

Change Over Time in Coparenting and Interparental Conflict Among Families of Adolescents

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We used a family systems perspective to examine whether change over time in coparenting explained levels of interparental conflict among a sample of two-parent families ($n = 373$) sampled for ethnicity (i.e., European- and Mexican-American) and father type (i.e., step and intact). We used a dual-process latent growth model with times weighted so the growth processes of coparenting predicted the growth of interparental conflict and interparental conflict levels in late adolescence. Coparenting and interparental conflict declined from early to late adolescence. Both higher initial status and a slower decline in coparenting predicted less adolescent exposure to interparental conflict at age 16. Results suggest stronger coparenting alliances can reduce adolescent exposure to interparental conflict throughout adolescence.