

Family Structure and Support Among Older Adults

by


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We accept this thesis as conforming  
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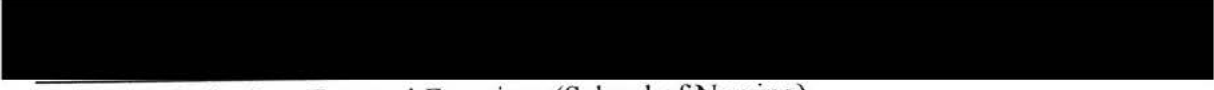
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**ABSTRACT**


As demographic influences, experiences and attitudes change regarding marriage, divorce, single parenthood and female employment, greater diversity in family forms is becoming increasingly prevalent. With increases in the number of childless couples and in the number of divorces and remarriages, relationships and support systems within the family are also changing. Using data drawn from the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of the 1990 Canadian General Social Survey - Family and Friends, this study examined the relationship between family structure and the provision of support for elderly individuals. Bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses were used to examine whether there were differences in types, levels and sources of support for individuals aged 60 years and over embedded within three different types of family structure - first-time married couples with children, remarried couples with children, and first-time married couples without children. The findings revealed few significant differences in patterns of support. However, further research examining support within a broader range of family forms is required before definitive conclusions can be drawn.

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## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

In many industrialized countries the percentage of elders, in relation to the overall population, is on the increase (see Hogan & Spencer, 1993; Myers, 1990). As well, across a variety of urban industrial societies, current demographic trends indicate a growing prevalence of diverse family structures and a shrinking family size (see Myers, 1990; Uhlenberg, 1993). Canadian family structure patterns also reflect the effects of these demographic trends (Barr, 1993). With increases in the number of childless couples, and in the number of divorces and remarriages, relationships within the family are changing. It has also been well-documented that among elderly persons, informal care tends to be provided predominantly by family members (Chappell, 1992; Maddox & Lawton, 1993; Stone, 1988). However, much is yet unknown regarding how variations in family structure affect patterns of support for older adults.

Given that family structure, marital relations, and filial obligations affect the support and assistance provided to older adults, this study examines the relationship between family structure and the provision of support for elderly individuals. In particular, it compares individuals embedded within three different types of family structure - families composed of first-time married couples and their children; remarried couples with children; and first-time married couples without children - in terms of who provides them with support, and the type and extent of support provided. Data for this study are drawn from the 1990 General Social Survey (GSS) (Statistics Canada, 1994). The 1990 GSS was developed around the general topic of friends and family, and includes

specific aspects of older adults' relationships with family members and friends that are relevant to the research questions being addressed.

## CHAPTER II

### Literature Review

#### 1. Demographic Change and Family Structure

Several demographic factors combine to potentially influence the familial support networks of older adults. The demographic determinants of fertility, mortality, marriage and immigration have resulted in an increase in the prevalence of diverse family structures within which Canadians live. These structures, in turn, affect the support systems of elderly persons. For example, past fertility trends affect the current number of children that parents have, which in turn affects the availability of sibling support. There have been long-term declines in the birthrate beginning in the late nineteenth century, interrupted only by the baby boom of the 1950's and 1960's (Eshleman & Wilson, 1995). Beginning in the mid-1960's, the number of Canadian families with three or more children declined sharply. In 1991, the average family size in Canada was 3.1 persons, down from 3.7 in 1971. For the past 22 years, the fertility rate has remained below the replacement level of 2.1, averaging approximately 1.7 births per woman of childbearing years (McKie, 1993).

In addition to the trend toward fewer children, there has been an increase in rates of childlessness. Connidis' (1989) review of Canadian studies detailing the number of children of older persons shows that a majority have children. However, approximately 15 percent of ever-married Canadians aged 65 and over are childless. Gee's (1990) study of the demographic parameters of parent-child relations in Canada for four birth cohorts (1860, 1910, 1930 and 1960) indicates that approximately 20-25 percent of women from the 1960 cohort may complete their reproductive years without children. If this level of

childlessness of the 1960 cohort is representative of other later cohorts, a large proportion of older persons in the not too distant future will not have children available as sources of support. Experts estimate that about 15-20 percent of women of reproductive age today will remain childless, and that low fertility rates will continue into the foreseeable future (NACA, 1993).

Since the turn of the century, one of the more significant changes to influence family and marital relationships has been in life expectancy. Both past and present mortality rates determine the survival of children to the time their parents need care, and the length of life of elderly persons. Increases in longevity, combined with lowering fertility means that the size of the older population is increasing faster than the total population (Eshleman & Wilson, 1995).

As well as affecting changes to population composition, mortality levels influence the aggregate marital status of the older population, and the distribution of ages at marriage. Due to the greater increase in longevity among women compared to men, and women marrying older men, widowhood is more common among women. Consequently, elderly men are more likely to be married than elderly women, both because they are less likely to be widowed and because elderly men are six times more likely to wed than their female counterparts (Himes, 1992). In older age groups, this is directly related to an imbalance of the sex ratios for marital status. In 1990, 78 percent of the total Canadian population of men aged 65 and over were married whereas only 43 percent of women were married. In addition, only 11 percent of men of this age were widowed compared with 43 percent of the women. The combined effects of higher rates of remarriage for

men, a tendency for men to marry women younger than themselves, and lower female mortality results in the majority of men spending most of their adult lives with a spouse. Women, on the other hand, are likely to spend several years alone after the deaths of their husbands, and consequently are more likely to rely on self-care, or to be dependent on care from children, relatives, and friends as well as from formal services (Coward, Horne & Dwyer, 1992).

In addition to the effects of mortality and widowhood, changes in patterns of marriage, divorce, and remarriage influence the provision of spousal support. Although, for the most part, marriage is the norm among today's Canadians aged 65 and older, over the past two decades, marriage rates have generally decreased, while divorce rates have increased. In 1991, there were 6.4 marriages per 1000 population compared with 8.9 in 1971. The divorce rate was 2.8 per 1000 population in 1991 compared with 1.4 per 1000 population in 1971 (La Novara, 1993). As a result of the increase in divorce rates, there has also been an increase in rates of remarriage (Statistics Canada, 1993). In 1990, one out of every four women and men who married had been previously married. The current generation of adults is more likely than previous generations to have a second or third marriage prior to reaching old age (Giordano, 1988).

In addition to the effects of marriage patterns for spousal support, marriage and divorce also affect actual and potential filial support (Brubaker, 1990). Exchange theories of family relationships imply that the role parents play in raising a child affects the amount of support the child is willing to provide the parent in later life (Himes, 1992). For example, in their study of divorced respondents 55 years of age and older, Bulcroft and

Bulcroft (1991) found support for their hypothesis that the timing of divorce will affect interactions with adult children for men but not women, with those men who experienced divorce earlier in life having lower rates of interaction with adult children than those who experienced divorce later in life. Men who divorced when their children were younger had the lowest rates of contact with their children. Cooney and Uhlenberg (1990) also found that divorce reduced the probability that fathers consider their children as potential sources of support in times of need. Kendig (1986: 179, cited in Connidis, 1989: 34) concludes that with regard to divorced men, divorce and remarriage "will shift the balance of familial relationships further towards voluntaristic rather than obligatory bonds". This research indicates the possibility that children who have little contact with a particular parent because of divorce may feel little responsibility for the care of that parent.

In light of the increase in remarriage, support and assistance for elderly step-parents from step-children is also an issue that warrants additional research. Yet, as Eggebeen (1992) notes, step-relations in later life have been virtually ignored. He also indicates that exchanges of support with step-children may be less common than with biological children. As Furstenberg (1990) also reports, given the problematic nature of some parent/step-children relations in earlier life, equally problematic ties in the parents' later life may also emerge. In addition to parental loyalty, divorce may disrupt the parent-child bond in that divorced older parents tend to be less able to provide financial support to their adult children, thus further weakening the potential for reciprocal assistance from their children (see Brubaker, 1990; Connidis, 1989; Johnson, 1992).

Demographic trends and shifts in the structure of families in Canada are also

portrayed in the changing proportions of persons living in 'families'. A census family is defined by Statistics Canada as "a currently married or common-law couple with or without never-married children, or a single parent with never-married children in the same dwelling" (La Novara, 1993: 14). In 1991, 83 percent of Canadians lived in a census family, a decline from 87 percent in 1971. Married couples with or without never-married children comprised 77 percent of these census families, down from 83 percent in 1981. One-parent families accounted for 13 percent of all families, an increase from 11 percent in 1981.

In addition to the factors of fertility, mortality and marriage, immigration influences family demography and family structure. Immigrants have come from around the world to Canada, bringing with them a complexity of family histories. Traditions of extended as well as nuclear families, varying family norms and values, as well as rights and obligations of males and females, parents and children all contribute to the diversity of family structure. In addition, immigrants often change the form of their family composition at the point of immigration by leaving some members of the family behind in the country of origin. Additionally, regarding the older population, Canadian immigration patterns reveal that the number of immigrant seniors and their countries of origin are changing (Novak, 1997). For example, in the early 1900s, immigrants came mostly from Eastern Europe, whereas more recent immigrant seniors tend to come from Asia, South America, and the Caribbean (Howell, 1996). Immigration trends, therefore, contribute to the ethnic diversity of the older population which in turn contributes to the overall diversity of family structure in Canada.

The combined effects of factors such as fertility, mortality and marriage can therefore be seen in shifting demographic patterns within Canadian society. Decreasing fertility may be expected to dramatically alter the size and nature of the caregiving family in the future. Older persons, while simultaneously living longer, may expect to have fewer living siblings, children, grandchildren and other relatives on whom to rely for support. Increases in life expectancy may extend the period of need for support until later in life when fewer family members and friends are available to provide support. Changes in marital patterns may lead to changes in family life and filial obligations, and may result in tangled issues of who is responsible for whom in later life. Higher divorce and remarriage rates may also limit the amount of support received from a spouse, children, or extended family members.

In summary, as demographic influences, experiences and attitudes change regarding marriage, divorce, single parenthood and female employment, diversity in family forms will become increasingly prevalent. It is, therefore, timely to examine alternate family structures when addressing the provision of support to older adults in our society.

## **2. Conceptualizing Family and Family Structure**

A single conceptual definition of family and family structure is difficult to offer. Families differ considerably across social classes, racial/ethnic and religious groups, and different parts of the world (Eshleman & Wilson, 1995; Morgan, 1975; Rosenthal, 1983). As well, families are not static but are dynamic and constantly changing over time. Consequently, it has been argued that conceptualizations of family must be developed for

specific contexts, recognizing that "there are innumerable contexts in which the family is embedded" (Gubrium & Holstein, 1990: 163).

The following discussion explores some of the major theoretical perspectives on family, illustrating differences among conceptual definitions of family and family structure. Differences in conceptualization can be represented along a continuum, with the generally small or independent isolated nuclear family at one extreme and the larger interdependent modified extended family at the other. It is both within and between these two positions that diversity in the size and composition of family structure can be seen.

Historically, within sociology, changing definitions of the family appear to have been influenced by debates regarding the bases of authority, the order of society, and the relationship between the individual and society (Luxton, 1996). From these debates evolved theoretical positions which examine the close correlations between changes in social, political and economic organization, changes in family organization, the sexual division of labour, and the status of men, women and children. Changes in social and economic trends tend to influence people's attitudes toward family, thus instigating changes in attitudes toward marriage and children and family structure.

In the first half of the twentieth century, in Western culture, one of the more popular theories of the family evolved from within the general framework of functionalism (Luxton, 1996; Marshall, Matthews & Rosenthal, 1993; Morgan, 1975)<sup>1</sup>. According to

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<sup>1</sup> For an early historical account of functionalist theory of family and society see, for example, Emile Durkheim (1893) *The Division of Labour in Society*; and (1895) *The Rules of Sociological Method*.

functionalist theorizing, the family was an essential institution of society because one of its main functions was to reproduce and raise children to become properly socialized members of society (Luxton, 1996). This argument necessitated the assumption that family consisted of a married male-female couple and their children. For example, sociologist Elsie Parsons (1906) defined the family as represented only by parents and their offspring. Based on this relatively narrow definition, a married couple without children did not constitute a family. Early functionalist theorists assumed that with changes to the social and economic organization of western society influenced by industrialization, the nuclear family (consisting of husband-wife-children) was essential to maintaining social order as it was the most socially efficient family form necessary for the smooth functioning of society as a whole (Morgan, 1975).

The prevailing emphasis on the nuclear family within a functionalist perspective continued into the 1940's and 1950's (see, for example, Parsons, 1949; Parsons & Bale, 1955; Popenoe, 1993). For example, towards the middle of the twentieth century, one of the more influential social scientists of the family was anthropologist, George Murdock. Based on a survey of 250 representative human societies, Murdock (1949) claimed that the nuclear family was a universal human grouping. Although his findings revealed the extended family to be the most prevalent family form, he postulated that the nuclear family, defined as "a married man and woman with their offspring, although in individual cases one or more additional persons may reside with them" (Murdock, 1949: 2), provided the basis upon which larger aggregate family structures were formed. Two composite forms of the nuclear family -- polygamous and extended -- were also acknowledged. A

polygamous family is composed of two or more nuclear families connected by plural marriages, (i.e., have one married parent in common). The extended family is composed of two or more nuclear families connected through a parent-child relationship rather than the husband-wife relationship. Thus, conceptually, the nuclear family still remained the basis for his definition of the family in general (Murdock, 1949: 1):

The family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually cohabiting adults.

This structural functionalist view saw the nuclear family as fulfilling four fundamental functions of human life: sexual, economic, reproductive, and educational (Murdock, 1949). For Murdock, no society had yet succeeded in finding a social institution to substitute for the nuclear family's ability to maintain social order by ensuring its members received emotional support, produced and raised children, and arranged economic cooperation.

Following Murdock, Talcott Parsons (1949) also applied functionalist theory to mid-twentieth century industrialized society. He considered the family to be a small relatively isolated social group distinct from other social units. According to Parsons, the specialized unit of the nuclear family was essential for performing two functions to ensure the smooth functioning of society. The most important function was the socialization of children. Secondly, the nuclear family provided affection and companionship in the marital relationship, resulting in "the stabilization of the adult personalities of the population of the society" (Parsons & Bales, 1955: 16).

Parsons' conceptualization represents family as nuclear in form, with a focus on the marital relationship and the raising of children, and a strict division between the roles of men and women. The husband was seen as the 'leader' and breadwinner of the family, and the wife as homemaker and mother, each fulfilling their roles for a well-functioning society. For Talcott Parsons, the isolated nuclear family was also the 'normal' family unit in western industrialized society. He asserted that with industrialization, the demands of social and geographic mobility weakened kinship ties and strengthened the ties of the isolated nuclear family.

Throughout much of the remainder of the century, the focus continued to be on the roles and importance of the 'nuclear family' form as outlined by Parsons. However, as Morgan (1975) notes, one of the major debates in the sociology of the modern western family is whether the typical structure is in fact the isolated nuclear family (often referred to as the 'traditional' nuclear family), or whether it is a variation of the extended family. As research regarding family structures in the past grew, a diversity in family forms was exposed. As Bradbury (1996: 55) notes:

Journeys back in time do not reveal the "traditional family" that some observers portray as endangered today. The information that scholars have been able to unearth about family life in the past exposes great diversity in the way families lived, the work their members performed, the roles of men and women, and the meaning attached to the concept of family.

In recognition of this diversity of family forms, broader definitions and theoretical models of the family have been developed. One such model is that of the modified extended family posited by Litwak (1960a), which recognizes that nuclear and conjugal (husband and wife) families as well as never-married single, widowed and divorced persons function

within networks of other family and social relationships.

In contrast to Parsons, Litwak (1960a; 1960b) argues that although industrial society requires social and geographic mobility, such mobility does not tend to weaken ties between the conjugal/nuclear family and the extended family. According to Litwak, Parsons based his view that the isolated nuclear family is the ideal functional family form characteristic of industrial societies, only in comparison to the 'classical' extended family. While Litwak (1960) and other theorists (see, for example, Morgan, 1975; Shanass & Sussman, 1981) agree that the family relations of the classical extended family structure are inconsonant with a democratic industrial society, they argue that 'modified' extended family relations can be maintained within a changing industrial society.

The classical extended family, according to Litwak (1960b: 9) is characterized by "geographical propinquity, occupational dependence and nepotism, a sense that extended family relations are most important, and a hierarchical authority structure based on a semi-biological criterion, i.e., the eldest male". Litwak notes that Polish and Irish peasant families tend to exemplify this family pattern. It is within this context that the classical extended family structure is incongruent with industrialization. The peasant or agrarian mode of production involved the family as the productive unit. However, with industrialization, the mode of production shifted to a factory production system (Harris, 1983). The modified extended family also differs from the classical extended family in that there are no strict authority relations but rather more egalitarian ones (Litwak, 1960a), and it retains considerable autonomy economically and geographically, enabling family members (e.g., parents and children) to live at a distance while still maintaining close

bonds (i.e., “intimacy at a distance”). Modified extended families differ from isolated nuclear families in that there are extensive contacts in the form of communication and the exchange of services and aid between family members not necessarily living together.

According to some (Hashimoto et al., 1992), the modified extended family retains its position as one of the more accurate descriptions of family structure within western industrialized countries. However, in more recent literature, the conceptualization of family and family structure has continued to broaden. This is often in response to continuing controversy surrounding the influence of notions regarding the “traditional” nuclear family on public policy and programs. As Rosenthal and Gladstone (1993) report, it is important to recognize the diversity of Canadian families and to incorporate the cognizance of diversity into public policy.

One example of a somewhat more broadened definition is that of Shanas and Sussman (1981) who define the family as being composed of those persons to whom one is related by blood or marriage. It therefore includes the spouse, children and siblings along with such kin as cousins and in-laws. Rosenthal (1987: 312) also uses the term family to designate those persons to whom one is related by blood or marriage, and family structure as “the number and type of living relatives a person has, including spouse, parents, grandparents, siblings, children, and grandchildren”. However, these definitions still exclude those not related by blood or marriage, but who may nevertheless consider themselves to be family.

In addition to marital and parental status, some literature indicates that household composition should perhaps also be included as a component of family structure (see

Marshall et al., 1995). For example, Rowland (1986, cited in Bradbury, 1996), defines family structure within the context of kin ties and household composition. Family consists of relatives related by descent or marriage, and family structure consists of those relatives living in the same household, together with others who live elsewhere. As the membership of family broadens, it is evident there are many factors which contribute to defining family and family structure.

As a result of shifting patterns of longevity, childbearing, divorce and remarriage, four types of family structure in particular are reported as becoming increasingly common (Hooyman & Gonyea, 1995; Uhlenberg, 1993). The first is discussed by Bengtson et al. (1990) in the context of the intergenerational family. For example, unlike family structures of the 19th century which were commonly composed of two or three generations, there is a greater probability that the families of today are made up of four or even five generations, but with fewer members per generation. Fewer children and living longer have led to an increasingly common family structure in North American society described as the "beanpole family" (Bengtson et al., 1990). This structure is the result of an increase in the number of living generations within a lineage combined with a decrease in the number of members within each generation. A direct consequence of this beanpole or 'vertical' family is that families become top-heavy with more older family members such as aging parents and grandparents (i.e. vertical ties) and fewer younger family members (i.e. horizontal ties). Vertical linkages include parent-child, grandparent-grandchild, and great-grandparent-great grandchild ties. Horizontal ties are those with siblings, and extended family members such as cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

In addition to the verticalized family, Hooyman and Gonyea (1995) describe a second family structure which is gaining recognition in sociological theory. This is the "age-gapped family" which refers to families in which, over multiple generations, women have delayed childbearing until their 30s and 40s (Hooyman & Gonyea, 1995). A consequence of the age-gapped family structure is a larger than average age difference between each generation. In families of this structure, where there is a 30 or 40 year generational age gap, it is noted that lifestyle and value differences may weaken the bonds of responsibility in the younger generation for an ailing older generation.

Another family structure reported to be increasing in number is the "truncated family" (Hooyman & Gonyea 1995). As baby boomers age, the number of childless individuals and couples will increase. According to George and Gould (1991: 70), over the next 30-40 years, the proportion of older adults without children will reach numbers previously unseen. Never-married childless women and men and childless married couples will lack access to informal support from children. In addition, as a result of the combined effects of the truncated family with the verticalization of the family structure, these elderly persons will have fewer siblings to turn to for assistance.

A final family structure which has gained considerable recognition due to an increasing number of divorces and remarriages, is that of the blended or reconstituted family (George & Gould, 1991; Hooyman & Gonyea, 1995; Uhlenberg, 1993). This type of family is characterized as one in which one or both adults in a relationship also have children from a former union. In addition to the disruption and change to the original nuclear (mother, father, child(ren)) family relationships, extended kin relationships may be

disrupted as well (Ihinger-Tallman & Pasley, 1987). For example, decreased contact with an ex-spouse's kin may result in a loss of support. On the other hand, a remarriage may extend a new kin network including children and other kin relationships. Research has yet to address these issues in depth.

Although throughout history, demographic shifts have contributed to changing patterns of family structure, other contributing factors must also be acknowledged. No one factor alone can provide a definitive explanation for the diversity of family structures. Societal views and attitudes such as changes in women's levels of education and employment, the liberalization of marriage and divorce laws and early home leaving by young people also instigate and contribute to changes in the roles, values and definitions of family (Popenoe, 1993). In addition, Hooyman and Gonyea (1995) point out that demographic shifts as well as diversity within ethnic/racial groups and sexual orientations contribute to the formation of family structures. Along similar lines, Larson, Goltz and Hobart (1994) indicate that sources of variability which affect family behaviours and structure include ethnicity, religious beliefs, social class, rural-urban differences and regional differences.

In recognition of the many contributing factors, sociological theory has begun to acknowledge the diversity of family structure. Family goes beyond what Keller (1974: 581) described as being the twentieth century industrial-urban conception: "a legally united couple sharing bed and board, jointly responsible for bearing and rearing their children, and formally isolated from their next of kin in all but a sentimental sense". Earlier discussions of family structure tended to focus only on what was most prevalent

and therefore considered 'normative' rather than on actual family structures, some of which are more prevalent than others at various times.

In summary, as the roles and values of family members shift and change, so too does the definition of family itself. Social opinions regarding what families are and ought to be, so strong in the 1950's and before, have broadened (Aerts, 1993). In contemporary societies, 'family' may mean much more than those people related by blood or marriage. For example, family may now include individuals tied by strong emotional bonds such as significant others.

The structure of families has an impact on childbearing, access to a spouse, siblings and other kin. Consequently, family structure and thereby available informal support sources for future elderly persons may be quite different from those available to elderly persons today. In order to examine how the provision of support for older adults is influenced by family structure, the following review of the literature will examine the informal support systems associated with two 'non-normative' family structures - those composed of remarried older adults and their children and those consisting of childless married older adults - in comparison to the "traditional" nuclear family composed of first-time married couples with children. As a point of reference for comparison, what has been referred to as the "traditional" nuclear family will be discussed first.

### **3. First-time Married Parents and the Provision of Support**

Aging is often said to be associated with greater interdependence for those in a marital relationship (Chappell, 1992; Ward, 1978). With a decrease in the number of

social contacts and usually in the number of family and friends available with advancing age, spouses increasingly come to rely on one another for support and assistance. In general, research evidence indicates that spouses are the most important support resource for older adults (see Antonucci, 1990; Cantor, 1979; Cantor & Little, 1985; Chappell, 1992; Stoller & Cutler, 1992). For most married persons, the spouse is coresident and therefore, is also the most proximate of all support sources (Connidis & Davies, 1990).

In addition, research evidence indicates that having at least one child almost guarantees support (Chappell & Blandford, 1991; Stoller & Earl, 1983; Tennstedt et al., 1993). In the absence of the spouse, either through death or illness, the key provider of support or assistance is usually a daughter (Connidis, 1989). Daughters are much more likely than sons to live nearby, to provide instrumental care including transportation, and help with household chores and meal preparation (Stoller & Earl, 1983). However, sons and daughters are equally likely to provide emotional support, information services, and financial support (Connidis, 1989).

Evidence for the importance of the spouse and children as primary sources of assistance is provided by Stoller and Earl's (1983) study of instrumental support for a sample of 753 noninstitutionalized elderly persons. Although most respondents accomplished personal care activities either alone or with minimal help, a large minority received help with other activities of daily living such as housework and food preparation. Spouses were found to be the major sources of support for married respondents, followed by daughters or family members other than sons. A decreasing reliance on a spouse was only indicated among those whose spouse also lacked the capacity to perform tasks

successfully.

Other studies report similar findings. For example, Penning (1990) examined support sources for 1,284 noninstitutionalized respondents aged 60 and over. Receipt of assistance was measured in terms of basic and instrumental activities of daily living, and emotional support. For those respondents with a spouse, the spouse was the most frequently reported source of assistance for housekeeping, grocery shopping and emotional support. Married respondents also indicated children as second in order of prevalence for the same categories of assistance. Similarly, Hogan and Eggebeen (1995) studied sources and patterns of support during times of need for American adults aged 55 and over. They found that children were the most common source of emotional support and also, were major providers of household assistance. Also with regard to the primacy of a spouse and children for emotional support, Chappell (1989) indicates that among those who are married, men are more likely to name their spouse as confidant, whereas women are more likely to name a daughter. Hoyt and Babchuk (1983, cited in Peters et al., 1987) found that respondents aged 45 and older were thirty times more likely to name their spouses as confidants than other family members.

Although literature on older adults widely reports that for married persons with children, the spouse tends to be the most prevalent source of support, followed by children, there is also substantial literature which refutes the primacy of a spouse and children as sources of assistance. For example, although they acknowledge the primacy of spousal support, Stoller and Cutler (1992) found that spousal support differed for basic

activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs)<sup>2</sup>.

Among individuals experiencing difficulty with ADL tasks who did not have extra-household assistance, only 37 percent received help from their spouses. However, among respondents experiencing difficulty with IADL's and without extra-household assistance, 52 percent received some assistance from their spouses. With regard to support provided by children, the same study found neither the number of children, nor how close to their parents they lived influenced the parents' reliance on assistance outside the household (Stoller & Cutler, 1992).

According to Cantor's (1979) hierarchical compensatory model of social support, there is a normatively defined hierarchy of preference by older adults for sources of social support. The elder's first choice is the spouse, followed by adult children, friends, siblings and other relatives, in that order. However, Cantor's own data indicate that in two of the major categories of assistance - instrumental and financial- elderly individuals turned to friends and neighbours about as often as 'other relatives' for support. In addition, friends were preferred to neighbours, relatives, or children for emotional support. Also, in her study, children and other relatives were combined into the single category of 'kin'. This method of analysis does not allow for reporting a hierarchical order of support provided by children or other relatives. In addition, although Cantor recognized the potential

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<sup>2</sup> Basic activities of daily living, (ADLs), refer to any physical activities and personal care activities such as the ability to walk, or be personally mobile, to eat on one's own, to wash and bathe, or to use the toilet. These activities are considered necessary to survival. Instrumental activities of daily living, (IADLs), refer to activities that are not considered essential for survival, but nevertheless are important to everyday functioning. These include help with housework, preparing meals, household maintenance, transportation, shopping and banking.

importance of a spouse and stated that the spouse was the first choice for support, she did not include either the husband or the wife as a support choice in her study. Although the marital dyad was introduced by subsequent researchers in later formulations of the model, the presumption that the existence of a spouse equals support is also found in other literature (see, for example, Hogan & Eggebeen, 1995).

Peters and associates' (1987) test of Cantor's hierarchical compensatory model also reports contradictions regarding the primacy of a spouse and children for the provision of support. Their findings indicated that although the spouse was most frequently chosen for helping (instrumental) dimensions (followed by adult children, friends, siblings, and other relatives), in no area of assistance was a single source of support used exclusively. Also, married women were more likely to identify emotional support from siblings and friends, whereas men identified their spouse. This appears somewhat consistent with Litwak's (1985) task specificity model of support which argues that who provides what type of support varies depending upon the nature of the task and the ability of the provider to perform the task. For example, neighbours are suited for tasks that require proximity and immediacy such as an emergency home repair.

Seeman and Berkman (1988) also report some contradictory results regarding the importance of a spouse and children for instrumental and emotional support for elderly persons. They examined relationships between the structural characteristics of social networks and instrumental and emotional support for a sample of community-dwelling individuals aged 65 and older. Overall, findings from this study indicate that no particular type of tie appears to consistently provide support, which suggests that neither a spouse

nor children are primary sources of support for elderly persons. In particular, Seeman and Berkman (1988: 743) conclude "this lack of primary reliance on children would seem to contradict frequent assertions that children are the primary source of aid to aging parents".

The oftentimes contradictory results obtained regarding the primacy of the spouse and children for instrumental and emotional support for elderly persons are addressed by several researchers. Connidis (1989) notes that most studies combine persons in first marriages and remarried persons into one category. This method of data analysis assumes similarities between the two separate groups. However, it is possible that support from specific types of network members, such as spouse, children, other relatives and friends varies between and within these two groups. As previously indicated, marriage, divorce and remarriage differentiate the family experiences of many older adults.

Another issue is suggested by the growing literature indicating the effects of living arrangements for the provision of support among older adults. According to Cafferata (1987), for example, previous research attributing the primacy of support to the spouse may have been due to the fact that married persons tend to live with others, specifically a spouse. She notes that "because previous research studies have not examined the joint influence of marital status and living arrangements, it is not clear to what extent the advantage of marital status can be traced to marriage, or to the presence of another person in the household" (1987: 616). A later study by Chappell (1991) provides evidence supporting the primary importance of living arrangements over marital status in the provision of support for older adults (also see Tennstedt, Crawford and McKinlay, 1993). As Connidis and Davies (1990) also point out, the proximity of a source of support is a

significant predictor of the availability of support. Therefore, since a coresident spouse is usually the most proximate source of support, the spouse is oftentimes expected to be the dominant provider of support.

Given the contradictory nature of the findings regarding patterns of support for first-time married couples with children, a number of questions form a basis of comparison with the categories of remarried couples and childless couples. Is the spouse the primary source of support across all areas of support and within all marital dyads or are children the primary sources of support? Do married couples without children lack necessary support? Do children within geographical reach automatically provide support and assistance to older parents? The following section will discuss literature focusing on these as well as other issues of support among remarried older adults, particularly those with children, followed by those who are married but childless.

#### **4. Remarried Couples and the Provision of Support**

Although little is actually known regarding remarriage and support among older adults, the importance of examining the influence of remarriage on the support systems of older adults is widely acknowledged (see, for example, Fischer, Rogne & Eustis, 1990; Steitz & Welker, 1994; Stoller, 1992; Troll, 1986; Uhlenberg & Myers, 1986). When the literature does discuss remarriage, it often provides statistical information alone, such as the percentage of remarried persons in various age groups. In addition, this information follows two directions; remarriage prior to older age, and remarriage in later life. However, specific information regarding support systems is again lacking. As Connidis

(1989: 90) notes, there is little information regarding the experience of remarriage for family relations in later life (see also Uhlenberg, Cooney & Boyd, 1990). For many, a remarriage following divorce brings with it an entirely new and often complex kinship structure that may pose some unexpected challenges to family members regarding loyalty and responsibility.

One possible explanation for the lack of information available regarding remarriage is that often, non-normative family structures are not studied because their numbers are too small for analysis. This is evident in literature that does not categorize marital status beyond married and non-married (see, for example, Cafferata, 1987; Hogan & Eggebeen, 1995). The most common comparisons in research on marital status are among those who are married, widowed, and either separated, divorced or single with the latter three groups included into one category (see, for example, Chappell & Blandford, 1991). Less often, research will distinguish among categories of divorced, separated, and single/never married (see, for example, Thompson, 1989).

The reasons for examining the effects of remarriage on the support systems of older adults are suggested by previous literature. For example, Pratt and Kethley (1988) suggest that late-life remarriages are often based on companionship as opposed to a love commitment and may not therefore support the sacrifices that often characterize caregiving. This view is supported by Vinick (1978) who found that the desire for companionship was the most popular response given when elderly respondents were asked about factors in their decisions to remarry. Hooyman and Lustbader (1986) also report that when a marriage is more recent, one spouse may feel less commitment to the other.

Similarly, Schwenger (1989) questions whether, with higher rates of divorce and separation, a person who has been remarried for only a few years will feel the same sense of responsibility to give long term care as a spouse of 50 years. Another concern raised by Stoller (1992) is, that because the age gap between husband and wife tends to increase with subsequent marriages, remarried spouses may find caregiving responsibilities particularly burdensome.

In addition to concerns regarding spousal support for elderly remarried individuals, the increasing proportion of remarried older adults raises questions regarding support from other members of the informal system such as children, extended family members, and friends. Although Eggebeen (1992: 432) notes that research on step-relations in later life has been "virtually ignored", Schwenger (1989) questions how much commitment children of second and third marriages are likely to have towards step-parents and step-grandparents. Steitz and Welker (1990) also question how support provided by friends might be affected by a remarriage. They speculate that friends may feel deserted by the remarriage and therefore, may not provide support when needed.

Research conducted by Vinick (1978) supports this view. In one of only two studies to focus attention directly on remarriage in later life, Vinick (1978) interviewed 24 remarried elderly couples. Couples were selected if one partner was aged 65 or older at the time of remarriage and the other at least 60, and if both partners had been married at least once previously. Respondents ranged in age from 60 to 84 years at the time of remarriage. Although the study did not specifically examine the provision of support and assistance by the informal network, kin and friendship roles were examined. Of the 17

men and 20 women who had children from their previous marriages, 10 of the men and 14 of the women either saw or spoke with at least one of these children every day or almost every day. The women tended to have closer relationships with children and other relatives than did the men. Seven of the men and only one woman did not have contact with a child or other relative. Similarly, women were more involved in friendships than were the men. Eight of the men indicated they had no friends whereas none of the women reported having no friends. Vinick notes that their own peer group voiced most of the negative reactions received by her respondents regarding their remarriage.

Vinick's (1978) results suggest that for individuals who remarry later in life, men may tend to have smaller networks from which support may be drawn. In addition, when children are available, support may not always be provided in times of need. As will be shown with childless couples, Vinick reports that older remarried people become more home-centred. They tend to see friends and children less frequently, and the spouse now provides the intimacy and support which had previously been provided by friends and relatives.

A second study was conducted by Eggebeen (1992). Using data from the United States National Survey of Families and Households conducted in 1987-88, Eggebeen examined exchanges of aid and assistance between aging parents and their adult children and how these exchanges were affected by the marital status of both generations. Regarding remarried persons and assistance from step-children, a key factor regarding the cohesion and commitment of the relationship was found to be the number of years spent together. According to Eggebeen (1992), parenting a step-child from an early age may

have fundamentally different implications for aging parent-adult child relationships than remarrying will have when a child is a teenager. Although Eggebeen also does not specifically address the issue of support, he does indicate that since it can be anticipated that step-relations between aging parents and adult children will become increasingly common, this is an issue that deserves closer study.

In summary, when compared to what is known about patterns of support for first-time married couples with children, relatively little is known regarding remarried couples. Suggested trends indicate there may be less support provided by spouses, other kin, or friends of a remarriage due to a reduced sense of devotion or obligation. Sufficient literature is as yet unavailable from which to draw conclusions regarding patterns of support for remarried older adults. However, one conclusion that can be drawn is that a conscious effort for research to separately examine support networks for first-time married elders and remarried elders is needed. As Connidis (1989) indicates, Canadian Census data suggest that, given the percent of divorced people within age groups under the age of 65, more older individuals in future cohorts will be divorced. This, in turn, may lead to an increase in remarriage rates and a reshaping of family networks.

As a comparison to literature examining parent-child relations and the provision of support, the final section reviews literature examining the second 'non-normative' family type examined in this study, that composed of childless couples.

## **5. Childless Couples and the Provision of Support**

Although gerontological research tends to support rather differing conclusions

regarding the primacy of children as providers of support, still there is a common assumption among researchers and lay people, that the presence of children may assure support in old age (Connidis, 1989). Based on this view, the increasing rate of childlessness for cohorts born since the mid-1930's indicates a potentially at-risk group of elderly people who may lack a sufficient informal support network to meet their needs (Simmons-Tropea & Osborn, 1987).

A review of the literature regarding the provision of support for the childless elderly reveals that the majority of this research focuses on spouseless childless elders (see, for example, Goldberg et al., 1986; Rice, 1989; Rubenstein et al., 1991). There is also a growing literature comparing support among parents and childless elderly (see, for example, Choi, 1994; Connidis & McMullin, 1992; Keith, 1983; Rempel, 1985). However, this research does not specifically compare married parents with married childless persons. For example, Keith (1983) compared the personal and social resources and correlates of psychological well-being of 438 married parents and 103 unmarried childless persons aged 72 years and older. Both the availability and use of informal and formal resources were examined. The results revealed that childless persons experienced substantially greater isolation from relatives; 19 percent of those without children had no face-to-face contact with relatives compared to only five percent of parents.

Rempel's (1985) study of 338 non-institutionalized Canadian elders revealed similar results. However, as in Keith's (1983) study, parents and childless couples were not specifically compared with regard to the provision of support in later life. The focus of Rempel's study was on the life satisfaction of older adults and the factors that

contributed to it (education, finances, health). The findings indicated that parents had more nonhousehold confidants than did childless respondents. With regard to particular numbers of good friends, parents had almost two-thirds more friends on whom they could rely, compared with the childless elderly. However, this included family members, and it may be concluded that the childless have fewer kin to include in their overall number of friends. Overall, Rempel indicates that although none of her tests show childless older adults to be significantly advantaged, neither do they show an advantage for the parents regarding factors contributing to life satisfaction. She cautions that it is "erroneous to assume that the elderly have children who can and will look after their interests. We have learned in this evaluation that family is not necessarily the crucial element in determining high life satisfaction in old age" (Rempel, 1985: 347).

Choi's (1994) study of 7,444 noninstitutionalized persons aged 70 years and older compared childless elderly individuals and elderly parents with regard to formal service use. Her findings indicated that childless individuals were more likely to indicate a lack of informal support than were parents. However, childless persons were no more likely to use formal services than were elderly parents. In contrast, Connidis and McMullin (1992) found that of the elderly adults living in private households, almost 23 percent of those who were childless relied solely on private or public home care services compared to only 11 percent of those with children. Their findings are similar to those of Marcil-Gratton and Legare (1992) who tested the hypothesis that isolation is not necessarily linked to previous fertility. They found that among older spouseless and childless individuals, 22 percent received help from public or private services, compared to only 11 percent of

elderly parents. Among older childless respondents (aged 75 years and more), 45 percent mentioned help received from formal services.

A recurring theme that runs through the majority of the research is that childless elderly individuals are single (whether never-married, divorced, widowed, or separated). Despite recognition of the increasing number of childless couples (e.g. Choi, 1994), there is a lack of research available regarding the provision of informal support for childless couples. Only one study specifically distinguishes the childless married as a comparison group. Although published in 1981, Johnson and Catalano's study of *Childless Elderly and Their Family Supports* is still cited as the main study regarding the provision of support for childless couples (see Bengtson et al., 1990; Chapman, 1989; Connidis & McMullin 1992, 1994; Rubenstein, 1987). This study involved 167 respondents with a mean age of 74.5 years. Of the 28 childless respondents included in the study, 10 were married and 18 were unmarried. According to Johnson and Catalano's (1981) findings, the spouse was the most viable and comprehensive source of support for the entire sample, whether with or without children. However, this situation was accentuated when there were no children. Spouses were the primary caregivers in all but one case among the childless married. The currently married childless individuals were the most socially isolated and had the smallest pool of available relatives compared to married parents, unmarried parents and unmarried childless individuals. Eight of ten had no relatives other than the spouse who was actively involved in providing help. Only two of the ten were likely to see a sibling or other relative at least weekly, and they were also less likely to see a friend or neighbour than any other group.

In contrast to previous studies, Johnson and Catalano's (1981) findings suggest that social involvement of couples tends to decrease in the absence of children. As many social activities of children often require some involvement by parents, opportunities for social involvement may decrease for the childless. This form of social isolation on the part of childless married older adults may also include a tendency to resist seeking formal support in the community or informal support from relatives. These findings point to a possibly serious consequence of childlessness with the onset of illness in old age. With illness, there appears to be fewer resources for support of older couples, resulting in one spouse relying solely on the other. Consequently, with the illness or death of a spouse, the lack of an extended support network may put the survivor at risk. This is supported by Connidis and McMullin (1994) who suggest that those without a spouse or children are no more likely to receive instrumental support from other relatives or friends when compared to married parents.

Overall, these findings suggest that in conjunction with the growing prevalence of diverse family structures, there is a diversity in who is available to provide support for older adults. Future research must recognize and acknowledge that neither the existence of a spouse nor the propinquity of children guarantees assistance.

### **Statement of Research Objectives**

The preceding review of the literature indicates a need for research on the provision of support among older adults, with regard to family structure. As Connidis (1989) notes, the focus that Western culture applies to the spousal relationship tends to

result in a lack of literature on other family relationships, such as those with siblings and other relatives. With the trend towards greater instability and variability in the spousal bond in North America, greater attention needs to be paid to family forms that do not conform to the “traditional” nuclear family type. Pratt and Kethley (1988) also suggest that as the flexibility and plurality in family forms seems likely to grow, research regarding the provision of support for elders within various family structures is increasingly warranted. The effects of lower fertility, smaller families and increased life expectancy, either separately or in combination, will continue to differentiate support sources among older adults. For example, demographers such as Bloom and Trussell (1983, cited in Rempel, 1985: 347) suggest that permanent childlessness will reach levels of 20-25 percent among those now just entering their childbearing period. By examining the impact of childlessness on today's elders, we can perhaps have a better understanding of the potential impact of childlessness on future cohorts of elders.

Specifically with regard to the primacy of spousal support, although a majority of the literature indicates the spouse as the primary provider of support, one of the objectives of this study was to examine whether the provision of support varies between first marriages and subsequent marriages. Included in this examination are the relationships between parents and adult children. As Hagestad (1986) indicates, trends in divorce and remarriage are reshaping, and often weakening, family structures and kin networks. In addition, the widely acknowledged lack of information available regarding the support systems of remarried older adults, and the lack of comparative data involving married parents and childless married adults, supports the need for research in this area.

This study therefore examines relationships between different types of family structure and the provision of support for older adults. In particular, it compares individuals embedded within three different types of family structure - families composed of first-time married couples and their children; remarried couples with children; and first-time married couples without children - in terms of who provides them with support, and the type and extent of support provided. Ideally, the comparison would also focus on remarried couples without children. However, due to limitations of the data (i.e. inadequate sample size), remarried childless couples will be discussed, but not analyzed extensively. While investigating the provision of support among these groups of older adults, the study addresses the following research questions:

1. Are there differences in the types of support received by elderly first-time married parents, remarried couples with children, and first-time married childless couples?
2. Are there differences in the levels of support received by elderly first-time married parents, remarried couples with children, and first-time married childless couples?
3. Are there differences in the sources of support utilized by elderly first-time married parents, remarried couples with children, and first-time married childless couples?

The literature suggests several themes regarding types, levels and sources of support across these three different forms of family structure. For example, regardless of whether it is a first or subsequent marriage, the spouse is widely reported to be the primary source of all types of support for older adults. Children, primarily daughters, are also reported to be a primary source of support. However, as the preceding review of additional research illustrates, support provided by both spouses and children varies by

type (e.g., emotional, instrumental) and by family structure. Support is not guaranteed by the existence of a spouse or children. For example, as Hooyman and Lustbader (1986) report, subsequent marriages may lessen one spouse's feelings of commitment to the other spouse when support is needed. Where support from children is concerned, Rempel (1985) suggests, children are not a "fail-safe" resource for assistance to older parents. Connidis and McMullin's (1992) study also revealed the potential for a lack of available informal support for childless couples - a family structure that demographic trends indicate will increase in prevalence in future cohorts. In addition, in contrast to the reported primacy of support provided by a spouse and/or children, friends and neighbours are sometimes reported to be more frequent and reliable sources of support-instrumental and emotional- regardless of parental and marital status (e.g. Peters et al., 1987). Family structure is therefore an important factor to be considered when drawing conclusions regarding the types, levels and sources of support among older adults.

## CHAPTER III

### Data and Methodology

#### 1. Data Source

The data source for this study is the 1990 Family and Friends Survey (FFS) conducted by Statistics Canada (1994). (A copy of the questionnaire is included in Appendix A.) Data for this 5th cycle of the General Social Survey (GSS) were collected from January through March, 1990. The response rate for this telephone survey was 76 percent. As indicated by Singleton et al. (1993) response rates of 70 to 85 percent are considered quite acceptable for telephone surveys.

The 1990 GSS utilized a cross-sectional survey design to gather information regarding respondents' interactions with family and friends. The two principle objectives were: to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in Canadian society over time and to provide information on specific social issues of current and emerging interest. Respondents were questioned about a range of issues including: aspects of the respondent's relationships with family members and friends, fertility, household help within the respondent's home, physical and emotional support given and received by the respondent, satisfaction, and demographic and socio-economic background.

The 1990 GSS was chosen for these analyses because the topics covered are closely related to the research questions examined in this study. Specifically, the 1990 GSS was the first Canadian national survey to include questions on family structure and dynamics (McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993). As Norris and Paton (1991) report, a shortcoming of past surveys has been the narrow concept of family generally employed.

However, this survey examined the family in a broader context by collecting information on the extent and nature of kinship networks and patterns of informal assistance among family and friends. This cycle of the GSS survey is also the only national survey to collect detailed information about the marital histories of Canadian adults, including marriage, divorce and common-law unions in all age cohorts (Wu, 1995). Such information is necessary for the current study. It also contains extensive information appropriate to the measurement of such variables as the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of respondents.

In choosing an existing data set for analysis, the time-specificity of the research problem and data source is an important factor. This study involves the analysis of data collected in 1990. It examines the implications of relatively recent changes in family structure for the receipt of support by older adults. Future changes to the family may see increases in divorce and remarriage rates leading to a broader diversity of family forms. The birth cohorts included in this sample are those born approximately between the period of 1920 through the 1930's. Therefore, the respondents can be expected to share dominant cultural norms of their time. In more recent times, with a greater division of labour, fewer gender differences may be seen among the tasks performed by men and women. Yet, the recency of the data is important for the credibility and generalizability of results for current elderly individuals, and as a basis upon which to prepare for the needs of future.

In addition, because the GSS uses a randomly selected and representative sample of the national population, the shortcomings of the geographically-fixed samples used in

much of the previous research is not an issue for this study.

Existing data sets have the potential to answer important questions in the area of aging research (Black, 1995). Secondary analysis of a large data source also allows for improving knowledge through replication and increased sample size. Given the nature of the research questions being addressed here, a large sample size is desirable. In addition, with a large data source based on random sampling, increased sample size in effect replicates observations, and enhances our confidence in the study results (Singleton et al., 1993). Enlarging the number of cases for the measurement of variables provides support for the credibility of subsequent generalizations. Finally, because research based on available data bypasses the stage of primary data collection, it offers economies of time, money and personnel (Singleton et al., 1993).

Although the advantages of conducting a study using secondary analysis are many, disadvantages must also be recognized. As Black (1996) reports, one disadvantage to using an existing data set is the lack of control over the content of the data. Secondary data analyses must often contend with samples and measures that are not precisely those that are desired. Also, lack of control over collection of the data and its coding may create data quality issues. Imprecise or inadequate measures of concepts may lead to variables which have been poorly operationalized. One example of such measures encountered in this study was the single-item measure of emotional support (discussed further in the Limitations section). Ideally a previously validated multiple-item measure would be included. Similarly, the level of support from sources *within* and *outside* the respondent's household was measured based on two separate sets of questions (see pages

50-52 of Methods section). Secondary analysis must then involve the creation of new variables that capture concepts important to the current research questions. Data collected by others is also prone to interviewing, coding and keying errors. However, for this study this problem is not as great an issue as the *Statistics Canada Microdata File Documentation and User's Guide* (Statistics Canada, 1991) includes extensive descriptions and discussions of how data were collected, coded and analyzed. With this information, it is possible to determine the methodological procedures used for the creation of combined and derived variables. This suggests a level of integrity for data quality as subsequent researchers are able to determine how data has been manipulated.

Besides problems associated with data quality, the ability to study groups important to the researcher may be limited due to inadequate numbers of respondents within desired subgroups. Such is the case with the current study in that the number of remarried childless individuals is too small for useful analyses (N=23 or 1.2% of study sample). This issue is also of particular importance in the study of the oldest old segment of the elderly population as Statistics Canada in many of their surveys collapses older age groups into broad categories, thereby limiting opportunities for subpopulation analyses by age. In addition, due to smaller subpopulation numbers, this study is unable to focus on specific ethnic groups or other subgroups.

## **2. Sampling Strategy and Techniques**

Data for the 1990 GSS were collected on a sample or cross-section of respondents chosen to represent a particular target population at essentially one point in time. The

target sample size of the GSS is allocated to provinces in proportion to the square roots of their population size. This method increases subsample sizes for the smaller provinces (Statistics Canada, 1991). The target population of the GSS consisted of all people aged 15 and over permanently living in the 10 provinces of Canada, with the exception of full-time residents of institutions and residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. In addition to these exceptions, persons living in households without telephones were also excluded from the surveyed population. However, this group represents less than two percent of the population and survey estimates have been adjusted to represent this group. Although weighting and estimation procedures were performed for the data to represent the entire population, other groups such as rural people, the poor, those in poor health, those who have hearing disabilities, and those with language difficulties with either English or French tend to be under-represented in similar telephone survey studies.

The population was sampled using two different Random Digit Dialling (RDD) sampling techniques. For Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, most of Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, the Elimination of Non-Working Banks (ENWB) method was used. For the remaining provinces, the Waksberg RDD method was used. Both methods yield self-weighting samples of residential telephone numbers. Households that did not have telephones at the time of the survey were excluded. However, these households account for less than two percent of the Canadian population (Statistics Canada, 1994). The GSS does not accept proxy responses. Therefore, individuals who could not use a telephone, could not be reached during the survey period, or who did not

speak either English or French<sup>3</sup> were also excluded from the responding population (Norris & Paton, 1991). Household non-responses and individual refusals to respond to the survey were not replaced and subsequently, weighting procedure adjustments were therefore applied to represent both forms of non-response. Weighting procedures based on census projections for the target population were also employed to adjust for over and under-sampling within province-sex-age groups (see Appendix B for a detailed description of both sampling techniques, including weighting and estimation procedures).

The GSS also included a supplementary sample of elderly persons, and thereby over-sampled those in the older age groups. This component of the sample was drawn from a simple random sample of households previously included in the Canadian Labour Force Survey (LFS). Individual probabilities of selection for the GSS were therefore proportional to the probability of selection of the household in the LFS. An interview was attempted with a respondent selected from among the eligible people (those aged 65 and older) in each household contacted, with differential probability of selection based on age (i.e., older elderly individuals were more likely to be included than younger individuals). This supplementary sample roughly doubled the overall sample size of persons aged 65 years and older.

Overall, the GSS makes use of a probability sampling design utilizing disproportionate stratified random sampling. The combination of this technique and the weighting and estimation procedures made available within the data set, result in the ability to generate population estimates from which one can generalize from the sample to

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<sup>3</sup> Language restrictions to either French or English will be discussed further in the Limitations section.

the target population (Norris & Paton, 1991). However, in this study, non-weighted data are used. This is because the current study examines support within a subset of the Canadian population aged 60 years and older, not the entire Canadian population. The appropriateness of the weighting procedure to this subset is not known. Also, the focus of this study is on examining the relationships between variables within these subgroups rather than on generating prevalence estimates.

### 3. Study Sample

The Friends and Family (FSS) Survey includes a total sample of 13,395 respondents of whom 3,843 respondents were aged 60 years and over. Among those aged 60 years and over, 1,946 (50.6%) respondents were unmarried (e.g. widowed, divorced, separated, never married) and 31 (.8%) cases were missing data regarding current marital status and therefore, were deleted from further analyses. This study focuses primarily on 1,843 (48.9%) of these 3,843 individuals embedded within one of three types of family structure: first-time married couples with children (n=1506); remarried couples with children (n=209); and first-time married childless couples (n=128)<sup>4</sup>. It also includes those who are remarried without children (n=23). As noted previously, the number of individuals in this latter group is too small for statistical analyses. However, when relevant to the research questions under study, some discussion of the 23 cases will also be included. Appendix D also provides a brief discussion of the receipt of support for this

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<sup>4</sup> Hereafter, the three groups will be referred to as; married parents, married childless individuals and remarried parents.

group of respondents. Table 1 reports the sample frequency and distribution of each of the family types.

Selected demographic characteristics by family structure for the primary sample of 1,843 respondents are outlined in Table 2. The age range is 60 years and over, with a mean age of 69 years. Just over one-fifth of the sample as a whole is over the age of 74 years. However, there are statistically significant differences in age across the three groups. As a subgroup, married childless individuals appear to be older than the other two groups, with 28.9 percent of these respondents over the age of 74 years compared to 23.0 percent of remarried parents and only 19.3 percent of married parents. Only 14.8 percent of married childless persons are between the ages of 60 and 64 years compared to over 20 percent of each of the other two groups.

Slightly less than one-half of those in this sample (44.7%) are female and 55.3 percent are male. Compared to most other studies of older adults in which a higher percentage of respondents are female, the higher percentage of male respondents in comparison to female respondents in this study reflects the focus on married older adults. In Canada in 1991, 82 percent of the men and 56 percent of the women aged 65 to 74 years of age were married (Statistics Canada, 1993). Of those aged 75 to 84 years, 73 percent of the men and 30 percent of the women were married. For older adults over 85 years of age, 51 percent of the men, but only 10 percent of the women were married. In this study, however, no significant gender differences are evident between the three family structures.

Across all family structures, having some secondary education or more appears to

**Table 1 Family Structure of Sample of Married Adults Aged 60 Years and Older**

Structure	Frequency	Percent
First time married with children	1506	80.7
Remarried with children	209	11.2
First time married childless	128	6.9
Remarried childless	23	1.2
Total	1866	100.0

Table 2 Selected Sample Characteristics by Family Structure

	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
Demographic Characteristics	N=1506		N=209		N=128		N=1843	
Age	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
60-64	343	22.8	44	21.1	19	14.8	406	22.0
65-69	538	35.7	70	33.5	46	35.9	654	35.5
70-74	334	22.2	47	22.5	26	20.3	407	22.1
75-79	187	12.4	23	11.0	25	19.5	235	12.8
80+	104	6.9	25	12.0	12	9.4	141	7.7
$\chi^2 = 15.85; df=8; p<.05$								
Gender								
Female	673	44.7	94	45.0	57	44.5	824	44.7
Male	833	55.3	115	55.0	71	55.5	1019	55.3
$\chi^2 = .01; df=2; p=n.s.$								
Education								
None	17	1.1	1	.5	2	1.6	20	1.1
Elementary	412	27.8	47	23.0	30	24.2	489	27.0
Some Secondary	580	39.1	85	41.7	51	41.1	716	39.5
Some College or Trade School	320	21.6	43	21.1	27	21.8	390	21.5
Some University/ A Degree	154	10.4	28	13.7	15	11.3	196	10.8
$\chi^2 = 5.18; df=8; p=n.s.$								
Ethnicity								
British	682	46.7	109	53.4	56	44.8	847	47.3
French	196	13.4	22	10.8	16	12.8	234	13.1
European	338	23.2	40	19.6	33	26.4	411	23.0
Multi-ethnic <sup>1</sup>	125	8.6	18	8.8	8	6.4	151	8.4
Other <sup>2</sup>	119	8.2	15	7.4	12	9.6	146	8.2
$\chi^2 = 5.67; df=8; p=n.s.$								
Religion								
Protestant	830	56.2	128	62.7	70	56.5	1028	57.0
Catholic	536	36.3	56	27.5	43	34.7	635	35.2
Other	52	3.5	7	3.4	7	5.6	66	3.7
No Religion	58	3.9	13	6.4	4	3.2	75	4.2
$\chi^2 = 9.64; df=6; p=n.s.$								
Household size								
Lives alone	37	2.5	3	1.4	5	3.9	45	2.4
Lives with one person	1232	81.8	185	88.5	116	90.6	1533	83.2
Lives with two or more persons	237	15.7	21	10.0	7	5.5	265	14.4
$\chi^2=15.63; df=4; p<.005$								

**Table 2 Selected Sample Characteristics by Family Structure (Continued.)**

	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
Demographic Characteristics	N=1506		N=209		N=128		N=1843	
<b>Respondents state of health compared to others</b>								
	<i>(n)</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>(n)</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>(n)</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>(n)</i>	<i>(%)</i>
Poor	61	4.1	15	7.2	6	4.8	82	4.5
Fair	309	20.6	40	19.3	27	21.4	376	20.5
Good	758	50.6	83	40.1	58	46.0	899	49.1
Excellent	371	24.7	69	33.3	35	27.8	475	25.9
	$\chi^2 = 13.99; df=6; p<.05$							
<b>Respondent limited in activity.</b>								
No	1031	68.6	140	67.3	88	68.8	1259	68.5
Yes	471	31.4	68	32.7	40	31.3	579	31.5
	$\chi^2 = .15; df=2; p=n.s.$							

<sup>1</sup>. This category is made up of a combination of 2 or more of the original 5 ethnic categories in the GSS.

<sup>2</sup>. This category is composed of all respondents who indicated a single ethnic origin of either Non-European or North American.

be the norm, ranging from 71.1 percent of the married parents to 76.5 percent of the remarried parents. Although not statistically significant, across the three structures, those who are remarried parents appear to have somewhat higher overall levels of education.

In terms of ethnicity, a British ethnic origin is the most prevalent for this sample (47.3%), with European origins other than French accounting for over one-fifth of the sample (23.0%) and French ethnic origin representing 13.1 percent of the sample. However, again, no significant differences are evident by family structure.

The same is true with regard to religion. Over one-half (57.0%) of the sample as a whole report Protestant religious affiliations, with Catholic the second (35.2%) in prevalence. A minority (7.9%) report other or no religious affiliations. Although Catholics appear somewhat less likely than Protestants to be in the remarried parent category, the difference is not statistically significant.

A comparison of household size across the three different types of family structure does yield a significant difference ( $p < .005$ ). Married childless respondents are the most likely to live alone or to live with only one other person (90.6%), and the least likely to live with two or more persons (5.5% compared to 10% remarried parents, and 15.7% married parents). In comparison, the married parents are the least likely to live with only one other person, and are the most likely to live with two or more persons. Due to limitations of the GSS data, an explanation as to why some ( $n=45$  or 2.4%) married respondents are living alone is unavailable. All 45 of these respondents state they are legally married and are not separated, but they do not live with their spouse, or any other person. As the GSS does not interview persons living in institutions at the time of the

survey, it is known that the respondents themselves do not live in institutions. However, it is unknown whether the respondents' spouses live in institutions.

There is also a significant difference across the family types regarding how respondents view their state of health compared to others<sup>5</sup>. Remarried parents are the most likely to report excellent health (33.3% compared to 24.7% of married parents and 27.8% of married childless respondents). However, remarried parents are also the most likely to report poor health (7.2% compared to 4.1% and 4.8% respectively of married parents and married childless individuals). Overall, 75.0 percent of respondents feel their health is good or excellent. Despite differences in perceived health status, whether the respondent reports activity limitations<sup>6</sup> is quite evenly distributed across the three family types with 68.5 percent reporting no limitations and 31.5 percent reporting some limitations.

Overall, these comparisons suggest similarities as well as differences in the characteristics of those in the three different family structures. Married childless individuals are somewhat older and more likely to live alone than those in the other two groups. Remarried parents, however, tend to report both the best and the poorest health. In other respects, there are no differences.

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<sup>5</sup> Hereafter, respondents' state of health compared to others will be referred to as *perceived health*.

<sup>6</sup> Hereafter, whether the respondent is limited in their performance of activities of daily living will be referred to as *functional health*.

#### 4. Measurement

The present study examines the provision of support to older adults. Types, levels, and sources of support are the dependent variables. Family structure is the major independent variable. Relationships between family structure and the provision of support are examined while controlling for several variables previously shown to be important to relationships between family structure and support.

##### i) Dependent Variables - Types, Levels and Sources of Support

Support is a complex and multi-faceted concept which has been variously conceptualized and operationalized. This complexity is articulated by Cohen and Syme (1985: 10) who distinguish a range of questions fundamental to the study of support including: Who is providing the support?; What kind of support is being provided?; To whom is the support provided?; For which problem is support provided?; and When is the support provided?. Similarly, Wellman and Wortley (1990) liken the study of support to asking the question: Who gives what to whom?. It is within the context of the many interactions and relationships associated with these questions that an understanding of how support is defined is established.

Within discussions involving the definition of support, research tends to focus on two related components - the structure (who) and functions (what) of support - (see Antonucci, 1985; Cohen and Syme, 1985; Jacobson, 1986). The structural component typically refers to the relationship between the support provider and the recipient of support at the individual (e.g., spouse, child) or group/societal level (e.g. church group,

community home care). The functional component refers to the type or content of support - e.g., affection, feelings of belonging, or material/instrumental assistance. Caplan (1974) includes both components in his definition of the support system as informal and formal relationships and groups (i.e., structure) through which an individual receives the emotional, cognitive and material supports (i.e., functions) necessary to master stressful experiences.

The definition and study of support, therefore, encompasses the provision of a wide range of possible types of assistance and aid as well as various sources of support. Understanding both components is necessary for an understanding of the concept. As Penning (1990) suggests, different tasks tend to be accomplished by different people. The need for research to concurrently examine types and sources of support is also recognized by Chipperfield (1994) who indicates that who provides support must be examined within the context of the type of support provided.

It is also acknowledged that although support tends to be viewed with a positive connotation, it can nevertheless have negative implications for both the provider and recipient of the support. Antonucci (1990: 214) cites four aspects of negative support: "ineffective help, excessive help, unwanted or unpleasant interactions". These dimensions may include such stress-inducing interactions as when a parent feels a child offers support due to filial obligation rather than a sincere desire to help. Alternatively, expected support that is not provided may also be viewed with negative feelings. Contradictions between types of support (e.g., instrumental and emotional) may also lead to potentially harmful situations - for example, where a parent is financially dependent on a child who then

abuses the parent either physically or mentally because he/she begrudges the financial expenditure. These are real and important issues to be acknowledged in the study of support. However, it is beyond the scope of this study to provide a thorough, or even representative, analysis of the entire range of positive and negative or supportive and non-supportive implications of support behaviour. Instead, the focus of this study is on how supportive behaviours, in a positive context, best meet the support needs of elderly persons in order to help them maintain their independence in the community.

In this vein, following previous research, for the purpose of this study, support is examined within the context of its structural and functional components. It is therefore defined in terms of both the resources that meet individuals' needs and the social relationships through which individuals' needs are met. Three dependent variables are examined: (1) type of support; (2) level of support (how often each type of help was received); and (3) source of each type of support (relationship to respondent).

#### a) Types of Support

Two components of functional support are examined in this study; instrumental assistance and emotional support. Instrumental assistance is operationalized using help received in five areas: meal preparation, housework (including cleaning, laundry, cooking and sewing), household maintenance, transportation and personal care. Although as Bould (1993: 139) notes, "familial care includes ties that result in the provision of care for those who sometimes cannot care for themselves, and is not and should not be limited to the household", due to restrictions imposed by the GSS data, analyses involving meal preparation were restricted to support received from others living within the household,

whereas help with transportation was restricted to assistance received from others living outside the household. For the tasks of housework and household maintenance, new variables were created by combining responses for inside the household help and outside the household help. Help with personal care included whether support was received, and whether the source of support lived within the household. Overall, three of the five types of help being examined include support received from others both within and outside the household.

Respondents were asked who within the household helped with meal preparation during the past 12 months. Multiple responses listing the relationship (e.g. spouse, daughter) of the helper to the respondent were used to create a new variable indicating whether help was received or not. Responses were coded as '1' (yes) if helpers were listed, and '0' (no) if no helpers were indicated. A new variable with similar coding was created using similar multiple responses to measure whether or not help was received from *inside* the household with cleaning and laundry. As well, the same structure and coding scheme were used to develop a measure for *inside* the household help with house maintenance and outside work such as repairs, painting, carpentry, lawn mowing and shovelling snow.

Respondents were then asked if, during the past 12 months, anyone from *outside* the household provided unpaid<sup>7</sup> help with each of the following tasks: (a) housework such as cooking, sewing or cleaning; (b) house maintenance or outside work such as repairs,

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<sup>7</sup> As the GSS did not examine the extent, frequency and individual sources of various types of paid help only unpaid help is examined in this study. A brief discussion of the receipt of paid help among older adults is included in Appendix E.

painting, carpentry, lawn mowing or shovelling snow; and (c) transportation, such as driving to an appointment or shopping. Responses were simply coded as yes '1' or no '0' for each type of task.

In order to measure overall unpaid help with both housework and household maintenance, support received from those inside and outside the household were combined. Responses were then coded as yes '1' or no '0' for each task.

Finally, respondents were also asked if during the past 12 months anyone provided them with unpaid personal care, such as help with bathing or dressing. Again, responses were coded yes (1) or no (0).

In addition to instrumental assistance, as Cohen and Syme (1985) indicate, functional support includes an affective component. For the purposes of this study, the affective/emotional component of support is conceptualized within the context of a confidant relationship in which the individual feels she/he is able to talk over personal matters and share emotional events and feelings (Chappell, 1992). This component of support is operationalized using responses to the single question asking respondents: "Suppose you feel just a little bit down or depressed, and you wanted to talk about it. Whom would you turn to first for help?; Whom would you turn to second for help?". A new variable was created with a coding of yes '1' if someone was indicated and no '0' if no one was indicated.

#### b) Levels of Support

In order to assess differences in the overall levels of support received by elderly married parents, remarried parents, and married childless individuals, four separate

indicators are used: (a) the number of areas in which support was received; (b) the total number of people or organizations providing each type of support; (c) the extent of support received; and finally (d) the frequency of each type of support received during the last 12 months.

The total number of areas in which support was received was calculated by summing the yes (1) responses from the questions as to whether or not the respondent received each of the six types of support (i.e., help with meals, housework, household maintenance, transportation, personal care, and emotional support). Again, support with housework and household maintenance from sources inside the household and outside the household were combined to create an overall measure of whether or not support was received for each of the two tasks. Scores on the resulting scale were then truncated to create a scale with scores ranging from (1) no help in any area or help in only one area to (5) help in five or six areas<sup>8</sup>.

The total number of persons or organizations providing each type of support was also calculated. A scale with values of '0' for no helpers, '1' for one helper, and '2' for two or more helpers was created for each of the six types of support. Due to the way that responses were coded in the GSS data set, it was not possible to determine how many helpers there were for responses over two.

The extent of support received was measured based on questions regarding how **much** help, sources from *within* the household provided within the past 12 months, with

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<sup>8</sup> An original scale of 0-6 resulted in both the scores of 0 and of 6 having only 7 cases or .4% of all respondents in each category. Therefore the scale was truncated to avoid problems associated with skewed distributions.

each of the tasks of meal preparation, housework and household maintenance. Responses for each task were coded as: no help with the task (0), help received with half or less of all the task (1), help received with more than half of all the task (2), and all task performed by others (3).

The frequency of support was measured based on how **often** unpaid help was received, within the past 12 months, from sources *outside* the household with each of the tasks of housework, household maintenance, and transportation. Responses referring to how **often**, within the last 12 months, each source from *outside* the household provided help with the tasks of housework, household maintenance, and transportation were separately coded as: no help (0), less than once a month (1), and once a month or more (2).

The GSS survey did not ask respondents how *much* or how *often* personal care or emotional support were provided. Consequently, one limitation of this study is the lack of examination of levels and frequency for these two types of support.

### c) Sources of Support

Differences in the sources of support utilized by elderly married parents, remarried parents, and married childless individuals, are also addressed. Respondents were asked “Who provided such help?” with regard to each type of support. Multiple responses were included and coded on the basis of the respondent’s relationship to the person they indicated had provided the support. The focus here is on comparing the support provided by a spouse, child, sibling, friend, other relative, and organizations for each task/type of support.

Within the limitations of the GSS data, each support source is measured for each task/type of support. Where the source category was indicated in the GSS data, responses were recoded into their own variable with values of '1' (category helped), or '0' (no help from this category - (e.g spouse yes = 1, no = 0). With this method of recoding and measurement, it is possible to examine situations where there is more than one source of support as each is measured separately.

#### ii) Independent Variable - Family Structure

Family structure, as the major independent variable, was created by combining responses regarding the marital status and parental status of the individual respondent. The resulting categories were: married parents, married individuals without children, remarried parents, and remarried individuals without children. As indicated previously, due to the small number of remarried respondents without children, this category is not included in detailed analyses. For purposes of the regression analyses, due to the nominal nature of the family structure variable, two different dummy variables were created - married without children (1) versus not married without children (0), and remarried with children (1) versus not remarried with children (0).

#### iii) Control Variables

Several characteristics of older adults are expected to influence the relationships between family structure and the receipt of support. The control variables for this study include: age, gender, education, religion, household size, ethnicity and health status (see

for example: Chappell, 1992; Connidis & McMullin, 1994; Epenshade, 1985; Miller et al., 1994; Penning, 1990; Penning & Chappell, 1990; Stoller, 1985; Ujimoto, 1987; Vaux, 1985). The coding of each of these variables is outlined in Table 3.

a) Age

Age has been shown to be an important factor in the receipt of support, especially for elderly persons. For example, in his sample of 900 noninstitutionalized elderly persons aged 65 years and older, Coward (1989) found that respondents who reported receiving no help had the lowest average age (70.0 years), while respondents who received help from both informal and formal helpers had the highest average age of 75.6 years. Age has also been shown to be related to family structure - as one ages, the circle of family relations tends to decrease due to the deaths of one's spouse or other relatives. In this study, age is measured as a continuous variable with a range from 60 to 80+ years<sup>9</sup>.

b) Gender

The importance of the relationship between gender and support has also been well-established (see, for example, Antonucci, 1985; Chappell, 1991). For example, Connidis and McMullin (1992) found that women are more likely than men to report a child and other relatives as support sources. In addition, McDaniel and McKinnon (1993) point to the importance of the relationship between gender, support and family structure in that men are more likely to live until death in a marriage receiving support from their spouse, whereas women more often live alone in their later years after the death of a spouse. Gender is included as a dichotomous variable coded as female (0) and male (1).

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<sup>9</sup> In its public use files, Statistics Canada truncates age at 80 years to preserve anonymity.

**Table 3 Coding of Independent and Control Variables**

Variable	Recoded Variable	Values/Categories
Family Structure	fam1	0 = Not married childless 1 = Married childless
	fam3	0 = Not Remarried parent 1 = Remarried parent
	fam4	0 = Not Remarried childless 1 = Remarried Childless
Age		60 - 80+ years
Gender		0 = Female 1 = Male
Education	educ2	1 - No schooling 2 - Elementary 3 - Some Secondary 4 - Some College or Trade School 5 - Some University or a Degree
Religion	cathrel	0 = Not Catholic 1 = Catholic
	othrel	0 = Not Other/No Religion 1 = Other/No Religion
Household Size	househld	1 = Respondent lives alone 2 = Respondent lives with 1 person 3 = Respondent lives with 2 or more people
Perceived Health	K3b	1 = Poor 2 = Fair 3 = Good 4 = Excellent
Functional Ability	F30b	0 = Not limited 1 = Limited
Ethnic Origin	French	0 = Not French ethnic origin 1 = French ethnic origin
	Europe	0 = Not European ethnic origin 1 = European ethnic origin
	Multieth	0 = Not multi-ethnic origin 1 = Multi-ethnic origin
	Otheth	0 = Not other ethnic origin 1 = Other ethnic origin

### c) Education

Education is an important factor to control for in this study in that it is related to marital status and thereby, to family structure through remarriage and widowhood. According to findings reported by Wu (1995), for widowers, an increase in socioeconomic status (vis a vis education) is likely to increase the probability of remarriage. For widows, however, it may reduce the likelihood of remarriage. In addition, some studies also show education to be correlated with the receipt of informal care (see Cafferata, 1987; Penning, 1990; Penning & Chappell, 1990).

Education is measured as the respondents' highest level of education attained. Responses were originally coded into 12 categories but, to reduce skewness, were collapsed into five major categories ranging from no schooling (1) to some university or more (5). The small number of missing cases ( $n=34=1.8\%$ )<sup>10</sup> were excluded.

### d) Religion

Some studies also indicate religion as having an impact on support and family structure. For example, Wu (1995) notes that religion may have an impact on divorce and subsequent remarriage. In the GSS, respondents were asked what their religion was. However, once again, due to small numbers of respondents in some categories (e.g., Eastern Orthodox, Other Non-Protestant), this variable was collapsed from twelve to three major categories - Protestant, Catholic and Other/no religion. The 41 missing cases (2.1% of total sample) were excluded from the analyses.

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<sup>10</sup> Except where specified, all percentages refer to the 1843 individuals focused on for analyses. Where the 1866 total sample respondents are referred to it will be noted.

Because religion is a nominal variable made up of more than two mutually exclusive categories, it was subsequently recoded as a set of dummy variables for purposes of inclusion in the multivariate regression analyses. For the three-way grouping of religion, two different dummy variables were formed - Catholic (1) versus Not Catholic (0), and Other/No religion (1) versus Not Other/No religion (0).

#### e) Household Size

Living arrangements has been widely noted to have a profound impact on support (see Cafferata, 1987; Chappell, 1991; Marshall et al., 1994; Miller et al., 1994). This is particularly true when gender and age differences are taken into account. In 1991, 38 percent of all Canadian women aged 65 years and older lived on their own compared with 14 percent of men the same age. This number increased for women as they aged; 53 percent of women aged 85 and over lived on their own (Statistics Canada, 1996). Specifically with regard to family structure and support, Chappell and Prince (1994) report that older adults living in a larger household and those who are married are more likely to receive more help.

In this study, household size is measured in terms of the number of people living in the same household as the respondent. To reduce skewness, the 13 response categories used in the GSS were truncated into 3 categories: (1) if the respondent lives alone, (2) if the respondent lives with one other person, and (3) if the respondent lives with two or more people.

#### f) Health Status

From the GSS data, it is impossible to capture the complexity which a broad definition of health encompasses. However, two measures were available to assess health status; *perceived health* and *functional ability*. As Bowling (1997) indicates, the subjective assessment of one's health is an important component in measuring health and well-being. In this study, perceived health is measured with the question: "How would you describe your state of health? Compared to others your age would you say it is ... (1) poor, (2) fair, (3) good or (4) excellent? Due to the small number of missing responses (n=12; 0.6%), these were excluded from further analysis. This single-item measure has been widely used in previous research (Chappell & Blandford, 1991; Havens, 1996; Marshall et al., 1995; Penning & Chappell, 1990) and has been shown to be a reliable and valid measure of overall health status (Adams, 1993; Bowling, 1997; Marshall et al., 1995).

Functional ability is also measured by self-assessment in this study, with yes (1) or (0) no responses to the question: "Because of a long-term physical condition, mental condition, or health problem, are you limited in the kind or amount of activity that you can do at home, at work, at school or in other activities such as transportation or leisure?". Again, the five (.3%) missing responses for this item were excluded. This measure was included in order to more concisely define the respondents' needs for assistance. Although as Montgomery and Hirshorn (1991) note, while "need" is recognized as a relative term and can be defined in a number of ways, most support services and programs use functional status as a criteria of need.

### g) Ethnicity <sup>11</sup>

There is a lack of attention given to ethnicity in the gerontological literature (deVries et al., 1996). However, just as the growing prevalence of diverse family structures has an impact on support, Canada's growing ethnic diversity also shapes the type, level and sources of assistance families provide to their older members<sup>12</sup>. In 1991, elderly persons of an ethnocultural group other than British or French represented approximately 11 percent of the Canadian population over 65 years of age, and this number is expected to continue growing (Statistics Canada, 1997). As Epenshade (1985: cited in Soldo et al., 1990) notes, fertility and therefore family structure, differs across ethnic backgrounds. In addition, Ujimoto (1987) indicates that cultural aspects of ethnicity can be observed in family and kinship relationships. Vaux's (1985) comparison of support characteristics across ethnic groups found significant differences in several aspects of support from family and friends. Finally, Penning and Chappell (1987) also indicate that ethnicity is an important factor to be considered in the study of informal support among older individuals. In light of the growing population of older ethnic Canadians, the relationship between ethnicity, aging and support seems to be a critical and underdeveloped area of study.

In this study, ethnicity was operationalized based on responses to the question:

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<sup>11</sup> In this study, the definition of "ethnicity" is that of ethnic origin which refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of a person's ancestors. An ancestor is someone from whom a person is descended and is usually more distant than grandparent. Ancestry does not mean citizenship or nationality but is the specific ethnic or cultural group or groups to which ancestors belonged (Statistics Canada, 1997).

<sup>12</sup> Due to a lack of information in the GSS dataset regarding such aspects of immigration as country of origin and timing of immigration, immigration is not explored or analysed in terms of its relationship to ethnicity.

“To which ethnic or cultural group do you or did your ancestors belong?”. Based on the original responses, Statistics Canada derived five broad response categories: (1) British (those who indicated any of the British Isles or other British loyalists or Australia); (2) French (those who indicated French, Acadian, Québécois, or French-Canadian); (3) European (those who indicated any of the European origins -- Western, Northern, Eastern Southern, or other European); (4) Non-European (respondents who indicated West Asian, Arab, African, South Asian, East Asian, Pacific Island origins, Black origins, Caribbean, Latin, Central, or South American origins); and (5) North American (respondents who indicated Canadian, Inuit, North American Indian, Métis, Blackfoot Indian, or American).

Because respondents were permitted to identify more than one ethnic origin, mutually exclusive categories were formed such that the British category was now those who said they were only British, French who said they were only French, and European as those who said they were only of European origin. A new category of Multi-ethnic was computed by combining individuals who indicated two or more of the original five ethnic categories. The Non-European ( $n = 131$  or 6.8 %) and North American ( $n=20$  or 1.1 %) categories were combined into an “Other” category so as to not lose too many respondents due to small numbers. This decision is further rationalized as 57 cases (3.0%) were missing a response or ethnicity was unknown by the respondent and therefore were excluded from further analyses. Because ethnic origin is a nominal variable made up of more than two mutually exclusive categories, it is recoded as a set of dummy variables. British origin is the reference category with the categories of French (0 = no, 1 = yes), European (0 = no, 1 = yes), Multi-ethnic (0 = no, 1 = yes) and Other (0 = no, 1 = yes)

coded as dummy variables.

## **5. Methods of Data Analysis**

In order to address the research questions regarding the relationships between types, levels, and sources of support for older adults within the three types of family structures, a series of bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses are utilized.

Initially, bivariate analyses (e.g. crosstabulations) are used for the purpose of assessing the nature and magnitude of the relationships between family structure and the provision of support. Specifically, with regard to the research questions, crosstabulation results and the corresponding chi-square statistic are used for comparing the receipt versus non-receipt of each type of support by family structure. Similar procedures are used to compare the levels of support (number of areas of support, number of people providing support, and frequency of support), as well as variations in sources of support (spouse, child, sibling, other relative, friend/ neighbour, organization) by family structure.

Two multivariate regression techniques (i.e., logistic, ordinary least squares) are employed in this study depending on the level of measurement of the dependent variable. Multivariate techniques allow for separating the independent relationships between family structure and other independent variables in the models. Multiple regression analysis is equivalent, mathematically, to the analysis of variance, but is more amenable to the present study in that it allows for the inclusion of both continuous and categorical variables (deVries et al, 1996: 234). While simple cross-tabulations compare the extent to which various types, levels and sources of support (dependent variables) differ in association

with family structure (independent variable), multiple regression techniques are used to investigate the contribution of each independent variable (e.g. family structure, age, gender etc.) to the explanation of the dependent variable. In addition, although crosstabulations take several variables into account, they only provide partial explanations of relationships among variables and not trends as do multivariate analyses.

The first multivariate analysis technique, logistic regression, is used to address the research questions assessing the impact of different types of family structure on types and sources of support received by older adults. Logistic regression is utilized because of the nominal level of measurement of the dependent variables and because one or more of the independent variables are measured at the continuous level (Menard, 1995). While examining each question, whether a particular variable is associated with another may be determined while holding the control variables constant either singly or in combinations.

The second multivariate technique, ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, is used to address differences in the levels of support associated with the different types of family structure. Again, in order to determine the association between the independent and dependent variables, the control variables are simultaneously held constant. OLS regression is used when the dependent variable is measured at an ordinal, interval or ratio level (e.g. education, age). The overall goal of an OLS regression model is to minimize the sum of squared deviations (vertical distances) from the actual data points to the regression line, i.e. to calculate a mathematical equation for selecting the regression line that best describes the data. By finding this regression line, the best linear equation for predicting the dependent variables with a knowledge of the independent variables is found

(Singleton et al, 1993; 444).

Both logistic and least squares regression analyses are susceptible to a variety of problems which may lead to biased coefficients, inefficient estimates or invalid statistical inferences (Menard, 1995). In order to avoid these difficulties, a number of basic assumptions should be satisfied including: absence of multicollinearity; absence of or acceptable levels of outlying and influential data; homoscedasticity (i.e. constant error variance); and linearity. As a general guideline, a limited set of regression diagnostics should be performed on any regression model to guard against violations of these assumptions. Extreme values or inconsistencies of these diagnostics usually requires closer inspection of data and possible reconsideration of the model in question. A check to ensure that the assumptions are not grossly violated is usually adequate to continue analyses with the model.

In this study, several regression diagnostics were performed to assess potential problems of multicollinearity, outlying and influential data, heteroscedasticity, nonnormality of error terms and nonlinearity. These diagnostics follow those recommended by Menard (1995) for logistic regression, and Fox (1991) for ordinary least squares regression.

In both logistic and least squares multiple regression, multicollinearity is a problem that occurs when there are collinear relations among the independent variables. When variables are highly correlated among themselves, the unique contribution of each variable is difficult to assess, producing biased or unstable regression estimates and other statistics.

The first step in detecting collinearity in regression models with multiple

independent variables is to calculate a correlation matrix. This matrix indicates the correlation coefficients among the independent variables. Perfect collinearity (values of -1.00 or +1.00) indicates a perfect linear relationship between variables, resulting in redundant information by using both variables in the model. Lower levels of collinearity are not generally problematic, but higher levels (e.g., 70 or greater) may pose problems (Norusis, 1993). For this study, the correlation matrix (Table 4) reveals some potential for collinearity between French ethnicity and Catholic religion ( $r=.47$ ). Additional collinearity statistics were therefore evaluated to examine this issue further.

According to Menard (1995), the *tolerance* statistic of a variable is a widely used measure of collinearity. The tolerance of a variable is defined as  $1-R_i^2$  where  $R_i^2$  is the squared multiple correlation of that variable with the other independent variables (i.e., variance in each independent variable explained by all the other independent variables - SPSS, 1996: 183). Tolerance values range from 0 to 1, with smaller values being a cause for concern and values of less than .10 almost certainly indicating a serious collinearity problem (Menard, 1995: 66). In addition, the *variance of inflation factor (VIF)*, a reciprocal measure of tolerance and defined as  $1/(1-R_i^2)$ , is also used to show the extent to which the precision of the model is affected by collinearity. By definition, variables with low tolerance values will have large VIF values. By convention, a VIF value greater than 10 (range of 1 to infinity) indicates the likelihood of collinearity (Menard, 1995).

Table 5 displays the tolerance and VIF values for each independent variable in this study. As there are 24 regression analyses for this study, only the range for both values is shown. Although the lowest tolerance values of .637 and .657 are for French ethnicity

**Table 4 Correlation Matrix of Independent Variables**

	Married Parents	Remarried Parents	Age	Gender	Education Level	Household Size	Perceived Health	Functional Ability	French	Europe	Multi-Ethnic	Other Ethnic	Catholic Religion
Remarried Parents	-.10**												
Age	.06**	.03											
Gender	.01	-.01	.08**										
Education level	.01	.04*	-.12**	.01									
Household size	-.08**	-.03	-.17**	.11**	-.07**								
Perceived health	.01	.01	-.07**	-.02	.20**	.02							
Functional ability	-.01	.01	.16**	-.01	-.06**	-.04*	-.43**						
Ethnic Origin: French	-.01	-.02	-.04*	.01	-.13**	.07**	-.01	-.05*					
European	.02	-.03	-.04	.04*	-.08**	-.01	-.08**	.04*	-.21**				
Multi-ethnic	-.02	.01	-.03	-.01	.05*	.00	.01	-.01	-.12**	-.17**			
Other	.01	-.01	.01	.01	-.05*	.02	-.05*	.01	-.12**	-.16**	-.09**		
Catholic	-.01	-.06**	-.08**	-.01	-.17**	.05*	-.05*	-.01	.47**	.01	-.02	.14**	
Other than Protestant or Catholic Religion	.01	.03	-.03	.05*	.03	.04*	-.02	.01	-.08**	.19**	-.03	.01	-.21**

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level.

**Table 5 Collinearity Diagnostics**

Independent Variable	Tolerance Value Range	VIF Value Range
Married childless	.981-.992	1.008-1.020
Remarried with children	.983-.992	1.008-1.017
Age	.907-.914	1.094-1.102
Gender	.971-.974	1.027-1.030
Education	.895-.900	1.112-1.117
Household Size	.934-.939	1.065-1.071
Perceived Health	.777-.921	1.085-1.287
Functional Health	.792-.948	1.055-1.262
Ethnic Origin:		
French	.637-.640	1.563-1.569
European	.781-.784	1.276-1.281
Multi-ethnic	.911-.914	1.094-1.098
Other	.847-.848	1.180 (consistent)
Catholic Religion	.657-.661	1.514-1.521
Other/No Religion	.899-.902	1.109-1.112

and Catholic religion respectively, both are well within the acceptable parameters (well above .20). The same is true for the VIF values as all are well below 10. In summary, the three tests for multicollinearity indicate this assumption is not violated.

Diagnostics were then performed to detect outlying and influential data. The definition of outlying data differs somewhat for logistic and least squares regression. However, their detection and correction are similar. In logistic regression, outliers tend to have unusually high or low values on the independent variables (not on the dependent variable, which has only two values), or unusual combinations of values on the dependent and independent variables (Menard, 1995). In least squares regression, an outlier is a case whose value on the dependent variable is unusual based on the value of the independent variables, or a case with an unusual value for the independent or dependent variable (Fox, 1991). Influential data in both forms of the regression model are outlying cases which exert disproportionate influence on regression coefficients.

As outliers are generally characterised by very large positive or negative residuals, casewise diagnostics were evaluated for all regression models. For the regression models where outliers were detected, studentized residuals<sup>13</sup> were examined for acceptable cut-off levels. For least squares regression, a “universally applicable data based criterion” is that approximately five percent of studentized residuals are outside the range of  $\pm 2$  (Fox, 1991: 33). With regard to logistic regression, Menard (1995: 79) indicates the same five percent cut-off, and adds that studentized residuals less than -3 and greater than +3 warrant closer inspection. For this study, examination of the studentized residuals, for

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<sup>13</sup> Studentized residual for a case is the change in the regression model deviance if the case is excluded.

both logistic and least squares regression models, revealed that any detected outliers fell within the recommended guidelines. A further test was run to determine whether the detected outliers could be classified as influential data.

In order for an outlier to produce substantial influence on the regression coefficients it must also have a high leverage (Fox, 1991; Menard, 1995). Leverage describes the impact of the observed value on the predicted value of the dependent variable. Values range from '0' (no influence) to '1' (completely determines the parameters of the model). In logistic regression, Menard (1995) suggests that leverage values several times the expected value of  $(k+1)/n$  deserve closer attention. Fox (1991) suggests that in least squares regression, leverage values exceeding about twice the average value  $(k+1)/n$  be a rough guide for influential data. For the current study, although some cases had values close to the acceptable cut-off points, values were within the recommended acceptable levels. Both Menard (1995) and Fox (1991) indicate that caution should be employed when dealing with outlying and influential data. The danger of overfitting the data - permitting a small portion of the data to determine the form of the model - arises when influential data are deleted automatically. Outlying and influential data should be examined and explained, but not necessarily discarded.

Another assumption of regression analyses for in this study is homoscedasticity or constant error variance. Violation of this assumption, called heteroscedasticity, inflates standard errors, leads to inaccurate statistical significance, and may also be an indication of nonlinearity (Berry, 1993). In least squares regression, it is assumed that the error is independent of the conditional mean, i.e. error variance is everywhere the same. To test

for homoscedasticity in least squares regression models, Fox (1991) suggests evaluating studentized residuals. In this study, for least squares regression models, tests of studentized residuals yielded normally distributed errors with constant variance. In logistic regression, the error variance is a function of the conditional mean. To account for this, estimates of errors (residuals) are standardized by adjusting them for their standard error. To ensure homoscedasticity in logistic regression models with large samples, standardized residuals should be normally distributed with a mean of '0' and a standard deviation of '1'. In addition, 95 percent of the cases should have values between -2 and +2, and 99 percent with values between -2.5 and +2.5 (Menard, 1995). However, random sampling variation alone will produce approximately two to five percent of cases with values greater than two or less than negative two on standardized residuals (Menard, 1995). As confirmed by examining the standardized residuals of the logistic regression models for this study, all fall within these guidelines (see Appendix C).

The final regression assumption checked for is linearity. Violation of the assumption of linearity implies that the regression model does not reflect the true relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables. Although gross violation of this assumption usually denotes a problem with the regression model, subtle variations are usually to be expected (Menard, 1995). Agresti and Finlay (1986: 358) explain that, "although most social science relationships are not *exactly* linear in form, the degree of nonlinearity is often so minor that they can be reasonably well approximated with linear equations".

Because the regression diagnostics performed thus far do not indicate any gross

violations of the regression assumptions, it can be assumed the regression models are appropriate for the current research questions. An informal visual examination of the observed residuals is usually an adequate check for further assumption assessments. Therefore, as suggested by Agresti and Finlay (1986) this method was employed to check the current regression models for an acceptable level of linearity. Residual plots were produced and examined as a random patterning of these plots indicates data are assumed to be linear (Fox, 1991; Norusis, 1991). The plots for this study exhibited some slight patterning, but this is not considered problematic as this is to be expected with large samples. Overall, the plots (not reported here) exhibited a randomly distributed band of residuals clustered around a horizontal line through (0), indicating conformity to linearity.

As Menard (1995) indicates, both logistic and linear regression are more art than science. The critical concern when evaluating diagnostics is that extreme values or deviations from normal distributions require closer attention, and whether remedial action is required should be approached with caution. Fox (1991) also notes that all regression techniques are considered to be robust for large samples because the levels of statistical tests are approximately correct, and regression coefficients are adequate estimates of the model even when errors are not quite normally distributed. This estimator robustness gives large samples the ability to absorb discrepant data without significantly changing statistical results. Deviations and extreme values do not necessarily indicate problems in the regression models “insofar as we are dealing with nondeterministic models in which individual human choice and free will may naturally produce less than perfect prediction of human behaviour.” (Menard, 1995: 79). As the sample size for this study is considered

large, and because the preceding evaluations of the recommended regression diagnostics revealed statistics within conventional guidelines, it is safe to continue with the analyses.

## CHAPTER IV

### Findings

#### 1. Types of Support

Research question one examines whether there are differences in the types of support received by elderly married parents, remarried parents, and married childless individuals. To address this issue, crosstabulations illustrate how the receipt or nonreceipt of each type of support compares across the three family structures (see Table 6). Over two-thirds (71.1%) of the respondents in all three groups reported they had received help with housework, including 75.6 percent of those in the remarried parents group. However, no significant differences were evident in conjunction with family structure. The same was true with regard to help with meals; while 70.4 percent reported receiving help, no differences were found across the three groups. Fewer reported receiving help with transportation (28.9%) or help with personal care (3.7%). Once again, however, no significant differences were found between the three different groups. As well, the vast majority (94.3%) of those surveyed stated they received emotional support when they were depressed. No significant differences were evident in this regard between those in the three different types of family structure.

Based on an examination of the chi-square values for the crosstabulations of support by family structure, only help with household maintenance revealed a statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ) relationship. In this case, married parents (58.7%) and remarried parents (56.7%) were about as likely to have at least one source of support, either from within or outside their household, available to help with household maintenance. In

**Table 6 Crosstabulations of Types of Support Received by Family Structure**

Variable Name and Coding	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>1</sup>	(%)
Housework								
0	446	29.7	51	24.4	35	27.3	532	28.9
1	1058	70.3	158	75.6	93	72.7	1309	71.1
$\chi^2 = 2.63; df = 2; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
Household Maintenance								
0	622	41.3	90	43.3	75	58.6	787	42.7
1	884	58.7	118	56.7	53	41.4	1055	57.3
$\chi^2 = 14.44; df = 2; \rho = .001$								
Meal Preparation								
0	446	29.6	60	28.7	39	30.5	545	29.6
1	1060	70.4	149	71.3	89	69.5	1298	70.4
$\chi^2 = .13; df = 2; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
Transportation								
0	1067	71.0	147	70.7	93	72.7	1307	71.1
1	436	29.0	61	29.3	35	27.3	532	28.9
$\chi^2 = .18; df = 2; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
Personal Care								
0	1442	96.4	201	96.6	121	94.5	1764	96.3
1	54	3.6	7	3.4	7	5.5	68	3.7
$\chi^2 = 1.22; df = 2; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
Emotional Support								
0	88	5.9	13	6.3	4	3.1	105	5.7
1	1409	94.1	195	93.8	123	96.9	1727	94.3
$\chi^2 = 1.27; df = 2; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								

<sup>1</sup>. Totals do not equal 1843 due to missing data.

contrast, fewer (41.4%) married childless respondents received this type of assistance.

Next, two logistic regression models were constructed to examine this issue further. With regard to housework, the bivariate relationship is not significant (see Model 1, Table 7). However, the introduction of control variables into the analyses (i.e., Table 7, Model 2) results in a significant and positive relationship between the 'remarried parents' family type and the receipt of assistance. Remarried parents are significantly more likely to be receiving assistance with housework than are married parents.

The relationship between family structure and help with household maintenance is statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ) in both the bivariate and multivariate analyses (see Table 8, Models 1 & 2). Married childless respondents are significantly less likely to receive assistance with household maintenance than are their counterparts with children.

The results for the remaining types of support reveal no significant impact of family structure (see Tables 9 to 12).

Examination of the individual predictors of assistance indicates that age is a significant and positive predictor of the receipt of assistance with transportation and personal care, but is a negative predictor of the receipt of assistance with household maintenance. Gender is a significant predictor for all but assistance with personal care and emotional support, with males more likely to receive assistance with housework and meal preparation, and females with household maintenance and transportation. Household size is a significant and positive predictor of the receipt of assistance with housework, household maintenance and meal preparation.

How respondents perceive their health is a significant and positive predictor of

**Table 7 Predictors of Support with Housework: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.07	0.21	0.13	0.25
Remarried with children	0.27	0.17	0.42*	0.21
Age			0.01	0.12
Gender			2.78***	0.15
Education level			0.01	0.07
Household size			1.20***	0.20
Perceived health			-0.04	0.09
Functional ability			0.57	0.16
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.32	0.24
European			0.07	0.17
Multiethnic			0.06	0.24
Other			0.16	0.25
Catholic Religion			-0.08	0.16
Other/No Religion			0.01	0.26
a	0.87***	0.06	-3.59***	1.06
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.01		0.28	
$\chi^2$	2.43		597.07***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 8 Predictors of Support with Household Maintenance: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.68***	0.19	-0.63**	0.20
Remarried with children	-0.03	0.15	0.12	0.16
Age			-0.04***	0.01
Gender			-1.31***	0.11
Education level			-0.02	0.06
Household size			0.70***	0.14
Perceived health			0.14	0.07
Functional ability			0.25	0.13
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.05	0.19
European			0.21	0.14
Multiethnic			-0.12	0.20
Other			-0.14	0.21
Catholic Religion			-0.21	0.13
Other/No Religion			-0.68**	0.21
a	0.36***	0.05	2.31**	0.84
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.01		0.10	
$\chi^2$	13.184**		228.42***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 9 Predictors of Support with Meal Preparation: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.05	0.20	0.05	0.26
Remarried with children	0.07	0.17	0.15	0.21
Age			-0.01	0.01
Gender			3.13***	0.16
Education level			0.14	0.08
Household size			1.42***	0.21
Perceived health			0.22*	0.09
Functional ability			0.71***	0.16
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.12	0.24
European			-0.16	0.18
Multiethnic			0.06	0.25
Other			0.02	0.26
Catholic Religion			0.02	0.17
Other/No Religion			-0.19	0.27
a	0.86***	0.06	-3.88**	1.10
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.33	
$\chi^2$	0.22		702.47***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 10 Predictors of Support with Transportation: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.09	0.21	-0.16	0.22
Remarried with children	0.01	0.17	-0.05	0.17
Age			0.04***	0.01
Gender			-0.73***	0.11
Education level			-0.02	0.06
Household size			-0.14	0.15
Perceived health			-0.07	0.08
Functional ability			0.21*	0.13
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.30	0.21
European			-0.22	0.15
Multiethnic			-0.19	0.21
Other			-0.09	0.21
Catholic Religion			-0.10	0.14
Other/No Religion			0.01	0.22
a	-0.89***	0.06	-2.87**	0.87
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.04	
$\chi^2$	0.19		90.26***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

Table 11 Predictors of Support with Personal Care: Logistic Regression

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.45	0.41	0.33	0.47
Remarried with children	-0.06	0.41	-0.07	0.44
Age			0.09**	0.02
Gender			0.04	0.28
Education level			0.06	0.14
Household size			0.30	0.37
Perceived health			-0.43*	0.17
Functional ability			9.77	12.46
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.65	0.63
European			-0.10	0.36
Multiethnic			0.97*	0.45
Other			0.18	0.47
Catholic Religion			0.10	0.34
Other/No Religion			0.56	0.45
a	-3.26***	0.14	-17.74	12.64
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.33	
$\chi^2$	1.12		188.44***	

\* $p < .05$   
 \*\* $p < .01$   
 \*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 12 Predictors of Support with Emotional Support: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.62	0.52	0.71	0.53
Remarried with children	0.07	0.33	0.05	0.33
Age			-0.01	0.02
Gender			-0.19	0.22
Education level			-0.14	0.11
Household size			0.09	0.28
Perceived health			0.12	0.14
Functional ability			-0.01	0.25
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.85*	0.36
European			-0.51	0.29
Multiethnic			-0.39	0.41
Other			-0.88*	0.37
Catholic Religion			-0.13	0.28
Other/No Religion			-0.93**	0.33
a	2.78***	0.11	3.77*	1.71
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.01		0.03	
$\chi^2$	1.70		24.15*	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

help with meal preparation, but is negatively related to personal care. In other words, respondents who have more positive perceptions of their health are more likely to receive help with meal preparation, and are less likely to receive assistance with personal care. Limited functional ability is also a significant and positive predictor of support with housework, meal preparation and transportation. Respondents who have more limited functional ability are more likely to receive help with housework, meal preparation and transportation.

Regarding ethnic origin, respondents of multi-ethnic origin are significantly more likely to receive assistance with personal care than respondents of all other ethnic origins. However, those of 'other' or French ethnic origins are significantly less likely to receive emotional support, with those in the 'other' group being the least likely of all groups. Similarly, 'other/no' religion is a significant and negative predictor of household maintenance and emotional support. In other words, respondents who report 'other/no' religious affiliation are significantly less likely to receive assistance with household maintenance, or to receive emotional support than those of Protestant or Catholic religious affiliations.

In addition to the significance of individual predictor variables, an examination of the  $R^2$  values indicates the explanatory power of the regression equations increases with the inclusion of these variables. These values range from .03 (for emotional support) to .33 (for assistance with meal preparation, as well as with personal care), indicating that approximately three percent to 33 percent of the variation in the various types of support received is predicted by the additive effects of these independent variables.

In summary, while there are some differences in the types of support received by those in the three different family structures, there is not a significant relationship between family structure and *all* types of support. The strongest relationship between the receipt of various types of support and family structure was that married childless individuals were the least likely family type to receive assistance with household maintenance. Only with the introduction of control variables was a relationship revealed between remarried parents and the increased likelihood of this group receiving assistance with housework.

## **2. Levels of Support**

Research question two examines whether or not there are differences in the levels of support received by elderly married parents, remarried parents, and married childless individuals. As previously discussed, overall levels of support were assessed with four separate indicators: (a) the total number of areas in which support was received; (b) the total number of people or organizations providing each type of support; (c) the extent of support received from sources within the household with meal preparation, housework and household maintenance; and finally, (d) the frequency of support received from sources outside the household with housework, household maintenance and transportation. Crosstabulations and least squares regression were performed to address each of these issues.

### **i) Number of Areas of Support**

The crosstabulation results (see Table 13) illustrate how the total number of areas

**Table 13 Crosstabulations of Number of Areas of Support Received by Family Structure**

Variable Name and Coding	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>1</sup>	(%)
Number of areas								
0/1	92	6.1	7	3.4	6	4.7	105	5.7
2	224	14.9	31	14.9	28	21.9	283	15.4
3	549	36.5	81	38.9	49	38.3	679	36.9
4	485	32.3	71	34.1	34	26.6	590	32.1
5/6	153	10.2	18	8.7	11	8.6	182	9.9

$\chi^2 = 8.97$ ;  $df = 8$ ;  $\rho = \text{n.s.}$

<sup>1</sup>. Totals do not equal 1843 due to missing data.

of support compare across the three family structures. Over three-quarters (78.9%) of all respondents reported they had received help in three or more of the six areas<sup>14</sup>. Almost ten percent (9.9%) received help with five or all of the tasks. Respondents in all three family structures were likely to receive similar levels of assistance.

Following the format of the regression analyses used in research question one, two least squares regression models were constructed - one with only family structure included (Model 1) and one with family structure as well as the control variables included (Model 2) - to examine the relationship between number of areas in which help was received and family structure.

As observed in the crosstabulations, the regression analyses (see Table 14, Models 1 & 2) indicate there is not a statistically significant relationship between family structure and the number of areas in which help is received. With the introduction of the control variables, the multivariate regression model as a whole is statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ). Gender, household size and limited functional ability are significant and positive predictors of levels of help or support, indicating that males, those who live with one or more persons and those who are limited in functional ability are likely to receive help with more tasks. Conversely, respondents who report 'other or no' religious affiliation are significantly less likely than respondents of Protestant or Catholic religions to receive help in very many areas.

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<sup>14</sup> The six areas are: housework, household maintenance, meal preparation, transportation, personal care and emotional support.

**Table 14 Predictors of Number of Areas of Support: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.13	0.10	-0.09	0.09
Remarried with children	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.07
Age			0.01	0.01
Gender			0.53***	0.05
Education level			0.01	0.03
Household size			0.45***	0.06
Perceived health			0.04	0.03
Functional ability			0.39***	0.06
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.01	0.08
European			-0.04	0.06
Multiethnic			-0.02	0.09
Other			-0.06	0.09
Catholic Religion			-0.08	0.06
Other/No Religion			-0.21*	0.09
a	3.26***	0.03	1.70***	0.37
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.16	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.13	
F	1.42		19.80***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

## ii) Number of Helpers of Support

Next, the relationship between the total number of persons or organizations providing each type of support and family structure was examined. Based on the chi-square values (see Table 15), only the number of helpers with household maintenance revealed a statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ) relationship. For this task, those in the married childless group were the least likely to have any sources of help - 58.6 percent reported no helpers. In contrast, remarried parents (44.5%) were the most likely to have only one source of help, either from within or outside their household. On the other hand, married parents (17.8%) were the most likely of the three groups to have two or more sources of support with household maintenance.

No significant relationships were found between family structure and the receipt of assistance with housework, meal preparation, transportation, emotional support and personal care. It should be noted, however that analyses of personal care are not too informative, given the extremely limited proportion of respondents reporting assistance in this area.

Next, two least squares regression models (again with and without controls) were constructed to examine the relationship between the number of helpers for the various types of support (excluding personal care, for the reason noted above) and family structure. An examination of each of the F ratios ( $p = .000$ ) for the regression analyses including the control variables (see Model 2, Tables 16 to 20) reveals there is a statistically significant relationship between the number of helpers for each type of support and all of the independent variables, taken collectively. However, similar to the crosstabulation

**Table 15 Crosstabulations of Number of Helpers for each Type of Support by Family Structure**

Number of helpers with each type of support	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>1</sup>	(%)
<b>Housework</b>								
0	448	29.7	51	24.4	35	27.3	534	29.0
1	882	58.6	134	64.1	81	63.3	1097	59.5
≥2	176	11.7	24	11.5	12	9.4	212	11.5
$\chi^2 = 3.76; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Household Maintenance</b>								
0	622	41.3	91	43.5	75	58.6	788	42.8
1	616	40.9	93	44.5	39	30.5	748	40.6
≥2	268	17.8	25	12.0	14	10.9	307	16.7
$\chi^2 = 18.79; df = 4; \rho = .001$								
<b>Meal Preparation</b>								
0	448	29.7	60	28.7	39	30.5	547	29.7
1	982	65.2	144	68.9	86	67.2	1212	65.8
≥2	76	5.0	5	2.4	3	2.3	84	4.6
$\chi^2 = 4.83; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Transportation</b>								
0	1067	71.0	147	70.7	93	72.7	1307	71.1
1	355	23.6	50	24.0	32	25.0	437	23.8
≥2	81	4.4	11	.6	3	.2	95	5.2
$\chi^2 = 2.28; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Personal Care<sup>2</sup></b>								
0	1442	96.8	201	97.1	121	96.0	1764	96.8
1	42	2.8	6	2.9	5	4.0	53	2.9
≥2	5	.3	0	0	0	0	5	.3
<b>Emotional Support</b>								
0	88	5.9	13	6.3	4	3.1	105	5.7
1	283	18.9	39	18.8	31	24.4	353	19.3
≥2	1126	75.2	156	75.0	92	72.4	1374	75.0
$\chi^2 = 3.62; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								

<sup>1</sup>. Totals may not equal 1843 due to missing data.

<sup>2</sup>.  $\chi^2$  analyses are not reported for personal care due to the extremely limited number of cases receiving assistance with this task.

**Table 16 Predictors of Number of Helpers with Housework: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.01	0.06	0.02	0.05
Remarried with children	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.04
Age			0.01*	0.01
Gender			0.47***	0.03
Education level			0.01	0.01
Household size			0.43***	0.03
Perceived health			0.01	0.02
Functional ability			0.11***	0.03
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.07	0.05
European			0.01	0.03
Multiethnic			0.02	0.05
Other			0.05	0.05
Catholic Religion			-0.02	0.03
Other/No Religion			-0.01	0.05
a	0.82***	0.02	-0.76***	0.20
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.26	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.25	
F	0.66		43.27***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 17 Predictors of Number of Helpers with Household Maintenance: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.24***	0.07	-0.17**	0.06
Remarried with children	-0.06	0.05	-0.03	0.05
Age			-0.01**	0.01
Gender			-0.39***	0.03
Education level			-0.01	0.02
Household size			0.44	0.04
Perceived health			0.32	0.02
Functional ability			0.10*	0.04
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.04	0.06
European			0.08	0.04
Multiethnic			0.03	0.06
Other			-0.04	0.06
Catholic Religion			-0.05	0.04
Other/No Religion			-0.21**	0.06
a	0.77***	0.12	0.61*	0.26
R <sup>2</sup>	0.01		0.14	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.01		0.14	
F	6.62**		20.76***	

\* $p < .05$   
 \*\* $p < .01$   
 \*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 18 Predictors of Number of Helpers with Meal Preparation: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.03	0.05	0.01	0.04
Remarried with children	-0.01	0.04	0.01	0.03
Age			-0.01	0.01
Gender			0.52***	0.02
Education level			0.02	0.01
Household size			0.40***	0.03
Perceived health			0.03*	0.01
Functional ability			0.08**	0.02
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.05	0.04
European			-0.04	0.03
Multiethnic			-0.01	0.04
Other			0.01	0.04
Catholic Religion			0.01	0.03
Other/No Religion			-0.03	0.04
a	0.75***	0.01	-0.47**	0.16
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.36	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.36	
F	0.23		71.13***	

\* $p < .05$   
 \*\* $p < .01$   
 \*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 19 Predictors of Number of Helpers with Transportation: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.05	0.05	-0.06	0.05
Remarried with children	0.01	0.04	-0.01	0.04
Age			0.01***	0.02
Gender			-0.18***	0.03
Education level			-0.01	0.02
Household size			-0.02	0.04
Perceived health			-0.01	0.02
Functional ability			0.07*	0.03
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.04	0.05
European			-0.04	0.04
Multiethnic			-0.04	0.05
Other			-0.03	0.05
Catholic Religion			0.01	0.03
Other/No Religion			0.01	0.05
a	0.35***	0.02	-0.27	0.22
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.05	
Adjusted R	0.00		0.04	
F	0.40		6.10***	

\* $p < .05$   
 \*\* $p < .01$   
 \*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 20 Predictors of Number of Helpers of Emotional Support: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.02	0.05	-0.01	0.05
Remarried with children	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.04
Age			-0.01*	0.01
Gender			-0.11***	0.03
Education level			-0.01	0.02
Household size			0.01	0.04
Perceived health			0.03	0.02
Functional ability			0.02	0.03
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.09	0.05
European			-0.04	0.04
Multiethnic			-0.04	0.05
Other			-0.10	0.05
Catholic Religion			-0.01	0.04
Other/No Religion			-0.12*	0.05
a	1.70***	0.02	2.09***	0.22
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.02	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.01	
F	0.05		2.77***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

results, only the relationship between family structure and the number of helpers with household maintenance is statistically significant (and negative) in both the bivariate and multivariate analyses (see Table 17). For this task, married childless individuals are likely to have fewer sources of assistance, either from within or outside their household, than are their counterparts with children. This relationship also holds true in the presence of control variables. In addition, age, gender, and other/no religion are significant and negative predictors, indicating that respondents who are older, male, and who indicate they are not of Protestant or Catholic faith are likely to have fewer helpers with household maintenance. Those respondents who live with one or more persons, and who report limited functional ability are likely to have more helpers, either from within or outside their households, providing assistance with this task.

Examination of the individual predictors for the remaining five tasks indicates that age is a significant and positive predictor of the number of helpers with housework, transportation and personal care, but is a significant and negative predictor of the number of helpers for emotional support. Gender is a significant predictor of the number of helpers for all remaining tasks except personal care, with males having more sources of help with meal preparation and housework, and females with transportation and emotional support. Household size is a significant and positive predictor of the number of helpers with housework and meal preparation.

How respondents perceive their health is a significant and positive predictor of the number of helpers with meal preparation, but is negatively related to the number of helpers for personal care. That is to say, respondents who have a more positive perception of

their health have more helpers with meal preparation, and respondents with a negative perception having fewer helpers with personal care. Limited functional ability is also a significant and positive predictor of the number of helpers with housework, meal preparation and transportation, with respondents who have limited functional ability likely to have more helpers with these three tasks.

One's religious affiliation is also a significant predictor of the number of helpers with the receipt of personal care and emotional support. Respondents who report being other than Protestant or Catholic or who report no religious affiliations, are likely to have more helpers with personal care and fewer helpers with emotional support.

### iii) Extent of Support

The extent of support measured how much support those within the respondents' households provided with housework, household maintenance and meal preparation. In contrast to previous chi-square results, crosstabulations indicate there are no statistically significant relationships between how much help is received with these tasks across the three family structures (see Table 21). However, of note is that married childless individuals appear to receive the least amount of support with all three tasks, and remarried parents appear to receive the most help with household maintenance.

Ordinary least squares regression analyses were then performed to examine further whether or not there are any significant relationships between family structure and how much help is received from sources within the household with housework, household maintenance and meal preparation. Analyses were again executed with and without

**Table 21 Crosstabulations of Extent<sup>1</sup> of Each Type of Support by Family Structure**

How much help was received with each type of support	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>2</sup>	(%)
<b>Housework</b>								
No help	464	30.8	53	25.4	36	28.1	553	30.0
Help with ½ or less	325	21.6	50	23.9	34	26.6	409	22.2
Help with more than ½	214	14.2	36	17.2	18	14.1	268	14.5
All task done by others	502	33.4	70	33.5	40	31.3	612	33.2
$\chi^2 = 4.94; df = 6; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Household Maintenance</b>								
No help	510	33.9	65	31.1	44	34.4	619	33.6
Help with ½ or less	221	14.7	24	11.5	19	14.8	264	14.3
Help with more than ½	97	6.4	10	4.8	7	5.5	114	6.2
All task done by others	678	45.0	110	52.6	58	45.3	846	45.9
$\chi^2 = 5.03; df = 6; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Meal Preparation</b>								
No help	441	29.3	59	28.4	39	30.5	539	29.3
Help with ½ or less	360	23.9	48	23.1	31	24.2	439	23.8
Help with more than ½	248	16.5	44	21.2	25	19.5	317	17.2
All task done by others	456	30.3	57	27.4	33	25.8	546	29.7
$\chi^2 = 4.14; df = 6; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support from within the respondents' household.

<sup>2</sup>. Totals may not equal 1843 due to missing data.

control variables. As these analyses indicate (see Tables 22 to 24), family structure is not a significant predictor of the extent of support received from sources within the household for the three tasks. However, the addition of control variables increases the overall explanatory power of the regression models. The adjusted  $R^{215}$  values range from a 30% improvement in predicting the extent of help received with household maintenance to a 50% improvement in explaining the extent of support received with meal preparation.

The significant individual predictors common to all three regression models are gender, household size and limited functional ability. Male respondents are likely to receive greater levels of help from sources within their household with housework and meal preparation, while females are more likely to receive greater levels of help from these sources with household maintenance. Respondents living with one or more persons, and those who have limited functional ability are likely to receive more help from sources within their household with housework, household maintenance and meal preparation.

Age is also a significant and positive predictor of a greater amount of assistance with housework and household maintenance, as is living with one or more persons for help with household maintenance. Respondents with higher levels of education are also likely to have greater levels of assistance with household maintenance. In addition, how respondents perceive their health, and whether a respondent is of European ethnic origin are both significant and negative predictors of the extent of assistance respondents receive with household maintenance. In other words, respondents who have a more positive

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<sup>15</sup> Adjusted  $R^2$  is  $R^2$  adjusted for the number of independent variables in the variables. It determines whether including more variables increases the explanatory power of the regression equation (Schroeder et al., 1986: 33)

**Table 22 Predictors of Extent<sup>1</sup> of Support with Housework: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.03	0.12	-0.02	0.08
Remarried with children	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.07
Age			0.01**	0.01
Gender			1.61***	0.04
Education level			-0.01	0.02
Household size			0.42***	0.06
Perceived health			-0.04	0.03
Functional ability			0.19***	0.05
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.11	0.08
European			0.05	0.06
Multiethnic			-0.03	0.08
Other			0.06	0.08
Catholic Religion			-0.03	0.05
Other/No Religion			0.10	0.08
a	1.50***	0.03	-1.00**	0.34
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.48	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.48	
F	0.62		115.69***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support within the respondent's household.

**Table 23 Predictors of Extent<sup>1</sup> of Support with Household Maintenance: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.02	0.13	0.02	0.11
Remarried with children	0.15	0.10	0.15	0.09
Age			0.02***	0.01
Gender			-1.46***	0.05
Education level			0.06*	0.03
Household size			0.45***	0.07
Perceived health			-0.08*	0.04
Functional ability			0.31***	0.07
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.07	0.10
European			-0.15*	0.07
Multiethnic			-0.08	0.10
Other			0.03	0.11
Catholic Religion			0.08	0.07
Other/No Religion			-0.01	0.11
a	1.62***	0.04	-0.01	0.43
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.31	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.31	
F	1.12		56.85***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support within the respondent's household.

**Table 24 Predictors of Extent<sup>1</sup> of Support with Meal Preparation: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.05	0.11	-0.03	0.08
Remarried with children	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.06
Age			0.01	0.01
Gender			1.62***	0.04
Education level			0.01	0.02
Household size			0.40***	0.05
Perceived health			0.03	0.03
Functional ability			0.16**	0.05
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.02	0.07
European			0.07	0.05
Multiethnic			0.03	0.08
Other			0.14	0.08
Catholic Religion			-0.02	0.05
Other/No Religion			-0.10	0.08
a	1.47***	0.03	-0.90*	0.33
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.50	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.50	
F	0.12		126.24***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support within the respondent's household.

perception of their health are likely to receive less assistance with household maintenance, as are respondents of European ethnic origin.

#### iv) Frequency of Support

The final indicator addressing the issue of whether there are differences in levels of support across the three family structures was the frequency of support received, within the last 12 months, from sources outside the respondent's household, with housework, household maintenance and transportation.

Similar to the chi-square results for the extent of assistance received from sources within the respondents household, the chi-square results for the crosstabulations comparing the frequency of help from sources outside the household with housework, household maintenance and transportation also yield no significant relationships across the three family structures (see Table 25). However, of some interest is the finding that married childless individuals receive less frequent help with household maintenance than do married individuals with children.

The least squares regression analyses examining these relationships further again involves two models for each type of support - with and without control variables (see Tables 26 to 28). As Table 27 indicates, family structure is a significant and negative predictor of the frequency of assistance from sources outside the household with household maintenance, in both the bivariate and multivariate analyses. Married childless respondents receive significantly less frequent assistance with their household maintenance than do married parents. Gender is also a significant and positive predictor of outside

**Table 25 Crosstabulations of Frequency<sup>1</sup> of Support for each Type of Support by Family Structure**

Frequency of help with each type of support	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>2</sup>	(%)
<b>Housework</b>								
No help received	1362	90.6	184	88.0	114	89.1	1660	90.2
Less than once a month	56	3.7	9	4.3	5	3.9	70	3.8
Once a month or more	86	5.7	16	7.7	9	7.0	111	6.0
$\chi^2 = 1.69; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Household Maintenance</b>								
No help received	1169	77.6	164	78.5	109	85.2	1442	78.2
Less than once a month	191	12.7	27	12.9	16	12.5	234	12.7
Once a month or more	146	9.7	18	8.6	3	2.3	167	9.1
$\chi^2 = 7.96; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								
<b>Transportation</b>								
No help received	1070	71.1	148	70.8	93	72.7	1311	71.2
Less than once a month	203	13.5	22	10.5	11	8.6	236	12.8
Once a month or more	232	15.4	39	18.7	24	18.8	295	16.0
$\chi^2 = 5.06; df = 4; \rho = \text{n.s.}$								

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support from outside the respondent's household.<sup>2</sup>. Totals may not equal 1843 due to missing data.

**Table 26 Predictors of Frequency<sup>1</sup> of Support with Housework: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.05
Remarried with children	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Age			0.01**	0.01
Gender			-0.05*	0.02
Education level			-0.01	0.01
Household size			-0.01	0.03
Perceived health			-0.03	0.02
Functional ability			0.10***	0.03
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.20	0.04
European			-0.05	0.03
Multiethnic			0.06	0.05
Other			-0.05	0.05
Catholic Religion			-0.01	0.03
Other/No Religion			0.01	0.05
a	0.16***	0.01	-0.14	0.19
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.03	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.02	
F	0.82		3.47***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
 \*\* $\rho < .01$   
 \*\*\* $\rho < .001$

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support outside the respondent's household.

**Table 27 Predictors of Frequency<sup>1</sup> of Support with Household Maintenance: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.14*	0.06	-0.15**	0.06
Remarried with children	-0.01	0.05	-0.01	0.05
Age			0.01	0.01
Gender			0.06*	0.03
Education level			0.01	0.02
Household size			-0.07	0.04
Perceived health			0.01	0.02
Functional ability			0.07	0.04
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.01	0.06
European			0.01	0.04
Multiethnic			0.06	0.06
Other			0.02	0.06
Catholic Religion			-0.03	0.04
Other/No Religion			-0.10	0.06
a	0.32***	0.02	0.30	0.24
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.01	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.00	
F	2.97*		1.57	

\* $\rho < .05$   
 \*\* $\rho < .01$   
 \*\*\* $\rho < .001$

<sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support outside the respondent's household.

**Table 28 Predictors of Frequency<sup>1</sup> of Support with Transportation: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.02	0.07	-0.01	0.07
Remarried with children	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.06
Age			0.02***	0.01
Gender			0.27***	0.04
Education level			-0.03	0.02
Household size			-0.04	0.05
Perceived health			-0.09	0.03
Functional ability			0.13**	0.04
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.10	0.06
European			-0.10*	0.05
Multiethnic			-0.07	0.07
Other			-0.01	0.07
Catholic Religion			-0.01	0.05
Other/No Religion			-0.01	0.07
a	0.44***	0.20	-0.23	0.28
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.06	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.05	
F	0.19		8.25***	

\* $p < .05$ \*\* $p < .01$ \*\*\* $p < .001$ <sup>1</sup>. Refers to sources of support outside the respondent's household.

sources assisting with household maintenance, with males likely to receive more frequent help than females.

Regarding housework and transportation, age, gender and limited functional ability are significant predictors of the frequency of help from outside the household sources. Older respondents are likely to receive more frequent assistance with both tasks. Males receive less frequent assistance than females with housework from these sources, but are more likely than females to receive frequent help from outside their household sources with transportation. Respondents reporting limited functional ability are also likely to receive more frequent assistance from sources outside their household with both housework and transportation.

In addition, ethnic origin is a significant and negative predictor of assistance with transportation. Respondents of European ethnic origin are less likely to receive assistance with transportation needs on a more frequent basis from sources outside their household.

In summary, the overall assessment of levels of support did not yield significant relationships between *all* types of support and family structure. All respondents report receiving some help with at least one task, and over three-quarters report some help with three or more tasks. There is, however, a relationship between family structure and the number of helpers and frequency of assistance with household maintenance. Those in the married childless family type are likely to have fewer helpers and to receive less frequent help with this task than are married and remarried parents. Regression analyses revealed the inclusion of predictor variables increased the explanatory power of the relationship between differences in levels of support across the three groups.

### 3. Sources of Support

The final research question examined in this study involved whether or not there are differences in the sources of support utilized by elderly married parents, remarried parents and married childless individuals. Due to insufficient numbers of responses for individual sources of each type of support, specific types of support were combined in order to provide the most coherent and relevant results. In particular, two components of functional support were examined - instrumental (including housework, household maintenance, meal preparation, transportation and personal care) and emotional. Sources were first evaluated based on how many types of instrumental support they helped the respondent with. Next, sources for emotional support were examined based on who the respondent turned to first. The resulting analyses therefore involved: number of areas of instrumental support provided by spouse, child, other<sup>16</sup>; and whether emotional support was provided by a spouse, child, friend/ neighbour, other<sup>17</sup>, or no one/do not know.

#### i) Instrumental Support

Table 29 reports the crosstabulation of the number of types of instrumental support provided by a spouse by family structure. The majority (87.1%) of respondents receive instrumental support from their spouse in one or more areas. However, only about one-fifth (19.6%) receive assistance from their spouse in three or more areas.

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<sup>16</sup> This category of *other* includes siblings, other relatives, friend/neighbour, organization, and other than those listed.

<sup>17</sup> This category of *other* includes parents, siblings, other relative, professional (e.g. doctor), and other than those listed.

**Table 29 Crosstabulations of Number of Areas of Instrumental<sup>1</sup> Support Received from a Spouse by Family Structure**

Number of areas of instrumental support received from a spouse	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>2</sup>	(%)
0	191	12.8	25	12.1	19	15.1	235	12.9
1	285	19.1	31	15.0	25	19.8	341	18.7
2	721	48.4	108	52.2	59	46.8	888	48.7
≥3	292	19.6	43	20.8	23	18.3	358	19.6

$\chi^2 = 3.24; df = 6; \rho = \text{n.s}$

<sup>1</sup>. Instrumental support includes; help with housework, household maintenance, household maintenance, meal preparation and personal care. Transportation was not an area of support asked of the spouse in the GSS.

<sup>2</sup>. Total does not equal 1843 due to missing data.

Based on the chi-square value, differences across the three family structures are not statistically significant.

In order to examine the relationship between the number of types of instrumental support provided by a child, the analyses compared only those respondents in the married parent and remarried parent groups (i.e., those with children). As noted in Table 30, approximately 30 percent of the respondents in each of these two groups received assistance from a child with one or more of the instrumental tasks. Once again, however, no significant differences were found between these two groups.

In contrast to the number of types of instrumental support provided by a spouse or a child, crosstabulation results comparing the number of types of support provided by an 'other' (i.e., sibling, other relatives, friend/neighbour, organization, and individuals other than those listed) source across the three family structures indicate there are significant relationships (see Table 31,  $p < .001$ ). Overall, 34.4 percent of the respondents do receive some instrumental support from an 'other' source. However, while 18.0 percent of the married childless respondents receive help with two or more tasks, only 7.4 percent of the married parents and 5.8 percent of the remarried parents receive similar help. Married childless respondents are more likely than respondents with children to receive assistance with their instrumental tasks from 'other' sources.

Next, two least squares regression models were constructed for levels of assistance from a spouse, child and 'other' sources of instrumental support (see Tables 32 to 34). Again, Model 1 examines the relationship between the number of areas of instrumental support provided by each source with only the dummy variables measuring family

**Table 30 Crosstabulations of Number of Areas of Instrumental<sup>1</sup> Support Received from a Child by Family Structure**

Number of areas of instrumental support received from a child	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		Total N=1715	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
0	1052	69.9	154	73.7	1206	70.3
1	299	19.9	38	18.2	337	19.7
2	107	7.1	13	6.2	120	7.0
≥3	48	3.2	4	1.9	52	3.0

$\chi^2 = 1.83$ ;  $df = 3$ ;  $\rho = \text{n.s.}$

<sup>1</sup>. Instrumental support includes: help with housework, household maintenance, meal preparation, personal care and transportation.

**Table 31 Crosstabulations of Number of Areas of Instrumental<sup>1</sup> Support Received from Others by Family Structure**

Number of areas of instrumental support received from others	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>2</sup>	(%)
0	999	66.4	132	63.5	76	59.4	1207	65.6
1	394	26.2	64	30.8	29	22.7	487	26.5
2	89	5.9	10	4.8	21	16.4	120	6.5
≥3	22	1.5	2	1.0	2	1.6	26	1.4

$\chi^2 = 24.56; df = 6; p = .000$

<sup>1</sup>. Instrumental support includes; housework, household maintenance, meal preparation, personal care and transportation.

<sup>2</sup>. Total does not equal 1843 due to missing data.

**Table 32 Predictors of Number of Areas of Instrumental Support from a Spouse: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.07	0.09	-0.04	0.08
Remarried with children	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06
Age			-0.02***	0.01
Gender			0.68***	0.04
Education level			0.03	0.02
Household size			0.21***	0.05
Perceived health			0.04	0.03
Functional ability			0.18***	0.05
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.02	0.07
European			0.10	0.05
Multiethnic			0.02	0.08
Other			-0.03	0.08
Catholic Religion			-0.05	0.05
Other/No Religion			-0.10	0.08
a	1.76***	0.02	1.70***	0.32
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.17	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.16	
F	0.98		25.22***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 33 Predictors of Number of Areas of Instrumental Support from a Child: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
Remarried with children	-0.06	0.06	-0.02	0.05
Age			0.01*	0.01
Gender			-0.13***	0.04
Education level			-0.04*	0.02
Household size			0.72***	0.05
Perceived health			-0.12	0.02
Functional ability			0.08	0.04
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.09	0.06
European			-0.01	0.05
Multiethnic			-0.01	0.06
Other			0.02	0.07
Catholic Religion			0.05	0.04
Other/No Religion			-0.12	0.07
a	0.43***	0.02	-1.44***	0.28
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.15	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.15	
F	0.96		22.68***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

**Table 34 Predictors of Number of Areas of Instrumental Support from Others: Ordinary Least Squares Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.18**	0.06	0.18**	0.06
Remarried with children	0.01	0.05	-0.01	0.05
Age			0.01***	0.01
Gender			-0.10**	0.03
Education level			0.02	0.02
Household size			0.13**	0.04
Perceived health			0.01	0.02
Functional ability			0.19***	0.04
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.02	0.06
European			-0.09*	0.04
Multiethnic			0.02	0.06
Other			-0.01	0.06
Catholic Religion			-0.09*	0.04
Other/No Religion			0.02	0.06
a	0.43***	0.02	-0.66*	0.26
R <sup>2</sup>	0.01		0.05	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.00		0.04	
F	1.94*		6.06***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

structure included as independent variables, whereas Model 2 examines this relationship with the addition of control variables.

The relationship between family structure and the number of areas of instrumental support provided by an 'other' source is statistically significant in both models (see Table 34, Models 1 & 2). This corroborates the crosstabular findings that married childless respondents are significantly more likely to receive assistance with a greater number of instrumental tasks from an 'other' source than are their counterparts with children. In addition, age, household size and limited functional ability are significant and positive predictors of help provided by an 'other' source for instrumental tasks. Those who are older, who live with one or more persons, and who report limited functional ability are likely to receive help from 'others' with more of these tasks. In contrast, gender, European ethnic origin, and Catholic religion are significant and negative predictors. In other words, respondents who are male, who are of European ethnic origin, and who indicate they are of Catholic faith, receive significantly less assistance from 'other' sources with their instrumental tasks.

The results of the regression analyses for a spouse or child as a source of assistance with instrumental tasks indicate that only with the introduction of the control variables are the overall models effective in explaining the number of types of instrumental support provided by these two sources. Family structure is not a significant predictor of either relationship. Regarding assistance from a spouse, age, gender, household size and functional ability are the individual significant predictors. Respondents who are male, who live with one or more persons, and who report limited functional ability are likely to

receive help with a greater number of instrumental tasks. In contrast to assistance from either a child or 'other' source, older respondents are likely to receive help with fewer tasks from their spouse.

Age, gender, education and household size are significant predictors of levels of help provided by a child with instrumental tasks. Older respondents and those who live with one or more persons are likely to receive assistance from a child with more of their instrumental tasks. On the other hand, females and respondents with lower levels of education are likely to receive assistance with fewer of these tasks.

## ii) Emotional Support

The final analysis examined the relationship between sources of emotional support and family structure. Frequency distributions indicated that a broader range of sources could be compared for emotional support than those for instrumental support.

Crosstabulation results illustrate that a respondent's main source of emotional support differs across the three family structures (see Table 35), and that the relationship is statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ).

Although one's spouse is the most frequently reported source of emotional support for the sample as a whole (44.0%), only 40.2 percent of married childless respondents name their spouse, compared to 50.0 percent of those in the remarried parent group. A considerable difference is also found between married childless respondents and both groups of parents when 'other' is the main source of emotional support. In this case, 32.3 percent of those in the married childless group report an 'other' source compared to

**Table 35 Crosstabulations of Main Source of Emotional Support by Family Structure**

Main source of emotional support	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n) <sup>1</sup>	(%)
Spouse	652	43.5	104	50.0	51	40.2	807	44.0
Child	285	19.0	31	14.9	0	0.0	316	17.2
Friend/ Neighbour	120	8.0	18	8.7	15	11.8	153	8.3
Other	232	15.5	26	12.5	41	32.3	299	16.3
No one/Do Not Know	209	14.0	29	13.9	20	15.7	258	14.1

$\chi^2 = 52.19; df = 8; p = .000$

<sup>1</sup>. Total does not equal 1843 due to missing data

only 15.5 percent of the married parents, and 12.5 percent of the remarried parents. A noteworthy result is also reflected by the 209 (14.1%) respondents who reported having either no one or not knowing to whom they would turn to first for emotional support. This percentage was approximately consistent across the three groups of 'married' respondents.

Again, two logistic regression models, with and without control variables, were constructed to examine these relationships further (see Tables 36 to 40). The analyses indicate that family structure is a significant and positive predictor in the bivariate regression for a spouse as the main source of emotional support (see Table 36, Models 1 & 2). In this case, remarried parents are significantly more likely to name their spouse as their main source of emotional support. However, this relationship disappears in the multivariate analyses with the addition of the control variables. The significant and positive predictors now include gender, education, and perceived health. This indicates that males, those with a higher level of education, and those who have a more positive perception of their health are more likely to name their spouse as their main source of emotional support. Older respondents were less likely to turn to their spouse first for emotional support. Similarly, regarding ethnic origin, respondents of French, multi-ethnic and 'other' ethnic origin were also significantly less likely to name their spouse as their main source of emotional support, with those of multi-ethnic origin the least likely.

Family structure is also a significant and positive predictor of respondents having an 'other' source of emotional support. This relationship holds true in both regression models (see Table 39, Models 1 & 2). Married childless individuals are significantly more

**Table 36 Predictors of Spouse as Main Source of Emotional Support: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.17	0.19	-0.14	0.20
Remarried with children	0.30*	0.15	0.28	0.16
Age			-0.04***	0.01
Gender			0.60***	0.10
Education level			0.17**	0.05
Household size			0.18	0.13
Perceived health			0.16*	0.07
Functional ability			0.15	0.12
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.43*	0.19
European			-0.21	0.13
Multiethnic			-0.65**	0.19
Other			-0.63*	0.20
Catholic Religion			-0.20	0.13
Other/No Religion			-0.26	0.20
a	-0.25***	0.05	0.85	0.80
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.05	
$\chi^2$	5.26		110.47***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
 \*\* $\rho < .01$   
 \*\*\* $\rho < .001$

**Table 37 Predictors of Child as Main Source of Emotional Support: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
Remarried with children	-0.32	0.21	-0.30	0.22
Age			0.05***	0.02
Gender			-0.63***	0.13
Education level			-0.16*	0.07
Household size			0.03	0.17
Perceived health			-0.04	0.09
Functional ability			-0.13	0.16
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.02	0.23
European			0.07	0.18
Multiethnic			0.43	0.23
Other			0.38	0.24
Catholic Religion			0.28	0.16
Other/No Religion			-0.17	0.29
a	-1.46***	0.07	-3.99***	1.04
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.04	
$\chi^2$	2.46		55.08***	

\* $p < .05$   
\*\* $p < .01$   
\*\*\* $p < .001$

**Table 38 Predictors of Friend/Neighbour as Main Source of Emotional Support: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.44	0.29	0.44	0.30
Remarried with children	0.11	0.27	0.09	0.27
Age			-0.01	0.02
Gender			-1.01***	0.19
Education level			-0.10	0.10
Household size			-0.66**	0.26
Perceived health			0.11	0.13
Functional ability			-0.13	0.22
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.47	0.32
European			0.01	0.24
Multiethnic			0.49	0.30
Other			0.29	0.34
Catholic Religion			-0.33	0.23
Other/No Religion			0.30	0.32
a	-2.43***	0.10	0.26	1.44
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.05	
$\chi^2$	2.17		51.76***	

\* $\rho < .05$

\*\* $\rho < .01$

\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

**Table 39 Predictors of an Other as Main Source of Emotional Support: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.97***	0.21	0.98***	0.21
Remarried with children	-0.24	0.23	-0.22	0.23
Age			0.01	0.01
Gender			-0.22	0.13
Education level			-0.02	0.07
Household size			0.03	0.17
Perceived health			-0.15	0.09
Functional ability			0.14	0.15
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.01	0.24
European			0.09	0.17
Multiethnic			0.08	0.25
Other			0.07	0.25
Catholic Religion			0.17	0.16
Other/No Religion			-0.20	0.28
a	-1.71***	0.07	-1.64	1.06
R <sup>2</sup> <sub>L</sub>	0.01		0.02	
$\chi^2$	22.41***		34.95**	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

**Table 40 Predictors of No One/ Do Not Know as Main Source of Emotional Support: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	0.20	0.26	0.16	0.26
Remarried with children	-0.06	0.22	-0.03	0.23
Age			0.02	0.01
Gender			0.43**	0.15
Education level			-0.09	0.08
Household size			-0.42	0.18
Perceived health			-0.18	0.10
Functional ability			-0.25	0.17
Ethnic Origin:				
French			0.54*	0.25
European			0.20	0.19
Multiethnic			0.31	0.27
Other			0.46	0.26
Catholic Religion			0.04	0.18
Other/No Religion			0.58	0.25
a	-1.85***	0.08	-2.78*	1.13
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.00		0.03	
$\chi^2$	0.70		36.63***	

\* $p < .05$ \*\* $p < .01$ \*\*\* $p < .001$

likely than respondents with children to report an 'other' source as their main resource for emotional support. The remaining regression analyses do not reveal any significant relationships between family structure and a child, friend/neighbour or no one/do not know as a main source for support.

Examination of the individual predictors for the remaining analyses indicates that age is a significant and positive predictor of having a child as the main source of emotional support (see Table 37). Gender is a significant predictor when turning to a child, friend/neighbour (see Table 38), and no one/do not know (see Table 40), with females being more likely to turn to a child or friend/neighbour and males having either no one or not knowing to whom they would turn.

Respondents with higher levels of education were significantly less likely to report a child as their main source of emotional support than were those with lower education. As well, respondents of French ethnic origin, and those who report 'other/no' religious affiliations were significantly more likely to report no one or not knowing to whom they would turn to for emotional support.

To summarize the results with regard to sources of support, significant differences do occur across the three family structures. Family structure does have a significant impact on the receipt of support with instrumental tasks from an 'other' source. Married childless individuals are more likely to receive assistance from an 'other' source with instrumental tasks than are those in the other two groups. Although a majority of all respondents do receive assistance from their spouse with at least one instrumental task, a minority receive assistance with a number of tasks. A vast majority of respondents do not

receive any support from a child with instrumental tasks. Regarding emotional support, married childless individuals are significantly more likely to turn to an 'other' source for emotional support than are both groups of parents. Although one's spouse is the most frequently reported source of emotional support, remarried parents are significantly more likely to turn to their spouse than are first married older adults with or without children.

## CHAPTER V

### Discussion and Conclusions

The central purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between family structure and the provision of support for elderly individuals. In particular, it compared individuals embedded within three different types of family structure - families composed of first-time married couples with children, remarried couples with children, and first-time married couples without children. Three research questions were addressed:

1. Are there differences in the types of support received by elderly first-time married parents, remarried couples with children, and first-time married couples without children?
2. Are there differences in the levels of support received by elderly first-time married parents, remarried couples with children, and first-time married couples without children?
3. Are there differences in the sources of support utilized by elderly first-time married parents, remarried couples with children, and first-time married couples without children?

The results of this study, based on a large national sample, are an important addition to current research regarding the provision of support among older adults. Past research has often combined different categories of family structure (e.g. single with divorced), thus making it difficult to generalize findings or to study support within less prevalent groups (e.g., remarried couples with and without children). While a set of findings along national lines tends to obscure differences in support associated with ethnic/racial, class and regional variations within Canada's population, this study attempted to include an examination of these differences in the analyses whenever possible.

This section discusses the findings obtained for each research question with a focus

on their contribution to an understanding of the provision of unpaid support for older adults. Because the GSS survey did not examine paid support to the same extent as for unpaid support, limited data were available. Appendix E includes a brief discussion of the relationship between family structure and paid support for elderly individuals.

Some limitations of the study will then be addressed. Finally, the implications of the findings for theory, future research, and policy and practice issues related to family structure and the provision of support for older adults will be examined.

### **1. Family Structure and Types, Levels and Sources of Support**

The results of this study indicate some differences in the types of support received by elderly married parents, remarried parents, and married childless individuals. Of the five instrumental and one emotional types of support studied, differences were evident in two areas - household maintenance and housework. Older married adults without children were the least likely family type to receive assistance with household maintenance. About 59 percent of the married childless respondents reported no assistance with this task compared to a similar percentage of all respondents with children receiving this type of assistance. Regression analyses support this finding with significant results for models both without and with the influence of control variables.

With the inclusion of control variables, differences were also found with regard to the relationship between family structure and the receipt of support with housework. Remarried parents were more likely to receive help with housework than were first-time married respondents regardless of their parental status. Additional analyses (not reported

here) conducted with and without gender included as a control variable in the regression model revealed that, the positive relationship between family structure and the receipt of support with housework was suppressed or clouded by gender. Thus, in this study, remarried men with children were the most likely to receive help with their housework.

The results for the remaining types of support revealed no significant relationships with family structure. No one group was either more nor less likely to receive assistance with meal preparation, transportation, personal care or emotional support. Relatively few differences were also evident in the levels of support received by elderly individuals within the three family structures. For example, the analyses examining the total number of areas of support received by older adults did not yield any significant differences by family structure. Nor were differences evident in the extent of help received from sources within the older person's household with housework, household maintenance and meal preparation.

When the number of helpers for each task was examined, significant differences by family structure were evident only in the analyses of support with household maintenance. Once again, married childless persons were found to be distinctive, having fewer sources of support from either within or outside their households. Similar results were obtained for the frequency of support received from sources outside the respondents' homes. The multivariate regression analyses indicated that married childless older adults received less frequent support with household maintenance than did married or remarried parents.

In terms of the relationship between family structure and sources of support, no significant differences were found between family type and the *number* of instrumental

tasks in which help was provided by a spouse or child. In contrast, first-time married childless adults receive assistance from an 'other' source with a greater number of instrumental tasks than do first-time married or remarried parents. In other words, when a source other than a spouse or child provides assistance with instrumental tasks, first-time married childless adults receive help with more of these tasks than do the two groups of married parents.

Significant differences were also found with regard to older individuals' main sources of emotional support. Bivariate analyses indicated that less than one-half (40.2%) of first-time married childless adults turn to their spouse first for emotional support whereas one-half (50.0%) of the remarried parents do. Less than one-fifth of the first-time married (19.0%) and remarried parents (14.9%) turn to a child first for emotional support. Regression analyses confirmed these differences across family structure, with remarried parents being the most likely to turn to their spouses for emotional support. Both multivariate regression models indicated that family structure is a significant predictor of the likelihood that older adults will turn to an 'other' source (i.e., someone other than a spouse, child, friend/neighbour) first for emotional support; first-time married childless adults are significantly more likely to turn to such sources than are first-time married and remarried older adults with children.

Overall, first-time married older adults without children appear more likely to have an 'other' source of both instrumental and emotional support than do first-time married and remarried parents. For instrumental tasks other than personal care, an 'other' source was more likely to be a friend followed by another relative (excluding siblings). The

findings of this study, indicating the importance of friends as providers of instrumental support for childless elderly, are consistent with past research ( see, for example, Cantor, 1979; Connidis & Davies, 1990). A family doctor was the more likely 'other' source of emotional support followed by priest/clergy/church. The very small proportion of childless older adults who indicated other relatives as providers of instrumental or emotional support also supports past research (see, for example, Keith, 1983; Rempel, 1985) that indicates childless older adults experience greater isolation from relatives than do parents. These findings suggest that childless individuals generally receive more help from non-familial members of their support system.

Despite some differences, these findings provide only limited evidence of a relationship between the family structures examined in this study and the receipt of support by elderly Canadians. What significant evidence there is, is consistent with past research that elderly persons without children tend to have less assistance with some forms of instrumental tasks, and to receive emotional support from different sources. For example, the findings revealed a lack of assistance with household maintenance for childless couples. An explanation that may at first emerge is that those without children may be more likely to reside in apartments than houses and therefore have less need for assistance with household maintenance. However, in this study, childless older adults were not significantly more likely to live in apartments than were those with children. Therefore, it would appear that differences in housing arrangements do not reflect a potential lack of need for this type of assistance, but that childless adults may have a smaller pool of available support sources than do parents. The data also indicate there are

no significant differences among the three groups of respondents in terms of their functional health. The married childless respondents are, however, a somewhat older group, and are more likely to either live alone or only with their spouse. These factors appear to indicate that married childless adults may have a smaller pool of available support resources than do married parents. Married childless adults may then be potentially 'at-risk' of having fewer support resources. On the other hand, these findings may indicate that due to a smaller pool of available support sources married childless adults may perform more of their own household tasks by necessity.

Yet, the findings offered here also differ from previous studies in that the childless respondents in this study were currently married, whereas past research has focussed on single (whether never-married, divorced, separated, or widowed) childless elderly persons. This suggests that even in the presence of a spouse, lack of access to children may contribute to a decrease in potential support resources for married childless older adults; an area not previously explored in depth. Past research (see, for example, Chappell, 1992; McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993; Stoller & Earl, 1983) suggests the lack of assistance from sources outside the household with housework or household maintenance is a significant indicator of an overall lack of informal support among older adults. If this is the case, then the findings reported here that married childless adults are significantly less likely than older married parents to receive assistance with household maintenance, have fewer sources available for this task, receive less frequent assistance, and are the most likely to have an 'other' source when it is provided, indicate further examination of the relationship between married childless older adults and the receipt of overall informal

support may be needed.

The similarities found here in types, levels and sources of support for first-time married and remarried parents do not support speculation that older remarried adults may have more limited support from a spouse or from children. In fact, contrary to speculation, the opposite could be suggested; that is, that with a remarriage, commitment to the current spouse may be greater than with a first marriage. This supposition is consistent with the finding that remarried older adults were the most likely of all respondents to turn to their spouse first for emotional support. It should be noted however, that with regard to support from a spouse, concerns raised by previous research (see, for example, Pratt & Kethley, 1988; Stoller, 1992) regarding timing of the remarriage and commitment to a spouse were not explored in this study. In particular, the duration of the remarriage, or the circumstances leading to the remarriage may reveal differences in the provision of support by a spouse. For example, commitment to a spouse may vary when a person remarries following divorce or the death of a spouse. Remarried adults may perceive or receive more emotional support from their spouses, due to the 'newness' of these relationships. In other words, it may be speculated that in a remarriage, what were perhaps perceived as 'mistakes' in the previous marriage have been learned from for the new marriage. In addition, Bengtson et al. (1990) explain that new relationships are often developed around self-disclosure which could result in a deeper feeling of emotional commitment in a 'new' remarriage.

Secondly, regarding support from step-children, previous research tends to focus on the potentially negative impact of divorce on the step-parent/step-child relationship.

However, divorce may also have a positive effect on both the divorced spouse and the children. In what could be a healthier and happier relationship, step-children may be more inclined to provide assistance to the step-parent. Alternatively, it could be children from the previous marriage and not step-children who nevertheless provide support to their parents, following the parents' remarriage. This may be reflected in the similarity of patterns of support provided by a child for first-time married and remarried parents.

Support provided by step versus biological children could not be addressed here because the questions asked in the survey were directed to children as a group making it impossible to directly look at step-children relative to biological children. Additional research is required that takes into account other characteristics associated with family structure.

Overall, these findings suggest that married childless older adults tend to be able to draw on a foundation of resources for support. Where significant differences between family structures do occur is in the area of sources, rather than types and levels of support. In view of this, current assumptions that childless elderly individuals are potentially at-risk of not receiving adequate support may not be as accurate as commonly believed (see, for example, Simmons-Tropea & Osborn, 1987). In situations where certain family members (e.g. children) do not exist, the potential for a sharing of support by friends and others seems to be available. However, until further research distinguishing childlessness situations (i.e., married childless versus single childless) is available, definitive conclusions cannot be drawn.

## 2. Other Correlates of Support

While the primary focus of the study was on the relationship between family structure and the provision of support for elderly individuals, the findings also revealed significant relationships between various sociodemographic characteristics and the provision of support. For example, although introduced as control variables, age, gender, household size and limited functional ability emerged more frequently as significant predictors of various components of instrumental support than did family structure. As age increased, the likelihood of receiving support with household maintenance decreased while the likelihood of receiving support with housework, transportation and personal care increased. Again, the relationship with household maintenance does not reflect differences in type of housing by age. What this could suggest is that as some individuals age and possibly, become less able to perform these tasks, so too do members of their support system (e.g. spouse, peers), creating a possible need for more paid services (e.g. home repair services). Publicly-funded services in this area tend not to be available.

In addition, males were less likely to receive support with household maintenance and transportation, while females were more likely to receive support with instrumental tasks, but most significantly, with household maintenance and transportation. This seems consistent with traditional gender roles in that women tend to receive more help with tasks traditionally performed by men and vice versa. For the cohorts included in this study, cultural norms governing acceptable behaviours for men and women have tended to hold that wives/mothers would look after domestic labour activities such as cooking and housework, while men as husbands/fathers would look after activities associated with such

tasks as household maintenance (Bradbury, 1996). The findings reported here are consistent with Keith's (1983) study which found men to be more likely to receive help with meal preparation, and women to receive help with yard work.

Regarding household size, older adults who lived with more than one other person were likely to receive more overall assistance with instrumental tasks, but to have fewer helpers with personal care. This perhaps indicates that when assistance with personal care is needed, persons within the older person's home are more likely to provide this support, resulting in potentially more help but fewer helpers. Although not discussed at length, Antonucci (1990) notes research supporting this view.

The health of older adults with regard to limited functional ability was also a significant predictor of instrumental support. Those with more limited functional ability had a greater number of helpers available for all instrumental tasks and received more extensive assistance from sources within the household for housework, household maintenance and meal preparation tasks. Limited functional ability also increased the likelihood of the older individual receiving assistance from all sources (i.e., spouse, child, other) with instrumental tasks. These findings corroborate those widely reported in the literature indicating that health-related need is one of the main determinants of support (see Bowling, 1997; Chappell, 1986; Verbrugge, 1989).

Somewhat different predictor variables emerged as significant with regard to the receipt of emotional support. As previously discussed, in addition to family structure, age and gender were also significant. As age increased, the number of sources of emotional support decreased, as did the likelihood of an older person turning to their spouse first for

emotional support. The likelihood of turning to a child first for emotional support was greater as age increased. Regarding gender, men reported having fewer sources they would turn to for emotional support, and were less likely to turn to a child or friend than were women. Men were more likely to turn to their spouse, to no one, or to indicate that they didn't know to whom they would turn. If emotional support is likened to that of a confidant relationship, this finding is contrary to Connidis and Davies' (1990) findings in which a larger proportion of the confidant networks of men compared to women were made up of children followed by a spouse. The findings of the present study also differ from Stain and Chappell's (1982) study in that they found men to be no more likely than women to name their spouses as confidants. On the other hand, similar to Connidis and Davies' (1990) study, women were more likely to turn to a child or friend first for emotional support.

Findings concerning age and gender differences in emotional support point to a possibly reduced pool of resources to whom older adults turn as they age, which is accentuated for older men. Again, these findings are consistent with past research indicating that men tend to report fewer sources of emotional support (Antonucci, 1985; Connidis & Davies, 1990). Research has also shown that emotional well-being is an important component of physical well-being. In light of this and the findings reported here, further research in the area of age, gender and emotional support examining the relationship between these factors and well-being, is warranted.

An additional finding in this study was that ethnic origin and religious affiliation frequently emerged as significant predictors of the receipt of instrumental and emotional

support for older adults. For example, older adults of French, Multiethnic, or other ethnic origins received less emotional support overall and were less likely to turn to their spouse first for emotional support than were others. Also, older adults who reported a religious affiliation other than Protestant or Catholic received less assistance with housework and household maintenance. Just why this is the case is not clear. Due to the limited available research exploring ethnic origin or religious affiliation in relation to support for older adults, it is difficult to speculate as to what these findings suggest. As Driedger and Chappell (1987) indicate, comparisons between ethnic groups is difficult as the relatively few studies that do exist do not focus on single groups. Nevertheless, these findings do point to the importance of including these correlates of support in future research.

Overall, the significant correlates of support found here corroborate previous findings and confirm the complexity involved when examining the relationship between family structure and the provision of support for elderly individuals.

### **3. Limitations of the Study**

Within this study, certain limitations are acknowledged. For example, secondary data were used for the analyses. Secondary data analyses must often contend with samples and measures that are not as precise as desired for the current research questions. This resulted in one of the major limitations of this study, which was the need to restrict the focus to a few relatively prevalent family structures. Ideally, a study of the relationship between family structure and the provision of support for older adults would include a greater number of diverse family structures. However, this study was not able to include

remarried childless elderly adults in the analyses due to an inadequate number of respondents.

A related issue is that the survey questions employed in the GSS lacked depth for the categorization of family structure necessary for the research questions in this study. For example, same-sex partnerships, which may or may not include children, were not included along with the 'conventional' marital status choices. A survey created by the researcher would allow for a more in-depth examination of less prevalent family structures.

An additional limitation acknowledged by the researcher is that the unit of analysis for measuring family structure was the individual, not the married couple. As a result, remarried family structures were defined as such based on the respondent's marital status, not the combined status of the couple (i.e., one or both of the members of the couple are remarried).

Another limitation that encompasses both the methodology (i.e. secondary analysis of telephone survey data) of this study and the conceptualization of support, is that all aspects of support cannot be adequately revealed by this methodology. Individual experiences of the support behaviour cannot be explored without the inclusion of qualitative information. For example, whether the respondent feels the support provided is either willingly or grudgingly given may have a positive or negative effect on the recipient's well-being. It is also from this perspective that the overall complexity of the concept of support arises.

Another limitation related to insufficient sample size is that although the findings

here point to similarities across family structures for the receipt of support with meal preparation, transportation and personal care, they may reflect inadequacies in the number of first-time married childless individuals included in this study (n=128). Similarity rather than difference may also reflect a division of labour among the couple and/or occupants of the household, rather than a lack of support. Additional research with a larger sample of married childless older adults would perhaps distinguish whether these factors are involved.

In addition, the operationalization of types and levels of support was not as inclusive and reliable (i.e., consistently measured) as desired. In particular, respondents were not questioned as to how much or how often personal care or emotional support were provided. Similar measurement of these types of support would have provided congruent results with those of the remaining areas of support. As well, only single-item measures were available. For example, emotional support was measured by asking respondents, "Suppose you feel just a bit down or depressed, and wanted to talk about it. Whom would you turn to first for help?". Yet, we know that multiple-item measures are preferable in that they tend to increase reliability of an operational definition by cancelling out random errors, yielding a more stable and accurate measure of the true value (Singleton et al, 1993).

The GSS, conducted in English or French only, also excluded what could be an important segment of the elderly population with regard to the provision of support. In 1991, 36.5 percent of all persons in Canada who spoke neither English nor French were aged 60 years and older (Statistics Canada, 1992). Also, among these seniors, twice as

many women as men did not speak French or English. Any exclusion of an appreciable segment of the population in a research study decreases the external validity and generalizability of subsequent findings. For example, how can appropriate policies and social programs for the population be created when the needs of a significant portion of that population are not known? Future studies of the provision of support for older adults might benefit from a broader categorization of language and the inclusion of language as a predictor variable in the analyses.

Another limitation recognized in the current study is that unmeasured factors, either singly or in combination with family structure, may explain differences in the provision of support to older adults. This is demonstrated by the number of statistically significant differences which are accompanied by a small amount of explained variance in the regression model. In some cases, only four or ten percent of the overall variance in support was accounted for by the multivariate models. An example of one such unmeasured factor is whether or not the respondent's spouse was limited in their own functional ability and therefore was not able to provide support. Other contributing factors not accounted for in this study may include geographic proximity and physical resources of support providers (e.g., a child may be willing to provide support to a parent but may not live within a reasonable distance to do so).

#### **4. Directions for the Future**

Despite the limitations noted above, this study provides an opportunity to explore familial relationships of older adults and the provision of support. In particular, this study

represents one of the very few attempts to focus on multiple family structures beyond the “traditional” nuclear family type. The findings suggest there are few significant differences in the types, levels and sources of support for older adults embedded within the different family types examined here. This is important to know. However, it is probably premature to conclude that differences do not in fact exist.

Additional research implementing an in-depth categorization of family structures (including those not yet studied) may in fact reveal significant differences between family types. Future research, therefore, needs to broaden its focus to include other family types, such as single-parent families, same-sex partnerships, childless partnerships and various types of extended families. In light of the significant differences that did emerge in this study regarding the tendency for married childless older adults to receive lower levels of support in some areas, how or whether children factor into these family types also appears to be an important consideration. We should probably also differentiate among family structures with various combinations of biological and step-children. Included in this area of examination should be whether the timing of the remarriage and the circumstances leading to the remarriage reveal differences in spousal support or in support from biological or step-children. Continual and often rapid social change differentiates the ways in which families are structured, and how they function. Future studies may benefit from going beyond the societal expectation that when an elderly person requires assistance, the spouse or a child will readily provide it.

Results from this study also suggest that in addition to broadening the focus to include a greater number and variety of family types, other characteristics of individuals

must also be included in future research models. For example, as noted by Noelker and Bass (1981), the basic view held by many researchers is that family (and especially, the spouse and children) is the first choice for assistance, followed by other helpers.

However, in a pluralistic society such as Canada, spousal and filial norms are likely to vary across racial, ethnic and other groups (see, for example, Ujimoto, 1987). If we are to understand whether and how intergenerational support networks are influenced by cultural divergence, it would be important to include variables reflecting this in our research models.

It would also be worthwhile to examine the provision of support across family structure from a different approach than that employed in the current study. The lack of significant findings may have been because support (i.e., assistance) was not necessary for the independent daily living of many of the respondents. Another starting point for a study examining the provision of support for older adults might be to frame the questions regarding whether or not support is received for tasks the older adult is unable to perform or has difficulty with. For example, a series of questions may include: Do you have difficulty with meal preparation?; During the past 12 months has anyone provided you with help with meal preparation?; Who has provided this help?; Do you feel you would be able to perform this task without any assistance?. With this approach, the need for assistance with specific tasks is established and then the support provider identified.

In summary, in order to explore the relationship between family structure and the provision of support further, future research needs to examine a broader range of factors including the family types in which older persons are embedded, the sociodemographic

characteristics of the older person (e.g., ethnic origin), the enabling or disabling characteristics of the potential support providers (e.g., functional ability of a spouse/partner, propinquity of providers) and the functional ability of the older person with their instrumental tasks of daily living and personal care.

## **5. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the current study has examined patterns of support among several different family types including first-time married couples without children and remarried couples with and without children. The effects of lower fertility, smaller families and increased life expectancy, either separately or in combination with each other as well as with changes in immigration rates and so on, differentiate many aspects of support among older adults, including the existence and availability of support sources. In view of this, rather than assuming homogeneity of the marital situation among older adults, remarriage and childlessness are perhaps factors that need to be considered.

Although the current study did not provide extensive evidence indicating the statistical significance of differences in the provision of support across family structures, some differences were apparent. For example, with regard to emotional support, remarried childless older adults very likely had no one or did not know to whom they would turn for this support. In support of past research (see, for example, Connidis & McMullin, 1994), the findings also suggest that married childless persons may have a greater need for support from sources outside the household. Most of us think of older persons as having children. However, about one in five persons aged 65 or older have no

living child, and another one in five have only one living child (Statistics Canada, 1996). The result is that a significant minority of older Canadians have few or no children as possible sources of assistance in times of need. As Marshall et al. (1995) argue, the fact that a substantial number of older adults have no children or only one child, necessitates that support programs for the elderly population are not predicated on the existence of filial support.

What we can learn from this study therefore has implications for public policy and practice surrounding the provision of support for older Canadians. The necessity for policy change may not perhaps be as evident for the current cohorts of elderly persons, but more so for the elderly population in the next century. By the year 2041, about 23.0 percent of the Canadian population will be at or over the age of 65 years, up from 12.0 percent in 1995 (Statistics Canada, 1996). The trend, within our health care system, toward greater community care for this segment of the population indicates the assumption by policy-makers concerning the availability of family support (Chappell & Prince, 1994). In light of this, gerontological research must examine the available sources of support for older adults in order to assess who does and does not have this support. It is not realistic for policy-makers to assume a spouse or children will be available to provide support for all older adults. We can only guess about the impact of the growing senior population on demands for services and programs, but we can prepare by acknowledging the current issues affecting seniors and support programs.

The task for policy-makers and practitioners is to determine where the family best fits within a system of informal and formal approaches for meeting the needs of older

people. The family has clearly played a continuing role and will almost certainly continue to do so in the future. Nevertheless, we must recognize that the family may be an appropriate support resource in some areas of support but not in others. Our policies should aim to support family assistance where it is effective and available and provide alternatives where it is not. We must recognize that the role and structure of family will continue to change as the nature of society and of aging within society changes.

When drawing conclusions regarding the provision of support for older adults, both in research and policy, the importance of understanding the growing prevalence of diverse family structures must be acknowledged. Although the level of diversity evident within the data set used here was limited, the fact that it was found at all and that differences were also evident in terms of the provision of support within this sample, it is reasonable to speculate that a discernible level of diversity must exist. Ironically, however, as transformations to family structure have been taking place, public policy has begun to emphasize the key role family should play in providing support to older adults. With the increasing rhetoric about the caregiving family, an understanding of who this 'family' is, and the dynamics of the family in relation to the provision of support for older members is required. The importance of this understanding, in relation to the receipt of support, is articulated by Keating and her associates (1994: 271), ".....we need to have a clearer picture of this family whose existence is being simultaneously lauded and denied".

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**Appendix A: General Social Survey Questionnaire**



Interviewer's Name

1:  -  -  Telephone Number

5:  Label Identification Number

Page-Line Number

1 Type

GSS 5-2

Confidential when completed

Authority:  
Statistics Act,  
Revised Statutes of Canada,  
1985, Chapter S19.

**GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY**  
**FAMILY AND FRIENDS**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**AGES 15 YEARS AND OVER**

**A SECTION A: Parents and grandparents**

A0. **INTERVIEWER:**  
 Repeat the introduction below if selected respondent is different from household respondent.  
 Hello, I'm ..... from Statistics Canada. I'm calling you for a survey on family and friends.  
 All the information we collect in this voluntary survey will be kept confidential. Your participation is essential if the survey results are to be accurate.

A1. The following questions are about your parents and grandparents.

A2. **In what country was your mother born?**  
 Canada  1 → In which province or territory?  
 Newfoundland ..... 01   
 Prince Edward Island ..... 02   
 Nova Scotia ..... 03   
 New Brunswick ..... 04   
 Quebec ..... 05   
 Ontario ..... 06   
 Manitoba ..... 07   
 Saskatchewan ..... 08   
 Alberta ..... 09   
 British Columbia ..... 10   
 Yukon Territory ..... 11   
 Northwest Territories ..... 12   
 Country outside Canada  2  
 ↓  
 Specify  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

A3. **Is your mother still living?**  
 Yes ..... 3   
 No ..... 4   
 ↓  
**When did she die?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 year  
 Don't know 98  } GO TO A22  
 Don't know 5  → GO TO A22

A4. **How old is your mother?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ years  
 Don't know 00

A5. **Does your mother live ...**  
 In this household? ..... 6  → GO TO A15  
 In another household? ..... 7   
 In an institution? ..... 8  → GO TO A8

A6. **Does she live alone?**  
 Yes ..... 1  → GO TO A8  
 No ..... 2

A7. **Does she live ...**

	Yes	No
With her spouse/partner? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
With any of her children? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>	6 <input type="radio"/>
With others? .....	7 <input type="radio"/>	8 <input type="radio"/>

A8. **Does she live within ...**

10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>
1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? .....	6 <input type="radio"/>
Beyond 1000 km and living in Canada or United States (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? .....	7 <input type="radio"/>
Outside Canada or United States? .....	8 <input type="radio"/>
Don't know .....	9 <input type="radio"/>

A9. **During the past 12 months how often did you see your mother? Did you see her ...**

Daily? .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a week? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a month? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
Less than once a month? .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
Not at all? .....	5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A11

A10. **Did you usually see her ...**

At your home? .....	6 <input type="radio"/>
At her usual place of residence? .....	7 <input type="radio"/>
Somewhere else? .....	8 <input type="radio"/>
	↓ Specify
_____	
_____	
Equally at both residences .....	9 <input type="radio"/>

A11. **Do you see your mother ...**

Less often than you would like? .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
More often than you would like? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
About the right amount? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>

} GO TO A13

A12. **What prevents you from seeing her more often?**  
 (Mark all that apply)

Distance .....	01 <input type="radio"/>
Poor relationship with her .....	02 <input type="radio"/>
Shortage of your time .....	03 <input type="radio"/>
Shortage of her time .....	04 <input type="radio"/>
Your health problems .....	05 <input type="radio"/>
Her health problems .....	06 <input type="radio"/>
Financial reasons .....	07 <input type="radio"/>
Transportation problems .....	08 <input type="radio"/>
Other family responsibilities .....	09 <input type="radio"/>
Other .....	10 <input type="radio"/>
	↓ Specify
_____	
_____	
No particular reason .....	11 <input type="radio"/>

A13. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with her? Was it ...

Daily? ..... 4

At least once a week? ..... 5

At least once a month? ..... 6

Less than once a month? .. 7

Not at all? ..... 8

A14. INTERVIEWER:  
GO TO A22

A15. During the past 12 months, what best describes your mother's MAIN activity? Was she mainly ...

Working at a job or business? ..... 1  → GO TO A18

Looking for work? ..... 2  → GO TO A17

A student? ..... 3

Keeping house? ..... 4

Retired? ..... 5  } GO TO A17

Other ..... 6  } GO TO A17

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A16. Was she studying full-time or part-time?

Full-time ..... 7

Part-time ..... 8

A17. Did your mother have a job or was she self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?

Yes ..... 1

No ..... 2  → GO TO A22

A18. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and maternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did she work at a job or business?

\_\_\_\_\_ weeks

A19. During those weeks, was her work mainly full-time or part-time?

Full-time ..... 3

Part-time ..... 4

A20. Did she regularly work evening or night shifts?

Yes ..... 5

No ..... 6

A21. Did she regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?

Yes ..... 7

No ..... 8

A22. In what country was your father born?

Canada 1  → In which province or territory?

Newfoundland ..... 01

Prince Edward Island .. 02

Nova Scotia ..... 03

New Brunswick ..... 04

Quebec ..... 05

Ontario ..... 06

Manitoba ..... 07

Saskatchewan ..... 08

Alberta ..... 09

British Columbia ..... 10

Yukon Territory ..... 11

Northwest Territories .. 12

Country outside Canada 2  ↓ Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A23. Is your father still living?

Yes ..... 3

No ..... 4  ↓

When did he die?

\_\_\_\_\_ year → } GO TO A45

Don't know 98  } GO TO A45

Don't know 5  → GO TO A45

A24. How old is your father?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

Don't know 00

A25. Does your father live in this household?

Yes ..... 6  → GO TO A38

No ..... 7

A26. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
Review A3.  
Is the respondent's mother still living (A3 = Yes)?

Yes ..... 1

No ..... 2  → GO TO A28

A27. Do your mother and father live together?

Yes ..... 3  → GO TO A45

No ..... 4

A28. Does your father live ...

In another household? .... 5

In an institution? ..... 6  → GO TO A31

A29. Does he live alone?

Yes ..... 7  → GO TO A31

No ..... 8

A30. Does he live ...

	Yes	No
With his spouse/partner? ..	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
With any of his children? ..	6 <input type="radio"/>	7 <input type="radio"/>
With others? ..	8 <input type="radio"/>	9 <input type="radio"/>

A31. Does he live within ...

10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ... 1

50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ... 2

100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ... 3

200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ... 4

400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ... 5

1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 6

Beyond 1000 km and living in Canada or United States (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 7

Outside Canada or United States? ... 8

Don't know ... 9

A36. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with him? Was it ...

Daily? ... 4

At least once a week? ... 5

At least once a month? ... 6

Less than once a month? ... 7

Not at all? ... 8

A32. During the past 12 months how often did you see your father? Did you see him ...

Daily? ... 1

At least once a week? ... 2

At least once a month? ... 3

Less than once a month? ... 4

Not at all? ... 5  → GO TO A34

A37. INTERVIEWER:  
GO TO A45

A38. During the past 12 months, what best describes your father's MAIN activity? Was he mainly ...

Working at a job or business? ... 3  → GO TO A41

Looking for work? ... 4  → GO TO A40

A student? ... 5

Keeping house? ... 6

Retired? ... 7

Other ... 8

} GO TO A40

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A33. Did you usually see him ...

At your home? ... 6

At his usual place of residence? ... 7

Somewhere else? ... 8

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Equally at both residences ... 9

A39. Was he studying full-time or part-time?

Full-time ... 7

Part-time ... 8

A34. Do you see your father ...

Less often than you would like? ... 1

More often than you would like? ... 2

About the right amount? ... 3  } GO TO A36

A40. Did your father have a job or was he self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?

Yes ... 1

No ... 2  → GO TO A45

A35. What prevents you from seeing him more often?

(Mark all that apply)

Distance ... 01

Poor relationship with him ... 02

Shortage of your time ... 03

Shortage of his time ... 04

Your health problems ... 05

His health problems ... 06

Financial reasons ... 07

Transportation problems ... 08

Other family responsibilities ... 09

Other ... 10

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

No particular reason ... 11

A41. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and paternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did he do any work at a job or business?

\_\_\_\_\_ weeks

A42. During those weeks, was his work mainly full-time or part-time?

Full-time ... 3

Part-time ... 4

A43. Did he regularly work evening or night shifts?

Yes ... 5

No ... 6

A44. Did he regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?

Yes ... 7

No ... 8

A45. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
Review A5 and A25.  
Does either of the respondent's mother or father live in the household (A5 = In this household or A25 = Yes)?

Yes ... 1  → GO TO A49

No ... 2

<p>A46. How old were you when you last lived with one or both your parents?  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years</p>	<p><b>SECTION B: Brothers and sisters</b> <span style="float: right;">B</span></p> <p>B1. The following questions are about your brothers and sisters. Include step-, adopted and half-brothers and sisters.</p>
<p>A47. What was the main reason for your move?          Was it ...          To get married? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>          To move because of a job? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/>          To attend school? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>          To be independent / move into own place? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/>          For some other reason? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>B2. How many brothers and sisters did you have? Include those who may have died.  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>          None ..... 100 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO C1</p>
<p>A48. INTERVIEWER: GO TO A53</p>	<p>B3. How many brothers do you have still living?  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> brother(s) living          None ..... 200 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO B5</p>
<p>A49. Have you always lived with at least one of your parents?          Yes ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A53          No ..... 9 <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>B4. How many of your (living) brothers are older than you?  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> brother(s) older          None ..... 300 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>A50. How old were you when you last left home to live on your own?  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years</p>	<p>B5. How many sisters do you have still living?  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> sister(s) living          None ..... 400 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO B7</p>
<p>A51. What was the main reason for this move?          Was it ...          To get married? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/>          To move because of a job? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/>          To attend school? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>          To be independent / move into own place? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/>          For some other reason? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>B6. How many of your (living) sisters are older than you?  <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> sister(s) older          None ..... 500 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>A52. When did you start living with your parents again?          19 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p>	<p>B7. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:          Review B3 and B5.          Does the respondent have any living brothers or sisters?          Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/>          No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO C1</p>
<p>A53. Are any of your grandparents still living?          Yes ... 1 <input type="radio"/> → Who?                              Mother's mother ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>                              Mother's father ..... 4 <input type="radio"/>                              Father's mother ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>                              Father's father ..... 6 <input type="radio"/>          No ... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO B1</p>	<p>B8. Do you have any brothers or sisters living outside this household?          Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>          No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO C1</p>
<p>A54. Do any of them live outside this household?          Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/>          No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO B1</p>	<p>B9. The next questions concern your brothers and sisters living outside this household.</p>
<p>A55. The next questions concern your grandparents living outside this household.</p>	<p>B10. During the past 12 months, how often did you see any of your brothers or sisters? Was it ...          Daily? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a week? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a month? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/>          Less than once a month? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/>          Not at all? ..... 9 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>A56. During the past 12 months, how often did you see any of your grandparents? Was it ...          Daily? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a week? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a month? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>          Less than once a month? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/>          Not at all? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>B11. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with any of your brothers or sisters? Was it ...          Daily? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a week? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a month? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>          Less than once a month? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/>          Not at all? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>A57. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with any of your grandparents? Was it ...          Daily? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a week? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/>          At least once a month? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/>          Less than once a month? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/>          Not at all? ..... 9 <input type="radio"/></p>	

**C SECTION C: Children**

C1. Now some questions about your children and grandchildren.

C7. Starting with the oldest, what is the first name and age of each child you have ever raised or (given birth to / fathered). Include those who may have died.

*Interviewer: Ask questions B to E for at most 22 children - the 21 oldest and the youngest.*

C2. Have you ever raised step-children? By step-children we mean children from a former union of a spouse or common-law partner.

Yes . 1○ → How many?

No . 2○

C3. Have you ever adopted children? (Exclude any step-children mentioned in the previous question.)

Yes . 3○ → How many?

No . 4○

C4. Have you ever (given birth to / fathered) a child of your own? (Do not count stillbirths.)

Yes . 5○ → How many?

No . 6○

C5. INTERVIEWER:

Compute total number of step-, adopted, natural children. Add entries in C2, C3, C4.

Total number of children

None 00○ → GO TO D1

C6. Do you have any grandchildren?

Yes . 7○ → How many?

No . 8○

IDENTIFICATION CHILD I.D. #	AGE	B. In what month and year was . . . (your first (second, ...) child) born?	
		DATE OF BIRTH Month	Year

01. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
02. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
03. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
04. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
05. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
06. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
07. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
08. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
09. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
10. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
11. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
12. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
13. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
14. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
15. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
16. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
17. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
18. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
19. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
20. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
21. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
22. _____	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>



**C22. What prevents you from seeing ... (this child) more often?**

*(Mark all that apply)*

Distance ..... 01

Poor relationship with child ..... 02

Shortage of your time ..... 03

Your health problems ..... 04

Financial reasons ..... 05

Transportation problems ..... 06

Other family responsibilities ..... 07

Custodial arrangements ..... 08

Poor relationship with custodian ..... 09

Other ..... 10

↓  
Specify


No particular reason ..... 11

**C32. Does ... (this child) live with ...**

	Yes	No
His/her spouse/partner? ....	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
His/her children? .....	6 <input type="radio"/>	7 <input type="radio"/>
Someone else? .....	8 <input type="radio"/>	9 <input type="radio"/>
	↓	
	<b>Who?</b>	

*(Mark all that apply)*

Friend/roommate ..... 1

Child's mother/father ..... 2

Other relative ..... 3

**C33. Does ... (this child) live within ...**

10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ... 2

50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ... 3

100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ... 4

200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ... 5

400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ... 6

1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 7

Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 8

Don't know ..... 9

**C23. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with ... (this child)? Was it ...**

Daily? ..... 1

At least once a week? ..... 2

At least once a month? ..... 3

Less than once a month? ... 4

Not at all? ..... 5

**C34. During the past 12 months, what best describes ... (this child's) MAIN activity? Was he/she mainly ...**

Working at a job or business? ..... 1

Looking for work? ..... 2

A student? ..... 3

Keeping house? ..... 4

Other ..... 5

↓  
Specify


**C24. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:**

*Review C7, columns A and E.*

*Number of children 15 years of age and older, living outside household?*

None ..... 1  → GO TO D1

One ..... 2  → GO TO C30

Two or more ... 3

**C25. Of your children 15 years of age and older living outside your household, how many live within 100 km (60 miles or one hour by car)?**

| 4 | | | child(ren)

**C35. During the past 12 months, how often did you see ... (this child)? Was it ...**

Daily? ..... 5

At least once a week? ..... 6

At least once a month? ..... 7

Less than once a month? ... 8

Not at all? ..... 9  → GO TO C37

**C26. Of your children 15 years of age and older living outside your household, with whom do you have the most contact?**

*If necessary, use birth order, date and sex to probe.*

CHILD I. D. # | 5 | | | → GO TO C28

No particular child ..... 500

**C36. Did you usually see ... (this child) ...**

At your home? ..... 1

At his/her usual place of residence? ..... 2

Somewhere else? ..... 3

↓  
Specify


**C27. Of those children with whom you have the most contact, who is the oldest?**

CHILD I. D. # | 6 | | |

**C28. The next questions are about this child.**

**C29. INTERVIEWER:**  
GO TO C31

**C30. The next questions are about your child, 15 years of age or older, living outside your household.**

Equally at both residences ... 4

**C31. Does ... (this child) live alone?**

Yes ..... 1  → GO TO C33

No ..... 2

**C37. Do you see ... (this child) ...**

Less often than you would like? ..... 5

More often than you would like? ..... 6

About the right amount? ... 7

} GO TO C39

C38. What prevents you from seeing ... (this child) more often?

(Mark all that apply)

Distance ..... 01

Poor relationship with child ..... 02

Shortage of your time ..... 03

Shortage of his/her time ..... 04

Your health problems ..... 05

His/her health problems ..... 06

Financial reasons ..... 07

Transportation problems ..... 08

Other family responsibilities ..... 09

Other ..... 10

Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

No particular reason ..... 11

C39. During the past 12 months how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with ... (this child)? Was it ...

Daily? ..... 1

At least once a week? ..... 2

At least once a month? ..... 3

Less than once a month? ..... 4

Not at all? ..... 5

**D SECTION D: Fertility intentions**

D1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
Review GSS 5-1, Item 44 for respondent only.  
Is age of respondent...

45 or older? ... 6  → GO TO E1

44 or younger? ... 7

D2. The next questions are about your intentions to have (more) children.

D3. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
Review GSS 5-1, Item 49 for respondent only.  
If respondent is living with a spouse/partner, phrase questions D4 and D5 to include spouse/partner.

D4. Have you (or your spouse/partner) had an operation that makes it impossible for you to have a/another child?

Yes ..... 8  → GO TO E1

No ..... 9

D5. Have you ever been told that you (or your partner) cannot have any(more) children?

Yes ..... 1  → GO TO E1

No ..... 2

D6. Do you intend to have a/another child sometime?

Yes ..... 3

No ..... 4

Don't know ..... 5

} → GO TO E1

D7. What is the total number of children that you intend to have (including those you have now)?

\_\_\_\_\_ child(ren)

Don't know ..... 98

**SECTION E: Friends**

E1. Other than your immediate family, how many people do you consider close friends?

(Exclude spouse, parents, brothers, sisters and children. Include friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ friends

None ..... 00  → GO TO F1

E2. The next few questions are about your closest friend. Your immediate family should be excluded.

E3. Is your closest friend male or female?

Male ..... 1

Female ..... 2

E4. Where did this friendship start?

At school ..... 2

At work ..... 3

At club / organization ..... 4

At church ..... 5

At home or in the neighbourhood ..... 6

Through family ..... 7

Through a friend ..... 8

Other ..... 9

Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E5. Does your friend live within ...

10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ... 1

50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ... 2

100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ... 3

200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ... 4

400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ... 5

1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 6

Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 7

Same household ..... 8

GO TO F1 ←

Don't know ..... 9

E6. During the past 12 months, how often did you see your friend? Was it ...

Daily? ..... 2

At least once a week? ..... 3

At least once a month? ..... 4

Less than once a month? ... 5

Not at all? ..... 6

E7. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with your friend? Was it...

Daily? ..... 5

At least once a week? ..... 6

At least once a month? ..... 7

Less than once a month? ... 8

Not at all? ..... 9

SECTION F: Household help

F

F1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM: Review GSS 5-1.

Single person household ... 1  → GO TO F7  
Otherwise ... 2

F2. The next questions are about people who helped with the work around your house during the past 12 months. Include only household members.

F3. a) Who helps with meal preparation in your household?  
*(Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)*

<input type="text"/>	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?	
<input type="text"/>	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>	05 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>	13 <input type="radio"/>	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>	17 <input type="radio"/>	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>

b) During the past 12 months, how much of the meal preparation did ... do? Was it ...

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for meal preparation in your household?  
*(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)*

Not applicable / no one in household ... 97  → GO TO F4

22  Someone from outside household

F4. a) Who helps with meal cleanup in your household?  
*(Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)*

<input type="text"/>	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?	
<input type="text"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>	25 <input type="radio"/>	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>	29 <input type="radio"/>	30 <input type="radio"/>	31 <input type="radio"/>	32 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	33 <input type="radio"/>	34 <input type="radio"/>	35 <input type="radio"/>	36 <input type="radio"/>	37 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	38 <input type="radio"/>	39 <input type="radio"/>	40 <input type="radio"/>	41 <input type="radio"/>	42 <input type="radio"/>

b) During the past 12 months, how much of the meal cleanup did ... do? Was it ...

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for meal cleanup in your household?  
*(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)*

Not applicable / no one in household ... 97  → GO TO F5

44  Someone from outside household

F5. a) Who helps with house cleaning and laundry in your household?  
*(Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)*

<input type="text"/>	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?	
<input type="text"/>	45 <input type="radio"/>	46 <input type="radio"/>	47 <input type="radio"/>	48 <input type="radio"/>	49 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	50 <input type="radio"/>	51 <input type="radio"/>	52 <input type="radio"/>	53 <input type="radio"/>	54 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	55 <input type="radio"/>	56 <input type="radio"/>	57 <input type="radio"/>	58 <input type="radio"/>	59 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	60 <input type="radio"/>	61 <input type="radio"/>	62 <input type="radio"/>	63 <input type="radio"/>	64 <input type="radio"/>

b) During the past 12 months, how much of the cleaning and laundry did ... do? Was it ...

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for house cleaning and laundry in your household?  
*(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)*

Not applicable / no one in household ... 97  → GO TO F6

66  Someone from outside household

F6. a) Who helps with house maintenance and outside work such as repairs, painting, carpentry, lawn mowing, shovelling snow?  
*(Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)*

<input type="text"/>	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?	
<input type="text"/>	67 <input type="radio"/>	68 <input type="radio"/>	69 <input type="radio"/>	70 <input type="radio"/>	71 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	72 <input type="radio"/>	73 <input type="radio"/>	74 <input type="radio"/>	75 <input type="radio"/>	76 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	77 <input type="radio"/>	78 <input type="radio"/>	79 <input type="radio"/>	80 <input type="radio"/>	81 <input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	82 <input type="radio"/>	83 <input type="radio"/>	84 <input type="radio"/>	85 <input type="radio"/>	86 <input type="radio"/>

b) During the past 12 months, how much of the house maintenance and outside work did ... do? Was it ...

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for house maintenance and outside work in your household?  
*(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)*

Not applicable / no one in household ... 97  → GO TO F7

88  Someone from outside household



F13. For which person or organization?

(Mark all that apply)

(For each circle marked, ask:)

How often did you provide this help?

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/> →	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/> →	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/> →	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/> →	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/> →	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/> →	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/> →	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

F14. During the past 12 months, has anyone from outside your household helped on an unpaid basis with house maintenance or outside work such as repairs, painting, carpentry, lawn mowing or shovelling snow?

- Yes ..... 7
- No ..... 8
- Not applicable ..... 9
- } → GO TO F16

F15. Who provided such help?

(Mark all that apply)

(For each circle marked, ask:)

How often did they provide this help?

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	29 <input type="radio"/> →	30 <input type="radio"/>	31 <input type="radio"/>	32 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	33 <input type="radio"/> →	34 <input type="radio"/>	35 <input type="radio"/>	36 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	37 <input type="radio"/> →	38 <input type="radio"/>	39 <input type="radio"/>	40 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	41 <input type="radio"/> →	42 <input type="radio"/>	43 <input type="radio"/>	44 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	45 <input type="radio"/> →	46 <input type="radio"/>	47 <input type="radio"/>	48 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	49 <input type="radio"/> →	50 <input type="radio"/>	51 <input type="radio"/>	52 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	53 <input type="radio"/> →	54 <input type="radio"/>	55 <input type="radio"/>	56 <input type="radio"/>

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

F16. During the past 12 months, have you provided unpaid transportation to anyone outside your household, such as driving them to an appointment or shopping?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 2  → GO TO F18

F17. For which person or organization?

(Mark all that apply)

(For each circle marked, ask:)

How often did you provide this help?

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/> →	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/> →	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/> →	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/> →	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/> →	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/> →	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/> →	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_









**H SECTION H: Marriages**

H1. The next questions are about marriages and common-law partnerships. Your answers will help us better measure how family relationships are changing.

H2. Have you ever been a partner in a common-law relationship? By this we mean partners living together as husband and wife without being legally married.

Yes ..... 1   
No ..... 2

H3. Are you now legally married?

Yes ..... 3  → GO TO H5  
No ..... 4

H4. Have you ever been legally married?

Yes ..... 5  → GO TO H16  
No ..... 6  → GO TO H37

H5. Are you living with your spouse?

Yes ..... 7  → GO TO H8  
No ..... 8

H6. Are you separated?

Yes ..... 1   
No ..... 2  → GO TO H8

H7. When did you separate?

Month Year

H8. What was the date of your current marriage?

Month Year

H9. What was your spouse's marital status before entering into this marriage? Was it ...

Widowed? ..... 7   
Divorced? ..... 8   
Single? ..... 9

H10. What is your spouse's date of birth?

Month Year

H11. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review H2.  
Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?

Yes ..... 1   
No ..... 2  → GO TO H14

H12. Did you and your spouse live common-law before entering into this marriage?

Yes ..... 3   
No ..... 4  → GO TO H14

H13. Approximately when did you and your current spouse begin to live together?

Month Year

H14. Is this your first marriage?

Yes ..... 5   
No ..... 6  → GO TO H16

H15. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review H6.  
Is the respondent currently separated (H6 = Yes)?

Yes ..... 7  → GO TO J1  
No ..... 8  → GO TO J3

H16. What was the date of your first marriage?

Month Year

H17. What was your first husband/wife's marital status before entering into that marriage? Was it ...

Widowed? ..... 1   
Divorced? ..... 2   
Single? ..... 3

H18. What was his/her date of birth?

Month Year

H19. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review H2.  
Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?

Yes ..... 4   
No ..... 5  → GO TO H22

H20. Did you and your first spouse live common-law before entering into this marriage?

Yes ..... 6   
No ..... 7  → GO TO H22

H21. Approximately when did you and your first husband/wife begin to live together?

Month Year

H22. Did your first marriage end in ...

(Read categories and record month and year)

	When?
	Month Year
Separation and then divorce or annulment? .....	1 <input type="radio"/> { sep. <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> div. / ann. <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Separation only? .....	6 <input type="radio"/> → <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Death of spouse? .....	7 <input type="radio"/> → <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Other .....	8 <input type="radio"/> → <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

H23. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review H3.  
Is respondent currently married (H3 = Yes)?

Yes ..... 1   
No ..... 2  → GO TO H26

H24. Is your current marriage your second?  
 Yes ..... 3   
 No ..... 4  → GO TO H27

H25. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H6.  
 Is respondent currently separated (H6 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 5  → GO TO J1  
 No ..... 6  → GO TO J3

H26. Have you been legally married a second time?  
 Yes ..... 7   
 No ..... 8  → GO TO H38

H27. What was the date of your second marriage?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

H28. What was your second husband/wife's marital status before entering into that marriage? Was it ...  
 Widowed? ..... 1   
 Divorced? ..... 2   
 Single? ..... 3

H29. What was his/her date of birth?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

H30. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H2.  
 Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 4   
 No ..... 5  → GO TO H33

H31. Did you and your second spouse live common-law before entering into this marriage?  
 Yes ..... 6   
 No ..... 7  → GO TO H33

H32. Approximately when did you and your second husband/wife begin to live together?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

H33. Did your second marriage end in ...  
 (Read categories and record month and year)  
 When? Month Year

Separation and then divorce or annulment? ... 1  { sep. [2] [ ] [3] [ ]  
 div. / ann. [4] [ ] [5] [ ]

Separation only? ..... 6  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

Death of spouse? ..... 7  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

Other ..... 8  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

H34. In total, how many times have you been legally married?  
 [ ] [ ] times

H35. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H3.  
 Is respondent currently married (H3 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 1   
 No ..... 2  → GO TO H38

H36. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H6.  
 Is respondent currently separated (H6 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 3  → GO TO J1  
 No ..... 4  → GO TO J3

H37. Do you think you will ever marry?  
 Yes ..... 7  → GO TO H39  
 No ..... 8  } → GO TO J1  
 Don't know 9  }

H38. Do you think you will ever marry again?  
 Yes ..... 4   
 No ..... 5  } → GO TO J1  
 Don't know 6  }

H39. At what age would you like to get married/remarried?  
 [ ] years  
 Don't know 98

**SECTION J: Common-law partnerships** J

J1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H2.  
 Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 1   
 No ..... 2  → GO TO K1

J2. Are you now living with a common-law partner?  
 Yes ..... 3  → GO TO J5  
 No ..... 4  → GO TO J4

J3. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H2.  
 Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 5   
 No ..... 6  → GO TO K1

J4. Have you ever been a partner in a common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  
 Yes ..... 7  → GO TO J9  
 No ..... 8  → GO TO K1

J5. Approximately when did you and your partner begin to live together?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

J6. What was your partner's marital status before entering into this union? Was it ...  
 Widowed? ..... 1   
 Separated? ..... 2   
 Divorced? ..... 3   
 Single? ..... 4

J7. What is your partner's date of birth?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

J8. Have you had a previous common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  
 Yes ..... 5   
 No ..... 6  → GO TO K1

J9. Approximately when did you begin your first common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

J10. What was that partner's marital status before entering into that union? Was it ...  
 Widowed? ..... 2   
 Separated? ..... 3   
 Divorced? ..... 4   
 Single? ..... 5

J11. What was that partner's date of birth?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

J12. Did this partnership end by separation or by the death of your partner?  
 (Record reason, month and year)  
 When?  
 Month Year  
 Separation ..... 6  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Death of partner ..... 7  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

J13. Have you been a partner in any other common-law relationships that were not followed by marriage?  
 Yes ..... 8   
 No ..... 9  → GO TO K1

J14. Approximately when did you begin your second common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

J15. What was that partner's marital status before entering into that union? Was it ...  
 Widowed? ..... 1   
 Separated? ..... 2   
 Divorced? ..... 3   
 Single? ..... 4

J16. What was that partner's date of birth?  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Month Year

J17. Did this partnership end by separation or by the death of your partner?  
 (Record reason, month and year)  
 When?  
 Month Year  
 Separation ..... 5  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Death of partner ..... 6  → [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

J18. In total, how many times have you been a partner in common-law relationships that were not followed by marriage?  
 [ ] [ ] times

**SECTION K: Satisfaction**

K1. Now, I am going to ask you to rate certain areas of your life.

K2. Would you describe yourself as ...  
 Very happy? ..... 1   
 Somewhat happy? ..... 2   
 Somewhat unhappy? ..... 3   
 Very unhappy? ..... 4   
 No opinion ..... 5

K3. How would you describe your state of health? Compared to other persons your age, would you say it is ...  
 Excellent? ..... 6   
 Good? ..... 7   
 Fair? ..... 8   
 Poor? ..... 9

K4. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with ...

Is that somewhat or very?

Somewhat

Very

a) Your relationship with your spouse/partner, or your single status? ..... Satisfied .... 01  ..... 02  ..... 03   
 Dissatisfied ... 04  ..... 05  ..... 06   
 No opinion ... 07

b) Your relationship with your immediate family? ..... Satisfied .... 08  ..... 09  ..... 10   
 Dissatisfied ... 11  ..... 12  ..... 13   
 No opinion ... 14

c) The way housework is shared in your home? ..... Satisfied .... 15  ..... 16  ..... 17   
 Dissatisfied ... 18  ..... 19  ..... 20   
 No opinion ... 21

d) Your job or main activity? ... Satisfied .... 22  ..... 23  ..... 24   
 Dissatisfied ... 25  ..... 26  ..... 27   
 No opinion ... 28

e) The balance between your job or main activity and family and home life? ..... Satisfied .... 29  ..... 30  ..... 31   
 Dissatisfied ... 32  ..... 33  ..... 34   
 No opinion ... 35

f) The amount of time you have to pursue other interests? ... Satisfied .... 36  ..... 37  ..... 38   
 Dissatisfied ... 39  ..... 40  ..... 41   
 No opinion ... 42

g) Your relationship with your friends? ..... Satisfied .... 43  ..... 44  ..... 45   
 Dissatisfied ... 46  ..... 47  ..... 48   
 No opinion ... 49

h) Your current accommodation or housing? Satisfied ... 50  ..... 51  ..... 52   
 Dissatisfied ... 53  ..... 54  ..... 55   
 No opinion ... 56

Why are you dissatisfied with your accommodation or housing?

(Mark all that apply)

- Cost of mortgage rent ..... 57
- Property taxes ..... 58
- Traffic in neighbourhood ..... 59
- Other neighbourhood dislikes ..... 60
- Accommodation too small ..... 61
- Accommodation too large ..... 62
- Would like to own ..... 63
- Building maintenance ..... 64
- Maintenance costs ..... 65
- Transportation difficulties ..... 66
- Other ..... 67

Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**L SECTION L: Classification**

L1. Now a few general questions.

L2. How many times did you move in the last 10 years, that is since January 1980?  
  times  
None ..... 00

L3. When did you move to your present address?  
     
Month Year  
Always lived there ..... 1  → GO TO L6

L4. How far away did you last live before moving to your present address? Was it within ...  
10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ... 2   
50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ... 3   
100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ... 4   
200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ... 5   
400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ... 6   
1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 7   
Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 8

L5. What were your reasons for this move?  
(Mark all that apply)  
Your work ..... 01   
Other family member's work ..... 02   
To be closer to family ..... 03   
To take care of family member ..... 04   
Marriage ..... 05   
Separation ..... 06   
To move to own dwelling/ independence ..... 07   
To move to a larger home ..... 08   
To move to a smaller home ..... 09   
To move to a less expensive home ..... 10   
To purchase a home ..... 11   
To move to a better neighbourhood/ change in neighbourhood ..... 12   
To attend school ..... 13   
Financial reasons ..... 14   
Other ..... 15   
↓  
Specify

L6. In what type of dwelling are you now living? Is it a...  
Single detached house? ..... 1   
Semi-detached or double (side-by-side)? ..... 2   
Garden house, town house or row house? ..... 3   
Duplex (one above the other)? ..... 4   
Low-rise apartment (less than 5 stories)? ..... 5   
High-rise apartment (5 or more stories)? ..... 6   
Mobile home? ..... 7   
Other ..... 8   
↓  
Specify

L7. Is this dwelling owned by a member of this household?  
Yes ..... 1   
No ..... 2

L8. What is your postal code?  
       
Don't know ..... 3

L9. How many telephones, including extensions, are there in your dwelling?  
One ..... 4  → GO TO L14  
Two or more ..... 5

L10. Do all the telephones have the same number?  
Yes ..... 6  → GO TO L14  
No ..... 7

L11. How many different numbers are there?

L12. Are any of these numbers for business use only?  
Yes ..... 8   
No ..... 9  → GO TO L14

L13. How many are for business use only?

**L14. In what country were you born?**

Canada  → In which province or territory?

Newfoundland .....	01	<input type="radio"/>	} L16
Prince Edward Island ..	02	<input type="radio"/>	
Nova Scotia .....	03	<input type="radio"/>	
New Brunswick .....	04	<input type="radio"/>	
Quebec .....	05	<input type="radio"/>	
Ontario .....	06	<input type="radio"/>	
Manitoba .....	07	<input type="radio"/>	
Saskatchewan .....	08	<input type="radio"/>	
Alberta .....	09	<input type="radio"/>	
British Columbia .....	10	<input type="radio"/>	
Yukon Territory .....	11	<input type="radio"/>	
Northwest Territories ..	12	<input type="radio"/>	

GO TO

Country outside Canada  2

↓ Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**L15. In what year did you first immigrate to Canada?**

Canadian citizen by birth ..... 997

**L16. What is your date of birth?**

Day      Month      Year

**L17. What language did you first speak in childhood?**  
(Accept multiple response only if languages were used equally)

			Do you still understand that/those language(s)?	
			Yes	No
English .....	3	<input type="radio"/>		
French .....	4	<input type="radio"/>	→ 03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Italian .....	5	<input type="radio"/>	→ 05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>
German .....	6	<input type="radio"/>	→ 07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Ukrainian .....	7	<input type="radio"/>	→ 09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>
Other .....	8	<input type="radio"/>	→ 11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>

↓ Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**L18. What language do you speak most often at home?**  
(Accept multiple response only if languages are spoken equally.)

English .....	1	<input type="radio"/>
French .....	2	<input type="radio"/>
Italian .....	3	<input type="radio"/>
Chinese .....	4	<input type="radio"/>
German .....	5	<input type="radio"/>
Other .....	6	<input type="radio"/>

↓ Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**L19. Excluding kindergarten, how many years of elementary and high school education have you successfully completed?**

No schooling .....	01	<input type="radio"/>	→ GO TO L23
One to five years ..	02	<input type="radio"/>	} → GO TO L21
Six .....	03	<input type="radio"/>	
Seven .....	04	<input type="radio"/>	
Eight .....	05	<input type="radio"/>	
Nine .....	06	<input type="radio"/>	
Ten .....	07	<input type="radio"/>	
Eleven .....	08	<input type="radio"/>	
Twelve .....	09	<input type="radio"/>	
Thirteen .....	10	<input type="radio"/>	

**L20. Have you graduated from high school?**

Yes ..... 1 |  |

No ..... 2 |  |

**L21. Have you had any further schooling beyond elementary/high school?**

Yes ..... 3 |  |

No ..... 4 |  | → GO TO L23 |

L22. What is the highest level of education that you have attained?

Masters or earned doctorate ..... 1

Bachelor or undergraduate degree, or teacher's college ..... 2

Diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP or nursing school ..... 3

Diploma or certificate from trade, technical or vocational school, or business college ..... 4

Some university ..... 5

Some community college, CEGEP or nursing school ..... 6

Some trade, technical or vocational college ..... 7

Other ..... 8

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L23. What, if any, is your religion?

No religion ..... 01  → GO TO L25

Roman Catholic ..... 02

United Church ..... 03

Anglican ..... 04

Presbyterian ..... 05

Lutheran ..... 06

Baptist ..... 07

Eastern Orthodox ..... 08

Jewish ..... 09

Other ..... 10

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L24. Other than on special occasions, such as weddings, funerals or baptisms, how often did you attend services or meetings connected with your religion in the last 12 months?

Was it ...

At least once a week? ..... 1

At least once a month? ..... 2

A few times a year? ..... 3

At least once a year? ..... 4

Not at all? ..... 5

L25. To which ethnic or cultural group do you or did your ancestors belong? Would it be ...

(Accept multiple responses)

English? ..... 02

Irish? ..... 03

Scottish? ..... 04

French? ..... 01

German? ..... 05

Italian? ..... 06

Ukrainian? ..... 07

Other ..... 08

↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Canadian (Probe) ..... 09

Don't know ..... 10

L26. During the past 12 months, what best describes your MAIN activity? Were you mainly ...

Working at a job or business? ..... 1  → GO TO L29

Looking for work? ..... 2  → GO TO L28

A student? ..... 3

Keeping house? ..... 4

Retired? ..... 5

Other ..... 6

} GO TO L28  
↓  
Specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L27. Were you studying full-time or part-time?

Full-time ..... 7

Part-time ..... 8

L28. Did you have a job or were you self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?

Yes ..... 1

No ..... 2  → GO TO L36

L29. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and maternity/paternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did you do any work at a job or business?

[ 3 ] [ ] [ ] weeks

L30. During those weeks, how many hours per week did you usually work?

[ 4 ] [ ] [ ] hours

L31. Did you regularly work evening or night shifts?

Yes ..... 5

No ..... 6

L32. Did you regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?  
 Yes ..... 7   
 No ..... 8

L39. Was he/she studying full-time or part-time?  
 Full-time ..... 1   
 Part-time ..... 2

L33. For whom did you work for the longest time during the past 12 months?  
 (Name of business, government department or agency, or person)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

L40. Did your spouse have a job or was he/she self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?  
 Yes ..... 3   
 No ..... 4  → GO TO L45

L41. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and maternity/paternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did he/she do any work at a job or business?  
 [ 5 ] [ ] [ ] weeks

L34. What kind of business, industry or service was this?  
 (Give full description: e.g. paper box manufacturing, retail shoe store, municipal board of education)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

L42. During those weeks, how many hours per week did he/she usually work?  
 [ 6 ] [ ] [ ] hours

L43. Did he/she regularly work evening or night shifts?  
 Yes ..... 7   
 No ..... 8

L35. What kind of work were you doing?  
 (Give full description: e.g. accounts clerk, dairy farmer, primary school teacher)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

L44. Did he/she regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?  
 Yes ..... 1   
 No ..... 2

L45. What is the highest level of education your spouse attained?  
 Masters or earned doctorate ..... 01   
 Bachelor or undergraduate degree, or teacher's college ..... 02   
 Diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP or nursing school ..... 03   
 Diploma or certificate from trade, technical or vocational school, or business college ..... 04   
 Some university ..... 05   
 Some community college, CEGEP or nursing school ..... 06   
 Some trade, technical or vocational school, or business college ..... 07   
 Secondary/high school graduation ..... 08   
 Some secondary/high school ..... 09   
 Elementary school (some or completed) ..... 10   
 No schooling ..... 11   
 Other ..... 12

L36. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review H5 and J2.  
 Is the respondent living with his/her spouse or partner (H5 = Yes or J2 = Yes)?  
 Yes ..... 1   
 No ..... 2  → GO TO L46

L37. The next few questions are about your spouse/partner.

L38. During the past 12 months, what best describes your spouse's MAIN activity? Was he/she mainly ...  
 Working at a job or business? ..... 3  → GO TO L41  
 Looking for work? ..... 4  → GO TO L40  
 A student? ..... 5   
 Keeping house? ..... 6   
 Retired? ..... 7  } GO TO L40  
 Other ..... 8  }  
 ↓  
 Specify  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Specify  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## Appendix B: Sampling and Estimation Procedures of the General Social Survey\*

### Waksberg RDD Design

Prince Edward Island  
Manitoba

part of Quebec  
Saskatchewan

The Waksberg Method is a Random Digit Dialling (RDD) sampling technique which significantly reduces the cost of a survey as compared to dialling telephone numbers completely at random. The method employs a two-stage design which increases the likelihood of contacting households.

For each stratum within each province, an up-to-date list of all telephone area code and prefix combinations was obtained. To these, all possible combinations of the next two digits were added (i.e., all possible banks of 100 consecutive numbers within existing area code - prefix combinations were identified). This resulted in a list of all the possible first eight digits of ten digit telephone numbers in each stratum. These eight digit numbers formed the first stage sampling units.

Within each stratum, a random selection was made of one of these eight digit numbers and then the final two digits were generated at random. This number (called a Primary Number) was called to determine whether or not it reached a household. If it did not reach a household (i.e., the number was not in use or it was a business, institution, etc.), the number was dropped from further consideration. If it did reach a household, additional numbers referred to as secondary numbers were generated within the same bank (i.e., numbers with the same first eight digits as the primary number). These numbers were also called to determine whether or not they reached a household.

Secondary numbers were generated on a continuing basis until (i) five additional households were reached in each retained bank; (ii) the bank was exhausted; or (iii) the survey period ended.

Primary numbers were generated continuously throughout the survey period in order to yield a predetermined required number of households within each stratum. An attempt was made to conduct an interview with a randomly selected respondent in all

primary and secondary households reached.

This method is more efficient than 'pure' random digit dialling because secondary numbers are never generated for banks where the primary was not a household.

In provinces where the Waksberg method was used, around 54.2 percent of the secondary numbers reached a household, while only 11.5 percent of the primary numbers called reached a household.

### **Elimination of Non-Working Banks RDD Design**

Newfoundland	Nova Scotia
New Brunswick	most of Quebec
Ontario	Alberta
British Columbia	

The Elimination of Non-Working Banks (ENWB) design is a form of Random Digit Dialling in which an attempt is made to identify all working banks for an area (i.e., to identify all banks with at least one household). Thus, all telephone numbers within non-working banks are eliminated from the sampling frame.

For these provinces, lists of working banks were extracted from lists of all telephone numbers in use purchased from the telephone companies. Each bank was assigned to a stratum within its province.

A special situation existed in Ontario because some small areas are serviced by independent phone companies (not Bell). The area code prefixes for these areas were identified by matching the Bell file with a file of all area codes and prefixes. Area code prefixes from Ontario, not on the Bell file were identified. All banks within these area code prefixes were generated and added to the sampling frame. It would have been more effective to use the Waksberg method for these excluded areas, but the Waksberg method requires that an accurate population estimate be available for the survey area. Such an estimate was not available for the parts of Ontario not covered by Bell.

A random sample of telephone numbers was then generated for each stratum (from these working banks). An attempt was made to generate the entire sample of telephone numbers on the first day of interviewing. Therefore, a prediction had to be made of the

percentage of numbers dialled that would reach a household (this is known as the ‘hit rate’). The hit rate was estimated using information from previous RDD surveys.

As was done for the other provinces, an attempt was made to conduct a GSS interview with one randomly selected person from each household reached.

For the GSS in the ENWB provinces, around 44.3 percent of the numbers dialled reached households.

### **Weighting**

For both the Waksberg design and the Elimination of Non-working Banks design, each household within a stratum has an equal probability of selection. For the Waksberg households, the initial weight is set to a constant (1.0) for all records. For ENWB households the initial weight is equal to the total number of telephone numbers in the stratum divided by the number of sampled telephone numbers in the stratum.

The initial weight is adjusted for non-response, for the number of telephone numbers a household has, and the number of people living in the household who are 15 years of age or over. The second adjustment corrects for the higher probability of households with more than one telephone number being sampled and the third adjustment converts the household weight into a ‘person weight’.

Subsequently, these ‘person weights’ were adjusted within strata so that the estimated population sizes for the strata would agree with census projections of the population. In the final stages of sampling, the weights were adjusted for over or under-sampling within province-sex-age groups, again using census projections for the target population.

### **Estimation**

The estimate of the number of people in the population having a given set of characteristics is determined by summing the weights of all sampled people with that set of characteristics. The estimates of people presented in the tables are rounded to the nearest thousand, which not only improves readability but also provides data at an appropriate

level of precision.

\* Statistics Canada. (1991). *The 1990 General Social Survey - Cycle 5 Family and Friends: Public Use Microdata File Documentation and User's Guide*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

### Appendix C: Standardized Residuals for Logistic Regression Models

Table Number	Regression Variable Name	Mean	Standard Deviation
7	Support with housework	.01	1.00
8	Support with household maintenance	.00	1.00
9	Support with meal preparation	.00	1.00
10	Support with transportation	.00	1.00
11	Support with personal care	.00	1.00
12	Emotional Support	.00	1.00
36	Spouse Main Source Emotional Support	.00	1.00
37	Child Main Source Emotional Support	.01	1.00
38	Friend or Neighbour Main Source Emotional Support	.00	1.01
39	Other Main Source Emotional Support	.00	1.00
40	No one/Do not Know Main Source Emotional Support	.00	1.00

## **Appendix D: Remarried Childless Older Persons and the Provision of Support**

Although there were too few remarried childless respondents to include in the major analyses, it remains of interest to explore whether or not there were any differences in the receipt of support associated with the addition of this family structure. Due to the combination of the measurement methods for types and levels of support (e.g. scale levels), and the limited number of remarried childless respondents, only sources of support were examined, and only crosstabulations were performed.

The crosstabulation assessing differences in the number of areas of instrumental assistance provided by a spouse does not yield significant differences (see Table 41). However, the chi-square value for the crosstabulation comparing the number of types of support provided by 'other' sources (see Table 42) is significant ( $p < .01$ ). None of the remarried childless respondents received help from 'other' sources with all of their instrumental tasks. In addition, they are the least likely of the four family types (56.5% vs 59.4% married childless individuals, 63.5% remarried parents, and 66.4% married parents) to receive no help from this source.

Significant differences are also evident across the four family structures with regard to a respondent's main source of emotional support (see Table 43). Remarried childless respondents are the next to remarried parents (50.0%) in the likelihood that they will report their spouse as their main source of emotional support (47.8%). Both groups of parents (first-time married and remarried) are the least likely to name an 'other' source for emotional support. While similar proportions (ranging from 13.9% to 15.7%) of respondents in the original three family types report having no one or do not know whom

**Table 41 Crosstabulations of Number of Areas of Instrumental<sup>1</sup> Support Received from a Spouse by Four Family Structures**

Number of areas of instrumental support received from a spouse	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Remarried Childless	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
0	191	12.8	25	12.1	19	15.1	2	9.5
1	285	19.1	31	15.0	25	19.8	2	9.5
2	721	48.4	108	52.2	59	46.8	14	66.7
≥3	292	19.6	43	20.8	23	18.3	3	14.3

$\chi^2 = 6.05$   $df = 9$ ;  $p = n.s$

<sup>1</sup>. Instrumental support includes; help with housework, household maintenance, household maintenance, meal preparation and personal care. Transportation was not an area of support asked of the spouse in the GSS.

Total does not equal 1843 due to missing data.

**Table 42 Crosstabulations of Number of Areas of Instrumental<sup>1</sup> Support Received from Others by Four Family Structures**

Number of areas of instrumental support received from others	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Remarried Childless	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
0	999	66.4	132	63.5	76	59.4	13	56.5
1	394	26.2	64	30.8	29	22.7	8	34.8
2	89	5.9	10	4.8	21	16.4	2	8.7
≥3	22	1.5	2	1.0	2	1.6	0	0

$\chi^2 = 25.83$ ;  $df = 9$ ;  $\rho = .000$

<sup>1</sup>. Instrumental support includes; housework, household maintenance, meal preparation, personal care and transportation.

Total does not equal 1843 due to missing data.

**Table 43 Crosstabulations of Main Source of Emotional Support by Four Family Structures**

Main source of emotional support	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Remarried Childless	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
Spouse	652	43.5	104	50.0	51	40.2	11	47.8
Child	285	19.0	31	14.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Friend/ Neighbour	120	8.0	18	8.7	15	11.8	1	4.3
Other	232	15.5	26	12.5	41	32.3	4	17.4
No one/Do Not Know	209	14.0	29	13.9	20	15.7	7	30.4

$\chi^2 = 61.25$ ;  $df = 12$ ;  $\rho = .000$

Total does not equal 1843 due to missing data

they would turn to for emotional support, this percentage almost doubles (30.4%) for remarried childless respondents.

Overall, these results suggest that aside from a similar proportion of remarried childless individuals and remarried parents turning to their spouse first for emotional support, older persons embedded within this fourth family type likely differ in patterns of support from other sources. In the absence of more extensive examination, it would appear that remarried childless older adults have a smaller network of support, with the spouse playing a key role. Whether this level of support from a spouse would continue with a greater need for support from a spouse requires further examination. Previous research (see, for example, Hooyman & Lustbader, 1986; Schwenger, 1989; Vinick, 1978) suggests that commitment to caregiving responsibilities towards a spouse tends to decrease with subsequent marriages. Additional examination of the support systems of remarried childless older adults is needed to determine whether or not this is the case.

### Appendix E: Receipt of Paid Help Among Older Adults

Another area of interest for this study, but not included in the main analyses, is the relationship between family structure and the receipt of *paid* help for various tasks. While paid help was not examined in detail (i.e., extent, frequency, individual sources) within the GSS dataset, respondents were asked: "During the past 12 months was someone from outside your household paid to help with meal preparation, housework, house maintenance or outside work, and transportation?". To measure the extent of paid help received, positive responses were then summed, and truncated<sup>18</sup> with scores of (0) no paid help in any area and (1+) paid help received one or more areas. Crosstabular and regression analyses were then performed to examine the relationship between family structure and the receipt of paid help with housework, household maintenance, meal preparation and transportation.

The results of the crosstabular analyses are reported in Table 44. Remarried childless respondents appear the least likely to have paid help. Only 13.0 percent of those in this family structure received paid help compared with 33.5 percent of remarried parents, 30.5 percent of married childless individuals and 30.0 percent married parents. However, these differences were not statistically significant (perhaps due to limited sample size).

Two logistic regression models were then constructed to examine the issue of paid

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<sup>18</sup> An original scale of 0-4 resulted in only 9.3% of the sample receiving paid help in 2 or more areas. Therefore, the scale was truncated to avoid problems associated with skewed distributions.

**Table 44 Number of Areas of Paid Help by Four Family Structures**

Number of Areas of Paid Help	First Married Parents		Remarried Parents		First Married Childless		Remarried Childless		Total	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
0	1054	69.8	139	66.5	89	69.5	20	87.0	1302	69.8
1+	452	30.5	70	33.5	39	30.5	3	13.0	564	30.2

$\chi^2 = 7.99; df = 3; \rho = \text{n.s.}$

help further (see Table 45, Models 1 & 2<sup>19</sup>). Model 1 examined the relationships with only family structure (coded using three dummy variables) entered, whereas Model 2 examined the relationships in the presence of control variables. An examination of each of the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistics for the regression analyses reveals only Model 2 is statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ). However, as the  $R^2$  value indicates, only 6.7 percent of the change in the dependant variable (number of areas of paid help) can be explained with the inclusion of all independent variables into the model. In this regression model, the remarried childless family structure is a significant and negative predictor of the number of areas of paid help utilized. Those in the remarried childless group were the least likely to receive paid help with instrumental tasks.

Aside from family structure, other significant predictors of levels of paid help include age, education, health status and ethnic origin. Age and education level are both significant and positive predictors of the number of areas in which help is received. Older respondents and those with higher levels of education receive paid help with a greater number of instrumental tasks than do those who are younger and who have lower levels of education. How respondents perceive their state of health is also a significant but negative predictor of the number of areas of paid help. However, limited functional ability is a significant and positive predictor. In other words, respondents with **more** positive perceptions of their health are less likely to pay for assistance with housework, household maintenance, meal preparation and transportation while respondents with limited

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<sup>19</sup> As four family structures are now examined, the family structure variable is measured with three dummy variables - fam1 (married childless), fam3 (remarried with children) and the additional variable fam4 (remarried childless).

**Table 45 Predictors of Paid Help: Logistic Regression**

Predictor Variable	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	SE	$\beta$	SE
First married childless	-0.06	0.20	-0.12	0.22
Remarried with children	0.16	0.16	0.06	0.17
Remarried childless	-1.05	0.62	-1.35*	0.64
Age			0.08***	0.01
Gender			-0.05	0.11
Education level			0.25***	0.06
Household size			-0.08	0.14
Perceived health			-0.15*	0.08
Functional ability			0.50**	0.13
Ethnic Origin:				
French			-0.23	0.21
European			-0.55**	0.15
Multiethnic			0.27	0.19
Other			-0.05	0.21
Catholic Religion			-0.14	0.14
Other/No Religion			0.05	0.21
a	-0.85***	0.06	-6.13***	0.87
R <sup>2</sup> L	0.01		0.067	
$\chi^2$	4.71		147.12***	

\* $\rho < .05$   
\*\* $\rho < .01$   
\*\*\* $\rho < .001$

functional ability are likely to receive more paid assistance with these tasks. Finally, one's ethnic origin is also a significant and negative predictor of paid help, with those of European ethnic origin being less likely to receive paid help with instrumental types of support than those of all other ethnic origins.

In summary, the receipt of paid help does appear to vary somewhat depending upon family structure. Given similar age, education, health status and ethnic origin, individuals who are remarried and childless are the least likely to receive paid help with instrumental tasks. Exactly why this is the case is unclear. Perhaps it reflects a larger network of friends or a greater involvement in volunteer organizations that substitute for the involvement in social activities related to having children. Alternatively, it may be because remarried childless individuals have a higher level of independence and self-reliance resulting from possibly a lengthy time alone between marriages without the day to day sharing of tasks with a spouse and/or children. However, additional research is necessary for any more definitive conclusions to be drawn.

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