

Longitudinal data from recently divorced parents and their children: What N is deemed sufficient?

Van Dijk, R.^{1*}, PhD-student supervised by Van der Valk, I. E.², Deković, M.³, & Branje, S. J. T.⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Utrecht University, Netherlands

* Presenting author

Briefly Explain Your Question (max. 100 words)

We are collecting longitudinal data from recently divorced parents and their child(ren). The sample consists of 55 families (53 mothers, 45 fathers, and 98 children), and we are still recruiting families. Our main goal is to examine family dynamics that are associated with child adjustment after parental divorce. We want to unravel important mediating (e.g., spillover) and moderating (e.g., susceptibility) effects over time using multilevel SEM. Ideally, we would also perform LCGA or GMM to identify different developmental typologies of child adjustment following divorce and its predictors. Given the new techniques to handle small samples, our nested data and probable power issues: What N is deemed sufficient?

Scientific field(s) of the author(s)

Child and adolescent studies

Relevance to conference theme (max. 50 words)

Like many researchers in social sciences, we are bound to answer our research questions using a relatively small sample. By discussing the challenges we face and learning about new developments, we hope to identify solutions to optimally make use of these data. We also hope to get advice on our sample size and until what N to keep recruiting families (i.e., ideally and realistically).

Keywords (max. 3)

Divorced families; Multilevel modeling; Power issues.