A Comparative Study of Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic Women's Perception of Their Relationship with Their Father

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ALCOHOLIC AND NONALCOHOLIC
WOMEN'S PERCEPTION OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP
WITH THEIR FATHER

by

Judith A. Hinga

A Dissertation
Submitted to the
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The literature review outlined the historical perspectives impacting current thinking about the role fathers play in child development. Theories of child development saw the mother as the important parent and all but ignored the father. Later researchers studied the father-daughter relationship and found that the paternal relationship is also an important factor in a female's personality development.

Theories of female alcoholism reviewed in this study indicate that there is a relationship between sex-role conflict and female alcoholism. Existing data show that the family of origin of female alcoholics is characterized by a cold, rejecting mother and a warm, accepting father. Therefore, cross-sexed modeling occurred which caused sex-role conflict and the later use of alcohol to relieve this conflict.

The purpose of this research study was to determine whether or not there are significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perceptions of their fathers. Thirty-six women were used in the final data analysis; 18 were alcoholic and 18 were nonalcoholic controls. Participants responded to the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F. Subjects also responded to the Attitude
Toward Parents Scale—Form M, in order to test the post hoc hypothesis which dealt with the female alcoholic's maternal relationship. The scores were analyzed for significant mean differences by a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA).

The null hypothesis was accepted. At a .05 level of confidence there were no significant mean differences between the alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their fathers, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F. The post hoc null hypothesis that there would be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their mother, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M, was rejected at a .05 level of confidence.

The findings of this research study appear to contradict other current research findings which suggest that alcoholic women tend to idealize and identify with their fathers and experience resultant sex-role conflict which is relieved by the use of alcohol. However, the findings do suggest that the theory may apply to the mother-daughter relationship among alcoholic women.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Importance of the Study

Historically, studies dealing with alcoholism and its etiology have been carried out in Veteran's Administration hospitals, whose patient populations were predominantly male (Camberwell Council on Alcoholism, 1980). When research has been expanded to include women in the population sample, the question of the differences between male and female alcoholics has been largely ignored. Homiller (1977), quoting from Curlee, stated:

Studies on alcoholism tend either to ignore women entirely or simply to assume that alcoholism is the same, regardless of the sex of the sufferer. This lack of information constitutes a serious blind spot in the field of alcohol studies. (p. 5)

Harbin and Maziar (1975), in their review of the literature, found only three articles dealing specifically with women. Most of the data gathered had been from entirely male samples; and if women were included in the sample, sex differentiations were not clearly delineated. However, since 1970, there has been increased interest in research related to female alcoholism, its differential etiology, and treatment (Camberwell Council on Alcoholism, 1980). Researchers have become more willing to admit that female alcoholics do exist in numbers great enough to warrant study and that there are qualitative differences between the sexes (Bauer, 1982; Harbin & Maziar, 1975;
Within the body of literature dealing with the etiology of male alcoholism, the family of origin has been investigated (Harbin & Maziar, 1975). Parental behaviors and interactions have been focused upon consistently, in an effort to find characteristic parent/child relationships which promote alcoholism in adult life. Harbin and Maziar (1975) found that for male drug and/or alcohol abusers there seemed to be a generalized pattern of interaction between abusers and their parents. Overall, it seems that the mother is overprotective and interdependent with the abusing offspring and there is an absence of a positive identification with his father. However, they go on to emphasize that the family dynamics for the female drug abuser are likely to be different from those of their male counterparts. As they hypothesized, the studies they reviewed which dealt solely with women revealed a very different pattern of parent/child relationships. Female drug abusers experienced a higher incidence of an absent father than did male abusers. Mothers, instead of being indulgent, were described as being in competition with the daughter. Homiller (1977) supported this characterization by describing female alcohol and drug abuser's mothers as cold and rejecting and their fathers as warm and gentle, although often alcoholic.

Further in-depth study of the parent/child relationships formed within the female alcoholic's family of origin is needed. If differences do exist between the male and female alcoholics parental relationships and family structures, these differences need to be
clarified. Once identified, they could provide valuable therapeutic information for the treatment and prevention of female alcoholism.

Statement of the Problem

In the spring of 1974, the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol Information, a federal information program on alcoholism under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, estimated that at least one-third of all alcoholics in the United States were women (Sandmaier, 1980). Given this statistic, it would seem obvious that there is a need for research studies which deal solely with women alcoholics. However, research-to-date could be classified as scanty and uncoordinated. Some researchers have explored the individual psychodynamics of female drug and alcohol abusers, but few researchers have dealt with the etiology of female alcoholism from a family perspective (Harbin & Maziar, 1975). A few authors have alluded to the possibility of a generalized pattern of family interaction for the female alcoholic, but there is little empirical data to support the theories presented.

Within the theories of the etiology of female alcoholism, the father/daughter relationship has been focused upon consistently. Most characterize this relationship as a warm and mutually supportive one. However, this relationship has been characterized using limited sample population and unstructured interviews.
Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to determine whether there is an association between the perceived paternal relationship and female alcoholism. The significance of the parental interaction patterns, as they relate to the development of the alcoholic daughter, is presently unclear. Sandmaier (1980) has theorized that the possible connection between the high incidence of alcoholic fathers and daughter's later alcoholism is due to the feelings of rejection by, and hostility toward, the women's mother, which caused them to gravitate toward their fathers for affection and support. This identification with fathers would then lead to the daughter's taking on the ideas and values of their fathers.

Bauer (1982) studied four alcoholic women's family background and found that the women saw their mothers as cold, rejecting, or distant and as a result tended to idealize their fathers in an effort to supply the needed one positive parental image. She stated:

To sum up the family elements I found in common among the four women interviewed, there is first of all a lack of positive mothering. Whether the mother was frankly hostile to her daughter, ... or cold and mechanical, ... or possessive and intrusive, ... none of the women experienced their mothers as providers of nurturing and maternal security as positive feminine role models. ... Related to the common negative mother complex is a common positive father image. But the father image is inflated and idealized far beyond the reality of the actual father. This would be a necessary compensation for the negative mother, a sort of overloading of the one positive parent. (p. 110)
Hypothesis

Ho: There will be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their father, as measured by the Attitude Towards Parents Scale—Form F.

Definition of Terms

**Alcoholic**: General definition: One who is psychologically and/or physically addicted to the excessive use of alcohol. **Definition for this research study**: A score of six or more points on the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test is considered alcoholic.

**Archetypal**: An inherited idea or mode of thought derived from the experience of the race, and present in the unconscious of the individual, controlling their way of perceiving the world.

**Castration anxiety**: The occasion when the idea of deprivation comes to be associated with the loss of the male organ.

**Cross-sexed modeling**: Observational learning of the traits and behaviors of the opposite sexed parent.

**Family of origin**: The family unit in which a person has been reared.

**Femininity**: The possession of attributes that are stereotypically assigned to a woman.

**Identification theory**: A largely unconscious process in which individuals incorporate within themselves a mental picture of an object and then think, feel, and act as they conceive the object to
think, feel, and act.

Masculinity: The possession of attributes that are stereotypically assigned to a man.

Perceived paternal relationship: A conceptualization of one's relationship with one's father as it is remembered.

Role model: The person whose behaviors and characteristics are imitated by another.

Self-esteem: One's regard for oneself.

Limitations of the Study

1. Results will be comparative in nature; no causal relationships can be determined.

2. Perceptions of the paternal relationship may have become distorted over time and may not accurately portray actual interaction.

3. The Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST) (Selzer, 1971a) used to determine the existence of alcoholism relies heavily upon an accurate self-report. Therefore, it is possible that some of the controls may be undiagnosed alcoholic.

4. Because of the limited access to alcohol treatment center's clientele and the sensitivity to confidentiality, the resultant N is small and, therefore, the statistical treatment will only yield trends.
Organization of the Remainder of the Study

In Chapter I the importance of the study was discussed and the research questions and hypothesis were stated. A definition of terms pertinent to the study is presented, along with the factors seen as limiting the research study. The literature relevant to the areas of alcoholism and parental influences will be reviewed in Chapter II. Chapter III will describe the method of the study, with an explanation of data-gathering procedures and commentary related to the survey group; and Chapter IV will focus on the statistical analysis of the data. A summary of the major findings will be presented in Chapter V, along with conclusions and recommendations for further research.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

Parameters of the Review

The review of the literature focuses upon three broad topical areas: (a) contemporary psychological research related to parental influence and child development; (b) research reports delineating parental influence and a differentiation related to parental-son, parental-daughter relationships; and (c) presentation of current theories related to female alcoholism with specific emphasis upon parental-daughter relationships.

The review will outline the historical perspectives based upon the psychological research which impact current thinking about paternal influences on child development for the singular purpose of underscoring the fact that paternal influence related to child development has not, in the past, been a major focus of research studies. After 1970, there was an increased interest in paternal influence; however, the majority of these later research studies focused upon the father-son relationship.

The literature review will then present the contemporary thinking about the importance of the father-child relationship in child development. Current views upon paternal influence emphasize how the father-child relationship has been shown to be important in the child's development and warrants further study.
Research dealing with paternal influences affecting male personality development in the areas of socialization and sex-role identity will be reviewed. The research presented is used to provide the base for similar developmental paternal issues which have been shown to have an impact upon female personality development as well.

Studies pertaining to the paternal influences upon the daughter's socialization and sex-role identity will be reviewed. These findings are important since theories of female alcoholism point to sex-role conflict and confusion.

Three current theories of female alcoholism will be included in the review of the literature. These theories relate directly to this research study since they are based upon sex-role conflict; conflict which, according to the psychological research, stems from the father-daughter relationship.

Finally, the review will delineate the theoretical underpinnings of this research study. Emphasis will be placed upon the lack of research data to support current thinking.

**Historical and Theoretical Perspectives**

Lamb (1981) has described Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory as one of the earliest and most influential characterizations of the father-child relationship. Freud theorized that boys and girls formed their first and most important relationship with their mothers. The father-son relationship was seen as a competitive one, with both vying for the mother's/wife's attentions. Freudian theory extended this rivalry concept and suggested that the son's awareness
of the anatomical differences between the sexes led him to believe that girls presumably had penises at one time and were castrated because of this competitive affection for the mother—his father's wife. Fearing castration, the boy then repressed the affection for his mother and identified with the father. This identification then prevented the father from castrating a son since the father would not castrate someone like himself. The identification with the father is seen as a crucial factor in the boy's sex-role adoption. Freud believed that girls underwent a similar process, but since the female offspring did not have as strong a motive to identify with the father (castration anxiety), a girl would consequently have a weaker attachment to, and identification with, the father (Liebert & Wicks-Nelson, 1981).

Psychoanalytic theory characterizes the father's role in child development as a counteractive one, one that works to weaken the mother-child relationship. The father's influence is seen as secondary to that of the primary maternal attachment. Lamb (1981) also attributed the perpetuation of this emphasis of the mother-child relationship to Freud's contemporary, Jung, since Jung characterized the father as an archetypal representation versus a dynamic force in child development. In further support of this historical description of fatherhood, Lamb (1981) cited a study done by Meerloo in 1956 entitled, "The Father Cuts the Cord," which stressed the importance of the father as a force which was necessary to cut the cord between the mother and the child. This fatherly function of severing the symbiotic mother-child relationship presumed the absence of an early
father-child relationship and, therefore, served to reinforce psycho-analytic interpretations of the father's role.

Both Lamb (1981) and Parke (1981) suggested that Bowlby's theory on maternal deprivation also influenced the perception of the role of the father. Bowlby suggested that the child's attachment to one person was predictable and that this one person was the mother. The father was relegated to a position of financial and emotional support for the mother. Thus, Bowlby's attachment theory moved the father's role in child development into further obscurity. Lamb (1981) went on to say that Bowlby's theory also prompted researchers to study his findings in more detail and that these later attachment studies found that Bowlby's prediction of mother attachment was not that "predictable." Therefore, the literature generated by researchers who challenged Bowlby, such as Schaffer and Emerson (1976), served to broaden the focus from the mother-child relationship to include the father-child relationship. Obviously, a child's social and intellectual developments were not solely the result of the mother-child relationship.

The social learning theorists who followed viewed child development in terms of parental identification or imitation. The concept of the identification process was derived from psychoanalytic ideas about how personality evolves and develops over time. Essentially, they saw identification as a largely unconscious process through which a growing child comes to think, feel, and behave in ways similar to the primary people in his/her life. This learning or modeling process may be the result of explicit or implicit parental
reinforcement. Observational learning, or modeling, is seen as a crucial element in personality development and same-sex role identification. The father's role was then of obvious importance as a masculine role model for his son, but not so instrumental in the personality development of his daughter(s) (Biller, 1981).

Social learning identification theory was later expanded to include the cross-sexed parental modeling factor. Therefore, sons and daughters presumably could imitate both mothers and fathers on any given aspect of behavior (Lamb, 1981). This expanded view of parent-child interaction served to facilitate current thinking about the father's role in child development.

**Summary**

Historically, the father's role in the personality development of the male and female child has not been the focus of psychological research. When paternal impact was studied, the father's influence was viewed only in relation to the primary mother-child attachment. Not until the social learning theorists presented the notion of same-sexed modeling and sex role identity was the father's effect seen as being direct. The later expansion of the modeling theory to include cross-sexed modeling served to recognize paternal influence on the development of both male and female children and promoted researchers to begin studying the relationship in further depth.
Changing Attitudes Toward Fatherhood

According to Parke (1983), attitudes are changing and recent studies now indicate that fathers as well as mothers are capable of socializing their children. Accordingly, Pleck (1975) stated: "The father's role in the family has been underemphasized in American life and it has only been in recent years that social scientists have paid some attention to his presence" (p. 107).

Current studies, as a result of the change suggested by Parke (1983), are more apt to look at the father as "one actor interacting with many other factors in a child's development" (Lamb, 1983, p. 9). No longer is the mother-child relationship seen as the only important one. Current research suggests that fathers play an important role in their children's development. It has been recognized that the father is important because of his direct and/or indirect influence on the child's social interactions (Parke, 1981). Paternal involvement directly enhances the child's social development and stimulates their physical development. Fathers also influence their children indirectly by affecting the mother's behavior which in turn can affect the mother-child relationship (Parke, 1981).

Contemporary psychoanalytic theorists such as Anna Freud and Edward Abelin have changed the focus of the identification theory to include the roles of both parents. Their commentary now indicates research interest in the qualitative differences between the mother-child and father-child relationships (Lamb, 1981).
In support of this stance, Machtlinger (cited in Lamb, 1981) noted the importance of psychoanalysis as seeing the father as important by virtue of his role within the family system. This current and integrated investigative approach to the study of fatherhood looks at how the "father's influence weaves itself into the fabric of child development" (Lamb, 1983, p. 1). Fathers are no longer seen as a mere biological necessity. They are now seen as having an important influence on their children's development (Green, 1976; Parke, 1981).

Summary

Within the last decade, attitudes towards the father's role in child development have changed and researchers now consider paternal influence as significant. Researchers have shown that the father does have an effect on child development and resultant adult psychological adjustment, both directly and indirectly, by virtue of his interaction with the family as a whole.

Father's Role in Male Personality Development

Socialization

The quality of the relationship between the father and the son has been shown to affect the child's social interaction with other adults. Five-month-old male infants who had more contact with their fathers were friendlier to strangers (Pedersen, Rubenstein, & Yarrow, 1979).
The father-son relationship has also been found to have an effect upon subsequent relationships with others (Biller, 1974; Spelke, Zelazo, & Kotelchuck, 1973). Studies of older boys with absent fathers suggest that fathers do affect their son's peer relationships. Father-absent children from the age of 4 to 8 years old had poorer peer relationships than father-present boys (Parke, 1981). Both Lamb (1981) and Parke (1981) attribute these findings to the lack of father's interaction as a play partner for their sons and because of the unavailability of the modeling situation involved in this activity.

Other studies have shown that a father's interest and consistent involvement with his son contributes to the son's development of self-confidence and self-esteem. Coopersmith (1967) and Rosenberg (1965) found that paternal involvement in limit-setting and the father's availability were associated with high self-esteem. Adolescent males whose fathers were absent had lower self-esteem than father-present boys.

Sex-Role Identification

The importance of the father's role in the sex-role development of his sons has been studied extensively. Some theories stress the importance of the son's imitating or modeling the father's masculine behaviors (Biller, 1971). Longitudinal research indicates that the relationship a son has with his father can have a significant impact on his sex-role identity and consequently his overall life satisfaction (Levinson, 1978; Vaillant, 1977). For example, in a study
by Sears, Mussen, and Moulton (cited in Hamachek, 1978), they found that "boys of fathers who were warm, affectionate, nurturing and available tended to be more closely identified with their fathers and to engage in more sex-role appropriate behavior than boys whose fathers were more distant and cold" (p. 155).

In another study, Sears et al. (cited in Hamachek, 1978) also found that boys who behaved more effeminately were likely to come from homes where the mother, not the father, was seen as high in warmth. Paternal warmth appeared to be a factor in sex-role identification since it allowed the child to be emotionally close to their father, a prerequisite to becoming like the parent.

Biller (1982), in his summary of the research studies related to fatherhood, stated that in 1963 Mussen and Rutherford duplicated Sear's 1953 study and reported similar findings. He also credited Bandura and Walter (1959) and studies done by Bronson in 1959, Distler in 1964, Mussen in 1961, and Payne and Mussen in 1956 with research which supports Sear's findings, suggesting that paternal nurturance is related to a boy's masculinity and/or similarity to his father.

More recent studies by Biller (1971, 1981) report that perceived father nurturance is related to sex-role identification and masculinity. According to Biller, the quality of the relationship appears to be an important influence on the boy's masculine development. Also, if the boy's father is not consistently involved in the family, it is more difficult for his son to learn traditionally masculine behaviors such as assertiveness, independence, and competence. These
studies serve to confirm the validity of the finding of earlier researchers regarding paternal involvement as a prerequisite for male sex-role identity.

**Summary**

The paternal relationship has been shown to affect the son's social development as well as his sex-role identity. A positive father-son interaction contributes to the son's development of self-confidence and self-esteem. The son's peer relationships and the ability to cope with new and unfamiliar situations have also been associated with the father-son interactions. In addition to the effects upon social development, studies have shown that the father-son relationship has an effect on the son's later sex-role identity and masculine development. Consistent paternal involvement has been shown to promote the son's attainment of the traditionally masculine characteristics of assertiveness, independence, and competence. Also, a father's nurturance and warmth promote the son's ability to imitate his father and become "like" him. In general, the father-son relationship has been shown to influence both appropriate male sex-role identification and social adjustment which have been found to promote overall life satisfaction in adulthood.
Father's Role in Female Development

Socialization

Most of the research dealing with paternal influence and the child's personality development has focused on the father-son relationship. However, the quality and quantity of fathering can affect girls' personality development as well as boys' (Biller, 1971, 1974; Biller & Weiss, 1970). Fish and Biller (1973) found that girls who perceived their fathers as nurturant and positively interested scored high on the Adjective Checklist personal adjustment scale. Conversely, subjects who perceived their fathers as rejecting scored low on this personal adjustment measure (Biller, 1982).

The father-daughter relationship has also been found to influence the daughter's later heterosexual relationships. Fathers have been shown to be of particular importance in helping girls learn to interact with males (Parke, 1981). Hetherington's 1972 study, "Effects of Father-Absence on Personality Development in Adolescent Daughters," found that father-absent girls reported being very insecure with males. In a longitudinal extension of her research, Hetherington also found evidence that suggested the continuing influence of father-absence on adult female personality development (Hetherington & Parke, 1979). Though Hetherington's studies dealt with the quantity of the fathering relationship versus the quality, they do appear to confirm the notion that paternal involvement does affect the daughter's later social adjustment.
Biller (1982) has cited studies done by Nakamura and Rogers in 1969 and Osofsky and Oldfield in 1971 which have linked the father-daughter relationship with the daughter's dependence and independence. There is some evidence that fathers, more than mothers, reward and, therefore, foster dependence in daughters. Biller (1982) also stated that Moore in 1965 found that a father's interest in his daughter has been associated with her independence and his warmth has been inversely associated with dependence. Maternal rejection, accompanied by high interest of the fathers in their daughters, was associated with independence in girls. Grossman (1965), who limited his doctoral research to school behaviors, reported that father's warmth and his daughter's dependence were negatively related. This review of research confirms that the influence fathers can have upon female personality development and socialization is variable and is significant.

**Sex-Role Identification**

Much of the impact of the father-daughter relationship has been related to the girl's feminine development. Fathers can foster a positive feminine sex-role identification by treating his daughter as a female and by encouraging her to value femininity. Fathers differentiate their "masculine" roles from their daughter's "feminine" roles by what types of behaviors they reward as being appropriate for their daughters (Biller, 1971, 1981). Biller (1971), summarizing Heilbrun's 1965 study which examined familiar antecedents of sex-role behaviors, stated that:
Fathers are more proficient (than mothers) in differentiating between their male and female children. Fathers systematically vary their sex-role as they relate to male and female offspring. The more a father participates in constructive interplay with his daughter, and the more this interaction involves the opportunity for her to learn specific behaviors defining her feminine role the more adequate will be her sex-role development. (p. 107)

Other studies done by Mussen and Rutherford, published in 1963, and Sears, Rau, & Alpert, published in 1965, summarized by Biller (1982), found that fathers of highly feminine girls encouraged their daughters in more sex-typed activities than the fathers of unfeminine girls; and the father's expectations of the daughter's participation in feminine activities correlated significantly with the girl's femininity.

More recent studies have found that fathers also may tend to over "feminize" their daughters. Often the fathers' rigid sex-role stereotypes cause them to negatively influence the development of intellectual and physical competence; characteristics thought to be masculine (Biller & Meredith, 1974). Biller (1971) also found that a father may reject his daughter if her behaviors and/or physical appearance do not fit with his conception of femininity. Or, on the other hand, fathers may foster masculine behaviors if they have no son and tend to treat their daughter as a boy. The father then reinforces masculine-type behaviors (Biller, 1974; Green, 1976).

Sex-role identification and the father's influence have also been associated with a successful marriage relationship. Women who had experienced a warm affectionate relationship with a father who encourages her positive feminine development were found to have a
successful heterosexual relationship (Appleton, 1981; Biller, 1974; Green, 1976).

It appears that inadequate fathering can hamper a girl's general personality development and create difficulties in her feminine development; and in most cases, at least a moderate level of paternal involvement is important in the girl's feminine development (Biller, 1971, 1982).

The Washington Post summarized Fields's (1983) concept of this influence in more general terms:

Her father's imprint marks a woman's identity for all time—her sense of self, her work, her love relationships, her understanding of the sexual differences. His effect varies at different stages of her life, but the important qualities of psychological development are strongly influenced by the first man in a woman's life. These qualities include trust, autonomy, ambition, initiative, and an expanding capacity for intimacy. A father's absence, coldness, or cruelty is no less crucial as an adverse effect, fostering mistrust of others, dependence, self-doubt, and a sense of inferiority in the marketplace, and a contracting capacity for intimacy, love and ultimately, happiness in marriage. (p. 5)

Summary

The cited literature seems to confirm the notion that fathers do indeed influence their daughters' psychological development. It has been found that nurturance and positive paternal involvement is a precursor to psychologically well adjusted adult females. This father-daughter relationship has been shown to influence women's heterosexual relationship as well as the measure of dependence or independence attained in adulthood.
As noted, other closely related studies have shown that a father can also be instrumental in the sex-role identification of the female offspring. Some research even suggests that the father, more than the mother, is more overtly influential in directing their daughter's behavior by their own concept of femininity.

Female Alcoholism

Three theories of female alcoholism are prevalent in the current literature: the dependency theory, the power theory, and the sex-role confusion theory. These three theories speak to the issue of sex-role conflict or to a woman's dependency needs, which could be viewed as a feminine characteristic. Since there is no generally accepted theory of the etiology of female alcoholism, all three warrant study (Beckman, 1975).

Dependency Theory

McCord, McCord, and Gudeman (1960) gave major importance in the etiology of alcoholism to the conflicts surrounding dependency needs. This theory is primarily based upon research with male alcoholics. They claimed that alcoholics have a repressed and unresolved need for maternal care. From this male based data, they went on to suggest that women in this society are less restricted in satisfying their dependency needs and are, therefore, less motivated to seek artificial gratification through alcohol use. If women do turn to alcohol, they concluded that they must have extremely intense dependency needs.
and conflicts. However, this theory of female alcoholism remains unsubstantiated by research.

**Power Theory**

The power theory of alcoholism proposed by McClelland, Davis, Kalin, and Wanner (1972) claimed that the need for power, not dependency, was at the crux of alcoholism. Their data, which again was based upon male alcoholics, showed that alcoholics drink to feel more powerful and stronger. The proponents of the power theory have assumed that women who drink heavily also do so to feel more powerful and, therefore, are assuming a masculine role. This is the female way of showing they can do anything as well as men (Beckman, 1975).

**Sex-Role Confusion Theory**

The most recent and most thoroughly researched theory of the etiology of female alcoholism is the sex-role confusion/conflict theory. Through empirical studies, Homiller (1977) and Bauer (1982) have found that some characteristic similarities do exist in the families of origin of female alcoholics. One of these is the prevalence of alcoholism in the fathers of alcoholic women (Homiller, 1977). Beckman (1975) cites numerous research studies related to sex-role identity and female alcoholism. The Beckman research review included studies done by Lisansky in 1957; Curlee in 1968; Mogar, Wilson, and Helm in 1970; and Wilsnack in 1973. Such studies either imply or state that alcoholic women have problems with feminine identification, role confusion, inadequate feminine identity, or that
these women identify with the masculine role model.

Beckman (1975) stated that Wilsnak's study published in 1973, entitled, "The Needs of the Female Drinker: Dependence, Power or What?" compared matched groups of alcoholic and nonalcoholic women and found that:

Not only were the alcoholics more masculine and assertive on a measure of sex-role style, but they were more masculine than non-alcoholics on a measure of unconscious preverbal sex-role identity, the Franck Drawing Test, i.e., their drawings were more like the drawings of men. (p. 811)

According to Beckman (1975), Wilsnak (1973) also provided some data showing women alcoholics unconsciously doubt their "womanliness" and drink to feel more feminine. Wilsnak defined "womanliness" by measuring increased imagery on the Thematic Apperception Test stories. She found that women whose fantasies when sober displayed relatively forceful masculine need for power seemed to find drinking particularly rewarding and these subjects were more likely to be heavy drinkers.

In a recent article, presented in the Encyclopedic Handbook of Alcoholism, Wilsnak (1982) summarized these findings by stating that sex-role conflicts may contribute to drinking in two ways: It can reduce the tensions and stresses related to sex-role performance, and it can express or symbolize the rejection of the traditionally feminine role.

Beckman (1975), in reviewing the social and psychological studies pertaining to women alcoholics, found support for Wilsnak's (1982) findings. Based upon the findings of the studies done by Wood
and Duffy in 1966, Kinsey in 1966, Lisansky in 1957, and Driscoll and Barr in 1972, Beckman stated that sex-role confusion would not be a surprising characteristic for the female alcoholic since many of their case histories include a domineering, emotionally distant mother and a weak, passive, often alcoholic father. She then went on to theorize that given what is known about parental influence and sex-role identity, this parental pattern, in which both parents deviate from the traditional sex-role behaviors could account for a disruption in the development of a daughter's feminine sex-role identification.

Two studies of alcoholic women (Bauer, 1982; Sandmaier, 1980) have reported parental characteristics similar to those Beckman (1975) reported as being prevalent in Wilsnak's study published in 1973. Though these studies do not speak directly to the issue of sex-role identity problems, they do imply that cross-sexed modeling or identification may occur for alcoholic women when mothers are cold, rejecting, and/or distant. The alcoholic women studied by Sandmaier saw their mothers as hostile and rejecting, and according to the researcher, consequently gravitated toward their fathers. The women in Bauer's study saw their fathers similarly as the one parental supplier of warmth and affection. These women also reportedly viewed themselves "a lot like dad" (p. 93), because neither father nor daughter was able to please mother. Both researchers saw this father-daughter relationship as a possible connection between the high incidence of alcoholism in women whose fathers were also alcoholic.
There is also evidence, according to Sandmaier (1980), that female offspring are more influenced by drinking habits of their parents. Therefore, daughters who identified with an alcoholic father, viewing themselves as like persons, put themselves in the precarious position of seeking affection from persons who abused alcohol to solve their own serious personal problems and were able to provide love and security only on an inconsistent basis contingent upon their level of alcohol intake.

Sandmaier (1980) saw this paternal identification in relation to the maternal rejection as a source for the sex-role conflict and existence of cross-sexed modeling which appears to be prevalent in alcoholic women. He stated:

Since many of them have rejected their mothers and identified with their father, their parental role models are likely to be male rather than female. . . . Also, few of these women have ever consistently been accepted as they are by either parent, and are thus ill-equipped to develop identities on the basis of real self-knowledge and self-respect. (p. 95)

Both Sandmaier (1980) and Wilsnack (1973) saw the temporary resolution of the sex-role conflict by the use of alcohol as a central issue in female alcoholism.

Summary

The dependency and power theories of female alcoholism are merely extensions of theories dealing with male alcoholics and are unsubstantiated by research data. The third, sex-role confusion theory, has been studied in more depth. There are obvious limitations to the research findings reported to date. Many of the
research studies dealing with sex-role identity and its relationship to female alcoholism only imply an association, leaving the reader to make one's own decisions as to how they relate. Wilsnack's 1973 published study, presented by Beckman (1975), and Sandmaier's 1980 study are more concrete, with supporting research data, but the sample population variables were not well defined, nor were the sample populations large enough to generalize the findings. It seems their data serve as incentive for further research rather than as confirmation of theory.

Review Summary

The review of the literature outlined the historical perspectives impacting current thinking about the role fathers play in child development. The psychoanalytic theories of child development saw the mother as the important parent and all but ignored the father. This type of thinking existed through the 1950s when John Bowlby's (1976) attachment theory was presented.

In the 1960s, researchers challenged Bowlby's attachment theory and found that the child's attachment was not always to its mother as Bowlby (1976) had predicted. These findings served to promote further research into paternal influence. However, most of the research generated in the 1960s dealt with paternal influence in relation to male development. Fathers were shown to have an effect on their son's personality development in the areas of socialization and sex-role identity, among others.
In the 1970s, researchers began studying the father-daughter relationship and found that the paternal relationship is also an important factor in a female's personality development. As the first male with which a female child has to interact, she learns how to deal with later heterosexual relationships. She also forms a part of her self-concept as a woman based upon the paternal interactions as a child.

The three theories of female alcoholism reviewed within this study all indicate that there is a relationship between sex-role identity or conflict and heavy drinking in women. None of the three theories has been well substantiated. The power theory and the dependency theories are both based upon research conducted with solely male subjects; female versions are strictly theoretical. The third theory, sex-role confusion theory, is supported by some empirical data, but it is very limited.

The empirical data that do exist show that the family of origin of female alcoholics do have similar characteristics. Mothers were described as cold and rejecting and fathers were seen as the one source of warmth and affection for the child. This implies then that there was an interruption in the same-sexed modeling process and sex-role identity formation and, therefore, conflict resulted.
CHAPTER III

METHOD

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there is an association between the perceived paternal relationship and female alcoholism. The method utilized to test the hypothesis and to collect the data pertaining to the paternal relationship will be presented. The null hypothesis for this study was: There will be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their father, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F. This chapter will (a) identify the sample population and subjects, (b) present the rationale for the choice and utilization of testing instruments, (c) delineate the procedures employed to gather the data, and (d) describe the procedures to be used in analyzing the data.

Population and Subjects

The sample of alcoholic women included in this research study was drawn from two populations of alcoholic women: clients served by the Alcohol Outpatient Services, Inc., in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and clients utilizing the Clarion County Counseling Center in Clarion, Pennsylvania. The Alcohol Outpatient Services, Inc., was chosen because of the existence of an established female clientele who were in treatment for alcoholism. Another factor which was instrumental in the selection of the Grand Rapids Alcohol Outpatient Services,
Inc., was the accessibility afforded to this investigator. A faculty member within the Department of Counseling and Personnel, Western Michigan University, was a member of the Services consulting staff; personal contacts could be made to assure the Outpatient Services Director of the integrity of the researcher, and supportive information could be presented regarding the maintenance of strict confidentiality, an issue which is extremely important when undertaking research with alcoholics. The Clarion County Counseling Center was also selected because of the services it provides for the treatment of alcoholics and it was a facility which could furnish this investigator with subjects previously diagnosed as female alcoholics. Accessibility was gained through professional contacts made through the Counseling and Career Planning Center at Clarion University, Clarion, Pennsylvania.

Thirty subjects were selected from the Alcohol Outpatient Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. These 30 subjects, chosen by computerized random numbers draw, were taken from the total population of the Services' diagnosed female alcoholics who were over the age of 18.

The 10 subjects drawn from the Clarion County Counseling Center were identified by the Center's Director. His selections were based upon the criteria provided to him by the investigator. The female subjects had to be diagnosed alcoholics, over the age of 18, caucasian, and they had to be raised by their biological parents.

Of the total 40 women identified for this research study, 18 subjects were used for the actual statistical analysis. The criteria
used to select these 18 women are as follows: (a) over the age of 18, (b) previously diagnosed by Center personnel as alcoholic, (c) caucasian, (d) raised by biological parents, (e) availability of a completed Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F, (f) provision of complete biographical data, and (g) a recorded score of six or more on the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST).

The biographical data solicited included: (a) age; (b) race; (c) income; and (d) parental structure while growing up, i.e., biological parents, stepparents, and other (Appendix F). The biographical data solicited were used to eliminate parentage variables which may be influential in the etiology of female alcoholism. Only women who were raised by their biological parents were used for this study. The biographical data were also used to match the alcoholic women with control group women in order to maintain the homogeneity of the alcoholic and nonalcoholic groups.

The reasons for the rejection of the 22 subjects will be delineated. From the Grand Rapids sample, 5 subjects did not return the survey materials. Two of the women in the alcoholic sample population scored less than six on the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test and, therefore, were not considered alcoholic as defined in this research study. One subject in the alcoholic sample provided no income information, no ethnic designation, and she was not raised by biological parents. One subject omitted all biographical information. One subject presented confusing and inconsistent parental data but was determined to be unacceptable for this researcher's purposes since neither parent was a biological parent. Three subjects were
not used because they were raised by one or more stepparents. One subject was rejected because of her adoption at 3 days of age, which then negated the matching criteria of being raised by biological parents.

From the Clarion County Counseling Center sample, 2 subjects were included in the statistical analysis. Of the 10 subjects selected by the Center's Director, 3 returned necessary informational data forms. One was excluded because she was not raised by biological parents.

Both samples were parallel in matching the criteria. An examination of the raw score data revealed that the score ranges and means were sufficiently similar to join the two subsamples thus forming one sample for the study.

The control group was selected on an individual basis by this investigator. The criteria used for selection were (a) over the age of 18, (b) caucasian, (c) nonalcoholic as determined by the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test, (d) income which placed the subject within same socioeconomic group as their alcoholic counterpart, (e) reared by biological parents, (f) complete biographical data, and (g) complete survey materials.

Control group subjects were matched with alcoholic subjects using biographical data provided by the subjects. Control's income had to fall within the same income category as their alcoholic counterpart. Income brackets used were those set by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census for 1982-1983 (Appendix E). Controls were also matched with the alcoholic subject
by age. Controls were no more than 5 years older or younger than their alcoholic counterpart. Control subjects were also matched by ethnic group. In this sample, all alcoholic subjects used were caucasian and, therefore, all controls were necessarily caucasian.

Finally, control group subjects were screened for the existence of biological parents in the family of origin. This criterion was imposed by this investigator in order to eliminate one more statistical variable. All participants were voluntary. Thirteen of the nonalcoholic controls selected were recruited from faculty/staff/students at James Madison University and from the general community of Harrisonburg, Virginia. One participant was drawn from the Clarion, Pennsylvania, area. One was solicited from Houston, Texas. Two were included from the Kalamazoo, Michigan, area. One was recruited from the Dekalb, Illinois, area.

Instruments

**Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test**

The Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST) was developed by Selzer in 1971 (Appendix A). The instrument was devised to "provide a consistent, quantifiable, structured interview instrument to detect alcoholism that could be rapidly administered by nonprofessional as well as professional personnel" (Selzer, 1971b, p. 90). Many of the 25 questions included within the questionnaire were taken from other investigators' alcoholism detection surveys (Selzer, 1971b). In order to test the validity of the instrument, Selzer administered the
test to five groups: hospitalized alcoholics, persons convicted of drunk driving, persons convicted of drunk and disorderly conduct, drivers whose licenses were under review, and a control group. A review of independent evidence of problem drinking was made in every medical facility and social agency where the respondents and their families were clients. Information regarding public drunkenness and drunk driving arrest records was investigated. From these medical and criminal records, the instrument was found to be reasonably valid. However, 15 of the respondents who were alcoholic were not detected. These omissions led to the analysis of the screening failures and revision of the test to reduce the number of false negatives. Even with these revisions, the questionnaire is susceptible to the respondent's falsification.

The MAST has been used for alcoholism research purposes as a screening and classification device. When applied appropriately, clinical confirmation has been used in conjunction with the instrument. It was employed in this research study in a similar way. It was chosen after reviewing its research background and after discussions regarding its usefulness at the Midwest Michigan Alcoholism Center at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Efforts were also made to contact its author, to further discuss its uses, validity, and reliability; but no response was received.

The MAST consists of 23 "yes or no" questions (Appendix A). It is a self-administered paper and pencil test. Categories of questions asked are: (a) perceptions of personal drinking habits, (b) family and friends' perceptions of respondent's drinking habits,
(c) employment problems related to alcohol use, (d) physical problems related to alcohol use, and (e) driving/criminal arrests emanating from alcohol use.

Using the scoring criteria set forth by Selzer (1971b), anyone who obtains a total of six or more points is considered alcoholic; Selzer devised a weighted scoring system which was utilized in this research study.

On the basis of a visual analysis of the percentage distributions of the responses of the hospitalized alcoholics and controls, as well as clinical knowledge of the alcoholism syndrome, the most discriminatory questions were given greater weight as reflected in the point system. In general, questions that were highly discriminating were given a value of two points and others were assigned a one point value. An alcoholic response to question 9, 20, or 21 was considered diagnostic and was assigned a value of five points. A scoring system was formulated that yielded a minimum number of false positives (controls who scored above the criterion levels) and a minimum number of false negatives (hospitalized alcoholics who scored below the criterion levels). A score of three points or less was considered nonalcoholic, a score of four or five points was suggestive of alcoholism, and a score of six points or more indicated alcoholism. (p. 90)

Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F

The Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F (Appendix B) was developed by Itkin in 1955. It was Itkin's premise that attitudes of acceptance and rejection, dominance and submissiveness have an important bearing upon the personality development and the behavior of the children. He then set out to construct a test which would measure these attitudes. Provisional scales were distributed to 83 students at Northwestern University. These provisional scales were then subjected to an item analysis and the least differentiating
items were eliminated. Accuracy was validated by student and parent interviews and self-ratings. The data suggest that very good validity is possessed by the scale. The validation studies done revealed that attitude scores on "Forms F correlated -.70 with self-ratings" (Shaw & Wright, 1967, p. 421). According to Shaw and Wright (1967), the test has a "split half reliability of .917 (corrected to .956) for Form F, based upon the responses of 311 students" (p. 421).

Though the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F is relatively obscure, Shaw and Wright (1967), in Scales for the Measurement of Attitudes, stated that the evidence indicates that the Attitude Toward Parents Scale is reliable and reasonably valid, even though the test has not been widely used. In their view, it can be recommended for research. Efforts were made to contact the instrument's author to obtain more information about how the test had been used. No response was received. A computer search was also employed in an effort to uncover related data. It revealed no new sources not currently available to the investigator. Even with its limited use, the test was chosen because an extensive search for an instrument which related to attitudes toward fathers disclosed that instrumentation for research in this area is extremely limited.

The scale is a paper and pencil test which contains 35 items. Eleven of these are "true or false" questions. Eight are multiple choice items and 16 items require the subject to rate given personality traits on a 5-point Likert scale. Each response has been assigned a numerical value and was scored by summing the values for
each item marked. A high score indicated a favorable attitude toward the subject's paternal relationship.

Procedure

**Grand Rapids, Michigan, Sample**

The staff counselors for the Alcohol Outpatient Services, Inc., were responsible for the administration of the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test and for the Attitude Toward Parents Scale--Form F. Survey materials were supplied by this investigator to the Director of the Outpatient Services. Instructions for the administration of the tests were given verbally to the Director. He in turn discussed the purpose of the research and the directions for administration with his staff. Tests were then distributed to the 30 subjects chosen by the subjects' treatment counselor. The data were to be gathered at the Services site when the subjects were attending their regularly scheduled session. The staff returned the completed surveys and biographical data sheets to the Director, who then forwarded the data to this investigator.

The manner of data collection employed may have varied, since the survey and instrument were not administered by the researcher. The problems related to this form of data collection were recognized and extraordinary efforts were made to explain, within the test materials, how the test was to be taken; making self-administration possible with a minimum of counselor involvement. Because of the guarded accessibility to client confidential information, this system
of data collection was necessary. This reliance upon a third party also proved to be a slow process and data collection spanned a 9-month period.

**Clarion County Counseling Center Sample**

Survey and biographical data sheets were supplied by this investigator to the Director of the Clarion County Counseling Center. The Director was extremely wary of disclosing client names to this investigator and even though he agreed to allow the research, he insisted upon assigning client numbers to the returned survey materials so that the participants would remain anonymous. Signed consent forms were kept at the Center so that the researcher was never exposed to client names.

Under these circumstances, the Director then drafted a letter to include with the data sheets explaining the research study and its use (Appendix D). The cover letter and the data sheets were then mailed to those clients who the Director felt met the research study's criteria. Materials were completed in the subject's home and were to be returned by mail to the Director. Materials returned were then collected personally by the investigator. Of the 10 identified female alcoholics who received the materials, 3 were returned.

**Nonalcoholic Sample**

Control group subjects were supplied with survey materials and biological data sheets by this investigator. Thirteen of the subjects received the forms directly from this investigator. Five
subjects received the materials by mail. Control subjects were asked to respond to the survey using the printed instructional information given on the biographical data sheet. Thus, the possibility of differential approaches in the administration procedure was minimized. This method of data collection also controlled for researcher/subject interaction. Completed forms were returned to this investigator either personally or by mail.

Analysis of Data

Mean differences were compared for significance through the use of a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The ANOVA was used to determine whether the differences among two or more means are greater than would be expected by chance alone. The ANOVA yields an accurate and known Type I error probability; and if the null hypothesis is false, it is likely to be rejected. It was employed in this research study because of its robustness and familiarity to the researcher and others who may review the study.

The dependent variable to be measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F (Itkin, 1955) was the subject's perceived paternal relationship. The independent variable was the alcoholic/nonalcoholic classification. The results are comparative in nature and were considered for significance at a .05 level.

Post Hoc Hypothesis

Data were also collected about the perceived maternal relationship. The maternal relationship data were not included in hypothesis.
testing, but a curiosity about the perceived maternal relationship arose in the course of this research study because the theories which portrayed the paternal relationship as a positive one, portrayed the maternal relationship as a cold and rejecting one.

Subjects were also administered the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M (Appendix C) to measure their perceptions of the relationship with their mothers. This scale is identical to Form F except for the substitution of the word mother for father.

Scoring procedures are identical to those used for Form F. Data were collected simultaneously to the data collection dealing with the paternal relationship. Results were analyzed by use of an ANOVA and will be presented in Chapter IV.

Summary

The purpose of this research study was to determine whether or not there are significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their fathers. Two samples were drawn from clientele being treated for alcoholism; one from Alcohol Outpatient Services, Inc., in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and one from the Clarion County Counseling Center in Clarion, Pennsylvania. Eighteen women were used in the final data analysis. These 18 women were selected using this study's inclusion criteria. They were: (a) over the age of 18, (b) previously diagnosed by Center personnel as alcoholic, (c) caucasian, (d) raised by biological parents, (e) availability of a completed Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F, (f) provision of complete biographical data, and (g) a recorded score
of six or more on the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST). Participants were asked to respond to the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F (Itkin, 1955). Surveys were scored by totaling weighted test answers. The higher the score the more favorable the perception of the paternal relationship. The data were then analyzed using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Mean differences were compared for significance at .05 level of confidence. A post hoc hypothesis which dealt with the female alcoholic’s maternal relationship was included in this study in order to test the adjunct theory which exposes the idea that the maternal relationship of female alcoholics was a cold and rejecting one. Procedures for data collection and analysis were identical to those used to study the paternal relationship. The Attitude Towards Parents Scale—Form M (Itkin, 1955) was used. This scale is identical to the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F except that where the word father appears in Form F, the word mother is substituted in Form M. Chapter IV will present the results of the hypothesis testing.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

This chapter includes the statistical analysis of the findings related to the research hypothesis. The study's null hypothesis is that there will be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their father, as measured by the Attitude Towards Parents Scale—Form F.

An analysis of the adjunct findings concerning the maternal relationship and female alcoholism is also summarized.

Analysis

This study concerned itself with the alcoholic woman's perception of her paternal relationship. In order to assess this relationship the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F was utilized. Scoring was done according to the system devised by Itkin (1955). A numerical value was assigned to each response as recommended by Shaw and Wright (1967). "The attitude score is the sum of the values for each item endorsed. The theoretical scores thus range from 46 to 164. A high score indicates a favorable attitude toward parents" (p. 420).

Scores were totaled for the individual alcoholic women and for the individual nonalcoholic controls. Each group total was then summed for utilization in the statistical treatment. The one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed to analyze the significance of the results. A .05 level of confidence was set.
The independent variable for this research study was the alcoholic and nonalcoholic classification of the subjects. The dependent variable was the perceived paternal relationship.

Results

The mean scores for both alcoholic and nonalcoholic subjects reflect a moderately positive attitude toward father. The statistical analysis of the mean scores is summarized in Table 1. The total N = 36.

Table 1

One-Way Analysis of Variance for Attitudes Toward Parents Scale—Form F for Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholic (N = 18)</td>
<td>100.6</td>
<td>13.22307</td>
<td>.7759</td>
<td>.3846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonalcoholic (N = 18)</td>
<td>112.3</td>
<td>12.49941</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows that there was no significant difference between the alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perceptions of their relationship with their father.

Analysis of the Hypothesis

The null hypothesis states that there will be no significant differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of
their relationship with their father, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F. In order to test this hypothesis a one-way analysis of the data was used to obtain mean differences. As shown in Table 1, the mean difference obtained was not significant at a .05 level of confidence. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. There were no significant differences between the alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perceptions of their relationship with their father.

Summary

This study was concerned with the alcoholic woman's perception of the paternal relationship. Two groups of 18 women were included in the study. Through the use of scores on the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST) as the criterion for classification, one group of 18 females was classified as alcoholic and one group of 18 females was classified as nonalcoholic. Both groups completed the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F. Individual scores were totaled for subjects in each group, and mean scores for each group were calculated. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to examine the difference between the group means. At the .05 level of confidence, no significant mean differences were found. Therefore, the study's null hypothesis was accepted. There were no significant mean differences between the alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their fathers, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F.
Post Hoc Hypothesis

In the course of this research investigation related to the primary hypothesis that there would be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their father, as measured by the Attitude Towards Parents Scale--Form F, an interest arose concerning the alcoholic women's perceived maternal relationship. The reviewed theories of female alcoholism either state or imply that the idealized perceptions of the paternal relationship are linked with a maternal relationship which is characterized as cold and rejecting. This investigator surveyed the same two groups of 18 women regarding their perceived paternal relationship in order to assess their perceptions of the maternal relationship. The post hoc hypothesis that was derived from the theories of female alcoholism presented in the study's literature review is:

H0: There will be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their mothers as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale--Form M (Itkin, 1955).

Analysis

The Attitude Toward Parents Scale--Form M was used to ascertain the maternal perceptions of the alcoholic and nonalcoholic subjects. Scoring was done according to the system presented by Itkin in 1955. The numerical value that each question is assigned was totaled to
obtain an individual total. Scores can theoretically range from 46 to 164. The higher the score, the more favorable the subject's attitude is toward her maternal relationship (Shaw & Wright, 1967).

Individual scores for the alcoholic and nonalcoholic groups were summed to find group totals and group means. The mean group scores were then analyzed for significant differences by use of a one-way analysis of variance. The level of confidence was set at a .05 level.

The dependent variable was the alcoholic and nonalcoholic's perceived maternal relationship. The independent variable was the alcoholic/nonalcoholic subject classifications.

Results

The results of the data analysis indicated that alcoholic women reported a significantly lower favorable relationship with their mothers than their nonalcoholic counterparts. The results of the statistical analysis are summarized in Table 2. The significant difference in group means led to a rejection of the null hypothesis.

Table 2 shows that there was a significant mean difference between the alcoholic and nonalcoholic groups.

Analysis of the Post Hoc Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was that there will be no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their mothers as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M. As shown in Table 2, a one-way
analysis of the mean differences showed that the difference was significant at a .05 level of confidence. Therefore, the post hoc null hypothesis was rejected. There were significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their mothers, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M. The nonalcoholic control group subjects perceived their maternal relationship as being more favorable than the alcoholic women.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>( \bar{X} )</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>( F )</th>
<th>( P )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholic (N = 18)</td>
<td>117.2</td>
<td>20.09756</td>
<td>4.215*</td>
<td>.0478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonalcoholic (N = 18)</td>
<td>131.2</td>
<td>21.60126</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at a .05 level.

Summary

The post hoc hypothesis about perceived maternal relationship was formed as a result of a review of theories about female alcoholism. These theories characterized the maternal relationship of alcoholic women as cold and rejecting.

In order to test this post hoc hypothesis the alcoholic and nonalcoholic groups who were surveyed about their perceptions of the
paternal relationship were also administered the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M (Itkin, 1955). A total group score was found for each group by summing the individual subjects survey scores and calculating means for each group. These means were analyzed for significant differences by a one-way analysis of variance.

At a .05 level of confidence the results were significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there are no significant mean differences between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their relationship with their mothers, as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M, was rejected. Alcoholic women perceived their relationship with their mothers less favorably than did nonalcoholic women.
CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there is an association between perceived paternal relationship and female alcoholism.

Review of the Literature

A review of the literature dealing with studies about paternal influence revealed a significant impact on both male and female personality development. The father's effect upon his son's psychological makeup has been studied extensively. Lamb (1981) stated that one of the earliest characterizations of the father-son relationship was presented by Freud, who believed that sons identify with their fathers because of their fear of being punished if they identify too closely with their mothers. Presumably, the father would not hurt someone who was like himself. This theory not only served to characterize the father-son relationship, but it also promoted the idea that fathers are not as direct an influence as mothers in the personality development of their sons. Instead, their more indirect role serves to weaken the mother-son relationship. Lamb (1981) also credited other psychoanalytic theorists such as Jung and Meerloo who perpetuated Freud's concept of the paternal role in personality development.
growth for both sons and daughters. They too saw the father's role as a counteractive one, reducing the influence of the mother-child relationship.

Both Lamb (1981) and Parke (1981) suggested that Bowlby's (1976) theory on maternal deprivation also influenced the perception of the role of the father. Bowlby theorized that the child's attachment to one person was predictable and that this one person was the mother. Lamb went on to cite studies by later researchers, such as Schaffer and Emerson, who challenged the psychoanalytic and attachment theories and began to question the predictability of the mother-child attachment. From these challenges, social learning theorists found that imitation or identification could occur across sexes. Daughters could possibly identify with fathers, and sons could identify with their mothers. This concept of cross-sex parent-child attachments gave rise to the study of the father-daughter relationship. Fathers were then thought of as being influential in the development of the feminine self-concept as well as being a sex role model for their sons.

These later findings promoted further study of the female's sex role development, and the possibility of sex role confusion and/or conflict when daughters identify with and idealize their fathers. Wilsnack's (1973) research found such conflict prevalent in alcoholic women and theorized that alcoholic women drink to relieve the anxiety surrounding this internal conflict over sex role identity.

Some empirical studies (Bauer, 1982; Sandmaier, 1980) seemed to confirm Wilsnack's assertions. Though the research was limited by
small sample sizes, it was found that alcoholic women seemed to idealize their fathers and sought warmth and support from them. Their mothers were seen as cold and rejecting. Given these family dynamics, the sex role conflict theory of alcoholism arose. Since the mothers of the alcoholic women in Wilsnack's study rejected their daughters, the daughters were forced to seek affection from their fathers. In doing so, cross-sexed modeling occurred and later resulted in sex role conflict or confusion for the women. To relieve the tension surrounding this confusion, the women turned to alcohol. This sex role conflict theory of female alcoholism and its components were the rationale for this research study.

Research Method

In an effort to test the sex role conflict theory more thoroughly, this research study surveyed two groups, each comprised of 18 women. Through scores obtained on the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST), one group was defined as alcoholic and one group was categorized as nonalcoholic. Both groups were surveyed concerning attitudes toward parents. The perceived paternal relationship was used in hypothesis testing. Data were also gathered relating to the perceptions of the maternal relationship and the results acted as a relevant adjunct to this study. As a result of the information gathered and the statistical analysis of that data, certain trends can be suggested. The research outcomes also provide the basis for recommendations for further research efforts.
Research Results

The research results, presented in Chapter IV, would support this study's null hypothesis. At a .05 level of confidence, there was no significant difference in the alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's perception of their paternal relationship as measured by the Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F (Itkin, 1955). Both alcoholic and nonalcoholic women surveyed had similar perceptions of their relationship with their fathers. These findings suggest the need for a closer examination of the theories put forth by previously identified researchers which claim that alcoholic women tend to idealize and identify with their fathers. When compared with the paternal perceptions of nonalcoholic women, the research results of this study would suggest that the father-daughter relationship as measured by the Attitudes Toward Parents Scale—Form F does not differentiate alcoholic from nonalcoholic women.

Recommendations for Further Research

Since the sample size of this study, not unlike similar research studies, was small, it is not possible to reject the idea that an idealized father-daughter relationship might be an adequate indicator of sex role conflict among female alcoholics. However, it does suggest that there may be cause and justification for more in-depth study of the topic.

In order to continue the necessary research, investigators need to consider both methodological and content questions. Content
questions include: (a) what explains a moderately positive paternal relationship among alcoholics and nonalcoholics, and (b) what other indicators of sex role conflict might differentiate alcoholics from nonalcoholics. Methodological questions include: (a) how can researcher/interviewer bias be eliminated during data collection, and (b) how can sample sizes be increased to allow for greater generalization of research findings.

These same factors must also be considered before additional in-depth studies of the maternal relationship are initiated. Though the data gathered on the mother-daughter relationship was not used in hypothesis testing, the statistical analysis yielded support for the sex role conflict theory as a characterization of the female alcoholic's maternal relationship. The alcoholic women in this study saw their mothers in a less favorable light than the nonalcoholic women. A comparison of the mean differences for the two groups was significant at a .05 level of confidence. As with the survey of the paternal relationship, broad generalizations cannot be generated from these findings. However, the research results do suggest a trend which needs to be investigated more thoroughly.

Summation

In summary, the findings of this research study appear to contradict other current research findings which suggest that alcoholic women tend to idealize and identify with their fathers, and experience resultant sex role conflict which is relieved by the use of alcohol. No such tendency was ascertained. Though scores were not
clearly negative, the less positive maternal relationships characterized by the alcoholic women in this study do suggest that the theory may apply to the mother-daughter relationship among alcoholics.

Since the Attitudes Toward Parents Scale was not sensitive to sex-role conflict, this study did not address this issue. More direct measures of the existence of sex-role conflict in alcoholic women are needed since the theories assume this conflict is present. Confirmation that this conflict exists within alcoholic women should precede future research studies.

This researcher also recommends that future research employ a different statistical treatment of the data. Individual scores should be analyzed separately in order to determine the distance between the score obtained for the subject's father and the score obtained for the subject's mother. The score distances should then be compared with the score range of the subject's nonalcoholic counterpart. This comparison would then more accurately portray differences and/or similarities between alcoholic and nonalcoholic women's parental attitudes.

It would be highly desirable to expand current research efforts in order to define further the effects of both maternal and paternal relationships in the etiology of female alcoholism. Larger sample sizes need to be studied before the theory can be confirmed, modified, or refuted. The results of this study confirm the need to generate further in-depth research on the sex-role conflict theory of female alcoholism.
APPENDICES
Appendix A

Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test
MICHIGAN ALCOHOLISM SCREENING TEST (MAST)

0. Do you enjoy a drink now and then? 

1. Do you feel you are a normal drinker? 
   (By normal we mean you drink less than or as much as most other people.)

2. Have you ever awakened the morning after some drinking the night before and found that you could not remember a part of the evening?

3. Does your wife, husband, a parent, or other near relative ever worry or complain about your drinking?

4. Can you stop drinking without a struggle after one or two drinks?

5. Do you ever feel guilty about your drinking?

6. Do friends or relatives think you are a normal drinker?

7. Are you able to stop drinking when you want to?

8. Have you ever attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)?

9. Have you gotten into physical fights when drinking?

10. Has drinking ever created problems between you and your wife, husband, a parent, or other near relative?

11. Has your wife, husband, (or other family members) ever gone to anyone for help about your drinking?

12. Have you ever lost friends because of your drinking?
13. Have you ever gotten into trouble at work because of drinking?

14. Have you ever lost a job because of drinking?

15. Have you ever neglected your obligations, your family, or your work for two or more days in a row because you were drinking?

16. Do you drink before noon fairly often?

17. Have you ever been told you have liver trouble? Cirrhosis?

18. After heavy drinking have you ever had Delirium Tremens (D.T.'s) or severe shaking, or heard voices or seen things that really weren't there?

19. Have you ever gone to anyone for help about your drinking?

20. Have you ever been a patient in a psychiatric hospital or on a psychiatric ward of a general hospital where drinking was part of the problem that resulted in hospitalization?

21. Have you ever been seen at a psychiatric or mental health clinic or gone to any doctor, social worker, or clergyman for help with any emotional problem, where drinking was part of the problem?

22. Have you ever been arrested for drunk driving, driving while intoxicated, or driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages?

   (If yes, how many times? _____)

23. Have you ever been arrested, or taken into custody, even for a few hours, because of other drunk behavior?

   (If yes, how many times? _____)
Appendix B

Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form F
ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS
(Form F)

Directions, Part I:
Following is a list of statements which might be answered as true, false, or uncertain. If you believe the statement true of your father or your feelings toward your father, encircle the "True" in front of the statement; if false, encircle the "False"; and if your answer might be "Yes and No" or "Not Certain," encircle the "? ."

True ? False 1. I consider myself very close to my father.

True ? False 2. My father generally has good reasons for any requests he might make.

True ? False 3. I would like to be the same kind of a parent that my father has been.

True ? False 4. I believe that my father underestimates my ability.

True ? False 5. I believe my father finds fault with me more often than I deserve and seems never to be satisfied with anything I do.

True ? False 6. I believe that my father has insufficient respect for my opinions.

True ? False 7. In my estimation, my father is insufficiently interested in whether or not I have friends.

True ? False 8. In my judgment, my father did not treat me fairly when I was young.

True ? False 9. I believe that my father is one of the most admirable persons I know.

True ? False 10. My father has been one of the best friends I have ever had.
11. My father considers the rearing of his children his most important job in life.

Directions, Part II:
In each of the following you are given a preliminary statement which can be completed in any one of five ways or a question which can be answered in any one of five ways. Check whichever one of the alternative choices most closely approximates your own opinion or feeling.

12. My father . . .
   ______ (a) takes a very great interest in everything that concerns his children
   ______ (b) takes a moderate amount of interest in things which concern his children
   ______ (c) does not take very much interest in things which concern his children
   ______ (d) takes little interest in things which concern his children
   ______ (e) takes no interest in things which concern his children

13. I get along with my father . . .
   ______ (a) very well
   ______ (b) well
   ______ (c) fairly well
   ______ (d) not very well
   ______ (e) poorly

14. In regard to taking my father into my confidence, I . . .
   ______ (a) feel free to ask him intimate questions
   ______ (b) often ask him intimate questions
   ______ (c) sometimes ask him intimate questions
   ______ (d) rarely if ever ask him intimate questions
   ______ (e) wouldn't think of asking him any intimate questions

15. Check whichever of the following terms best describes your feelings toward your father.
   ______ (a) I idealize my father
   ______ (b) I admire my father
   ______ (c) I respect my father
   ______ (d) I do not particularly respect my father
   ______ (e) I do not respect my father at all
16. Check whichever of the following descriptions most nearly fits your father.

________ (a) is always critical of his children, and nothing his children do ever seems to please him
________ (b) is rather critical of his children, and is not often pleased by what his children do
________ (c) is not very critical of his children, but on the other hand, does not show particular pleasure at what his children do
________ (d) often shows pleasure at what his children do, and often praises them for their accomplishments
________ (e) very seldom complains about his children, and is liberal in his praise of them

17. I consider my father . . .

________ (a) always willing to think only the best of his children
________ (b) generally inclined to think well of his children
________ (c) neither inclined to think only well or only poorly of his children
________ (d) sometimes inclined to be critical of his children
________ (e) always ready to think only the worst of his children

18. My father . . .

________ (a) never does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
________ (b) seldom does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
________ (c) sometimes does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
________ (d) often does little things for his children to show affection or consideration
________ (e) is always doing little things for his children to show affection or consideration

19. In my opinion, my father . . .

________ (a) is so attached to his children that he wants to have them around all of the time
________ (b) enjoys spending some of his time with his children
________ (c) likes to spend a little of his time with his children
________ (d) does not like to spend time with his children
________ (e) dislikes very much spending any of his time with his children
Directions, Part III:
Following is a list of traits of personality. If in your opinion your father possesses a trait in a very great degree, encircle the "A" in front of the trait. If he possesses the trait to a greater than average degree, encircle the "B"; if he possesses the trait to about an average extent, encircle the "C"; if he possesses the trait to a less than average extent, encircle the "D"; and if he possesses the trait only to a very slight degree or not at all, encircle the "E" in front of the trait.

A B C D E 22. Helpful  A B C D E 30. Understanding
A B C D E 24. Considerate  A B C D E 32. Suspicious
A B C D E 25. Bossy  A B C D E 33. Sympathetic
A B C D E 26. Agreeable  A B C D E 34. Courteous
A B C D E 27. Kind  A B C D E 35. Trustful
Appendix C

Attitude Toward Parents Scale—Form M
ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS

(Form M)

Directions, Part I:

Following is a list of statements which might be answered as true, false, or uncertain. If you believe the statement true of your mother or your feelings toward your mother, encircle the "True" in front of the statement; if false, encircle the "False"; and if your answer might be "Yes and No" or "Not Certain," encircle the "?."
True  ?  False  11. My mother considers the rearing of her children her most important job in life.

Directions, Part II:
In each of the following you are given a preliminary statement which can be completed in any one of five ways or a question which can be answered in any one of five ways. Check whichever one of the alternative choices most closely approximates your own opinion or feeling.

12. My mother . . .
   ________ (a) takes a very great interest in everything that concerns her children
   ________ (b) takes a moderate amount of interest in things which concern her children
   ________ (c) does not take very much interest in things which concern her children
   ________ (d) takes little interest in things which concern her children
   ________ (e) takes no interest in things which concern her children

13. I get along with my mother . . .
   ________ (a) very well
   ________ (b) well
   ________ (c) fairly well
   ________ (d) not very well
   ________ (e) poorly

14. In regard to taking my mother into my confidence, I . . .
   ________ (a) feel free to ask her intimate questions
   ________ (b) often ask her intimate questions
   ________ (c) sometimes ask her intimate questions
   ________ (d) rarely if ever ask her intimate questions
   ________ (e) wouldn't think of asking her any intimate questions

15. Check whichever of the following terms best describes your feelings toward your mother.
   ________ (a) I idealize my mother
   ________ (b) I admire my mother
   ________ (c) I respect my mother
   ________ (d) I do not particularly respect my mother
   ________ (e) I do not respect my mother at all
16. Check whichever of the following descriptions most nearly fits your mother.

______ (a) is always critical of her children, and nothing her children do ever seems to please her
______ (b) is rather critical of her children, and is not often pleased by what her children do
______ (c) is not very critical of her children, but on the other hand, does not show particular pleasure at what her children do
______ (d) often shows pleasure at what her children do, and often praises them for their accomplishments
______ (e) very seldom complains about her children, and is liberal in her praise of them

17. I consider my mother . . .

______ (a) always willing to think only the best of her children
______ (b) generally inclined to think well of her children
______ (c) neither inclined to think only well or only poorly of her children
______ (d) sometimes inclined to be critical of her children
______ (e) always ready to think only the worst of her children

18. My mother . . .

______ (a) never does little things for her children to show affection or consideration
______ (b) seldom does little things for her children to show affection or consideration
______ (c) sometimes does little things for her children to show affection or consideration
______ (d) often does little things for her children to show affection or consideration
______ (e) is always doing little things for her children to show affection or consideration

19. In my opinion, my mother . . .

______ (a) is so attached to her children that she wants to have them around all of the time
______ (b) enjoys spending some of her time with her children
______ (c) likes to spend a little of her time with her children
______ (d) does not like to spend time with her children
______ (e) dislikes very much spending any of her time with her children
Directions, Part III:
Following is a list of traits of personality. If in your opinion your mother possesses a trait in a very great degree, encircle the "A" in front of the trait. If she possesses the trait to a greater than average degree, encircle the "B"; if she possesses the trait to about an average extent, encircle the "C"; if she possesses the trait to a less than average extent, encircle the "D"; and if she possesses the trait only to a very slight degree or not at all, encircle the "E" in front of the trait.

A B C D E 22. Helpful A B C D E 30. Understanding
A B C D E 24. Considerate A B C D E 32. Suspicious
A B C D E 25. Bossy A B C D E 33. Sympathetic
A B C D E 26. Agreeable A B C D E 34. Courteous
A B C D E 27. Kind A B C D E 35. Trustful
Appendix D

Cover Letter, Clarion County Counseling Center
December 14, 1984

Dear Lucy:

On occasion, we here at the Clarion County Counseling Center receive requests from various students to assist them in their study projects. Recently, we have received such a request from an individual here in the community who is studying for the advanced degree of Ph.D. This individual has contacted our executive director, Dr. Hauman and requested the cooperation of the Drug and Alcohol Service of the Clarion County Counseling Center in the completion of a questionnaire, which will be used as a basis for data in a doctoral dissertation. After thoroughly reviewing the project, Dr. Hauman has given his approval for the requested cooperation and directed me as Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist to assist the Ph.D. candidate in any way possible. In order to complete the data necessary for the project, the candidate has prepared the enclosed questionnaire. The questionnaire has to do with female clients.

I am sending this packet to you at this time in hopes that you may be interested in assisting. Let me say two things at this point; first of all, a response on your part is totally voluntary; second of all, the questionnaire will be identified to the candidate only by number not by name. Therefore, the confidentiality and your anonymity is completely guaranteed.

I am therefore, asking you to do the following; will you please read this letter carefully and review the enclosed material. If you wish to participate in this project, will you please (1) Sign the release of information form, both the individual one and the one contained on the front of the questionnaire. (2) Answer the questionnaire to the best of your ability. (3) Return all of this to me in the enclosed envelope. If you do not wish to participate, will you please so note and return the entire packet to the Counseling Center. Let me once again emphasize that this is a totally voluntary move on your part and the confidentiality will be strictly adhered to. If you do wish to assist this individual in this project, may I take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks in advance. We have to realize that it is only through study and research that advances in knowledge can be made. If you have any further questions about this project, you may call me at 226-6252. Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Edward S. Lowrey Th.M.
Treatment Specialist II
Drug and Alcohol Service
Clarion County Counseling Center
**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5,000—9,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>10,000—14,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000—19,999</td>
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<td>25,000—34,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>35,000—49,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 &amp; Over</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Appendix F

Participant Consent Form
Consent Form for Project on Perceived Parental
Relationships of Alcoholic and
Nonalcoholic Women

I, __________________________________________ understand that participation in this project is voluntary. I also understand that no person other than the researcher shall be allowed to obtain any individual's scores or any other data without the express permission of that individual. The information obtained will be utilized only for educational research purposes. I also know that, if requested, results of the research will be available to me.

Knowing this I give my informed consent to participate in this project.

___________________________
Signature

___________________________
ID#
Appendix G

Biographical Data Form
## CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client ID Number</th>
<th>Current Annual Income</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Black</td>
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<td>B. White</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Native American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Place an X in the spaces below to indicate your home situation while growing up:

- Biological father in the home
- Step-father in the home
- Absent father; mother in the home only
- Other; describe: _________________________________________

The answers given in these surveys are based upon my relationship with:

**FORM M—Mother Scale**
- Biological mother
- Step-mother
- Other; relationship? ________________________________

**FORM F—Father Scale**
- Biological father
- Step-father
- Other; relationship? ________________________________

### GENERAL APPROACH TO THE SURVEY

It is recognized that the survey questions are presented as if you were currently living at home with your parents. This is probably not true for most of you. Therefore, it may be necessary for you to think back to your family life as you were growing up and answer the questions based upon how you remember it.


G. Sticker (Eds.), Handbook of developmental psychology. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.


