

Announcements

- Data collection assignments due Th. – bring to class - no late assignments
- Extra Credit opportunities:
 - Demonstration 3.1 (p. 78) – 5 points
 - Demonstration 3.2 (p. 88) – 5 points
 - Demonstration 3.3 (p. 104) – 5 points
 - Check out New Moon magazine (www.newmoon.org) - 1 point
- Other options on class web site
- See also emailed list of events

Overview

- Finish up Ch. 2
 - Lecture: Research on content and effects of media
- Start Ch. 3: Infancy and Childhood
 - Tues: Lecture and individual assignment
 - Th: Lecture and small group discussion of data collection assignments

Overview of Ch. 3

- Background on gender development
 - Prenatal sex development
 - How people respond to boys and girls
 - Theories of gender typing
- Factors that shape gender typing
 - Parents, peers, school, media
- Children's knowledge about gender
 - Stereotypes re: activities, occupations, personality

Questions for This Week

- Gender as stimulus variable
 1. Do parents prefer boys over girls?
 2. Do parents treat boys and girls differently?
- Gender as subject variable
 1. Do boys and girls act differently?
 2. If so, how and where do they learn their gender roles?

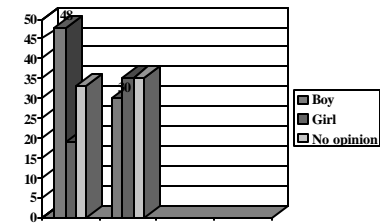
Do parents prefer boys over girls?

- In some cultures, preference for boys is very strong – with female fetuses aborted or female babies killed
- Book says that, unlike the past, there is now no clear-cut preference in US society
- But.....

Dahl and Moretti (2003): U.S. Census Data

- Parents with girls more likely to divorce than parents with boys (1st and 2nd marriages)
- Divorced dads less likely to have daughters than sons living with them
- Women with only girls more likely to have never married
- Mothers who find out that their child is a girl are less likely to marry before delivery
- Probability of having another child is higher in all-girl families
- Probability of receiving child support is lower with girls

Dahl and Moretti (2003):
U.S. Gallop poll data (2000 &
2003) re: preferences



If you could only have one child, would you prefer a boy or girl?

Self-report data from 16
countries

- Boys preferred in 13 countries
 - Biggest preference for boys: Taiwan (78% prefer boy over girl if they could only have one child)
- Girls preferred in 2 countries
 - Biggest preference for girls: Iceland and Spain (~60%)

Why does it matter?

- Kids in divorced families more likely to grow up in poverty
- Parents who prefer boys may devote less attention and resources to girls
- Sex-selection procedures may lead to gender imbalance in US society

META-ANALYSIS

Statistical procedure for integrating the results of different studies on same topic

1. Gather all published and unpublished studies on topic
2. Compute an effect size (d) for each study
$$d = \frac{\text{mean for men} - \text{mean for women}}{\text{average standard deviation}}$$
3. Get the average effect size across studies

Example: Male mean = 100
Female mean = 95
Standard Deviation = 10
$$d = 100 - 95 = 5 / 10 = .5$$

4. Examine variability in effect sizes
If a lot of variability, look for factors that might explain differences in effect sizes across studies

Effect Sizes

- d = .20: small difference between groups
– 85% overlap in distribution of scores of two groups
- d = .50: medium difference between groups
– 67% overlap in distribution of scores of two groups
- d = .80: large difference between groups
– 53% overlap in distribution of scores of two groups

Lytton and Romney (1991) Meta-Analysis

- Do parents treat boys and girls differently?
- Meta-analysis of 172 studies, over 25,000 participants
- Variety of methodologies (e.g., observation, self-report)
- Children 5 and under to 13 and older
- Mostly North American samples
- Studies conducted between 1952 to 1987

**Lytton and Romney (1991)
Meta-Analysis - cont.**

Category of behavior: d

- Amount of interaction:
- Encouraging achievement:
- Warmth, nurturance:
- Encouraging dependency:
- Restrictiveness:
- Disciplinary strictness:
- Encouraging sex-typed activities:
- Clear communication/reasoning:

**Sandnabba and Ahlberg (1999):
Parent's Perceptions of
Cross-Gender Behavior**

- Participants: 224 parents of 5 year olds in Finland
- Stated that it was much more acceptable for girls to be "boyish", to play with boys' toys, and to have masculine personality characteristics than it was for boys to be girlish, play with girls' toys, and be feminine
- Parents also said that they would feel worse if their sons were girlish than if their daughters were boyish
- Contrary to Lytton and Romney meta-analysis, men thought cross-gender behavior in boys was more acceptable than women did

**Lytton and Romney (1991)
Meta-Analysis - cont.**

1. Sex of parent:
d's similar for moms and dads for 7/8 categories
Exception: encouraging sex-typed activities -
dads treated boys and girls more differently than did moms
2. Study methodology:
Tended to be bigger differences for observational studies
than interview/self-report studies
3. Year of publication:
No differences in effect sizes as a function of year of study
publication
4. Cultural differences:
In other Western countries, effect size for physical
punishment was significant - $d = .37$

Questions for This Week

- Gender as stimulus variable

1. Do parents prefer boys over girls?
2. Do parents treat boys and girls differently?
