



## Comparisons Among Means From Several Independent Groups

This table addresses the presentation of analyses in which more than two means from independent groups are compared. This procedure is commonly used to interpret findings from an *omnibus* test in an analysis of variance that shows that an overall effect exists. Different kinds of posthoc comparisons are available, so the particular comparison employed should be identified in the title of or note to the table.

In the example that follows, children experiencing one of four kinds of transitions in family structure are compared on four dimensions of family climate. The transition groups include: no transitions (living with both biological parents), one transition (living with a divorced mother), two transitions (living with a divorced mother who has remarried), and multiple transitions (living with a mother who has been divorced more than once). The omnibus *F* ratio test associated with each outcome score was significant. Student Newman-Keuls comparisons ( $p < .05$ ) were used to do all pair-wise comparisons among the four means. Means in the same row that do not share subscripts differ from each other. For example, with regard to supervision, children experiencing no transitions in family structure had significantly higher scores than children from each of the other three groups, and children experiencing one transition in family structure had higher scores than children experiencing multiple transitions in family structure.

Table 1

*Means of Family Climate Scores by Number of Transitions in Family Structure*


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| Climate score | Number of transitions in family structure |                      |                       |                           |
|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
|               | None<br><i>n</i> = 681                    | One<br><i>n</i> = 78 | Two<br><i>n</i> = 146 | Multiple<br><i>n</i> = 55 |
| Supervision   | 21.27 <sub>a</sub>                        | 20.33 <sub>b</sub>   | 19.54 <sub>b,c</sub>  | 19.09 <sub>c</sub>        |
| Warmth        | 26.32 <sub>a</sub>                        | 24.84 <sub>b</sub>   | 25.00 <sub>a</sub>    | 24.43 <sub>b</sub>        |
| Conflict      | 13.88 <sub>c</sub>                        | 14.47 <sub>b</sub>   | 15.58 <sub>a</sub>    | 15.43 <sub>a</sub>        |
| Order         | 25.42 <sub>a</sub>                        | 24.30 <sub>b</sub>   | 25.20 <sub>a</sub>    | 25.29 <sub>a</sub>        |

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*Note:* Means in the same row that do not share subscripts differ at  $p < .05$  in the Student Newman-Keuls comparison.