CHAPTER IV

Results

This chapter, which is divided into four sections, presents the analyses of data gathered with 60 families. The first section describes the sample. The second section provides a summary of the data collected from the families using the following assessment tools: (1) the Emotional Cutoff Scale (ECS), (2) the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS), and (3) the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF). The procedures used to analyze the data are detailed in the third section followed by the results of the analysis as applied to the original 12 hypotheses. The final section is a summary of the results.

The Sample

Sixty families comprising a teenager and one or two parents who voluntarily participated in this study. Data were gathered from 48 single mothers, 4 single fathers, and from both parents in eight families. The teenagers in the sample included 36 males and 24 females, ranging in age from 13-17. The race or ethnic background of the sample consisted of 24 Caucasians, 18 African Americans, 12 Hispanics, four teenagers from other cultures, and two Asians. The demographics of the sample are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1
Demographics of the Sample

		Male					Female				
		Ages of Teenagers									
Race/ Ethnic Background	(N)	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17
Caucasian	(24)	0	0	8	5	4	0	2	4	1	0
African American	(18)	2	1	3	4	1	0	2	1	3	1
Hispanic	(12)	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	2	3
Other	(4)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Asian	(2)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	(60)	3	1	15	9	8	0	6	6	6	6

Results of the Instruments

Three scales were used to collect data from the sample. The Emotional Cutoff Scale (ECS) was administered to all the parents and teenagers who voluntarily participated in the study. The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scales (CAFAS) was used by the researcher to assess the functional level of the teenagers on eight dimensions. The Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) was used to assess the functioning of the parents who participated.

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Emotional Cutoff Scale (ECS)

The scores for the ECS ranged from 25, indicating complete cutoff, to 5, indicating a connected, personal relationship with the parent. For the 54 teenagers who agreed to fill out the ECS, the mean scores with their mother was 9.2 with a SD of 5.3, with their fathers was 10.7 with a SD of 5.3. Scores ranged from 5-25 with both the father and the mother. The adolescents were only slightly more cutoff from their fathers than their mothers. The mean score for the 47 mothers who filled out the ECS was 6.9 with a SD of 3.3 for their mothers and 10.5 with a SD of 6.3 for their fathers. The results indicate that the mothers are slightly more cutoff with their fathers than with their mothers. The ECS scores for the mothers ranged from 5-20 in cutoff from their mothers, from 5-25 in cutoff from their fathers. The 12 fathers who completed the ECS were almost equally cutoff from their mothers and their fathers. The mean score for the 12 fathers who completed the ECS was 6.0 with a SD of 2.2 from their mothers and 5.5 with a SD of 9.0 from their fathers. The ECS scores ranged from 5-25 with both their mothers and their fathers. Although the number of fathers who completed the ECS is far less than the numbers of mothers, the fathers report less cutoff from their parents than the mothers are from their parents. This data is compiled in Table 2.

Table 2
Mean Scores for the Emotional Cutoff Scale (ECS)

Subject	N	Cutoff with Mother	SD	Cutoff with Father	SD
Adolescents	54	9.2	5.3	10.7	5.3
Mothers	47	6.9	3.3	10.5	6.3
Fathers	12	6.0	2.2	5.5	0.9

Fifty-six mothers and 12 fathers were assessed using the GAF. The mean GAF score for the mothers was 39.6 with a SD of 7.5, which is a reversed score of 60.4. The mean GAF score for the fathers was 43.7 with a SD of 10.7, which is a reversed score of 64.6. A high percentage of the fathers were not available to be interviewed due to separation from the family or work commitments. In the data, the GAF scores were reversed to facilitate correlation with the CAFAS in which a higher number is indicative of more impairment. The GAF measures self-functioning so that a higher number indicates less impairment. Therefore, the GAF scores were reversed on a scale of 1-100. The GAF mean score for the mothers and the fathers falls in the ten point scale from 60-70 which is described as follows: "Some mild symptoms or some difficulty in social, occupational or school functioning, but generally functioning pretty well, has some meaningful interpersonal relationships" (DSM-IV, p. 46). These data are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3
Mean Scores for the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF)

Subject	N	M	SD
Mothers	56	39.7	7.5
Fathers	12	43.7	10.7

The mean total score of the CAFAS for the 60 adolescents was 84.4 with a standard deviation of 36.0. The highest possible score for each of the eight dimensions is 30, with a total possible score of 240. The mean scores for the dimensions were as follows: school—18.0, home—15.0, community—11.0, peers—10.5, mood—10.5, self-harm—2.0, substance abuse—17.0, thinking—0.3. The problem areas were highest in school, home, and substance abuse. This is shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Mean Scores for the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS)

Subject	N	M	SD
Total Score	60	84.4	36.0
School		18.0	9.8
Home		15.0	9.4
Community		11.0	8.9
Peers		10.5	7.5
Mood		10.5	8.9
Self-harm		2.0	6.5
Substance Abuse		17.0	9.7
Thinking		0.3	1.8

The 17 variables in the study included the results of the ECS for the mother, the father, and the teenager, the GAF of the mother and the father, and eight dimensions of impairment from the CAFAS for the teenager. Data were collected on 56 mothers, 12 fathers, and 60 teenagers.

The results of the correlation matrix relate to the research questions as follows:

1) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the mother and her level of self-functioning? The correlation is .37, $p>.01$, indicating a significant relationship.
2) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the mother from her father and her level of self-functioning? The correlation is .61, $p >.01$, indicating a significant relationship.
3) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the father from his mother and his level of self-functioning? The correlation is -.10, $p <.05$ and not significant.
4) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the father from his father and his level of self-functioning? The correlation is -.17, $p <.05$ and not significant.
5) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the mother from her mother and the level of impairment in the teenager? The correlation is -.20, $p >.05$ and not significant.
6) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the mother from her father and the level of impairment in the teenager? The correlation is .05, $p >.01$, indicating a significant correlation.
7) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the father from his mother and the level of impairment of the teenager? The correlation is .22, $p >.05$ and not significant.
8) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the father from his father and the level of impairment in the teenager? The correlation is -.25, $p <.05$ and not significant.

9) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the mother and the degree of cutoff of the teenager from her? The correlation is .01, p >.05 and not significant.
10) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the mother from her father and the degree of cutoff of the teenager from her? The correlation is .05, p >.05 and not significant.
11) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the father from his mother and the degree of cutoff of the teenager from him? The correlation is .29, p >.05 and not significant.
12) Is there a significant relationship between the degree of cutoff of the father from his father and the degree of cutoff of the teenager from him? The correlation is -.41, p <.05 and not significant.

Conclusion

Correlations of significance were found between the degree of cutoff of the mothers from their mothers (. 37, p >.01) and from their fathers (.61, p >.01) and to their level of self-functioning. The degree of cutoff of the mother from her mother was not correlated statistically with the level of impairment of the teenager (question 5) or the degree of cutoff of the teenager from her (question 9). The degree of cutoff of the mother from her father was correlated with the level of impairment of the teenager (question 6), but not with the degree of cutoff of the teenager from her (question 10).

Significance was not found between the degree of cutoff of the fathers from their mothers and fathers and their self-functioning, the degree of cutoff of the teenager from them, and the level of impairment of the teenager.