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Background

- Raising a child with a developmental disability (DD) comes with unique challenges for a family because of a number of child factors (e.g., physical challenges, behaviour problems)
- Other life factors (e.g., financial stability, family hardiness, social support) may also play a role in the family's life
- Family quality of life (FQOL) is an umbrella construct that aims to capture different aspects of family life and the level of functioning within those areas (Samuel, Rillotta, & Brown, 2012)
- Family Quality of Life Survey-2006 (FQOLS-2006) is a self-report measure of FQOL (Brown et al., 2006)
- The validity of the FQOLS-2006 is still under examination
- A recent evaluation of the FQOLS-2006 revealed that significant predictors of an overall FQOL rating were mental health and marital satisfaction of the reporting individual (Weiss, Perry, & Isaacs, 2013)
- FQOLS-2006 outcomes may be greatly influenced by factors of the individual respondent, although the aim is to capture a picture of the entire family
- Need to examine other individual respondent characteristics

Purpose and Research Question

- Explore individual respondent factors that may be contributing to an overall FQOL rating
- Hypothesis:** A number of respondent factors will play a significant role in the overall FQOL rating
 - Mental health
 - Physical health
 - Involvement in day-to-day life of child with DD
 - Whether or not he/she gave up their career or education
 - Perceived level of responsibility for family
 - Perceived level of responsibility for member with DD

Participants

- N = 63
- Parents of children with DD
 - Age 30-63 (M = 44, SD = 6.9)
 - 57 mothers, 6 fathers
 - 41 two-parent families, 20 one-parent families, 2 other constellations
 - Socioeconomically diverse
- Children aged 5-19
 - Many have additional diagnoses (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy)

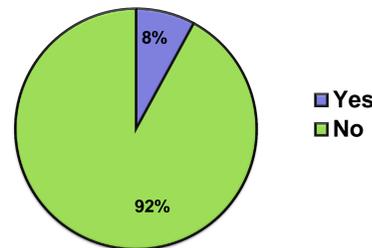
Measures

Family Quality of Life Survey- 2006 (Brown et al., 2006)

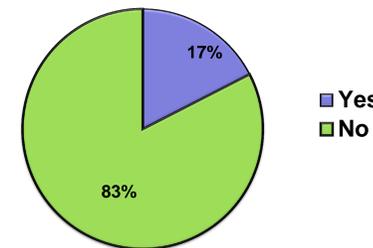
- Coded for "yes"/"no" for individual respondent:
 - Are there major **physical** and/or **mental health** concerns for members of your family?
 - Which family member is **most involved** in the day to day life of your family member with an ID/DD?
 - Have any members in your family **given up their careers or education**?
- Questions in survey directed at individual respondent:
 - How much **responsibility** do you *personally* have in the day to day affairs of your **family**?
 - How much **responsibility** do you *personally* have in the day to day affairs of your **family member with an ID/DD**?
- Two questions about overall FQOL (attainment of, satisfaction with → 5-point scale)

Results

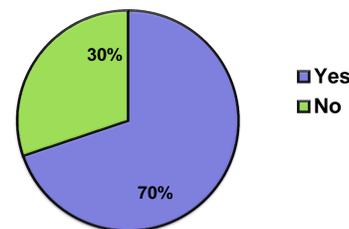
Does the Respondent Report any Mental Health Issues?



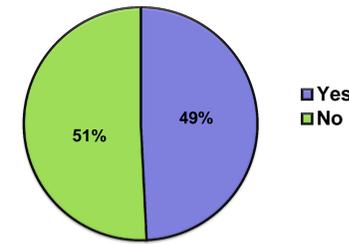
Does the Respondent Report any Physical Health Issues?



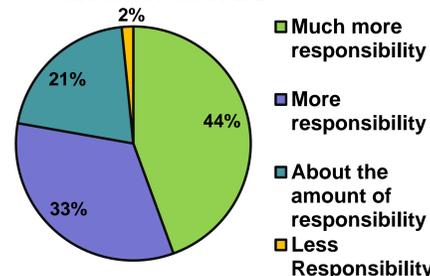
Is the Respondent the Most Involved In Day-to-Day Life?



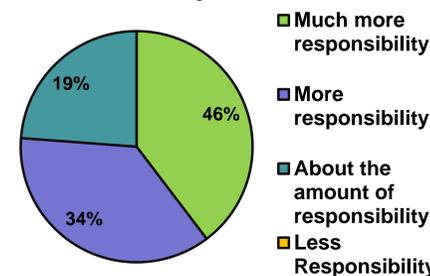
Has the Respondent Given Up Career/Education?



Level of Responsibility for Member with DD



Level of Responsibility for Family



Results (continued)

Correlations of Respondent Factors vs. Overall FQOL

Respondent Factor	Overall FQOL (r)
Mental Health	-.28*
Physical Health	-.17
Involvement in day-to-day life	-.23
Perceived level of responsibility (family)	.10
Perceived level of responsibility (DD)	.14
Giving up career or education	-.38**

*p < .05, ** p < .01

Respondent Factors as Predictors of Overall FQOL Score

Step and Predictors	B	SE B	β
1. Constant	8.32	.59	
Career and Education	-1.22	.38	-.38**

*p < .01 Note: ΔR² = .13 (p < .01), F (1, 61) = 10.54 (p < .01)

- A stepwise regression resulted in only one of the six entered variables being a predictor of overall FQOL.

Discussion

- Large portion of sample reports:
 - To be the most involved in day-to-day life
 - Have more or much more Responsibility than they would like for both family and taking care of member with DD
 - Have given up their career or education.
- Whether or not **career/education** were given up predicts a large portion of the variance of overall FQOL
 - Individuals who gave up their career or education report lower overall FQOL
- Career/education → influence because of financial implications or other factors (e.g., social life at work/school, "escape" from home, fulfillment of personal goals)
- Still not clear whether or not FQOLS-2006 is capturing a picture of the individual rather than the entire family but current results provide some support for the latter

Limitations & Future Research

- Small sample size
- Limited selection of respondent-focused responses in FQOLS-2006
- Question format could lead to omission of information (e.g., mental and physical health)
- Some crude coding of qualitative variables.
- Future studies should construct questionnaires specific to exploring respondent factors to examine with a larger sample
- Assess other individual characteristics of both parents vs. overall FQOL

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