. (Spicer & Hampe, 1975).

The design of the research was limited insofar as only women answered the questionnaire and only families with school-age children were asked to participate. Perhaps the group of families that were excluded, that is, those headed by men and those with children under five, would have shown more contact with blood relatives than was shown through this study.

Since the literature on kinship relations in Canada is scarce, this study should be replicated in other urban areas to ensure that similar results will be found which, in turn, will add to the ability to generalize the results of this study.

In future studies on one-parent families, a distinction should be made as to the reason for single parenthood as different forms of one-parent families may have differing amounts of contact with kin. Larger samples of each category than were possible in this research project would help delineate those who maintain the most contact.

Also when doing future studies, variables such as the numbers of children and the proximity of kin should be taken into consideration. Increased numbers of children in a family may require more attention and the amount of contact with kin may be increased. Also, the parent with younger children may need more kin support to fill the place vacated by the spouse, while the parent with older children may use services of children at home for extra support. The proximity of kin is another factor when talking about frequency of contact. This study did not ask about the location of kin, which may have affected the findings in some respects. For example, it is traditional in Newfoundland for relatives to live in the same house, thus those who had relatives in their homes may not have answered the questions on frequency of contact.

As discussed in the chapter on findings, the length of time married and the length of time apart should also be considered. For those married for more than 10 years, contact with kin may be limited as they may be more settled in their ways and may have set up extra support systems along the way. The same would apply to those who have been apart for three years or more which was shown in the study. Perhaps the newly formed one-parent family may need support from kin, but as time goes on they may be able to cope on their own.

Socioeconomic status should be delineated and compared to other variables to ascertain which class is closer to kin. It would be interesting to note if the findings would coincide with findings cited in the literature. The research of the 60's found that the working classes express a stronger kin orientation, live closer to kin, and interact with them more regularly than the middle classes (Adams, 1968).

A comparison should also be done on the amounts of contact before single-parent status and the amounts of contact when a single parent. Due to the design of this research, it was not possible to measure contact before becoming a single parent. A comparison of frequency of contact before and after single parenthood would add to the findings of this research. Such a comparison may also show some pattern of changing kin relations prior to the changing

of parenthood status. Perhaps those studied had little or no contact before, so, presumably, there would be no reason to change contact when parenthood status changed.

An investigation should also be done into the self-help groups to ascertain how these organizations are used and how helpful they are to the single parent. Are they an ongoing source of support or do they only meet in times of crisis? The views of the single parent on such organizations would help in showing their effectiveness.

The findings of this research suggest that a comprehensive study should be done on the one-parent family in St. John's as there may be a number of reasons that contribute to the lack of involvement with kin.

## Implications for Social Work

The importance of the family unit as the basic unit of our society is an underlying theme of this research project. Social workers have long recognized the importance of the family but treating the family as a complete unit is a phenomenon that they are just rediscovering after years of concentrating on one-to-one relationships.

There is a need to improve the state of family research in relation to social work. It is now in its infancy and will require a multiplicity of skills and resources to develop. A broader understanding of the transactions between the family and the social environment

is essential for understanding what is going on in the family (Irving, 1972).

The findings of this research indicate that the one-parent family is different from the dual-parent family when it comes to relationships with the kin network. They separate themselves from kin and the reasons for this separation should be known and understood by the social worker. An understanding of this particular characteristic would lend to a more adequate understanding of the dynamics of the one-parent family.

The different forms of the one-parent family should be looked at to ascertain which group maintains the most contact with kin. Different categories of the one-parent family might be expected to show different relationships with the kin network. As discussed in Chapter I, the amount of acceptance given the one-parent family may be related to the reason for single parenthood.

From the beginning of this research, the one-parent family has been described along several dimensions. Whether they had special characteristics and problems was one of the concerns expressed. It is evident throughout this research that they do have special needs but it is important that if services are to be made available, then they should not be segregated from services already available to other forms of family. The one-parent family should not be treated differently or our work with them may prove to be ineffective.

The one-parent family needs to be encouraged to maintain or reestablish contact with their kin. Also, the one-parent family, in every form, needs to be accepted by kin.

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# APPENDIX A

## QUESTIONNAIRE "A STUDY OF FAMILIES"

# A STUDY OF FAMILIES



Memorial University of Newfoundland

St. John's

1978

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in our study. The questions are concerned with things that usually happen in all families.

The first set of questions is concerned with your contact with your relatives. (Please circle your answer).

First think about the relatives on your side of the family. Whom do you consider as your closest relatives? _____

1. How often do you visit your relatives?

   VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER  OTHER _____

2. How often do your relatives visit you?

   VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER  OTHER _____

3. How often do you talk on the phone with your relatives?

   VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER  OTHER _____

4. How often do you write letters to your relatives?

   VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER  OTHER _____

5. How often do you receive letters from your relatives?

   VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER  OTHER _____

6. How often do you receive financial assistance from your relatives?

   VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER  OTHER _____

Now think about the relatives on your spouses' side of the family. Whom do you consider as spouse's family? _____

7. How often do you visit your spouse's relatives?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

8. How often do your spouse's relatives visit you?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

9. How often do you phone your spouse's relatives?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

10. How often do you write letters to your spouse's relatives?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

11. How often do you receive letters from your spouse's relatives?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

12. How often do you receive financial assistance from your spouse's relatives?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

13. Whom do you consider as relatives? (In addition to closest relatives mentioned above)

_____

14. How often do you visit these relatives?

VERY OFTEN OFTEN SOMETIMES SELDOM NEVER OTHER _____

Next we would like you to think about some of the different roles that you usually have to fulfill in the family. (Please circle your answer).

15. During the last six months who earned the family income?

| HUSBAND MUCH MORE THAN WIFE | HUSBAND MORE THAN WIFE | HUSBAND AND WIFE EQUALLY | WIFE MORE THAN HUSBAND | WIFE MUCH MORE THAN HUSBAND | OTHER _____ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

16. How satisfied did you feel with this arrangement?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

17. Do you feel that the amount of money available is adequate for your family's basic needs?

| VERY ADEQUATE | ADEQUATE | SOMEWHAT ADEQUATE | NOT ADEQUATE | NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|

18. How satisfied are you with the way your housework is done?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

19. Who cares for the physical needs of your child (children)?

| MYSELF ALWAYS | MYSELF USUALLY | DUTIES SHARED WITH OTHERS | OTHERS SOMETIMES | OTHERS ALWAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|

20. If your answer to question 19 was "MYSELF ALWAYS" or "MYSELF USUALLY", how satisfied are you with yourself in the way you care for the physical needs of your child (children)?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

21. How satisfied are you with the overall arrangements for caring for the physical needs of your child (children)?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY SATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

22. Who teaches and disciplines your child (children)?

| MYSELF ALWAYS | MYSELF USUALLY | DUTIES SHARED WITH HUSBAND OR OTHERS | HUSBAND OR OTHERS SOMETIMES | HUSBAND OR OTHERS ALWAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|

23. If your answer to question 22 was "MYSELF ALWAYS" OR "MYSELF USUALLY", how satisfied are you with yourself in the way you teach and discipline your child (children)?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

24. How satisfied are you with the overall teaching and disciplining of your child (children)?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

25. Who organizes the family's recreation?

| MYSELF ALWAYS | MYSELF USUALLY | DUTIES SHARED WITH HUSBAND OR OTHERS | HUSBAND OR OTHERS SOMETIMES | HUSBAND OR OTHERS ALWAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|

26. If your answer to question 25 was "MYSELF ALWAYS" or "MYSELF USUALLY", how satisfied are you with yourself in the way you organize the family's recreational activities?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

27. How satisfied are you generally with the organization of the family's recreational activities?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

28. How satisfied are you with the way you fulfill your sexual role?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED | NOT APPLICABLE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

29. How satisfied are you with your ability to listen to and help your husband with his problems? (If no husband is present, answer this question thinking of some other man with whom you have a deep personal relationship.)

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED | NOT APPLICABLE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

30. How satisfied are you with your husband's ability to listen to and help with your problems? (If no husband is present, answer this question thinking of some other man with whom you have a deep personal relationship.)

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED | NOT APPLICABLE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

31. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life generally?

| VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NOT SATISFIED | VERY UNSATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

We are also interested in gathering some general information about children. Please think of your oldest child who is still in school and answer the following questions. We are not interested in knowing the name of the child, but it is important for you to concentrate on this one child when answering this next set of questions.

Age of child: _____

Sex of child: F ___ M ___

Birth order: oldest ___ youngest ___ middle ___

School Grade: _____

32. How many clubs, organizations or leagues does your child belong to?

SIX OR MORE FIVE FOUR THREE TWO ONE NONE

33. Please describe up to three of these (for example, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Sports leagues, hobby groups, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

34. Whose idea is it for he/she to join such activities?

HIS/HER OWN

BROTHERS OR SISTERS

FRIENDS

TEACHER

YOURSELF

OTHER _____

35. How often does he/she stay in these clubs after joining?

ALWAYS STAYS | USUALLY STAYS | IT DEPENDS | USUALLY QUITS | ALWAYS QUITS

36. At what level is your child in his/her class?

TOP GROUP | AVERAGE GROUP | LOWER GROUP | REMEDIAL | SPECIAL EDUCATION | OTHER (please specify) _____

37. How often does he/she have special problems in doing school work?

NEVER | SELDOM | SOMETIMES | OFTEN | VERY OFTEN

38. How often does he/she receive special awards or prizes either in school or in other activities?

VERY OFTEN | OFTEN | SOMETIMES | SELDOM | NEVER

39. Frequently, children will have periods when they don't want to go to school. How often have you had trouble getting your child to go to school?

NEVER | SELDOM | SOMETIMES | OFTEN | VERY OFTEN

40. Does your child ever have discipline problems at school?

NEVER | SELDOM | SOMETIMES | OFTEN | VERY OFTEN

41. How many friends does your child normally have?

VERY MANY | A GOOD MANY | ENOUGH | NOT VERY MANY | VERY FEW | NONE

42. How well does he/she usually get along with friends?

VERY WELL | FAIRLY WELL | AVERAGE | NOT VERY WELL | NOT AT ALL WELL

43. How easily does he/she make new friends?

VERY EASILY  FAIRLY EASILY  AVERAGE  NOT VERY EASILY  NOT AT ALL EASILY

44. How many of your child's friends are:

A. In his/her class at school? ALL MOST SOME VERY FEW NONE

B. In your immediate neighbourhood? ALL MOST SOME VERY FEW NONE

C. Considerably older than him/her? ALL MOST SOME VERY FEW NONE

D. Considerably younger than him/her? ALL MOST SOME VERY FEW NONE

E. Of the opposite sex? ALL MOST SOME VERY FEW NONE

45. How popular do you think your child feels with his/her friends and classmates?

VERY POPULAR  FAIRLY POPULAR  AVERAGE  NOT VERY POPULAR  NOT AT ALL POPULAR

46. Do you ever worry about his/her popularity?

VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER

47. In your opinion, how often does your child worry about his/her popularity?

VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER

48. Does your child have a problem with bedwetting?

YES _____ NO _____

49. How often has your child wet the bed in the past year?

NOT AT ALL  1-5 TIMES  5-25 TIMES  25-50 TIMES  50-100 TIMES  MORE

50. How often does your child help out at home?

VERY OFTEN  OFTEN  SOMETIMES  SELDOM  NEVER

51. How often does your child present a discipline problem at home?

NEVER  SELDOM  SOMETIMES  OFTEN  VERY OFTEN

52. How many times has your child ever received professional help for an emotional problem?

NEVER  ONCE  2-5 TIMES  6-10 TIMES  MORE THAN 10 TIMES

53. What type of helping person did your child see?

NOT APPLICABLE
PSYCHIATRIST
PSYCHOLOGIST
SOCIAL WORKER
GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR
OTHER (specify) _____

54. How often were visits made?

NOT APPLICABLE
MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK
WEEKLY
BI-WEEKLY
MONTHLY
LESS THAN MONTHLY
ONLY ONE VISIT MADE

55. How often has your child been questioned by the police?

NEVER  ONCE  TWICE  THREE OR FOUR TIMES  FIVE OR MORE TIMES

56. How often have the police ever questioned you about your child?

NEVER ONCE TWICE THREE OR FOUR TIMES FIVE OR MORE TIMES

57. How often do you feel you have reason to worry about your child getting into legal trouble?

NEVER SELDOM SOMETIMES OFTEN VERY OFTEN

Finally, we would like to ask a few questions about yourself to help with the data analysis. Please circle your answer to each of the following questions:

58. Sex: MALE FEMALE

59. What is your age?
1. 20 AND UNDER
2. 21 TO 25
3. 26 TO 30
4. 31 TO 35
5. 36 TO 40
6. 41 TO 50
7. 50 AND OVER

60. Marital Status:
1. MARRIED
2. DIVORCED
3. WIDOWED
4. SEPARATED
5. DESERTED
6. NEVER MARRIED

61. Your religion is:
1. ROMAN CATHOLIC
2. ANGLICAN
3. UNITED CHURCH
4. SALVATION ARMY
5. OTHER (specify) _____
6. NONE

62. During the last year, how often did you attend church?

1. NOT AT ALL
2. A FEW TIMES
3. ABOUT ONCE A MONTH
4. TWO OR THREE TIMES A MONTH
5. ABOUT ONCE A WEEK OR MORE

63. How much schooling did you complete?

1. GRADE EIGHT OR LESS
2. SOME HIGH SCHOOL
3. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
4. TRADES TRAINING
5. SOME UNIVERSITY
6. UNIVERSITY GRADUATE
7. OTHER TRAINING OR EDUCATION (please specify)

_____

Wife's Occupation

64. Are you employed outside the home?

1. FULL TIME
2. PART TIME
3. NOT AT ALL
4. IF UNEMPLOYED, WHEN DID YOU LAST WORK? _____

(64-A). Please describe your usual occupation: (If not presently employed, please describe your last job.)

TITLE: _____

KIND OF WORK YOU DO: _____

Husband's Occupation

65. Employment status:

1. FULL TIME
2. PART TIME
3. NOT AT ALL
4. IF UNEMPLOYED, HOW LONG? _____

(65-A). Please describe usual occupation of husband: (If unemployed, please describe last job.)

TITLE: _____

KIND OF WORK DONE: _____

66. Are you and your children presently living as a single parent family unit (for example, without a fairly permanent partner)?

YES _____ NO _____.

If you answered "NO" to this question, please go on to question #69.

67. If spouse is absent, please indicate how long:

1. NEVER LIVED TOGETHER
2. 1 YEAR OR LESS
3. 2 YEARS TO 3 YEARS
4. 4 YEARS TO 5 YEARS
5. 6 YEARS TO 10 YEARS
6. 11 YEARS TO 15 YEARS
7. MORE THAN 15 YEARS

68. If spouse is absent, please indicate how long you lived together before the relationship ended:

1. NEVER LIVED TOGETHER
2. 1 YEAR OR LESS
3. 2 YEARS TO 3 YEARS
4. 4 YEARS TO 5 YEARS
5. 6 YEARS TO 10 YEARS
6. 11 YEARS TO 15 YEARS
7. MORE THAN 15 YEARS

69. What are your present housing arrangements?

1. OWN HOME
2. RENTED PUBLIC HOUSING
3. OTHER RENTED ACCOMODATIONS
4. LIVING WITH RELATIVES
5. OTHER (please specify) _____

70. How long have you lived in St. John's?

1. 6 MONTHS OR LESS
2. 1 TO 2 YEARS
3. 3 TO 5 YEARS
4. 6 TO 10 YEARS
5. OVER 10 YEARS

71. Length of time at present address:

1. 6 MONTHS OR LESS
2. 1 TO 2 YEARS
3. 3 TO 5 YEARS
4. 6 TO 10 YEARS
5. OVER 10 YEARS

72. How satisfied are you with your present accomodation?

| VERY SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | SATISFIED | NOT VERY SATISFIED | NOT AT ALL SATISFIED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

73. How many children do you have? _____

74. How many of your children were planned?

ALL SOME NONE

75. How old are your children? Please state ages.

| BOYS | GIRLS |
|---|---|
| ____ | ____ |
| ____ | ____ |
| ____ | ____ |
| ____ | ____ |

Thank you very much for your participation in this study. If you would like to receive a copy of the results of the study, please write your name and address on the back of the enclosed return envelope.

# APPENDIX B

## LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1B 3X8

*General Office*
*Education Building*

*Telex: 016-4101*
*Telephone: (709) 753-1200*

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our study, which will help identify some of the important characteristics of families and contribute to improving services to families in our community. As we indicated when we talked with you on the phone, we want mothers only to complete the enclosed questionnaire. The questionnaire is being mailed to a small, but representative sample of people. Therefore, it is extremely important that everyone who receives a questionnaire fill it out and return it to us within one week if possible.

As we are interested in discovering general trends, and not individual characteristics, your name is not on the questionnaire, nor will it be placed there. There is a serial number on each questionnaire which makes it possible to know who has returned the questionnaire and to remove that name from the mailing list. The study is entirely confidential. We hope that you will find it interesting.

Should you require further information please contact us at 753-1200, ext. 2165 (daytime) or 722-1218 (evenings). In closing we would again like to thank you for your assistance in our study.

Sincerely,

Helen Handrigan

Betty Newlands

Bryan Purcell
Research Directors

/ljc

# APPENDIX C

## "A STUDY OF FAMILIES" REMINDER POSTCARD

A STUDY OF FAMILIES

Last week a questionnaire concerning families and how they function was mailed to you.

If you have already completed and returned it to us please accept our sincere thanks. If you have not already mailed our questionnaire, could you please do so today. Because the questionnaire has been sent to only a small, but representative sample of people, it is extremely important that yours also be included in the study if the results are to be accurate.

If you have any questions, or if you did not receive the questionnaire, or it got misplaced, please call us now at 753-1200 Ext. 2165 (daytime) or 722-1218 (evenings).

Sincerely,

Helen Handrigan
Betty Newlands
Bryan Purcell
Research Directors

# APPENDIX D

## GRAPHS ON VARIABLES

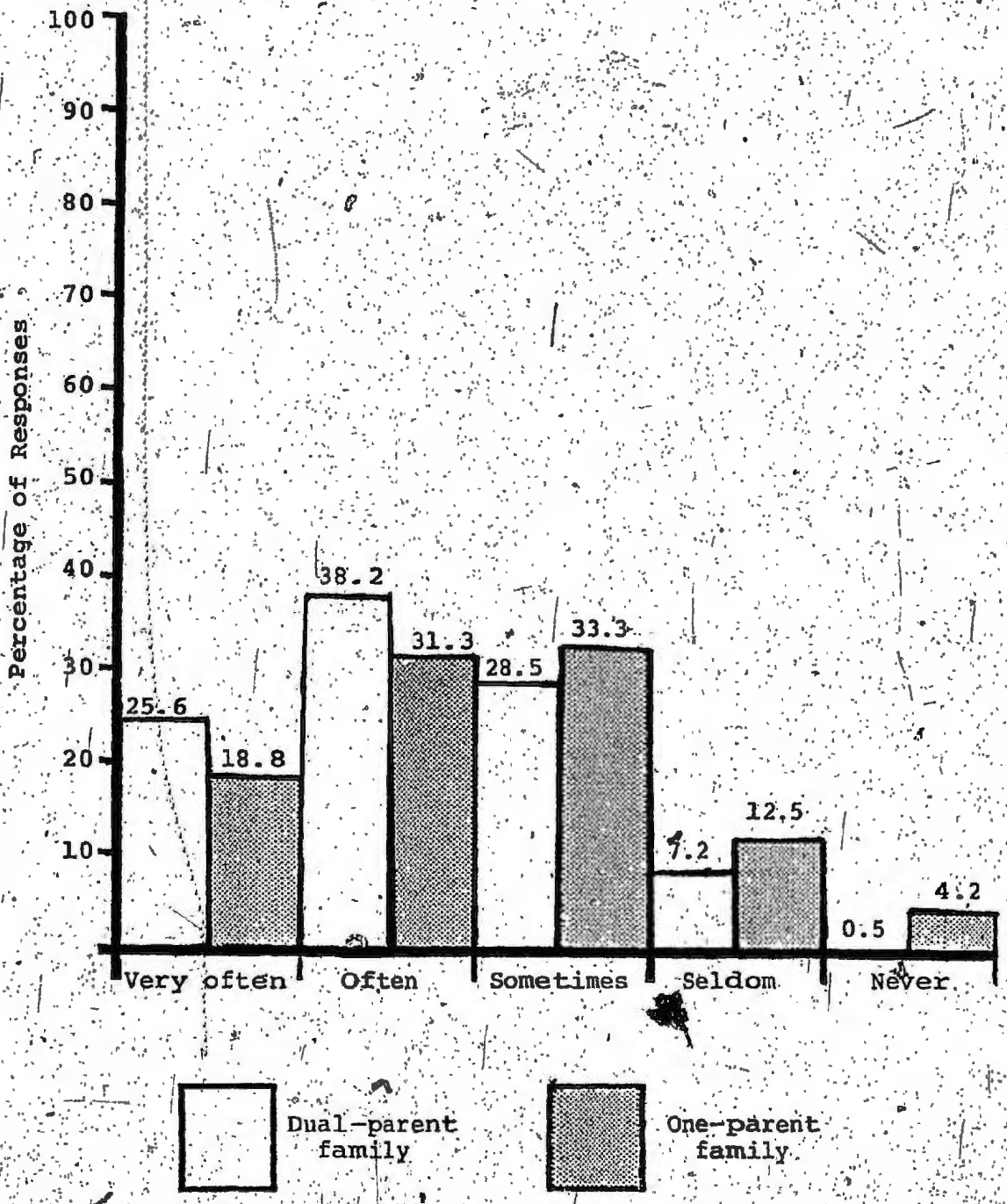



FIGURE 1. Frequency of Visits to Consanguinal Kin

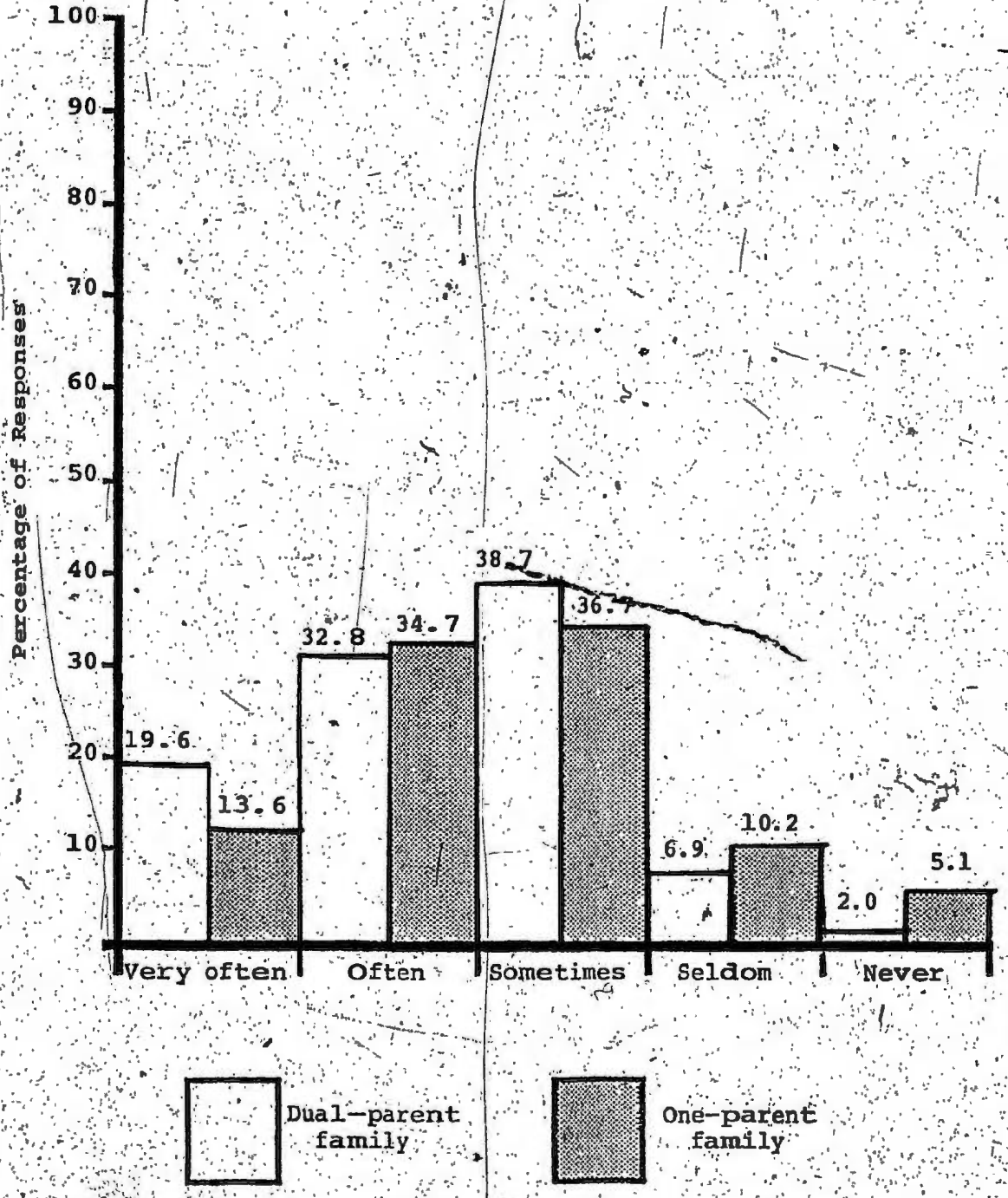



FIGURE 2. Frequency of Visits from Consanguinal Kin

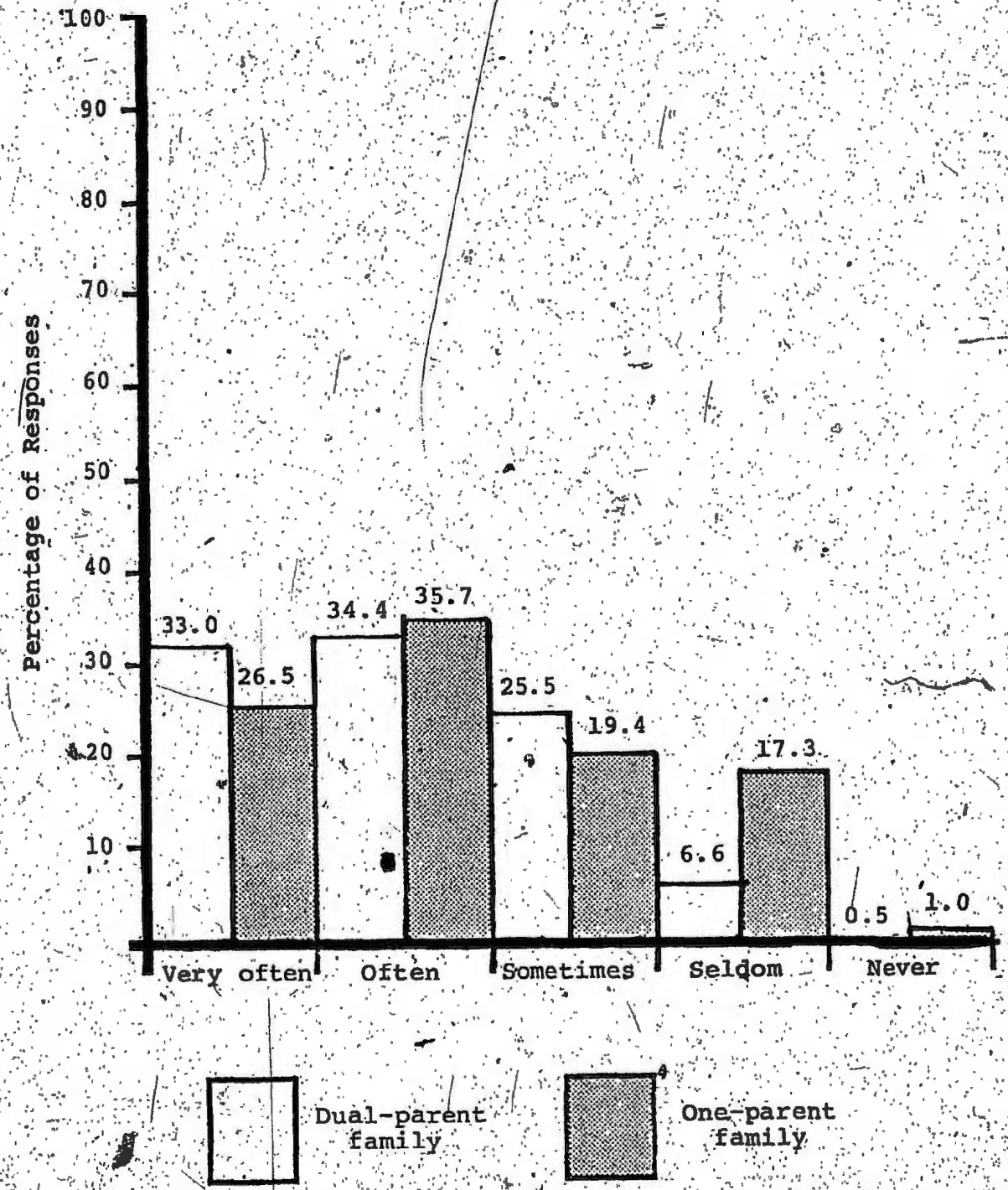



FIGURE 3. Frequency of Phone Calls with Consanguinal Kin

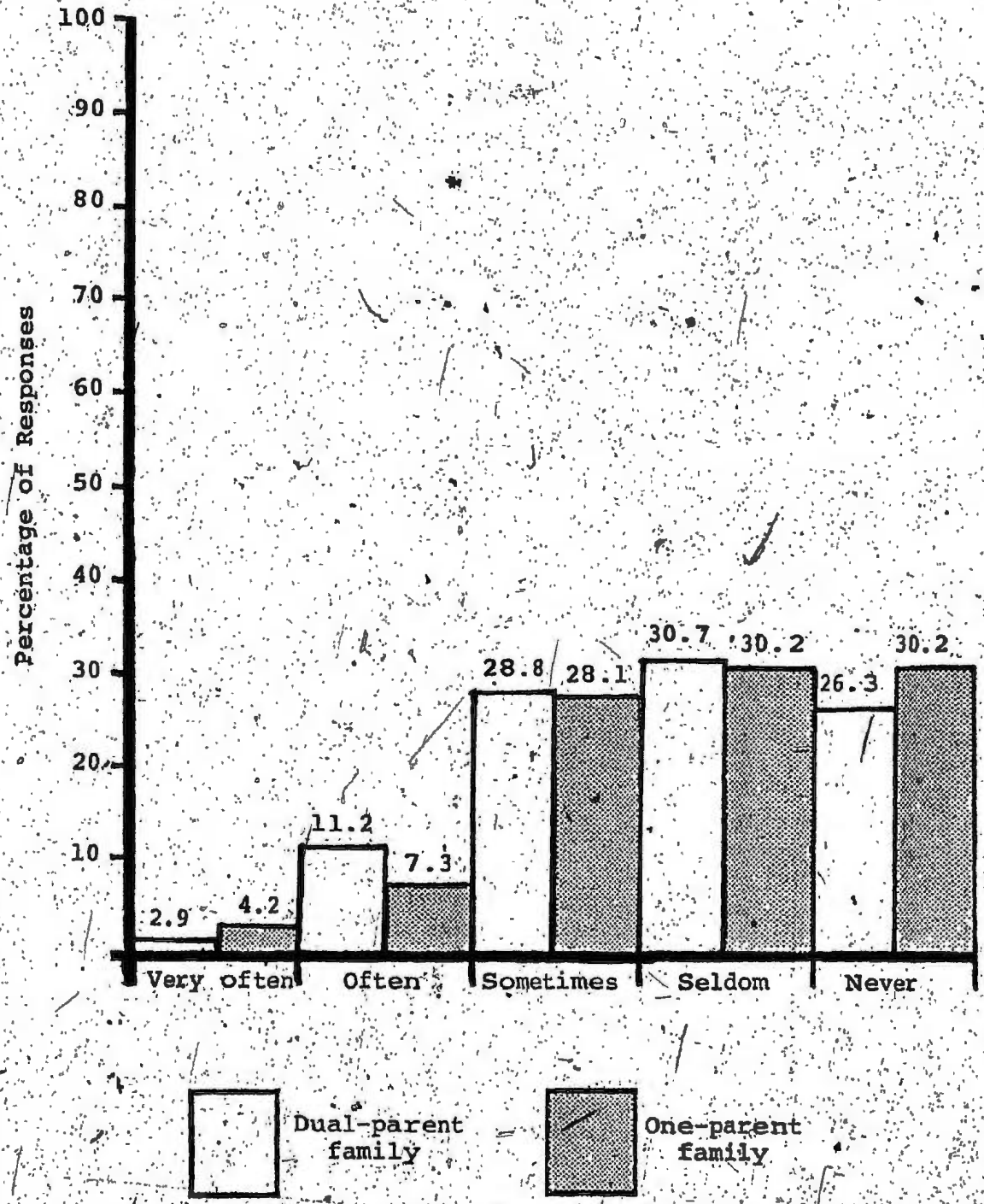



FIGURE 4. Frequency of Letters Written to Consanguinal Kin

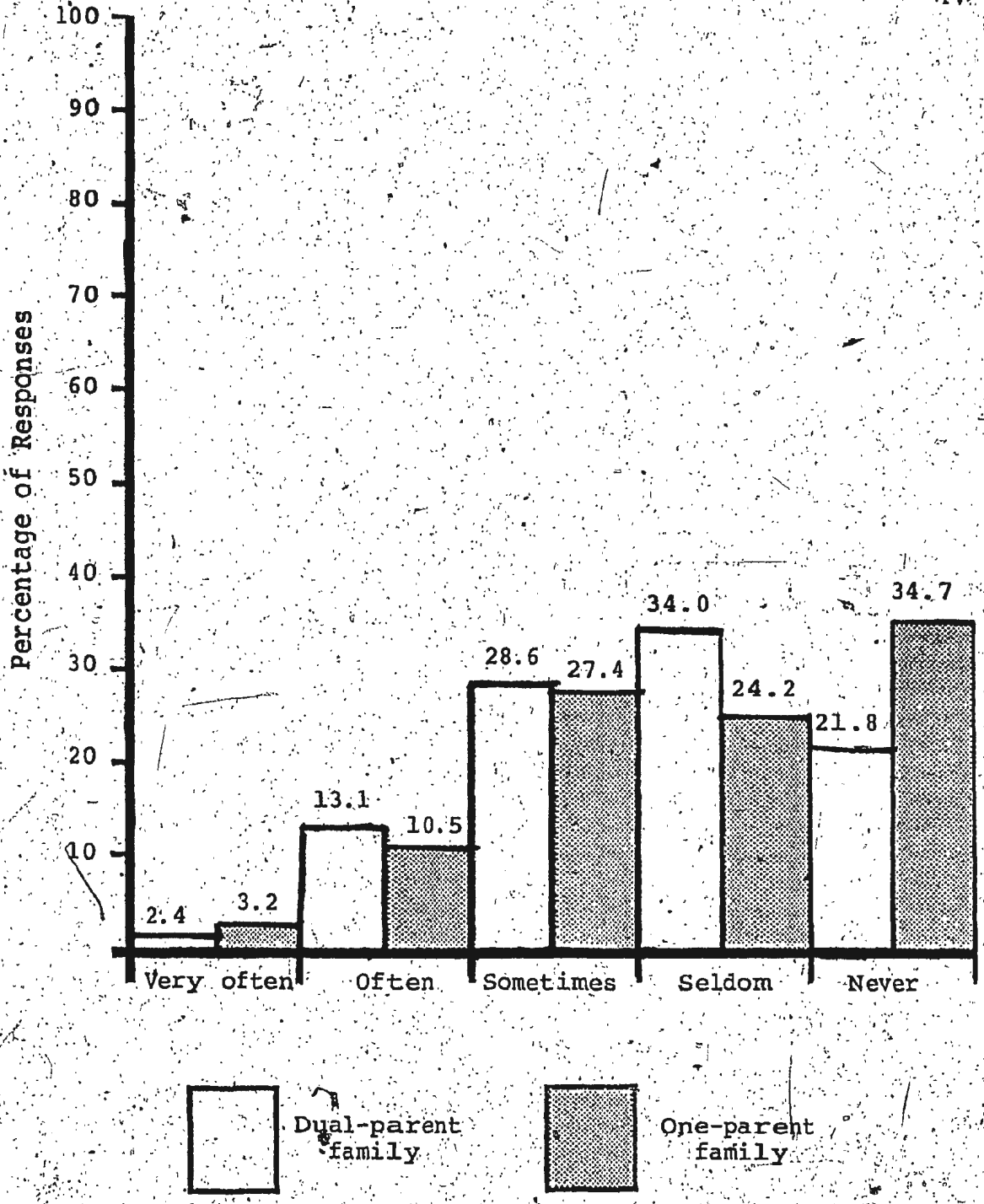



FIGURE 5. Frequency of Letters Received from Consanguinal Kin

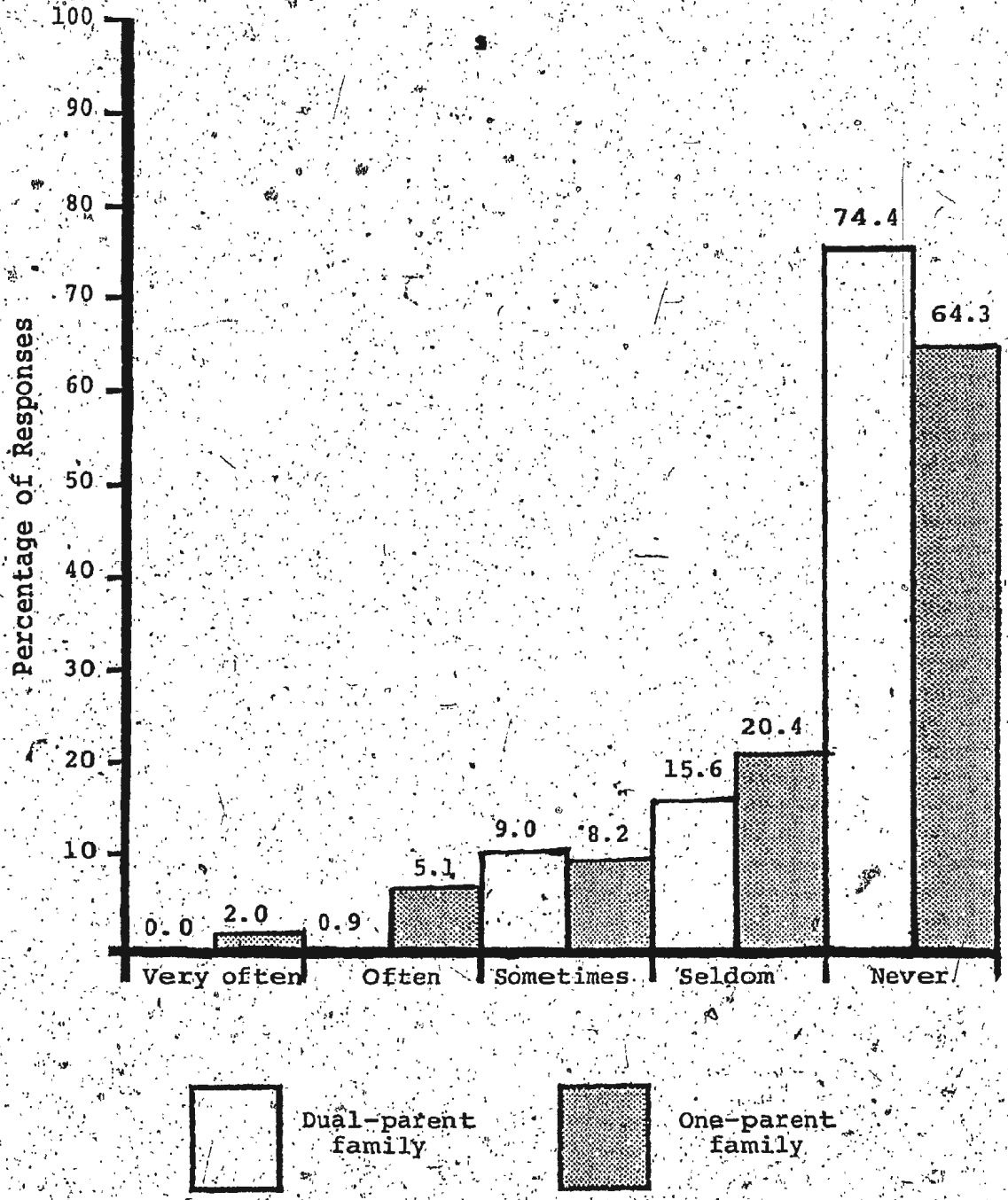



FIGURE 6. Frequency of Financial Assistance from Consanguinal Kin

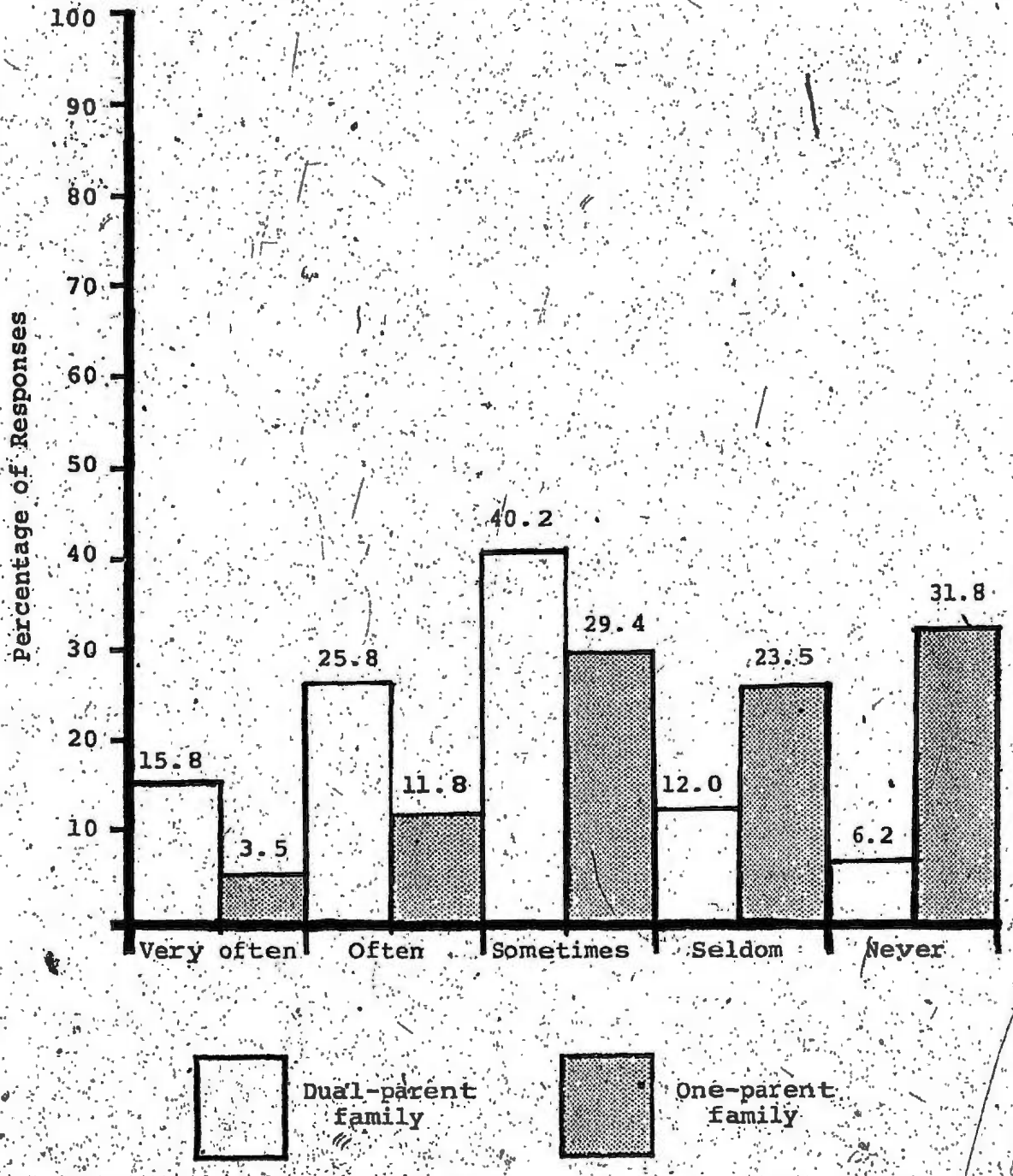



FIGURE 7. Frequency of Visits to Affinal Kin

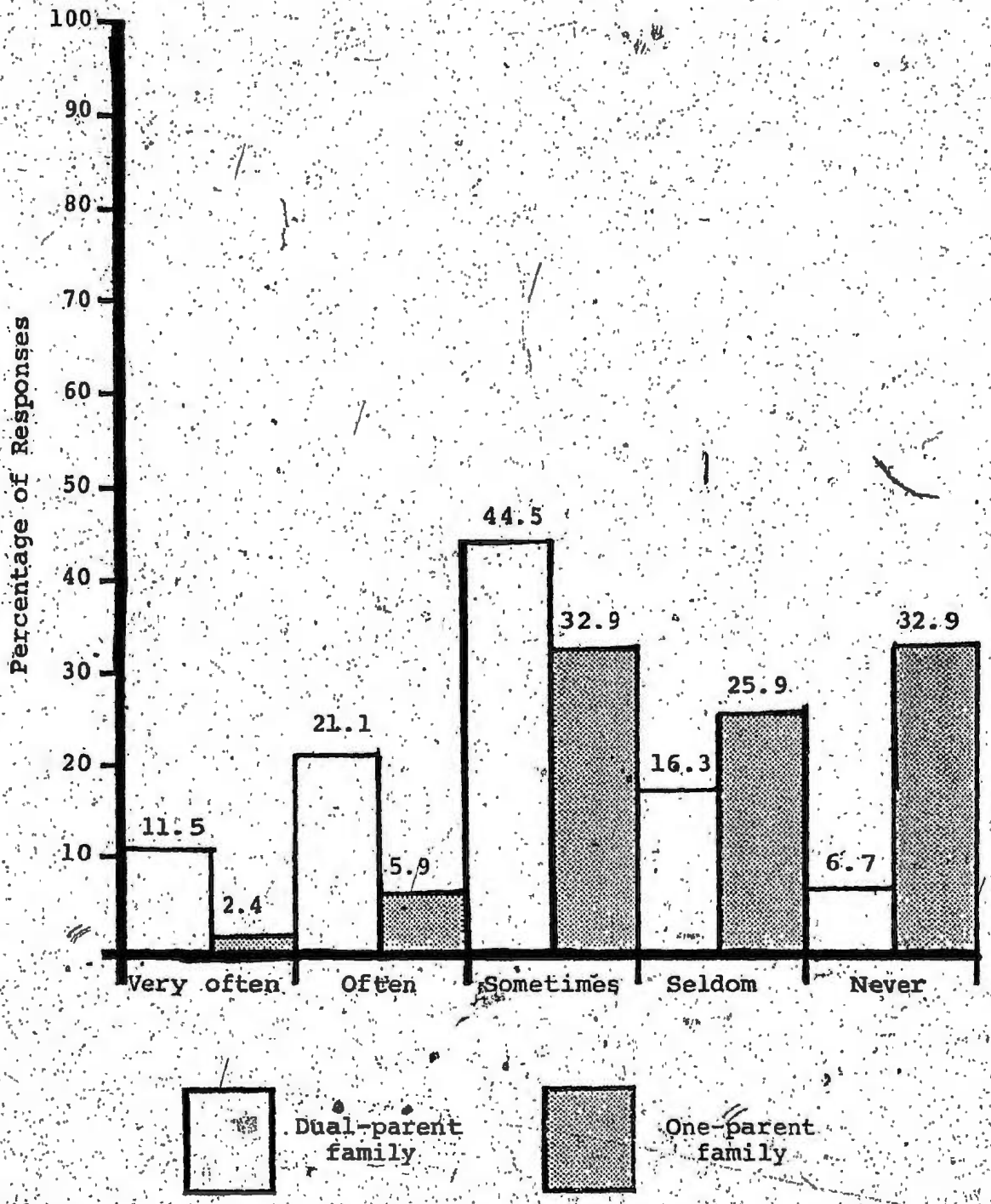



FIGURE 8. Frequency of Visits from Affinal Kin

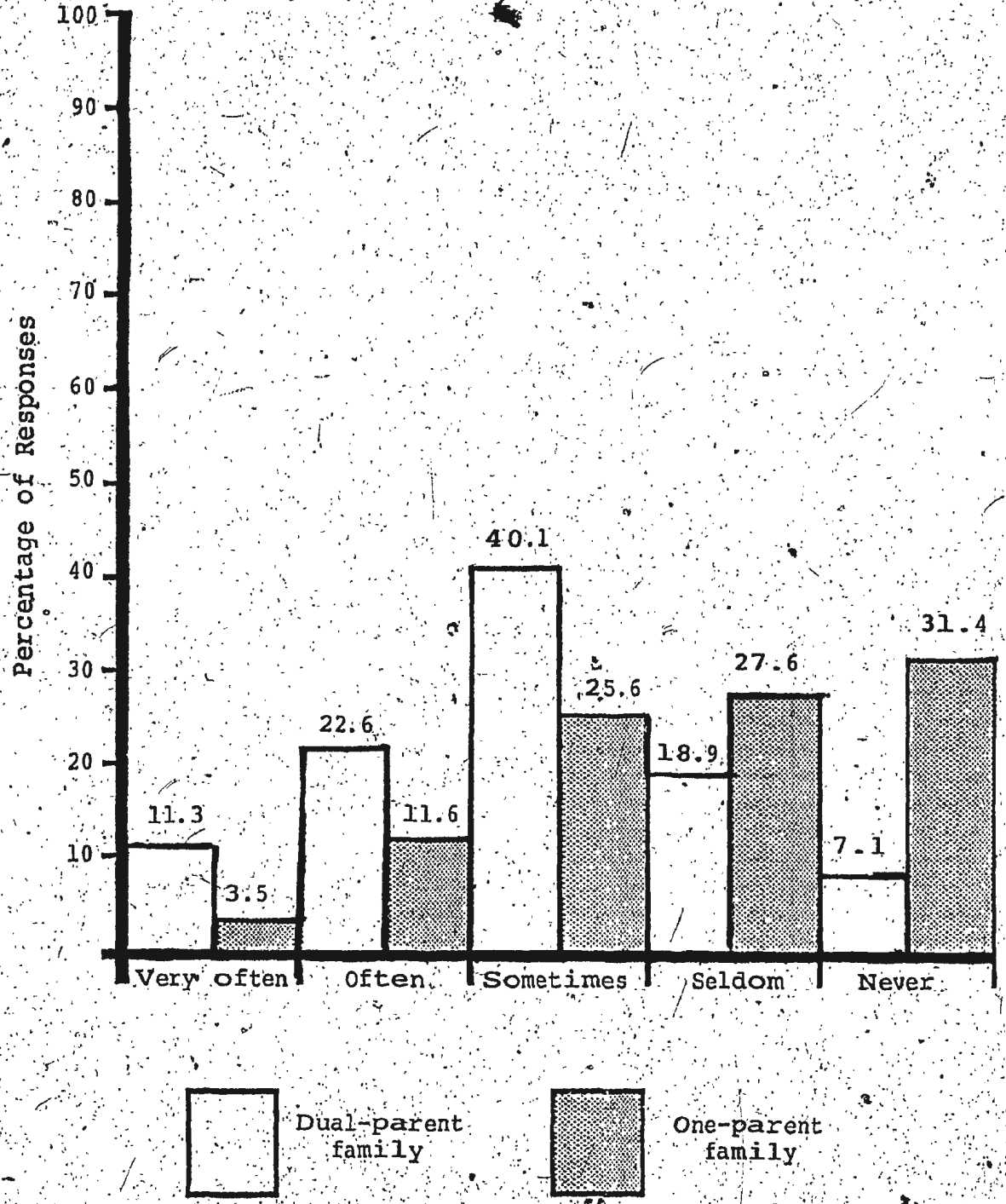



FIGURE 9. Frequency of Phone Calls with Affinal Kin

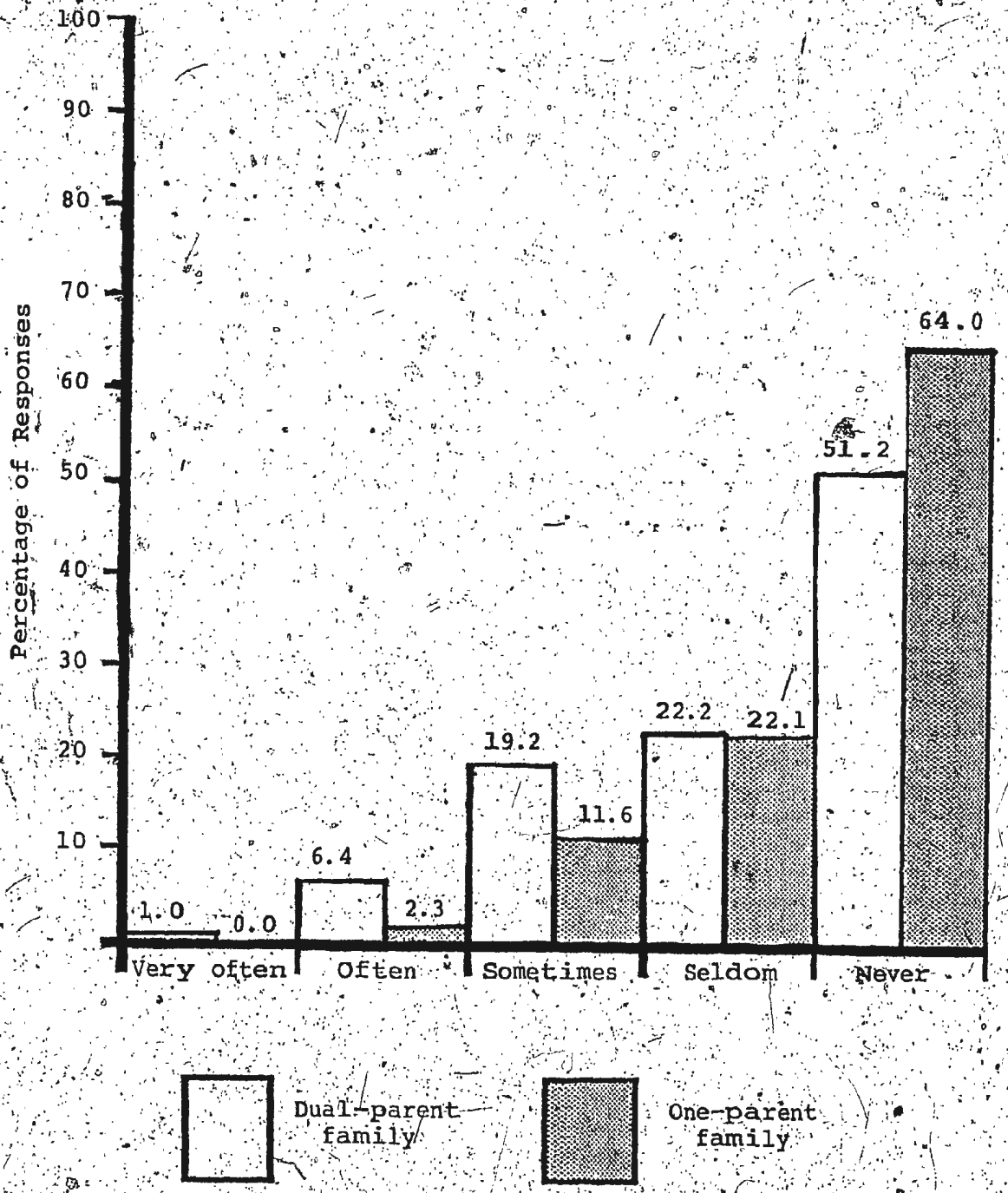



FIGURE 10. Frequency of Letters Written to Affinal Kin

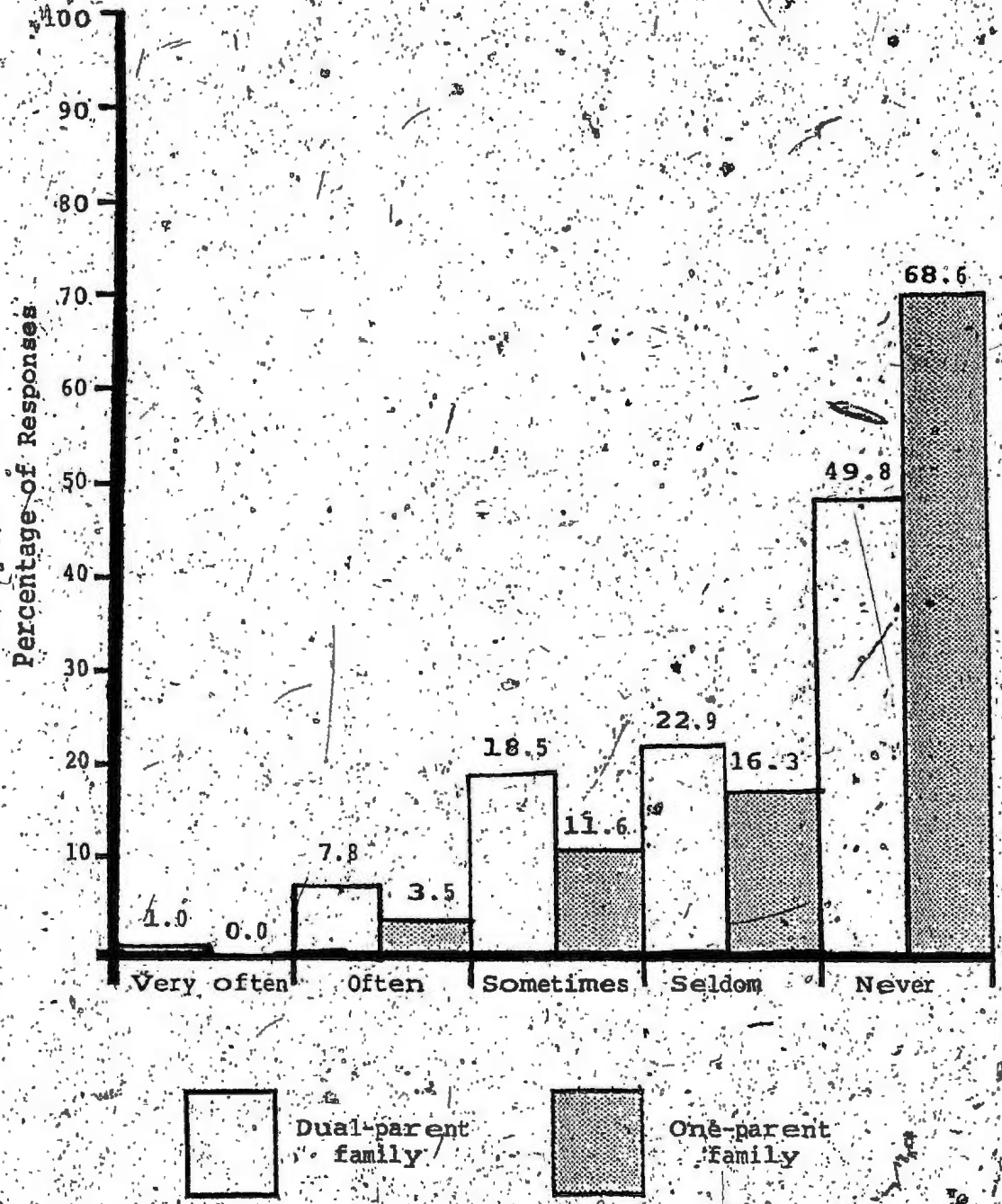



FIGURE 11. Frequency of Letters Received from Affinal Kin

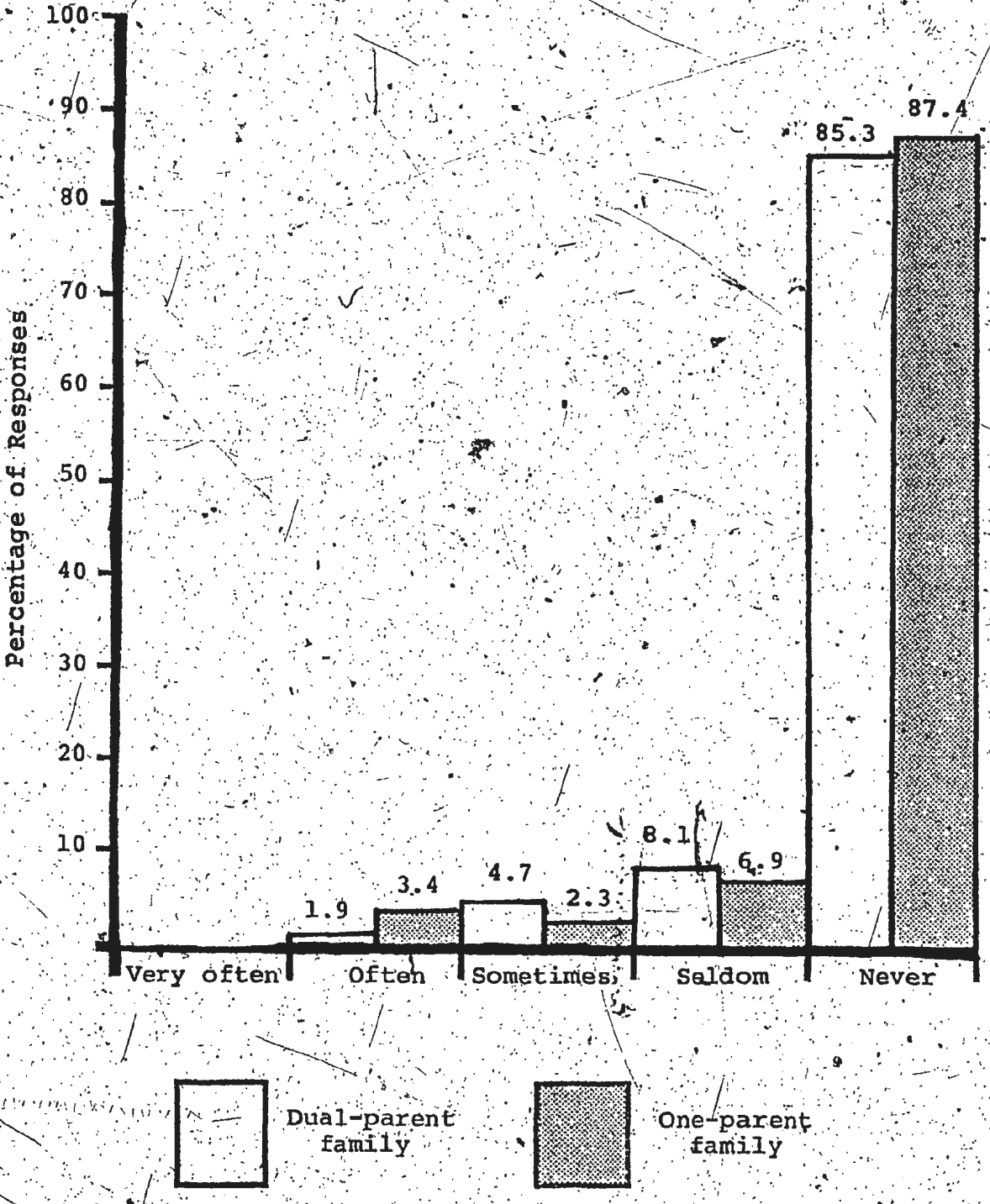



FIGURE 12. Frequency of Financial Assistance from Affinal Kin

# THE EFFECTS OF PARENTHOOD STATUS ON KINSHIP RELATIONS

CENTRE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND STUDIES

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HELEN MARIE HANDRIGAN