

The Influence of Inter-Parental Conflict on Romantic Relationship Quality in College-Age Black Adults

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Introduction

Abstract

This study explored Childhood Perceptions of Inter-Parental Conflict (CPIC) influence on romantic relationship quality (as measured by Revised Adjustment Dyadic Scale (RDAS)) among Black college-age adults. By examining the long-term effects of these early family experiences, the research highlights how CPIC shapes adult attitudes and expectations toward romantic relationships and overall relationship quality.

Keywords: Black/African, Inter-parental Conflict, Romantic Relationships

Aims of the Research

- ◆ To understand how familial conflict impacts **emotional and romantic well-being** within Black communities.
- ◆ Insights from this study will be valuable for individuals, **educators**, counselors, and policymakers working to foster **healthy relationship development** in these populations.

Research Questions

- ◆ How do perceptions of inter-parental conflict correlate with the overall quality (satisfaction, consensus, cohesion) of romantic relationships?
- ◆ How do perceptions of inter-parental conflict correlate with attitudes and expectations towards romantic relationships in adulthood?

Method

Research Design

- ◆ **Design:** Quantitative and Correlational
- ◆ **Survey:** Composed of CPIC and RDAS scales
- ◆ **Participation:** N=167, ages 18 and older
 - ◆ Women = 77%, Men = 22%, Non Binary = 1%
- ◆ **Sampling:** Convenience and Snowball Sampling

Definitions

Talking: The initial stage, before any commitment has been made.

Casual dating: Involves hanging out without any real commitment.

Open: A non monogamous relationship

Exclusive: Romantically and sexually exclusive.

Situation-ship: Agreement to casual, undefined, & commitment free relations.

Toxic: An unhealthy relationship that may harm you emotionally, psychologically and sometimes physically.

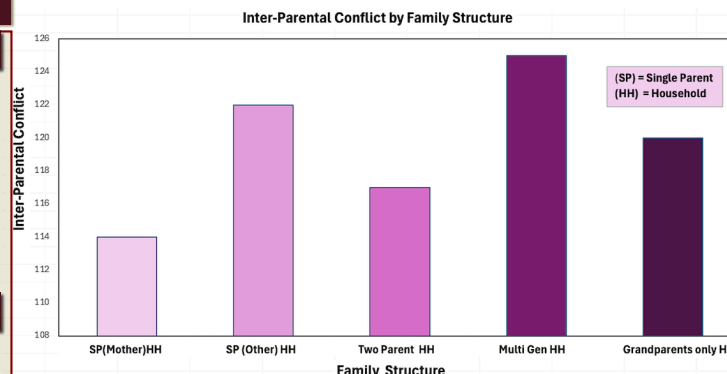


Table 1. Relationship Quality Factors: Past Relationship Type

Variable	ANOVA Mean Scores			
	RR Quality	Consensus	Satisfaction	Cohesion
PT_NCasual	50.66	23.54	14.26	12.85
PT_Casual	48.03	22.70	13.87	11.46
PT_VariousTypes	48.99	23.01	14.01	11.97
PT_NONE	49.00	23.00	14.00	12.00

note: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .001$

Table 2. Relationship Quality Factors: Current Relationship Type

Variable	ANOVA Mean Scores			
	RR Quality	Consensus	Satisfaction	Cohesion
CR_Mon	50.20	23.72	14.13	12.35
CR_NonMon	48.31	22.61	13.94	11.76
CR_Healthy	49.25	23.13	14.09	12.04
CR_UnHealthy	34.67	16.33	10.00	8.33

note: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .001$

Table 3. Relationship Quality Factors: Preferred Relationship Type

Variable	ANOVA Mean Scores			
	RR Quality	Consensus	Satisfaction	Cohesion
RP_Mon	48.89	22.88	14.03	11.98
RP_NonMon	51.29	25.86	13.71	11.71
RP_Healthy	49.02	23.01	14.05	11.96
RP_UnHealthy	46.00	23.00	10.50	12.50
RP_VariousTypes	49.25	23.18	14.05	12.02
RP_NONE	41.83	18.33	13.00	10.50

note: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .001$

Results

- ◆ No Casual Relationships: Stronger emotional bond (cohesion) and higher relationship quality
- ◆ Casual Relationships: Associated with lower emotional bonding (cohesion).
- ◆ Exclusive Relationships: Higher agreement and harmony (consensus).
- ◆ Non-monogamous Preference: Higher consensus ideologies than those opting out of monogamous relationships.

Discussion

- ◆ Participants **without casual** relationship history reported **higher relationship quality** and stronger emotional bonding (**cohesion**).
- ◆ Those **with casual relationship** experience had **lower cohesion**, indicating weaker emotional connections.
- ◆ **Exclusive relationships** showed **higher consensus** (agreement) than non-exclusive ones. Interestingly, non-monogamous relation preferences had higher consensus than those opting out of relationships.
- ◆ Lastly, participants preferring **toxic relationship dynamics** reported **lower satisfaction**.

Conclusion and Implications

- ◆ Exclusive and non-casual relationships tend to create stronger emotional bonds (cohesion) and higher relationship satisfaction.
- ◆ Overall, relationship history and preferences significantly shape ideologies related to consensus, cohesion, and satisfaction in relationships (Daines, 2021).
- ◆ These insights are crucial for developing **educational programs** that promote healthy, fulfilling relationships, enhancing emotional bonding and well-being among college-age Black adults.
- ◆ **Mental health educators** can use this data to improve interventions that strengthen interpersonal skills, emotional resilience and effective communication, fostering success in both personal and professional relationships.

Key References

Daines, C. L., Hansen, D., Novilla, M. L. B., et al. (2021). Effects of positive and negative childhood experiences on adult family health. BMC Public Health, 21, 651. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10732-w>



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