ORIGINS OF RISK
Paternal and Neighborhood Influences on Child and Family Functioning

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International Conference on Infant Studies
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Grant 90Y AA07065 Administration for Children, Youth and Families
Possible transactional linkages in a primary family system (mother, father & children)

Heuristic Model of the Dynamics of Paternal Behavior and Influence on Children over Time
Children’s Risky Rearing Environments

Parental history of regulatory system dysfunction
Parental history of psychopathology
  • Antisocial behavior disorder and aggression
  • Depression
  • Alcoholism and other drug abuse
Parental history of relationship disturbances
Parental poor value structures
Parental cognitive deficiencies
Family low socioeconomic status
Family residence in risk aggregated neighborhoods

Fitzgerald, Puttler, Mun & Zucker, 2000
Model Components

Parental Characteristics
  • Antisocial Behavior

Contextual Factors
  • Neighborhood Violence
Research Questions

• What are the patterns of paternal antisocial behavior at 36 months in Early Head Start (EHS) eligible families?

• Does paternal antisocial behavior predict child behavioral and cognitive functioning?

• Does paternal antisocial behavior predict maternal functioning?
Sample Characteristics (n = 498)
Sample Characteristics (n = 498)

Average age of child at the 36-month Birthday Related Father Interview was 40 months ($SD = 3$)

Average age of father at the 36-month Birthday Related Father Interview was 29 years ($SD = 7$)
Sample Characteristics (n = 498)

Father’s Ethnicity

- Caucasian (52%)
- African-American (15%)
- Latino (28%)
- Other (5%)

Fathers averaged 12 years of education ($SD = 3$ years)

Fathers’ average income in the month prior to the interview was $1,780 ($SD = $1,146)
Father Antisocial Behavior Scale

- Have you ever been expelled from school?
- Have you ever been fired or laid off from a job because of behavior, attitude, or work performance?
- Have you ever been put in jail, arrested or convicted of a crime, other than drunk driving?
- Have you ever had a drinking or drug problem or have other people thought you had one?
Father Antisocial Behavior

- Expulsion: 71% No, 29% Yes
- Lost Job: 81.2% No, 18.8% Yes
- Arrested: 70.3% No, 29.7% Yes
- Substance Abuse: 77.4% No, 22.6% Yes
Father Antisocial Behavior

69% low risk (≤ 1 behavior)
31% high risk (≥ 2 behaviors)
Father Antisocial Behavior and Child Aggression

Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted $p$-values reported
Father Antisocial Behavior and Child Outcomes

Bayley BBRS Orient/Engage

Low ASB: 3.9
High ASB: 3.7

Bayley BBRS Emotion Regulation*

Low ASB: 4
High ASB: 3.8

+$p \leq .10$, $*p \leq .05$

Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted $p$-values reported
Father Antisocial Behavior and Child Cognitive Outcomes

![Bar Chart]

- **Bayley MDI**: 92.4 (Low ASB), 89.4 (High ASB)
- **PPVT-III**: 86 (Low ASB), 82 (High ASB)

+p ≤ .10, *p ≤ .05

Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted p-values reported
Fathers Who are High in Antisocial Behavior

- Have children who perform more poorly on measures of emotion regulation and receptive vocabulary/verbal ability.

- Report more family conflict, parental distress, and poor father-child relationships

Fitzgerald, McKelvey, Montañez, & Schiffman (2003)
Research Questions

• Does living in a neighborhood characterized by violence impact child development and family level outcomes?

• In what ways do antisocial behaviors and risky neighborhood environments interact to impact outcomes?
Risk in the Neighborhood

- Have you heard or seen a violent crime take place in your neighborhood?
- Have you known someone who was a victim of a violent crime in your neighborhood?
- Have you been a victim of a violent crime in your neighborhood?
- Have you been robbed, mugged, or attacked in the past year?
- Have you had a relative or close friend in jail?
Neighborhood Risk

79% were in the low neighborhood (≤ 1 risk) category

21% were in the high neighborhood risk (≥ 2 risks) category
# Father Antisocial Behavior and Neighborhood Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father Risk for Antisocial Behaviors</th>
<th>Neighborhood Risk</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No or Low</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(57.8%)</td>
<td>(10.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No or Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(20.9%)</td>
<td>(10.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(10.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1
Early Head Start 36 Month Data: Differences in Children’s Behavior as a Function of Neighborhood Risk and Father Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Groups</th>
<th>Low Risk</th>
<th>NVE</th>
<th>FASB</th>
<th>NVE - FASB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBCL Aggression</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>10.53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBRS: Emotion Regulation</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Engagement, Mother</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Persistence, Mother</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>4.71</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Engagement, Father</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Persistence, Father</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayley MDI</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>93.08</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>88.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBRS Orientation</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPVT Standard Score</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>87.34</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>80.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key
Low Risk: Low neighborhood violence exposure, low father antisocial behavior
NVE: High neighborhood violence exposure, low father antisocial behavior
FASB: Low neighborhood violence exposure, high father antisocial behavior
NVE-FASB: High neighborhood violence exposure, high father antisocial behavior

*p = uncorrected p value

p¹ = Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted p value.
a = mean is significantly different from the L-L group at p < .05.
b = means are significantly different at p < .05.
Table 2

Early Head Start 36 Month Data: Differences Between Children’s Risk Groups as a Function of Parent and Family Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Groups</th>
<th>Low Risk</th>
<th>NVE</th>
<th>FASB</th>
<th>NVE - FASB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FES Family Conflict</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1.59a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI Parent Distress</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>18.53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>20.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CES Depression Father</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5.08a,b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Conflict with Mother</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Modernity: Traditional</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>14.96</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>15.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline Severity Index</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>3.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Physical Environment</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>8.15</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7.60a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Physical Environment</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>12.80</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>11.72a,b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key. Risk groups are defined by neighborhood risk and father risk:
- Low Risk: Low neighborhood violence exposure, low father antisocial behavior
- NVE: High neighborhood violence exposure, low father antisocial behavior
- FASB: Low neighborhood violence exposure, high father antisocial behavior
- NVE-FASB: High neighborhood violence exposure, high father antisocial behavior

*p = uncorrected p value

p1 = Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted p value.

a = mean is significantly different from the L-L group at p < .05.

b = means are significantly different at p < .05.
Table 3
Odds of Being Spanked as a Function of High or Low Exposure to Neighborhood Violence and Paternal Antisocial Behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father ASB</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Spanking</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HiFASB</td>
<td>HiNVE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LoNVE</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LoFASB</td>
<td>HiNVE</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LoNVE</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Father, Neighborhood and Family Impacts on Child and Family Functioning

Paternal negative behaviors and exposure to neighborhood violence independently and in interaction negatively influence:

• Children’s emotional and behavior regulation
• Children’s cognitive functioning
• Degree of family conflict
Acknowledgements

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- The authors are members of the Early Head Start Research Consortium. The consortium consists of representatives from 17 programs participating in the evaluation, 15 local research teams, the evaluation contractors, and ACYF.
- The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Early Head Start Research Consortium, Mathematica Policy Research, or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Community Action Agency in Jackson, Michigan, Applied Developmental Science Graduate Programs, and University Outreach and Engagement Michigan State University, also provided supplemental funding for this research. Correspondence should be addressed to Hiram E. Fitzgerald, fitzger9@msu.edu
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