

EFFECT OF PARENTS ON THE ADOLESCENTS' AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN
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Article Received: 20 September 2025

Article Revised: 10 October 2025

Article Published: 01 November 2025

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17490083>**How to cite this Article:** Intesar K. Younis*, Yasir Abdulnasir Abdulmawjood (2025). Effect of Parents on the Adolescents' Aggressive Behavior In Mosul. World Journal of Advance Healthcare Research, 9(11), 99–102.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Any action intended to cause direct or indirect harm to another person is considered aggression. A child's behavior is mostly influenced by their family; most young children take up bad behaviors from adults, which tends to worsen the child's behavior over time. Due to the fact that many young children have no parents or only one parent due to divorce or death, this circumstance encouraged research on aggressiveness. **Objective:** To demonstrate how the presence of parents affects the rate of aggressiveness among teenagers in Mosul. **Materials and methods:** Adolescents in Mosul who live with both parents or who miss one or both of them were included in a cross-sectional research. Stratified random sampling was used to choose the sample. The study included a total of 1000 adolescents in secondary schools, ages 11 to 21. Face-to-face interviews were used to gather data, and the Aggression-Problem Behavior Frequency Scale questionnaire was used. P values greater than 0.05 were deemed statistically significant when using the chi square test. **Results:** In the study sample, there were 916 (91.6%) violent kids. Adolescents who lived with single or no parents had considerably higher levels of aggressiveness (97.6%, 89.9%, respectively). Aggression and being parentless were statistically significantly correlated ($p=0.000$). **Conclusions:** Teenagers exhibited significant levels of hostility, and one of the contributing causes to this behavior was the absence of parents.

KEYWORDS: Adolescents, Aggressive Behavior, Parents.**INTRODUCTION**

Aggression can be either direct (physical aggression) or indirect (spreading rumors or psychological insults) and is defined as any conduct intended to cause harm to another individual.^[1] Aggression has been shown to be a taught trait.^[2] Since the family is a child's initial setting, it has a big impact on how they behave in the future. Most young children learn unfavorable reactions from adults. In addition to the three distinct parenting philosophies of authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative^[3], there is also uninvolved parenting, sometimes known as ignored parenting.^[4]

The initial learning nucleus in the family, which tends to cause the child's conduct to worsen or advance and to set off a negative cycle that eventually leads to the appearance of aggressive behavior, has been linked to an

increased likelihood of antisocial, violent, impulsive, as, well as, aggressive behaviors as an adult.^[5] In recent times, 84.3% of schools in Iraq were shown to have a high frequency of aggressiveness.^[6] The recent exposure to civil conflict, war, and widespread violence, as well as internal and foreign relocation, was cited as the explanation.^[5]

Iraqis were blamed for the rise in violence because to a number of factors, including the absence of one parent or both, inadequate parental supervision, lack of parental support, low socioeconomic status, a shattered family, and low peer respect.^[7] As a result, this study was conducted to investigate aggressiveness in teenagers living in areas where social unrest has occurred, such as Mosul, which was hit by the ISIS invasion and coincided with the issue of a rising number of divorced women and

orphans. These issues have a significant impact on teenagers' conduct.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In Mosul, a cross-sectional investigation including the right and left sides was carried out. Stratified random sampling was used to choose the sample. The study included a total of 1000 adolescents in secondary schools, ages 11 to 21. Face-to-face interviews were used to gather data using the Aggression—Problem Behavior Frequency Scale questionnaire.^[8]

To demonstrate the impact of the dependent variable (aggressive behaviors) on the independent variables (having both parents versus losing one or both) the chi

square test was employed. Statistical significance was established when the P value was less than 0.05. Definitions of operations Family structure: it has been discovered that teenagers who live in single-parent households or without parents are more likely to be violent and hostile toward others during their adolescence.^[9] Aggressiveness score: 19–54; normal (no aggressiveness) 1–18.

RESULTS

One thousand students took part in the study in total. Of the total, 277 individuals lived with one or neither parent, while 788 people lived with both parents. In the research sample, 916 (91.6%) of the students were aggressive, as shown in figure (1).

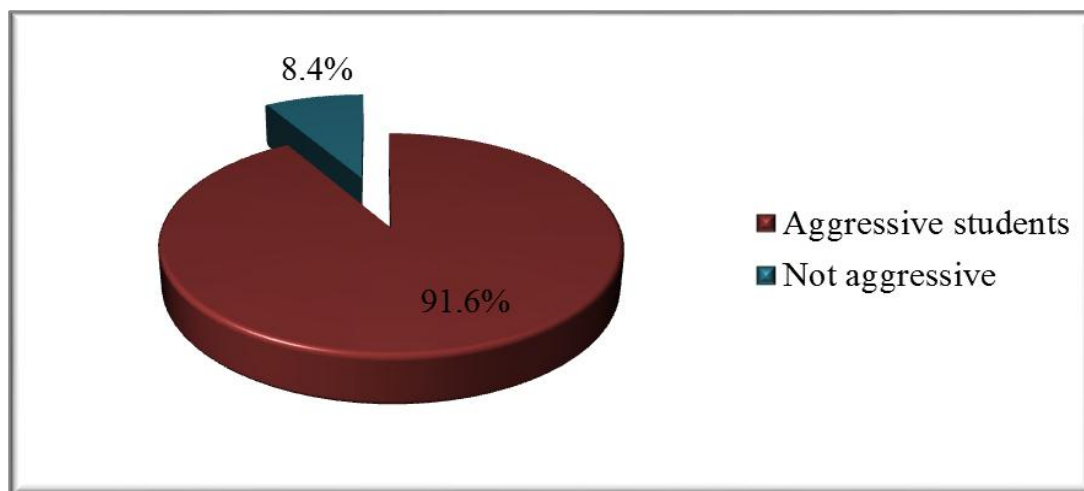


Figure (1): Prevalence of aggression score among studied sample.

Figure (2) illustrated the distribution of violence by the presence of parents with pupils. Living with a single parent or no parents was associated with greater levels of aggression (89.9% and 97.6%, respectively).

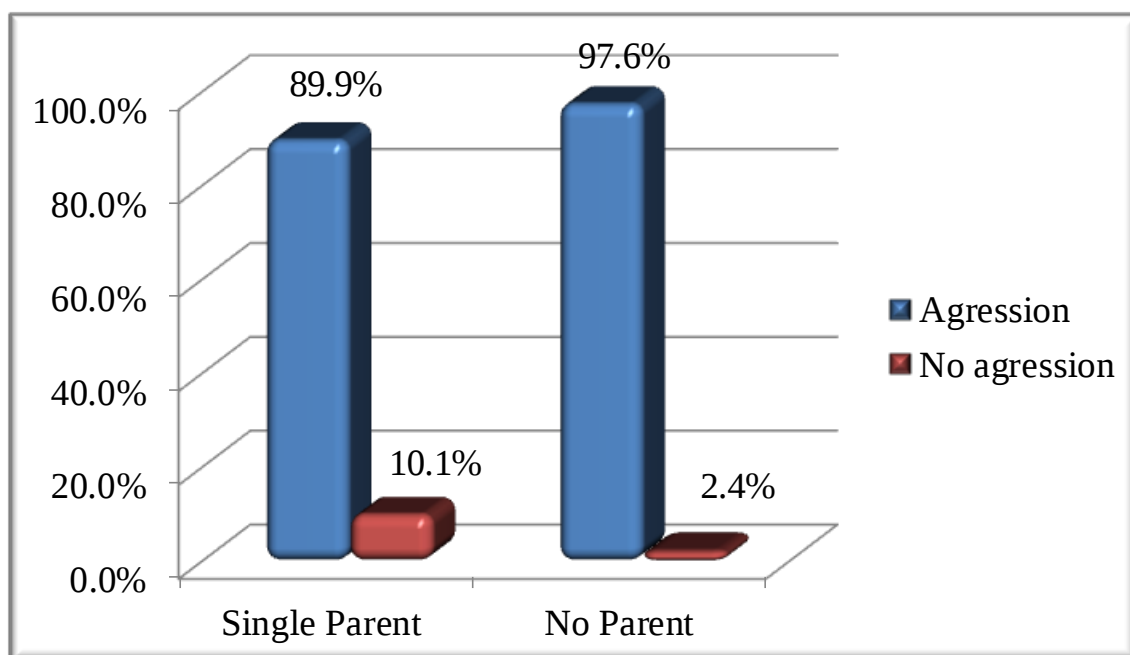


Figure (2): Distribution of the aggression according to presence of parents.

According to Table (1), the distribution of aggressiveness among adolescents with both parents was as follows: 212 out of 217(97.6%) aggressive students

lived with one or no parents, whereas 704 out of 783(89.9%) aggressive students lived with both parents.

Table 1: Distribution of students by aggression and living with parents in secondary schools in Mosul city.

	Aggressive group		Not aggressive group		p-value*
	No.	%	No.	%	
Both parents	704	70.4	79	7.9	0.000
Single/none	212	21.2	5	0.5	
Total	916	91.6	84	8.4	

*Chi square test

DISCUSSION

Numerous factors, such as those pertaining to the individual, family, school atmosphere, peer relationships, community, neighborhood, and environment, influence aggression.^[10] One of the most frequent causes for sending kids and teenagers to mental health consultations is this disordered emotional reaction, which turns into a means of expressing or letting go of feelings.^[11,12] The reported frequency of violence in Baghdad in 2017^[11] and 2019 was significantly lower than the measured frequency of 91.6%.^[13]

Compared to adolescents living with both parents (89.6%), adolescents living with single or no parents had a higher prevalence rate of hostility (97.6%). Additionally, it was discovered that teenagers in intact homes had noticeably lower levels of hostility than those in split households ($p=0.001$). A mother and father's intact family is crucial for improved academic, emotional, and physical health as well as for building resilience.^[14] This outcome is consistent with findings from the United States and Egypt.^[15,16]

According to certain research, family processes may have a greater impact on children's positive outcomes than family structures. It is thought that a kid grows up in a more favorable environment in a single-parent household that is loving, encouraging, and free from conflict than in a two-parent household that is full of rejection and conflict.^[17,18]

CONCLUSION

In Mosul, teenagers who lived with single or nonexistent parents had a high level of aggressive conduct.

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