# Events of parents of children with cancer.

We have 807 responses for 509 children. For 378 children, we have a response for both parents. For 25 children, we have a response for the father only, and for 106 children we have a response for the mother only.

This appears to be related to whether the parents are in a relationship.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Current marital status** | **Both responses** | **One response** | **Total** |
| Married or de-facto | 348 (92%) | 62 (47%) | 410 |
| Otherwise | 30 (8%) | 69 (53%) | 99 |
|  | 378 (100%) | 131 (100%) | 509 |

Number of children, by marital status of parents and their response. Where the parents are married, we are more likely to have both responses. This is also the case within the cases and control groups.

Disregarding the difference between cases and control for the moment, we see a difference in the response between fathers and mothers in these five questions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Fathers (403)** | **Mothers (484)** | **p-values**  **(couples; singles)** |
| Serious illness or injury in close relative | 65 (16%) | 106 (24%) | 0.02; 0.74 |
| Death in a more distant relative | 108 (27%) | 172 (38%) | 0.001;0.65 |
| Serious problem with close friend, neighbour | 44 (11%) | 99 (21%) | <0.001;0.02 |
| Unemployment for more than one month | 59 (15%) | 36 (7%) | <0.001;0.1 |
| Problems with police or court appearance | 17 (4%) | 10 (2%) | <0.01; 0.7 |

Questions with different response between fathers and mothers. Data was analysed separately for the couples and the singles groups. The difference between mothers and fathers is statistically significant only in the group where we have both responses, except for the 3rd question (which is significant in both groups). This is based on Fisher’s exact test for the singles, and on McNemar’s test for the couples.

We see that the mothers are more unfortunate in their friends and relatives, while men are more troubled by unemployment or the police. I don’t immediately see a reaons why this might be so about the mothers. Perhaps they keep closer track of their relationships, or have more close friends.

# Cases

We have 231 children. For 13, we have the survey of the father, but not of the mother. For 53 cases, we have the mother’s response but not the father, and for 231 children we have both responses. We have 178 surveys of fathers, and 218 of mothers.