

Delinquent behaviour between the ages of 11-16 years: A secondary analysis of the Belfast Youth Development Study

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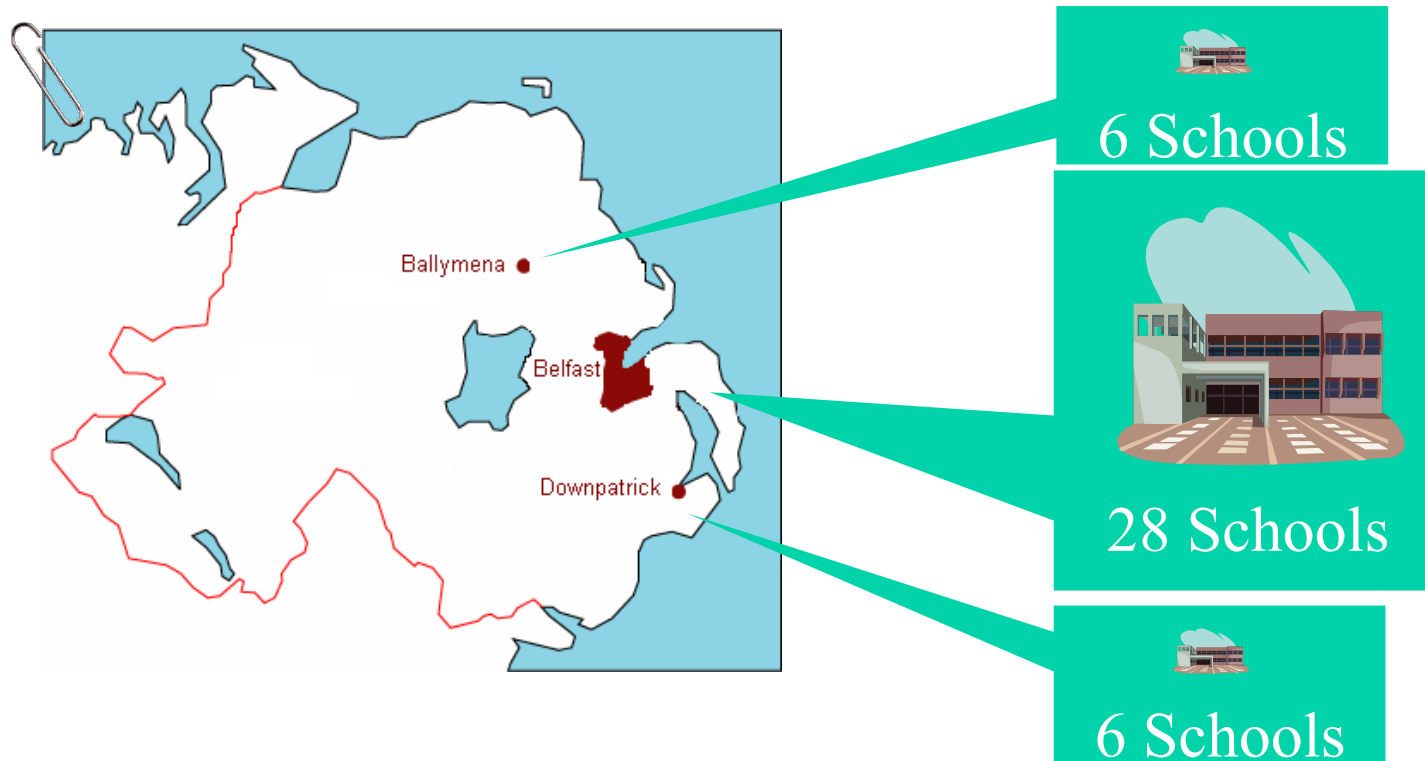
The Belfast Youth Development Study (BYDS)

(Funded by RDO DHSSPSNI)

- Longitudinal study examining the onset and development of adolescent drug use
- Annual Questionnaire Survey
- Approximately 4,000 participants each year (43 schools)
- Belfast, Ballymena and Downpatrick
- This analysis will focus on Year 5 of the study n= 3,834 (47% boys, 53% girls aged 15-16)



Belfast Youth Development Study: Sampling Features



BYDS Measurements

- **Demographics**
- Drug use measures
- Problem drug use
- Leisure and recreation
- Mental health screener
- Money/part-time work
- Personality
- **Delinquency**
- **Communication with parents**
- School Factors
- Neighbourhood factors



Aim of Presentation

To investigate the Effects of Parenting Relationships and Family Structure on Delinquent Behaviour of 15-16 year olds in Northern Ireland



Context of the Research

- Adolescent crime and delinquency has become a high profile social issue in recent years.
- Negative impact upon society generally as well as the health and social well-being of young people.
- It is widely accepted in delinquency research that families are of central importance in the prevention of delinquent behaviour
- Parenting practices are one of the most powerful predictors of future problem behaviour.

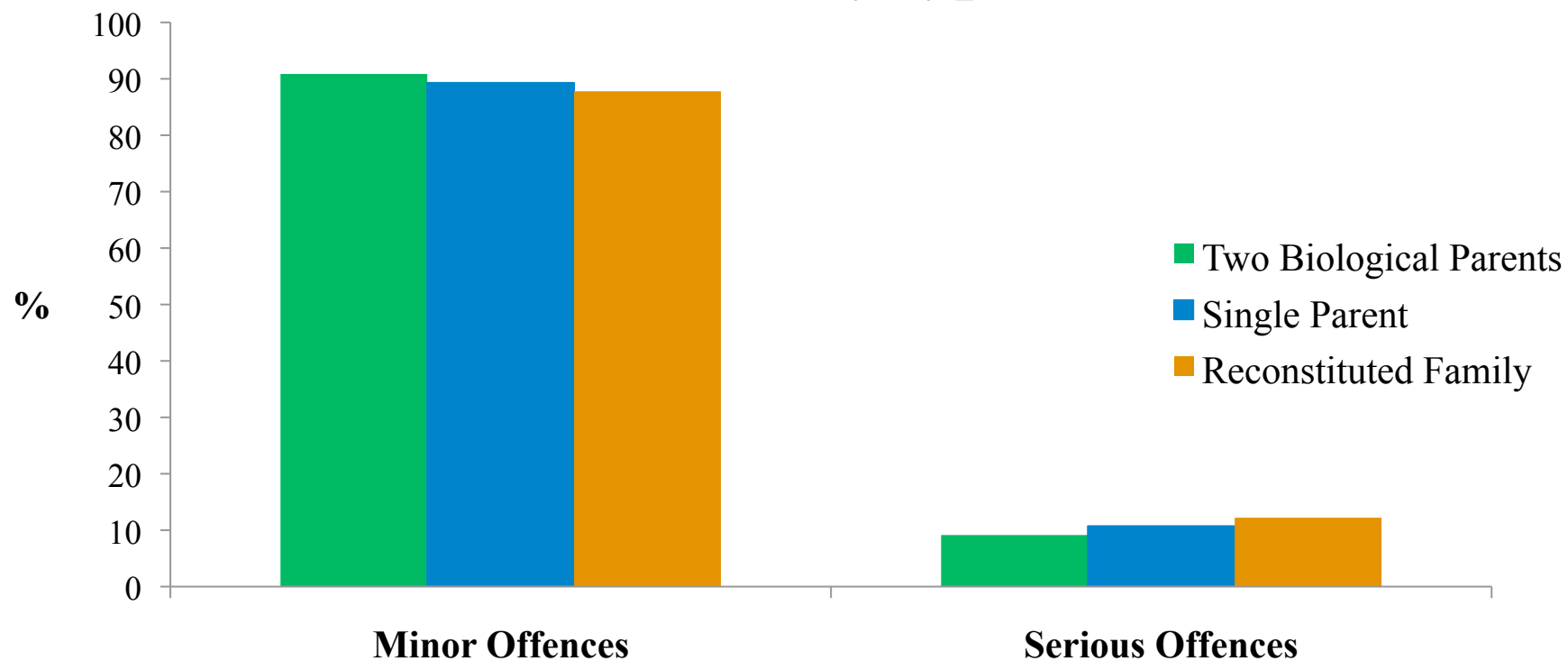


Family Structure

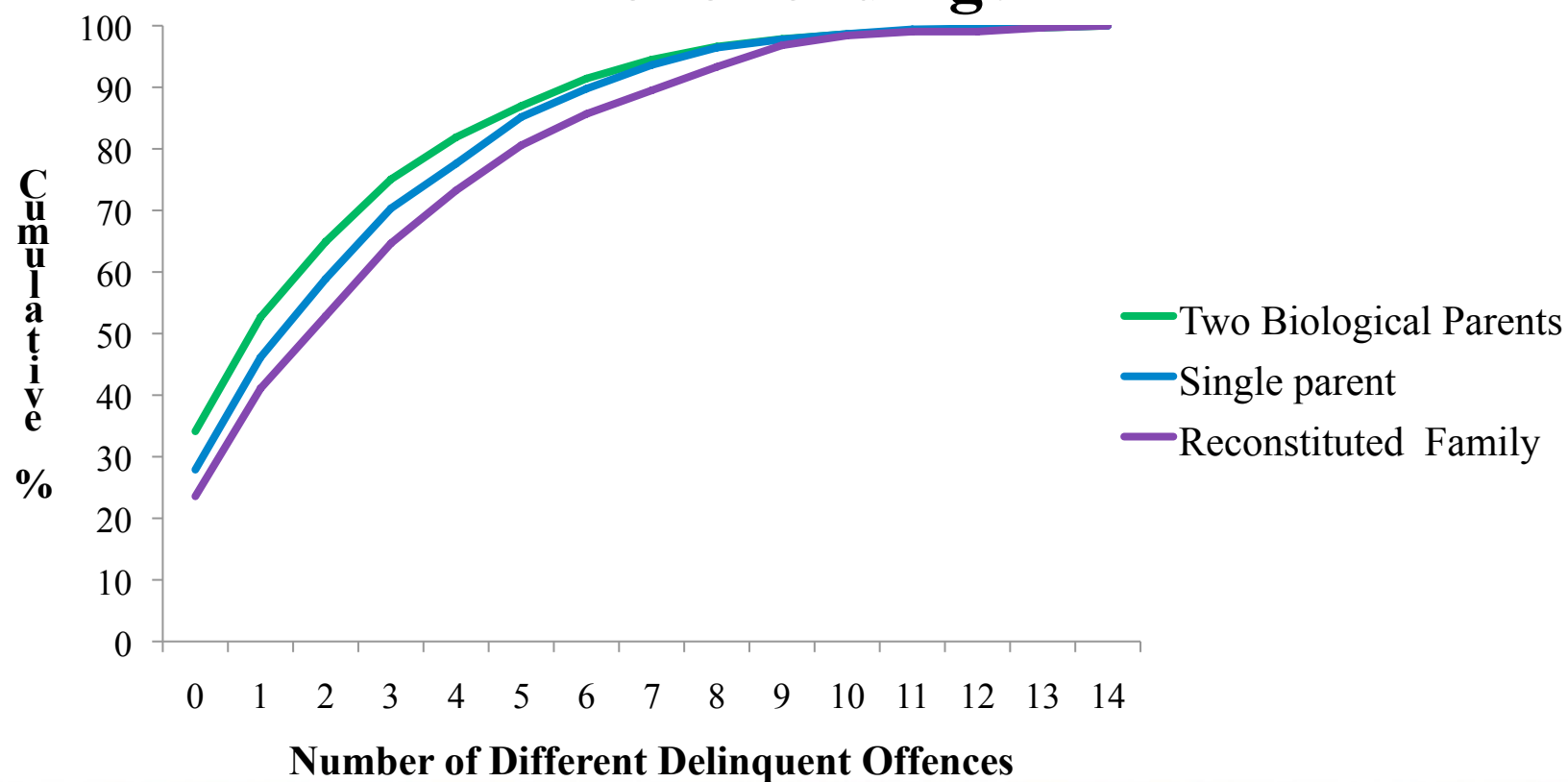
- Family type
- Number of siblings



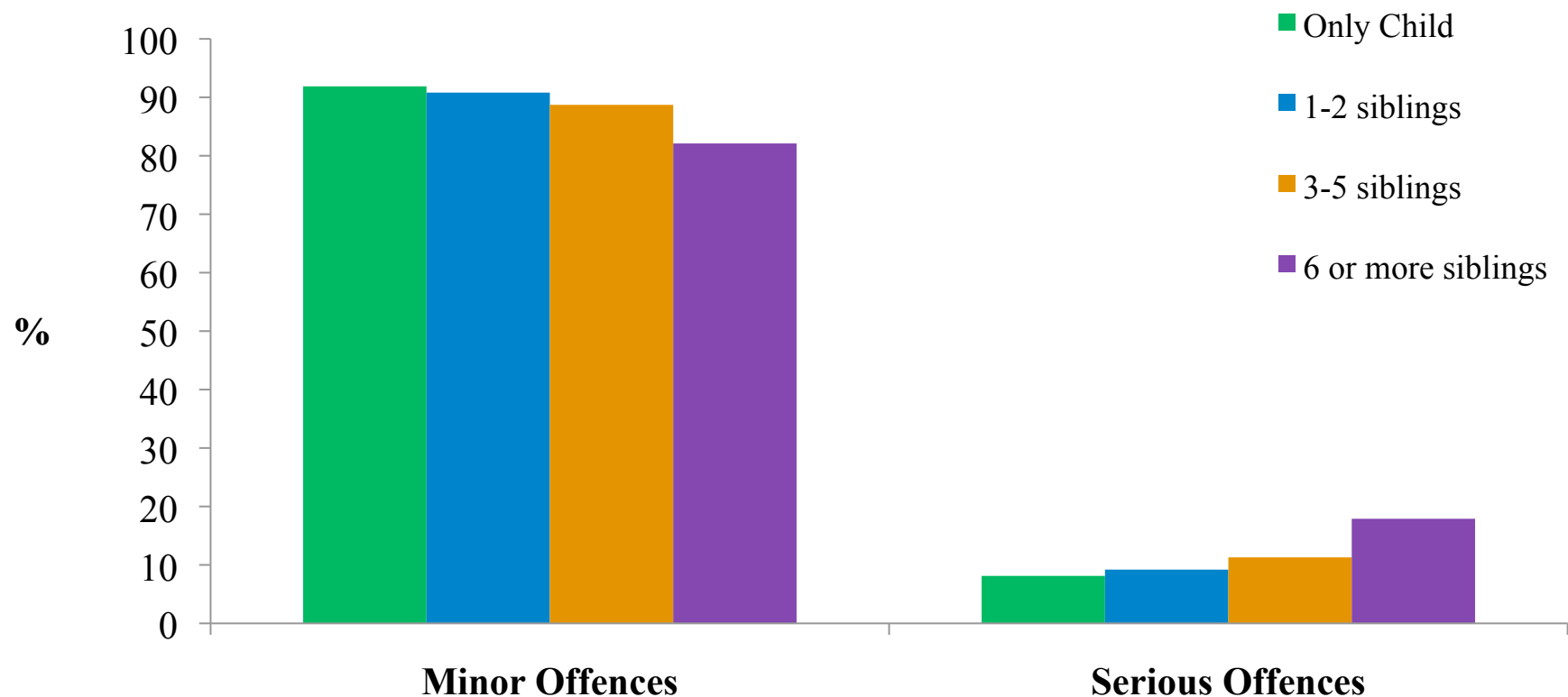
How do types of offences vary by family type?



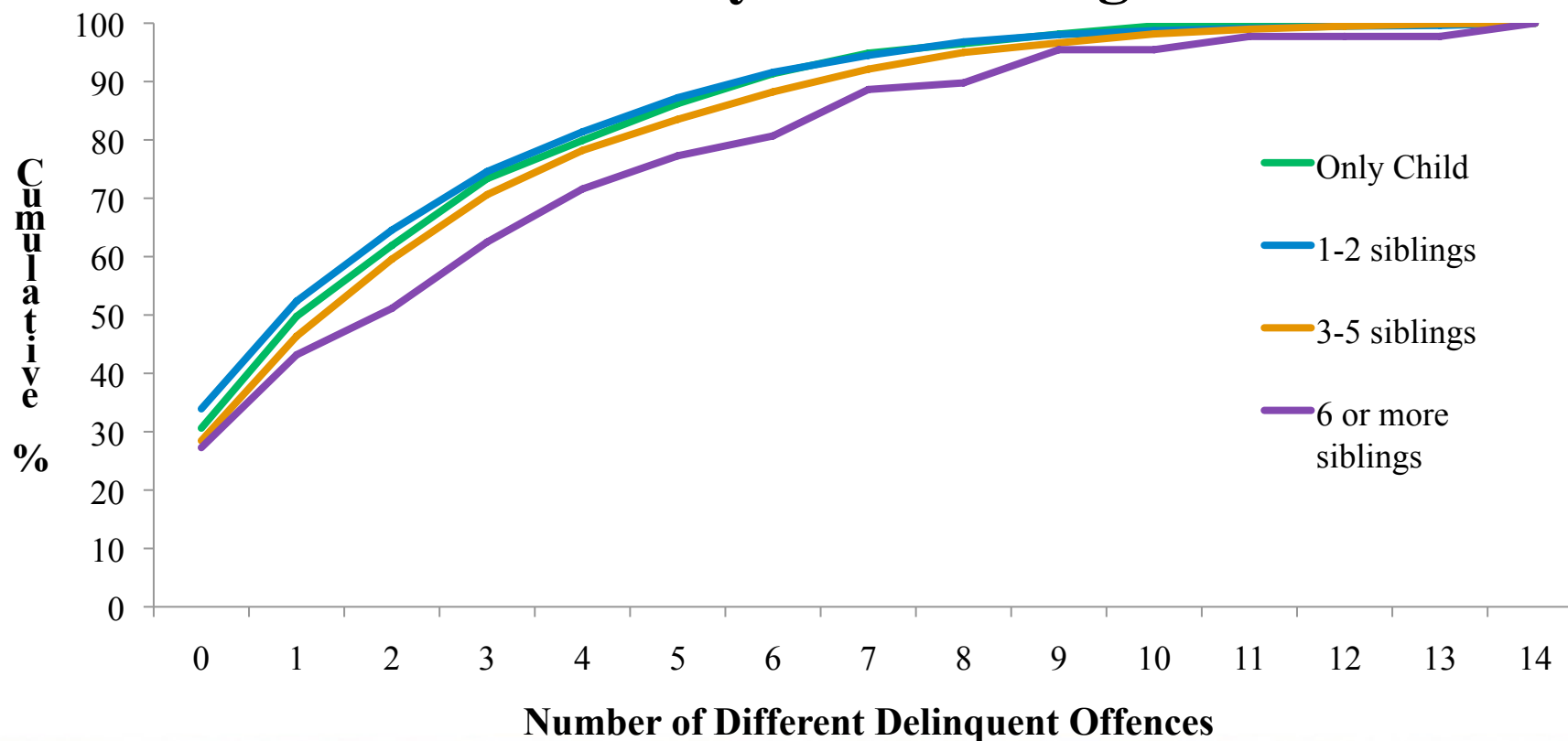
How does family type affect the variety of offending?



How do types of offences vary by number of siblings?



How do number of siblings affect the variety of offending?

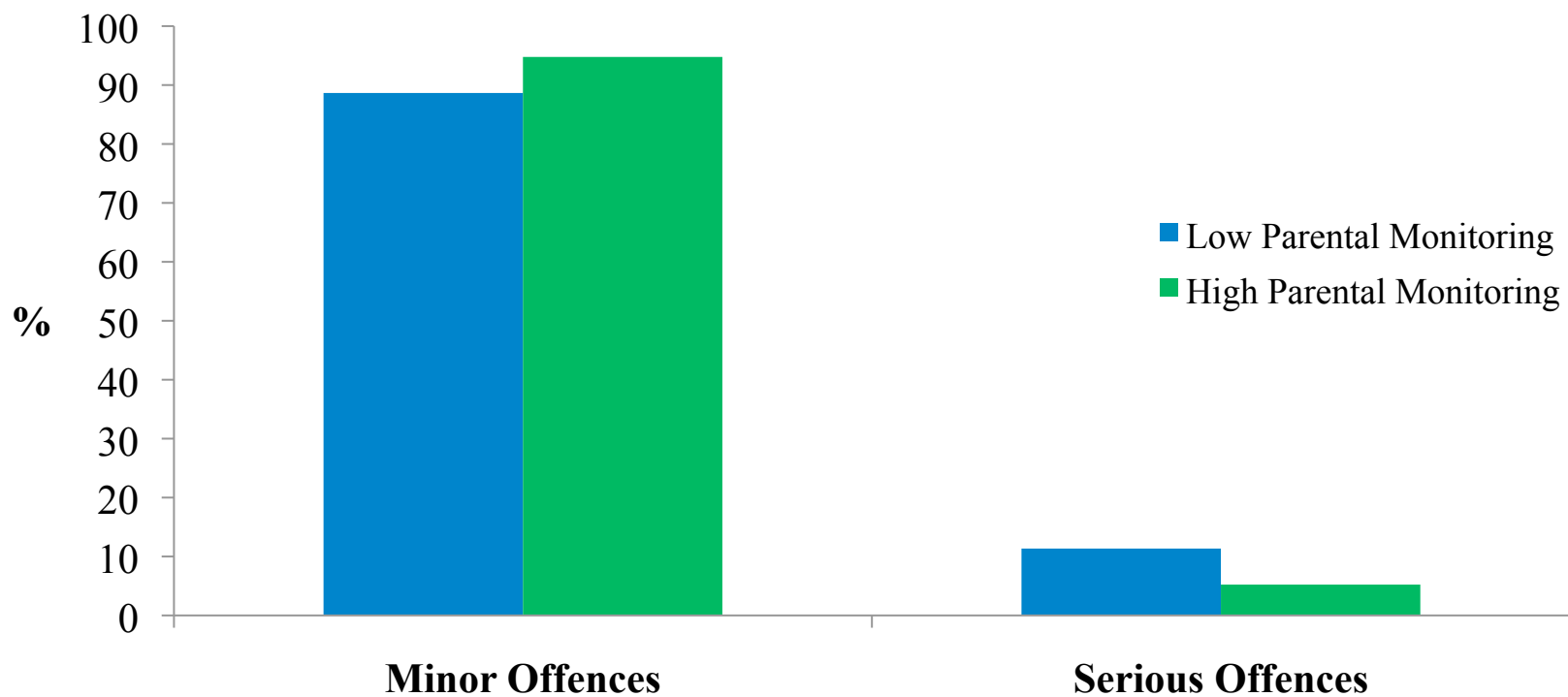


Parent/Child Relationships

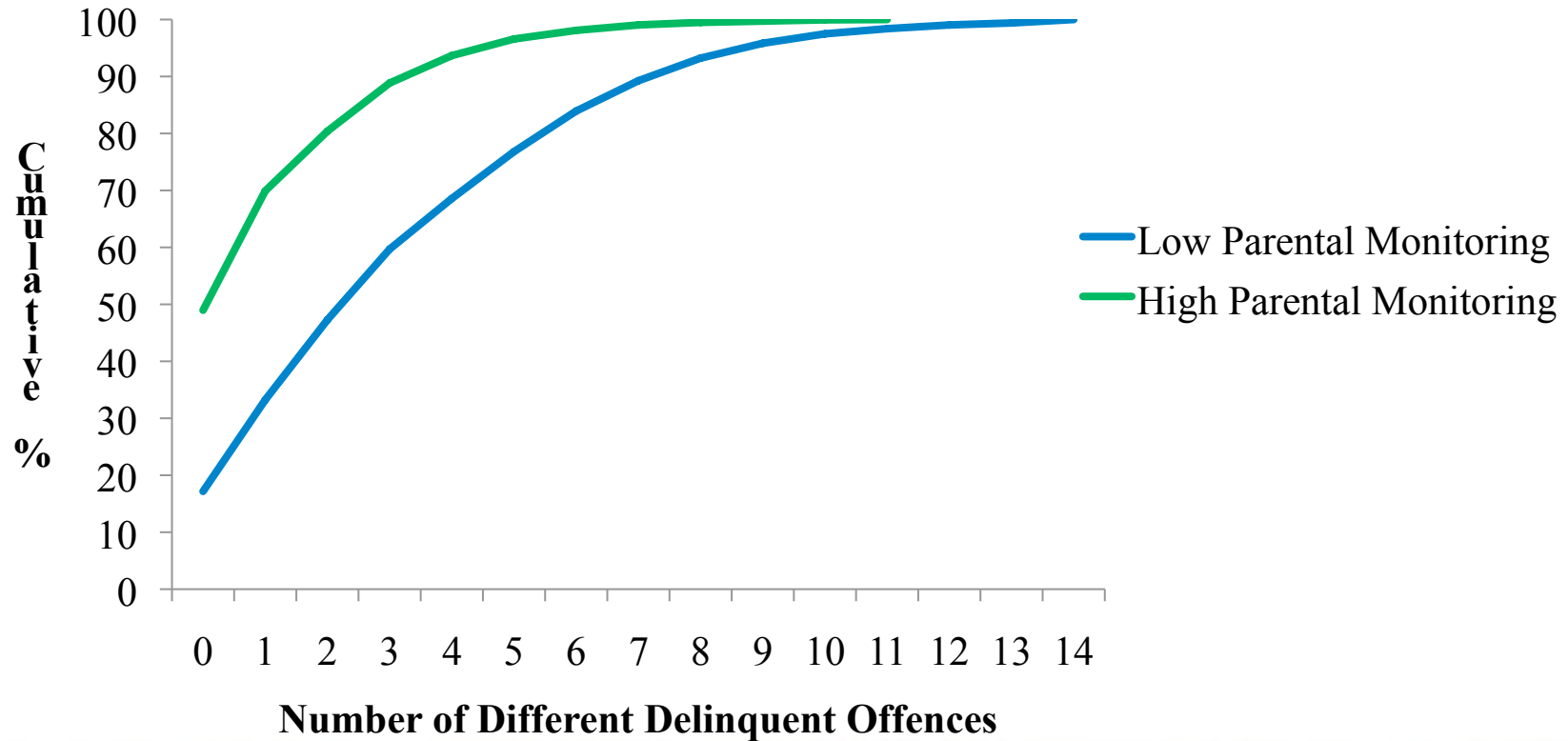
- Parental monitoring
- Child disclosure
- Parental solicitation
- Parental control



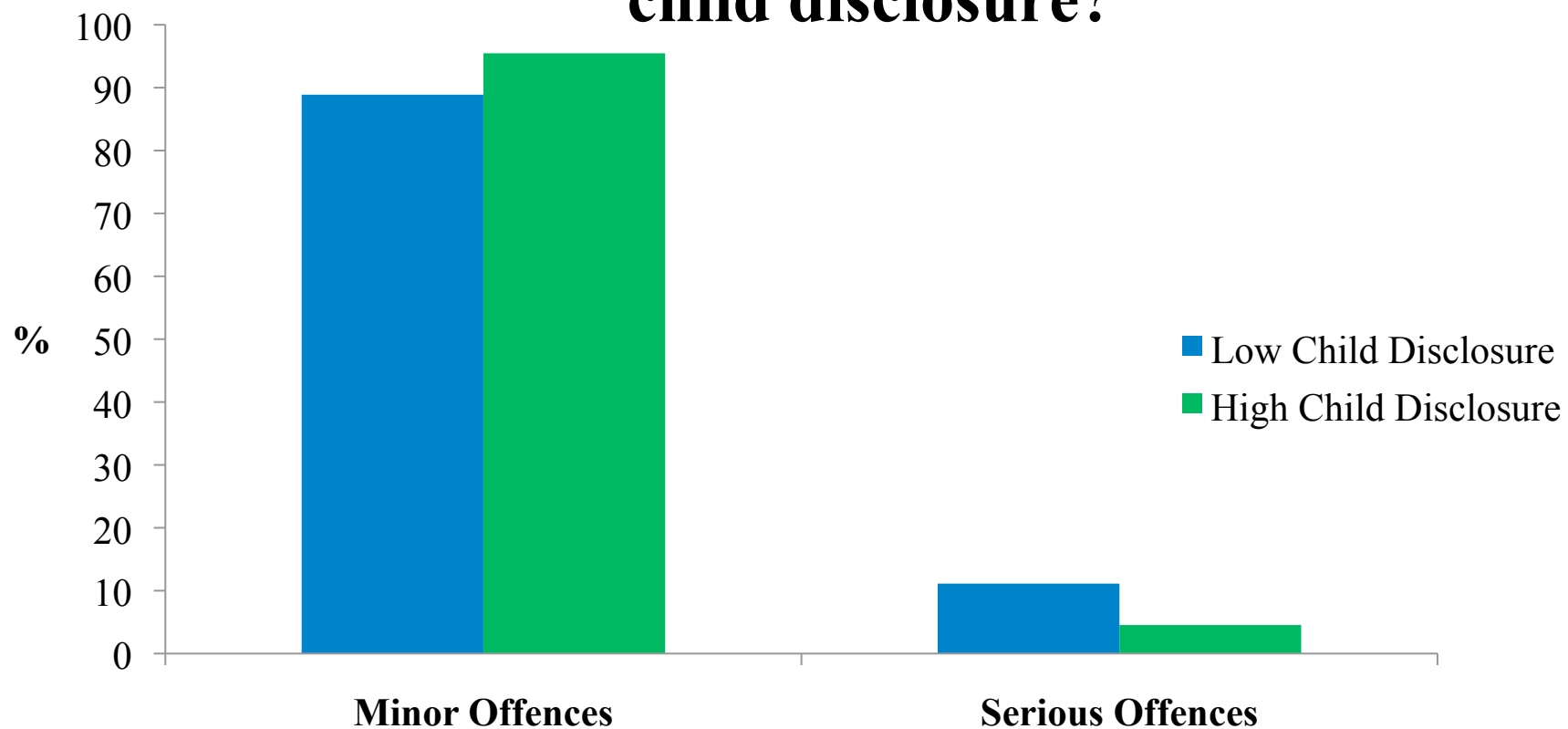
How do types of offences vary with parental monitoring?



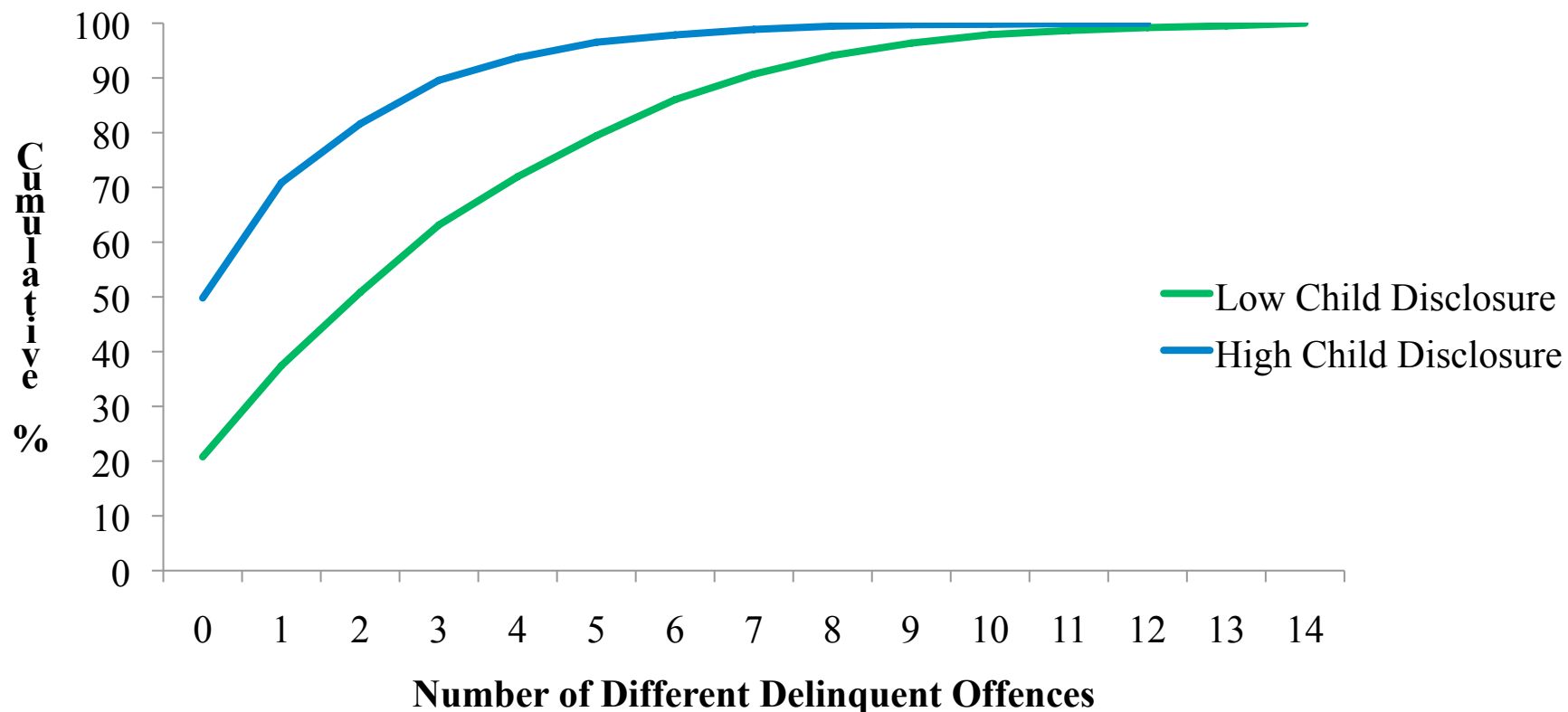
How does variety of offending change with parental monitoring?



How do types of offences vary with child disclosure?



How does variety of offending change with child disclosure?



Summary of Findings

- Children from a reconstituted family or a single parent family more likely to be involved in delinquent behaviour
- Those with a larger number of siblings committed the majority of serious offences
- Lower levels of parental monitoring, child disclosure, parental solicitation and control lead to a greater variety in offending behaviours



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The Belfast Youth Development Study

is

Funded by the Research and Development
Office (DHSSPSNI)

