

**Parental Divorce and Inter-parental Conflict:
The Impacts on the wellbeing of secondary school students in Hong Kong**

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Abstract

899 Hong Kong secondary school students were surveyed on the parental marital status, witnessed inter-parental conflict, attitude towards marriage and general wellbeing (frequency of behavioural problems and psychological wellbeing). Statistical analysis revealed the parental marital status had no statistically significant influence on the wellbeing of the students and their attitude towards marriage, as these were documented in previous studies (Amato, 2001). Significant negative correlation was found between inter-parental conflict and attitude towards marriage; positive correlations were found with inter-parental conflict and frequency of behavioural and psychological problems. Hierarchical regression illustrated stronger association of the inter-parental conflict with students' wellbeing, than the parental marital status; with statistically significant gender difference was found. Statistically sounded associations were found only between the students' wellbeing and inter-parental conflict, but not with the parental marital status. These results were different from previous Western studies, and the unique familial structure of Hong Kong and the higher tolerance of the marital dissatisfaction were explained.