American Widowers with School-age Children: An Exploratory Study of Role Change and Role Conflict

Douglas Edward O'Neill

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AMERICAN WIDowers WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN: An
EXPLORATORY STUDY OF ROLE CHANGE AND ROLE CONFLICT
STUDY OF ROLE CHANGE AND ROLE CONFLICT

This dissertation is approved as a creditable and independent investigation by a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy degree and is acceptable for meeting the dissertation requirements for this degree. Acceptance of this dissertation does not imply that the conclusions reached by the candidate are necessarily the conclusions of the major department.

Dr. Robert Mendelsohn  2-16-96

Dr. James Satterlee  2-16-96
This dissertation is dedicated to the wives who have died and left husbands in charge, for better or worse.

Acknowledgements

In loving memory of

Demetra L. O'Neill

who died August 30, 1989

This work could not have been accomplished without the guidance and patience of the graduate faculty in the Rural Sociology Department of South Dakota State University and my family. This author would like to recognize and give my appreciation to the following individuals:

Dr. Robert Mendelsohn, my dissertation advisor for his support, understanding and technical expertise throughout this process.

Dr. James L. Satterlee, Department Chair for his leadership and advice.

Dr. Geoffrey Grant, Dr. Diane Kayongo-Male and Dr. William J. McBreer, my dissertation committee members.

A special thanks to Professor Paul Eynon for his assistance and good nature in helping with tabulating and printing out data from the survey.

Thanks to Heather, Erik, Jaimie, Sam, Brittany and Laurel for being great children at a time when their father really needed them to be helpful and responsible.
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Thanks to Heather, Erik, Jaimie, Sean, Brittany and Laurel for being great children at a time when their father really needed them to be helpful and responsible.
And finally, to my loving wife and best friend Mary DeVries O’Neill who seems to have unlimited patience and understanding in my desire to complete this research. This study could only be completed because she is such a loving and caring person.

Doug O’Neill

February 15, 1999

Doug

This study assessed the effects that the death of a wife has on the roles of the widower when he becomes a single parent with school-age children. The literature review guided the study towards the areas of the family roles of husband and wife, crises in families, specific crises which men become a single parent and men as single parents. An interactionist perspective was used with Znanieckis’ Social Role theory to gain insight on the widowers processing of roles and social position. An exploratory survey of a sample population (N=48) of widowers with school-age children was used to gather data so an analysis of how the men adjust to his new role could be done. Data from the surveys was collapsed so an examination of this rare population could be done. The findings indicate that length of marriage, length of widowhood, number of children in family, child care for children age 18 and under, widowers educational level, widowers income and the age when widowed play are important parts as to how the widower adjusts role change and role conflict. These variables only scratch the surface of an area which desperately needs more in-depth analysis from a Sociological perspective. This exploratory study rounds the
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interactionist position extremely beneficial. With limited knowledge available on widowers with school-age this study opens the door for future research.
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CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Introduction

The death of a spouse is considered the most traumatic of all life's experiences (Holmes and Rahe, 1967). How the surviving spouse handles the loss and makes adjustments to this loss are areas of interest and concern for scholars as well as friends and relatives of the surviving spouse. More often than not studies of widowhood in the United States deal with the wife as the surviving spouse. These studies show how she, as the surviving spouse, must cope with the adjustments to loss and the challenges presented by this life cycle change. Narrowing the widower category to those with school-age children, even less literature and research are available. The importance of this single family setting and the challenges it presents in the widower area has been overlooked.

The discipline of sociology, also tends to address this life cycle event from the perspective of the widow rather than the widower. Helen Lopata's often quoted book *Widowhood in an American City*, is an excellent example of research which has been done in the area of widowhood, but it also contains the underlying premise that the wife outlives the husband. An abundant number of books, magazine articles and scholarly journals articulate the problems, views, conflicts and stresses that the widow rather than the widower encounters. These articles accentuate the needs and difficulties of the wife has in adjusting to the loss of her husband. The different roles the husband performed in the marriage
and the importance of these roles are addressed in these articles. However, for the widower, there is a notable absence of studies or articles that deal with men as widowers and how they adjust to the death of their wife. This obvious difference in the amount of literature and research directed toward the widow versus the widower is largely due to the statistical data that show women live longer than their husbands (Statistical Abstract of the United States 1994: 89).

The articles written for the widow address the issues of adjusting to conflicts, stress and difficulties that accompany loss. The intent of the articles is to help the widow better understand the new roles with which she must now deal. On the other hand very little research has been done on how the widower deals with similar difficulties, conflicts and stresses that appear upon the death of his spouse. Narrowing the widower category to those with school-age children, even less literature and research are available. The importance of this single-parent family setting and the challenges it presents to the widower are topics that are seemingly overlooked.

Statement of the Problem

This study will provide exploratory research pertaining to the emerging roles of widowers with school-age children in the United States. Other goals of this study are to address issues which pertain to the widowers' new lifestyle, i.e., of being a single parent and single man, and how he as a widower carries out
the functions which pertain to both social positions. The research will first yield
an exploratory inquiry of American widowers with school-age children and how
they deal with their social roles and positions. Secondly, the research will
explore how widowers adjust to the stress and conflicts of widowhood. The
analysis will focus on the multiple roles in which the widower functions and the
tasks that he performs, along with other issues that are unique to the widower.

The differences between men and women in adjusting to widowhood must
be studied and analyzed to understand better how the loss of a spouse affects
the traditional American family. By using traditional family roles and norms for
husbands and wives, research can be done to better understand how strain and
conflict of the surviving parent affects his/her assumption the functions and
responsibilities formerly performed by the spouse who died.

Objectives of This Research

Objective One: to determine how social circles, personal rights, and
personal functions cause or influence the expectation of different roles in which
the widower functions.

Objective Two: to investigate the areas where perceived stress and
conflict are encountered by the widower.
Objective Three: to provide analysis of data and provide written narrative from surveyed widowers to describe the roles and social positions perceived by widowers.

Objective Four: to research the importance of networking by the widower when looking for help and guidance in dealing with widowhood.

Focus of Analysis

To realize the objectives of this research, the analysis:

1) Used standard concepts and definitions from existing literature and studies with regard to traditional husband and wife gender roles in the American family with children to establish an operational framework of responsibilities, functions and task.

2) Recorded narrative of widowers who were surveyed to accurately capture their observations on loss, role stresses and adjustment difficulties relative to the questions on the survey.

3) Identified circumstances or events that may play a significant role in how the widower functions in his different social positions his and roles with in the family.

4) Analyzed the significance of the following variables relative to the widower’s ability to accept the social position of widowhood: a) by length of marriage, b) by length of widowhood c) by number of children in family, d) by
care of children age 18 and under, e) by widower's educational level, f) by
widower's gross income and g) by age man was widowed.

Background of Research Problem

Most research which deals with the widower views the topic from the
perspective of the widower being an older man and home alone. The
fundamental difference between the older widower and the younger widower is
the age of the man and the children which were a part of the marriage with the
deceased spouse. The marriage of the older widower and his deceased spouse
spanned a length of time that fulfilled their parenting roles and their obligations
to their children. The marriage of the younger widower and his deceased
spouse, however, did not last long enough to realize their obligations to the
children in their marriage. When literature is found which mentions the younger
widower with school-age children at home, it is usually in passing with the topic
of divorced fathers or single fathers as the main point of the research.

Theoretical or practical aspects of widowhood (for younger men) are practically
non-existent in research literature (Berardo, 1968).

In the United States there are more than 35,000,000 families that have
children under the age of 18 at home. This investigation deals with the widower
with school-age children who makes up only 0.3% of the total American families,
or approximately 110,000 families. It is these families, where the widower is the
principal parent, for which insufficient literature exists relative to social interaction and the social position of being a widower with school-age children. Significant interest currently exists in the American family and how parents are dealing with their children, especially those parents who are raising children alone because of divorce or choice of not to marry. This interest avoids the widower as a single-parent group completely or its significance as a single-parent family is too small to be sampled. This research will focus on the social interaction and position of this man and his family in American society.

Historical Overview of the Literature

It wasn’t until the twentieth century that women were more likely than men to be a single parent raising the children apart from the father. Previously to this time, it was the man who was more likely to care and provide for the children as the lone parent (Greif, 1985). Historically, the man became a single parent and assumed custody of the children by 1) the death of his spouse due to high maternal mortality and, 2) divorce or the dissolution of the marriage because of distraction (Greif, 1985; Hanson and Bozett, 1985 and Burgess, 1985). In the past when a family dissolution did occur, a legal framework was in place for the husband to win social status and property to become a single parent. This framework was based on his ability to provide the economic and social needs of the children and himself. Yet it dissolution of the marriage was caused by the
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This chapter reviews sociological literature which discusses the role of the traditional family, along with the roles of the husband and wife. Also reviewed is the issue of the family crisis and how the specific nature of the crisis can influence the roles and functions of the husband.

Historical Overview of the Literature

It wasn't until the twentieth century that women were more likely than men to be a single parent raising the children apart from the father. Previous to this time, it was the man who was more likely to care and provide for the children as the lone parent (Greif, 1985). Historically, the man became a single parent and assumed custody of the children by 1) the death of his spouse due to high maternal mortality and, 2) divorce or the absolution of the marriage because of desertion (Greif, 1985, Hanson and Bozett, 1985 and Burgess, 1985). In the past when a family dissolution did occur, a legal framework was in place for the husband with social status and property to become a single parent. This framework was based on his ability to provide the economic and social needs of the children and himself. Yet if dissolution of the marriage was caused by the...
death of a spouse, there was more concern for the well being of the children, who now had no mother. Society's primary consideration for this type of family was how would the widower be able to maintain and give appropriate care and nurturing for the surviving children. This apprehension about the man's ability to care for the children could be approached by different means. First, the children could be given up for adoption or given out to relatives. Second, a woman could be hired to fulfill the roles of nanny and housekeeper. However, a widowed man and a single woman in the same home could give the appearance of inappropriate behavior. In addition, hiring someone to care for the children was not always possible due to financial considerations. Third, the man could remarry as soon as possible so the children would have a mother (Burgess, 1985). Fourth, the children could be brought up by the father, although it was not considered a practical idea or regarded as a real possibility by society or the widower. Because families were typically larger and because the father had to work full-time outside of the house, this option was unrealistic to most. According to Fox and Quitt 1980, the option to remarry was an important advantage that widowers had over men who were divorced. By remarrying, the widower was doing the socially acceptable thing and the marriage was recognized by society and most religions. This acknowledgement was very important in maintaining the social status and continuity of the family.
Overview of the Literature

The review of literature is divided into three segments: the traditional American family, crisis situations and single men as parents. Segment one focuses on reviewing literature concerning essential areas of the family. In this segment, consideration will be given to what is considered the traditional American family and to the significance of roles in the family for the mother and father. Segment two contains overviews of literature reflecting on crisis situations in the family which lead to single parent status, specifically literature pertaining to men as single parents. This section looks at characteristics in crisis settings in the family. Divorce, desertion and death are reviewed as events which can lead to a crisis in the family whereby the man can become a single parent. Lastly, the third segment provides a review of previous studies which discuss single men as parents and the findings of these studies.

Segment One: The Family

Section I: Traditional

The American nuclear family or what is commonly referred to as the "traditional family" is composed of two adults of opposite sex who live together in a socially recognized relationship with children who are biologically or socially related to either or both adults (Morgan, 1975, Schlesinger, 1969 and Martinson,
The function of the family is to fulfill the needs and desires which are attributed to specific tasks and obligations that the family maintains to operate in society. These diversified family tasks and obligations are acquired by the man and woman when they become married. Morgan (1975) found Murdock stating that the fundamental functions of the family fall into spheres which are sexual, economic, reproductive and educational in nature. Families function to serve society at large and the individual needs of the members in the family, specifically the husband and wife. In traditional families, the husband and wife dyad provides economic support, the experience of bearing and rearing children, and a life-long commitment to companionship, love, and affection to all members of the family unit (Blood and Wolfe, 1960). As a system, the family confronts the same obstacles that are common to all social systems: task performance, goal gratification, integration and solidarity, and pattern maintenance. The nuclear family meets its functional requirements by the activities which are characterized by the family's differentiation, organization, boundary maintenance and equilibrium tendency (Nye and Berardo, 1960). The family as a social system is organized in a manner that fulfills the needs of the unit and individuals alike in the areas of survival, continuation and growth. Martison (1970) makes claim to the concept that the nuclear family's most important function in today's world is relief from the demanding, impersonal, and depersonalized bureaucratic world in
which we live. It becomes a harbor or safe haven for the individual who must
confront the stresses and conflicts of today's world.

Section II: Roles for Husband and Wife

The structure of the nuclear family is commonly viewed as the assigned
or culturally understood division of labor that exists between the husband and
wife. Historically, the division of labor had more to do with practical the
demands of running a household, and was not because of a gender
specialization or function. Gender came into play by the roles in which it was
most practical for the individual or couple to function and, benefit the family unit.

It was the inclination and skills of the husband and wife that helped to create
gender specialization. The facts being what they are historically, it seems that
early marriages functioned under the organization of the husband having the
power in the family. Additionally, the division of labor was not gender-specific,
as it appears to be in today's society (Fox and Quitt, 1980). Emile Durkheim
looked at the division of labor as a complement of "differences that attract"
rather than a factor of exclusion. Along with the concept of complementing
opposites, Durkheim saw the division of labor as a producer of social solidarity
(Jones, 1986).

Talcott Parson's socialization process uses sex-role differentiation to
explore this paradigm in the family. His main contention is that the sex-role
affiliation and differentiation plays an essential role in the functioning of the
family unit. Parson's claim is that the mother role is the anchor between the mother-child and the family system, while the father role functions between the family system and the extra-familial social system. Parson's main interest is brought forward in his concept that the man's role is that of the occupational i.e., he is the provider or "breadwinner." The husband's abilities at work help to determine the social status of the entire family. The man becomes specialized by his outside-of-family work, which deprives the husband/father of natural happiness within the family. For the married male, the family and his outside occupation must interrelate. The need to function in these two spheres at any given time or in the same time frame will cause role strain or conflict for the husband/father.

The woman's role, is to be in control of the domestic unit, i.e, the home. In this role fall the tasks of caring for the children, providing emotional (therapeutic) support for all family members, and the physical tasks of housework and cooking. Stress of the mother/wife are the result of her expectation and/or desire to simultaneously fulfill her woman role(s) and the role of an individual person, which includes freeing of oneself from traditional restrictions (Morgan, 1975). Additional stress, conflict and adjustment factors enter the family when a specific role(s) must be and assumed by the surviving parent upon the death of a spouse, which in this study is the wife. When the man acquires the extra roles his wife once assumed, new demands will be.
placed on the husband's time and on understanding of these new roles will be necessary. This in turn puts more stress on the widower to function in his existing roles and to perform the tasks the additional roles will require. These additions then limit the time the man has for himself and for his children. When a woman acquires a role that is usually associated with the husband, she is looked at as being honored. However a man, who picks up a role traditionally associated with woman, is not honored. Instead, his extra duties are looked upon as a burden or disgrace by many (Lee and Lee, 1961).

Although this postulate of specific roles for men and women may have been thought of as traditionally correct, it is becoming more evident that the family unit is evolving beyond this belief. Presently women are moving into roles that were thought of customary to men. They are working full-time jobs outside of the home in addition to their domestic duties. Traditionally men, are more alienated when they, by choice or circumstance, acquire roles traditionally associated with women (Blood and Wolfe, 1960 and Lee and Lee, 1961).

Although the husband usually recognizes the roles and responsibilities his wife, he is isolated from their significance and worth until such time when he must assume them alone.
Segment Two: Crisis in Families

Section I: Setting

The origin of a crisis can have significant reverberations on how the family handles the crisis. If the crisis is caused from outside the family organization, the stress encountered by the family may actually help to solidify the family during its hardships. However, if the crisis is internal it may or may not reflect intra-family dysfunction and eventually cause its breakup.

When a crisis occurs in the family unit it may be as insignificant as how to get ready for the unannounced arrival of relatives for the weekend. On the other hand, complete role transition for one or more family members may result when spousal separation or the death of a spouse occurs (Selig, 1976). When such a transformation of roles takes place, confusion, stress, major adjustment and role overload may be experienced by those who now have new and old roles as their responsibility.

Martinson (1970:350) states that "...the family is the bottleneck through which all troubles pass, no other association so reflects the strains and stresses of life." Hill (1958) notes that when a crisis occurs in a family, especially in a family living in an urban area, the family members will often present a collective front of solidarity to protect the family secrets and reputation during this time of crisis. Hill found that this closed formation would only allow certain specified instruments from the outside to interact with the family. Those outside factions
include immediate kin, family friends, neighbors, the family physician, the family pastor and the family lawyer.

A crisis-precipitating event is that which occurs without warning or with little previous understanding of such circumstances which becomes a major factor to how the family relates to and handles the stressor that has engulfed them (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969 and Hill, 1958). The concept of a stressor "...is identified with a situation where there is little to no prior preparation and must therefore be viewed as problematic," (Hill, 1958:141). Since no stressor is identical for each family, specific types of situations or circumstances cause the family and individuals to encounter obstacles that are unique or specific to their crisis. Hill refers to these obstacles as hardships, which follow in the footsteps of stressor. "Hardships may defined as those complications in a crisis-precipitating event which demand competencies from the family which the event itself may have temporarily paralyzed or made unavailable," (Hill, 1958:141). It is pointed out by Hill that stresses that affect families are usually categorized by, source of trouble (stressor), combinations of dismemberment-accession and demoralization and types of impact of stressors events.

Section II: Three Concepts of Crisis

Hill (1958), discusses three categories of crisis in a modern family that lead to a family becoming dysfunctional or losing its continuity because of a
major realignment of roles within the family. First described by Hill is the concept of "dismemberment of family members." Dismemberment is used to explain an unwanted loss of a family member(s), either for a short period of time or permanently. Examples used by Hill for dismemberment are: (1) the death of a child, spouse, or parent, (2) hospitalization of a spouse or other family member, and (3) separation of family member by war.

Accession, the second concept, causes crisis in families because of lack of preparation for role changes by the member(s) of the family. This change may lead to the loss of family continuity or morale character. Some examples of accession are: (1) the unwanted pregnancy of a member of the family, (2) a member of the family who returns to the family after previously abandoning it, and (3) the addition of a step-father, step-mother or step-children to an existing family.

The last concept Hill mentions is that of demoralization. Here the family unit is undermined by the loss of confidence and/or faith by a member who is counted on to play a role in the family that causes it to function smoothly. Family members who exhibit (1) nonsupport for other members or the family unit, (2) infidelity or (3) problems of alcoholism, drugs or gambling are examples of this concept.

The concept of demoralization can and does interact with dismemberment and accession, causing strain, conflict and adjustment problems for all members
of the family in crisis. The examples used in the preceding paragraphs illustrate some of the common crises that befall the modern family. It is the category of dismemberment within the family unit on which this study will focus. When dismemberment takes place, some type of demoralization will ensue, due to the disruption of family role patterns and the loss of/or understood missing functions within the given family. "Dismemberment creates a situation in which the departed one's roles must be allocated, and a period of confusion-delay ensues while the members of the family cast learn their new lines," Hill (1958:142).

Section III: Three Specific Crises in which Men become a Single-Parent:

Desertion: According to Martinson (1970) desertion is that state where a couple is not legally separated by divorce or annulment, or where there is a separate maintenance agreement. Fox and Quitt (1980) note that historically desertion occurs in lower class or low income families and is referred to in sociological literature as "the poor man's divorce" (Martinson, 1970:341). For those who are left as single a parent by desertion, difficulties abound because of not knowing the whereabouts of the deserter. This family posture causes stress for the lone parent as well as for other members of the family. For the remaining parent the problem of determining how the family will be supported and what action should be taken against the spouse that has abandoned the family are huge.
In countries where there is no option for divorce, desertion is the only alternative for a spouse who wants out of a marriage. In the United States, men whose spouse goes to the extreme of desertion have usually tried in vain to let the spouse know of their unhappiness in the marriage. This final extreme measure of desertion is usually pre-planned. The reasons why a wife leaves her husband include love affairs, her ability to achieve her own way in the world due to her own viable career, and her belief that her husband is unable to empathize and react to her needs (Lamb and Sagi, 1983, McKee and O'Brien, 1982). Greif (1985) in discussing the role of the husband and his before dismemberment, states that "...the father who is deserted by his wife is apt to have been more involved in the housework and child care during the marriage, to be earning less money, to have a marriage that ended because of infidelity, to have a wife who is less involved with the children after the breakup, and to have less satisfaction in a number of parenting areas (Greif, 1985:47)."

Divorce: In today's American society, divorce is built on a Protestant framework that lawfully terminates the marriage. The premise of divorce as understood today is the legal dissolution of a valid marriage with the right of both parties to remarry. "Divorced men enter the single parent role with many of the same factors of demoralization as men who have been deserted by their wife (Fox and Quitt, 1980:50). Greif (1985) notes that men who are divorcing for reasons other than desertion usually have not been actively involved with their
children while they were married. These same men, in most cases, did not want to end the marriage. This can cause stressful and difficult times for the father who must adjust to his new role as a parental figure and has no way to mourn his loss of marital status (Martinson, 1970). This sanction of divorce in American society has now made it the leading cause for marriage dissolution (Statistical Abstract of the United States 1994: 55) beating out the usual world leading cause of marriage dissolution—death (Bronstein, 1988). This legal change of marital status, the divorce decree (Nye and Berardo, 1966) helps to set limits on the expectations, responsibilities and roles that the man/father must now perform.

Death: Death is identified by Holmes and Rahe, 1967 as the most stressful of all life events as measured on the Social Readjustment Rating Scale. This crisis disintegrates the nuclear family with a suddenness and intensity that is not associated with desertion and divorce. In this crisis there is no mending or repairing of the husband and wife team. There is no recourse for the surviving parent who must proceed alone with no counsel from lawyers or ex-spouse. Death as the cause for single parenthood and how it affects the husband/father of a nuclear family are topics that appear to be unstudied and unpublished, especially when dealing with the men as a single parent with school-age children under the age of 18 (Bronstein and Cowan, 1988). Hanson and Bozett (1985)
"Dimensions of Fatherhood" have a chapter contributed by Jane K. Burgess in which she states:

"The problem with traveling on uncharted waters is that one has no 'maps' with which to check one's course." So it is with writing a chapter on widowers as fathers (Hanson and Bozett, 1985:416).

Segment III: Studies of Single Men as Parents

Arnold (1979) states that there is a considerable amount of literature on single-parent families headed by females who are either of divorced or widowed. However, there is a scarcity of literature and empirical research on the topic of single-parent families with school-age children under 18 years of age (Bronstein and Cowan 1988 and Hanson and Bozett, 1985) headed by the man due to the death of his wife. Arnold continues that one reason for this shortfall in research on widower’s with school-age children is that there are so few families to sample and survey. With this population so small numerically, it logically follows that it is difficult to locate them. Other factors are the potential for a high cost financially in finding the widowers and then actually getting them to be part of the study.

Section I: Men as Single-Parents

Hanson’s chapter in Bronstein and Cowan’s book "Fatherhood Today: Men’s Changing Role In The Family" is titled "Divorced Fathers with Custody."
Gasser & Taylor (1976), and Mendes (1976) have undertaken research similar to the above but have included the widowed man in their inquiries. It is the grouping of widowers with divorced men illustrates the not knowing what to do with them concept. This lumping effect is evidenced by the numbers of widowers found in various studies. In Gasser & Taylor's study a little more than 30% of the men widowed. For Mendes it was 30%, and for Katz it was less than 20%.

All of the studies mentioned above looked at variables such as role conflict, adjustment problems, attitudes, home-making or problems single parent were having.

The classification system previously mentioned in this chapter which was outlined by Hill and discussed at length makes an important point of delineating how studies such as those referenced above have noted the importance of differentiating between dismemberment and demoralization and have added dismemberrment to demoralization. It has been emphasized that the death of a spouse is a stand-alone crisis, but this crisis has not been researched by itself as a major event which brings about the changes, stress and conflict of social position associated with being a widowed single parent.

Section II: Studies Specific to Widowed Men with School-age Children

Other investigative works have been done by authors who are not as well known, but have addressed the issue of widowers with children from the social position of status and the role of the widower. Included is John Bedell's (1971)
study Role Reorganization in the One-Parent Family: Mother Absent Due To Death. In this study he examined widowed men with children from the city of Cleveland, Ohio. Bedells' study objective was an analysis of task function in the home setting. He wished to find out if the father and/or the children took up those functions of the wife/mother who was no longer a part of the family.

A second study entitled, The Relationship Between Adjustment To Bereavement In Widowers And Perceived Social Support by Rosamond Lennox (1990) two children of widowers were noted to be under 18. The objective of this study, which focused mainly on older widowed men, was to note how men perceived society in helping them in deal with their grief. The last study in this review is Betty Jane Lodge's (1976) Role Adjustments To Single Parenthood: A Study Of Divorced And Widowed Men And Women. This investigation was noteworthy because of researcher's desire to better understand the American widower with school-age children. Lodge, in her research, addressed the issue of role and how widowed men respond to it as a part of being a single parent. The number of men was small and demographic information about the men was missing from this study.

Concluding Statement

This literature review has established a starting point for studying men who become single parents by the virtue of a family crisis. Previous studies
have provided important insights and views into single parenting and the unfamiliar roles, tasks and functions that men must assume. This study will address one specific family crisis about which there is a lack of knowledge and understanding--widowers with school-age children and their perceptions of difficulty of adjustment in the family.

Carolyn Balkwell (1981, 118) referring to becoming a single-parent states, "role reversal may exacerbate any feelings of inadequacy or powerlessness which may be experienced by the surviving spouse."

Today, the roles of the American father are more than ever being characterized by rapid change and uncertainty. Often fathers entering into the new roles have few if any role models or reference groups (Hanusa, 1985).

It is the different interactions that people have with one another that help establish how individuals perceive their own roles. These interactions form different expectations of the roles, thus causing stress, conflict and difficulty in adjusting to contrasting social positions that individuals are placed in during their life. This chapter will review the bases of the interactionist theory. Following a discussion of the interactionist perspectives on social roles as they apply to widowers, there is a presentation of four propositions guiding the research reported in this document. These propositions are grounded in the interactionist theory selected for this research.
CHAPTER III

THEORY

In American society, becoming a single parent through the death of a spouse is a statistically unusual, unanticipated life event (Lewis and O'Brien, 1987). Carolyn Balkwell (1981: 118) referring to becoming a single parent, states:

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Role Framework: Specific to Widowers New Family Structure

The nature of a man entering the role of single parent following the death of his wife causes difficulty in relating for most people. Studying how the widower and his family respond to role conflict, strain and adjustment must be done with understanding. It is the loss of his wife that has caused the man to enter into this unwanted and unfamiliar life cycle. During this phase of the man's life he is being restructured at all levels, in both his personal and public. It is at this phase of development that the implications of conflict, strain and adjusting to his loss will have a direct effect on how the widower perceives himself and how others observe him. The implications and consequences for the widower and how he addresses the issue of, being a single-parent are based on the very crisis that brought him to this point in his life. How it will affect his family, his personal situation, his position and the manner in which he functions in his role(s) as a widowed single-parent is the premise of this study.

Review of Role Theory

Historically, men have often been custodial fathers to their children due to high maternal mortality. In large measure, the single dad role began centuries ago. Within this role, pressure to transfer responsibilities to a new wife or to
give the children to relatives for their nurturing is historically noted, and continues to the present day (Burgess, 1985).

Theoretical or practical aspects of widowhood (for younger men) are practically non-existent in research literature (Berardo, 1968). Hanson (1985) acknowledges that role theory is useful by studying fathers in different social contexts. She states that a person is able to understand and emulate the intricacies of behavior just by observing another significant person carry out that role. Orthner, Brown and Ferguson (1976) state that because roles are not yet institutionalized in American culture for the single father, confusion and frustration are noted in the man's processing of roles. Any man who attempts to perform roles of fatherhood is doing so without role clarity. Brim and Wheeler (1966) point out that role is based on previously acquired desires by individuals to conform to the expectations and situations of others within the understood social setting. Men in these settings use reference groups other than friends or family to maintain self-esteem.

Nye and Berardo (1966) have stressed that possibly it is time to look at a merging of interactional and situational frames of reference within the study of sociology. This type of conceptual framework is referred to as "interstitial." It is the synthesizing of the two frameworks and the linkage of key concepts from both that would help establish an understanding of the process of transition i.e.,
going from a nuclear family setting to a single-parent family by the nature of the crisis. It is in these situations that the social roles are defined and played by others in the given setting. Within these situations and activities, it should be understood that the family is limited in its understanding of role adaptation and functions in different family units due to limitations of experience and interaction in society at large. Interactionists are interested in the family unit from the perspective of how members of the family act on habits and sentiments of those within the family and those that come into it (Schaefer and Lamm, 1992).

Interactional Framework in Studying the Family

The family is understood to be a unit or organization in which the members occupy positions with assigned roles. This family unit is understood as a changing, expanding and growing entity. However the family is limited in its understanding of role adaptation and functions in different family units due to limitations of experience and interaction in society at large. Interactionists are interested in the family unit from the perspective of how members of the family act on habits and sentiments of those within the family and those that come into it (Schaefer and Lamm, 1992).

Determinants in Role Theory

Some of the crucial determinants in interactional framework look at the process of role-playing, status relations, decision-making and stress reaction (Nye and Berardo, 1966). Following Mead and Blummer, Turner (1991) stresses that actors emit gestures or cues by words, bodily countenance, voice inflections, dress, and facial expressions. Actors, according to Turner, define their roles and let others know what role they are playing based on a common understanding of the role.
Interaction helps to define the roles of humans based upon activities and settings. It is in these situations that the social roles are defined and played by others in the given setting. Within these situations and activities, it should be noted that social interactions are not governed just by cognition of social roles but also by intense human emotions (Hewitt, 1984).

Concepts for the Widower from Interactionist Framework

Listed below are terms and concepts presented by Biddle and Thomas (1966:11-12) and Znaniecki (1965) with regards to the interactionist position. These concepts and terms are adopted to fit the widower and how they relate to his role as a single parent with school-age children.

1. The widower holds a position/status that is common to others by the nature of the crisis through which he has gone, a crisis that has attributes that are common among widowers. (Note: the word "position" will be used throughout the rest of this study to reflect the concept of position/status). "Position is a collectively recognized category of persons for whom the basis for such differentiation is their common attribute, their common behavior, or the common reactions of other toward them (Biddle and Thomas, 1966:29). Znaniecki (1965) argues that position is a way to classify social roles without inquiring into the person who is performing and those with whom he is interacting. "The problem with this theory of statuses neglect or fails to solve, ... changes in the valuation
of the person, as his role evolves; the range of permissible variation which every role allows; the processes of widening and narrowing the circle within which a role is performed; dynamic relations between simultaneous and successive roles of the same individual and of several individuals; and finally, the gradual creative emergence in the course of history of new roles, with new standards and norms (Znaniecki, 1965:208). (Note Znaniecki, uses the term "rank" to evaluate the person and his roles).

2. The role(s) of the widower is built to a great degree on the functions that are acquired or assumed to be acquired by the man. Roles are structured on prescriptive behavior which states how someone should act, what is expected or not expected, and standards or norms for covert and overt behavior that are distinctive from others (Biddle and Thomas, 1966). In the next section, Znaniecki addresses this concept of role(s) and why his concept of social role(s) is a better working formula for sociological investigation of the person than theatrical role(s).

Social Role versus Theatrical Role

The role as an item in any system which is meant to depict a status or position in an organizational chart does not show nor indicate the characteristics of the individual other than those that are relevant to the status or position on the
chart. In the organizational chart or status system of the family there is, as in other systems, an item referred to as social role (Lopata, 1994).

Znaniecki (1965) states that roles should not be looked at solely from a theatrics stage but from the individual's participation in social life. Baldwin, Cooley and Mead focused on how the individual represents himself by his social interaction and communications. Znaniecki states that Park and Burgess, in their *Introduction to Sociology*, define person as "an individual's conception of his role." It is because of his own concept of individual that he can perform in various settings with different responsibilities. Thus the individual can perform numerous social roles, like that of an actor performing various theatrical roles.

Znaniecki on Social Role: Comparison with Theatrical Role

Znaniecki (1965) in his book *Social Relations and Social Roles*, gives the following comparison between social role and theatrical role:

1. In theatrical roles, interaction revolves around and between the lead actor and the supporting actors. However, the lead actor is of no importance if not for the minor actors who support him by their circle of attention. It is the social circle where in the social roles are studied that gives the individual the opportunity to perform. This allows others to accept him for what he is and to cooperate with him.
2. Theatrical roles are products of drama. They are created by the author to visually and verbally recreate settings for players to reconstruct the roles that are culturally patterned by the author. The actors are to conform to the norms of what is understood as acceptable for the scene or meeting certain standards. The key actor must conformity to his roles so that he adequately represents the drama the author has written. However, if the supporting cast does not follow the accepted norm or culturally recognized pattern, the key actor cannot be effective in his portrayal.

Theatrical roles and social roles are both based on culturally based individuals who will follow and learn what is expected of them so that they may perform. Also the individual in the social roles has the same difficulties if the others who participate in his circle do not learn their prescribed cultural patterns. The obvious difference between the two types of roles is in what is supposed to follow or occur. The key theatrical actor is supposed to recreate the original drama written by the author according to standards and norms of dramatic art. Likewise actors in social roles must work together in a collective manner so all actors may be evaluated on moral norms. The social role is not built on the cultural patterns of only one author, but is the product of many others who contribute to these patterns.

3. Another similarity exists between theatrical roles and social roles. In drama, seldom do you find actors portraying their roles in the exact manner
envisioned by the playwright. So it is when we study social roles. The actors may follow the same cultural patterns but their performances will vary from actor to actor. Why these various performances take place is open to speculation, but they cannot not be ignored by sociologists.

It is the analogy of the function of theatrical actors to individuals who cooperate with other individuals in social relations that makes the use of social role an excellent form to compare social relations. In this study the central person is the widower with school-age children. The widower's social roles and relations will be constantly evolving and changing as he goes through the process of becoming a widower, functioning as a widower and disengaging himself from widowhood. The social roles of the widower will be examined from an inductive and comparative perspectives, and from the perspective of how they influence the widowed man in adjustment, conflict and strain. Four social role elements will be developed in this exploratory study. They are person, social circle, personal rights, and personal function.

Conceptual Components Which Guide Role for the Widower

The key conceptual components of the four social role elements bind the roles with the widower. The conceptual components, when standing alone by the specific social position of the widower is added to these generic role concepts, this research is given clear and
exact meaning. The following concepts give guidance for understanding the role(s) of the widower:

1) **Loss of role**: The man loses the social identity of marriage and couple status when the label of "widower" is given to the man upon the death of his spouse (Kearl, 1989).

2) **Change of role**: The man goes from the "known and understood roles" of marriage, father, husband and joint parenting to "new, different and unknown roles" of a widower with school-age children.

3) **Isolation of role**: The man is separated and alienated from other individuals or groups in terms of interaction, communication, cooperation and social and emotional involvement (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969:216).

4) **Expectation of role**: Different sets of responses or behaviors are anticipated and desired in relation to a certain role(s) (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969:354).

5) **Adjustment of role**: Adjustment is the modification of one's understood behavior or attitude towards a role(s) (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969:6).

6) **Anxiety of role**: Extreme apprehensiveness, uneasiness or fear are the result of not being able to clearly focus on or fulfill the demands of the role(s) or status (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969:14).
When considering these concepts of role for the widower, two other concepts must be considered which tie the other concepts which are presented together. First, role conflict according to Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969:354 states, "... is incompatibility between two or more roles that an individual is expected to perform in a given situation. The performance of one role interferes with or is antagonistic to the other. The state of conflict may last only a short time and the conflicting demands may be met without much difficulty or it may be a persistent problem facing someone all his life." Second, stress when attached to the widowers' roles or functions become, "Any unpleasant and disturbing emotional experience due to frustration (expressed, for example in anger, anxiety, confusion, discomfort, etc.). Stress often results from an alteration of or interference with an individual's usual pattern of behavior (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969:422).

Principles of Znaniecki's Social Role as Applied to Widowers

1) Person: "An individual can perform a social role only if his social circle(s) judges him to be the kind of person who is fit for this kind of role. Such judgments are not made arbitrarily; they follow well-established cultural standards" (Znaniecki, 1965:219).
2) **Social Circles**: A social circle is comprised of individuals who interrelate with the person (widower) and whose evaluation of him is valued (Znaniecki, 1965:226-227).

3) **Personal Rights**: Certain privileges are given to the individual by those in his social circle so that he may fulfill his responsibilities to his social role(s). (Znaniecki, 1965:241-242).

4) **Personal Role Behavior and Function**: (a) Individual functions will relate directly to past experiences to given role(s) in which the person has functioned. (b) The person’s failures or transgressions may interfere or have direct impact on other roles that are performed. (c) A combination of points a and b may lead the individual to innovations that lead to the development of a new assortment of duties and how to carry them out (Znaniecki, 1965:273-276).

Domestic Roles in the Family

1) **Socialization role** (social norms and mental well being):

   Here the parents are expected to teach and instill social norms, desired behaviors, values, attitudes, skills and roles that help shape the child and become integrated into his or her society (Nye, 1976; Theodorson & Theodorson, 1969; and Duvall & Miller, 1985).

2) **Child care role** (physical and psychic well being)
There is close interaction between the socialization role and the child care role. Both involve intimate association with the children along with teaching the children to be self-sufficient. The difference is that in the child care role the parent is instrumental in developing physically healthy children. The child care role is first. The socialization role follows when mental and physical maturity begins. As the child becomes older the child care role becomes secondary to the socialization role of the parent (Nye, 1976:49-50).

3) **Provider role** (economic well being for goods and services)

In this role the individual is responsible for obtaining or providing goods and services for the family members to function. This role has been traditionally assigned to the man-husband figure in the family; however, over the last number of years this role is becoming a joint role for the man and woman (Nye, 1976:81-82).

4) **Housekeeper role**

The role of housekeeper is built on the concepts of cleanliness and order in preparing or cooking food, and mending and caring for clothing and other household equipment. The housekeeper role also includes in cleaning, laundry, marketing, and keeping financial records. However, the housekeeper role should not be confused with the housewife role. The two roles are often thought to be synonymous, because the housekeeper roles takes place in the confines
of the house where the housewife role such as child socialization, child care or kinship take place (Nye, 1976:89-90).

5) **Therapeutic role**

From the sociological and counseling perspectives there are four positive functions of the individual in the therapeutic role: 1) listening to problems, 2) sympathizing, 3) giving reassurance and affection, and 4) offers help to solve problems (Nye, 1976:118).

Four Principles of Social Role by Znaniecki and Their Adaptation to Widowers

Four principles of social role according to Znaniecki are stated below. Also stated are criteria for each principle as related to the widower. After each criteria is one or more factor(s). A factor is a statement that is specific to the principle in question. The statement is then presented as a question or questions on the survey used in this study (see Chapter IV). The analysis of these questions as they relate to the four principles of Znaniecki’s social role theory is presented in Chapter V of this document.

Principles of Social Role

**Principle One: Person**

**Criteria #1:**
A social role must be legitimized by the person who is the primary performer. The process that establishes the rank of widowerhood for men with school-age children contains seven variables. Each variable helps to bring into existence standards by which the widower may measure or be measured by his actions or responses.

**Variable**: Information relating to a couple as husband and wife is often associated with the length of marriage.

**Variable**: The length of widowhood gives the widower a time frame or reference point to measure change in his life since the death of his spouse.

**Criteria #2**: There are specific qualifiers that are used to judge personal roles. Culturally and historically, the use of the variables of age and sex as an instrument to gauge role specialization are given major consideration (Znaniecki, 1965).

**Variable 3**: Caring for children who are 18 years of age and under as a single parent makes the widower an atypical man in America.

**Variable 4**: The age the man is widowed may be a determinant in how he will relate, and adjust to his new duties and responsibilities.

**Variable 5**: The total number of children in the family with age not considered may cause stress and conflict for the man as he adapts to his new roles as a widower.
Criteria #3:

Education is used to promote the individual towards duties and roles that will prepare him for future social responsibilities (Znaniecki, 1965:285).

Variable 6: The widower's education level may influence his ability to adapt to the role of widower with school-age children.

Criteria #4:

The income available helps to determine how capable an individual will be to satisfy personal and family needs in areas such as education, food, recreation, clothes, home, furniture.

Variable 7: The widower's gross income may be a factor which influences how the man adjusts to his new position and roles.

Principle Two: Social Circles

How different social circles aid the widower's needs can be measured by their means of usefulness and the guidance they give the widower as he adjusts to his roles. The social circles include the following groups: kin, kin by marriage, non-kin and others. Kin includes mother, father, brothers and sisters; Kin by marriage includes the mother-in-law, the father-in-law, the brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law. The non-kin grouping consist of personal friends, clergy, medical personnel, counselors, single parents and other widowers. The other group which includes television/radio programs, books, and support programs.
Criteria #1:

When an individual communicates to others symbolically his observations, feelings, or violations, he expects to be understood and to provoke some response. Indeed, mutual understanding through symbolic communication is an essential condition of social solidarity for sympathetic understanding.

When something very painful or very pleasant occurs to an individual participant, he (or she) has the right to expect a manifestation of sympathy from his social circle--be it a large family or a circle of neighbors or acquaintances. Thus, after the circle learns of the death of an individual's father, mother, husband, wife, or other close kin, every participant is obliged to share in the common mourning (Znaniecki, 1965:262-263).

Factor 1:

a) How the man adjusts to the death of his wife will help determine the amount of difficulty he will have with stress and conflict that accompanies the loss (survey question #3). b) The ability to adjust to the change of responsibilities of being a single parent will affect the amount of stress and conflict the widower will experience (survey question #4).

Factor 2:

a) The nature of the wife's death will affect how the widower adjusts to his loss. This ability to adjust will in turn influence to what extent he is able to accommodate the role of widower (survey question #10).
Factor 3:

a) Members of social circles have the ability to be helpful when child care (day care) is needed. How the widower perceives their helpfulness will aid the man when assistance is needed (survey question #11a, "Day Care" (child care)).

b) During crisis situations, if child care is not in place the widower will need to acquire it. This consideration of hiring a relative or non-relative will likely be a change in normal task performance for the widower. Who the widower hires may be those who display the most understanding (survey question #16).

c) The widower will associate with people in his social circles and seek their help in confronting different problems. The isolation the man feels about his widowhood will be confronted by talking to other people (survey question #11b, "Someone To Talk To").

d) The widower will be normally isolated by the nature of his crisis when he attempts to relate his loss to others. By talking to different individuals the widower can rate how helpful and supportive they will be in understanding his loss (survey question #11c, "Understood Your Loss").

Factor 4:

a) The lack of understanding by fellow workers of the feelings and emotions that are involved with the death of a wife may cause difficulty for the widower as he adapts to his loss (survey question #15).

Criteria #2:
Giving permission for the person to carry out new actions is important for the social circles to acknowledge. This acceptance and understanding of the social circles helps remove obstacles that can impede progress by the individual to take actions in a positive manner so that adjustment may begin (Znaniecki, 1965).

Factor 1:

a) With the death of a man's wife, his responses to life and his perceptions of what is important are altered. The actions the widower takes may be viewed as his attempt to change his life due to his loss (survey question #2).

Factor 2:

a) The widower will seek out different sources of guidance to help him adjust to his new role as a widower. Some sources will be more useful than others for the man as he deals with his new and old roles. The sources which he regards as the most useful will be noted by positive responses from the widower (survey question #20a, "Coping With Widowhood").

Factor 3:

a) After the loss of a spouse the widower will experience a roller coaster ride of emotional highs and lows when it comes to dealing with his new single status. These mixed feelings may cause emotional conflicts which make adjustment difficult for the widower (survey question #28).

Criteria #3:
The size of a social circle and the active cooperation among those in the circle will give positive and mutual duties to their social roles. When individuals (widowers) form an exclusive circle which, by the nature of the social role is going to be small they may become isolated from other individuals in their community (Znaniecki, 1965:228-229). This will have positive and negative affects on such a social circle.

Factor 1: a) Prior to becoming a widower with school-age children, the widower's social circle will include very few men who have experienced such a loss (survey question #6).

b) Once a man with school-age children is widowed he will seek out and find other men who have experienced a loss similar to his so that he may receive positive support and not be set apart by his new social position (survey question #7).

Criteria #4: "A social role, like a social relation, lasts only so long as the individuals who participate in it actively cooperate (Znaniecki, 1965:233)."

Factor 1: a) Prior to leaving the rank of widower with school-age children, the individual must move toward the process of disengaging from the position of widowhood. One step for the widower to begin disengagement is dating. The dating process
will cause **anxiety** for the widower when the time is right for him to look at the possibility of another relationship (survey question #25).

**Factor 2:**

a) The man may consider his social role of widower as an influence on the woman’s decision of whether or not to go out with him or not. This social position of being widowed may cause **anxiety** for the man as he moves from the past to the present (survey question #26).

**Factor 3:**

a) The widower with school-age children must considered this additional responsibility when dating begins. This additional obligation of school-age children may be a difficulty which will cause **anxiety** in his ability or desire to leave the rank of widowhood (survey question #27).

**Factor 4:**

a) If a discussion of remarriage took place before the **loss** of his spouse, then the widower’s attempts to date and possibly remarry will be less stressful for him (survey question #29).

**Factor 5:**

a) When the widower remarries or desires to remarry he is actively seeking a **change** that will disengage himself from the social position of widowhood (survey question #30).
Factor 6:

a) The ability of the widower to adjust to both the physical and emotional isolation which is caused by the loss of his wife may be evidenced by how often the widower visits the cemetery (survey question #21).

Principle Three: **Personal Rights-Economic**

"Although some individuals are more, others less dependent, every individual throughout his life depends for his 'living,' i.e., the satisfaction of his wants, upon the aid of others who grant him certain economic rights. His rights are prior to his duties... (Znaniecki, 1965:259)."

**Criteria #1:**

Other forms of economic support, which are not generated by the widower, will play an active role in his ability to better fulfill the tasks and functions of being a single parent.

**Factor 1:**

a) It is not unusual in times of crisis that people assist those in need with financial help. Those people who know the widower and/or his situation will feel compelled to help the man **adjust** by giving financial help. The amount of helpfulness they give will contribute to the widower's recovery (survey question #11d, Area "Financial Help").
Factor 2:

a) As a couple it is customary for the husband and wife to plan for their future by saving and investing money so they may adjust to the change in their lifestyle at retirement. One of these investments for their future may have been life insurance. Having this type of investment may or may not be a part of a couple's plan (survey question #23).

b) If life insurance was a part of the couple's investments for their future, the amount of the policy may influence whether or not the surviving spouse will be able to maintain his old life style as he adjusts to his new roles and social position (survey questions #24).

Principle Four: **Personal Role Behavior and Functions**

Once the family unit has children, the parents must perform the tasks and functions of parenting that are culturally ascribed. When parenting goes from the "traditional two-parent arrangement" to single parenting due to the death of a parent, the remaining parent will take on tasks and roles which are alien to him. The traditional division of labor in the family has the domestic roles (house-keeping, child care and child socialization role) as the major domain of the wife-mother.
and the provider role as the primary activity and responsibility of the husband-father." Along with the traditional roles the mother assumed, she usually is considered the primary care giver for therapeutic needs.

Factor 1:

a) When a child is faced with the reality of death, specifically that of their mother, the child will have many questions and fears. A father’s response to his children’s queries which is less than honest may be caused by anxiety of the father (survey question #12).

Factor 2:

a) The ability to perform any given role is usually based in part on past performance, or partial performance, of the role. Being the sole parent will cause stress and conflict for the father as he goes about obtaining child care. This change in task experiences may or may not be stressful to the widower (survey question #8).

b) When a man and woman marry, they customarily function in specific domestic roles that are considered traditional to each. But who decides what is traditional and what task is done by whom is up for debate. However, using hind sight, the widower can look back and see who performed certain tasks during his marriage (survey question #13).
c) Previous experience with certain **domestic** tasks will dictate which task is now his easiest and which is the most difficult for the widower as a single parent to perform in the family (survey question #14).

**Criteria #2:**

In every social circle values are placed on actions or responses by the performer which are viewed as positive by others in his circles (Znaniecki, 1965:226). This positive feedback may come from other individuals or from other types of circles that influence the widower, such as the media, books, religion and support groups.

**Factor 1:**

a) By performing different roles and tasks as a single parent the man will encounter different experiences where he will seek guidance. This guidance will be sought so that he may **adjust** to and fulfill these obligations. The usefulness of the guidance will vary because of the source that the widower uses (survey question #20b, "How to function as a single parent").

**Theoretical Framework**

The following theoretical framework is submitted.

1. When the death of the wife in a traditional family with school-age children occurs, the surviving husband becomes a part of a rare American
population, a widower with school-age children. The husband must learn to interrelate with this population without having prior understanding or knowledge of what is expected of him. How the widower and individuals of different social circles relate to each other depends on what each knows about the life cycle of the widower with school-age children.

2. Being an American widower with school-age children in a culture where the traditional family establishes customary roles, tasks, functions and expectations causes bewilderment and alienation for the widower. These traditional roles, tasks, functions and expectations have to be adapted to an adverse setting in which the widower must re-evaluate, relearn and master new rights and duties for roles in which he has not previously performed.

3. Adjusting to being a single parent with school-age children and having to function in a traditional family structure can cause anxiety, conflict and stress.

Research Propositions

Enlisting the general theoretical framework just stated, this research will address propositions which are formulated from Znaniecki's (1965:199-292) social roles and Nye's (1979:33-111) norms and tasks of specific role functions in the family. This investigation makes the following propositions on social role for the widower.

**Proposition I**: People occupy social positions with understood social structure.
**Proposition II:** Role expectations are derived from social sources. The most common are significant others, social circles and social intimates.

**Proposition III:** Incumbents of social positions behave on the basis of their expectations of the "role expectations" germane to their role.

**Proposition IV:** Role behaviors are evaluated by role incumbents and by outside observers alike.

**Proposition V:** Dramatic life changes may significantly affect the role expectations and subsequent role behavior for a position.

**Proposition VI:** Widowerhood is a dramatic life change.

**Proposition VII:** Dramatic life changes directly affect performance of functions and tasks of the incumbent responsible for maintaining the family structure.

**Proposition VIII:** The social position of widowhood with school-age children affects the behavior of parenting and being a single man.
CHAPTER IV

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the methodology that was used to research the topic of U.S. widowers with school-age children. This chapter is divided into the following sections: Research Strategy and Operational Definition, Research Design, Men Surveyed, Residence of Respondents, Sampling Design and Procedure, Sampling Technique, Research Instrument, Independent Variable and Dependent Variables.

Research Strategy and Operational Definition

Given the target population of widowers with school-age children, it was necessary next to establish the geographic limits the research. It was decided that since the population is very small, a national exploratory study would be the most promising for locating the men in the target population. It was understood from the beginning that it would be difficult to locate the men to survey. The following criteria were used to determine if a widower could be included in the survey: 1) the widower had school-age children at the time of his wife's death, 2) the school-age children lived at home with their father after the death of their mother, and 3) the widower could still be widowed or remarried. The survey asked questions relevant to the widower and the effect that his wife's death had
on him and his family. The survey also asked for information about the widower's deceased wife.

Research Design

The exploratory nature of this study was dictated by the lack of data pertaining to widowers with school-age children. Questions on the survey were developed from previously reviewed literature dealing with husband/father and wife/mother roles, family settings, family crises, single parenting and grief and loss due to a death in the family. Serendipity was anticipated and desired from this research design.

Men Surveyed

The research strategy made the sampling process a non-random one in which forty-six (N=46) men from across the U.S who were or had been widowed with school-age children were asked to participate. Because of the sensitivity of the subject matter the researcher attempted to personally contact each respondent by mail or telephone before a survey was sent. This also served to establish the legitimacy of the study as a partial fulfillment of a sociology graduate program at South Dakota State University. The process by which the 46 men were located will be addressed in subsequent pages.
Residence of Respondents

Figure 1 is a map showing the states where the men who participated in this research resided as of 1995. The 46 respondents represent 21 different states.

The states in which the widowers reside and the number of widowers in those states is as follows: Delaware-2, Illinois-1, Indiana-2, Iowa-5, Maine-1, Maryland-1, Massachusetts-1, Michigan-2, Minnesota-4, Nebraska-1, New Jersey-1, North

These 46 men and their families constitute an extremely small part of the more than 35,378,000 American families with one or two parents (Household and Family Characteristics:467). Of this same data 437,000 of American families (1.2%) are headed by women who have been widowed and 110,000 American families (.03%) are headed by widowed men.

By race, 70,000 families are headed by White widowed men, 25,000 families by Black widowed men and 15,000 families by Hispanic widowed men. These widowed men are single parents of more than 220,000 children who are being brought up without a mother figure in the family.

**Sampling Design and Procedure**

During the last week of August 1994 a preliminary attempt was made via FAX to acquire names and addresses of widowers and who would participate in this study. The point of contact for this sampling technique was funeral homes. With permission from Eidsness Funeral Home in Brookings, S.D., a letter on Eidsness' letterhead was FAXed to 25 funeral homes in 25 different states. Funeral homes with a FAX machine on site according to the 1993 National Funeral Directory, were randomly selected. A time frame of 4 weeks was allowed a response from the funeral homes. At the end of this time frame no
correspondence was received from any of the 25 funeral homes. This method illustrated the difficulty of developing a sampling process to find respondents for this type of research.

As a member of The Association of Death Education and Counseling (ADEC), this researcher acquired from ADEC headquarters a mailing list of all members. This list included more than 1500 names and addresses of members in the United States who work in a wide array of disciplines related to death and dying. The disciplines include professors, clergy, nurses, medical doctors, funeral directors, and hospice personnel. The ADEC mailing list and a table of random numbers in Blalock (1960:437-440) were used for a snowball sampling procedure (Smith, 1991:140-141).

Sampling Technique

"Snowball sampling" or a "cobweb" technique is the use of different procedures to make initial contact with respondents by a probability method. Snowball sampling has been found to be a logical as well cost-effective way to randomly survey an extremely small or rare population (Scott, 1991; Babbie, 1986 and Flynn, 1973). It is the contact with the initial respondents that leads to the "reputational approach" of informants (Scott, 1991). These informants are key because 1) they are produced by knowledgeable agents, 2) the informants are knowledgeable in the area of study, and 3) the widower is considered a rare population and snowballing may continue via widowers' networking.
To locate the initial informants who would have information on widowers with school-age children, a randomly selected number of ADEC members from the United States was drawn to begin the snowball sampling procedure. These members were sent letters requesting their assistance with this research. Two mailing dates were used. The first 100 letters were mailed on September 30, 1994, and the second 100 followed on October 3, 1994.

Both mailings produced a limited number of names of potential subjects for this study. Therefore, another avenue was implemented on December 13, 1994 for the purpose of adding to the limited number of widowers that had been located. On this date a notice appeared in the quarterly ADEC magazine *Forum*. This magazine is received by all currently active members. Thirty-one widowers were initially contacted through the 200 mailings and the notice placed in the *Forum*. These 31 men were sent survey packets to be filled out. An additional three widowers were found via America On Line using "Widower" as a search keyword. The remaining twelve men were brought to the researcher's attention by people who knew of the study and widowers who knew other widowers who wanted to participate in the study. In all, 46 widower's with school-age children were found to participate in this national exploratory study.
Research Instrument

The instrument used for this research consisted of three sections (See Appendix A for a complete copy of the mailed survey). Each survey packet contained the following materials: letter of introduction, instructions, survey, and a self-addressed stamped envelope for the widowers to return their survey. The surveys were sent back to the Department of Sociology at South Dakota State University so that participants would know that this research was a professional study.

Section One:

Section one of the research instrument included 30 survey questions. Respondents were asked to respond to the questions by checking the response that "best fit them as an individual during the period of being widowed." Other questions asked the widowers to rate or rank their responses as they applied to them. Twenty of the thirty questions had space at the bottom of the question for the respondent to qualify his response in written form.

The written narrative was considered to be significant. Asking for this type responses to questions was an attempt to allow men to relate their own experiences beyond that of a "yes" or "no" response.
Section Two:

Section two of the survey dealt with the collection of demographic information about the widower and his deceased wife. Information in this section covered the occupation of both the husband and wife, ethnicity of the husband, educational level of both husband and wife, religious affiliation of both and the number of children and their age. Additionally, information was requested concerning the deceased wife's cause of death, age at the time of death and occupation.

Section Three:

The third section of the survey was a request for the widowers to sign a statement if they were interested in any future participation in a follow-up study on this same topic. When a survey was returned an alpha-numeric code was assigned to that survey. PC ARC/INFO geographic information system (GIS) software was used to spatially locate the respondents and to enter their responses to questions into a database. WordPerfect word processing software was used to record verbatim the narrative written in response to section one each questions, coded by the alpha-numeric code given to widower’s survey.

Independent Variables

Analysis of men as the single-parent according to Schesinger (1968) is "caused" and subsequently "operates" as a causal factor itself. For analysis
sake, the two must be separated so that a valid explanation of observed or
surveyed consequences can be recognized and distinctions noted. This can be
done by studying the dependent and independent variables associated with
being a widower with school-age children.

Wiley (1991) and Tongnoli (1979) state that the importance of the
independent variable is how it will process and function in the family in the
context of two universals: the absence of one parent and the frequent stigma of
role. The independent variables in this study investigate the importance of being
a widowed parent and the associated roles that go with widowhood. Time,
income, education, number of children and their age act the functions for the
independent variable. The response given by the widower to the questions
operationlize the role of stress, anxiety, loss, isolation, change, expectations,
adjustment and domestic duties.

The independent variable concentrates on the very nature, circumstances
and significance of the crisis that generated the change of roles for the man.
With the variable of "death" as the understood cause upheaval in the family, the
independent variables then may broken into distinct categories to be used for
analysis.

This research focuses on seven independent variables which affect the
man. Four of them came about because of the death of his spouse. These
variables are noted by an asterisk by the variable. The remaining three
variables existed before and after the death of his wife. The independent variables are discussed below by definition, concept categories.

Independent Variable One: **Length of Marriage**

Definition: Length of Marriage (LM) was measured in whole years. When a widower responded to the question of how long he was married, his answer was rounded down to the nearest year. For example if he answer was 7 years 5 months, it was coded as 7 years.

Concept: The length of time that the man was married will be an indicator of how he adjusts to the change of his marital status, which causes a realignment of roles, functions and tasks in the family.

Categories for LM: **Category I** = men who were married 10 years or less, **Category II** = men who were married more than 10 years.

Independent Variable Two: **Length of Widowhood**

Definition: Length of Widowhood (LW) was measured from the date of the wife’s death until the date the survey was filled out or until the widower remarried. The length of being widowed was measured in whole months.

Concept: The length of widowhood will be an indicator of how a husband's loss of his wife will affect his roles in the areas of social circles, personal rights and personal functions.
Categories for LW:  **Category I** = men who have been widowed 12 months or less,  **Category II** = men who have been widowed more than 12 months.

Independent Variable Three:  **Number of Children in the Family**

Definition:  Number of Children in the Family (NCF) includes all children of the widower.

Concept:  The number of children in the family will influence the amount of time and energy it takes to resolve conflict, stress and the ability to adjust to the tasks and functions the widower must perform in the areas of social circles, personal rights and personal functions.

Categories for NCF:  **Category I** = widowers with 1 or 2 children.  **Category II** = widowers with 3 or more children.

Independent Variable Four:  **Care of Children Age 18 and Under**

Definition:  Care of Children Age 18 and Under (CC18) the respondent was asked to give the current ages of his children.  The length of widowhood was subtracted from the current age of the children to determine their age at the time of their mother's death.

Concept:  Care of Children Age 18 and Under is the number of children age 18 or under in the family at the time of the wife's death.  Children in this age group
are considered to be dependent on the widower (their father) for their family-oriented needs. 

Categories for CC18: **Category I** = widowers with children from 14 to 18 years of age. These children were considered to be latchkey children, capable of caring for themselves until their father was in the home. **Category II** = widowers with children less than 14 years of age. This age group was considered to need day care or supervision by an adult when their father was not present. **Category III** = widowers with children in both age groups. Widowers in this category would be confronted with both child care scenarios which would impact him differently than if he had children in just Category I or Category II.

Independent Variable Five: **Widowers Education Level**

Definition: The Widower's Education Level (WEL) was determined by the widower's response on the survey regarding the highest educational level achieved.

Concept: A higher level of education indicates that the widower has better potential for knowing where to look for information on how to work through a crisis.

Categories for WEL: **Category I** = men whose education level was less than a bachelor degree, **Category II** = men whose education level was a bachelor degree or higher.
Independent Variable Six: **Widower's Gross Income**

Definition: Widower's Gross Income \( (WGI) \) was obtained directly from the survey. Respondents were asked to place a check next to the income bracket that best fit them at the time they were widowed.

Concept: The income available to the widower will impact his time and energy to function and perform tasks required by the different role(s) he occupies.

Categories for **WGI**: **Category I** = widowers whose income was $40,000 or less per year. **Category II** = widowers whose income was equal to or greater than $40,000 per year. These categories were derived from figures published in 1992 stating that in 1992 for the "average earning of year-round, full-time workers: 1992" the median income was $37,180 according to (Statistical Abstract of the United States 1994:474).

Independent Variable Seven: **Age Man was Widowed**

Definition: The Age Man is Widowed \( (AMW) \) information was obtained directly from the survey.

Concept: The age of the man at the time of his wife's death will influence his ability to adapt and to perform the functions and tasks that go with the roles in which he will operate as a widower.
Categories for AMW: **Category I** = men who were 35 years old or less at the
time their spouse's death, **Category II** = men who were older than 35 when their
spouse died. Using the age of 35 as a break point for the two categories was
based on statistics published in *(Statistical Abstract of the United States
1994:103)*. This publication stated that the median age for an American male to
be divorced in 1988 was 35.1 years of age. This information was used only as a
reference from a heavily studied family crisis area where roles and marital status
change.

**Dependent Variables**

For analysis of this small sample population (46 men), the responses to
the questions were collapsed or data reduction was used. This made it possible
to infer findings for this small population where information and knowledge is
lacking. The responses given to the survey questions which are outlined below
in a collapsed form will be used in Chapter V where data discussion and findings
are presented.
How Survey Question Responses Were Collapsed for an Operational Analysis

Question 1: Not used

Question 2: Thirteen possible responses:
Replies only to areas where an action took place = Took Action

Question 3: Five possible responses:
Response of 1 or 2 = Adjusted
Response of 3, 4 or 5 = Difficulty in Adjusting

Question 4: Five possible responses:
Response of 1 or 2 = Adjusted
Response of 3, 4 or 5 = Difficulty in Adjusting

Question 5: Not used

Question 6: Five possible responses:
Response of 1 or 2 = None
Response of 3, 4, or 5 = 1 or More

Question 7: Five possible responses:
Response of 1 or 2 = None
Response of 3, 4, or 5 = 1 or More

Question 8: Five possible responses:
Response of 1 or 2 = High Stress
Response of 3, 4 or 5 = Moderate-Low Stress
Question 9: Not used

Question 10: Four possible responses:

Response of 1 or 2 = **High Difficulty of Adjustment**

Response of 3 or 4 = **Low Difficulty of Adjustment**

Question 11a: (Day Care) Twelve possible responses:

Response of 1, 2, 5, and/or 6 = **Kin**

Response of 3, 4, 7 and/or 8 = **Kin by Marriage**

Response of 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 = **Non-Kin**

Question 11b: (Someone To Talk To) Twelve possible responses:

Response of 1, 2, 5, and/or 6 = **Kin**

Response of 3, 4, 7, and/or 8 = **Kin by Marriage**

Response of 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 = **Non-Kin**

Question 11c: (Understood Your Loss) Twelve possible responses:

Response of 1, 2, 5, and/or 6 = **Kin**

Response of 3, 4, 7 and/or 8 = **Kin by Marriage**

Response of 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 = **Non-Kin**

Question 11d: (Financial Help) Twelve possible responses:

Response of 1, 2, 5, and/or 6 = **Kin**

Response of 3, 4, 7, and/or 8 = **Kin by Marriage**

Response of 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 = **Non-Kin**
Question 12: Five possible responses

Response 1 = Honest

Response 2, 3, 4, or 5 = Other Than Honest

Question 13a, b, c: Seventeen possible responses

Responses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, and/or 14 = House-keeping

Responses 9, 16, and/or 17 = Child Socialization and Child Care

Responses 7 = Therapeutic

Responses 6, 8, and/or 15 = Provider

Question 14: Seventeen possible responses

Response "Task number from Question 13" = Most Difficult

Response "Task number from Question 13" = Easiest

Question 15: Four possible responses

Response of 1 or 2 = Agree with Statement

Response of 3 or 4 = Disagree with Statement

Question 16: Six possible responses

Response of 2 = Kin/Kin by Marriage

Response of 1, 3, 4, 5, or 6 = Non-Kin

Question 17: Not used

Question 18: Not used

Question 19: Not used
Question 20a: (Coping with Widowhood) Twelve possible responses

Response of 7 or 8 = Kin/Kin by Marriage

Response of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 or 12 = Non-Kin

Question 20b: (How to Function as a Single Parent)

Twelve possible responses

Response of 7 or 8 = Kin/Kin by Marriage

Response of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 or 12 = Non-Kin

Question 20c: (Moving on with Your New Life Style)

Twelve possible responses

Response of 7 or 8 = Kin/Kin by Marriage

Response of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 or 12 = Non-Kin

Question 21: Six possible responses

Response of 1 or 2 = Often

Response of 3, 4, 5, or 6 = Not Very Often

Question 22: Not used

Question 23: Two possible responses

Response of 1 = Yes

Response of 2 = No

Question 24: Two possible responses

Response of 1 = Yes

Response of 2 = No
Question 25: Seven possible responses

Response of 1, 2, or 3 = **Less than 1 Year**

Response of 4, 5, or 6 = **1 Year or More**

Response of 7 = **Other**

Question 26: Five possible responses

Response of 1, 2, or 3 = **Agree**

Response of 4 or 5 = **Disagree**

Question 27: Five possible responses

Response of 1, 2, or 5 = **Difficulty**

Response of 3 or 4 = **Little Difficulty**

Question 28: Four possible responses

Response of 1 or 2 = **Agree**

Response of 3 or 4 = **Disagree**

Question 29: Six possible responses

Response of 1, 2, 3, 5, or 6 = **Remarriage Discussed**

Response of 4 = **Remarriage Not Discussed**

Question 30: Four possible responses

Response of 1 or 4 = **Yes**

Response of 2 or 3 = **No/Not Sure**
CHAPTER V
FINDINGS AND DATA ANALYSIS

"Of all relationships affected by death, it is the death of a spouse that most changes the social identity of the bereaved. Husbands become widowers, and wives become widows. The existence of such a title reveals a fundamental change in one's social standing in the social order." (Kearl, 1989:483)

In Chapter I four objectives of the research were made. They were: 1) to determine how social circles, personal rights and personal functions cause or influence the expectation of different roles in which the widower functions, 2) to investigate the areas where perceived stress and conflicts are encountered by the widower, 3) to provide analysis of data and provide written narrative from surveyed widowers to describe the roles and social positions perceived by widowers and 4) to research the importance of networking by the widower when looking for help and guidance when dealing with widowhood. These objectives and the findings are addressed in the following pages by the responses to the survey which was sent out. A summary and conclusions will be drawn from the data that is to be presented below in Chapter VI.

This chapter presents five sections of findings from the responses of the 46 men surveyed. First, to be presented is demographic data pertaining to the religious affiliation and occupations of the husband and wife. Second,
information relating to the deceased spouse’s education level, employment, cause of death, and her age at the time of death is presented. The third area presents background information about the children. The fourth area is presented in two parts. Part one presents a table showing an overview of data collected from the widowers as it pertains to the independent variables. Part two depicts the information in the in pie chart format. These independent variables data were collapsed into categories for analysis (Chapter IV). Section five discusses the findings of the survey questions.

**Demographic Information for the Husband and Deceased Wife**

The demographic data collected on the survey represents information about the widower and his deceased wife. This information gives insight into both the widower and his deceased wife.

Except for one man who was African-American, the remaining men surveyed were Caucasian. The men resided in both rural and urban settings in the United States.

Background data acquired for the deceased wife were designed mirror (when appropriate) questions which were asked of the widower. It should be noted that one man who took part in this study had lost two wives due to car accidents over a nine-year period. The most recent spouse was the wife to which the widower referred when answering the survey.
Background Information of the Husband and Wife

Table 1 shows the religious affiliations of the husband and wife.

Table 1: Religious Affiliation of Husband and Wife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HUSBAND</th>
<th>WIFE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CATHOLIC</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHODIST</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUTHERAN</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESBYTERIAN</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEWISH</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PROTESTANT</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO AFFILIATION</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The occupations for the husband varied greatly at the time of his spouse’s death. A sample of some of the jobs the widowers worked at were college professor, chaplain, banker, self employed, farmer, police detective, college student, salesman and engineer. The occupations of the wives were varied. Their jobs included attorney, teacher, college professor, bus driver, opera singer/actress, factory worker, house wife and nurse.
When asked if their wife was employed full-time outside the home setting, 85% of the men responded yes. Of the remaining 15%, four wives worked at least part-time outside the home with the other 3 wives being considered full-time housewives.

The age at which the wives died ranged from 25 years of age to 49. The mean age for the wives' death was 38 years 9 months. The educational level of the deceased wives ranged from high school graduate to law school graduate. Eleven (24%) of the women had a four-year degree and 9 (20%) of the women had completed a master's degree or higher. Eight (17%) of the women had received only their high school diploma or GED equivalent. The remaining 18 (39%) of the women went on after high school to a vocational/technical school or took some college courses without completing their degree.

The nature or cause of death of the women is reflected in Table 2. The deaths are listed by general category and then broken down by specific cause. Cancer was the leading cause of death with 76 percent of the women falling into this category. The remaining 24 percent of the widowers lost their spouse by accidental death, suicide or other natural causes.
Table 2

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Children of the Widower and His Deceased Wife

At the time of their mother's death, the children's ages ranged from 7 months to 25 years of age. The 46 couples had a total of 114 children. Of these 114 children, 100 were 18 years old or younger. When the mother died, the average age for these 100 children was 9 years 5 months. Included in this group of children 18 and under were two sets of twins and two step-children. The gender of the children was not requested on the survey.
Table 3 all widowers surveyed, each alpha-numerically for anonymity. The widower codes are used throughout the remainder of this document.

The men responded to survey questions which related to the seven dependent variables. See Chapter III for the variables and their codes. The variable data are complete except for variable WGI where widower N1 did not respond. A single asterisk appearing next to a value indicates that this value falls into a Category 1 grouping for analysis (see Chapter III). A value with no asterisk indicates that this value falls into Category 2. Three asterisks are found next to some values for variable CC. This indicates that these men had children who fell into both Category 1 and Category 2, i.e., they are Category 3. Pie charts for each of the seven independent variables showing the number of widowers in each category are presented in Figures 2 through 8.
**Table 3**

Independent Variable Responses by Widower

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Profile of Respondents for the Independent Variables

Figure 2

Length of Marriage
For All Widowers

- Category 1
  <= 10 Years
- Category 2
  > 10 Years

Figure 3

Length of Widowhood
For All Widowers

- Category 1
  <= 12 Months
- Category 2
  > 12 Months

Figure 4
Number of Children in Family For All Widowers

- **Category 1**: 1 or 2 Children
- **Category 2**: 3 or more Children

![Pie chart showing distribution of children in widower households](chart1)

- 27
- 19

Child Care for Children Age 18 and Under For All Widowers

- **Category 1**: Age 14-18
- **Category 2**: <= 13 Years of Age
- **Category 3**: Both Age Groups

![Pie chart showing distribution of child care needs](chart2)

- 28
- 14
- 4
Figure 6

Widower's Education Level
For All Widowers

- Category 1
  - Less than B.S. Degree
- Category 2
  - B.S. Degree or Higher

Figure 7

Widower's Gross Income
For All Widowers

- Category 1
  - < $40,000 Per Year
- Category 2
  - $40,000 or More Per Year
Format of how Questions are structured for Analysis

Stated below is an overview of how the survey question were formatted for the purpose of data discussion and findings. This format is based on concepts and theory which has been discussed in previous chapters.

Example of Format

Question 10* [The following question is found in the "National Exploratory Survey of Men Who Have Been Widowed With School-Age Children"

Appendices] (*) found after question number indicates that written narrative is
found for question in Narrative Appendices B. To what extent has the nature of
your wife's death affected your adjustment to your role as a widower?

**Principle:** Social Circle  [ This refers to Chapter III ]

**Finding:** High Difficulty of Adjustment or Low Difficulty of Adjustment  [ This
refers to Chapter IV ]

**Role Concept:** Loss [ This refers to Chapter III ]

**Criteria:** 1 Factor: 2  [ This refers to Chapter III ]

**Note A:** In **Findings** when a difference of .25 or greater was found between the
categories being analyzed it was considered to be significant for this study.

**Note B:** The written narratives by the widowers are important and informative as
to what the widower believes and how he feels as it relates to the survey
question.
Formatted Survey Questions along with Data Discussion and Finding

Question 2

Did the death of your wife directly cause you to do any of the following?

Response: Widower's Who Took Action

Principle: Social Circles

Role Concept: Change

Criteria: 2 Factor: 1

Listed below are the thirteen items that the widowers took action on.

1) Change jobs
2) Sell the house
3) Go back to school
4) Change my personal priorities
5) Become closer to my children
6) Become more outgoing
7) Become more removed from my children
8) Do more house work than before my wife's death
9) Become more religious
10) Become less religious
11) Reflect more on my own life
12) Isolate myself from others
13) Consider my own death more than before
### Table 4

#### Question 2

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</table>

(Values are in %)
Data Discussion:

Table 4 shows the percent of widowers took some form of action in response to their wives death. The actions taken by the widower would not have normally occurred without her death. The listed percents indicate which action were considered more important to the widower to take action on.

Finding: It appears by the widowers responses that the major issues of life were not their prime concern after the death of their wives, but having to do more house work was. Though surprising considering the other items listed, if the man had depended on his wife to maintain the house during their marriage, then it becomes understandable. For the house is the focal point which the family lives and functions in. The second item the widowers took action on was to change their life priorities. The third item widowers took the most action was directly related to their taking action to change their life priorities, that being to reflect more on their own life. Fourth action most often taken by the widowers was to become closer to their children.

There appears to be a "battening down of the hatches" approach by the widower as he takes action on that concerns or worries on the home front first. For this was more likely to cause him the most stress as he reorganizes the tasks and functions that were to be done in the home. It was expected that the widowers would take more action on response to item 9 or 10. For it was not at all unexpected that when a major life crisis disrupts an individuals life that the
individual will take sanction in their religion or blame their religion for letting them down when they were most in need.
Question 3*

How well have you adjusted to the death of your wife?

**Principle:** Social Circle

**Response:** Adjusted or Difficulty in Adjusting

**Role Concept:** Loss

**Criteria:** 1  **Factor:** 1
Data Discussion:

With **length of marriage** as the independent variable, 33.3% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had adjusted to the death of their wife. The other 66.7% of those married less than 10 years had difficulty adjusting to the death of their wives. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 56.8% had adjusted to the death of their wife. The remaining 43.2% of these men have experienced difficulty in adjusting to her death.

**Finding**: Widowers married 10 years or more adjusted better to the death of their wife than those widowers who were married less than 10 years.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 35.7% of the widowers who were widowed 12 months or less had adjusted to the death of their wife compared to the remaining 64.3%. Of the men who were widowed for more than 12 months, 59.4% had adjusted to the death of their wife, while the remaining 40.6% were having difficulty in adjusting.

Finding: The longer the time the men were widowed the better they adjusts to their wives death.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 48.2% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children had found themselves adjusted to the death of their wife. The other 51.8% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children are experiencing difficulty in adjusting. Some 57.9% of the widowers with 3 or more children had adjusted to the death of their spouse. The remaining 42.1% of the men with 3 or more children were having difficulty in adjusting to the death of their wife.

Finding: The ability of the widower to adjust to the loss of his wife by death was not substantially affected by the total number of children in the family.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three unique age groups, shows that 75% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 39.3% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 71.4% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had adjusted to the death of their wife. Having difficulty in adjusting are 25% the of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 60.7% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 28.6% of the men with children in both age groups.

Finding: Widowers who have children age 14-18 and children in both age groups adjusted quite well; however widowers who have children 13 and under experience a notable amount of difficulty in adjusting to the death of their wives.
Data Discussion:

Widower's education level as an independent variable demonstrates that 27.3% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had adjusted to the death of their spouse. While 60% of widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had also adjusted. Those widowers who had difficulty in adjusting to their wives death are 72.7% the of men who have less than a bachelors degree. With 40% of men with a bachelor's degree or higher also having difficulty.

Finding: Widowers who had more education show better adjustment to the death of their wife, while those less educated show a strong tendency to have difficulty in adjusting.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of widower's gross income shows that 35.8% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 68.2% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had adjusted to the death of their wives. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 65.2% had difficulty in adjusting. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 31.8% had difficulty in adjusting to the death of their spouse.

Finding: Gross income is a major factor in adjusting to the death of one's spouse. The widower who earns $40,000 or more per year is twice as likely to adjust to his loss as the widower who earns less than $40,000 per year.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 66.7% had adjusted to the death of his wife; 33.3% of the same group had difficulty in adjusting. Men over the age of 35 split evenly at 50% adjusted and 50% with difficulty in adjusting.

Finding: The age at which the man was widowed appears to have no notable impact on how well the widower adjusts to the death of his wife.
Question 4

How well have you adjusted to the responsibilities of being a single parent?

**Principle:** Social Circle

**Response:** Adjusted or Difficulty in Adjusting

**Role Concept:** Change

**Criteria:** 1  **Factor:** 1

**Discussion:**

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 44.4% of all respondents reported less than 10 years. Stated that they had found it easy to fill the responsibilities of being a single parent. The other 55.6% of respondents reported that they encountered difficulty in adjusting to the responsibilities of being a single parent. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 42.5% had adjusted to the responsibilities of being a parent. For the remainder, 57.5% men had difficulty in adjusting to being a single parent.

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Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 44.4% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had adjusted to the responsibilities of being a single parent. The other 55.6% of those married less than 10 years had difficulty in adjusting to the responsibilities of being a single parent. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 46% had adjusted to the responsibilities of single parenthood. The remaining 54% of these men had difficulty in adjusting to being a single parent.

Finding: Difficulty in adjusting to the responsibilities of being a single parent caused stress for both categories of widowers according to the their length of marriage.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 42.9% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less had adjusted compared to the remaining 57.1%. Of the men in this group who were having difficulty in adjusting to single parent responsibilities of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 46.9% had adjusted to single parent responsibilities, while the remaining 53.1% were having difficulty in adjusting.

Findings: The length of time the man was widowed does not appear to make it easier for him to except the change to single parent status along with the responsibilities.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 51.9% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children had adjusted to the responsibilities of being a single parent. The other 48.2% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children experiencing difficulties in adjusting. Some 36.8% of the widowers with 3 or more children had adjusted to being a single parent. The remaining 63.2% of the men with 3 or more children were having difficulty in adjusting.

Finding: The widower who has 3 or more children had more difficulty in adjusting to the which were brought about by being a single parent.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 75% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 46.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 35.7% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had adjusted to single parent responsibilities. Having difficulty in adjusting are 25% of the widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 53.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 64.3% of the men with children in both age groups.

Finding: Widowers whose children were in the 14-18 age group adjust much better than the other two age categories. Where men who had children in both age groups had notable difficulty with responsibilities of single parenthood.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 54.5% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had adjusted to single parent responsibilities. While 42.9% of widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had adjusted to the change. Those widowers who had difficulty in adjusting are 45.5% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 57.1% of men with a bachelor's degree or higher also had difficulty in adjusting to single parent responsibilities.

Finding: Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher had a more difficult time in adjusting to single parent responsibilities than widowers with less than a bachelor's degree.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of widowers' gross income shows that 26% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 63.6% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had adjusted to the responsibilities of being a single parent. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 74% experienced difficulty in adjusting. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 36.4% had difficulty.

Finding: Difficulty in adjusting to being a single parent was very apparent with those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 33.3% had adjusted to the responsibilities of being a single parent; 66.7% of the same group had difficulty in adjusting. While 47.5% of the men over the age of 35 had adjusted, the remaining 52.5% of the men had difficulty.

Finding: Widowers in both age groups experienced difficulty in adjusting to single parent responsibilities with those widowers who were 35 or younger having the most difficulty.
Question 6

How many widowers did you know who had school-age children prior to your own experiences with widowhood?

Principle: Social Circle

Response: None or One or More

Role Concept: Loss

Criteria: 3 Factor: 1

Data Discussion

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 66.5% of the widowers married for less than 10 years stated that they knew no other widowers with school-age children. The other 33.5% of those married for less than 10 years knew of one or more other widowers with school-age children. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 67.8% knew none. The remaining 32.2% of these men knew at least one other widower.

Finding: Widowers who were recently married were hesitant to the knowledge of an individual with whom they could share experiences that were unexpected and emotionally charged.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 88.9% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they knew no other widowers with school-age children. The other 11.1% of those married less than 10 years knew of one other widower with school-age children. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 67.8% knew none. The remaining 32.4% of these men knew at least one other widower.

Finding: Widowers in both categories to a large extent had no knowledge of widowed men with school-age children while they were married to their deceased wife.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 50% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less knew no men widowed with school-age children. The remaining 50% of the men in this group knew of at least one widowed man with school-age children. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 81.3% had no knowledge of men widowed with school-age children, while the remaining 18.7% knew of at least one man.

Findings: Men widowed for more than 12 months had a very limited knowledge of other men widowed with school-age children prior to their own widowhood.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 77.8% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children had no knowledge of a widower with school-age children. The other 22.2% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children knew at least one widower with school-age children. Some 63.2% of the widowers with 3 or more children had no knowledge of such men. The remaining 36.8% of the men with 3 or more children knowing of at least one man widowed with school-age children.

Finding: The number of children in a family was of no consequence for the widower to know other widowers with school-age children prior to his own widowhood experience.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 50% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 75% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 71.4% of the widowers who have children in both age groups did not no of a widower with school-age children. Knowing at least one man widowed with school-age children, included 50% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 25% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 28.6% of the men with children in both age groups.

Finding: The age of the children was not considered a factor in a widowers prewidowhood experiences which would give him information about men widowed with school-age children.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 72.3% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had no knowledge of men widowed with school-age children. While 71.4% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree also had no knowledge of such men. Those widowers who knew of at least one man are 27.3% of men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 28.6% of men with a bachelor's degree or higher knew at least one widower with school-age children.

Finding: Education or the lack of appeared to have no influence on men prior to their own loss that would expose them to widowers with school-age children.
Figure 28

Question 6
Widower's Gross Income

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<th>Number of Widowers</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= $40,000 Per Year</td>
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Data Discussion:

The independent variable of widowers' gross income shows that 70% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 72.7% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had previous knowledge of widowers with school-age children. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 30% had knowledge of at least one widower with school-age children. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 27.3% knew at least one widower in this setting.

Finding: A widowers' gross income makes no difference in his previous knowledge of widowers with school-age children.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 83.3% had not known any widowers with school-age children; 16.7% of the same group had knowledge of at least one widower. While 70% of the men over the age of 35 knew of no widowers with school-age children and the remaining 30% had knowledge of at least one widower.

Finding: The age the man was widowed was not a factor that would predispose him to other widowed men with school-age children.
Question 7

How many men do you now know who are widowed with school-age children?

Principle: Social Circle

Response: None or One or More

Role Concept: Loss

Criteria: 3 Factor: 1

Data Collection:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 55.8% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they presently knew the widowed with school-age children. Over 44.4% of those married 10 years or more stated they knew at least one widow with school-age children. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 15.9% do not know any widow. The remaining 84.1% do know at least one widow. At least one widow was known at least one widow. Up to 12.1% of those widowers married less than 10 years.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 55.6% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they presently knew no other widowers with school-age children. The other 44.4% of those married less than 10 years stated they knew at least one widower with school-age children. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 18.9% did not know a widower. The remaining 81.1% of these men knew at least one widower with school-age children.

Finding: A large number of widowers who were married more than 10 years knew at least one other widower with school-age children compared to widowers married less than 10 years.
Data Discussion:
Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 21.4% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less knew no other widowers with school-age children, compared to the remaining 78.6% of the men in this group who knew of at least one widower with school-age children. The widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 28.1% had no knowledge of this type of widower, while the remaining 71.9% had knowledge of at least one widower with school-age children.

Findings: The number of months the man was widowed does not appear to have an influence on how many widowers with school-age children the man knows.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used 37% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children had no knowledge of a widower with school-age children. The other 63% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children knew of at least one such man. Some 10.5% of the widowers with 3 or more children did not know a widower with school-age children. With the remaining 89.5% of the men with 3 or more children knowing at least one other widower with school-age children.

Finding: Widowers with 3 or more children were very likely to know of other men that were widowed with school-age children while widowers with 1 or 2 were not.
Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that, 0% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 28.8% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 28.6% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had no knowledge of a widower with school-age children. While 100% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 71.4% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 71.4% of the men with children in both age groups stated they knew at least one widower with school-age children.

**Finding:** Widowers who had children in any of the three age categories were likely to know at least one widower with school age children.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 27.3% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had no knowledge of a widower with school-age children. While 25.7% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree also had no knowledge of this type of widower. Those widowers who knew of at least one widower with school-age children are 72.7% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 74.3% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also knew widowers with school-age children.

Finding: The widowers education level appears to have no influence on the number of other widowers with school-age children that he may know.
Figure 35

Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 21.7% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 31.8% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had no contact with widowers with school-age children. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 78.3% had knowledge of a widower with school-age children. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 68.2% had knowledge of widowers with school-age children.

Finding: It appears that gross income does not play a major role for widowers in their having knowledge of other widowers in a like setting.
**Data Discussion:**

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 33.3% had no knowledge of other widower's with school-age children; 66.7% of the same group had knowledge of widowers. While 25% of the men over the age of 35 had no knowledge of other widowers with school-age children, the remaining 75% of the men had knowledge of at least one widower.

**Finding:** It appears that the age the man was widowed does not play a significant role in his knowing of other widowers with school-age children.
Question 8*

To what extent was your experience in obtaining child care for your child(ren) a stressful experience for you?

**Principle:** Personal Role Behavior and Functions

**Response:** High Stress or Moderate-Low Stress

**Role Concept:** Change

**Criteria:** 1  Factor: 2

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Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 32.8% of men who were married less than 10 years stated that they had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. The other 67.2% of those married and then 10 years or more had high stress associated with obtaining child care. For the widowers/men 10 years or more, 31.4% had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. The remaining 68.6% of these men stated they had high stress when obtaining child care.

Findings: Men currently married less than 10 years had a higher stress level for child care than those who had been married for 10 years or more.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 33.3% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had moderate-low stress in obtaining child care. The other 66.7% of those married less than 10 years had high stress associated with obtaining child care. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 81.1% had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. The remaining 18.9% of these men stated they had high stress when acquiring child care.

Finding: Widowers married less than 10 years had a higher stress level than widowers married 10 years or more when obtaining child care.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 78.6% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less experienced moderate-low stress when finding child care compared to the remaining 21.4% of the men in this group which had high stress. The widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 68.8% had moderate-low stress associated with finding child care, while the remaining 31.2% had high stress associated with locating child care.

Findings: The length of time a man had been widowed appears not to influence stress to any large part in locating child care.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 63% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children found they had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. The other 37% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children had experienced high stress when obtaining child care. Some 84.2% of the widowers with 3 or more children had moderate-low stress relating to finding child care. With the remaining 15.8% of the men with 3 or more children had high stress in looking for child care.

Finding: Widowers with 3 or more children had a lower stress factor than widowers with 1 or 2 children when obtaining child care.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 75% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 67.9% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 78.6% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. With 25% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 32.1% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 21.4% of the men with children in both age groups stated they experienced high stress when finding child care.

Finding: When all age categories were considered the widowers appear not to be any more or less stressed by the children’s ages when obtaining child care.
Data Discussion:

Widower’s educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 72.7% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor’s degree had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. While 71.4% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor’s degree also encountered moderate-low stress with child care. Those widowers who had high stress when looking for child care are 27.3% of the men who have less than a bachelor’s degree. While 28.6% of the men with a bachelor’s degree or higher also had high stress levels when obtaining child care.

Finding: The educational level of the widowers appeared to make no difference on the stress level for the widower when obtaining child care.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 73.9% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 68.2% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had moderate-low stress when obtaining child care. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 26.1% had high stress associated with finding child care. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 31.8% had high stress when attempting to find child care.

Finding: The gross income of the widower showed no evidence of influencing the stress that may be associated with obtaining child care.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 33.3% had moderate-low stress when locating child care; 66.7% of the same group had high stress. While 77.5% of the men over the age of 35 had moderate-low stress in obtaining child care, and the remaining 22.5% had high amounts of stress.

Finding: The widowers who were widowed at the age of 35 or younger associate a higher stress level with obtaining child care than do widows who were widowed at the age greater than 35.
Question 10

To what extent has the nature of your wife's death affected your adjustment to your role as a widower?

Principle: Social Circle

Response: Affected Adjustment to a High Degree or Affected Adjustment to a Lower Degree

Role Concept: Loss

Criteria: 1 Factor: 2

Date Discussion

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 24% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had a high difficulty of adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death. The other 76% of those married less than 10 years had a high difficulty adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death. For widowers married 10 years or more, 69.7% had low adjustment difficulty, and 30.3% had a high difficulty of adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death.

Finding: Widowers who were married less than 10 years had a higher adjustment difficulty in their grief experience than did widowers who were married 10 years or more.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 11.1% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had a low difficulty of adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death. The other 88.9% of those married less than 10 years had a high difficulty adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death.

For those widowers married 10 years or more, 48.7% had low difficulty in adjustment. The remaining 51.3% of these men had a high difficulty of adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death.

Finding: For widowers who were married less than 10 years, they had a higher difficulty of adjustment with the nature of their wife's death than did widowers married 10 years or more.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 42.9% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less had low difficulty of adjustment compared to the remaining 57.1% of the men in this group who had high difficulty of adjustment when considering the nature of their wife's death.

The widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 40.6% had low difficulty of adjustment when the nature of death was considered, while the remaining 59.4% had high difficulty of adjustment when this was considered.

Findings: Length of time a man was widowed seems to make little difference in how the widower adjusts to the death of his wife when cause is considered.
Data Discussion:
Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 40.7% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children experienced a low difficulty of adjustment when cause of death is considered. The other 59.3% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children had a high difficulty of adjustment with cause.

Some 42.1% of the widowers with 3 or more children had a low difficulty of adjustment when the nature of their wife's death was considered. The remaining 57.9% of the men with 3 or more children had a high difficulty of adjustment.

Finding: The number of children in a family appears not to be a major factor when considering how the widowers adjusts to the cause of their wives death.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 50% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 35.7% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 50% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had a low difficulty of adjustment when cause of death is considered. While the other 50% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 64.7% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 50% of the men with children in both age groups stated they had high difficulty of adjustment due to the nature of their wife's death.

Finding: Widowers with children 13 and under appear to have more difficulty with the cause of their wives death than do widowers with children in the other age categories.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 45.5% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had low difficulty of adjustment. While 40% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had a low difficulty of adjustment to the cause of their wives death. Those widowers who had a high difficulty of adjustment to the cause of death are 54.6% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 60% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also had a high difficulty of adjustment to the cause of death.

Finding: There appears to be no real difference because of the widowers education level as to how he adjusts to the nature of his wives death.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 43.5% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 40.9% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had low difficulty of adjustment to the nature of their wives' death. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 56.5% had high difficulty of adjustment due to nature of death. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 59.1% had a high difficulty of adjustment due to the nature of their spouse's death.

Finding: The gross income does not appear to affect the widowers' adjustment level as how he views the nature of his wife's death as it relates to his role as a widower.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger, 16.7% had a low difficulty of adjustment to the nature of their wives' death; while 83.3% of the same group had a high difficulty of adjustment. While 45% of the men over the age of 35 had a low difficulty of adjustment to the nature of death, the remaining 55% had a high difficulty of adjustment.

Finding: Widowers widowed at the age of 35 or younger had a high difficulty of adjustment when the nature of their wives' death was considered.
Question 11a*

Please rate each person listed below relative to their helpfulness after your wife's death in the areas indicated (there are four areas).

Area: Child Care

Principle: Personal Role Behavior and Functions

Response: Kin, Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

Role Concept: Child Care

Criteria: 1 Factor: 2

NOTE: For question 11a, 11b, 11c and 11d a rating scale of 1 to 5 is used. 1 to 2 = Very Helpful, 2 to 4 = Helpful and 4 to 5 = Not Helpful. The number following the horizontal bar indicates the rate of helpfulness to the widower on a sliding scale.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found:

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.74 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.39 when needing help with child care.

Finding: The tendency was for widowers who were married 10 years or less was to receive more help from non-kin, kin by marriage and kin than men married more than 10 years.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.77 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.03 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Overall the length of widowhood appeared to make no difference in the helpfulness rating for widowers to obtain child care help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage, and kin.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found.

1) Widower's with 3 or more children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.72 when needing help with child care.

2) Widower's 1 or 2 children rated the general helpfulness of all groups was 3.89 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Overall the number of children in a family for the widower appeared to make no difference in the helpfulness rating for widowers to obtain child care help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.66 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.85 when needing help with child care.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.8 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Widowers with children in the age group of 13 and under found non-kin, kin by marriage and kin to be not helpful when needing child care.
Widowers who had children in the both age groups and 14-18 age group found the individuals in these to be helpful.

Data Discussion

With widow's education level as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering any child care, the following was found:

1. Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.88 when needing help with child care.

2. Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.44 when needing help with child care.

Overall, Widow's education level does not significantly affect the helpfulness rating for widowers to obtain child care help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage, and kin.
Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.88 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.94 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Overall the education level appeared to make little difference in the helpfulness rating for widowers to obtain child care help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Data Discussion:

With widower's gross income as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found.

1) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or greater per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.93 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or less per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.86 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Overall the widowers gross income appeared to make no difference in the helpfulness rating for widowers to obtain child care help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering day care/child care the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.93 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.83 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Kin appeared to be more helpful to both categories of widowers when the age at which they were widowed was considered for child care. Overall however the age the man was widowed appeared to make no difference in the
helpfulness rating for widowers to obtain child care help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Question 11b*

Area: Someone To Talk To

Principle: Social Circle

Response: Kin, Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

Role Concept: Isolation

Criteria: 1 Factor: 3

Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and social helpfulness as the dependent variable, the following was found:

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all people to be 1.1; whereas widowers who were married less than 10 years rated the helpfulness of all people to be 1.3.

2) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the helpfulness of someone to talk to as 1.1; whereas widowers who were married less than 10 years rated the helpfulness of someone to talk to as 1.3.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found.

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.11 when needing help with someone to talk to.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.87 when needing help with someone to talk to.

Finding: Non-kin and kin were more helpful than kin by marriage when needing someone to talk to for widowers who were married more than 10 years and those married 10 years or less.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.65 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.78 when needing someone to talk to.

Finding: Non-kin and kin were more helpful overall than kin by marriage when length of widowhood was considered when needing someone to talk to than kin by marriage for widowers widowed more than 12 months and those men widowed 12 months or less.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found.

1) Widowers with 3 or more children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.78 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers 1 or 2 children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.00 when needing someone to talk to.

Finding: Kin by marriage were less helpful when needing someone to talk to for widowers who had 1 or 2 children. Overall however the number of children in the family appeared to make little difference in the helpfulness rating for
widowers when needing someone to talk to from the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.

Data Discussion

With child care for children age 18 and younger as the dependent variable and rating the helpfulness of those close in the widowers and considering someone to talk to the following were due:

1) Widowers with both among groups have a more general helpfulness of at group 149
3.12 when needing help with child care

2) Widowers with both among groups have a more general helpfulness of at group 149

3) Widowers with both among groups have a more general helpfulness of at group 149

Finding: Kin by marriage were most helpful, when needing someone to talk to
Data Discussion:

With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.12 when needing help with child care.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.06 when needing help with child care.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.05 when needing help with child care.

Finding: Kin by marriage were least helpful when needing someone to talk to for widowers when considering child care for children age 18 and under in all
three age categories. Overall however the child care for children age 18 and under appeared to make no difference in the helpfulness rating when needing someone to talk to from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.

Data Discussion

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found:

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.11 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.94 when needing someone to talk to.

Finding 1 was similar to the findings that widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher had more contact with kin, not necessarily through marriage. Overall however the widowers educational level appeared to have a strong influence on the helpfulness rating.
Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.11 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.94 when needing someone to talk to.

Finding: Kin by marriage were less helpful when needing someone to talk to for widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher and those who had less than a bachelor's degree. Overall however the widowers educational level appeared to make little difference in the helpfulness rating for widowers when needing
someone to talk to from the individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.

Data Discussion

With a widow's gross income as the independent variable and rating the helpfulness of those close to the widow when considering someone to talk to the following was found:

1) Widowers whose income was equal to or greater than $40,000 per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 7.11, when rating someone to talk to.

2) Widows whose income was less than $40,000 per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 6.27, when rating someone to talk to.

Finding: Widow's were considerably more helpful than widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and kinship, non kin, kin by marriage, or more per year. Overall, women in each category received the most helpful ratings.
Data Discussion:

With **widower's gross income** as the independent variable and noting the **helpfulness** of those close to the widower when considering **someone to talk to** the following was found.

1) Widowers whose income was equal to or greater than $40,000 per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.91 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers whose income was less than $40,000 per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.32 when needing help with child care.

**Finding:** Non-kin were more helpful when needing someone to talk to for widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and for those who earn $40,000 or more per year. Overall there is an appearance of individuals in the categories
of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin to help the widower who earns $40,000 or more per year.

Data Discussion

With age being the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found:

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 36 when widowed distributed the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.02 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers who were only 50 or less when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.71 when needing someone to talk to.

Focusing on those in the highest age group, more than 50 widowers who were married at the age of 50 or older, we can see a difference in helpfulness for the widowers who were widowed in the age of 55 years old or more.
Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering someone to talk to the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.02 when needing someone to talk to.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.71 when needing someone to talk to.

Finding: Non-kin and kin were more helpful when needing someone to talk to for widowers who were widowed at the age of 35 or less. Overall there is a tendency for the widowers who were widowed at the age of 35 years old or less
to receive more help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Question 11c*

Area: Understood Your Loss

Principle: Social Circle

Response: Kin, Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

Role Concept: Isolation

Criteria: 1 Factor: 3

Data Discussion

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understanding your loss, the following was found:

1. Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.74 when needing help in understanding their loss.

2. Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.97 when needing help in understanding their loss.

As such, the length of marriage seems to have an effect on the helpfulness of those close to the widower in understanding their loss.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understanding your loss, the following was found.

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.74 when needing help in understanding their loss.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.97 when needing help in understanding their loss.

Finding: Kin by marriage were the least helpful when understanding the widowers loss for widowers who had been married 10 years or less. Overall however the length of marriage appeared to make no difference in the
helpfulness rating for widowers when the individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin needed understanding.

Data Discussion

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower who understood and supported, the following was found:

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general helpfulness of the groups as 3.04 when needing help in understanding their loss.

2) Widowers widowed less than 12 months rated the general helpfulness of the groups as 2.95, indicating a need in understanding the loss.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.04 when needing help in understanding their loss.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.15 when needing help in understanding their loss.

Finding: Widowers widowed 12 months or less found individuals from categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin to be very helpful when needing understanding with his loss, when compared to widowers widowed more than 12 months.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss the following was found.

1) Widowers with 3 or more children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.56 when needing help in understanding your loss.

2) Widowers 1 or 2 children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.79 when needing help in understanding your loss.

Finding: Overall the number of children in the family appeared to make no difference in the helpfulness rating for widowers when receiving understanding of their loss from the individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Finding:Kin by marriage were less helpful when it comes to understanding the widowers loss when child care for children age 18 and under in the age group of 18 and under.

![Bar Chart](chart.png)

**Figure 68**

**Question 11c**
**Understood Your Loss**
**Child Care for Children Age 18 and Under**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Very Helpful</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Not Helpful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Kin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kin by Marriage</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>2.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kin</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>2.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Discussion:

With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.71 when needing help in understanding your loss.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.25 when needing help in understanding your loss.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.89 when needing help in understanding your loss.
Finding: Kin by marriage were less helpful when it comes to understanding the widowers loss when child care for children age 18 and under in the age group of 13 and under is a factor.
Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.87 when needing help in understanding your loss.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.58 when needing help in understanding your loss.

Finding: Overall the widowers educational level appears to indicate those widowers who had less than a bachelor's degree received a little more help when it came to understanding the widowers loss from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Data Discussion:

With widower's gross income as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss the following was found.

1) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or more per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.84 when needing help in understanding their loss.

2) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or less per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.82 when needing help in understanding their loss.
**Finding:** The widowers gross income did not appear to influence the about of help he received from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin when understanding his loss.

**Data Discussion:**

With age at time widowed as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understanding your loss the following was found:

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.77 when needing in understanding their loss.

2) Widowers who were 35 or younger when their wives died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.0 when needing in understanding their loss.
Finding: Overall the age at which a man was widowed appears to make little difference in the amount of help that he receives when it comes to understanding his loss by the individuals who are closest to him. This is true regardless of age and kinship. However, when age of widower and non-kin were compared, widowers whose age was greater than 35 when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss as 2.77 when needing in understanding their loss. Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.7 when needing help in understanding their loss.

Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering understood your loss the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.77 when needing in understanding their loss.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 2.7 when needing help in understanding their loss.
**Finding**: Overall the age at which the man was widowed appears to make little difference in the amount of helpfulness he gets when it comes to understanding his loss by the individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
**Question 11d**

**Area:** Financial Help

**Principle:** Personal Rights

**Response:** Kin, Kin By Marriage or Non-kin

**Role Concept:** Adjust

**Criteria:** 1  **Factor:** 1

---

**Data Discussion**

With length of marriage as the independent variable and rating the helpfulness of those close to the widower when needing financial help as the dependent variable, the following was found:

1. Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.52 when needing financial help.

2. Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.47 when needing financial help.

**Finding:** Widowers who were married 10 years or less were less likely to rate their help from all individuals in the categories of non-kin, by marriage and kin, when they knew that they would receive a smaller annuity compared to an early widow.

---
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help, the following was found.

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.52 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.62 when needing financial help.

Finding: Widowers who were married 10 years or less received more help from all individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin when financial help was needed than did widowers married longer than 10 years.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.26 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.16 when needing financial help.

Finding: Length of widowhood appears not to make any difference for the widower in receiving or not receiving financial help from individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help the following was found.

1) Widowers with 3 or more children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.32 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers 1 or 2 children rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.44 when needing financial help.

Finding: The number of children in a family appears to make no difference in the helpfulness that the widowers receive from the individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Data Discussion:

With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.26 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 5.00 when needing financial help.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.27 when needing financial help.
Finding: All widowers found individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin to be not helpful with financial help when child care for children age 18 and under was considered a factor.
Data Discussion:

With widower’s education level as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor’s degree or higher rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.33 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor’s degree rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.41 when needing financial help.

Finding: Overall the widowers educational level made no difference for the individuals who were considered not to be helpful when it came to financial help in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin.
Data Discussion:

With widower's gross income as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help the following was found.

1) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or more per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.54 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or less per year rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.16 when needing financial help.

Finding: Overall the widowers gross income showed individuals were not helpful with financial help. However widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or less per year received slightly more help than widowers who earned $40,000 or more per year.
Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the helpfulness of those close to the widower when considering financial help the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 4.46 when needing financial help.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general helpfulness of all groups as 3.81 when needing financial help.

Finding: Widowers who became widowed at the age of 35 or younger were found to receive more financial help overall and especially from non-kin and kin.

Widowers who became widowed at the age of 35 or greater did not find the individuals in the categories of non-kin, kin by marriage and kin to be helpful.
Question 12*

When your children ask you about their mother's death and related events (e.g., the funeral), how do you respond to their question?

**Principle:** Personal Role Behavior and Functions

**Response:** Honest or Other Than Honest

**Role Concept:** Anxiety

**Criteria:** 1 **Factor:** 1

**Findings:** All but one of the 46 widowers surveyed when asked how they handled questions from their children in dealing with their mothers death, responded by stating they answered the questions honestly. With 97.8% of the widowers approaching such questions with honest answers it appears that this was major concern for the men when talking to their children about their mothers death.
Question 13

During your marriage, who assumed primary responsibility for the various tasks listed below? (Note tasks stated in Survey in Appendix)

Task: Housekeeping, Child Socialization, Therapeutic, Provider and Child Care

Principle: Personal Role Behavior and Functions

Response: Husband, Wife or Joint

Role Concept: Domestic

Criteria: 1 Factor: 2

Data Discussion:

Table 4 for question 13 represent how the widower perceived and who fulfilled which domestic role in the family. The responses which are given by the widower are "after the fact" in nature, however the data which is given in percent, indicates how the widower saw his wife and himself with regards to who performed what domestic roles in their family a majority of the time.
Findings:

Based on the categories in the independent variable length of marriage the following was found as to who was responsible for the following roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - both categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.

2) House keeper - both categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.

3) Provider - both categories agree that this is the husband's responsibility.

4) Therapeutic - both categories agree that it is a wife/joint responsibility.
Finding:

Based on the categories in the independent variable length of widowhood the following was found as to who was responsible for the following family roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - both categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.
2) Housekeeper - both categories agree that this is a wife's responsibility.
3) Provider - both categories agree that this is a husband's responsibility.
4) Therapeutic - widower's widowed more than 12 months stated this was the wife's responsibility, while men who were widowed 12 months or less stated this is a joint responsibility.

(Values are in %)
Finding:

Based on the categories in the independent variable number of children in family the following was found as to who was responsible for the following family roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - both categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.

2) Housekeeper - both categories agree that this is a wife's responsibility.

3) Provider - both categories agree that this is a husband's responsibility.

4) Therapeutic - widower's with 3 or more children state this is the wife's responsibility, while widower's with 1 or 2 children state this is a joint responsibility.

(Values are in %)
Figure 82

Question 13
Child Care for Children Age 18 and Under

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Socialization and Child Care</th>
<th>House-keeper</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Therapeutic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 14-18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35.71</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;= 13 Years of Age</td>
<td>14.61</td>
<td>31.41</td>
<td>48.82</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Age Groups</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38.67</td>
<td>52.08</td>
<td>23.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Values are in %)

Finding:

Based on the categories in the independent variable child care for children age 18 and under, the following was found as to who was responsible for the following family roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - all categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.

2) Housekeeper - all categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.

3) Provider - all categories agree that this is the husband's responsibility.

4) Therapeutic - all categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.
Finding:

Based on the categories in the independent variable *widower's education level* the following was found as to who was responsible for the following family roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - both categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.

2) Housekeeper - both categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.

3) Provider - both categories agree that this is the husband's responsibility.

4) Therapeutic - widowers with less than a bachelor's degree state this is a joint responsibility, while widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher state this is the wife's responsibility.
Figure 84

Question 13
Widower's Gross Income

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(Values are in %)

Finding:

Based on the categories in the independent variable widower's gross income the following was found as to who was responsible for the following family roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - both categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.
2) Housekeeper - both categories agree that this is the a wife's responsibility.
3) Provider - both categories agree that this is the husband's responsibility.
4) Therapeutic - both categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.
Based on the categories in the independent variable age man was widowed the following was found as to who was responsible for the following family roles:

1) Socialization and Child Care - both categories agree that this is a joint responsibility.

2) Housekeeper - both categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.

3) Provider - both categories agree that this is the husband's responsibility.

4) Therapeutic - both categories agree that this is the wife's responsibility.
**Question 14**

As a widower with school-age children, which of the tasks in **Question # 13** do you find the MOST difficult to deal with? The EASIEST to deal with?

**Principle:** Personal Role Behavior and Function

**Response:** Easiest or Most Difficult

**Role Concept:** Domestic

**Criteria:** 1 Factor: 2

The tasks which the widowers could select from are:

1. Finding a sitter
2. Grocery shopping
3. Paying monthly bills
4. Doing laundry
5. Cleaning the house
6. Maintaining the car
7. Staying home with sick children
8. Yard work
9. Taking children to appointments
10. Making meals
11. Helping the children with school work
12. Ironing/mending clothes
13. Knowing where the children are
14. General shopping
15. Doing home maintenance
16. Putting kids to bed
17. Getting children up for school
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Data Discussion:

Table 5 below is set-up with the independent variables list on top which are broken down by specific category (please see Chapter IV), example: LM1, LM = length of marriage, and 1 = the category for that specific independent variable.

On the left side there are seventeen possible responses for the widower to respond to, their overall responses are entered in percents. Table 5. When (a) appears next to task number, this indicates that this task was the **most difficult** of all the tasks for the widower to do in this row. When (b) is next to the number this indicates that this task was considered the **easiest** of all the tasks.

**Finding:** The most difficult task for widowers to perform was 10a, **making meals.** This difficulty was specifically noted by widowers for variables LM2, LW2, NCF1, NCF2, CC3, WEL2, WGI1 and AMW2. Next in line for the most difficult task for the widowers was **locate a sitter.** Though this was hard on some widowers it still fell well short of cooking. The easiest task for the widower was task 16b, **putting the children to bed.** Widowers who felt this to be an easy task are profiled as belonging to variables LW2, NCF1, CC1, WGI1, and AMW2.
Question 15*

Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

"After my wife's death my fellow workers found it difficult to talk to me about her death."

**Principle:** Social Circle

**Response:** Agree With Statement or Disagree With Statement

**Role Concept:** Expectations

**Criteria:** 1  **Factor:** 4

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**Data Discussion:**

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 66.7% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they agree with the statement. The other 33.3% of those married less than 10 years disagreed with the statement. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 51.4% agree with statement. The remaining 48.6% of these men disagree with statement.

**Finding:** Widowers found it difficult for fellow workers to discuss with them the subject of their wives death, no matter the length of time he and his wife had been married.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 66.7% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they agree with the statement. The other 33.3% of those married less than 10 years disagreed with statement. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 51.4% agree with statement. The remaining 48.6% of these men disagree with statement.

Finding: Widowers found it difficult for fellow workers to discuss with them the subject of their wives death, no matter the length of time he and his wife had been married.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 42.9% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less disagreed with statement compared to the remaining 57.1% of the men in this group who agree. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 59.4% agree with statement, while the remaining 40.6% disagree with statement.

Findings: Men who had been widowed more than 12 months appear to have more difficulty in discussing their wives death with fellow workers than do men widowed for 12 months or less.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 55.6% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children have found agreement with the statement. The other 44.4% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children disagree with statement. Some 52.6% of the widowers with 3 or more children agree with statement. The remaining 47.4% of the men with 3 or more children disagreeing with statement.

Finding: The number of children in the family appears to have no influence on the difficulty level a widower has when discussing with fellow workers the subject of his wife's death.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 75% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 57.1% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 42.9% of the widowers who have children in both age groups are in agreement with statement. While 25% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 42.9% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 57.1% of the men with children in both age groups stated they disagree with statement.

Finding: Widowers with children 14-18 years old appear to have more difficulty in discussing their wives death with fellow workers than do widowers with children in the other categories.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 54.6% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree agree with statement. While 54.3% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had also agreed with statement. Those widowers who had disagreed with statement are 45.4% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 45.7% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also disagree with statement.

Finding: There appears to be no difference because of the widowers educational level as to the difficulty that fellow workers have in discussing the death of the man's wife.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 43.5% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 63.6% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year agree with statement. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 56.5% disagreed with statement. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 36.4% disagree with statement.

Finding: Widowers whose gross income is more $40,000 per year have more difficulty than men who earn $40,000 or less per year when discussing with their fellow workers the subject of the death of their spouse.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 66.7% agree with statement; 33.3% of the same group disagree with statement. While 52.5% of the men over the age of 35 had to agree with statement, the remaining 47.5% had to disagree with statement.

Finding: Widowers widowed at the age of 35 or younger had more difficulty discussing their wives death with fellow workers than men who were widowed after the age of 35.
Question 16*

How did you acquire child care when you returned to work after your wife's death?

**Principle:** Personal Role Behavior and Functions

**Response:** Kin/Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

**Role Concept:** Change

**Criteria:** 1  **Factor:** 3

Data Discussion

With years of marriage as the independent variable, 33.2% of the widows who married less than 10 years before their partner's death used non-kin for child care. The other 66.7% of these married less than 10 years used non-kin for child care. For those widows married 10 years or more, 16.2% used non-kin for child care. The remaining 83.8% of these non-kin used non-kin for child care.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 33.3% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they used kin for child care. The other 66.7% of those married less than 10 years used non-kin for child care. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 10.8% used kin for child care. The remaining 89.2% of these men used non-kin for child care.

Finding: There appears to be no major importance to the length of marriage as to who the widower used for child care, however both categories heavily favored the idea of using non-kin.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 21.4% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less used kin for child care compared to the remaining 78.6% of the men in this group who had non-kin. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 12.5% had kin do the child care, while the remaining 87.5% had non-kin care for the children.

Findings: The length of time a man was widowed seems to make no difference in his acquiring child care when he returned to work, however both categories strongly desired to use non-kin for child care.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 14.8\% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children used kin for child care. The other 85.2\% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children used non-kin for child care when returning to work. Some 15.8\% of the widowers with 3 or more children used kin for child care. The remaining 84.2\% of the men with 3 or more children are using non-kin for child care.

Finding: The number of children in the family makes little difference to the widower as to who was acquired for child care however both categories overwhelmingly desire to have non-kin take care of the children.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 0% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 21.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 7.1% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had kin care for their children. The remaining 100% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 78.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 92.9% of the men with children in both age groups stated they had non-kin take of the children.

Finding: Widowers when considering child care for children age 18 and under all agreed that they strongly desired to have non-kin do the child care over kin.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 18.2% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had kin care for their children. While 14.3% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had kin care for the children. Those widowers who had non-kin care for their children are 81.8% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 85.7% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also non-kin watch the children when they returned to work after their wife's death.

Finding: There appears to be no significant difference because of the widowers education level as to who he hired for child care however both categories are in agreement that they strongly prefer non-kin.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 4.4% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 27.3% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had kin do child care. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 95.6% had non-kin. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 72.7% had non-kin do their child care when they returned to work.

Finding: The gross income of the widowers does not play a role in the man's acquiring child care, however both categories strongly agree that desired non-kin over kin to do their child care.
Figure 99

Question 16
Age Man was Widowed

Data Discussion:
The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 33.3% had kin watch their children when they returned to work; 66.7% of the same group had non-kin do the job. While 12.5% of the men over the age of 35 had kin, remaining 87.5% had non-kin do the child care after they returned to work.

Finding: The age the man was widowed was not an important factor when the widower considered who to hire for child care however both categories agreed they desired to have non-kin to do their child care.
Question 20a

Relative to your experience, please rate the usefulness of each of the Sources of Guidance listed below for each of the three Categories specified.

Categories: Coping With Widowhood

Principle: Social Circle

Response: Kin/Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

Role Concept: Adjusting

Criteria: 2  Factor: 2

NOTE: For Question 20a, 20b and 20c a rating scale of 1 to 3 is used. 1 to 1.5 = Very Useful, 1.5 to 2.5 = Useful and 2.5 to 3 = Not Useful. The numbering following the horizontal bar indicates the rate of Usefulness to the widower on a sliding scale.

Finding: Length of marriage appears to have little to no influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin when coping with widowhood.

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.02 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.09 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

Note: For Questions 20a, 20b and 20c a rating scale of 1 to 3 is used. 1 to 1.5 = Very Useful, 1.5 to 2.5 = Useful and 2.5 to 3 = Not Useful. The numbering following the horizontal bar indicates the rate of Usefulness to the widower on a sliding scale.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood the following was found.

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.02 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.09 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

Finding: Length of marriage appears to have little to no influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin when coping with widowhood.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood, the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.24 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.14 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

Finding: Length of widowhood appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin when coping with widowhood.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood the following was found.

1) Widowers with 3 or more children rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.17 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers with 1 or 2 children rated the general usefulness of both groups as 1.98 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

Finding: Number of children in the family appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin when coping with widowhood.
Data Discussion:

With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.23 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.35 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general helpfulness of both groups as 2.13 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

Finding: Child care for children age 18 and under shows that widowers with children in the age group of 14-18, receive slightly more useful guidance in
coping with widowhood than do widowers with children in both age groups and 13 years and under age group.

Data Discussion:

With regard to adult widows, the data are quite clear in indicating the user needs of those over age 13. However, the same generalization of coping widowers with children in both age groups and 13 years and under age group.

1) Widowers with a widow's average age group and the general usefulness of coping widowers with children in both age groups and 13 years and under age group.
Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood, the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.13 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.15 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

Finding: Education level is not a factor for finding useful guidance for the widower when seeking guidance in coping with widowhood from kin and non-kin.
Data Discussion:

With widower's gross income as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood the following was found.

1) Widowers whose gross income was $40,000 or more per year rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.13 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers whose income was $40,000 or less per year rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.15 when needing help with child care.
Finding: Widowers gross income appears to have little to no influence for widowers when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin when coping with widowhood.

Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood the following was found:

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.24 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers who were 65 years old or less when their wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.21 when needing help with coping with widowhood.
Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering coping with widowhood the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.24 when needing help with coping with widowhood.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.21 when needing help with coping with widowhood.
Finding: The age which the man was widowed appears to make no impact on the usefulness of the guidance the widower receives from kin or non-kin when seeking advice on how to cope with widowhood.
Question 20b

Category: How to Function As a Single Parent

Principle: Personal Role Behavior and Functions

Response: Kin/Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

Role Concept: Expectations

Criteria: 2 Factor: 1

Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and perceived usefulness of these sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent, the following was found:

1. Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.3 when receiving help with how to function as a single parent.

2. Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.5 when receiving help with how to function as a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent the following was found.

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.3 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.26 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

Finding: Length of marriage appears to have little to no influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin in how to function as a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.34 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.35 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

Finding: Length of marriage appears to have no influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin in how to function as a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent the following was found.

1) Widowers with 3 or more children rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.28 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers 1 or 2 children rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.13 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

Finding: Overall the number of children in the family appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin or non-kin in how to function as a single parent. It is noted that non-kin are more useful to the widower with 1 or 2 children when dealing with how to function as a single
parent. Non-kin gave more useful guidance to widower's who 1 or 2 children
when the men were adjusting to being a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.28 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.52 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.33 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.
Finding: When child care for children age 18 and under is considered, widowers who have children in both age groups receive better guidance from kin and non-kin in how to function as a single parent.

Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent, the following was found:

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.22 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.36 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

Finding: The education level of the widower makes little difference for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin in how to function as a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering **how to function as a single parent** the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.22 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.36 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

**Finding:** The education level of the widowers makes little difference for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin in how to function as a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With *widower's gross income* as the independent variable and noting the *usefulness* of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent the following was found.

1) Widowers whose income was $40,000 or more per year rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.22 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers whose income was $40,000 or less per year rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.36 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.
Finding: A widowers gross income appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin in how to function as a single parent.
Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering how to function as a single parent the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.35 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.37 when needing help with how to function as a single parent.
**Finding:** The age the man was widowed makes no difference as to the guidance that the widower receives from kin and non-kin on the subject of how to function as a single parent.
Question 20c

Category: Moving On With Your New Life Style

Principle: Social Circle

Response: Kin/Kin By Marriage or Non-Kin

Role Concept: Adjustment

Criteria: 2 Factor: 2

Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found:

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.21 when seeking help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.47 when seeking help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: Length of marriage appears to have little to no influence for the widowers when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin when moving on with their new life style.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found:

1) Widowers married more than 10 years rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.21 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers married 10 years or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.17 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: Length of marriage appears to have little to no influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin when moving on with his new life style.
Data Discussion:

With length of widowhood as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found.

1) Widowers widowed more than 12 months rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.3 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers widowed 12 months or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.1 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: Length of widowhood appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin when moving on with his new life style. However it should be noted that guidance of kin was more useful to men widowed 12 months or less than to men widowed more than 12 months.
Data Discussion:

With number of children in family as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found.

1) Widowers with 3 or more children rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.24 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers 1 or 2 children rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.12 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: The number of children in the family appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin when moving on with his new life style.
Data Discussion:

With child care for children age 18 and under, as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found.

1) Widowers with both age groups rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.34 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers with children 13 years of age or less rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.34 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

3) Widowers with children in the 14-18 age group rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.27 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.
**Finding:** When considering child care for children age 18 and under there appears to be little influence by the age of the children that affected the guidance that the widower receives from kin and non-kin in moving on with his new lifestyle.

Data Discussion

With *widower's education level* as the independent variable and rating the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower in moving on with your new life style the following was found:

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.66 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.86 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

**Finding:** The education level of the widower affects how useful his relatives are to the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin in moving on with his new life style. It should be noted, however, that kin are more useful with the...
Data Discussion:

With widower's education level as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found.

1) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.15 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers with less than a bachelor's degree rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.34 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: The education level of the widowers appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin in moving on with his new life style. It should be note however that kin are more useful with their
guidance to widowers who have a bachelor's degree or higher than they are to widowers with less than a bachelor's degree.
Data Discussion:

With widower's gross income as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving on with your new life style the following was found.

1) Widowers whose income was $40,000 or more per year rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.15 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers whose income was $40,000 or less per year rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.34 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: The widowers gross income appears to have little influence for the widower when receiving guidance from kin and non-kin in moving on with his
new life style. It should be noted however that widowers whose gross income $40,000 or more per year received more useful guidance from kin than did the widower whose gross income was $40,000 or less per year.
Data Discussion:

With age man was widowed as the independent variable and noting the usefulness of those sources of guidance to the widower when considering moving with your new life style the following was found.

1) Widowers whose age was greater than 35 when his wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.29 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

2) Widowers who were 35 years old or less when their wife died rated the general usefulness of both groups as 2.3 when needing help with moving on with their new life style.

Finding: The age the man was widowed makes little difference to the influence he receives guidance from kin and non-kin in moving on with his new life style.
**Question 21**

How often do you visit the cemetery where your wife is buried?

**Principle:** Social Circles

**Response:** Often or Not Often

**Role Concept:** Isolation

**Criteria:** 3  **Factor:** 6

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Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 25% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated they do not visit the cemetery often. The other 75% of those married less than 10 years do not visit often. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 51.6% do visit often. The remaining 48.4% of these men do not visit often.

**Finding:** The length of marriage makes little difference to the widowers in how often they visit the cemetery where their wife is buried.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 25% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they did visit the cemetery often. The other 75% of those married less than 10 years do not visit often. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 11.8% do visit often. The remaining 88.2% of these men do not visit often.

Finding: The length of marriage makes little difference to the widowers in how often he visit the cemetery where his wife is buried.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 35.7% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less visited the cemetery often compared to the remaining 64.3% of the men in this group who do not visit often. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 6.3% do visit often while the remaining 96.7% do not visit often.

Findings: Widowers who are widowed for 12 months or less visit the cemetery more often than men widowed longer than 12 months.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 11.1% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children have found themselves visiting the cemetery often. The other 88.9% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children do not visit often. Some 15.8% of the widowers with 3 or more children do visit often. The remaining 84.2% of the men with 3 or more children are not frequent visitors to the cemetery.

Finding: The number of children in a family does not influence the widower to go or not to go more often to the cemetery to visit.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 0% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 21.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 0% of the widowers who have children in both age groups do visit the cemetery often. The remaining 100% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 78.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 100% of the men with children in both age groups stated they do not visit the cemetery often.

Finding: Widowers with children in the age group of 13 and under do visit the cemetery more often than widowers however overall the inclination is that the age of the children does not influence the widower to visit the cemetery more or less often.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 27.3% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree do visit the cemetery often. While 8.6% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree state they visit the cemetery frequently. Those widowers who do not visit often are 72.7% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 91.4% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also do not visit often.

Finding: There appears to be no major difference in the men's education level as to how often they visit the cemetery, however there is a slight tendency for those men with less than a bachelor's degree to visit more often though not significant.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 13% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 13.6% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year do visit the cemetery often. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 87% do not visit often. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 86.4% also do not visit often.

Finding: Widowers gross income does not appear to influence how often the man does or does not visit the cemetery.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 16.7% do visit the cemetery often; 83.3% of the same group do not. While 12.5% of the men over the age of 35 do visit often, the remaining 87.5% do not.

Finding: The age the man was widowed does not appear to influence his decision on how often to visit or not to visit the cemetery where his wife is buried.
Question 23

Did your wife have a life insurance policy?

Principle: Personal Rights

Response: Had Insurance Policy On Wife or Did Not Have Insurance Policy On Wife

Role Concept: Anxiety

Criteria: 1 Factor: 2

Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 22.6% of widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had no insurance on their wife. The other 77.4% of those married less than 10 years stated that they had insurance. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 21.3% had no insurance. The remaining 78.7% of those men had life insurance on their wife.

Finding: The length of marriage was not a factor which influenced the widowers to have an insurance policy on their wife.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 22.2% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they had no insurance on their wife. The other 77.8% of those married less than 10 years state they did have insurance. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 21.6% had no insurance. The remaining 78.4% of these men had life insurance on their wife.

Finding: The length of marriage was not a factor which influence the widowers to have an insurance policy on their wife.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 21.4% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less had no life insurance compared to the remaining 78.6% of the men in this group who had life insurance on their wife. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 21.9% had no insurance, while the remaining 78.1% had life insurance on their wife’s.

Findings: Length of widowhood had no bearing on the widowers having life insurance on his deceased wife.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 14.8% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children have found no life insurance on their wife. The other 85.2% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children had insurance. Some 31.6% of the widower's with 3 or more children had no insurance. The remaining 68.4% of the men with 3 or more children had their wife covered with a life insurance policy.

Finding: Overall widowers in large part when considering the number of children in the family had life insurance on their wife but it interesting to note that widowers with 1 or 2 children had a higher percent of having insurance over widowers who had more children.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 0% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 21.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 28.6% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had no life insurance policy on their wife. While 100% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 78.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 71.4% of the men with children in both age groups stated they had life insurance.

Finding: When considering child care for children age 18 and under widowers for the most part had life insurance on their wives and the age of the children did not appear to be an influence to have or not to have insurance.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 18.9% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had no life insurance on their wife. While 22.9% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had no insurance. Those widowers who had a life insurance policy on their wife are 81.6% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 77.1% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also had an insurance policy on their wife.

Finding: Educational level seems to make little difference amongst the widowers in their having or not having a life insurance policy on their wife.
Data Discussion:
The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 21.7% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 22.7% of those who earn $40,000 more than per year had no life insurance on their deceased wife. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 78.3% had an insurance policy. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 77.3% also had a life insurance policy that covered their wife.

Finding: Widowers gross income appears to have made little difference in the fact if the widower had or did not have a life insurance policy on his wife.
Data Discussion:
The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 16.7% had no insurance policy on their wife; 83.3% of the same group had a policy. While the other 22.5% of the men over the age of 35 had no insurance on their wife, the remaining 77.5% of the men did.

Finding: The age at which the man was widowed appears to show no significance in the widowers having or not having an insurance policy on his wife.
Question 24

If you answered Yes to question 23, was the policy large enough to help you maintain your prior life style?

Principle: Personal Rights

Response: Yes or No

Role Concept: Adjustment

Criteria: 1 Factor: 2

NOTE: The total number of men responding to this question was based on a "yes" response for question 23 which was N=36. So question 24 is based on those "yes" responses given by those surveyed.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 28.6% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they could not maintain their previous lifestyle. The other 71.4% of those married less than 10 years stated they did maintain their lifestyle. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 44.8% did not maintain their previous lifestyle. The remaining 55.1% of these men did maintain that lifestyle which they had when their wife was alive.

Finding: Widowers who were married less than 10 years stated they maintained their lifestyle with the help of the life insurance policy, where men married 10 years or more had a more difficult time to maintain their lifestyle.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 27.3% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less could not maintain their previous life style compared to the remaining 72.8% of the men in this group stated they could maintain their life style. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 48% stated they could not maintain the prior life style, while the remaining 52% were able to maintain the prior life style.

Findings: Those widowed 12 months or less appear to be maintaining their life style with the aid of the life insurance, where the men widowed more than 12 months were not as well.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 43.5% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children had found it not possible to live their prior life style. The other 56.5% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children stated they had maintained their prior life style. Some 38.5% of the widowers with 3 or more children had not maintain their prior life style. The remaining 61.5% of the men with 3 or more children stating the had maintain their life style that existed prior to their wives death.

Finding: The number of children in the family appears not to have affected the life style of the widowers who had a life insurance policy.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 50% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 36.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 50% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had not be able to maintain their previous life style. While 50% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 63.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 50% of the men with children in both age groups stated they were able to maintain their prior life style.

Finding: Overall when the children 18 and under are considered the widowers feel they had maintained their prior life style.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 33.3% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree stated they believe they are not maintaining their prior life style. While 44.4% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree stated the same. Those widowers who state they are maintaining their prior life style are 66.7% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 55.6% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also state they are maintaining their previous life style.

Finding: Widowers education level appears not to have had an influence on the men who had insurance money as to their ability to maintain their prior life style.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 44.4% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 35.3% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year believe they are not maintaining their previous life style. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 55.6% believe they are maintaining their prior life style. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 64.7% state they have maintained their prior life style.

Finding: Widowers gross income has not influence those widowers with insurance money as far as maintaining their previous life style when their wife was alive.
**Data Discussion:**

The independent variable of *age man was widowed* shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 40% state they are not able to maintain their prior life style; 60% of the same group claim they are maintaining. While 41.9% of the men over the age of 35 had not been able to maintain their prior life style, the remaining 58.1% state they have maintain their life style.

**Finding:** The age the man was widowed appears not to have influence his ability to maintain the previous life style with the aid of his wives life insurance.
Question 25*

What time frame after your wife's death do you consider to be appropriate for you to begin to date a woman again?

**Principle**: Social Circles

**Response**: Less Than 1 Year, More Than 1 Year or Other

**Role Concept**: Anxiety

**Criteria**: 3  **Factor**: 1
Data Discussion:

Based on the categories in the independent variable length of marriage the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men married less than 10 years 33.3% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 22.2% saying they waited one year and the other 44.4% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who were married 10 years or more responded as follows, 10.8% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 40.5% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 48.7% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
Finding: For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating, the length of marriage showed that most widowers waited till one year had passed from the time of their wives death to date again.
Data Discussion:

Based on the categories in the independent variable length of widowhood the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men widowed 12 months or less 14.3% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 35.7% saying they waited one year and the other 50% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who were widowed more than 12 months responded as follows; 10.9% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 26.1% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 32.6% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
**Finding:** For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating; the length of widowhood showed that men widowed 12 months or less half of them dated before the first anniversary of their wives death had passed, while men widowed more than 12 months for the most part waited until the first year had passed.

**Data Discussion:**

Based on the categories in the independent variable number of children in family, the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed:

1) Of those men with 1 or 2 children 48.8% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 31.3% saying they waited one year and the other 52.8% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who have 3 or more children more responded as follows: 14.5% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 40.7% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 44.8% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
Data Discussion:

Based on the categories in the independent variable *number of children in family* the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men with 1 or 2 children 15.8% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 31.6% saying they waited one year and the other 52.6% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who have 3 or more children more responded as follows, 14.8% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 40.7% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 44.4% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
**Finding:** For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating, the number of children in the family showed that for the most part widowers waited till one year had passed from the time of their wives' death to date again.
Based on the categories in the independent variable child care for children age 18 and under, the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men with children age 13-18, 0% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 25% saying they waited one year and the other 75% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who have children 13 and under responded as follows, 17.9% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 35.7% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 46.4% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.

3) Men who had children in both age groups responded as follows, 14.3% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 42.9% of the men the category
who did date after one year of being widowed and the remaining 42.9% dated before the first anniversary of their spouse death.

**Finding:** For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating, widowers with children in both age groups and children 13 and under basically waited till the first year had passed till they began to date. This is not true for widowers who have children age 14-18, they began to date for the most part before the first year was up.

Data was obtained from the following:

Based on the personal interview, the personal variable widower's education level, the following is a statement about the age of the men involved in the idea of an appropriate time frame for when they should date again.

1) Of those men who had less than a bachelors degree, 18.2% did not agree with a time frame when dating. Most of these men were stuck on the idea of time with 63.6% agreeing with a time frame and the other 28.2% of the men dated before one year.

2) Of those men who had a bachelors degree or higher, 4.3% did not agree with a time frame when dating. There was 29.6% of the men who disagreed and the remaining 67.1% stated that they did not need a time frame for dating.
Data Discussion:

Based on the categories in the independent variable widower's education level the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men who have less than a bachelor's degree, 18.2% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 63.6% saying they waited one year and the other 18.2% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who have a bachelor's degree or higher responded as follows, 14.3% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 28.6% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 57.1% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
Finding: For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating, it was found that widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher were much more likely to date before the first anniversary of their wives' death had passed compared to widowers with less than a bachelor's degree who waited till the first anniversary had passed.
Data Discussion:

Based on the categories in the independent variable widower's gross income the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men who earn less than $40,000 per year, 13.9% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 43.5% saying they waited one year and the other 43.5% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who earn $40,000 or more per year responded as follows, 18.2% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 31.8% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 50% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
Finding: For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating, gross income showed that for the most part the men waited till one year had passed since their wives death before dating.
Data Discussion:

Based on the categories in the independent variable age man was widowed the following was found as to how the men viewed the idea of an appropriate time frame for dating after being widowed.

1) Of those men who were widowed at the age of 35 or less, 33.3% did not agree with a time frame. The remaining men were split on the idea of time with 16.7% saying they waited one year and the other 50% of the men dated before one year had passed.

2) Men who were 35 year or older responded as follows, 12.5% did not agree with a time frame idea. There were 40% of the men in the category who dated after one year had passed and the remaining 47.5% stated they dated during the first year of widowhood.
Finding: For those widowers who considered a time frame approach for dating, the age that the man was widowed showed that most widowers waited till one year had passed from the time of their wives death until they dated again.
Question 26*

Do you agree with the notions that "Being a widower makes women more inclined to date me, simply because I'm a different type of 'single' man?"

**Principle:** Social Circles

**Response:** Agrees With Statement or Does Not Agree With Statement

**Role Concept:** Change

**Criteria:** 3, **Factor:** 2

**Data Discussion:**

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 44.4% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they agree with the statement. The other 55.6% of those married less than 10 years did not agree with statement. Of those widowers married 10 years or more, 99.4% agree with statement. The remaining 30.6% of these men did not agree with the statement.

**Finding:** For widowers married 10 years or more they were inclined to agree with the statement that they were a unique type of man, whereas widowers who were married less than 10 years felt the opposite.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 44.4% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they agree with the statement. The other 55.6% of those married less than 10 years did not agree with statement. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 69.4% agree with statement. The remaining 30.6% of these men did not agree with the statement.

Finding: For widowers married 10 years or more they were inclined to agree with the statement that they were a unique single man, where widowers who were married less than 10 years felt the opposite.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 61.5% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less agree with statement compared to the remaining 38.5% of the men in this group who did not agree. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 65.6% agreed with statement, while the remaining 34.4% disagreed with statement.

Findings: The length of time a man was widowed seem to make little difference to the widowers of the notion that they are a unique type of single man.
Data Discussion:
Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 66.7% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children agree with statement. The other 33.3% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children disagree with statement. Some 61.1% of the widowers with 3 or more children also agree with this statement. The remaining 38.9% of the men with 3 or more children not agreeing with statement.

Finding: The number of children in a family appears not to give credence to the widower that he is a unique single man because he is widowed.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 50% of the widowers with children between 1-18 years of age, 70.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 57.1% of the widowers who have children in both age groups agree with statement. The remaining 50% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 29.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 42.9% of the men with children in both age groups stated they disagree with this statement.

Finding: When child care for children age 18 and under and all the age groups it was found that widowers agree in part with the statement that they were a unique type of man because they were widowed and that women would date him for that reason.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 45.5% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree agree with statement. While 70.6% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree also agree with statement. Those widowers who do not agree with statement are 54.5% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 29.4% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also do not agree with this statement.

Finding: Widowers who have a bachelor's degree or higher agree with this statement that they were a unique single man because they were widowed, while widowers with less than a bachelor's degree do not agree with the statement.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers’ gross income shows that 59.1% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 72.7% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year agree with the statement. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 40.9% do not agree with statement. Of the widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 27.3% also do not agree with statement.

Finding: The widowers gross income appears to make no difference is as much that most widowers believe that they were unique type of single man because of widowhood regardless of their gross income.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 50% agree with statement; 50% of the same group do not. While 66.7% of the men over the age of 35 agree with statement, the remaining 33.3% do not agree with statement.

Finding: The widowers who were widowed over the age of 35 are more inclined to agree with the statement, than those widowers who were widowed at 35 years of age or younger.
Question 27*

To what extent does being a widower with school-age children cause you difficulty in meeting the "right" person to date?

**Principle:** Social Circles

**Response:** Have Dated or Have Not Dated

**Role Concept:** Anxiety.

**Criteria:** 3  **Factor:** 3

Data Discussion

With length of marriage as the independent variable, it was found that widowers who were married less than 10 years stated that they difficulty in meeting the right person to date. The other 25% of those surveyed less than 10 years stated they had little difficulty. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 58.6% had difficulty meeting the right person. The remaining 41.4% of those men had little difficulty.

Finding: For widowers with different length of marriage appears to take men who were married less than 10 years had a more difficult time in meeting the right person to date. However, those who were married 10 years or more, it should be noted both have difficulty in finding the right person.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 75% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they difficulty in meeting the right person to date. The other 25% of those married less than 10 years state they had little difficulty. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 58.9% had difficulty meeting the right person. The remaining 41.1% of these men had little difficulty.

Finding: For widowers with children length of marriage appears to make men who were married less than 10 years had a more difficult time to meet the right person to date, than widowers who were married 10 years or more. It should be noted both have difficulties in finding the right person.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 71.4% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less had difficulty compared to the remaining 28.6% of the men in this group who had little difficulty in meeting the right person to date. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 59.4% had difficulty while the remaining 40.6% had little difficulty in finding the right person to date.

Findings: The length of widowhood affects both categories of widower with difficulty in finding the right person to date, however the widow who has been widowed 12 months or less has a more difficult time than the man widowed for 12 months or more.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 70.4% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children have found it difficult to date the right person. The other 29.6% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children have had little difficulty in dating the right person. Some 52.6% of the widowers with 3 or more children have difficulty with dating. The remaining 47.4% of the men with 3 or more children having little difficulty in dating.

Finding: When considering the number of children in the family both categories of widowers had difficulties in finding the right person to date, however the man with 1 or 2 found it more difficult than the widower with 3 or more children.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 25% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 75% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 50% of the widowers who have children in both age groups found it difficult to find the right person to date. With the remaining 75% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 25% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 50% of the men with children in both age groups stated they had little difficulty in dating.

Finding: It appears that when child care for children age 18 and under that widowed men with children 13 and under had a more difficult time in finding the right person to date, than do widowers with children age 14-18 and children in both age groups.
Data Discussion:

Widower’s educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 72.7% of the widower’s who have less than a bachelor’s degree had difficulty in dating. While 60% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor’s degree also experienced the same difficulty. Those widowers who had little difficulty in dating are 27.3% of the men who have less than a bachelor’s degree. While 40% of the men with a bachelor’s degree or higher found little difficulty in finding the right person.

Finding: Widowers in both educational categories experience difficulty in finding the right person to date when children are considered, however it is more noted by widowers with less than a bachelor’s degree than widowers with a bachelor’s degree or higher.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 69.6% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 54.5% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year had difficulty in finding the right person to date.

Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 30.4% had little difficulty in dating the right person. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 45.5% state they had little difficulty in dating the right person.

Finding: The widowers' gross income appears to make no difference for most widowers agree they have difficulty in finding the right person to date when children are considered.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 83.3% had difficulty in dating; 16.7% of the same group had little difficulty. While 60% of the men over the age of 35 had difficulty in finding the right person to date, the remaining 40% had little difficulty.

Finding: The age that a man was widowed appears to only in as much that the man widowed at the age of 35 years of age or younger has notably more difficulties than does the man who was widowed after he was 35.
Question 28*

To what extent do you agree with the following: "At times after being widowed I have found myself enjoying being single, but have felt guilty about it".

Principle: Social Circles

Response: Agree or Disagree

Role Concept: Adjustment

Criteria: 3 Factor: 2
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 44.4% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they agree with statement. The other 55.6% of those married less than 10 years disagree with statement. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 43.2% agree with statement. The remaining 56.8% of these men disagree with statement.

Finding: The length of marriage appears not to be a factor for the widowers when considering the statement if they were enjoying being single.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 50% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less agree with statement compared to the remaining 50% of the men in this group who do not agree with this statement. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 40.6% agree with statement, while the remaining 59.38% do not agree with statement.

Findings: When the length of widowhood is considered there is appears to be no real guilt in the fact that the widowers may be enjoying being single.
Data Discussion:
Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 40.7% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children agree with statement. The other 59.3% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children disagree with statement. Some 47.4% of the widowers with 3 or more children agree with statement. The remaining 52.6% of the men with 3 or more children disagree with statement.

Finding: The number of children in a family appears not to influence the widower to feel guilty or not about being single.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 25% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 39.3% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 57.1% of the widowers who have children in both age groups agree with statement. With 75% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 60.7% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 42.9% of the men with children in both age groups stating they disagree with statement.

Finding: When child care for children age 18 and under the widowers with younger children specifically 13 and under had more difficulty with feeling guilty about being single than did the widowers with children in the other two age groups.
**Data Discussion:**

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 27.3% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree agree with statement. While 48.8% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree also agree with statement. Those widowers who disagree with statement are 72.7% have less than a bachelor's degree. While 51.4% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also disagree with this statement.

**Finding:** The widowers education level appears not make the widower feel any more or less guilty, however widowers with less than a bachelor's degree feel less guilt about being single than do men who have a bachelor's degree or higher.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 34.8% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 54.5% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year agree with statement. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 65.2% disagree with statement. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 45.5% also disagree with statement.

Finding: Those men whose gross income is $40,000 or less per year feel less guilty about being single than do widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year.
Data Discussion:
The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 66.7% agree with statement; 33.3% disagree with the statement. While 40% of the men over the age of 35 agree with the statement, the remaining 60% disagree with statement.

Finding: Most widowers widowed at 35 years of age or younger state they feel guilty about being single, while most of men widowed at age after 35 feel no guilt.
Question 29*

Before her death, did you and/or your wife ever talk about the idea of your remarrying if she were to die before you?

Principle: Social Circle

Response: Remarriage Discussed or Remarriage Not Discussed

Role Concept: Anxiety

Criteria: 3 Factor: 4

Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 97.8% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they discussed remarriage. The other 22.2% of those married less than 10 years did not discuss remarriage. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 73% discussed remarriage. The remaining 27% of these men stated they did not discuss remarriage.

Finding: Widowers' length of marriage appears not to have been a factor in this couple discussing the widow possibly remarrying if his wife were to die.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 77.8% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they discussed remarriage. The other 22.2% of those married less than 10 years did not discuss remarriage. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 73% discussed remarriage. The remaining 27% of these men state they did not discuss remarriage.

Finding: Widowers length of marriage appears not to have been a factor in the couple discussing the widower possibly remarrying if his wife were to die.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 64.3% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less discussed the idea of remarriage compared to the remaining 35.7% of the men in this group who had not discussed remarriage. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 78.1% had discussed remarriage, while the remaining 21.9% had not discussed remarriage.

Findings: The length of widowhood shows that widowers in general discussed their possible remarriage if their wife should die before them.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 81.5% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children had discussed the idea to remarry. The other 18.5% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children did not discuss remarriage. Some 63.1% of the widowers with 3 or more children had discussed remarriage. The remaining 36.9% of the men with 3 or more children not discussing the idea of remarriage.

Finding: The number of children in the family appears to have given more impotence for widowers with 1 or 2 children to discuss their possible remarriage if their wife should die before them, than those widowers with 3 or more children.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 75% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 71.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 78.6% of the widowers who have children in both age groups had discussed the idea of remarriage. The other 25% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 28.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 21.4% of the men with children in both age groups stated they did not discuss the idea of remarriage with his wife.

Finding: When children 18 and under were considered it appears that all widowers, age not with standing, discussed the possibility of their remarrying if their wife should die first.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 54.5% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree had discussed remarriage. While 80% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree had also discussed remarriage. Those widowers who had not discussed remarriage are 45.5% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 20% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also had not discussed remarriage.

Finding: It would appear that widowers with a bachelors degree or higher were more likely to have discussed the idea their remarriage if their wife should die, than widowers with less than a bachelor's degree.
Data Discussion:
The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 73.9% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 77.3% of those who earn more than $40,000 per year had discussed the idea of remarriage with their wife. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 26.1% had not discussed the idea of remarriage. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 22.8% had not discussed remarriage.

Finding: The widowers gross income was not an issue when it came to the widowers and their wives discussing the idea of his possible remarriage if she were to die before him.
Data Discussion:

The independent variable of age man was widowed shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 100% had discussed remarriage; 0% had not discussed the idea. While 70% of the men over the age of 35 had discussed remarriage, the remaining 30% had not discussed remarriage.

Finding: Those men who were widowed at 35 years of age or younger were incomplete agreement that they had discussed their possible remarriage if their wife should die, while men widowed an age greater than 35 were in agreement to a large part that they had also discussed their remarriage.
Question 30*

As a widower, do you have expectations to remarry?

**Principle:** Social Circle

**Response:** Yes or No/Not Sure Desire To Remarry

**Role Concept:** Change

**Criteria:** 3  **Factor:** 5

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**Data Discussion:**

With *length of marriage* as the independent variable, 60.1% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they plan to marry or have remarried. The other 39.9% of those married less than 10 years stated no or not sure about remarry. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 68.4% desired to remarry or have remarried. The remaining 31.6% of those stated no or not sure about remarriage.

**Finding:** The length of marriage appears to have no influence most widowers when considering the idea of remarriage.
Data Discussion:

With length of marriage as the independent variable, 66.7% of the widowers married less than 10 years stated that they plan to remarry or have remarried. The other 33.3% of those married less than 10 years state no or not sure about remarriage. For those widowers married 10 years or more, 69.4% desired to remarry or have remarried. The remaining 30.6% of these men state no or not sure about remarriage.

Finding: The length of marriage appears to have no influence most widowers when considering the idea of remarriage.
Data Discussion:

Using the length of widowhood as the independent variable, 50% of the widowers who were widowed for 12 months or less plan to remarry or have remarried compared to the remaining 50% of the men in this group who state they will not or are not sure about remarriage. Of the widowers who were widowed more than 12 months, 77.4% plan to remarry or have remarried while the remaining 22.6% are not sure or plan not to remarry.

Findings: Those widowers who have been widowed more than 12 months have a stronger desire to remarry than those men who have been widowed for 12 months or less.
Data Discussion:

Where the independent variable of number of children in family is used, 70.4% of the widowed men with 1 or 2 children plan to remarry or have remarried. The other 29.6% of the widowers who have 1 or 2 children have no plans to remarry. Some 66.7% of the widowers with 3 or more children have plans to remarry or have remarried while the remaining 33.3% of the men with 3 or more children have no plans to remarry.

Finding: The number of children in a family does not appear to lessen or enhance the desire of the widowers to remarry or not remarry.
Data Discussion:

Child care for children age 18 and under, when used as an independent variable and divided into three distinct age groups show that 75% of the widowers with children between 14-18 years of age, 71.4% of the widowers with children who are 13 and under and 61.5% widowers who have children in both age groups have remarried or plan to remarry. The remaining 25% of widowers with children in the age group of 14-18 years of age, 28.6% of the widowers with children 13 and under and 38.5% of the men with children in both age groups stated they have no plans to remarry.

Finding: When considering child care for children age 18 and under widowers with children in all age groups had strong desire to remarry, however only in widowers where children 13 and under was the desire noted to be less than in the other two age groups.
Data Discussion:

Widower's educational level as an independent variable demonstrates that 63.6% of the widowers who have less than a bachelor's degree plan to remarry or have remarried. While 70.6% of the widowed men who have earned at least a bachelor's degree also plan to remarry or have remarried. Those widowers who have no plans to remarry 36.4% of the men who have less than a bachelor's degree. While 29.4% of the men with a bachelor's degree or higher also have no plans to remarry.

Finding: The level of education appears to make no difference in most widowers desire to remarry.
Data Discussion:
The independent variable of the widowers' gross income shows that 77.3% of those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year and 59.1% of those who earn $40,000 or more per year plan to remarry or have remarried. Of those men earning less than $40,000 per year, 22.7% have no plans to remarry. Of those widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year, 40.9% have no plans to remarry.

Finding: Considering the widowers' gross income both categories of widowers had a desire to remarry, however widowers whose gross income is $40,000 or less per year had a higher desire to remarry than widowers whose gross income is $40,000 or more per year.
Figure 183

### Data Discussion:

The independent variable of *age man was widowed* shows that for those widowers 35 years of age or younger 100% plan to remarry or have remarried; 0% had no plans to remarry. While 64.1% of the men over the age of 35 have remarried or plan to remarry, the remaining 35.9% have no plans to remarry.

**Finding:** While both categories were in agreement that they desire to remarry it is the widowers who was widowed at 35 years or younger who were in complete agreement in their desire to remarry.
CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter addresses the key points that were drawn from this study. Following the Conclusions are the sections entitled "Summation of Influences," Theoretical Implications," "Limitations of Research," and "Future Research." Since all findings of the survey were presented at great length in Chapter V, only those points which are pertinent to the propositions listed in Chapter III will be discussed, on based in part on Znaniecki's social role theory.

Conclusions

Proposition I: People occupy social positions with understood social structures.

1) Men widowed more than 12 months were more likely to recall having a discussion with their wife concerning his remarriage is she were to die first than those widowed less than 12 months.

2) Men who had 1 or 2 children were more likely to have a life insurance policy on their wife than men who had 3 or more children.

3) Men who had 1 or 2 children were more likely to have discussed with their wives the idea of remarrying if he were to be widowed than men who had 3 or more children.
4) The widower who had children 13 and under was more likely to have a life insurance policy for his wife than widowers who had children age 14-18 or men who had children in both age groups.

5) It appears that regardless of the age groups(s) of the children, a majority of men had discussed remarriage with their wives prior to her death.

6) The widower who had a bachelor's degree or higher was more likely to have discussed the idea of remarriage if she were to die first with his wife than widowers with less than a bachelor's degree.

7) All of the widowers (who had life insurance) agreed that having a life insurance policy on their wife helped to maintain their prior life style.

8) Men widowed at an age of 35 or less were more likely to have discussed the possibility of remarriage if their spouse should die than men widowed at an age greater than 35. This discussion is supported by the fact that the widower who was 35 or younger was more likely to remarry.

Proposition II: Role expectations are derived from social sources. The most common are significant others, social circles and social intimates.

1) Widowers who were married more than 10 years appear to have a stronger tendency to contact other widowers with school-age children than widowers married less than 10 years.
2) Widowers appear to receive more support from kin than from any other groups, regardless of how long the man was married.

3) Widowers appear to receive little to no financial help from other groups, regardless of the widower's length of marriage.

4) When the number of children the widower had was considered there appears to be no increase in financial assistance from those friends and relatives close to the widower.

5) Widowers who had children in the 14-18 age group date sooner than men with children 13 and under and men who had children in both age groups.

6) Widowers who had children in the 13 and under age group experienced more difficulty in meeting the right person to date than widowers with children in the 14-18 age group and widowers with children in both age groups.

7) Widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher were more likely to agree with the notion that women will date them just because they are a unique type of single man than a widower with less than a bachelor's degree.

8) Widowers who earn $40,000 or less per year appear to receive more useful guidance from kin when they begin to move on with their new life style than widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year.

9) Men who had been widowed at the age of 35 or less found people to be more helpful when it came to someone to talk to than men widowed at an age greater than 35.
10) Men who were widowed at an age greater than 35 stated that kin, kin by marriage and non-kin were all considered not to be helpful with financial help while he was widowed, while men widowed at the age of 35 or less found kin and non-kin to be helpful.

Proposition III: Incumbents of social positions behave on the basis of their expectations of the "role expectations" germane to their role.

1) Length of marriage appears to played no importance in that most widowers had discussed remarriage with their wife before her death.

2) Men who were widowed for more than 12 months appear to have no previous knowledge of other widowed men with school-age children.

3) Length of widowhood appears not to change the perception among the widowers that being widowed makes them a unique type of single man.

4) Men who have less than a bachelor's degree were more likely to begin dating before the first anniversary of their wife's death, whereas widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher were more likely to wait at least a year or use other criteria to start dating.

5) Kin and kin by marriage were more helpful to widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year when they needed to talk to someone than they were to widowers who earn $40,000 or less per year.
6) Men who had been widowed at an age greater than 35 were more likely to agree with the notion that women will go out with them because they are a unique single man than men widowed at the age of 35 or less.

7) Widowers who earn $40,000 or less per year agreed with the notion that

**Proposition IV:** Role behaviors are evaluated by role incumbents and by outside observers alike.

1) Widowers married 10 years or more have more anxiety about the notion that women are inclined to date them because they are widowed.

2) Length of marriage makes no difference in the widowers apparent difficulty in finding the right person to date when his children are considered as a part of his life.

3) Men widowed for 12 months or less find kin to be very helpful when it comes to understanding their loss.

4) Widowers who had children in the 13 and under age group perceive that women were more inclined to date them than did widowers with children age 14-18 and widowers who had children in both age groups.

5) Kin were more helpful for the widower whose education level is less than a bachelor's degree when needing someone to talk to than widowers who had a bachelor's degree or higher.
6) Kin were very helpful for widowers with less than a bachelor's degree when it comes to understanding their son's loss than men who were widowed and had a bachelor's degree or higher.

7) Widowers who earn $40,000 or less per year agreed with the notion that being widowed makes them a unique type of single man that women may be more inclined to date.

**Proposition V:** Dramatic life changes may significantly affect the role expectations and subsequent role behavior for a position.

1) Widowers who were married more than 10 years appear to adjust better to the death of their wife than widowers married less than 10 years.

2) Men who were widowed for more than 12 months appeared to have a much higher desire to remarry than widowers widowed 12 months or less.

3) Widowers who had 3 or more children appeared to have more difficulty in adjusting to being a single parent than widowers with 1 or 2 children.

4) Regardless of the number of children, widowers perceive that being a widower makes women more inclined to date them, simply because they are a different type of single man.

5) Widowed men with child care concerns had more difficulty in adjusting to the death of their wife if they had children in the age group of 13 and under.
6) Widowers who had a bachelor's degree or higher appeared to adjust with less difficulty to their wife's death than widowers with less than a bachelor's degree.

7) Widowers who had less than a bachelor's degree felt less guilt about the idea of being single because of their wife's death than did widowers with a bachelor's degree or higher.

8) Widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year appeared to experience more difficulty with their fellow employees when the subject of their deceased wife came up than did widowers who earn $40,000 or less per year.

9) Men who earn $40,000 or less per year found themselves feeling guilty more often when it came to being single again than widowers who earn $40,000 or more per year.

10) Those men widowed at the age of 35 or less found they had more difficulty in finding the right person to date than men widowed at an age greater than 35.

11) Men who were widowed at an age greater than 35 felt less guilt for being single men who were widowed at an age of 35 or less.

Proposition VI: Widowerhood is a dramatic life change.

1) Men widowed more than 12 months have adjusted better to the fact of their wives death than men widowed 12 months or less.
2) Men widowed with children in the child care age group of 13 and under had more difficulty in adjusting to the nature of their wives death than the widowers with children in the other child care age groups.

3) The widower who earns $40,000 or more per year appeared to adjust to the death of his wife much sooner than the widower who earns $40,000 or less per year.

4) Obtaining child care appears to be more stressful for men who were widowed at the age of 35 or less than those men widowed after the age of 35.

5) The nature of the wives death gave men widowed at the age of 35 or less more difficulty in adjusting to his loss than men who had been widowed at an age greater than 35.

**Proposition VII:** Dramatic life changes directly affect performance of functions and tasks of the incumbent responsible for maintaining the family structure.

1) Widowers who were married less than 10 years appeared to have a higher stress factor when trying to locate child care and a higher difficulty in adjustment when dealing with the nature of their spouse's death than widowers who were married more than 10 years.

2) Men widowed for 12 months or less found kin by marriage not helpful when it comes to child care.
3) Widowers agreed that when child care is considered for all the age groups the use of non-kin for child care was the most desired.

4) Widowers overall had a very difficult time adjusting to cooking and basic domestic responsibilities as a single parent.

**Proposition VIII:** The social position of widowerhood with school-age children affects the behavior of parenting and being a single man.

1) Regardless of the length of marriage, widowers appeared to select non-kin over kin for child care when returning to work after their wife's death.

2) The length of time that the man was widowed appeared to have no influence on the difficulty the men experienced in dealing with the responsibilities of being a single parent.

3) Men widowed with school-age children who had been widowed for more than 12 months found little difficulty in meeting the right person to date while men widowed 12 months or less had difficulty.

4) If a widower had 3 or more children, he was likely to know other widowers with school-age children.

5) Widowers who had children in a school were more likely to know other widowers with children because of the school setting, whereas men whose children were too young to be in school knew few or no widowers.
6) Widowers who had a bachelor's degree or higher had more difficulty in adjusting to the responsibilities of being a single parent than widowers with less than a bachelor's degree.

7) Those widowers who earn less than $40,000 per year had a more difficult time when adjusting to single parent responsibilities than did men who earn $40,000 or more per year.

8) The widower who had been widowed at the age of 35 or less was more likely to make contact with other men who were widowed with school-age children than men whose age was greater than 35 when he was widowed.

Summation of Influence

Social Circle: The influence of help and guidance by kin, kin by marriage and non-kin is keenly observed by the widower. These individuals appear to have a greater influence on the widower than they likely realize. Their understanding or lack thereof appears to give direction to how the widower works towards his acceptance and understanding of his loss and the his change of roles. Social circles as a whole are willing to help they and understand that the widower has to move on with his life. They also attempt to be positive in their active cooperation with the widower. However, what may be viewed as a positive influence by a member of a circle may not be received by the widower as such; thus, conflict and stress occur. An example in point is stated by
Respondent MM: "My father always irritated me when he said that he knew what I was going through and then related my loss to his divorce. No one knows your grief like you do." Respondent JJ wrote: "Most had little or no "death" experience."

The influence of kin by marriage was less than a positive experience for many respondents. This was surprising in that when grandchildren are considered one would assume that in-laws would desire to maintain the social relationship with their son-in-law. If the parents of the widower's deceased wife desired to continue to be in the widowers social circle, their actions or lack of actions appear to be alienating many of them from both their grandchildren and their son-in-law. Respondent RR states: "My in-laws tried to be uplifting but mostly cared about their loss. My friends cared for me."

Personal Rights-Economic: Those widowers who had a life insurance policy on their wife noted that having this financial life-jacket helped them maintain a form of stability in at least this social role. Respondent HH, a widower who had a life insurance policy on his wife, stated: "A $100,000 life insurance policy on my wife made things much less stressful." Those widowers who had no life insurance policy on their wife or were in need of financial help after their wife's death would likely turn to their relatives or members of their social circles to find assistance. It is assumed by many people that in times of
crises people give money to individuals to assist them. For the widowers surveyed this appears not to have been the case.

Personal Role Behavior and Function: Widowers appear to view this area of social roles as their major stumbling block when adjusting and changing to their new life style. When considering the issues of life after the death of his spouse the widower's primary concern is with the domestic roles at home. The necessity of the widower to adjust to roles that his wife had largely performed during their marriage, e.g., the cooking and house cleaning, caused him to adjust and prioritized his other roles; this brought stress to the men. The men acknowledged that tasks they had customarily performed now became difficult because of the additional tasks they had to perform. The men appear to function fairly well in all of the roles required of him as time passes. The task for which the widower is likely to go outside of his family structure for help is in the area of child care, where he will hire and rely on non-kin to assist him. Although the widower can find help in this task, the responsibilities, challenges and difficulties that go with child care are prevalent as noted by the widowers. Relative to child care, Respondent OO states: "Still a very difficult situation. One major reason for change in employment." Respondent TT wrote: "I began using both my mother and mother-in-law. I had difficulty with my mother-in-law and had to stop using her. I work until 8:00 PM three nights a week. I have only found one professional day care with hours I need." Respondent G1 said: "It was always a
problem until they (the children) settled in. When a daycare closed it was 'panic

city'. Some arrangements weren't perfect." Widowers found help or guidance
from other sources such as television or books not to be what expected. A likely
reason for this is that little is written for the widowed man that will assist him with
his task and personal behavior.

Theoretical Implications

The implications of this research for role theory of widowers with school-
age children are promising. The widower, based on his individual concepts and
personal experiences, will mold his own social position. Znaniecki's social role
theory makes the operationalization of the widower's social position possible.
This possibility gives researchers a working formula for a sociological
investigation of the widower from an interactionist framework. Using this
approach makes a theoretical contribution to the knowledge base of what can be
reasonably expected of an individual in the social position of being widowed with
school-age children.

The contrasting difference between the theatrical role perspective and the
social roles perspective when dealing with widowers with school-age children is
an important point to consider. By studying the widower in the social role, you
are allowed to see the interaction between an individual and others who must
learn from each other. This learning by both brings understanding and
acceptance by all people who are involved with the change of a social position by a fellow member in their social circle. It is this interaction among those who are in supportive roles that makes social role theory more applicable to the widower as a social position.

Although theatrical roles and social roles are both based on culturally based individuals who learn and perform as expected, differences occur when one, attempts to enact roles in situations where substantial ambiguity relative to uncharted arenas for behavior is common place. Thus, while certain vague expectations and stereotypes about the role of widower may exist in the culture, the lack of precise statements of rights and obligations, make appropriate behavior problematic relative to each new role envokes.

Unlike the actor who modifies the written script through the interaction of his/her personality into the character, the widower must invent the character as he proceeds through a new and as yet uncompleted script. It is this lack of initial control by the men that gives the theory of social role by Znaniecki such significance. The impact of death, which results in the man becoming a widower with school-age children, is not often heard about nor rehearsed by the husband/father. The social roles and positions unfold and develop as the man adjusts to the influences, stresses and conflicts that arise as the widower learns to function within his social circle, personal rights and personal function.
Widowerhood is initially an individualistic role which expands to all facets of the man's life as he interacts with close friends, family, and his client at the office where he works. While other theories may have promise to explore a specific role of the widower, Znaniecki's "Social Role" theory is an excellent foundation on which to build a knowledge base of widower's with school-age children.

Limitations of Research

This greatest limitation of this research was locating widowers with school-age children in the United States. As previously stated, this population is rare. Locating men was accomplished by using ADEC members as the primary contact. Using members to locate widowers appears to have limits, as shown by the small number of men who responded to the survey. Other limitations are: 1) only one man of African heritage was included, 2) the men were highly educated, and 3) there was a notable void of respondents from the Western and Southeastern regions of the United States. However, when cost was considered as a factor in trying to locate the men, the means that were used proved to be quite successful.

Additionally it should be noted that 46 respondents for a national survey may prove in future research to be too few to provide reliable data on widowers with school-age children in the United States. Finally, the survey questionnaire
was built on present-day literature and knowledge from the areas of death and dying, single parenting, the traditional family and Znaniecki's social role theory. It will more than likely have to modified as more is learned.

In summary, the findings of this research are limited by the nature of this study, that being an exploratory study in an area for which little is written or known. This report represents a beginning so others may have an operational framework along with standard concepts in which to work when researching widowers with school-age children.

Future Research

Future research may benefit from the use of the topology which was used in this study, along with the addition of other independent and dependent variables. A quantitative examination of a larger widower population would attract researchers whose concerns and interests are the validity of measurements for this unresearched area. For the qualitative researcher, an in-depth narrative analysis of widowers would prove to be beneficial to link stress, conflict and adjustment to the process of loss and how it affects the widower's role.

Future research should also consider the importance of what people know in general about death and dying and what impact it has on the survivors.
This knowledge or lack of knowledge would be worthy of research with respect to how these people influence the widower with what they know of the process.

Finally, the term "widowed" more than any other term brings up the topic of death. It is the understanding of death and what impact it has, not just in sociological terms but also at multi-disciplinary levels, that is so lacking in American society. If America is to learn about death from a distance, let it not be from television, media hype and movies, but from the efforts of parents, churches, schools and universities where the reality of death and its impact can be taught to all.
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Appendix A

National Exploratory Survey of Men Who Have Been Widowed With School-Age Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>More than 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>More than 1 year, less than 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>6-8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>More than 8 years, less than 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Change jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sell the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Do more housework and less outdoor activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Change any personal habits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Become more aggressive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Become more reserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Do more housework and less outdoor activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Consider any other major changes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consider any other major changes: ____________________________

3. How well have you adjusted to the loss?
   1) Adjusted excellently
   2) Adjusted well
   3) Adjusted, but with some difficulty
   4) Engaged in some activities, but not satisfied
   5) Engaged in some activities, but not satisfied

Consider any other major changes: ____________________________

Consider any other major changes: ____________________________
National Exploratory Survey of Men Who Have Been Widowed With School-Age Children

Gentlemen: If you have remarried since your wife's death, please answer the survey questions from the perspective of the period of time during which you were a widower. If you have not remarried, please respond to the survey questions from your current perspective.

1. How long have you been a widower?
   - 1) Less than 3 months
   - 2) At least 3 months, but less than 6 months
   - 3) More than 6 months, but less than 1 year
   - 4) 1-2 years
   - 5) More than 2 years, but less than 4 years
   - 6) 4-5 years
   - 7) More than 6 years (please state how long: ___ years)

2. Did the death of your wife directly cause you to do any of the following? Please place an X next to all items that pertain and then go back and circle the one item that you did first after your wife's death.
   - 1) Change jobs
   - 2) Sell the house
   - 3) Go back to school (vocational, college, etc.)
   - 4) Change my personal priorities
   - 5) Become closer to my children
   - 6) Become more outgoing
   - 7) Become more removed from my children
   - 8) Do more house work than before my wife's death
   - 9) Become more religious
   - 10) Become less religious
   - 11) Reflect more on my own life
   - 12) Isolate myself from others
   - 13) Consider my own death more than before

Comments ___________________________

3. How well have you adjusted to the death of your wife?
   - 1) Adjusted very well
   - 2) Adjusted well
   - 3) Adjusted, but with difficulty
   - 4) Experiencing some difficulty in adjusting
   - 5) Experiencing a great deal of difficulty in adjusting

Comments

______________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4. How well have you adjusted to the responsibilities of being a single parent? | 1) Adjusted very well  
  2) Adjusted well  
  3) Adjusted, but with difficulty  
  4) Experiencing some difficulty in adjusting  
  5) Experiencing a great deal of difficulty in adjusting |
| 5. Before you became a widower with school-age children, did you know any other widowers (with or without school-age children)? | 1) Yes (how many ___)  
  2) No |
| 6. How many widowers did you know who had school-age children prior to your own experiences with widowhood? | 1) None  
  2) One  
  3) Two  
  4) Three  
  5) Four or more (how many ___) |
| 7. How many men do you now know who are widowed with school-age children? | 1) None  
  2) One  
  3) Two  
  4) Three  
  5) Four or more (how many ___) |
| 8. To what extent was your experience in obtaining child care for your child(ren) a stressful experience for you? | 1) Extremely stressful  
  2) Quite stressful  
  3) Moderately stressful  
  4) Minimally stressful  
  5) Not stressful |
| 9. How did your wife die? | 1) Terminal illness  
  2) Accidental death  
  3) Suicide  
  4) Murder  
  5) Natural cause |

Comments

Comments

Comments
10. To what extent has the nature of your wife's death affected your adjustment to your role as a widower?
   ___ 1) Greatly affected my adjustment
   ___ 2) Significantly affected my adjustment
   ___ 3) Moderately affected my adjustment
   ___ 4) Minimally affected my adjustment

11. Please rate each person listed below relative to their helpfulness after your wife's death in the areas indicated.

   Use a rating scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very helpful and 5 being not helpful. Use a rating of 0 to indicate that a person is not applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpful People</th>
<th>Day Care</th>
<th>Someone To Talk To</th>
<th>Understood Your Loss</th>
<th>Financial Help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Your mother</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Your father</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Mother-in-law</td>
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<td>4) Father-in-law</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) Brother(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6) Sister(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7) Brother(s)-in-law</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Sister(s)-in-law</td>
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<tr>
<td>9) Personal friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>10) Clergy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Medical personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>12) Counselors</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Comments

12. When your children ask you about their mother's death and related events (e.g., the funeral), how do you respond to their questions?
   ___ 1) With sincerity and honesty
   ___ 2) Truthfully, but avoiding difficult questions
   ___ 3) By talking around the questions asked
   ___ 4) By changing the subject to avoid answering the question
   ___ 5) Other (please explain)

Comments
13. During your marriage, who assumed primary responsibility for the various tasks listed below? Please put an 'X' in the appropriate box for each task. Be honest about your responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>WIFE</th>
<th>HUSBAND</th>
<th>JOINT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Finding a sitter</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Grocery shopping</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Paying monthly bills</td>
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<td>4) Doing laundry</td>
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<td>5) Cleaning the house</td>
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<td>6) Maintaining the car</td>
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<tr>
<td>7) Staying home with sick children</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Yard work</td>
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<tr>
<td>9) Taking children to appointments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10) Making meals</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Helping the children with school work</td>
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<tr>
<td>12) Ironing and mending clothes</td>
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<tr>
<td>13) Knowing where the children are</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14) General shopping (other than grocery)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15) Doing home maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>16) Putting children to bed</td>
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<tr>
<td>17) Getting children up for school</td>
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</table>

Comments ________________________________

14. As a widower with school-age children, which of the tasks in Question #13 do you find the MOST difficult to deal with? The EASIEST to deal with? Please indicate in the appropriate space below.

_____ is the MOST difficult to deal with.

_____ is the EASIEST to deal with.

Comments ________________________________
15. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement: "After my wife's death my fellow workers found it difficult to talk to me about her death."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) Strongly agree</th>
<th>2) Agree</th>
<th>3) Agree partially</th>
<th>4) Disagree</th>
<th>5) Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

16. How did you acquire child care when you returned to work after your wife's death?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) Hired a nanny</th>
<th>2) Had relatives help with child(ren)'s day care</th>
<th>3) I work at home, so no need for outside help with child(ren)</th>
<th>4) Had neighborhood friend take care of child(ren)</th>
<th>5) Took children to professional child care service</th>
<th>6) Other (please explain)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>_________________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

17. Have you seen the movie *Sleepless In Seattle*? If "Yes," was it BEFORE or AFTER your wife's death?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) Yes, BEFORE her death. Please go to question 18</th>
<th>2) Yes, AFTER her death. Please go to question 19</th>
<th>3) No. Please skip questions 18 &amp; 19 below and go to question 20.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>_________________________________</td>
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</table>

18. If you answered "Yes, BEFORE" to question 17, please complete the following statement. "Based upon what I knew about widowers with children at that time in my life, Tom Hanks' portrayal of a widower...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) was probably quite accurate.</th>
<th>2) was accurate to some extent.</th>
<th>3) missed the mark completely.</th>
<th>4) was strictly a Hollywood ideal.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>_________________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

19. If you answered "Yes, AFTER" to question 17, please complete the following statement. "Based upon my personal experience as a widower with children, Tom Hanks' portrayal of a widower...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) was very accurate.</th>
<th>2) was partially accurate.</th>
<th>3) was minimally accurate.</th>
<th>4) was strictly a Hollywood ideal.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>_________________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
20. Relative to your experience, please rate the usefulness of each of the Sources of Guidance listed below for each of the three Categories specified. Use a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being "very useful" and 3 being "not useful."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCES OF GUIDANCE</th>
<th>Coping with widowhood</th>
<th>How to function as a single parent</th>
<th>Moving on with your new lifestyle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other single parents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support group</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other relatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family physician</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio or TV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs from funeral home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other widowers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. How often do you visit the cemetery where your wife is buried?
   __1) Very often
   __2) Often
   __3) Occasionally
   __4) Rarely
   __5) Have not visited since funeral
   __6) Other, please specify (example: remains cremated and dispersed)

Comments___________________________________________________________
22. Please rank the following activities from 1 to 10 relative to their stressfulness and/or demands on your time. Use 1 to denote the most stressful/demanding and 10 to denote the least stressful/demanding.

   1) Finding free time for yourself
   2) Doing cooking, cleaning, laundry (housework)
   3) Doing the grocery shopping
   4) Maintaining your required job performance
   5) Doing things with the kids
   6) Finding time to date or be sociable with other adults
   7) Keeping up with kids' school or social activities
   8) Trying to promote yourself or better yourself at work
   9) Having too much free time, especially in the evenings
   10) Explaining to others how you became a "single father"

Comments

23. Did your wife have a life insurance policy?
   1) Yes  2) No

24. If you answered Yes to question 23, was the policy large enough to help you maintain your prior life style?
   1) Yes  2) No

25. What time frame after your wife's death do you consider to be appropriate for you to begin to date a woman again?
   1) less than 3 months
   2) at least 3 months, but less than 6 months
   3) more than 6 months, but less than 1 year
   4) 1 to 2 years
   5) more than 2 years, but less than 4 years
   6) 4 years or more
   7) Other (please specify)

Comments

26. Do you agree with the notion that "Being a widower makes women more inclined to date me, simply because I'm a different type of 'single' man?"
   1) Agree strongly
   2) Agree
   3) Agree partially
   4) Disagree
   5) Disagree strongly

Comments
27. To what extent does being a widower with school-age children cause you difficulty in meeting the "right" person to date?

   1) Great difficulty
   2) Moderate difficulty
   3) Small amount of difficulty
   4) No difficulty
   5) Have not tried to date since wife's death

Comments

28. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "At times after being widowed I have found myself enjoying being single, but have felt guilty about it."

   1) Agree strongly
   2) Agree
   3) Disagree
   4) Disagree strongly

Comments

29. Before her death, did you and/or your wife ever talk about the idea of your remarrying if she were to die before you?

   1) Yes, my wife did
   2) Yes, I did
   3) We both discussed the idea of my remarrying
   4) Neither of us discussed the idea of my remarrying
   5) I discussed the idea, she would not
   6) She discussed the idea, I would not

Comments

30. As a widower, do you have expectations to remarry?

   1) Yes  2) No  3) Not Sure  4) Have remarried

Comments
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

Widower: ____________________________

Home address: ____________________________

Phone number: ____________________________

Your present age: ___ Your age at the time of your wife's death: ___

Your occupation:
1) at the time of your wife's death _______________________
2) presently _______________________

Your ethnicity: _______________________

Race: _______________________

Please check your highest level of education.
___ Some High School
___ Completed High School
___ Some Vocational/Technical Education
___ Completed Vocational/Technical Education
___ Completed 2 Year College
___ Some College Work Completed
___ Completed 4 Year College
___ Some Graduate School
___ Completed Master's Degree
___ Completed Professional Degree (e.g., law, medicine, divinity)
___ Completed Ph.D. Degree

Your religious affiliation: _______________________

Your children's names and ages:

__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

Your deceased wife's name: _______________________

Your wife's age at the time of her death: _______________________

The cause of your wife's death: _______________________

The date of your wife's death: _______________________

Did your wife work outside the home? _______________________

If yes, what was her occupation? _______________________


What was your wife's level of education? _______________________________

How long were you and your deceased wife married? __________________________

What was your wife's religious affiliation? ________________________________

How many brothers and/or sisters were in your family?

___ brothers  ___ sisters

What was your birth place (e.g., 3rd of 5 children)? ________________________________

Please check income bracket that best fits you before taxes:

___ under $10,000  ___ $10,000-19,999  ___ $20,000-29,999
___ $30,000-39,999  ___ $40,000-49,999  ___ $50,000-59,999
___ $60,000-69,999  ___ $70,000-79,999  ___ $80,000-89,999
___ $90,000-99,999  ___ more than $100,000

During the first 18 years of your life did you have step-parents involved in your upbringing?

___ yes  ___ no

If yes, were step-parents: ___ mother ___ father ___ both

I understand that all information in this survey is confidential and will be used for research only. Further, my name will not be used or released unless I give written permission.

__________________________________________________________
Signature  ________________________________________________
Date
Appendix B

Widowers' Narratives for Exploratory Survey Questions

2. Did the death of your wife directly cause you to do any of the following?

"At first the children became more distant and even anti-social, but then grew closer to me." Respondent FF

"I entered a state of confusion and disorientation for 3-4 months after my wife's death." Respondent GG

"I changed my job temporarily (2 years)." Respondent HH

"Job and school came into play after it became obvious I could no longer work in the profession I was in and care for my children." Respondent JJ

"Initially I struggled to re-orientize to take care of my kids." Respondent KK
2. Did the death of your wife directly cause you to do any of the following?

"At first the children became more distant and even anti-therapeutic, but then grew closer to me." Respondent FF

"I entered a state of confusion and disorientation for 3-4 months after my wife's death." Respondent GG

"I changed my job temporarily (2 years)." Respondent HH

"Job and school came into play after it became obvious I could no longer work in the profession I was in and raise my children." Respondent JJ

"Initially I attempted to re-organize to take care of my kids." Respondent KK
"It's somewhat difficult to remember the exact outcomes as a result of my wife's death; I can't remember much of the first year after her death."

Respondent MM

"Moved from Pennsylvania to Oregon."  Respondent OO

"Some of these changes were result of my wife's illness which led to her death rather than death itself."  Respondent QQ

"Felt a strong need to get a 'will' in order."  Respondent TT

"The first thing I did was get a lot closer to my daughter and son. But in the same time frame I started to draw more on God to help me through the rough times and it all works to my better happiness."  Respondent UU

"I deal with death as clergy all the time. This make men more appreciative of what my parishioners deal with was very difficult to deal with my own loss."

Respondent YY

"I felt isolated from others, friends left me out. Out of 1,500 member church "maybe" 5 persons called or stopped by the first year."  Respondent A1
"In 1983 my first wife and only children, Chris age 4 and Sara age 2, were killed in an auto accident while riding with wife's girl friend. In 1994 my 2nd wife was killed in a auto accident while by herself." **Respondent B1**

"I am an elementary teacher. I was on leave 5 weeks before my wife died and went right back to work. I lasted 5 weeks before realizing I was severely depressed and could not do the job of teaching and parenting. I'm on leave again now and re-evaluating whether I want to teach." **Respondent C1**

"I spend more time with my children now, I am much more involved their lives." **Respondent D1**

"Used friends for several years before needing to put down new roots." **Respondent G1**

"I no longer want to be around people who were "joint" friends-I spend a lot of time alone." **Respondent H1**

"Although we use to share the house work and rearing of the children, with her death all the responsibilities are upon my shoulders." **Respondent J1**
"I don't consider death more, I do take it less seriously. It happens-and there is not much you can do about it."  

Respondent L1

3. How well have you adjusted to the death of your wife?

"My situation is complicated with lawsuits which brings all the pain again and again."  

Respondent AA

"Widower groups and Parents without Partners aided in filling some of the loneliness and need for companionship."  

Respondent EE

"The financial difficulties have been enormous because of the need to probate my wife's estate in Canada. Both probate cost and the education of my children have fallen on me."  

Respondent FF

"It took almost 3 years to work out all of my guilt and feelings related to our lives together and her death."  

Respondent GG
"My view of death "softened" thanks to Steven Levine's books which helped me a great deal."  Respondent HH

"The difficulty being more that which is inherent in single parenting."

Respondent JJ

"I'm still trying to get/keep the energy needed to do my job and be a father/mother."  Respondent KK

"There will always be songs, places of mutual interest like vacations and cities, and other various memories that will always be triggered throughout the rest of my life."  Respondent MM

"I feel good about that I have done in the past almost 4 years."  Respondent

"I have "adjusted" when I interface with the world. In my mind, in my heart, its still a struggle."  Respondent NN

"The adjustment process seems to be speeding up now that I am past the second anniversary."  Respondent OO
"It didn't seem to bother me as much as many other people. I'm not sure why, could be partly strong faith, partly attitude about life and death in general, maybe a bit of stoicism." Respondent QQ

"Maybe in an unhappy marriage a man might be adjusting very well so #2 was a good as I could get." Respondent RR

"We had 6 months to prepare for her death and we did many things together plus got anything and everything out in the open before her death. We knew that God was in control. We cried together and laughed together through it all." Respondent UU

"I feel good about how I have done in the past almost 4 years." Respondent YY

"I've been told I'm adjusting very well, but I don't think so." Respondent A1

"Many old memories came out of closet." Respondent B1
"I lost my purpose for living, my motivation to be productive and joy in living. Every important part of my life was empty and yet life was full of demands which were unimportant and meaningless to me." **Respondent C1**

"It's more difficult than I ever imagined." **Respondent D1**

"After 3 years I did remarry." **Respondent F1**

"Adjusting very well overtime, of course." **Respondent G1**

"Working fulltime with three young children with no family help is difficult but not impossible but tough!! She was my best friend, life without her still leaves a vacuum." **Respondent J12**

"You're too busy taking care of the life(lives) you've got to be mal-adjusted." **Respondent L1**

8. To what extent was your experience in obtaining child care for your child(ren) a stressful experience for you?
"My children are ages 12 & 16 thus child care isn't quite as big an issue. Real problem however is when I need to be out of town." Respondent DD

"Parents 1/2 mile away have helped out with most of the load. Sister-in-law has helped. Neighbors have helped also." Respondent EE

"Obtaining child care was and still is a hassle, but is easier now since she can be alone for short periods of time." Respondent GG

"Friends covered for me." Respondent HH

"I am at this time retired so I am pretty much at home." Respondent II

"One of the reasons for employment change--daycare not available late hours or on weekends." Respondent JJ

"Day care centers are easy to find but care for evenings is difficult." Respondent LL

"Day care on a daily basis wasn't bad. Trying to find childcare when you wanted to do something was at times very stressful. People would ask you to do..."
something at the last minute without considering your single-parent situation."

Respondent MM

"Still a very difficult situation. One major reason for change is employment."

Respondent OO

"My children were 9 & 12 requiring less child care & I had family very near that helped often." Respondent PP

"I began by using both my mother and my mother-in-law. I had difficulty with my mother-in-law and had to stop using her. I work until 8:00PM three nights a week. I have only found one professional day care with hours I need."

Respondent TT

"My children were 15 and 19 years of age at the time when their mother passed away." Respondent UU

"I had live-in help with the same employee for the last five years. There was stress when she wanted to quit 2 months after my wife's death, because the children were misbehaving. She decided to stay however. Presently she's
visiting her family for 3 months. Finding a temporary substitute was minimally stressful." **Respondent VV**

"They were old enough that child care was not necessary." **Respondent WW**

"Daycare had already been established." **Respondent XX**

"Children had already been attending a day care center at time of my wife's death. Employee's of center were very supportive of me." **Respondent ZZ**

"Daily child care was already in place, but special events or occasional evening child care was very difficult especially when it required planning ahead." **Respondent C1**

"Initially my mother-in-law watched my children but health problems so it prevented her from continuing." **Respondent D1**

"It was always a problem until they settled in. When a daycare closed it was "panic city." Some arrangements weren't perfect." **Respondent G1**
"Child care is an on going stress for me. Its' hard to keep close tabs on your children while you are working." Respondent I1

"It is more difficult for a widower with 3 small children. It is also stressful with limited resources to select for quality childcare provider." Respondent J1

"The youngest was 8." Respondent L1

9. How did your wife die?

"She died in an auto accident as result of her alcoholism. Respondent AA

"My wife had a cardiac arrest. She was 6 months pregnant. They saved the baby but were unable to save my wife." Respondent BB

"Cancer." Respondent DD

"Unexpected because of a breast cancer which had been diagnosed as minimal five years earlier." Respondent FF

"Cancer for 4 years." Respondent GG

"Auto (No seat belt)." Respondent HH

"Breast cancer." Respondent II

"Malignant Melanoma (3 years "notice")." Respondent JJ

"Breast cancer victim at age 31." Respondent KK

"Suicide--overdose." Respondent LL

"My wife and I both thought she had it beat (cancer), but we obviously wrong." Respondent MM

"Brain tumor." Respondent QQ

"Breast cancer." Respondent RR
"1st melanoma 11-88 then it came back 1-93. Melanoma with brain metastasis. She lived 14 months after 2nd onset in 1-93." Respondent SS

"Breast cancer failed within the brain and liver." Respondent JJ

"Micro value prolapse--an undetected genetic heart condition." Respondent TT

"Cancer for 6 months." Respondent UU

"Cancer" Respondent WW

"She went for operation to remove what they thought was a benign cyst in her brain. Turned out to be malignant tumor which they could not remove. Complications arose and she died later that night." Respondent ZZ

"Auto accident." Respondent B1

"Cancer, metastasized in brain, lung, treated 1 1/2 years after being cancer free 3 1/2 years after breast cancer and mastectomy." Respondent C1

"Breast Cancer." Respondent D1
"Died from smoke inhalation in a house fire." Respondent L1

"Breast cancer that went to the brain and liver." Respondent J1

"Colon cancer." Respondent K1

"Aneurism." Respondent L1

"Brain aneurism, not instantly she lived through 3 surgeries and procedures for 3 weeks before we had to disconnect the life support system." Respondent P1

11. Please rate each person listed below relative to their helpfulness after your wife's death in the areas indicated.

"Parents and in-law(parents) preceded my wife, by two or three years." Respondent FF
"In-laws were 75 miles away we needed our friends."  **Respondent HH**

"The gals from Grand County Hospice was very helpful and always. Right up to the end."  **Respondent II**

"My father always irritated me when he said that he knew what I was going through and when he related my loss to his divorce. No one knows your grief like you do."  **Respondent MM**

"My father-in-law died 10 months after my wife which limited their supportive role. They would have helped more if they were in a different health situation."  **Respondent PP**

"My in-laws tried to be uplifting but mostly cared about their loss. My friends carried for me."  **Respondent RR**

"Some clergy friends were really great, some awful."  **Respondent YY**

"Two sister-in-laws were probably the most supportive, emotionally after my wife's death. One (sister) died eleven months after my wife. I also attended a "Life After Loss" support group for about 9 months."  **Respondent T1**
"Most people do not understand how the death brought back all thoughts of my first family's deaths". **Respondent B1**

"My mother-in-law took money which was ***(my wife) and donated zero to medical or burial cost." **Respondent C1**

"After 2 years of trying to deal with this on my own I did seek outside counseling." **Respondent D1**

"I was fine financially. Mother-in-law would keep children for several weeks each year. Friends did at times. I was in Washington D.C.—fairly far from immediate family. Friends were exceptional." **Respondent G1**

"I try not to hide things from the children because I don't want them to feel like I lied to them." **Respondent I1**

12. When your children ask you about their mother's death and related events, how do you respond to their questions?
"To me, honestly is the only way to relate to my children." **Respondent BB**

"I answer or respond to every question or comment! You have to." **Respondent CC**

"Always open and candid." **Respondent DD**

"All 3 children are in school grief loss groups and professional counseling." **Respondent EE**

"It took my 10 year old 1 1/2 years to begin to understand what happened. Then we went through 9-10 months of hell and counseling before she pulled out of her grief. My older kids (now 21 and 24) have never wanted to talk much about it, despite my attempts." **Respondent GG**

"At age 6--she grasped the concept of the eternal soul that does not die." **Respondent HH**

"Don't beat around the bush." **Respondent II**

"Truth-always." **Respondent JJ**
"There is no other way in my mind."  **Respondent KK**

"I don't tell them it was suicide but I do tell them that she took too much medicine."  **Respondent LL**

"Nothing has been off-limits."  **Respondent OO**

"We talk about it often. Their mother talked with them openly before she died & wrote both them letters for the future."  **Respondent PP**

"We are very open about everything."  **Respondent QQ**

"#1 now, but not at first they are old enough to understand and were all involved in each process after her death."  **Respondent RR**

"My children were informed of everything I knew, as the disease progressed and I believe their involvement in Carol's treatment greatly eased their transition."  **Respondent SS**
"My daughter is 2 years old. She was 18 months when her mother died. She does not understand the concept. I just tell her that her mother is her special angel in heaven." **Respondent TT**

"We've done well communicating about it." **Respondent YY**

"I worked road construction, so work long hours." **Respondent B1**

"We discussed the possibility of her death with them from the beginning of the rediscovery of her cancer. They were there through continued decline at the end. She died at home." **Respondent C1**

"I spoke to a counselor who specialized in bereavement counseling prior to my wife's death to make sure that I handled it properly with my children. My wife and I had discussed this and had both agreed it was important." **Respondent D1**

"Actually, not overwhelming number of questions." **Respondent G1**

"Questions are almost never asked." **Respondent H1**
"The children have always been included in the processes of their mother's illness and death. She told them she was dying when it became evident. They were present when she died. We talked about the death, pain openly, and cried together." Respondent J1

"They never brought it up much--I did." Respondent L1

"We discussed and each gives their own views and thoughts." Respondent N1

"Try to explain that people get sick at all ages and that there Mom loves them lots. I didn't what to lie but life just isn't right all the time." Respondent O1

"I involved them with the entire funeral process. The two older ones were with me at the hospital when we decided to let Jeanne - their mother go, I did not do it until they were ready." Respondent P1

14. As a widower with school-age children, which of the tasks in Question #13 do you the MOST difficult to deal with? The EASIEST to deal with?
"I like to cook but planning the children's activities and my schedule makes meal preparation difficult. Most difficult task for me is keeping track of all events and activities and making arrangements." **Respondent DD**

"Parents do most of the meals." **Respondent EE**

"My child is a fussy eater, so finding things she will eat is difficult." **Respondent GG**

"I hired a housekeeper making cleaning and laundry easy!" **Respondent HH**

"I have lost two jobs since my wife's death. The work place is not sympathetic to a single parent schedule." **Respondent LL**

"Laundry is never finished!" **Respondent NN**

"In all honesty, I really have not experienced much trouble with the above responsibilities. My difficulties have been emotional—not process." **Respondent OO**

"I have a house cleaner, that why it is easiest." **Respondent PP**
"Hard to rate--all the child care tasks as a combination are very difficult. It's not the individual task but the overwhelming responsibility of all of it that is difficult." Respondent QQ

"We eat out all the time. #7 is also tough. Keeping house picked-up is hard, I hire a cleaner." Respondent RR

"I actually find most of these easy except bill paying and cooking."
Respondent SS

"I have a tough time finding time out to get to the yard. I pay someone else to clean my house." Respondent TT

"Because my children are of an older age 16 and 20. They helped with most everything so I could say there were no difficult or easiest item to deal with."
Respondent UU

"We had a house keeper." Respondent VV

"None. My life went on without great difficulty." Respondent WW
"The idea of sole responsibility when they are ill gives emotional stress--plus work related stress as time off from work is required."  Respondent XX

"It's not the type of thing where nobody is that you're responsible for all of them."  Respondent ZZ

"Also have difficult time buying clothes for my children. They dislike shopping as much as I do. And its hard to get them to go along to try on clothes."

Respondent ZZ

"Very hard to comprehend how to do everything."  Respondent B1

"My desire to do home & car maintenance has dropped sharply, as well as yard work. Cleaning never did and never will meet her standards."  Respondent C1

"My daughter, now 13-years-old, has a great deal of anger over her mother's death and she directs this anger toward me, which makes almost all of the tasks listed above very difficult."  Respondent E1

"I'm not sure that 7 is for sure the most difficult only in that there are many things in that list which are in and of themselves at one time or another most difficult such as 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, and 17."  Respondent I1
"None—I despise them all." Respondent K1

"It's not the type of task that's difficult, it's that you're responsible for all of them." Respondent L1

15. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement: "After my wife's death my fellow workers found it difficult to talk to me about her death."

"My co-workers were very helpful and understanding to me." Respondent BB

"Avoided bring up the subject as not to offend me." Respondent EE

"But I didn't exactly invite discussion either, though I would talk freely once the topic was opened." Respondent GG

"Our" friends had much difficulty so much that most were of no help." Respondent HH
"Most had little or no "death" experiences." Respondent JJ

"I had no problem talking to my close friends, but with new acquaintances it was very awkward." Respondent LL

"Everyone is uncomfortable with the topic of death. They think the topic will make you sad or make them sad. People are uneducated as how to deal with death." Respondent MM

"Men had a much more difficult time than women." Respondent OO

"I worked in a private counseling/therapy agency. They were very open and accepting. I could talk easily with my colleagues." Respondent PP

"I am an elementary school teacher and found most of my colleagues very supportive." Respondent SS

"Those who are close to me allowed me to talk freely about my wife & my loss. Those who were not so close distanced themselves and in many cases avoided me altogether." Respondent TT
"They are clergy and were pretty good." **Respondent YY**

"Some co-workers avoided the subject but two in particular were very helpful." **Respondent ZZ**

"They don't bring it up, but don't avoid it if it comes up." **Respondent B1**

"With the exception of one close friend." **Respondent C1**

"People still do not talk to me about it." **Respondent D1**

"The women talked, the men did not." **Respondent H1**

"People are unsure of what to say so they usually don't say anything. At least that how it seems." **Respondent l1**

"As a hospital chaplain my fellow workers have talked about her death. They were present when she died at the hospital we serve." **Respondent J1**

"I was not employed at the time--I was a full time college student and fellow students tended to shy away from me after her death." **Respondent N1**
16. How did you acquire child care when you returned to work after your wife's death?

"My oldest was 14 soon, will be 16. He has been the adult at home much of the time. He cooks and does laundry! The 11 year old does dishes! My job is fairly flexible, too." Respondent AA

"When I needed care I used friends however my children are at an age where I do not need a great deal of help." Respondent DD

"Eldest daughter who is married helps care after the youngest." Respondent FF

"Found a mom who cared for kids before and after school." Respondent GG

"My regular provider quit, so I had to find someone new. Very stressful." Respondent MM

"Hired a classmate's (my son's classmate) mom to watch over my son." Respondent NN
"After first year, I left my job and am now self employed--Show Days-- school holidays etc. made it difficult to maintain consistent care." **Respondent OO**

"I did not acquire a lot of day care so relatives were very willing to fill in when needed." **Respondent PP**

"For 1 year after school & Saturdays & one summer." **Respondent RR**

"My children are ages 10 & 13 and can come home alone after school. I am a teacher and thus arrive home within an hour of their arrival home, so day care is not a problem for me." **Respondent SS**

"This is a temporary fix(using relatives to sit). Because of my work schedule day care facilities will not take my child till she is at least 2 years old." **Respondent TT**

"They were old enough that they didn't need day care." **Respondent UU**

"Live-in housekeeper. Already in place. This person had been working for us for five years." **Respondent VV**
"Children old enough to not need care."  **Respondent WW**

"Already had day care. Wife always worked."  **Respondent XX**

"Were already attending day care."  **Respondent ZZ**

"Have not returned to work because can't figure out how to handle everything."  **Respondent B1**

"Average about 2 to 3 per month over 6 months since her death."  **Respondent C1**

"First my mother-in-law watched my children, but her health problem made it necessary for me to hire a nanny."  **Respondent D1**

"Had 3-5 neighbors and family who assisted with childcare."  **Respondent F1**

"Did both (had neighborhood friends take care of children and took children to professional care service). Used mother-in-law for first few weeks."  **Respondent G1**
"I stayed home with the children for about a month after their mother died."

Respondent J1

"I have no family members in the same city. Nearest is 340 miles away. The two older ones were in school while the youngest is put in a day care."

Respondent J1

"Adam age 3 went to day care Mathew and Nicholas ages 7 and 9 came home after school I hired a person to come and do the house work, cooking and be there when they got home till I was done at work." Respondent P1

17. If you answered "Yes, BEFORE" to question 17, please complete the following statement. "Based upon what I knew about widowers with children at that time in my life, Tom Hanks' portrayal of a widower..."

18. If you answered "Yes, AFTER" to question 17, please complete the following statement. "Based upon my personal experience as a widower with children, Tom Hanks' portrayal of a widower..."
"I felt the movie was heartfelt. However I think I would get too upset now if I were to watch it again." Respondent BB

"We saw the movie when my wife was terminally ill." Respondent DD

"Not everyone would react the way he did, but many would. (I didn't)"

Respondent GG

19. If you answered "Yes, AFTER" to question 17, please complete the following statement. "Based upon my personal experience as a widower with children, Tom Hanks' portrayal of a widower..

"Live only 10 minutes from Seattle City limits--but not sleepless!"

Respondent JJ

"I thought I was watching my life other than I have a daughter instead of a boy." Respondent MM

"I try to avoid movies in which the mom dies." Respondent NN
"Some aspects were quite startling, since I saw the movie after I moved to Portland, OR. from Penn.--for very similar emotional reasons. It was hard seeing that on the screen to some extent." Respondent OO

"I think it was accurate for many people. I did not experience the level of anger he did, nor was I reluctant to date again." Respondent QQ

"Very often at first, and now slowly less." Respondent RR

"His economic circumstances are different than most." Respondent SS

"I think a greater amount of emotional devastation occurs in the beginning than was shown in the movie." Respondent TT

"My boys are against me re-marrying." Respondent ZZ

"He didn't appear to be burdened with any of the day to day responsibilities of a single parent." Respondent D1

"Becoming a widower--affects us all differently. We can and do understand the loss, but each handles it differently." Respondent N1
21. How often do you visit the cemetery where your wife is buried?

"I have visited once. I will probably go back again soon."  Respondent BB

"Christmas day and Valentines day."  Respondent EE

"The gravesite is 400 miles away."  Respondent FF

"Visited weekly or more for the first year, only occasionally now."  Respondent GG

"Once a year on the day of her death alone... without my daughter-who chooses to stay away."  Respondent HH

"The kids want to go there before going to school in the mornings."  Respondent II

"Major holidays and birthdays."  Respondent JJ

"As time goes by, the grave site doesn't preoccupy you as much as early on."  Respondent MM
"I also kept a portion of my wife's ashes in a sealed urn which I will at some point deal with..." Respondent OO

"I live 700 miles from her grave. I probably visit when I'm back home."

Respondent PP

"Actually committal was about 1 year after funeral. Her body was donated to a medical school and her ashes were returned about a year later, then we had a burial. I have not visited since then." Respondent QQ

"Her ashes are in a "vault" in the garden at my church." Respondent SS

"About once a week. More often during times of stress and at significant dates." Respondent TT

"Every 2-3 months." Respondent UU

"Once a year." Respondent WW

"I live in Delaware she is buried in Florida--in a family plot." Respondent XX
"Wife and her mom had a fight day before death. Mother wanted to be back in Chicago. Sharon wanted to be with kids. Had her cremated and put in urn. Brought her home but freaked 12 year old daughter. She spent 5 months in funeral home closet, then came home. Now she is in a borrowed crypt of a widow friend. Want to scatter ashes, but her family wants her back."

Respondent YY

"More often the first year. Now, just at holidays and special days our engagement/wedding." Respondent ZZ

"Rarely now, but the 1st year often." Respondent A1

"Carry the thoughts with me every day—so no real need to stand and look at a piece of granite." Respondent B1

"We visit every 2-3 months." Respondent D1

"Remains cremated but not yet disbursed." Respondent E1

"It's always been 700-1000 miles away." Respondent G1
"As of this time I haven't buried my wife's ashes for a lot of reasons."

Respondent L1

"Burial site is 400 miles away." Respondent L1

22. Please rank the following activities from 1 to 10 relative to their stressfulness and/or demands on your time.

"Most difficult is the constant pressure of keeping track of everyone's schedule making sure the kids are where they need to be and getting meals arranged around schedules." Respondent DD

"I dislike cooking and cleaning and they are time consuming. Laundry is OK, kind of soothing." Respondent GG

"A $100,000 life insurance policy on my wife made things much less stressful." Respondent HH

"I handle stress well--the only stuff that gets me (?) are all the school events and nosey people." Respondent JJ
"The most frustrating part was that I knew if I didn't do it wouldn't get done. Everything was put on my shoulder." **Respondent MM**

"Starting a new business has been the worst-- but the challenge has helped me feel active." **Respondent OO**

"This was the hardest question. I really find them equally stressful." **Respondent VV**

"I have 2 women who watch my children they handle a great deal of the domestic work in the house." **Respondent D1**

"What free time?" **Respondent K1**

25. What time frame after your wife's death do you consider to be appropriate for you to begin to date a woman again?

"I started going out at 4 months. Dating is very difficult for me." **Respondent AA**
"I've dated already and had a relationship with a widow. But now that seems to be over." **Respondent BB**

"Life isn't about "Time Frames" it's about living 1 second, 1 minute, 1 hour at a time! So it's appropriate when it just happens and each individual feels ready."

**Respondent CC**

"This really depends on the situation. I would not recommend a long-term commitment if you are not ready, but watch out for commitment!" **Respondent DD**

"Wife and I discussed." **Respondent EE**

"I started dating in less than 3 months. BIG MISTAKE!!! Caused me and some women a lot of heartache." **Respondent GG**

"I believe that it is an individual issue. It depends on the person and why you are ready, but watch out for commitment!" **Respondent HH**
"Death was expected—and I was "told" to date after her death by her. Would have been different if a sudden death." Respondent JJ

"If you're referring to dating or social interaction only." Respondent KK
(referring to his response of—less than 3 months—)

"This really depends on the situation. I would not recommend a long-term commitment until at least 3 years." Respondent MM

"Date when you are ready, but watch out for commitment!" Respondent NN

"What I would consider appropriate and what in fact results are different—I am just now at a little over two years ready to consider a new relationship."
Respondent OO

"I believe that it is an individual issue. It depends on the person and why they are "dating". If it is an attempt to forget and not deal with the situation that is bad. If they are working through their grief and dating is a positive step that works, that's good." Respondent TT
"When it's emotionally suitable and you enough time left over from child rearing." **Respondent XX**

"I think widowers try too soon to re-establish themselves with women. I've dated some woman for 2 years and am doing fine in that part." **Respondent YY**

"I have been seeing a woman regularly since August 1994. About 2 years and 10 months after my wife's death. I did not remove my wedding ring until the first anniversary of her death." **Respondent ZZ**

"Frame of mind more important than time." **Respondent B1**

"...but if one particular woman had not been in a relationship I would have jumped at the chance in 1-2 months. I'm ready to venture out at 6 month, but no offer." **Respondent C1**

"I started after 1 1/2 years." **Respondent D1**

"Depends--for me it was almost a year." **Respondent G1**
"Although for me I consider 1 year. Minimum yet I feel that it should be an individual thing. When the person feels ready-after the grief work is done."

Respondent J1

"Up to the individual the problem i being 43 with 2 kids and trying to date. Not many women are interested in an 'instant family'. Difficult getting to know a woman and confining a relationship." Respondent K1

"I have no idea on this not now and probably many, many years."

Respondent O1

26. Do you agree with the notion the "Being a widower makes women more inclined to date me, simply because I'm a different type of 'single' man?"

"I've seen both. My 2 serious relationships would not marry because of my kids!" Respondent AA

"Don't know really." Respondent BB
"I saw no more interest in me as a widower than if I had been divorced. However, some avoided me because I was a widower, probably because they didn't know how to deal with it." **Respondent GG**

"It's safer for women, but also scares some." **Respondent HH**

"Women that previously (before marriage) would not have anything to do with me and new female acquaintances seem more aggressive towards me when they find out I am "widowed" rather than just "single"." **Respondent JJ**

"It really depends on the "extra package." **Respondent KK**

"I seem to attract women that want to care for me and my children." **Respondent LL**

"Most women don't want to get involved with someone with kids. The ones that do, may have monetary interests at mind." **Respondent MM**

"I really don't know the answer to this stage(?) I haven't been actively "dating" or even available. It has taken me a very long time to see myself as "Single" again." **Respondent OO**
"Widows probably see it that way. Other women are probably more scared off by the kids." **Respondent QQ**

"I think this may be true, but I really have not dated much yet." **Respondent SS**

"If the marriage from which you are widowed was positive relationship, I have found that women who have been in bad relationships will gravitate towards me. I think they believe that I will be more capable of having another successful relationship." **Respondent TT**

"Maybe they are inclined to feel sorry for you or maybe they feel you're better than a divorced single man." **Respondent VV**

"Lots of women to date if I wanted to." **Respondent YY**

"I fine it difficult to find a "nice" woman to date at all in my age range."

**Respondent A1**

"I think women have an idea they would be used as a replacement." **Respondent B1**
"I don't consider it relevant." **Respondent D1**

"A signal that you were okay as a married person--marriage did not end in divorce." **Respondent G1**

"Women looking for sincerity tend to feel that this person fulfilled their vows with the deceased and can demonstrate stability. However, the man must show himself worthy in some (fashion?)." **Respondent J1**

"No way. 'Instant family' is not a desirable trait." **Respondent K1**

"Not because you a "single man you're a family man who a whole family."** Respondent L1**

"I had women tell me that they were not ready for a commitment and the only thing I did was ask them to dinner." **Respondent N1**

27. To what extent does being a widower with school-age children cause you difficulty in meeting the "right" person to date? **Respondent K1**
"I am a package deal. Myself, my two kids and the love in my heart for wife. So the right person is someone who understands the love I have had for wife, but is secure in our new relationship and wants a package deal. I feel that only about 1% of the women out there fit this. If is meant that I remarry, I will."

Respondent CC

"I have seen others with children only." Respondent EE

"I have actually met a very understanding woman and we intend to get married as soon as conditions become more settled." Respondent FF

"Mostly because I want to date people with children my 10 year old can relate too." Respondent GG

"Have never had much problem with meeting women." Respondent HH

"Baby sitter is difficult-- and having the kids is another factor." Respondent JJ

"When free(time factor)is very limited--its tough." Respondent KK
"It's difficult to move the relationship along with some women." **Respondent LL**

"There's a lot to consider when finding the "right" person. It's not just yourself you're thinking about; you have children to consider. It takes a special person to assume this responsibility." **Respondent MM**

"I have met several single moms while doing the "mom" things with my children." **Respondent NN**

"Being widower makes it very difficult to deal with the widower baggage that most unattached women carry. Re: ex-spouses, for periods are dedicated to careers. I think that I have enjoyed meeting widows the most." **Respondent OO**

"Hard to find time to date." **Respondent SS**

"My children would like me not to date seriously until they are of school." **Respondent UU**
"I was introduced to my new friend through a mutual friend of both of us. If not for that "sneaky arrangement", I'm sure I would still only be thinking about meeting someone." Respondent ZZ

"I think meeting a few "other mom" through my children's friends at school will provide some social opportunities in the future--meeting friends of parents or possibly single moms." Respondent C1

"It's extremely difficult I've only dated 3 people. One relationship lasted about 1 year and I ended it because I found it too confining." Respondent D1

"Have to plan around the children. Can't simply take off." Respondent J1

"The children require high prioritization." Respondent M1

28. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "At times after being widowed I have found myself enjoying being single, but have felt guilty about it."
"I have felt guilty about dating, about being single, about being "free". Given a choice, I would give-up everything to get my wife back!" **Respondent BB**

"Freedom is somewhat exciting." **Respondent EE**

"I have enjoyed being single, but have felt no guilt." **Respondent GG**

"Wasn't single long enough to know!" **Respondent HH**

"Today I disagree--tomorrow I will agree--someday I am ready for a full time mate--then I think I enjoy being single?" **Respondent JJ**

"The only reason I would feel guilty would be because my daughter doesn't have a mother. No one can replace a mother." **Respondent MM**

"The quilt has faded." **Respondent NN**

"I've enjoyed it, but not felt guilty." **Respondent QQ**

"I do not enjoy being single at all! I want to be married again." **Respondent SS**
"Every time I start to 'adjust' I am overcome by feelings of guilt."  

**Respondent TT**

"Have never enjoyed being single again. I may have accepted that fact, but still yearn for those "boring" years of marriage."  

**Respondent ZZ**

"I've not found myself enjoying being single. If any guilt it's for being single."  

**Respondent A1**

"Can't say anything good about single parent life-style."  

**Respondent B1**

"...there isn't much to enjoy yet."  

**Respondent C1**

"I am now learning to enjoy being single. I guess the demand is so great--therefore I wish to have ???????? . I will not have a problem with guilt because I gave my best to my wife(?) ."  

**Respondent J1**

"Not guilty."  

**Respondent L1**
29. Before her death, did you and/or your wife ever talk about the idea of your remarrying if she were to die before you?

"We both agreed that remarriage would not be out of the question."

Respondent BB

"Due to the rapidity of her final decline, we did not discuss it, but I feel..."

Respondent EE

"We both believed that if either of us died we should remarry." Respondent GG

"She asked me once if you would remarry. I said no." Respondent JJ

"This helped me." Respondent HH

"Helen expected I would (remarry). I was 47, she was 46." Respondent YY

"Was important to her that I remarry." Respondent JJ

"I think she expected that I would remarry."

Respondent CT

"My wife was --adamant that I not remarry." Respondent LL

"This was not a subject that I would bring-up. I didn't believe that she would die." Respondent MM
"She told me to choose carefully." Respondent NN

"I don't feel guilty—I have enjoyed some aspects of being single, but it has not been a big issue." Respondent OO

"Due to the rapidity of her final decline, we did not discuss it, but I feel confident she would be happy for me to remarry." Respondent SS

"I am a police officer, so we knew the chance existed. However, most of the conversation were about my death and her remarrying." Respondent TT

"She asked me once if I would ever remarry. I said no." Respondent VV

"Helen expected I would (remarry). I was 47, she was 44." Respondent YY

"I think she expected that I would some day." Respondent C1

"My wife suggested it prior to her death. I did not feel comfortable talking about it." Respondent D1

"Didn't expect death that soon." Respondent E1
"We both discussed it. The (wife name) discussed it with them and prepared the children." **Respondent J1**

"I don't recall. She did tell me to remarry some months before death."
**Respondent K1**

"We were divorced 11 months before her death--she expected me to get remarried." **Respondent L1**

30. As a widower, do you have expectations to remarry?

"I hope so. Both for peace and my daughters' sake."
**Respondent TT**

"I hope to be remarried in the next year or so."
**Respondent AA**

"My expectations for a woman have changed. I would not marry anyone unless they were also widowed and the same religion as me."
**Respondent BB**

"I loved being married."
**Respondent CC**

"Need the family life I lost."
**Respondent EE**
"Would like to very much, if I find the right woman, of course." Respondent GG

"I did (and divorced 5 years later)." Respondent HH

"I think 60 years of age is a little late to start all over again." Respondent II

"I'm engaged."

Respondent MM

"I am engaged & will marry this summer."

Respondent PP

"I hope so. Both for myself and my daughters' sake."

Respondent TT

"Kids are a barrier and a benefit to widowed. Friend(?) works eve's so substantially we can't afford to marry now."

Respondent YY

"If God will send me someone to have me and for me to love then. I've had only bad to poor luck on my own, much pain!"

Respondent A1

"After having to bury 2 wife's by age of 42, don't know." Respondent B1
"I imagine I will sometime. Having a partnership was life-sustaining for me. I hope I will meet somebody someday to share that with again." Respondent C1

"If I found the right person! I will not remarry just so my girls can have a mother." Respondent D1

"(has remarried)Wonderfully." Respondent G1

"I know of 4 couples with minor children who remarried. 3 ended in divorce, the last is in trouble." Respondent H1

"My previous marriage was such a success that I am willing--knowing that I'm ready to enter into a relationship again(?). Respondent J1

"I feel no reason to remarry. I still feel betrayed(?)-afraid to love again for fear of being hurt-again. I'm moving in with another support group member(female with 10 yr old son). Companionship and financial-I feel no way of, getting back to the way it was." Respondent K1

"At times yes—At times no." Respondent L1