This current project seeks to understand how aspects related to the birth father relationship (or lack thereof) relate to the adoptee’s preoccupation with adoption. In the field of adoption research, birth fathers (BF) are a significantly understudied population, and information is both limited and dated. Significant relationship between satisfaction and preoccupation score: Beta=-4.97, sig p<.000***; R square = 26%, as satisfaction increases, preoccupation decreases.

Other Analyses:
- The correlation between the satisfaction rating of the relationship with the birth father and the total preoccupation score was found to be significant (r= -.508) at the p<.01 level.
- The correlation between gender and the total preoccupation score was found to be significant (r=.244) at the p<.01 level.

In addition to coding, quantitative data was collected from demographic questionnaires, the Adoption Dynamics Questionnaire, and previously-coded interviews with adoptees. Demographic data included age, gender, and marital status. The Adoption Dynamics Questionnaire assessed adoptee attitudes and beliefs about their birth parents, adoptive parents, and self-identity. The previously-coded interviews with adoptees focused on their experiences and perceptions of their birth father relationship.

**TABLE: QUALITATIVE THEMES REGARDING BIRTH FATHER AS A (N=42) UNSTRUCTURED INTERVIEW DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoptees Not Interested/No Contact</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>&quot;I have no interest in knowing about my birth father.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Comments About Birth Father</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;My birth father was a great guy.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral Comments About Birth Father</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>&quot;I don’t really think about my birth father.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Comments About Birth Father</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&quot;My birth father was a bad dad.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Negative Comments About Birth Father</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>&quot;I don’t remember anything about my birth father.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction
- Satisfied with life: 29 (69%)
- Neutral: 9 (21%)
- Dissatisfied: 4 (9%)

Gender Differences
- Male: N=24, Female: N=18
- Male: 31% satisfied, 54% neutral, 15% dissatisfied
- Female: 44% satisfied, 22% neutral, 34% dissatisfied

**Results Continued**

Qualitative Comments Mentioning Birth Father

- Adoptions with Birth Father Preserved
- Adoptions with Birth Father Reunited
- Adoptions with Birth Father Uninformed
- Adoptions with Birth Father Unknown

Adoptions with Birth Father Preserved
- 100% satisfied
- 100% neutral
- 0% dissatisfied

Adoptions with Birth Father Reunited
- 100% satisfied
- 0% neutral
- 0% dissatisfied

Adoptions with Birth Father Uninformed
- 80% satisfied
- 20% neutral
- 0% dissatisfied

Adoptions with Birth Father Unknown
- 60% satisfied
- 40% neutral
- 0% dissatisfied

**Discussion**

Gender is a significant factor in satisfaction with openness arrangements with birth fathers. In our sample, 63.6% of adoptees who had contact with their birth father reported being satisfied, compared to 46.2% of adoptees who did not have contact. This suggests that adoptees who have contact with their birth father may have a more positive outlook on the adoption experience overall.

In addition to gender, other factors such as age and marital status may also influence satisfaction with openness arrangements with birth fathers. For example, adoptees who are older and have stable romantic relationships may be more satisfied with their adoption experience.

Further research is needed to better understand the factors that influence satisfaction with openness arrangements with birth fathers. This could include exploring the role of cultural and societal factors, as well as individual adoptee characteristics.