

ADOLESCENT'S PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES
CONCERNING DIVORCE

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Statement of Problem	1
Purposes	3
Definition of Terms	5
II. RELATED LITERATURE	7
Historical Background of Divorce in America	7
Attitudes Toward Divorce	13
Emotional Effects of Divorce	15
The Effect of Divorce on the Economic Status of the Individual	16
Effect of Divorce on the Social Life of the Individual	18
The Effect of Divorce on Children	21
Summary	24
III. PROCEDURE	26
Description of Subjects	26
Instrument	26
Analysis of Data	28
IV. RESULTS	31
Description of Subjects	31
The Item Analysis of <u>Perceptions Concerning</u> <u>Effects of Divorce Scale</u>	32
The Item Analysis for the ACD Scale	35
Mean Subscores of PCED Scale	35
PCED Scale Item Response	39
Mean Subscore of the <u>Attitudes Concerning</u> <u>Divorce Scale</u>	40
Attitudes Concerning Divorce Scale Item Responses	43
Examination of Hypotheses	43
V. SUMMARY	65
Conclusions and Discussion	67

Chapter	Page
A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	71
APPENDIX - PCED AND ACD QUESTIONNAIRE	73

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Characteristics of the Subjects	33
II. Item Analysis Reflecting Discriminating Items on PCED Scale	36
III. Item Analysis Reflecting Discriminating Items on the ACD Scale	38
IV. PCED Subscore Means	39
V. Responses of High School Seniors to PCED Scale Items	41
VI. Responses of High School Seniors to ACD Scale Items . . .	44
VII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Sex	45
VIII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Age	46
IX. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Race	46
X. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Size of Community Where Respondent Spent Major Part of His Life	47
XI. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Religious Preference	48
XII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Religious Orientation	49
XIII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Frequency of Church Attendance . . .	50
XIV. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Respondent's Closeness of Relationship With His Father	51

Table	Page
XV. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Respondent's Closeness of Relationship With His Mother	52
XVI. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Educational Attainment of Principle Wage Earner of Family	53
XVII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Exposure to Family Life Education in School	54
XVIII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent Has Had a Course in Which Divorce Was Studied	55
XIX. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent Knows Someone Who is Divorced	56
XX. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Relationship of Divorced Acquaintance to Respondent	57
XXI. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean PCED Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent's Parents Are Divorced	58
XXII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean ACD Scale Scores According to Sex	59
XXIII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean ACD Scale Scores According to Race	60
XXIV. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean ACD Scale Scores According to Religious Orientation	61
XXV. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean ACD Scale Scores According to Frequency of Church Attendance	62
XXVI. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean ACD Scale Scores According to Exposure to Family Life Education in School	63
XXVII. F Score Reflecting Difference in Mean ACD Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent's Parents Are Divorced	64
XXVIII. Correlation Between PCED Scale Scores and ACD Scale Scores	64

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of Problem

Statistics reveal that the rate of divorce has increased steadily for the past century and it has doubled in the past decade (Udry, 1974). Divorce ratios are one-in-three marriages in mid-twentieth century in comparison to one-in-nine in 1916, and one-in-21 in 1880 (Goode, 1956). So far, the only factor apparently causing a decline in the rate of divorce is economic recessions. Wars appear to create an increase in divorce rates (Schwartz, 1967).

Approximately 25 percent of all marriages now end in divorce. Glick and Norton (1973, p. 307) predict that "between 1 and 3 and 1 and 4 women around 30 years old today are likely to experience divorce in their lifetime."

Divorce is recognized to be a family crisis and since it involves the family, the basic unit of society, the crisis of divorce has been considered a social problem. Despite the fact that divorce is more common today the postdivorce adjustment of the divorced person does not appear to be any less difficult.

Bohannon (1970) describes six "stations" (experiences to which the person must adjust) of divorce which the person experiences: emotional divorce, community divorce, legal divorce, co-parental divorce, economic divorce, and the psychic divorce.

The emotional divorce is many times the most traumatic of the six "stations" of divorce described because it involves feelings of inadequacy and loss of self-esteem. The community divorce involves the relationships the individual has in his social circles in the community. The legal divorce is the legal actions concerned with the dissolution of the marriage contract. This may or may not be traumatic depending on whether the divorce was contested or not. The co-parental divorce is one which may last a period of years. The legal affairs plus the visitation of the other parent keep the couple in contact because of the children. The economic divorce does not last as long as the co-parental in most cases, but the division of the property may create partnerships or legal ties that keep the couple in contact. The strain of the division of economic resources may create financial strains for both persons. The psychic divorce is closely related to the emotional divorce. The attitudes of the person and his family and friends is important in the postdivorce psychic adjustment.

Bohannon (1970) suggests that friends, acquaintances, and family may have attitudes that are unfavorable toward divorce, therefore making the divorced person feel he is no longer part of his social circle. This situation can be made more complex by the loss of self-esteem of the divorced person following the divorce (Ilgenfritz, 1973). Such findings suggest that the individual experiences a great deal of adjustment. This adjustment can be complicated by adverse attitudes of the kinship and social circles. It appears that attitudes play an important part in the adjustment and re-organization of life necessary when an individual experiences divorce.

Teenage marriages have a much higher divorce rate than do couples

who marry at a late age. Yet, surprisingly little research has been conducted to examine the perceptions and attitudes of adolescents concerning divorce. What are the perceptions of adolescents concerning the emotional, social, and economic effects of divorce upon the divorced person? What are their perceptions concerning the effects of divorce upon children? What background and social factors are associated with the adolescents perceptions concerning the effects of divorce? What is the relationship between adolescents' perceptions concerning the effects of divorce and their favorableness of attitude toward divorce? The purpose of this study is to address itself to these questions.

Purposes

The general purpose of this study is to examine the adolescent's perceptions concerning the effects of divorce and to examine the adolescent's attitudes concerning divorce and to determine whether there is a correlation between the perceptions and attitudes.

The specific purposes of this study are:

1. to develop a two-part instrument, (1) to measure adolescents' perceptions concerning the effects of divorce, and (2) to measure the adolescent's attitudes concerning the effects of divorce. The following effects of divorce will be examined:
 - (a) emotional effect on the individuals
 - (b) effect of divorce on the social life of the individual
 - (c) effect on financial status of individuals
 - (d) effect of divorce on children.

2. to determine which of the areas of effect of divorce the adolescent holds the most favorable and least favorable perceptions.
3. to determine whether there is any correlation between the favorableness of the adolescent's perception of the effects of divorce and his attitude toward divorce.
4. to examine the hypothesis that there are no significant differences in adolescent's perceptions concerning the effects of divorce according to:
 - (a) sex
 - (b) age
 - (c) race
 - (d) size of community respondent lived in major part of life
 - (e) educational attainment of principle wage earner of family
 - (f) religious preference
 - (g) degree of religious orientation
 - (h) frequency of church attendance
 - (i) closeness of relationship with father
 - (j) closeness of relationship with mother
 - (k) exposure to family life education in school
 - (l) whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied
 - (m) whether respondent knows someone who is divorced
 - (n) relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent
 - (o) whether respondent's parents are divorced

5. to examine the hypothesis that there are no significant differences in adolescent's attitudes concerning divorce according to the following:
- (a) sex
 - (b) age
 - (c) race
 - (d) size of community respondent lived in major part of life
 - (e) educational attainment of principle wage earner of family
 - (f) religious preference
 - (g) degree of religious orientation
 - (h) frequency of church attendance
 - (i) closeness of relationship with father
 - (j) closeness of relationship with mother
 - (k) exposure to family life education in school
 - (l) whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied
 - (m) whether respondent knows someone who is divorced
 - (n) relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent
 - (o) whether respondent's parents are divorced

Definition of Terms

Perception

Perception is defined as a consciousness or awareness of the facts concerning a situation (based upon the definition given by Webster, 1957). It is intended in this study to measure the respondent's

perceptions concerning the effects of divorce upon the couple emotionally, socially, and economically, as well as to examine the perceived effects that divorce may create for children.

Favorableness of Perceptions Concerning the
Effects of Divorce

Favorableness of perceptions concerning the effects of divorce refers to the degree to which the respondent perceives the effects of divorce as being negative. Since the related literature reveals that there are adverse effects from divorce, a very high score on the Perceptions Concerning the Effects of Divorce Scale (indicating that the respondent views divorce as having very few adverse affects) would represent less realistic perceptions than would a low score on the Perceptions Concerning the Effects of Divorce Scale.

Attitudes Concerning the Effects of Divorce

Attitudes are used in this paper to mean individual's opinions or feelings toward a particular topic which reflects his value system. Attitudes refer to beliefs concerning the individual's opinion about the way things should be in contrast to perception, which reflects a consciousness or awareness of the way things are.

Favorableness of Attitude Concerning the
Institution of Divorce

Favorableness of attitude concerning the institution of divorce refers to the degree to which the respondent expresses a positive or negative attitude toward divorce as an institution.

CHAPTER II

RELATED LITERATURE

Historical Background of Divorce in America

America inherited the social problem of divorce and, therefore, set out to deal with the issue soon after the settlement of the colonies. The divorce rate has steadily increased over the decades, and efforts to curb it have been many. Efforts have ranged from passing strict legislation to ex-communication of members from the church, and neither has lowered the rate of divorce.

The divorce decree was controlled by the Ecclesiastical laws in England, but America did not ever handle it in this manner. Perhaps this was part of the effort to curtail the power and influence of the church in the new nation.

By the latter part of the nineteenth century, the focus on divorce as a major social problem reached large dimensions. Attitudes established at that time may be found in some social circles today.

Legislative Divorce

When America became an independent nation divorce proceedings were handled by the colonial governors, and later by the state legislatures. This was similar to the English procedure where Parliament handled divorce actions. America has not allowed Ecclesiastical laws to govern

divorce (Freed, 1969). Obviously, divorce by legislature was not feasible for all the population, as it was expensive and had political implication. Most of those obtaining divorces in this manner were the wealthy. The poor still resorted to desertion to relieve themselves of unhappy marriages.

By the nineteenth century, state legislatures no longer granted divorces, but they retained the right to regulate the grounds on which divorce could be granted. The state legislatures in the various states set their own laws, and they differed in their severity and nature. State laws not only differed, but they were adopted at different times; Maryland had divorce laws as early as 1777, but South Carolina had no divorce laws until 1949 (Freed, 1969).

By the time the Gay Nineties came, divorce laws were well established and legislative divorce was gone. It was agreed that only the state where the parties resided had jurisdiction to handle the divorce suits. Divorce was granted on various grounds, but always to the innocent and injured spouse. Divorce had the legal assumption that the suit is a contest, that one party comes before the court innocent of any blame, and the other party is guilty (Somerville, 1972). This situation still exists in many states.

Judicial Divorce

When judicial divorce (divorce granted by a local court) was practiced, a rule determining jurisdiction based on domicile was necessary. Those states which had limited grounds for divorce, such as New York, found their people were going elsewhere to obtain a divorce. To curb this, most states required a period of prior residence before a divorce

could be granted. States varied in the time required to establish residence, and the ones that required less time had much divorce trade.

Uniform Divorce Laws

Concern over the rising rate of divorce reached its peak in the late 1800's; and social agencies, churches, and law makers began to do all in their power to curtail the rapidly rising number of divorces each year. Among the first efforts was the establishment of the New England Divorce Reform League, established for the purpose of conducting research on family problems, educating the public, and lobbying for more effective legislative curbs on divorce. Their main goal was to establish uniform divorce laws throughout the United States which would eliminate the migratory divorce problem.

Certain congressmen took up the battle for uniform divorce laws. In 1892, James Kyle from South Dakota introduced a joint resolution which read: "The Congress shall have the exclusive power to regulate marriage and divorce in the several states, Territories, and the District of Columbia" (Gordon, p. 253). His resolution died along with all the others of a similar nature that were introduced at the time.

Model Statutes Effort

Another effort, which also failed, was the drafting of model statutes which were to be adopted by the different states. The biggest advocate of this was the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which met annually in connection with the American Bar Association. The uniform laws on divorce effort was supported by President Roosevelt in 1906. He held the National Divorce Congress

which was represented by 42 of the 45 states. Clergymen and lawyers did an outstanding job of formulating model statutes at the congress, and they even met much approval, but the models were not adopted by the states as hoped.

The first half of the twentieth century was concerned with the same issues previously mentioned, but with more zest because President Roosevelt was supporting the cause. He felt that the divorcee was "the worst type of anarchist" because divorce threatened to destroy society altogether (Gordon, 1973). State laws still varied considerably, and those states with shorter prior residence requirements became noted for their divorce trade. These same problems are still facing those concerned in the 1970's as national divorce legislation and no-fault divorces make the headlines. Monahan suggests that national divorce legislation is not very likely because

. . . there are regional differences in the social value system in this country, any uniformity of law would have to meet the standards of the most liberal state, whose citizens would not accept the imposition of the restraints desired in more conservative states (Monahan, 1973, p. 353).

Divorce as a Moral Issue

It has been noted that divorce was a serious national issue in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Clergymen, lawmakers, and even President Roosevelt, had strong feelings about the danger of divorce to the American society. This concern was created because divorce was seen as a moral and social problem. Attack on divorce hinged on the belief that divorce destroyed the family, which was the foundation of society and civilization. Some attempted to eradicate divorce by legislation while others tried by prolonging the

age at which young people were allowed to marry (Gordon, 1973).

Some antidivorce advocates attributed the increased rate of divorce to the increase in "individualism," especially on the part of women. Men and women alike, who fought divorce felt that the woman belonged in the home, and the family should be her primary concern. This was refuted by feminists of the time who took up the battle for divorce in favor of more freedom in the marriage relation. They felt that divorce freed women from being the "sexual victims of their husbands" (Gordon, 1973, p. 259).

The antidivorce forces were active in the churches as they stiffened their position on divorce. The Episcopal church was perhaps the most hostile to divorce.

William Crowell Doane, Episcopalian Bishop of Albany, New York, was the most vocal and consistent enemy of divorce in the whole country. He favored prohibiting divorce altogether. . . . He wanted to refuse sacraments to all divorced persons without exception (Gordon, 1973, p. 259).

Other Protestant churches and the Catholic church also took a firm stand against divorce.

An interesting finding in this research was that the attitudes toward divorce established in the late nineteenth century, and earlier, seem to prevail in American society today. Gordon reflects this when he states that "Although divorce has today assumed proportions undreamed of in the Progressive Era (late nineteenth century), the nature of the American response to mass divorce was determined at that time" (Gordon, 1973, p. 262).

Causes for Rise in Divorce Rates

It was not the scope of this paper to study the causes for divorce,

but it is important to note that there were other factors, such as the economy of the nation, that have shown a high correlation with an increase or decrease in divorce. For example, during the depression the number of divorces granted decreased from 201,468 in 1929 to 160,000 in 1932-33, and quickly rose to 200,000 in 1935 after the economy began to rise. In 1946, after World War II there were 600,000 divorces as compared to 256,000 in 1940 and 371,000 in 1950 (Freed, 1969). In the 1950's and 1960's, divorce leveled off to between 400,000-500,000 annually.

Divorce has been viewed as a threat to the nation and even to civilization because it is the dissolution of the family, the basic unit of society. But will the institution of divorce exist if marriages do not fail? Gordon (1973, p. 255) has strong feelings about this as was revealed when he stated that "Marriage and the family are... quite different institutions, but the critics of divorce did [do] not usually distinguish between them." Divorce can be thought of as the result of the dissolution of a marriage. The reasons for this dissolution varies with the individual case. Fullerton (1972, p. 415) explains divorce rates in the following manner:

A rise in divorce rate does not necessarily mean that there are more unhappy marriages than there used to be. It may simply indicate that more people are able to afford divorce and that more people are choosing to dissolve an unhappy marriage than previously....

The rate of divorce may be influenced by the ease in obtaining the decree because

... when it took a special act of the legislature to obtain a divorce, only the well-to-do and the well-connected ever got divorced.... The increased rate of divorce has occurred simultaneously with a decreased rate of desertion (Fullerton, 1972, p. 416).

Present Day Concerns

Divorce issues are still studied in the latter half of the twentieth century. There is consideration of national legislation still, and there is also an effort to make the divorce process less traumatic for the persons involved with the no-fault divorce. Social scientists are studying the institution of marriage in order to determine reasons for its failure. Fullerton expresses the fact that the change in legal grounds for divorce reflects the changing role of marriage:

In antiquity, when a man could set aside his wife for being barren or unchaste, and there were no grounds on which she might divorce her husband, divorce grounds reflected a social structure in which the preservation of the male lineage was the primary function of marriage. In our time, such grounds as mental cruelty, incompatibility, irreconcilable differences reflect a social structure in which the emotional functions of marriage have become paramount (Fullerton, 1972, p. 418).

Marriage is no longer for the purpose of economic survival or preservation of the male lineage, but more for companionship and emotional intimacy. Society has placed less value on male lineage, and men and women can live single lives quite well in present day society. It is also evident that many couples who marry will not have any children.

Attitudes Toward Divorce

A review of literature on attitudes toward divorce reveals that attitudes play an important part in the adjustment of the individual following divorce. The attitude the individual holds toward divorce will influence his behavior in dealing with the situation.

Goode (1956) and Hunt (1966) found that the way the person views himself and the way he views the divorce situation is significant in

his adjustment process after the divorce. This relates to the feelings of guilt and loss of self-esteem indicated by Miller (1970) and Ilgenfritz (1961) which they suggested made the adjustment process more difficult.

Freeman and Showel (1950) found the attitudes of the partners in a marriage significantly associated with success or failure in the marriage. This indicates that attitudes of the couple may play a part in whether they make an effort to stay married. It should be noted that whether the couple stays together or not does not necessarily indicate that the marriage is a successful one.

From the literature reviewed, one can conclude that the individual's attitude is important and also that the attitudes of friends and family have an influence upon the recently divorced person. But what about the professionals who help with the person before and after the divorce--how do they feel about divorce? Bohannan (1966) and Sakran (1971) did a study on the attitudes of professionals toward divorce.

Bohannan (1966) found in a study of attitudes of lawyers, judges, and psychiatrists toward divorce that there does not appear to be a segment of society including divorced persons that holds a holistic view of the institution of divorce.

In his studies of divorce attitudes of students enrolled in professional schools of law, medicine, the ministry, and social work, Sakran (1971) found that the social work students had the more favorable attitudes toward divorce than the first year students, with the exception of the medical students.

Snow (1970) investigated the possibility of the living environment influencing the attitude of the adolescent toward divorce. He studied

the adolescent in the home and in an institution to determine any significant difference in their attitudes. There was no significant difference in the attitudes of the two groups and, in fact, the mean scores revealed a neutral attitude toward divorce by both groups.

There has not been much research done on attitudes toward divorce but what has been done has shown that attitudes can affect the individual experiencing divorce. Perhaps the most significant of those findings is that concerning the individual's own attitude as this has appeared to have influence upon his emotional and social adjustment to the divorce crisis.

Emotional Effects of Divorce

Divorce is recognized as a crisis and, therefore, may be a traumatic emotional experience for the individuals involved. Chen (1968, p. 353) describes the divorce as a time when one experiences "disappointment, the feeling of letdown over a major life endeavor." He further stated that "This failure leads to self-reproach, a blow to self-esteem, and as a result, to a sense of guilt that frequently results in depression and emotional instability." Ilgenfritz (1961) and Miller (1970) also found that the divorced person struggles with the loss of self-esteem. There is a need to find oneself as a whole person again--a man or woman who can function independently of his former spouse. Bohannon (1970, p. 68) states that "All parties concerned in . . . the divorce may to some degree, experience an emotional loss and grief." The marriage may have had a great significance in the gratification, fulfillment, and emotional support for one or both of the individuals. With the occurrence of divorce, there has to be

reorganization in the person's life to provide for emotional support.

Research done by Goode (1956) and Hunt (1966) reveals that the way in which the divorced person perceives himself and his divorce situation is vital to his adjustment following the divorce. The person who sees himself a failure after the divorce may find it difficult to adjust. Goode (1970) found a correlation between adjustment in relation to whether or not that particular partner had suggested the divorce. This finding indicated that the person who suggested the divorce adjusted more quickly.

The divorced person is further held back in his adjustment because, as concluded by Goode (1956, p. 320) and Schwartz (1968)

... while society permits divorce, postdivorce institutional arrangements are inadequate... kinship structure... [fails] ... to provide unambiguous arrangements after divorce in... emotional support, readmission into kinship structure, ... proper behavior, and emotional attitudes.

Neither divorced persons nor their families or friends have a social standard for the postdivorce period, which makes it difficult for all concerned. Udry (1971) suggests that this creates a problem that makes postdivorce adjustment more traumatic than adjustment to the loss of the spouse by death.

The emotional divorce is many times difficult and the fact that the parties involved divide property and have an economic settlement may complicate the adjustment period with financial difficulties. Therefore the economic divorce is important.

The Effect of Divorce on the Economic Status of the Individual

The household possessions are generally divided when a divorce

occurs since all furnishing and property are normally considered community property. This division of property and money can create many problems, Bohannan (1970, p. 43) in his discussion of division of community property states that "the household is never, in the nature of household living, separable into two easily discernible parcels." Property settlements vary from one extreme where one receives all possessions to situations where an equal division is attempted.

One of the most complete and extensive studies on property settlement was done by Goode in 1956 where he found that there is a widespread American custom for the husband to award the house and/or furniture to the wife in the settlement. He did not find any indication of a comparable custom existing for other property. Cash and bonds were normally divided equally if they amounted to \$2000 or more. In the majority of the cases examined, if the money amounted to less than \$2000 it was all given to the wife.

Goode (1956) and Udry (1974, p. 394) reported that divorce rates are highest in United States among "unskilled, low-income, poorly-educated classes . . ." These couples have little property to be divided, but Goode found definite trends in the division of property. (Goode did caution the reader about the limitation of his study since the average income of his subjects was \$53.00 per week.)

Both spouses may feel the pressures from the economic responsibility of two households. Many couples can hardly manage to support one household and, therefore, the money cannot adequately cover expenses for two. When the divorce takes place, the judge has a responsibility to see that the children are supported, and he many times assesses support payments that are too large for the father to pay. However, in making

his decision, the judge has to consider the income of the mother and the expenses she will have in supporting her family (Goode, 1956). Therefore, it is not uncommon for both spouses to be in a financial bind after the divorce. As a result, the impact of the financial state may influence all facets of the person's postdivorce adjustment, especially the adjustment to the new social life.

Social life may be different for the divorced person from what it had been previously but it has been revealed in research by Goode (1956) that those who dated and had an active social life adjusted more readily to their life as a single person. Interacting with others may help the person to start thinking of life in a new perspective, and it often provides an opportunity to meet a new mate.

Effect of Divorce on the Social Life of the Individual

Perhaps one of the most difficult adjustments in the life of the recently divorced person is the adjustment to his new social role. The divorce may have caused loss of allegiances and a distance between once close friends; activities once enjoyed with married couples may be awkward with one member of the party absent, and seeking a new partner by dating is a new experience.

Friends play an important part in the postdivorce adjustment of the recently divorced person. Goode (1956) found that more than one-half of the divorcees kept the same friends they had during marriage. Miller (1970, p. 68) suggests that the close friends may be lost, but those who do stay with the divorced person "... may ... experience a period of grief and undergo a process of mourning for what is felt to be

lost." Thus, the emotional trauma of divorce may be shared by close friends.

Miller further stated that some friends do show jealousy and envy toward the divorced person because of the freedom and opportunity for a new life the divorced person appears to have. Friends can also become involved with the affairs of the divorce settlement, which may create a favorable or unfavorable situation.

Perhaps the most disturbing reaction from friends is described by Miller (1970) as "phobic avoidance" or withdrawal. This reaction may be caused by various elements ranging from the fear for their own marriage to adverse attitudes toward the institution of divorce. Whatever the cause for this reaction, the avoidance of the recently divorced friend may add to his loss of self-esteem and make his postdivorce adjustment more difficult.

Association with the former social circle has advantages and disadvantages, but Miller (1970, p. 76) suggests that the "previous circle of friends is such that chances of finding a new mate there are minimal." This is especially true where most of the friends are married.

There are varying degrees of social activity among divorced persons. Young persons date more because they have much more opportunity to associate with others, whether they want it or not, than those thirty or over. It was reported by Goode (1956) that those with moderate or high divorce trauma dated much less than those who had undergone a less traumatic experience. There was a high correlation between frequency of dating and whether or not the person suggested the divorce. Those who suggested the divorce dated more frequently, which could possibly be due

to the absence of a feeling of rejection, that the other individual may have experienced.

Social interaction appears to be influenced by the attitude of the divorced person toward the former spouse. Those who said they still loved their former spouse did not date as much. The person who hated his former spouse seemed to have negative feelings toward the opposite sex in general and, therefore, dated infrequently (Goode, 1956). Attitudes of either extreme appear to create difficulty in adjustment.

Goode (1956) concluded that the adjustment of the divorcee to his new life style is influenced by his attitude toward love, members of the opposite sex, his former spouse, and perhaps most important, himself. Other variables were age, sex, and education, combined with opportunity to interact with others. The young had more opportunity to make friends because of availability of young single people. He also said that the more educated individual appeared to be more socially active.

One can hardly study the effects of divorce on individuals without considering the effect it has on children. Children are influenced by the parents emotions, financial difficulties, and other postdivorce adjustments and then the child has adjustment problems of his own.

Social life is important because divorced men and women need interaction with other persons which is important in the reorganization of their lives. Both men and women are generally eager to remarry. They tend to remarry within two or three years (Udry, 1974). Single parents who want social interaction have organized groups such as Parents Without Partners to "provide a means of sympathetic sharing of problems and circumstance," and to provide opportunity to have a social life.

The Effect of Divorce on Children

The effect that divorce has on children depends on many variables.

Landis (1960) did extensive research on children whose parents were divorced and he has concluded that these children

... cannot be treated as a homogeneous group. Divorce of parents affects children in various ways, depending upon such factors as the age of the child at the time of the divorce, and how the child viewed the home situation before he learned of the possible divorce (Landis, 1960, p. 5).

He found that those children who viewed the home as happy before the divorce had more difficulty adjusting after the divorce while some of the children who viewed the home unhappy were relieved when the divorce occurred.

The child may be affected in various ways when divorce occurs.

Landis (1960) identified several situations in which the child could be vulnerable for traumatic experiences:

1. There is the necessity to adjust to the knowledge that divorce will probably take place;
2. There is the necessity to adjust to the fact of divorce;
3. There is the possibility that in the predivorce or post-divorce years one or both parents may 'use' the child as a weapon against the other, with traumatic effects upon the child;
4. There is the necessity for a redefining of relationships with parents;
5. The new status of being the child of divorced parents may necessitate new adjustments with the peer group;
6. Some trauma may result for children who recognize the implications of their parents' failure in marriage;
7. There may be problems of adjustment for the child if the parents remarry (Landis, 1960, p. 7).

The child may experience some of these situations or all of them.

Again, each family situation will be different. However, Landis did find that one of the most traumatic experiences is when the child has to assume a distant relationship with one parent.

McDermott (1970) found in his studies of 1,487 children that the family stress surrounding divorce can be expressed in the form of neurotic symptomology such as might be expected from an acute traumatic event such as parental death. The persistence of this trauma may be crystallized into character formation.

McDermott found at least some degree of depression in all cases of the children experiencing divorce. He noted that many of the children ran away from home which he interpreted as an attempt "to run away from depressive and hostile-aggressive feelings in the child. . ." (McDermott, 1970, p. 423).

The children studied by McDermott expressed the same feelings of responsibility for the divorce that others had shown. Some actually felt the divorce a hostile act on the parent in response to an act of wrong that the child had performed. Several cases revealed that the child had unconsciously taken responsibility for the divorce when, in fact, his act was imaginary. Others had done things like breaking a glass and when a fight and separation between his parents took place that day he accepted the responsibility for his parents' actions.

McDermott (1970) suggests that it is imperative that there be clarification of the immediate issues causing the divorce and the child's role in the conflict when possible. The child would have a better chance at a conscious understanding of the situation and this might alleviate some of his internal conflict.

Klimon (1968), Bowman (1970), and Westman and Cline (1973) report

that the child of divorced parents finds it difficult to accept the finality of divorce, and he continues to look for the absent parent to return. The child may even make an effort to reunite the parents despite the fact that they may not be interested in reuniting (Ilgenfritz, 1973).

The child who has only one parent at home may have disadvantages, including the lack of one parent with whom to identify. It is almost impossible for one parent to fulfill the responsibilities of both parents and to compensate for the lack of interaction with the parent of the opposite sex. Children learn attitudes, skills, values, and sex role identification from both parents. This influence is lessened when the child lives with only one parent.

McDermott (1970) observed that the

... reason a broken family is destructive for a child's development is less in the absence of a parental figure of identification than in the fact that the remaining parent will tend to cast the child in the absent parent's place (p. 424).

He found that there was usually an unconscious conspiracy of both the mother and child to recreate the lost father through the child's identification with his traits, leading, of course, to the mother-child struggles which brought them to McDermott's clinic.

Studies on juvenile delinquency reveal that a majority of delinquents are from one-parent homes, especially those homes divided by divorce. Goode (1956), however, raised a question relating to divorced parents and delinquent children:

Divorce does often damage the child. However, it is obvious that almost all such reasoning applies equally well to the case of children who have lost parents by separation or death. What is different in the case of divorced children (p. 224)?

It is possible that the absence of the parent has significant impact upon the development of the child regardless of why the parent is absent from the home. Bowman (1970) suggests that "divorced children" are not much different from the children with parents absent from the home due to death. He does discuss some problems unique to the child of divorced parents: the child holds a position as one who has two conflicting loyalties, and a position where he has to defend his family situation in a society where homes with both parents are taken for granted. He may also face social and family circles where divorce is viewed unfavorably.

Bowman (1970, p. 262) assures that there are well-adjusted children living with one parent. "There is much to be said for a child's living in harmony and security with one parent rather than in an atmosphere of conflict and insecurity with two" (p. 262). There are many one-parent homes that have a healthy atmosphere of mutual love and understanding.

Divorce involves whole families, nuclear and extended. There may be emotional, social, and financial adjustments that can be felt by all concerned, including the children, all of which are influenced by the attitudes of the individual and those around him concerning the institution of divorce.

Summary

The literature reviewed indicated that divorce is a social and personal problem that has received much attention but all efforts to curb it have not affected the steadily increasing rate. The following trends related to this survey were found in the related literature:

1. Divorce has never been handled by the Ecclesiastical courts in American; however, it was handled by the state legislatures.
2. Attitudes of the individual, as well as that of his family and friends, toward divorce appear to be of significance in the adjustment to postdivorce life.
3. Studies revealed that the emotional effect of divorce may be traumatic due to loss of self-esteem at a time when there is a need for reorganization of the person's life.
4. Each individual is affected economically due to the property settlement and the necessity for funds to stretch to support two households.
5. The reaction to the divorce that the close friends and relatives display appears to be significant in the adjustment of the divorced person.
6. Younger individuals have more opportunity to interact socially than do persons over thirty years of age.
7. Divorce does affect children because the child must live with one parent and, thus, become more distant from the other parent.
8. Children may also have to cope in a society where divorce is not accepted and where two-parent households are taken for granted.
9. Children find it difficult to accept the finality of divorce.
10. Delinquency is prominent in children who have broken homes.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Description of Subjects

The subjects for this study were 449 high school seniors, 224 males and 225 females, selected from rural and urban schools in North Texas and Central Oklahoma. The students were single, primarily Protestant, and white. The data were collected during the months of January and February, 1975.

Instrument

A two-part questionnaire was developed to measure the adolescent's favorableness of perception concerning the effects of divorce and the adolescent's attitudes concerning divorce (hereafter referred to as the PCED and ACD Scales). The PCED Scale was composed of 24 Lickert type items which were designed to measure the perceptions concerning: (a) emotional effect on the individual, (b) effect of divorce on the social life of the individual, (c) effect on the financial status of the individuals, (d) effect of divorce on children. These items in the PCED Scale were based on research findings concerning the effects divorce has in each of these four areas. The responses ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The items were scored in such a manner that the most favorable response was assigned the highest score (a score of

five) and the least favorable response the lowest score (a score of one). On the PCED Scale favorableness of perception reflects disagreement with the research findings cited in the related literature, which revealed adverse affects are often a result of divorce. Therefore, according to these findings a very high PCED Scale score implies a less realistic perception concerning the effects of divorce than does a low PCED Scale score.

The Attitudes Concerning the Divorce Scale was composed of six Lickert type items which were designed to measure the attitudes concerning the institution of divorce. The responses ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree, and they were scored in such a manner that the most favorable response was assigned the highest score (a score of five) and the least favorable response the lowest score (a score of one). The items in the ACD Scale were based on literature concerning attitudes toward divorce, and also upon the Hardy Divorce Oppinionnaire (Snow, 1970).

The total instrument included six questions from each area of concern referring to divorce and six items concerning attitudes toward divorce. Statements in each area were stated in both negatively and positively worded statements to prevent set response. The questions on each area were grouped together so subscores could be computed.

There were 17 unnumbered items at the beginning of the instrument designed to gather background data from the respondents. These items included: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) race, (d) size of community respondent lived in major part of his life, (e) educational attainment of principle wage earner of family, (f) religious preference, (g) degree of religious orientation, (h) frequency of church attendance, (i) closeness of

relationship with father, (j) closeness of relationship with mother, (k) exposure to family life education in school, (l) whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied, (m) whether respondent knows someone who is divorced, (n) relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent, (o) whether respondent's parents are divorced.

Items in the PCED and ACD Scales were submitted to a panel of family living specialists, Dr. James Walters, Dr. Elaine Jorgenson, Mrs. Kay Murphy, Dr. Althea Wright, and Dr. John Rusco for close examination and evaluation on the following points:

1. Is the item relevant to perception of divorce?
2. Is the item clear?
3. Are all items important aspects of divorce?

The PCED and ACD Scales were pretested on a group of high school seniors and minor corrections and additions were made.

Analysis of Data

A frequency and percentage count was done on all items in the PCED and ACD Scales and the background data. The chi-square test was used in item analysis in the PCED and ACD Scales to determine those questions which differentiate between those persons whose subscores on the PCED Scale and total scores on the ACD Scale were in upper quartile and those whose scores were in lower quartile.

The split-half reliability coefficient was used to determine reliability of the PCED and ACD Scales. One-way classification analysis of variance was used to examine the following null hypotheses:

- I. There are no significant differences in PCED Scale Scores according to:

- (a) sex
- (b) age
- (c) race
- (d) size of community respondent lived in major part of life
- (e) educational attainment of principle wage earner of family
- (f) religious preference
- (g) degree of religious orientation
- (h) frequency of church attendance
- (i) closeness of relationship with father
- (j) closeness of relationship with mother
- (k) exposure to family life education in school
- (l) whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied
- (m) whether respondent knows someone who is divorced
- (n) relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent
- (o) whether respondent's parents are divorced

II. There are no significant differences in ACD Scale scores according to:

- (a) sex
- (b) age
- (c) race
- (d) size of community respondent lived in major part of life
- (e) educational attainment of principle wage earner of family

- (f) religious preference
- (g) degree of religious orientation
- (h) frequency of church attendance
- (i) closeness of relationship with father
- (j) closeness of relationship with mother
- (k) exposure to family life education in school
- (l) whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied
- (m) whether respondent knows someone who is divorced
- (n) relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent
- (o) whether respondent's parents are divorced

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to test the following null hypothesis:

There is no significant association between the PCED Scale scores and the ACD Scale scores.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Subjects

A detailed description of the 449 high school seniors who participated in this study can be found in Table I. The 224 males and 225 females ranged in age from 16 to 19 years, with the majority (57.46%) being age 17. The subjects were predominantly white (84.86%) with only a small percentage being Black (8.69%), American-Indian (3.56%), and Mexican-American (2.45%). The greatest proportion of respondents (25.39%) reported their residence for the major part of life to be a city of 50,000 to 100,000; while the smallest portion of respondents (6.68%) reported a city over 100,000 as their residence for the major part of life. Forty percent of the respondents reported a high school education for the principle wage earner in the home; while 5.57% reported less than grade eight and 10.02% listed completion of graduate work for a profession.

An investigation of the religious life of the respondents revealed 71.94% considered themselves religious and only 1.34% felt themselves anti-religious. The majority of the respondents (73.05%) were Protestant while the smallest proportion were Jewish (1.33%). Seven percent of the respondents reported that they had no religious preference. One-third of the respondents revealed that they attend church at least once a week and almost 17% listed their church attendance to be two or

more times a week; while only 8.46% reported that they never attend church.

Since divorce means separation from one of the parents for the child of the couple, closeness of the relationship with both parents was examined. A close relationship with the father was reported by 31.63% of the respondents and only 5.79% reported that they never felt close to the father. Forty-two percent of the respondents reported a very close relationship with the mother and only 1.78% reported to never be close with their mother.

Previous exposure to divorce through education or experience was examined. A large number of the respondents (65%) had not received family life education in school and 78.62% had not had any classes where divorce was studied. Of the 449 subjects, 415 of them (91.70%) knew someone who is divorced and the majority of the respondents reported the relationship of the divorced acquaintance to be a close relative. Table I further reveals that only 20.71% of the subjects reported that their parents were divorced.

The Item Analysis of Perceptions Concerning Effects of Divorce Scale

In order to obtain an index of the validity of the items in the Perceptions Concerning the Effects of Divorce Scale (hereafter referred to as the PCED Scale), the chi-square test was utilized to determine if each item significantly differentiated between those subjects scoring in the upper quartile and those subjects scoring in the lower quartile on the basis of the subscores of the four areas of the effect of divorce

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Sex	Male	224	49.89
	Female	225	50.11
Age	16	20	4.45
	17	258	57.46
	18	153	34.08
	19	18	4.01
Race	White	381	84.86
	Black	39	8.69
	American Indian	16	3.56
	Mexican-American	11	2.45
	Other	2	.45
Size of Community Lived in Major Part of Life	On a farm or in the country	85	18.93
	Small town under 5,000	85	18.93
	City of 5,000 to 25,000	103	22.94
	City of 25,000 to 50,000	31	6.90
	City of 50,000 to 100,000	114	25.39
	City of over 100,000	30	6.68
Educational Attainment of Principle Wage Earner of Family	Less than grade 8	25	5.57
	Completed grade 8 but did not attend beyond grade 9	30	6.68
	Some high school beyond grade 9 but did not graduate	50	11.14
	Graduated from high school	182	40.54
	Attended college 2 or more years	54	12.03
	Graduated from college	50	11.13
	Completed graduate work for profession	45	10.02
Religious Preference	Roman Catholic	52	11.58
	Jewish	6	1.33
	Mormon	16	3.56
	None	33	7.35
	Protestant	328	73.05
	Other	3	.67
Degree of Religious Orientation	Very religious	29	6.46
	Religious	323	71.94
	Non-religious	82	18.26
	Anti-religious	6	1.34

TABLE I (Continued)

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Frequency of Church Attendance	Two or more times a week	76	16.93
	Once a week	148	32.96
	Once a month	39	8.69
	Several times a year, but not as often as once a month	45	10.02
	A few times a year	80	17.82
	Never	38	8.46
	Closeness of Relationship with Father	Very close	103
Close		142	31.63
Moderately close		100	22.27
Rarely close		68	15.14
Never close		26	5.79
Closeness of Relationship with Mother	Very close	189	42.09
	Close	139	30.96
	Moderately close	83	18.49
	Rarely close	24	5.36
	Never close	8	1.78
Exposure to Family Life Education in School	Yes	154	34.30
	No	294	65.48
Whether Respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied.	Yes	95	21.16
	No	353	78.62
Whether Respondent knows someone who is divorced.	Yes	412	91.76
	No	34	7.57
Relationship of Divorced Acquaintance to Respondent	Close friend	92	20.49
	Close relative	106	23.61
	Close acquaintance	89	19.82
	Immediate family member (such as brother, sister, or parent)	86	19.15
	Two or more of the above	49	10.91
	Whether Respondent's Parents are Divorced	Yes	93
	No	354	78.84

examined. All items were significantly discriminating at the .0001 level, except item three, which was significant at the .02 level (see Table II).

A split-half reliability coefficient, computed with the Spearman-Brown Correction Formula, of .78 was obtained in determining an index of reliability of the items in the PCED Scale.

The Item Analysis for the ACD Scale

The chi-square test was employed in an item analysis in order to obtain an index of validity for the Attitudes Concerning Divorce Scale. The significance of differentiation among those subjects scoring in the upper quartile and lower quartile on the basis of the total score was obtained. All of the items in the ACD Scale were found to be significantly discriminating at the .0001 level, as indicated in Table III. A split-half reliability coefficient, computed with the Spearman-Brown Correction Formula, obtained a score of .53 in determining an index of the reliability of the ACD Scale.

Mean Subscores of PCED Scale

The PCED Scale consisted of six statements representing each of four areas in which divorce affects individuals, for a total of 24 items. The response to each item was scored on a continuum of one to five, with five representing the most favorable perception and one representing the least favorable perception concerning the affects of divorce. The scores for each of the six items representing the areas of post-divorce adjustment were obtained in this way and then totaled in order to obtain a subscore for each area in which divorce affects

TABLE II
ITEM ANALYSIS REFLECTING DISCRIMINATING
ITEMS ON PCED SCALE

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
<u>Emotional Effects of Divorce</u>			
1. Divorced persons usually do not have feelings of guilt following the divorce.	5	76.71	.0001
2. A divorced person usually has emotional problems as a result of the divorce.	4	103.77	.0001
3. The divorced person usually receives emotional support from friends after the divorce.	4	11.42	.02
4. Getting a divorce usually causes the divorced person to have a feeling of failure.	5	141.46	.0001
5. Divorced persons usually feel less good about themselves as a result of the divorce.	5	117.40	.0001
6. Divorced persons usually do not experience depression (feel low) after divorce.	5	87.59	.0001
<u>Social Effects of Divorce</u>			
7. Divorced persons usually date a great deal.	5	53.30	.0001
8. Divorced persons usually do not fit into the social circles they formerly belonged to.	5	105.65	.0001
9. Divorced persons are often not invited to social activities because they are divorced.	5	140.45	.0001
10. Divorced persons usually are viewed unfavorably by the community.	5	122.53	.0001
11. Divorced persons usually have many friends of both sexes.	5	78.35	.0001
12. Divorced persons usually feel comfortable in social activities where most of the couples are married.	5	81.86	.0001
<u>Economic Effects of Divorce</u>			
13. Divorce usually leaves the man financially hurt because of high alimony and child support payments.	5	121.62	.0001

TABLE II (Continued)

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
14. Couples who are in the process of getting a divorce usually have an easy time agreeing upon the property settlement.	5	101.07	.0001
15. Most women have to work to have enough money to support the children after they are divorced.	5	56.54	.0001
16. The financial situation for a divorced couple is usually about the same after the divorce as it was before the divorce.	5	109.69	.0001
17. Most women who are divorced have a difficult time adjusting financially.	5	114.94	.0001
18. Most men who are divorced have a difficult time adjusting financially.	5	63.82	.0001
<u>Effects Divorce has on Children</u>			
19. Children are usually not hurt emotionally by divorce.	5	70.58	.0001
20. Children of divorced parents are usually troubled by the fact that they do not have two parents at home as their friends have.	5	108.45	.0001
21. Children whose parents are divorced are likely to become juvenile delinquents.	5	95.62	.0001
22. Children of divorced couples usually find it difficult to give up hope that their parents will get back together.	5	91.38	.0001
23. Boys who do not have a father in the home as a result of divorce usually have problems learning masculine roles and masculine responsibilities.	5	144.72	.0001
24. Girls who do not have a mother in the home as a result of divorce usually have problems learning feminine roles and feminine responsibilities.	5	159.34	.0001

TABLE III
ITEM ANALYSIS REFLECTING DISCRIMINATING
ITEMS ON THE ACD SCALE

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
1. Children are usually better off living with one parent rather than two parents who cannot get along well together.	5	148.59	.0001
2. It is usually better for the couple if they stay together even though they don't get along well, than to break up a home by getting a divorce.	5	152.26	.0001
3. Divorce is an acceptable social institution since it relieves much misery and unhappiness.	5	99.86	.0001
4. Children need a home with both a father and a mother even though the parents don't get along well.	5	178.83	.0001
5. Divorce is one of our greatest social evils.	5	97.43	.0001
6. If a couple finds getting along with each other a real struggle then they should not feel obligated to remain married.	5	104.25	.0001

the individual. The high scores represent the most favorable perception concerning the effects of divorce and the lower score represents the least favorable perception. Mean subscores were then obtained in order to determine those areas of post-divorce adjustment toward which students had most favorable and least favorable perceptions. Table IV reveals that the total mean subscores indicate that high school seniors have the most favorable perception of the social affects of divorce; while they have the least favorable perceptions concerning the areas of economic effects of divorce and the effect divorce has on children.

TABLE IV
PCED SUBSCORE MEANS

Category	Mean Subscores
1. Emotional Effects of Divorce	17.39
2. Social Effects of Divorce	19.29
3. Economic Effects of Divorce	14.01
4. Effects Divorce has on Children	14.35

PCED Scale Item Responses

A majority of the respondents perceived the divorced person to have much emotional support from friends after the divorce, and also viewed the divorced person as having many friends of both sexes. Only a small

percentage of the respondents agreed that the divorced person does not experience depression, which reflects an unrealistic view of divorce, according to research. The majority of the respondents did agree that divorcing persons have difficulty dividing property. However, the respondents tended to agree that there are financial problems for both persons and that the woman usually has to work to support herself and the children.

The effect that divorce has on children was an interesting area because the respondents themselves were adolescents. They may have experienced divorce in their family or have friends who have divorced parents. Less than ten per cent of the respondents agreed that children are not hurt emotionally by divorce. Only a small percentage of the respondents agreed that children are usually troubled by the fact that they do not have two parents in the home as their friends have. A large proportion of the respondents agreed that children of divorced parents do not give up the hope that their parents will reunite.

Mean Subscore of the Attitudes Concerning
Divorce Scale

The Attitude Concerning Divorce Scale (hereafter referred to as ACD Scale) consisted of six statements representing attitudes toward the institution of divorce. The response to each item was scored on a continuum of one to five, with five representing the most favorable attitude toward divorce and one representing the least favorable attitude toward divorce. The scores for each of the six items representing attitudes toward divorce were totaled in order to obtain a subscore for the area measuring attitude toward divorce. This subscore was obtained

TABLE V
 RESPONSES OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
 TO PCED SCALE ITEMS

Item	Agree %	Uncertain %	Disagree %
<u>Emotional Effects of Divorce</u>			
1. Divorced persons usually do not have feelings of guilt following the divorce.	24.26	24.50	51.00
2. A divorced person usually has emotional problems as a result of the divorce.	46.77	29.18	24.04
3. The divorced person usually receives emotional support from friends after the divorce.	68.81	20.71	10.47
4. Getting a divorce usually causes the divorced person to have a feeling of failure.	37.41	30.96	31.40
5. Divorced persons usually feel less good about themselves as a result of the divorce.	30.51	31.18	38.09
6. Divorced persons usually do not experience depression (feel low) after divorce.	14.25	19.38	65.47
<u>Social Effects of Divorce</u>			
7. Divorced persons usually date a great deal.	27.40	42.54	28.95
8. Divorced persons usually do not fit into the social circles they formerly belonged to.	33.41	24.95	40.75
9. Divorced persons are often not invited to social activities because they are divorced.	18.26	20.49	60.13
10. Divorced persons usually are viewed unfavorably by the community.	19.60	23.16	56.35
11. Divorced persons usually have many friends of both sexes.	63.48	24.05	9.58
12. Divorced persons usually feel comfortable in social activities where most of the couples are married.	14.47	25.39	57.02

TABLE V (Continued)

Item	Agree %	Uncertain %	Disagree %
<u>Economic Effects of Divorce</u>			
13. Divorce usually leaves the man financially hurt because of high alimony and child support payments.	56.57	16.70	23.38
14. Couples who are in the process of getting a divorce usually have an easy time agreeing upon the property settlement.	14.92	19.82	64.14
15. Most women have to work to have enough money to support the children after they are divorced.	67.26	16.26	13.36
16. The financial situation for a divorced couple is usually about the same after the divorce as it was before the divorce.	11.58	20.27	64.58
17. Most women who are divorced have a difficult time adjusting financially.	53.89	20.49	21.82
18. Most men who are divorced have a difficult time adjusting financially.	35.86	21.16	39.20
<u>Effects Divorce has on Children</u>			
19. Children are usually not hurt emotionally by divorce.	6.68	6.68	82.84
20. Children of divorced parents are usually troubled by the fact that they do not have two parents at home as their friends have.	9.58	9.58	77.06
21. Children whose parents are divorced are likely to become juvenile delinquents.	28.95	27.62	39.65
22. Children of divorced couples usually find it difficult to give up hope that their parents will get back together.	48.55	28.29	19.15
23. Boys who do not have a father in the home as a result of divorce usually have problems learning masculine roles and masculine responsibilities.	41.65	21.83	32.54
24. Girls who do not have a mother in the home as a result of divorce usually have problems learning feminine roles and feminine responsibilities.	41.42	20.49	33.86

for the purpose of determining whether the high school senior had a favorable or unfavorable attitude toward the institution of divorce and to correlate this attitude with their perception of the effects of divorce that create post-divorce adjustments for the divorcing individuals.

The mean score did reveal a very favorable attitude toward divorce and the correlation of this score with the total score of the PCED Scale score showed a significance level of .0001.

Attitudes Concerning Divorce Scale

Item Responses

Items in the ACD Scale were presented in both positively and negatively worded statements to avoid set response. Each item was coded so that reactions would be reflected in higher or lower scores, indicating favorable perceptions toward specific items.

Examination of Hypotheses

Hypothesis I

Hypothesis I (a). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Sex. The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that a significant difference existed in PCED Scale Scores according to sex. An F score of 8.22 was obtained indicating that the difference was significant at the .01 level. As Table VII indicates, males have a significantly higher mean score indicating that they have more favorable perceptions concerning the effects of divorce than do females.

TABLE VI
 RESPONSES OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS TO ACD SCALE ITEMS

Item	Agree %	Uncertain %	Disagree %
<u>Attitudes Toward Divorce</u>			
1. Children are usually better of living with one parent rather than two parents who cannot get along well together.	57.45	23.39	14.91
2. It is usually better for the couple if they stay together even if they don't get along well, than to break up a home by getting a divorce.	17.81	21.83	55.89
3. Divorce is an acceptable social institution since it relieves much misery and unhappiness.	42.30	28.29	25.17
4. Children need a home with both a father and mother even though the parents don't get along well.	26.95	21.83	46.99
5. Divorce is one of our greatest social evils.	38.75	28.95	27.83
6. If a couple finds getting along with each other a real struggle then they should not feel obligated to remain married.	47.10	23.39	26.28

TABLE VII
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO SEX

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	224	66.60	8.22	.01
Female	225	63.48		

Hypothesis I (b). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Age. No significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine if there was a difference in high school seniors' favorableness of perception concerning the effects of divorce according to age. The F score is shown in Table VIII.

Hypothesis I (c). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Race. Examination of this hypothesis indicates that no significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied. Table IX indicates that the Mexican-American had the most favorable perception and the American Indian had the least favorable perception of divorce.

TABLE VIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO AGE

Description (Age)	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
Sixteen (16)	20	66.10		
Seventeen (17)	258	65.24	.407	n.s.
Eighteen (18)	153	64.35		
Nineteen (19)	18	66.89		

TABLE IX

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO RACE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Race</u>				
White	381	65.28		
Black	39	62.72		
American Indian	16	61.25	1.52	n.s.
Mexican-American	11	70.73		
Other	2	63.50		

Hypothesis I (d). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Size of Community Where Respondent Spent the Major Part of his Life. An F score of 2.65 was obtained when this hypothesis was examined, indicating a significant difference at the .02 level. Table X shows that the most favorable perceptions were expressed by respondents who have resided in cities of 50,000 to 100,000. The respondents with the least favorable perceptions were those in small towns of 5,000 or less population.

TABLE X

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF COMMUNITY WHERE
RESPONDENT SPENT MAJOR PART
OF HIS LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Size of Community Where Respondent Spent Major Part of his Life</u>				
On a farm or in the country	85	64.42		
Small town under 5,000	85	62.13		
City of 5,000 to 25,000	103	64.99	2.65	.02
City of 25,000 to 50,000	31	65.29		
City of 50,000 to 100,000	114	67.96		
City of over 100,000	30	63.90		

Hypothesis I (e). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Religious Preference. Table XI indicates that no significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied to the examination of this hypothesis. It is interesting that the Protestant had a less favorable perception of divorce than did the Roman Catholic respondents. It was not surprising that the most favorable perceptions were from those who reported that they had no religious preference.

TABLE XI
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Religious Preference</u>				
Roman Catholic	52	65.63		
Jewish	6	66.50		
Mormon	16	68.19		
None	33	69.76	1.41	n.s.
Protestant	328	64.53		
Other	3	62.00		

Hypothesis I (f). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Religious Orientation. In examining this hypothesis the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine if there were any significant differences in PCED Scale scores according to religious orientation of the respondent. Table XII indicates that the F score obtained (2.22) was not significant. The very religious showed the least favorable perceptions concerning the effect of divorce and the anti-religious showed the most favorable perceptions.

TABLE XII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Religious Orientation</u>				
Very Religious	29	63.31		
Religious	323	64.41	2.22	n.s.
Non-religious	82	67.74		
Anti-religious	6	68.50		

Hypothesis I (g). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Frequency of Church Attendance. A one-way analysis of variance was used to determine if a difference existed in total PCED Scale scores according to frequency of church attendance of the respondent. An F score of 4.08 was obtained indicating a significant difference at the .001 level, as shown in Table XIII. Those students who indicated that they never attended church had the most favorable perceptions of divorce. Those who attended two or more times a week had a significantly lower mean PCED score reflecting less favorable perceptions concerning the effects of divorce. The pattern emerging from examination of this hypothesis shows that generally the higher the frequency of church attendance the less favorable are the perceptions concerning the effect of divorce.

TABLE XIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Frequency of Church Attendance</u>				
Two or more times a week.	76	63.46		
Once a week.	148	65.20		
Once a month.	39	66.21		
Several times a year but not as often as once a month.	45	66.20	4.08	.001
A few times a year.	80	61.85		
Never.	38	71.82		

Hypothesis I (h). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Respondent's Closeness of Relationship With His Father. This hypothesis did not reveal a significant difference when examined by the one-way classification analysis of variance. Table XIV shows that the respondents who reported a close relationship with their fathers had the most favorable perceptions concerning the effects of divorce; while the respondents who reported that they were never close to their fathers expressed the least favorable perceptions.

TABLE XIV

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO RESPONDENT'S
CLOSENESS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH
HIS FATHER

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Closeness of Relationship With Father</u>				
Very Close	103	64.41		
Close	142	66.60		
Moderately Close	100	64.81	.91	n.s.
Rarely Close	68	64.35		
Never Close	26	63.38		

Hypothesis I (i). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Respondent's Closeness of Relationship With His Mother. When this hypothesis was subjected to the one-way classification analysis of variance, no significant difference was found in PCED Scale scores according to closeness of relationship the respondent has with the mother.

TABLE XV

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO RESPONDENT'S CLOSENESS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS MOTHER

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Closeness of Relationship With Mother</u>				
Very Close	189	64.28		
Close	139	65.53		
Moderately Close	83	66.78	.95	n.s.
Rarely Close	24	65.33		
Never Close	8	69.00		

Hypothesis I (j). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Educational Attainment of the Principle Wage Earner of the Family. No significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to examine this

hypothesis. Table XVI does reveal that the perception was more favorable as the principle wage earner had more education.

TABLE XVI
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE
SCORES ACCORDING TO EDUCATIONAL
ATTAINMENT OF PRINCIPLE WAGE
EARNER OF FAMILY

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Educational Attainment of Principle Wage Earner of Family</u>				
Less than grade 8.	25	60.96		
Completed grade 8 but did not attend beyond grade 9.	30	64.73		
Some high school beyond grade 9 but did not graduate.	50	64.58	.80	n.s.
Graduated from high school.	182	64.58		
Attended college 2 or more years.	54	66.35		
Graduated from college.	50	64.58		
Completed graduate work for profession.	45	67.09		

Hypothesis I (k). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Respondent's Exposure to Family Life Education in School. The one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized in determining if there was a significant difference in PCED Scale scores according to respondent's exposure to family life education in school. An F score of 4.20 was obtained, indicating that the difference was significant at the .03 level. Table XVII illustrates that students who have not had family life education have a significantly higher mean PCED Scale score reflecting more favorable perceptions concerning the effect of divorce.

TABLE XVII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO EXPOSURE TO FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION
IN SCHOOL

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Exposure to Family Life Education in School</u>				
Yes	154	63.46	4.20	.03
No	294	65.83		

Hypothesis I (l). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent has had a Course in Which Divorce was Studied. In examining this hypothesis, the one-way classification analysis of variance was again used. As the F score indicates in Table XVIII, there was no significant difference in the PCED Scale scores according to whether the respondent has had a course in which divorce was studied.

TABLE XVIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO WHETHER RESPONDENT HAS HAD A COURSE
IN WHICH DIVORCE WAS STUDIED

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Whether Respondent has had a Course in Which Divorce was Studied</u>				
Yes	95	64.23	.56	n.s.
No	353	65.24		

Hypothesis I (m). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent Knows Someone Who is Divorced. When this hypothesis was examined by the one-way classification analysis of variance, a significant difference was not found in the PCED Scale scores according to whether the respondent knows someone

who is divorced. Table XIX does indicate that those who knew a divorced person expressed the most favorable mean PCED Scale score.

TABLE XIX
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO WHETHER RESPONDENT KNOWS SOMEONE
WHO IS DIVORCED

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Whether Respondent Knows Someone Who is Divorced</u>				
Yes	412	65.11	.71	n.s.
No	34	63.35		

Hypothesis I (n). There are no Significant Differences in PCED Scale Scores According to Relationship of Divorced Acquaintance to Respondent. In order to determine if there was a significant difference in PCED Scale scores according to the relationship of a divorced acquaintance to the respondent, the one-way analysis of variance was applied. As Table XX illustrates, the difference was not significant.

TABLE XX

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN PCED SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO RELATIONSHIP OF DIVORCED
ACQUAINTANCE TO RESPONDENT

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Relationship of Divorced Acquaintance to Respondent</u>				
Close Friend	92	65.49		
Close Relative	106	66.69		
Close Acquaintance	89	63.33	1.15	n.s.
Immediate family member (such as brother, sister, or parent)	86	65.28		
Two or more of the above	49	64.16		

Hypothesis I (o). There are no Significant Differences in the PCED Scale Scores According to Whether the Respondent's Parents are Divorced.

Using the one-way classification analysis of variance, an F score of 2.40 was obtained, indicating that there are no significant differences in the PCED Scale scores according to whether the respondent's parents are divorced. Table XXI does indicate that those respondents whose parents are divorced have significantly more favorable perceptions of divorce. Again, this may be due to the fact that one tends to be more accepting of situations that are happening to family members.

TABLE XXI

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN
PCED SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO
WHETHER RESPONDENT'S PARENTS
ARE DIVORCED

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Whether Respondent's Parents are Divorced</u>				
Yes	93	66.77	2.40	n.s.
No	354	64.72		

Hypothesis II

The following variables were not found to be significantly related to the ACD Scale scores (reflecting favorableness of attitudes concerning divorce):

1. Age
2. Size of community where respondent spent major part of his life
3. Religious preference
4. Closeness of relationship with father
5. Closeness of relationship with mother
6. Educational attainment of principle wage earner of family
7. Whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied

8. Whether respondent knows someone who is divorced
9. Relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent.

Hypothesis II (a). There are no Significant Differences in ACD Scale Scores According to Sex. The F score obtained indicates a significant difference existed at the .001 level in ACD Scale scores according to sex when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized. The females expressed a significantly more favorable mean ACD Scale score (reflecting more favorable attitudes toward the institution of divorce) than did the males, as indicated in Table XXII.

TABLE XXII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN ACD SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO SEX

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	224	18.30	11.18	.001
Female	225	20.17		

Hypothesis II (b). There are no Significant Differences in the ACD Scale Scores According to Race. The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that a significant difference existed in ACD Scale scores according to race. An F score of 3.19 was obtained, indicating that the difference was significant at the .01 level. Table XXIII

indicates that the Mexican-American expressed the most favorable attitude and the American Indian had the least favorable attitude toward the institution of divorce.

TABLE XXIII
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN ACD SCALE
SCORES ACCORDING TO RACE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Race</u>				
White	381	19.52		
Black	39	18.05		
American Indian	16	14.56	3.19	.01
Mexican-American	11	20.18		
Other	2	21.00		

Hypothesis II (c). There are no Significant Differences in the ACD Scale Scores According to Religious Orientation. A one-way classification analysis of variance revealed that a significant difference existed at the .001 level in the ACD Scale scores according to religious orientation. As Table XXIV reveals, the anti-religious had the most favorable attitudes and the very religious expressed the most unfavorable attitudes toward divorce.

TABLE XXIV

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN ACD SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Religious Orientation</u>				
Very Religious	29	16.21		
Religious	323	19.02	5.95	.001
Non-religious	82	21.24		
Anti-religious	6	19.00		

Hypothesis II (d). There are no Significant Differences in ACD Scale Scores According to Frequency of Church Attendance. An F score of 4.08 revealed that a significant difference existed at the .001 level in ACD Scale scores concerning frequency of church attendance, when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized. The least favorable ACD mean score, as shown by Table XXV, was reported by those who attended church two or more times a week. As the church attendance declined, the favorableness of attitudes toward divorce increased.

TABLE XXV

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN ACD SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Frequency of Church Attendance</u>				
Two or more times a week.	76	17.11		
Once a week.	148	18.95		
Once a month.	39	21.10	4.08	.001
Several times a year but not as often as once a month.	45	20.40		
A few times a year.	80	18.64		
Never.	38	22.08		

Hypothesis II (e). There are no Significant Differences in ACD Scale Scores According to Exposure to Family Life Education in School.
A .03 level of significance was obtained when the one-way classification analysis of variance was used to examine the ACD scale scores according to exposure to family life education in school. As Table XXVI reveals, those who had family life education in school expressed a significantly higher ACD mean score.

TABLE XXVI
 F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN ACD SCALE SCORES
 ACCORDING TO EXPOSURE TO FAMILY LIFE
 EDUCATION IN SCHOOL

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Exposure to Family Life</u>				
<u>Education in School</u>				
Yes	154	20.06	4.42	.03
No	294	18.81		

Hypothesis II (f). There are no Significant Differences in ACD Scale Scores According to Whether Respondent's Parents are Divorced. An F score of 6.58 indicates a significant difference at the .01 level in ACD Scale scores according to whether the respondent's parents are divorced. Table XXVII shows that those respondents whose parents are divorced expressed the most favorable ACD mean score.

Hypothesis III

Hypothesis III. There is no Significant Correlation Between PCED Scale Scores and the ACD Scale Scores. To determine the existence and degree of relationship between perceptions concerning the effects of divorce and the attitudes toward the institution of divorce, the total PCED scores were correlated with the scores from the ACD Scale by means of the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient. As Table XXVIII indicates, a significant positive correlation of .46 was obtained which

is significant at the .0001 level. Those respondents who expressed positive perceptions concerning the effect of divorce also tended to express positive attitudes toward the institution of divorce.

TABLE XXVII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MEAN ACD SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO WHETHER RESPONDENT'S PARENTS
ARE DIVORCED

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Whether Respondent's Parents are Divorced</u>				
Yes	93	20.69	6.58	.01
No	354	18.92		

TABLE XXVIII

CORRELATION BETWEEN PCED SCALE SCORES AND
ACD SCALE SCORES

Description	<u>Pearson r Scores</u> PCED Scale Scores	Level of Sig.
Attitudes Concerning Divorce Scale	.46	.0001

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to design a two-part instrument, (1) to measure adolescent's perceptions concerning the effects of divorce, and (2) to measure adolescent's attitudes concerning the institution of divorce. A secondary purpose was to relate these perceptions and attitudes to selected background factors.

The sample was composed of 449 high school seniors in urban and rural schools in North Texas and Central Oklahoma. The students were predominantly white, Protestant, and 17 years of age. The data were obtained in January and February, 1975.

The questionnaire included the following sections: (a) an information sheet for securing background data, (b) the Perceptions Concerning Effects of Divorce Scale (PCED), designed to measure favorableness of perceptions concerning effects of divorce, and (c) the Attitudes Concerning Divorce Scale (ACD), designed to measure the student's attitude concerning the institution of divorce.

The chi-square test was utilized in an item analysis of the PCED and ACD Scales to determine those items that significantly differentiated between the subjects scoring in the upper and lower quartile groups according to total score. The one-way classification analysis of variance was used to determine if the PCED and ACD Scale scores were independent of:

- (a) sex
- (b) age
- (c) race
- (d) size of community where respondent lived major part of life
- (e) educational attainment of principle wage earner of family
- (f) religious preference
- (g) degree of religious orientation
- (h) frequency of church attendance
- (i) closeness of relationship with father
- (j) closeness of relationship with mother
- (k) exposure to family life education in school
- (l) whether respondent has had a class in which divorce was studied
- (m) whether respondent knows someone who is divorced
- (n) relationship of divorced acquaintance to respondent
- (o) whether respondent's parents are divorced

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was utilized to determine the existence and degree of relationship with perceptions concerning the effects of divorce and the attitudes concerning divorce.

The results of this research were as follows:

1. All of the 30 items on the PCED and ACD Scales were found to be significantly discriminating.
2. A split-half reliability coefficient, computed with the Spearman-Brown Correction Formula of .78 was obtained for the PCED Scale, while a split-half reliability coefficient of .58 was obtained for the ACD Scale.

3. The mean subscores on the PCED Scale indicated that the students had the most favorable perceptions concerning the social effects of divorce, while they expressed the least favorable perceptions in the areas of economic effects of divorce and the effect divorce has on children.
4. Those factors which were found to be significantly related to PCED Scale scores were: (a) sex, (b) size of community where respondent spent major part of his life, (c) frequency of church attendance, and (d) exposure to family life education in school.
5. Those factors which were found to be significantly related to ACD Scale scores were: (a) sex, (b) race, (c) religious orientation, (d) frequency of church attendance, (e) exposure to family life education in school, and (f) whether respondent's parents were divorced.

Conclusions and Discussion

The finding that males had a significantly more favorable mean PCED Scale score may be related to the research findings indicating that males have significantly less favorable attitudes toward marriage than do females (Walters, Parker, and Stinnett, 1972). The fact that males have more negative attitudes toward marriage would seem to logically contribute to their having more positive perceptions concerning the effects of divorce than do females. The findings that males have significantly more positive perceptions concerning the effects of divorce

and more negative attitudes toward marriage than do females may be explained by the greater cultural emphasis upon the importance of marriage for females than for males and by research showing that male children receive less affection, support and praise from parents than do female children (Stinnett, Farris, and Walters, 1974). This may contribute to male children developing less positive perceptions of family life in general than do female children. The finding that males expressed a significantly more negative ACD Scale mean score (reflecting more negative attitudes toward the institution of divorce) may be due to the general perception among males that the legal and financial aspects of divorce usually favor females.

Some interesting findings resulted from examination of the religious background of the respondents. Religious orientation revealed a significant difference in ACD scores but not PCED Scale scores. The very religious had the lower ACD Scale scores (least favorable attitude toward the institution of divorce) while the anti-religious had the most favorable attitude according to the ACD Scale. This finding may be due to the fact that most churches emphasize the importance of strong, enduring marriage and family life and that marriage is ideally a permanent union. The fact that this is a common value among religious groups may account for the finding that significant differences did not exist according to religious preference in the scores on the PCED and ACD Scales.

The frequency of church attendance was significantly related to scores on both the PCED and ACD Scales. Those respondents who attended church two or more times a week had a significantly lower score on both scales, thus revealing less favorable perceptions and attitudes

concerning divorce. These findings are related to research by Walters, Parker, and Stinnett (1972) who found that those who attended church regularly showed significantly more favorable perceptions of marriage. The present results are also related to various research studies showing a lower rate of divorce among those who attend church often (Bowman, 1974).

An investigation of previous exposure to family life education in school revealed a significant difference in both PCED and ACD Scale scores. Those who had not been exposed to family life education had significantly more favorable perceptions concerning the effects of divorce. This suggests that those who studied family relationships may have a more realistic awareness of the adverse affects caused by divorce. Conversely, those exposed to family life education in school expressed significantly more favorable attitudes toward the institution of divorce (higher ACD Scale scores). While this group did not perceive the effects of divorce as favorable as those not exposed to family life education, they were perhaps more convinced of the necessity to find an alternative to living under the stress of unhappiness in a marriage.

Further investigation was made concerning the respondent's knowledge and experience with divorce. Even though 415 of the 449 respondents knew someone who has experienced divorce, there were no significant differences in PCED and ACD Scale scores according to whether the respondent knew someone who was divorced. Those who knew someone (especially if the person was a close relative) did have higher scores on both scales. Whether the respondent's parents had been divorced did not reveal a significant difference in PCED Scale scores, but it did show a significant level of difference in the ACD Scale

scores. Those respondents whose parents were divorced showed a significantly higher ACD score, implying a more favorable attitude toward the institution of divorce. Perhaps those respondents who had experienced divorce in the home were more convinced that under certain circumstances divorce is necessary in order to relieve family members of emotional and physical stress.

The finding of a significant, positive association between PCED Scale scores and ACD Scale scores indicates that those who perceive the effects of divorce to be negative tend to hold negative attitudes toward the institution of divorce, while those who hold positive perceptions concerning the effects of divorce also tend to have positive attitudes toward the institution of divorce.

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APPENDIX

PCED AND ACD QUESTIONNAIRE

Perceptions Concerning Effects of Divorce Scale

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. The absence of your name from the information assures anonymity. Check or circle each answer.

The blanks at the extreme left of the page are not to be filled in.

- ___ Sex: ___ Male ___ Female
- ___ Age: ___ 16 ___ 17 ___ 18 ___ 19
- ___ Race: ___ White ___ Black ___ Indian ___ Other _____ (Specify)
- ___ What is your class in school: ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Other
- ___ For the major part of your life have you lived:
 ___ On a farm or in the country ___ City of 25,000 to 50,000
 ___ Small town under 5,000 ___ City of 50,000 to 100,000
 ___ City of 5,000 to 25,000 ___ City of over 100,000
- ___ Religious Preference:
 ___ Roman Catholic ___ Mormon ___ Protestant _____ (Specify)
 ___ Jewish ___ None ___ Other _____ (Specify)
- ___ How religious do you consider yourself to be:
 ___ Very religious ___ Religious ___ Non-religious ___ Anti-religious
- ___ How often do you attend church:
 ___ Two or more times a week
 ___ Once a week
 ___ Once a month
 ___ Several times a year but not as often as once a month
 ___ A few times a year
 ___ Never
- ___ How would you rate the degree of closeness that you have with your father:
 ___ Very close
 ___ Close
 ___ Moderately close
 ___ Rarely close
 ___ Never close
- ___ How would you rate the degree of closeness that you have with your mother:
 ___ Very close
 ___ Close
 ___ Moderately close
 ___ Rarely close
 ___ Never close

___ What is the highest education attainment of the principal wage earner in your home:

___ Less than grade 8

___ Completed grade 8 but did not attend beyond grade 9

___ Some high school beyond grade 9 but did not graduate

___ Graduated from high school

___ Attended college 2 or more years

___ Graduated from college

___ Completed graduate work for profession

___ Have you had a class in which family relations was taught:

___ Yes ___ No

___ Have you had a class in which divorce was part of the study:

___ Yes ___ No

___ Do you know someone who is divorced:

___ Yes ___ No

___ If you do know someone who is divorced, what is the relationship:

___ Close friend

___ Close relative

___ Close acquaintance

___ Immediate family member (such as brother, sister, or parent)

___ 2 or more of above

___ Have your parents divorced:

___ Yes ___ No

Instructions: Read each of the following statements concerning divorce. Then circle the letters beside each statement which best represent your own feelings about the statement.

SA means "I strongly agree with this statement"

MA means "I mildly agree with this statement"

N means "I am more or less neutral about the statement"

MD means "I mildly disagree with this statement"

SD means "I strongly disagree with this statement"

- SA MA N MD SD 1. Divorced persons usually do not have feelings of guilt following the divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 2. A divorced person usually has emotional problems as a result of the divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 3. The divorced person usually receives emotional support from friends after the divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 4. Getting a divorce usually causes the divorced person to have a feeling of failure.

- SA MA N MD SD 5. Divorced persons usually feel less good about themselves as a result of the divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 6. Divorced persons usually do not experience depression (feel low) after divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 7. Divorced persons usually date a great deal.
- SA MA N MD SD 8. Divorced persons usually do not fit into the social circles they formerly belonged to.
- SA MA N MD SD 9. Divorced persons are often not invited to social activities because they are divorced.
- SA MA N MD SD 10. Divorced persons usually are viewed unfavorably by the community.
- SA MA N MD SD 11. Divorced persons usually have many friends of both sexes.
- SA MA N MD SD 12. Divorced persons usually feel comfortable in social activities where most of the couples are married.
- SA MA N MD SD 13. Divorce usually leaves the man financially hurt because of high alimony and child support payments.
- SA MA N MD SD 14. Couples who are in the process of getting a divorce usually have an easy time agreeing upon the property settlement.
- SA MA N MD SD 15. Most women have to work to have enough money to support the children after they are divorced.
- SA MA N MD SD 16. The financial situation for a divorced couple is usually about the same after the divorce as it was before the divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 17. Most women who are divorced have a difficult time adjusting financially.
- SA MA N MD SD 18. Most men who are divorced have a difficult time adjusting financially.
- SA MA N MD SD 19. Children are usually not hurt emotionally by divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 20. Children of divorced parents are usually not troubled by the fact that they do not have two parents at home as their friends have.
- SA MA N MD SD 21. Children whose parents are divorced are likely to become juvenile delinquents.

- SA MA N MD SD 22. Children of divorced couples usually find it difficult to give up hope that their parents will get back together.
- SA MA N MD SD 23. Boys who do not have a father in the home as a result of divorce usually have problems learning masculine roles and masculine responsibilities.
- SA MA N MD SD 24. Girls who do not have a mother in the home as a result of divorce usually have problems learning feminine roles and feminine responsibilities.

ATTITUDES CONCERNING DIVORCE QUESTIONNAIRE

- SA MA N MD SD 1. Children are usually better off living with one parent rather than two parents who cannot get along well together.
- SA MA N MD SD 2. It is usually better for the couple if they stay together even though they don't get along well, than to break up a home by getting a divorce.
- SA MA N MD SD 3. Divorce is an acceptable social institution since it relieves much misery and unhappiness.
- SA MA N MD SD 4. Children need a home with both a father and a mother even though the parents don't get along well.
- SA MA N MD SD 5. Divorce is one of our greatest social evils.
- SA MA N MD SD 6. If a couple finds getting along with each other a real struggle then they should not feel obligated to remain married.

VITA

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Master of Science

Thesis: ADOLESCENT'S PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES CONCERNING DIVORCE

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