

The Repercussions of Marriage Breakdowns on Housing Preferences: An Empirical Research Study in Spain

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, single-parent households have become one of the fastest-growing family structures, and there are now over four million such families in the European Union; nevertheless, their specific accommodation needs have received little attention to date. Despite the growing presence and social impact of single-parent families, and although it is fairly well established that the breakdown of relationships often means that at least one of the partners ceases to live in the previously shared property, little analytical attention has been paid to the effects of the transition to significant levels of single parenthood on the characteristics of housing demand (Feijten, 2005; Smith et al., 2006; Dewilde, 2008), especially in countries such as Spain. Therefore, a study of this effect would be a research topic of great timeliness and interest, as, in accordance with Winstanley et al. (2002), the environmental, social and personal stories implicated in housing decisions and experience of home cannot be separated from the context of marriage and divorce. Moreover, we agree with Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen (2008) that a separation is not only from a former partner, it provokes a total change in everyday life and identity, and the housing situation plays an important role in all respects.

As observed by Bradbury and Norris (2005) “. . . apart from birth and death, marital separation is the family structure change that has the most dramatic impact on the lives of family members . . .” Thus, one of the primary needs of all single-parent families following a separation is that of housing. The change to a situation of single parenthood changes the family structure and hence the type of accommodation required (Feijten and Mulder, 2002). Separation and divorce mean, necessarily, that the parents cease to share a domicile, and so a new home must be found, for at least one of the partners. This change of residence does not correspond exclusively to the parent who leaves the family home, who may also remain there, taking responsibility for custody and care of the children. There are diverse strategies and attitudes to be addressed in such a situation, and they are marked by judicial-legislative, financial, job-related and psycho-social circumstances that affect men and women with respect to housing.

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In this sense, the appropriateness of studying the specific needs of single-parent families has been defended by Feijten and Van Ham (2010), who identified two main factors justifying the current interest in studying the effects of marriage breakdown on the demand for accommodation: a) the increased rate of cohabitation; b) the increased number of persons who at some time have undergone a divorce.

Nonetheless, an analysis of the main international publications in this field shows that researchers have rarely focused specifically on the relations between housing, on the one hand, and family and household issues, on the other. This is apparent in the very limited number of papers published on the relations between housing and, for example, household composition, and the formation and dissolution of households (Mulder and Lauster, 2010). Nevertheless, it is quite clear that in the course of persons' lifetimes, family and housing events are strongly interrelated, this interrelation becoming apparent in the creation, modification or breakdown of the family unit (Mulder 2006a, 2006b). The scant number of studies of the family-housing connection, together with the difficulties encountered in clarifying the causal relations between family and housing events, underline the need for greater attention to be paid to this area of investigation (Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008; Feijten and Van Ham, 2010).

The particular accommodation needs of single-parent families have been examined by Jacobs et al., (2003), who highlighted the trend for new spatial subdivisions, combining the continuing existence of traditional common spaces with other, new ones, that are private or exclusive, with few possibilities for family interaction.

Some articles have analysed the association between family and housing events, see for example Mulder (2006a) and Feijten and Mulder (2002). More specifically, some authors have studied the way in which household events give rise to housing events, assuming there is one-way causality. Clark et al., (1994) and Mulder and Wagner (1998) concluded that first-time housebuying is more frequent among persons who are forming relationships or are going to have a first or second child. Moreover, Davies Withers (1998) and Dieleman and Everaers (1994) reported that two-parent families are more likely than other types of household to move from rented to owned accommodation.

The study of family and household events requires us to take into account, as observed by Mulder and Lauster (2010), that the effects of family events on housing events depend on the context and may vary in time. In the USA and Sweden, higher local house prices and difficult access to housing are associated with a smaller probability of leaving the parental home to live with a partner, but not with leaving home to live alone (Hughes, 2003; Lauster, 2006; Mulder and Clark, 2000). Mulder and Wagner (2001) found an increased likelihood of having a child after home ownership in West Germany and the Netherlands and, for the case of Britain, it has been found that homeowners have fewer children than renters and have them later (Hakim, 2003; Murphy and Sullivan, 1985). In the case of Sweden, Lauster and Fransson (2006) concluded that marriage has lost importance as a determinant factor in the transition from rented to owned property. In Denmark, Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen (2008) found evidence of a trend for divorced partners to change from property ownership to renting, and to occupy housing of lower quality.

In Spain, until not long ago, various cultural and religious factors led to the continuing existence of the traditional, ideological model of the family, one so strong that this country had one of the lowest rates of single parenthood following marriage breakdown or separation in all of Europe. Nevertheless, the increasing rate of single parenthood in recent years has

been spectacular, basically due to the changes taking place from the culture of marriage toward one of divorce and, consequently, toward the social and workplace liberation of Spanish women (Yodanis, 2005). Thus, in 2009, there were some 534,000 single-parent families, among which those formed by relationship breakdown constituted a significant proportion (53%), a figure that had increased by more than 75% since 2002 (INE, 2010).

Rodríguez and Luengo (2003) concluded that over half of the single-parent families in their study sample lived in households with at least one person per room, which is well above the national average of 0.68 persons per room. Lefebvre (2002) reported that a large proportion of single-parent families met their accommodation needs by renting, which, in accordance with Crow and Hardey (1991), could be due to the financial problems encountered by this social group. More recently, Feijten and Van Ham (2010) concluded that in the case of the UK, the housing quality breach is greater between divorced and married persons than between separated and cohabiting persons. In the same line, Dewilde (2008), using data compiled from 12 EU Member States, concluded that leaving owner-occupied property following a marriage breakdown, and therefore the appearance of new accommodation needs, occurs more frequently among young persons and among those who most suffer in financial terms from a divorce.

All these studies, although they have addressed the question of specific housing demands by single-parent families, highlight the necessity and timeliness of carrying out further empirical studies on the particular characteristics of the housing required by this type of family. In this respect, we agree with Coolen and Hoekstra (2001) that it is of fundamental importance to take a multidisciplinary approach to single-parent households, taking into account the psychosocial scenarios relevant to the situation of single parenthood, together with the subjective perceptions of these persons with respect to their housing. Indeed, a classical approach to the relation between family and housing is that of the Life Stages Model (Clark and Onaka, 1983), in which it was suggested that individuals' housing needs, preferences and factors of influence change during their life cycle, such that the phases of family expansion (emancipation, forming a relationship, the arrival of children) require more space and rooms, while in periods of recession (marriage breakdown, the departure of children, ageing, etc.) space and housing demands decrease. The Life Stages Model is largely based on conceptions of, and data relating to, culturally prescribed, normative characteristics of the traditional nuclear family: a male breadwinner, a female housewife, and children. From this model, cultural norms are aligned with home ownership, and housing spaces are apportioned to family members on the basis of age, gender and changes in work situation. Since present-day social and cultural characteristics are very different from those assumed in the model, we consider it interesting to analyse the influence of these changes on the housing needs of single-parent families. The question of housing is currently attracting much attention in family and social policy in many European countries, including Spain. In this regard, much criticism has been made of the fact that it is the model of the nuclear family that has tended to determine housing policy, and demands have been made that greater attention should be paid to the different housing needs of other social structures, which are growing in importance (Watson, 1986).

This paper seeks to contribute to our empirical knowledge of the influence of types of family on the accommodation characteristics demanded by household members. To do so, a survey was made of persons who had entered a situation of single parenthood in a specific socio-economic context (Spain). Our aim was to identify the housing needs of this new form of family and to determine their specific preferences with respect to housing characteristics, thus continuing the lines of research initiated by such as Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen

(2008), Dewilde (2008), Mulder and Lauster (2010) and Feijten and Van Ham (2010).

Single Parenthood Following Relationship Breakdown in Spain

As remarked above, it is apparent that one of the most pressing necessities of all single-parent families following a relationship breakdown is the question of housing. Some earlier reports on the situation in Spain indicated that access to housing in post-divorce situations is one of the most urgent social questions addressed by the parents affected (Arenas Martínez, 1993).

In Spain, the current degree of understanding of the reality of single-parent families is neither sufficient, nor similar to that found in other countries in our socio-economic frame of reference, such as the UK, the Netherlands and Scandinavia (Chambaz, 2001). The very few studies carried out in this respect have tended to focus on a statistical and demographic study of the phenomenon, a question that, although necessary and important, provides only a static reflection of behaviour patterns that are subject to very intense dynamic flows, and therefore needs to be complemented with another type of methodological approach.

The simplifying denomination of "single-parent family" spans a complex, diverse panorama of family strategies that probably have fewer elements in common than are shared. The single-parent family does not constitute a single type; a diversity of circumstances produce such a situation, its protagonists have widely varying life experiences and must address different social circumstances, and the facts of their situations have different levels of significance for each member (Le Gall and Martin, 1987).

One of the basic characteristics of single-parent families, therefore, is their heterogeneity, while the common element in most cases is the presence of a single parent and one or more dependent children under the same roof. Among the diversity of causes and personal events that may lead a person, at a particular time, to constitute a single-parent household, this paper focuses fundamentally on the situation of single parenthood arising from divorce or separation, which is currently the most common cause in Spain (Table 1). As can be seen, during the period 2002-2009, the number of single-parent families in Spain rose by over 76.05%, in 2009 reaching almost 534,000, among which those produced by relationship breakdown constituted 53.01%.

Another of the characteristics of this type of family is that they have fewer children than do conventional families (Table 2). This is due, among other factors, to the fact that the breakdown, in some cases, has interrupted the couple's reproductive process. As can be seen, in the period 2002-2009, the number of single-parent families with two or fewer children represented 93.29% of the total.

The greater presence of children in the household increases the probability of the parents participating in the job market (Table 3), and in the case of women, the number of children is positively correlated with rates of occupational activity; thus, among women with one child the rate of such activity is lower than among those who have two or three children.

In general, the rate of activity in this population subsector is fairly high. However, and without overlooking other features of the parents such as their race, age or economic position, single-parent families tend to be in a worse financial and occupational situation than are conventional families. In this sense, it is noteworthy that a substantially higher proportion of persons in a situation of single parenthood are now middle or upper-middle

Table 1:

Single-parent Families by Matrimonial Status of the Referenced Person

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Both	TOTAL	303.20	319.80	307.20	353.30	393.30	421.40	451.50	533.80
sexes									
absolute	Married	18.70	16.80	15.60	49.30	61.30	55.40	50.50	66.70
data	Single	34.90	39.80	39.40	62.40	84.20	92.50	93.70	129.20
(thousands)	Widowed	62.30	62.70	57.10	51.80	46.80	49.20	52.20	55.00
	Separated	187.30	200.30	195.10	189.80	201.10	224.30	255.00	283.00
%	TOTAL	90.04	88.90	88.93	86.67	88.33	88.23	86.07	86.25
Women									
	Married	81.82	84.52	85.26	77.89	80.75	83.21	79.01	76.76
	Single	95.42	94.47	95.43	91.83	93.47	92.32	92.64	90.71
	Widowed	84.43	82.62	82.49	77.41	80.34	77.85	77.20	74.00
	Separated	91.72	90.16	89.80	89.73	90.35	90.10	86.90	88.80

Source: Occupationally active population survey, INE

Table 2:

Single-parent Families by Number of Children of the Referenced Person

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Both	TOTAL	303.20	319.80	307.20	353.30	393.30	421.40	451.50	533.80
Sexes									
Absolute	1 child	66.66%	65.13%	65.79%	66.29%	67.86%	66.90%	68.28%	65.16%
data,	2 children	27.57%	28.39%	29.46%	28.87%	26.88%	26.27%	25.34%	28.27%
thousands	3 children	4.72%	4.91%	3.81%	4.39%	4.14%	5.43%	5.89%	5.71%
	4 children	0.63%	1.16%	0.68%	0.11%	0.99%	1.21%	0.49%	0.67%
	≥5 children	0.43%	0.38%	0.26%	0.37%	0.13%	0.19%	0.00%	0.19%
%	TOTAL	90.04	88.90	88.93	86.67	88.33	88.23	86.07	86.25
Women									
	1 child	88.12	87.28	88.08	85.65	86.62	86.52	85.01	85.77
	2 children	93.90	90.86	90.39	88.04	92.15	91.06	88.29	87.94
	3 children	92.31	96.82	95.73	91.61	88.96	93.89	87.59	84.92
	4 children	100.00	94.59	76.19	100.00	100.00	96.08	100.00	72.22
	≥5 children	100.00	100.00	87.50	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	100.00

Source: Occupationally active population survey, INE

class, and may have undergone sudden falls in economic position and even be severely impoverished as a result of their new situation (Bianchi et al., 1999; Kamerman and Kahn, 1988; McLanahan and Booth, 1989).

Single-parent families are certainly at a disadvantage compared to two-parent families in terms of economic status and housing conditions. Fewer single parents own a home and when they do, the value of their property is significantly lower than that of two-parent families (Anthony et al., 1990). Furthermore, the economic burden of housing is higher for

Table 3:
Single-parent Families by the Economic Activity of the Referenced Person.

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Both sexes absolute data (thousands)	TOTAL	303.20	319.80	307.20	353.30	393.30	421.40	451.50	533.80
	Active	83.81%	83.18%	83.82%	84.18%	83.52%	85.62%	87.53%	88.09%
	Employed	72.10%	71.48%	70.83%	76.71%	73.43%	76.51%	72.14%	68.08%
	Unemployed	11.71%	11.69%	12.99%	7.47%	10.09%	9.11%	15.39%	20.01%
	Inactive	16.23%	16.79%	16.18%	15.79%	16.48%	14.38%	12.47%	11.91%
% Women	TOTAL	90.04	88.90	88.93	86.67	88.33	88.23	86.07	86.25
	Active	89.18	87.71	87.61	85.14	87.40	87.50	84.94	85.33
	Employed	88.79	86.66	86.17	84.13	86.46	86.66	83.88	84.12
	Unemployed	91.55	94.12	95.49	95.45	94.21	94.53	89.93	89.42
	Inactive	94.11	94.97	95.77	95.16	93.06	92.57	94.14	93.08

Source: Occupationally active population survey, INE

single parents than for two-parent families (Bianchi, 1995); the former are set strict financial limits and face severe difficulties in finding affordable accommodation (Chasteen, 1994). In these circumstances, repartnering and (re) employment are often adopted as strategies to cope with the economic and housing consequences of partnership dissolution, especially among women (Jansen et al., 2009), as well by single parents who live in rented housing compared to those in home ownership (Skew et al., 2009).

The negative consequences of separation on the family members' housing situation can be severe, not only in the immediate future, but also for a long time afterwards (Dieleman and Schouw, 1989). Indeed, conventional wisdom suggests that many people whose marriage has failed continue to stay with their spouse because they cannot afford alternative housing (Skaburskis, 1997).

With respect to age, the rising number of separations and divorces underlying single parenthood, in relation to the loss of relative weight of widowhood, is rejuvenating the age pattern of such households. The age distribution of single-parent households differs between the sexes. Among men (the group that presented the largest increase in single parenthood during the 1990s), the largest age group is aged 45 to 59 years, while the largest such group of women in a single-parent situation are aged under 45 years (Table 4). Equally, the age of women in single-parent families is less than that of men, and so the probability of single parenthood interrupting occupational training increases, as do the difficulties of future promotion in the workplace. Material circumstances, including those related to housing, also influence the educational and academic performance of children affected by separation and divorce processes (Kerr, 2004; Scott, 2004).

In relation to the above, until very recently most situations of single parenthood were the object of negative moral evaluation and there were clear differences in the social treatment afforded to single parenthood arising from one cause or another. In Spain, widows have traditionally enjoyed greater social protection and a certain level of prestige, while divorced men and women and unmarried mothers have frequently been the object of disparagement and isolation (Barrón, 2001).

Table 4:

Single-parent Families by the Age of the Referenced Person.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
									I - Q	II - Q
TOTAL	303.20	319.80	307.20	353.30	393.30	421.40	451.50	533.80	527.30	532.90
Both sexes										
Absolute data										
< 45 years	66.00%	67.23%	69.27%	65.69%	68.80%	68.65%	66.71%	68.47%	70.23%	69.47%
45 - 59 years	33.05%	31.21%	29.13%	33.34%	30.46%	30.99%	32.96%	30.82%	29.09%	29.80%
≥ 60 years	0.96%	1.56%	1.60%	0.93%	0.74%	0.38%	0.33%	0.73%	0.66%	0.73%
%										
Women										
TOTAL	90.04	88.90	88.93	86.67	88.33	88.23	86.07	86.25	85.62	86.45
< 45 years	92.80	92.23	92.06	90.18	90.24	91.36	89.04	89.96	89.06	89.33
45 - 59 years	85.33	82.06	82.12	80.31	84.56	81.39	80.38	78.97	78.29	80.67
≥ 60 years	58.62	80.00	77.55	69.70	65.52	75.00	53.33	43.59	45.71	51.28

Source: Occupationally active population survey, INE.

In summary, the progressive increase in the number of single-parent families in Spain, with the corresponding socio-economic repercussions, together with the scarcity of studies on family-housing relations and the complexity of the latter, led us to design this study, justifying its timeliness and interest in similar terms to those expressed by authors such as Feijten and Van Ham (2010) and Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen (2008).

DATA AND METHODS

The study population was mainly constituted of single-parent families, in this situation following separation or divorce. To contact these families, we had the invaluable support and collaboration of associations for the separated and divorced, NGOs and institutions involved with this type of family, an aspect that is particularly important in Spain due to the culturally-rooted reluctance of divorced persons to discuss their situation. For this reason, the NGOs played a crucial role, both in identifying the target audience and in facilitating their collaboration in this study. It was decided that the surveys should not be self-administered, and so at all times the respondent was able to count on the assistance of an experienced interviewer. Therefore, although a structured questionnaire was used, we considered it essential that the interviewer should be available to resolve any doubts that might arise, so that the information obtained should be as accurate and reliable as possible.

Table 5 summarises the characteristics of the quantitative investigation carried out to achieve the study goals.

Table 5.

Technical Details of the Study

For simple random sampling	
Level of confidence	95%
Error accepted for estimating proportions, for P=Q=0.5	Expected: 6.2%
	Final: 6.8%
Population	Single-parent households
Sample size	Expected: 250
	Final: 209
Field survey dates	10/02/10 to 10/05/10
Type of interview	Personal interview
Type of sampling	As convenient

The final composition of the sample (see table 6) was women (70%) aged between 30 and 45 years (60%) and monthly income levels less than 2000 euros (80%), which is a reflection the characteristics of this group in Spain, according to INE (2010).

The principal instrument of this study was a questionnaire designed by the research team on the basis of their prior experience in both social psychology and market research. An initial version of the questionnaire was discussed with a group of three single-parent families, in order to test the understandability and clarity of the text and also to enable suggestions to be made for facilitating replies and strengthening its reliability. Following this discussion

process, the final questionnaire was structured into the following three blocks: 1) Need for housing; 2) Preferred characteristics of the housing; and 3) Type of housing.

Blocks 1 and 3 produce yes/no type answers, or require a choice among various options (for example, owner-occupied property, rented property, etc.). Thus, respondents answered yes or no on matters such as whether the change to a single-parenthood situation had created a housing need, or whether they were seeking housing. In other cases, they were asked to select one option among several possibilities, such as home ownership, rented housing or living with relatives.

On the other hand, Block 2 utilises a five-point Likert scale, in which the respondents awarded a score ranging from 1 (of very little importance) to 5 (highly important). In this section of the survey, the respondents assigned importance to different housing characteristics, depending on their personal needs and preferences.

In order to avoid duplication of explanations, the text of the questionnaire items is included only in the results analysis section.

The results of this questionnaire were analysed using a statistical process based on Multiple Correspondence Factor Analysis (MCFA) and on tables of association, in order to determine the relation between the types of housing preferred and variables such as gender, the cause of the single-parenthood situation, the presence or otherwise in the household of children aged younger than six, the custodial regime for these children and the level of household income.

With respect to the gender of the respondents, it can be seen that two thirds of the sample were women and one third, men; this distribution was appropriate to the aims of the study; in Spain, as observed in Section 2, single-parent families are predominantly headed by women (Table 6).

Bearing in mind that "the lenses of gender" fundamentally shape our culture, that individuals have clearly defined theories about the sexes, and that these theories, or schemas, directly influence behaviour and thinking (Bussey and Bandura, 1999), it is reasonable to hypothesise that gender might influence housing preferences, needs and circumstances (Devlin, 1994; Jabareen, 2005). Likewise, there is a growing area of housing studies which conceptualises the housing system as part of an interlocking network of markets and institutions capable of mediating (accentuating or attenuating) the social inequalities structured upon notions of class and/or gender (Munro and Smith, 1989; Watson, 1986; Watt, 2005).

The variable "causes of single parenthood" addresses the origin of this change in the family situation, identifying the cause of single parenthood and its possible influence on housing preferences.

The variable "age" is included in order to analyse whether the progression of the life cycle affects the demand for housing. The causes of single parenthood are also considered; as remarked above, single-parent households usually have fewer children, this feature being especially apparent among younger parents and those who separate at an early stage of their relationship. By age groups, there is a clear predominance of persons aged 30 to 45 years, followed at a considerable distance by those aged 46 to 65 years, who represent almost one third of the sample group (Table 6).

Table 6.

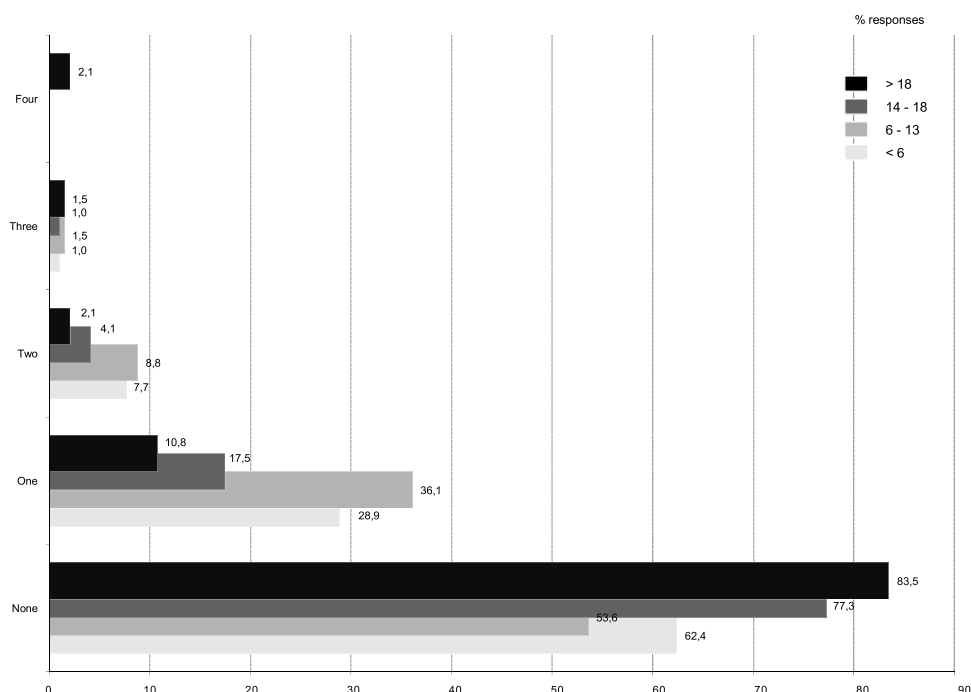
Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Sample

		Percent valid
Sex	Female	68.1
	Male	31.9
	Total	100.0
Age	< 30	12.1
	30 - 45	57.5
	46 - 65	28.5
	> 65	1.9
	Total	100.0
Cause of single parenthood	Divorce	29.6
	Separation	42.7
	Single motherhood	10.2
	Widowhood	11.2
	Other	6.3
	Total	100.0
Monthly family income	< 1,000€	36.3
	1,000 – 2,000€	41.2
	2,000 – 3,000€	13.2
	>3,000€	9.3
	Total	100.0

With respect to the causes of the situation of single parenthood, almost half of the sample is comprised of separated men and women, while divorced persons account for about 30%. The categories of single mothers and widows/widowers each represent around 10% of the total sample group (Table 6).

As regards the number of children, 40% of the sample have at least one child aged under six years, 45% have at least one aged between 6 and 13 years, 23% have children aged from 14 to 18 years, while another 16% have adult-age children (Figure 1). In all situations, the most frequent case is that of a single parent having just one child, in one of these age groups.

Finally, the variable "monthly family income" is an indicator of the purchasing power of single parents and is included in order to identify its association with the demand for housing. The homes occupied by single-parent families tend to be smaller—in terms of both rooms per occupant and total space—and located in less well-serviced areas (Skarbuskis, 1997). In our study, 75% of the respondents stated their family income to be less than €2000 per month. The percentage of respondents with an income exceeding €3000 per month was less than 10% of the sample group (Table 6).

Figure 1. Number of Children by Age Groups

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

Need for Housing

Beginning with Block 1, the first aspect to consider is what proportion of the respondents had encountered specific housing needs as a result of their situation as single parents. The results obtained show that for two thirds of them, the change to a single-parenthood situation had created specific accommodation necessities, while one third stated that no such need had arisen (Table 10).

Table 7.

Relation: Single Parenthood/Housing Need

	No.	Percent	Percent valid	Percent accumulated
No	62	29.7	32.5	32.5
Yes	129	61.7	67.5	100.0

Around 40% were looking for accommodation when the study was carried out (Table 8).

With respect to their current housing situation (Table 9), the largest proportion of single-parent families in the sample owned the property they lived in (48%), followed at some distance by those renting (27%) and by those living with relatives or friends (17%).

These results are consistent with those reported by Mulder (2006a) and Feijten and Mulder (2002), to the effect that the change to a single-parenthood situation does generate housing needs.

Table 8.

Relation: Single Parenthood/Currently Seeking Housing

	No.	Percent	Percent valid	Percent accumulated
No	101	48.3	61.6	61.6
Yes	63	30.1	38.4	100.0
Total	164	78.5	100.0	

Table 9.

Current housing situation

	Percent	Percent valid	Percent accumulated
Owner occupied	46.4	48.0	48.0
Rented	25.8	26.7	74.8
Relatives or friends	16.3	16.8	91.6
Social accommodation	1.4	1.5	93.1
Right to use the habitual dwelling	6.7	6.9	100.0
Total	96.7	100.0	

A noteworthy result is the fact that the current housing situation is associated with the respondents' interest in finding new accommodation, as shown in Table 10; single-parent families who do not own their home are more committed to the process of finding new housing.

Table 10:

Do You Currently Need a New House

* Current housing situation recoded

		Current housing situation			Total
		Owned	Rented	Other	
Do you currently need a new house?	Yes	19	44	36	99
	No	45	7	9	61
Total		64	51	45	160
Chi squared: 47.246; degrees of freedom 2 ; p=0.000					

We also examined the preferred type of accommodation, with respect to whether the fact of single parenthood generated particular needs for housing. As can be seen in Table 11, there is no significant association between the type of accommodation preferred and the fact that single parenthood had or had not generated specific housing needs. Nevertheless, as is habitual in Spain, fundamentally for cultural rather than financial reasons, a large majority of those questioned would prefer to own their homes, on the contrary to other countries, such as Denmark (Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008).

Characteristics Preferred in Housing

In our analysis of the housing characteristics valued by single parents, we took into account

Table 11:

Has Single Parenthood Produced the Need for New Home?

* Type of accommodation preferred

		Type of accommodation preferred		Total
		Owned	Rented	
Has single parenthood produced				
the need for new home?	No	19	1	20
	Yes	107	15	122
Total		126	16	142

Chi squared: 0.915; degrees of freedom.: 1 ; $p=0.470$

the findings of a previous qualitative study (Gonzalez et al., 2011). Five discussion groups were established (two with men only, two with women only, and one with both men and women) with 27 single parents (14 fathers, 13 mothers) in this situation following marital or partnership breakdown. The participants were aged from 23 to 64 years (average 45 years) and had on average 1.29 children. The mean duration of the sessions was 82 minutes (range: 60-120 minutes). All the information compiled was recorded with the prior consent and permission of the participants. The field work was conducted from late 2005 to mid-2006.

In Block 2, independently of the preference for owned or rented property, the characteristics most highly valued in housing by the respondents concerned its proximity to schools and health centres, the availability of public transport, the existence of a fitted kitchen, the number of bedrooms and the quality of thermal insulation/heating. At the other extreme, the lowest valued characteristics concerned the existence of a swimming pool, the exterior appearance of the building, the size of the bathrooms and, finally, the existence of a combined kitchen/living/dining room (Table 12).

In addition, to discover more about the variables influencing respondents' decisions to buy their homes, one of the questionnaire sections was designed to analyse, within the above-mentioned characteristics (both exterior and interior), the five most important for the respondents as consumers (Table 13). The most significant aspects were found to be the number of bedrooms, the proximity to schools, the quality of thermal insulation/heating, the existence of a parking space and the size of daytime-use rooms. The aspects that were least mentioned by the respondents were proximity to a bypass or main road, the size of the bathrooms, the existence of a swimming pool and the proximity to public authority offices.

Comparing these results with earlier findings, our study confirms the influence of children on the housing characteristics demanded by single-parent families. In agreement with the conclusions of Clark et al., (1994), Mulder and Wagner (1998) and Hakim (2003), the preference of respondents for homes near schools shows the evident effect on housing needs of the existence of dependent children.

However, our study breaks new ground, with respect to the variables that impact on housing demand from single-parent families, by obtaining, for the first time, evidence of the significant influence of other variables such as proximity to healthcare centres, public transport, the number and size of rooms and parking facilities.

Table 12.

Importance of the Characteristics of Housing

	Mean	Standard Deviation		Mean	Standard Deviation
Proximity to schools	4.14	1.13	Design and interior structure	3.41	1.16
Availability of public transport	4.12	1.11	Thermal insulation – Air conditioning	3.33	1.26
Proximity to health centres	3.94	1.13	Size of night-time use rooms	3.31	1.01
Fitted kitchen	3.76	1.29	Shared garden areas	3.27	1.39
Number of bedrooms	3.75	1.03	Shared sports areas	3.26	1.38
Thermal insulation – heating	3.74	1.24	Proximity to shopping malls	3.24	1.18
Size of daytime-use rooms	3.64	1.07	Proximity to the by-pass or main road	3.23	1.26
Ease of outdoor parking	3.64	1.27	Proximity to public authority offices	3.12	1.29
Children’s playgrounds	3.63	1.31	Fully fitted bathroom	3.10	1.27
Acoustic insulation	3.60	1.32	Store cupboard	3.01	1.32
Fitted wardrobes	3.57	1.21	Proximity to leisure centres	2.98	1.16
Internal distribution	3.55	1.1	Number of bathrooms	2.95	1.27
Size of the living room	3.53	1.09	Swimming pool	2.73	1.35
Parking spaces	3.46	1.47	External appearance of the building	2.72	1.12
Open-air private area (patio, terrace, etc.)	3.46	1.4	Size of the bathrooms	2.69	1.06
Proximity to the town centre	3.44	1.09	Combined kitchen/living/dining room	2.66	1.28

Table 13.

Priority Characteristics

No.	N	%	No.	N	%
1 Number of bedrooms	38	10.6%	16 Acoustic insulation	10	2.8%
2 Proximity to schools	31	8.6%	17 Thermal insulation – Air conditioning	9	2.5%
3 Thermal insulation – heating	27	7.5%	18 Size of night-time use rooms	9	2.5%
4 Parking spaces	25	7.0%	19 Proximity to shopping malls	8	2.2%
5 Size of daytime-use rooms	22	6.1%	20 Size of the living room	6	1.7%
6 Availability of public transport	19	5.3%	21 Combined kitchen/ living/dining room	6	1.7%
7 Proximity to health centres	18	5.0%	22 Shared sports areas	6	1.7%
8 Children's playgrounds	15	4.2%	23 Design and interior structure	5	1.4%
9 Fitted kitchen	14	3.9%	24 Ease of outdoor parking	5	1.4%
10 Size of the bathrooms	13	3.6%	25 Store cupboard	5	1.4%
11 Interior distribution	12	3.3%	26 Proximity to the by-pass or main road	4	1.1%
12 Open-air private area	12	3.3%	27 Size of the bathrooms	4	1.1%
13 Fitted wardrobes	11	3.1%	28 Swimming pool	2	0.6%
14 Proximity to the town centre	11	3.1%	29 Proximity to public authority offices	1	0.3%
15 Shared garden areas	11	3.1%			

Preferences in Type of Housing

Block 3 of the questionnaire inquires into four types of housing, among which the respondents chose one in accordance with their preferences. As can be seen in Table 14, the most frequently chosen form of housing was that of "Flat with community areas", preferred by almost half of the respondents. The least often chosen was "Flat without shared zones," chosen by only 12% of the respondents.

In agreement with the conclusions of earlier work (Feijten and Van Ham, 2010; Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008), our results, while focusing particularly on the type of housing, also confirm the importance of social relations and of shared spaces for single-parent families.

Multiple Correspondence Factor Analysis (MCFA)

Finally, MCFA was used to study the relations of interdependence between categorical or

Table 14.

Type of Housing Preferred

	Percent	Percent valid	Percent accumulated
Detached house	12.4	18.0	18.0
Terraced house	14.0	20.2	38.2
Flat with community areas	34.1	49.4	87.6
Flat without community areas	8.5	12.4	100.0
Total	69.0	100.0	

qualitative variables. This technique goes beyond an analysis of relations among variables, enabling us to determine how these relations are structured. At the same time, it provides a perceptual map based on the association among objects and a set of descriptive categories or attributes (Hair, 1995), which is of special use in the case in question. Thus, the MCFA applied in this study, crossing the type of housing preferred with the respondents' classification variables, produced interesting results. The chi-squared statistic had a value of 1211.77 (df=289 p=0.000) which was statistically significant. Therefore, we conclude there is an association among the variables considered. The first two factors account for 33.65% of the measure contained in the data. Factor (or Dimension) 1 distinguishes joint and exclusive custody of children, men and women, and divorced status and others (including separation – the midpoint of the axis). Factor 2 clearly distinguishes detached homes (DH) and flats with no community areas (F NoCA) from flats with community areas (F CA).

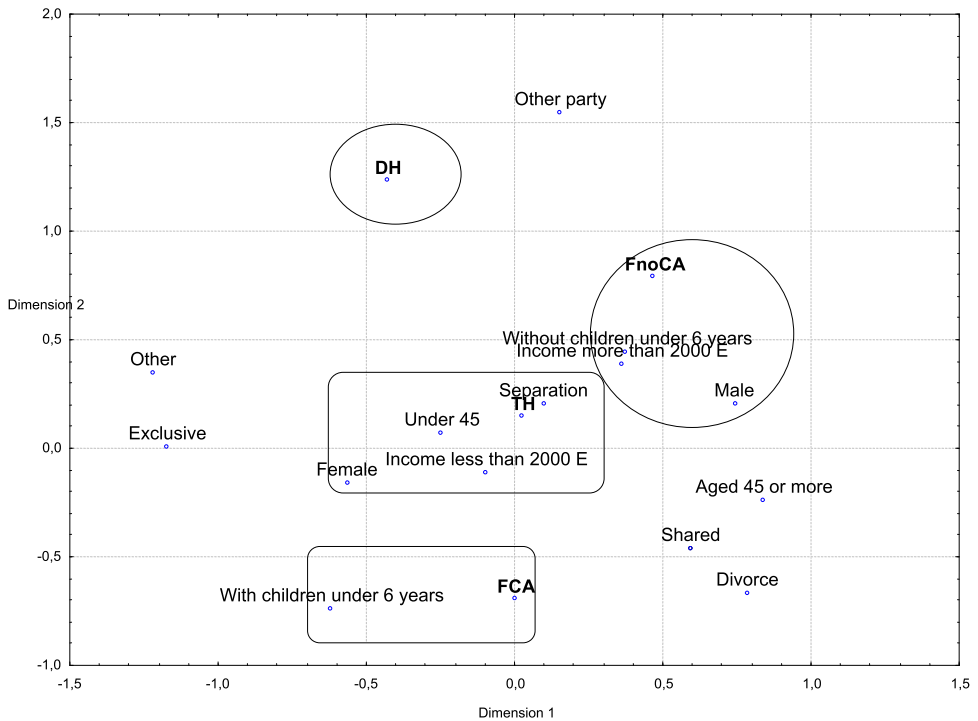
Terraced houses were most preferred by women aged under 45 years and with a monthly income of less than €2000, who had entered a situation of single parenthood following a process of separation. On the other hand, flats without community areas were mainly preferred by men with an income exceeding €2000 and with no children aged under six years in their custody. There was no clear profile of the potential user of detached houses or of flats with community areas.

In parallel, the respondents who had been in a situation of single parenthood for less than five years preferred flats with community areas, while those who had been in such a situation for longer had a greater preference for houses. Finally, the respondents with children aged under six years in their custody preferred flats with community areas.

These results show that, despite the difficulties involved in determining the causal relationship between family events and housing events (acknowledged by authors such as Feijten and Van Ham, 2010; Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008), it is possible to identify associations between the housing types and characteristics preferred by single parents and certain descriptive variables of such families, such as age, income level, gender, and the number and age of the children. Moreover, our results point to the existence of a possible relationship between these variables and the preferences of single-parent families for houses or flats and for those with or without community areas, thus supporting and extending the conclusions drawn by authors such as Mulder (2006a).

CONCLUSIONS

Analysis of the relation between housing and types of family has received very little attention from researchers, although there is no doubt as to the considerable influence of

Figure 2. MCFA by Type of Housing and Sociodemographic Group

¹ Type of housing: Detached house (DT), Terraced house (TH), Flat with community areas (FCA), Flat with no community areas (FnoCA)

Cause of single parenthood: Separation, Divorce, Other

Child custody regime: Exclusive, Shared, Other party

Children aged under 6 years in the household: Without children under 6 years

Aged: Under 45, Aged 45 or more

Sex: Male, Female

Monthly income: less than 2000 euros, more than 2000 euros

family events on housing needs, as individuals' preferences in this respect change during their life cycle, in successive phases of expansion or recession, as is the case following marriage, separation or divorce.

Although it is well known that the relation between family events and the type of housing adopted depend on the socio-economic context and may vary in time, the spectacular increase in the number of single-parent households in Europe and elsewhere justifies the timeliness and interest in studying specific demands for housing by this type of family. Such a study is particularly relevant to countries such as Spain, which previously had one of the lowest rates of single parenthood in Europe, but has recently experienced a dramatic increase in both their number and social impact, due to social changes that have taken place: from a culture of marriage to one of divorce, with greater occupational freedom for women and with the progressive disappearance of negative social attitudes towards single parents. Our analysis of the replies made by 209 single-parent families in Spain has led us to draw interesting conclusions which may contribute to advancing our understanding of the relation between this type of family and the demand for housing, and more specifically to understand the repercussions of a change to a single-parenthood situation on specific housing demands.

Table 15.

Column Coordinates and Contributions to Inertia

	Row	Coordin.	Coordin.	Mass	Quality	Relative	Inertia	Cosine²	Inertia	Cosine²
HOME:DH	1	-0.430	1.2422	0.0227	0.3270	0.0764	0.0144	0.0351	0.1483	0.2919
HOME:TH	2	0.025	0.1482	0.0308	0.0062	0.0713	0.0001	0.0002	0.0029	0.0061
HOME:F CA	3	-0.001	-0.6906	0.0698	0.4557	0.0465	0.0000	0.0000	0.1407	0.4557
HOME:F NoCA	4	0.465	0.7908	0.0195	0.1329	0.0785	0.0144	0.0342	0.0515	0.0987
GEND:Female	5	-0.566	-0.1561	0.0812	0.4535	0.0393	0.0888	0.4214	0.0084	0.0321
GEND:Male	6	0.745	0.2054	0.0617	0.4535	0.0517	0.1168	0.4214	0.0110	0.0321
AGE:< 45	7	-0.247	0.0709	0.1104	0.2242	0.0207	0.0230	0.2071	0.0023	0.0171
AGE:> 45	8	0.839	-0.2409	0.0325	0.2242	0.0702	0.0781	0.2071	0.0080	0.0171
STAT:divorced	9	0.783	-0.6655	0.0390	0.3961	0.0661	0.0816	0.2301	0.0729	0.1661
STAT:separated	10	0.098	0.2068	0.0731	0.0548	0.0444	0.0024	0.0101	0.0132	0.0448
STAT:other	11	-1.222	0.3507	0.0308	0.4448	0.0713	0.1572	0.4109	0.0160	0.0339
CHIL:No children<6	12	0.373	0.4449	0.0893	0.5613	0.0341	0.0423	0.2315	0.0747	0.3298
CHIL:Children<6	13	-0.621	-0.7414	0.0536	0.5613	0.0568	0.0706	0.2315	0.1245	0.3298
CUST:exclusive	14	-1.172	0.0091	0.0422	0.5761	0.0640	0.1980	0.5761	0.0000	0.0000
CUST:shared	15	0.591	-0.4573	0.0779	0.6707	0.0413	0.0931	0.4198	0.0689	0.2509
CUST:other	16	0.149	1.5509	0.0227	0.4593	0.0764	0.0017	0.0042	0.2311	0.4551
INCO:<2000	17	-0.099	-0.1080	0.1120	0.0782	0.0196	0.0038	0.0359	0.0055	0.0423
INCO:>2000	18	0.361	0.3921	0.0308	0.0782	0.0713	0.0137	0.0359	0.0200	0.0423

Table 16.

Eigenvalues and Inertia for all Dimensions

	Singular values	Eigen value	Perc. of Inertia	Cumulative Percent	Chi Squared
1	0.5411	0.2928	18.633	18.63	225.79
2	0.4864	0.2365	15.053	33.69	182.40
3	0.4469	0.1998	12.712	46.40	154.04
4	0.4100	0.1681	10.698	57.10	129.64
5	0.3860	0.1490	9.479	66.57	114.87
6	0.3427	0.1174	7.473	74.05	90.55
7	0.3210	0.1031	6.558	80.61	79.47
8	0.3090	0.0955	6.076	86.68	73.63
9	0.2947	0.0868	5.526	92.21	66.96
10	0.2751	0.0757	4.817	97.02	58.37
11	0.2162	0.0468	2.976	100.00	36.06

Firstly, these results, in line with the conclusions of some previous studies (Feijten and Mulder, 2002; Mulder, 2006a), confirm that when a relationship breaks down, the change to a single-parent situation provokes new housing necessities, manifested as a greater emphasis on house seeking when the new single-parent family does not own their home; nevertheless, this is not a distinctive element of this type of family with respect to others, who also prefer home ownership to renting. From this finding, we deduce that the culture of home ownership is so entrenched in Spain that momentous family events such as relationship breakdown do not alter preferences for living in one's own home, unlike what happens in other countries such as Denmark (Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008).

Examining in greater detail the effects on housing demand of the change to a single-parent situation, the results obtained showed that the characteristics most highly valued by respondents with respect to housing are proximity to schools and health centres, the availability of public transport, a fitted kitchen, the number of rooms and thermal insulation/heating. The characteristics least valued by single-parent families are the availability of a swimming pool, the exterior appearance of the building, the size of the bathrooms and, finally, the existence of a combined kitchen/dining/living room.

Moreover, on the value scale of single-parent families, there was a clear preference for five particular characteristics: the number of bedrooms, proximity to schools, thermal insulation/heating, a parking space and the number of daytime-use rooms. On the contrary, proximity to a bypass or main road, the size of the bathrooms, the existence of a swimming pool and the proximity to public authority offices are the characteristics considered least important.

These results mean that the existence of dependent children and their number seems to be one of the most influential variables in the housing needs of single-parent families, as the characteristics preferred by the respondents are directly related to the welfare of their

children, such as the proximity to schools and health centres, the number of bedrooms and easy access to public transport. In parallel, the quality of life of single parents is less important to them, with regard to housing needs; this is reflected in the scant importance granted by the respondents to variables with little relation to the welfare of their children, such as the exterior appearance of the building, proximity to a main road, or the size of the bathrooms. These conclusions are consistent with those of Clark et al., (1994), Hakim (2003) and Mulder and Wagner (1998) and provide additional findings in relation to the significant importance of proximity to health centres, the availability of public transport, the number and size of rooms, and parking facilities.

With respect to the type of housing preferred by single-parent families, flats with shared community areas are given the highest rating. If the family home lacks such common areas, the degree of acceptance by single-parent families is much lower than for any other type of housing, and so we conclude that shared community areas are considered by this type of family to be an important indicator of the quality of the housing with respect to their specific necessities.

This conclusion highlights the importance attributed by single-parent families to the home as an area of coexistence with other people, whether or not they belong to the same household, as well as functioning as a shared space for leisure and social relations, which is in agreement with the conclusions of earlier studies (Feijten and Van Ham, 2010; Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008), although the present work goes further in examining the specific types of housing preferred by single parents.

The statistical analysis of the data compiled show that terraced houses are the type most preferred by a specific population group, namely women aged under 45 years with a monthly income of less than €2000, who have entered a situation of single parenthood as the result of a process of separation. On the other hand, the profile of single-parent families that express a preference for living in a flat with no community areas is very different; these correspond to men with an income exceeding €2000 and with no children aged under six years in their custody. We found no evidence of a clear-cut profile for potential users of detached houses or of flats with shared community areas. In any case, it is apparent that as well as the existence of dependent children, the sex of the parent who has custody of the children and the level of family income are important variables in the housing necessities of single-parent families.

Finally, families who have been in a situation of single parenthood for less than five years tend to prefer living in a flat with community areas, while those respondents who have been in such a situation for over five years would mainly prefer to live in a house. Therefore, it seems clear that, within the situation of single parenthood, housing necessities are not constant, but may evolve over time. Moreover, the respondents with children aged under six years in their custody prefer flats with community areas, which again demonstrates the influence of dependent children on the housing demands of single-parent families.

In our opinion, the main strengths of the present study lie in its originality and in the reliability of the results obtained. The difficulties encountered in analysing the causal relationship between family events and housing events (acknowledged by authors such as Feijten and Van Ham, 2010; Gram-Hanssen and Bech-Danielsen, 2008), did not prevent us from identifying the characteristics and type of housing preferred by single-parent families, and the relationship between their demand for housing and certain variables significantly associated with the preferences expressed (age, income level, gender, number of children and age of children), thus extending the findings of authors such as Mulder (2006a).

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

The specific and differing housing needs of single-parent families affect not only those families but also certain public and private agents which, to some extent, may be influenced by these needs. Thus, governments should introduce social policies aimed at reducing the (mainly financial) disadvantages suffered by such families, in comparison to traditional families, in areas such as grants and other cash benefits, tax exemptions, the donation of public land, etc. Further assistance could be provided in the form of the improved provision of public services related to healthcare, leisure and, above all, education—especially in certain peripheral areas where these families often have to live; prices there are lower, but this is at the expense of much more difficult access to basic, essential services for children such as those discussed above. With respect to private agents, primarily developers and builders, our findings should be taken into account in determining the type of housing offered (in most cases, at present, it is designed for traditional families). This latter consideration does not mean that housing developments should be designed exclusively for single parents, but rather that part of the housing offered should be suited to the socioeconomic characteristics of a type of family that is becoming increasingly common.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH LINES

The empirical work on which the above conclusions are based is subject to certain limitations. Thus, we have not discussed the following circumstances that may have influenced the respondents' answers: a) the characteristics of the dwelling where the single parent lived before the separation may have influenced their housing preferences; b) cultural factors arising from the specific area of residence (large cities, small towns, rural areas, urban areas, the level of socioeconomic development, the unemployment rate, per capita income) may all impact on the respondents' views; c) the possibility of obtaining support from relatives for childcare, together with the existence of public policies to support single parents, may also have influenced the respondents' housing preferences; d) ideally, we should have had a somewhat larger study sample, which would have slightly reduced the error rate acknowledged in our conclusions.

Finally, let us highlight areas of interest for future investigation. These might include the following: a) analysis of the housing demands of single-parent households in other countries, where the number of such families has also increased spectacularly. This would allow us to examine the influence of factors such as the incorporation of women into the labour market, per capita income, and cultural and religious values. Another area of interest is that of the changing demand for housing in countries that have recently joined European Union; b) a comparative analysis of the housing needs of single-parent families in different countries and different cultural contexts, to identify the determinant variables, and hence the existence of factors of importance, both those common to different countries and those specific to individual countries. This could be very useful for designing the pattern of housing offered to single-parent families; c) carrying out opinion surveys on perceptions among single-parent households of attitudes towards their housing needs among financial organisations, public agencies, NGOs, etc., in order to obtain relevant information about the need to implement public policies supporting these families, as well as achieving greater transparency; d) empirical studies aimed at determining the influence on housing demands for single-parent households of certain variables not considered in this study, such as area of residence, socioeconomic development and family support.

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ABSTRACTS (English)

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The Effects of Psychological Distress, Work, and Family Stressors on Child Behavior Problems

Family stressors help identify behavioral outcomes in children. Yet, there may be subsequent factors associated with child behavior problems. An expansion of the current literature on child behavior problems will allow for further interpretation of these subsequent factors. The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of psychological distress and work and family stressors on child behavior problems for parents (N=851) from the 1995 Detroit Area Study. Findings suggest that respondents who were younger, experienced psychological distress, lived in large households, felt bothered as a parent, and had difficulty balancing work and family were more likely to experience child behavior problems than their peers. Implications for this study underscore the application of an intersectional approach when working with children and families so that various aspects of parental and child well-being are addressed by researchers and service professionals.

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The Repercussions of Marriage Breakdowns on Housing Preferences: An Empirical Research in Spain

Analysis of the relations between family events and the demand for housing has, to date, received very little attention from researchers, although there can be no doubt that housing preferences vary with changing personal circumstances. The spectacular growth in the number of single-parent households throughout Europe highlights the timeliness and interest in studying the specific housing demands of this type of family. The aim of the present study is to contribute to empirical knowledge of the housing needs arising from a change in family circumstances to one of single parenthood. Therefore, we carried out a survey of 209 single-parent households in Spain, producing interesting findings on the housing demand by such families and on the factors determining this demand.

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The Role of Family Typology on Mental Health, Positive and Negative Emotions, Self-Esteem, and Wife Physical Abuse in an Iranian Sample

The purpose of this study was to examine the roles of the cohesive, enmeshed and disengaged families on the mental health, positive and negative emotions, self-esteem and wife abuse in married couples, to investigate relationships between these constructs, and to explore the effects of gender and the level of education on

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The Effects of Psychological Distress, Work, and Family Stressors on Child Behavior Problems

Facteurs de stress familiaux aider à identifier les résultats comportementaux des enfants. Pourtant, il peut y avoir des facteurs associés à des problèmes ultérieurs de comportement des enfants. Une expansion de la littérature actuelle sur les problèmes de comportement des enfants permettra de poursuivre l'interprétation de ces facteurs suivants. Le but de cette étude est d'examiner l'influence de la détresse psychologique et les facteurs de stress du travail et la famille sur les problèmes de comportement des enfants pour les parents (N = 851) provenant de l'Étude 1995 région de Detroit. Les résultats suggèrent que les répondants qui étaient plus jeunes, expérimentés détresse psychologique, vivaient dans des ménages de grandes, se sentait gêné en tant que parent, et avait équilibre entre le travail et les difficultés familiales étaient plus susceptibles d'éprouver des problèmes de comportement des enfants que leurs pairs. Conséquences de cette étude soulignent l'application d'une approche intersectionnelle quand on travaille avec les enfants et les familles afin que les divers aspects de l'enfant des parents et le bien-être sont abordés par les chercheurs et les professionnels du service.

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The Repercussions of Marriage Breakdowns on Housing Preferences: An Empirical Research in Spain

L'analyse des relations entre la situation familiale et la demande de logement a reçu, à ce jour, très peu d'attention de la part des chercheurs, bien qu'il n'y ait pas de doutes que les préférences de logement varient avec le changement du type de famille. La spectaculaire croissance du nombre de familles monoparentales en Europe révèle l'opportunité et l'intérêt de l'étude des demandes spécifiques de logement de ce type de famille. L'objectif de cette recherche présentée est de contribuer à la connaissance empirique des besoins de logement des familles qui, pour diverses raisons, deviennent monoparentales. Dans ce but, l'enquête réalisée auprès de 209 foyers monoparentaux en Espagne indique d'intéressants résultats sur la demande de logement de ces familles et sur les facteurs qui déterminent dite demande.

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The Effects of Psychological Distress, Work, and Family Stressors on Child Behavior Problems

Factores de estrés de la familia ayudan a identificar los resultados del comportamiento en niños. Sin embargo, puede haber factores posteriores asociados con problemas de comportamiento infantil. Una expansión de la literatura actual sobre problemas de comportamiento infantil permitirá una interpretación adicional de estos factores posteriores. El propósito de este estudio es examinar la influencia de los trastornos psicológicos y los factores de estrés laboral y familiar de problemas de comportamiento infantil para los padres (N = 851) de la Área de Estudio 1995 de Detroit. Los resultados sugieren que los encuestados que eran más jóvenes, trauma psicológico, vivían en hogares grandes, se sentía molesto como padre, y tenía dificultades para equilibrar trabajo y familia eran más propensos a sufrir problemas de comportamiento infantil que sus pares. Implicaciones de este estudio ponen de relieve la aplicación de un enfoque intersectorial para trabajar con niños y familias para que los diversos aspectos de los padres del niño y el bienestar son abordados por los investigadores y profesionales de los servicios.

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El análisis de las relaciones entre la situación familiar y la demanda de vivienda ha recibido, hasta la fecha, muy poca atención por parte de los investigadores, a pesar de que no hay duda de que las preferencias de vivienda varían con el cambio en la tipología de familia. El espectacular crecimiento del número de familias monoparentales en Europa pone de manifiesto la oportunidad y el interés del estudio de las demandas específicas de vivienda de este tipo de familia. El objetivo del presente trabajo es contribuir al conocimiento empírico de las necesidades de vivienda de familias que, por diversos motivos, se convierten en monoparentales. Con tal finalidad, se ha realizado una encuesta a 209 hogares monoparentales en España, produciendo resultados interesantes sobre la demanda de vivienda de estas familias y sobre los factores que determinan dicha demanda.

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