

How your position in your family affects you – A statistical analysis

Introduction

Aim Of Project: To investigate whether your birthplace in your family affects you in life.

- Our group decided to choose this topic as we all shared a common interest in it. There are three of us in this group - one is the youngest, one is the middle child and one of us is the eldest. We are already aware of the various different stereotypes and traits associated with the youngest, middle and eldest child and we wanted to see does these stereotypes apply to real life.
- From our research we found that your position in your family is said to influence what job you get in the future, how much stress you are under, your hobbies, how your parents treat you and who you would turn to in a time of need (Richardson, "Birth Order and You", 2000).

Survey

In order to gather data, we decided to carry out a survey. In total, we received 118 eligible responses, within an age range from 12 - 20. We had 12 spoiled responses that we could not use as the respondents did not fit into our studied age range.

Before carrying out our survey, we did the following:

- As a group we discussed and brainstormed what questions would be most suitable and worthwhile for our survey .
- It was then decided that we would focus the survey on people in the age group of 12-20, as we wanted to ensure that the survey was carried out by people who are still living with their parents and siblings at home. We then created questions applicable to the age group.
- We created a draft survey and piloted the survey with 20 students in our year group. This allowed us to eradicate any flaws it had.
- The final draft of the survey consisted of 19 questions and took approximately 3 to 5 minutes to complete.
- We created the survey on Google Forms and then put the survey up on social media.
- Once we were satisfied with the number of responses we received we analysed the data.

From our survey we aimed to discover:

- How does birth order affect you?
- Are the stereotypes and traits associated with the birth order in a family closer to fiction or fact?
- Can your birth order affect the way you are treated?

What is your birth order?

People were first asked to state their birth order in their family. The results show that 38% of people who carried out the survey were the eldest child, 34% were middle children and 28% were the youngest child.

Are you ever given any responsibility by your parents?

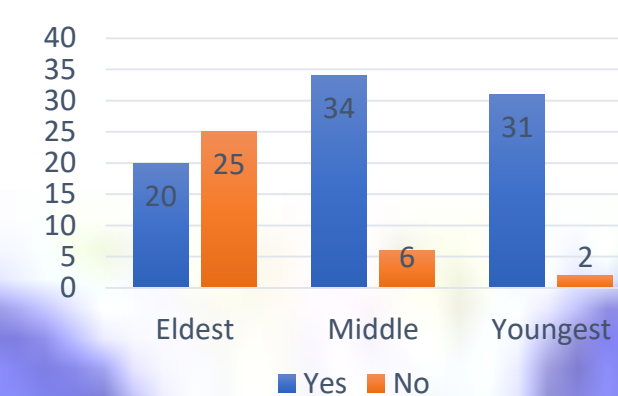
- The results show that the majority of children, no matter what their position the family, are given some degree of responsibility by their parents.
- However, it is clear from this data that all eldest children are given responsibility by their parents with all 45 students answering yes.

Birth Order	Yes	No
Eldest	45	0
Middle	38	2
Youngest	31	2

Are you influenced by your siblings?

In general, the majority of middle and youngest children of the birth order answered Yes. These results indicate that the majority of children in this birth order are influenced by their older siblings.

Eldest children however answered differently, with 56% of eldest children answering mostly No, which is a big difference when compared to how middle and youngest children answered. Only 15% and 6% of them answering No. The results indicate to us that most eldest children are not influenced by their younger siblings and are in fact more independent and free thinking.



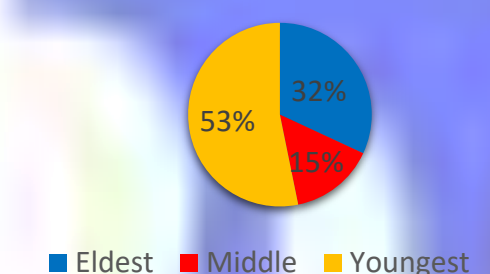
Does your parent/guardian favour another sibling over you?

Middle Children were the only position to have a majority of Yes votes, with 58% of them believing that their parents favoured another sibling over them. The results indicate that middle children are more insecure about themselves and are not as popular with their parents when compared to their other siblings

Youngest children had the smallest amount of people who answered Yes with just 15%. These results indicate that parents tend to prefer their youngest child over any other child in the family.

Birth Order	Yes	No
Eldest	19	26
Middle	23	17
Youngest	5	28

Favourite Child Position



The people who answered Yes were then asked to state which position was this favoured sibling in.

It was clear from these results that when parents do prefer a child in their family, it is more than likely the youngest, with over 50% of people saying that their youngest sibling was the favoured child in their family.

Do you often feel under pressure/stress?

Middle and Youngest children appear to be the more stressed of the siblings, both answering mostly Yes with 75% and 70% respectively.

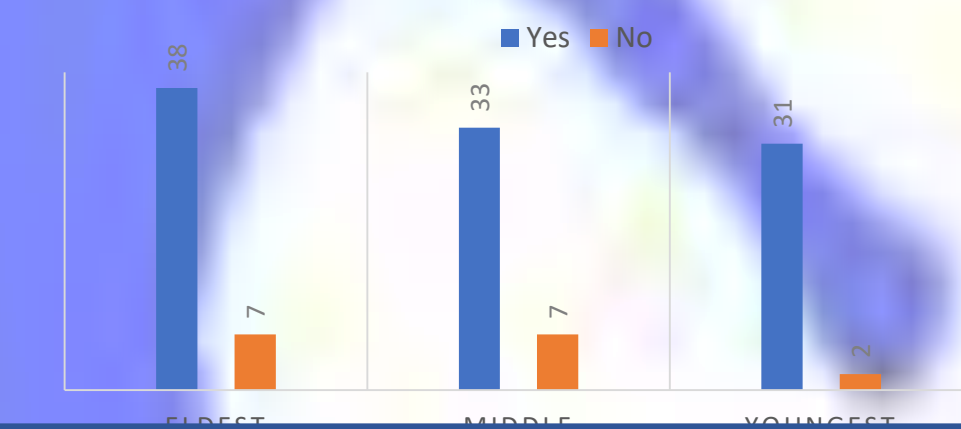
The results indicate that eldest children are less likely to be under pressure or stress when compared to their other siblings with only 49% answering Yes, which is substantially less in comparison.

Birth Order	Yes	No
Eldest	22	23
Middle	30	10
Youngest	23	10

Do you get on with your siblings?

The majority of people of each birth order answered Yes. All No responses were under 20% with 15%, 18% and 6%.

These results show that no matter what your birth order is, it does not affect your relationship with your siblings.



Do you sometimes feel alienated from your family?

We were surprised to discover that the majority of eldest and middle children answered Yes with 53% and 60%.

Only a small proportion of youngest children answered Yes with only 21% of them doing so. This shows that most youngest children receive more attention from their parents.

Birth Order	Yes	No
Eldest	24	21
Middle	24	16
Youngest	7	26

Conclusion

Main Discoveries:

Contrary to popular belief, almost every child of each birth order is given responsibility in their family.

Middle and Youngest children are more likely to be under pressure and stress, unlike their eldest sibling in their family.

In general, the majority of children of each birth order tend to get along with each other, with only a few percentage more of youngest children saying they get on better with their siblings when compared to the other responses from people with a different birth order.

Youngest children are more likely to be the parents' favourite child in the family. 53% of respondents believe that the youngest child is the favourite child in their family when favouritism is shown. Middle children are also least likely to be the favourite in a family as now discovered.

Notes:

We think our project could be improved by increasing the amount of respondents, thus improving the accuracy of our results. It may also be possible that gender may also be an influence and further analysis would be required to test this.

