

The slide features a light blue dotted grid background. A vertical blue line is on the left side, and a horizontal blue line is at the top. A small blue semi-circle is at the top-left corner where these lines meet. Another horizontal blue line is below the title, and a vertical blue line is on the right side. A small blue semi-circle is at the bottom-right corner where these lines meet.

Family dissolution and children's educational attainment in Norway

Anne Reneflot

Lillehammer University College/National People
Health Institute

Motivation

- ◆ Very few studies have examined the association between family disruption and child outcomes in Norway – provide a broad and mainly descriptive picture.
- ◆ The Norwegian context - the combination of high divorce rates and relatively low economic inequality.
- ◆ Extraordinarily rich Norwegian register data makes it possible to separate between a wide range of non-intact family structures including non-resident families.

Data and method

- ◆ Norwegian register data - all children born in 1974-79. The analysis is restricted to children whose parents were married when the child was born or who married the subsequent year.
- ◆ Logistic regression analysis.
- ◆ Dependent variable is the odds of taking any higher education.
- ◆ Key independent variable is childhood family structure
- ◆ Control variables: gender, older siblings, maternal and paternal age at birth of the child, maternal and paternal education at birth, child's birth year.

Table 1 Family status at the age of 16 (Children born in 1974-79)

	Percent	Numbers
<i>Children in different family types</i>		
Intact families	84.23	226717
Divorced families		
Both parents unmarried	7.08	19049
Mother remarried	2.03	5460
Father remarried	2.75	7407
Both parents remarried	1.18	3187
Father died and mother unmarried	.20	529
Father died and mother remarried	.07	179
Mother died father unmarried	.06	171
Mother died father remarried	.03	75
Widowed families		
Mother unmarried	1.54	4155
Mother remarried	.12	316
Father unmarried	.51	1375
Father remarried	.10	271
Unspecified	.10	274

Table 2 Logistic regression estimates for the odds of taking higher education by reconstitution^a

	Model I
Married	1
Divorced unmarried	.572 (.551-.593)
Divorced both remarried	.652 (.603-.704)
Divorced mother remarried	.528 (.492-.567)
Divorced father remarried	.629 (.594-.666)
Widow unmarried	.671 (.630-.715)
Widow remarried	.727 (.603-.876)
Divorced, one parent deceased	.424 (.345-.521)
Divorced, one parent deceased the other remarried	.381 (.275-.527)

Table 3 Logistic regression estimates for the odds of attaining a higher education by the interaction between remarriage and gender (logit)^a

	Model I
Both unmarried	-.5064
Gender (male=0 and female=1)	.7424
Gender*both parents unmarried	-.0906**
Mother remarried	-.5775
Gender (male=0 and female=1)	.7389
Gender*mother remarried	-.1058 n.s.
Father remarried	-.3923
Gender (male=0 and female=1)	.7403
Gender*father remarried	-.1284**
Both remarried	-.2903
Gender (male=0 and female=1)	.7403
Gender*both remarried	-.2430***

Table 4 Combination of parents educational level

	Mother low	Mother high
Father low	87.21	3.68
Father high	6.28	2.84

Table 5 Logistic regression estimates for the odds of attaining a higher education by the parents education (logit)

	Estimates	Estimates
	Mother low education	Mother high education
Intact family	0	0
Divorced parents unmarried	-.6071***	-.6363***
Fathers education	.8926***	.5165***
Divorced unmarried*fathers education	.2627***	.3493**
	Mother low education	Mother high education
Intact family	0	0
Divorced both parents re-married	-.4948***	-.3827***
Fathers education	.9048***	.5306***
Divorced both remarried*fathers education	.2022 n.s.	.0112 n.s.
	Mother low education	Mother high education
Intact family	0	0
Divorced father remarried	-.5174***	-.1182 n.s.
Fathers education	.9039***	.5351***
Divorced father remarried*fathers education	.1146 n.s.	-.2260 n.s.
	Mother low education	Mother high education
Intact family	0	0
Divorced mother remarried	-.6852***	-.7988***
Fathers education	.9038***	.5318***
Divorced mother remarried*fathers education	.2562 n.s.	-.1392 n.s.

Concluding remarks

- ◆ Confirms previous research finding a negative association between living in non-intact families and educational outcomes
- ◆ This study provides no answer as to why or how living in a non-intact family is associated with educational disadvantage, BUT it provides some clues.
- ◆ Future research – more focus on children's non-resident families.