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*Paternal and Neighborhood Influences on
Child and Family Functioning*

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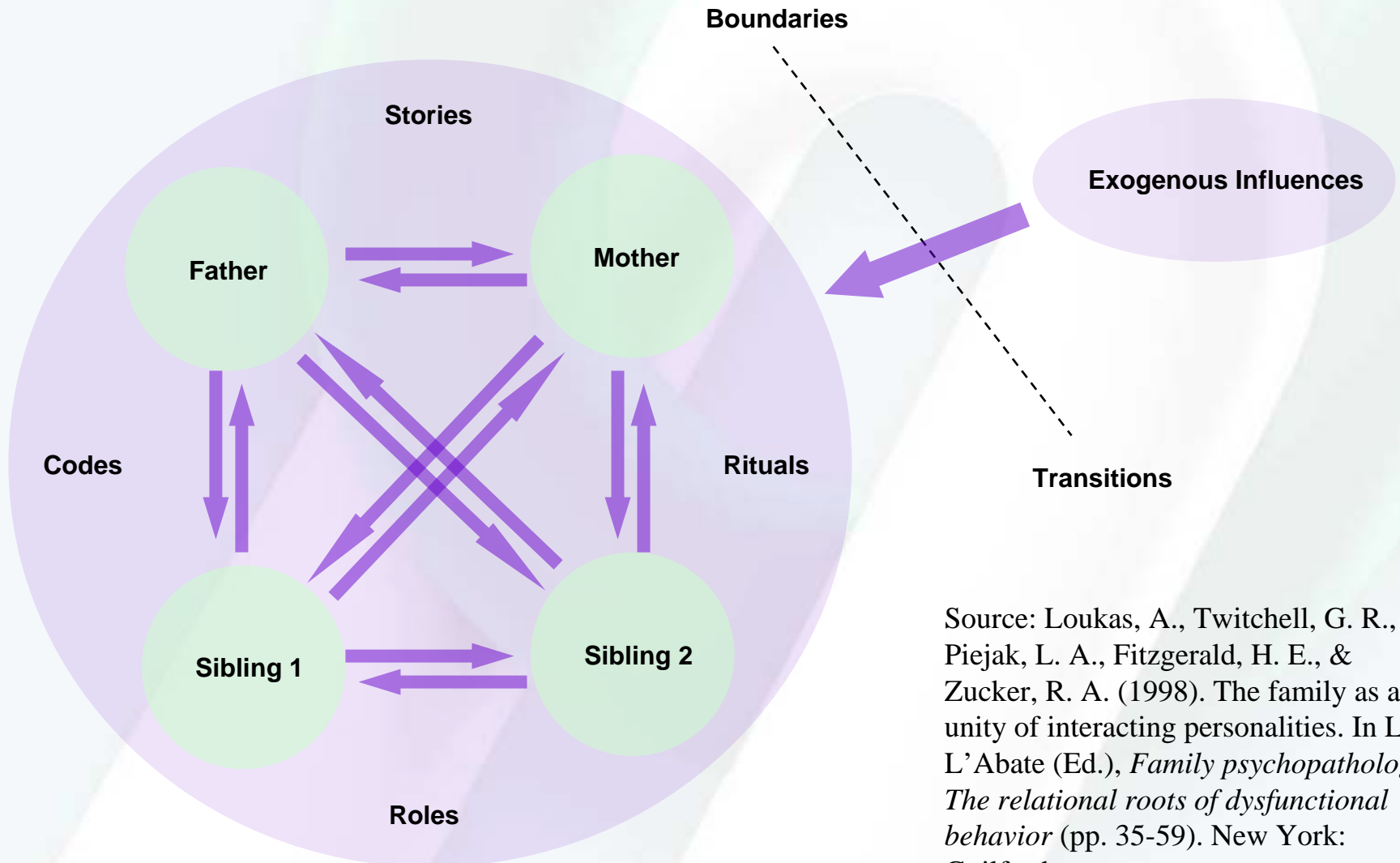
WAIMH Symposium

The Ecology of Father Involvement: Families, Parental
Involvement, Programs, and Neighborhoods

International Conference on Infant Studies
Chicago, May 2004

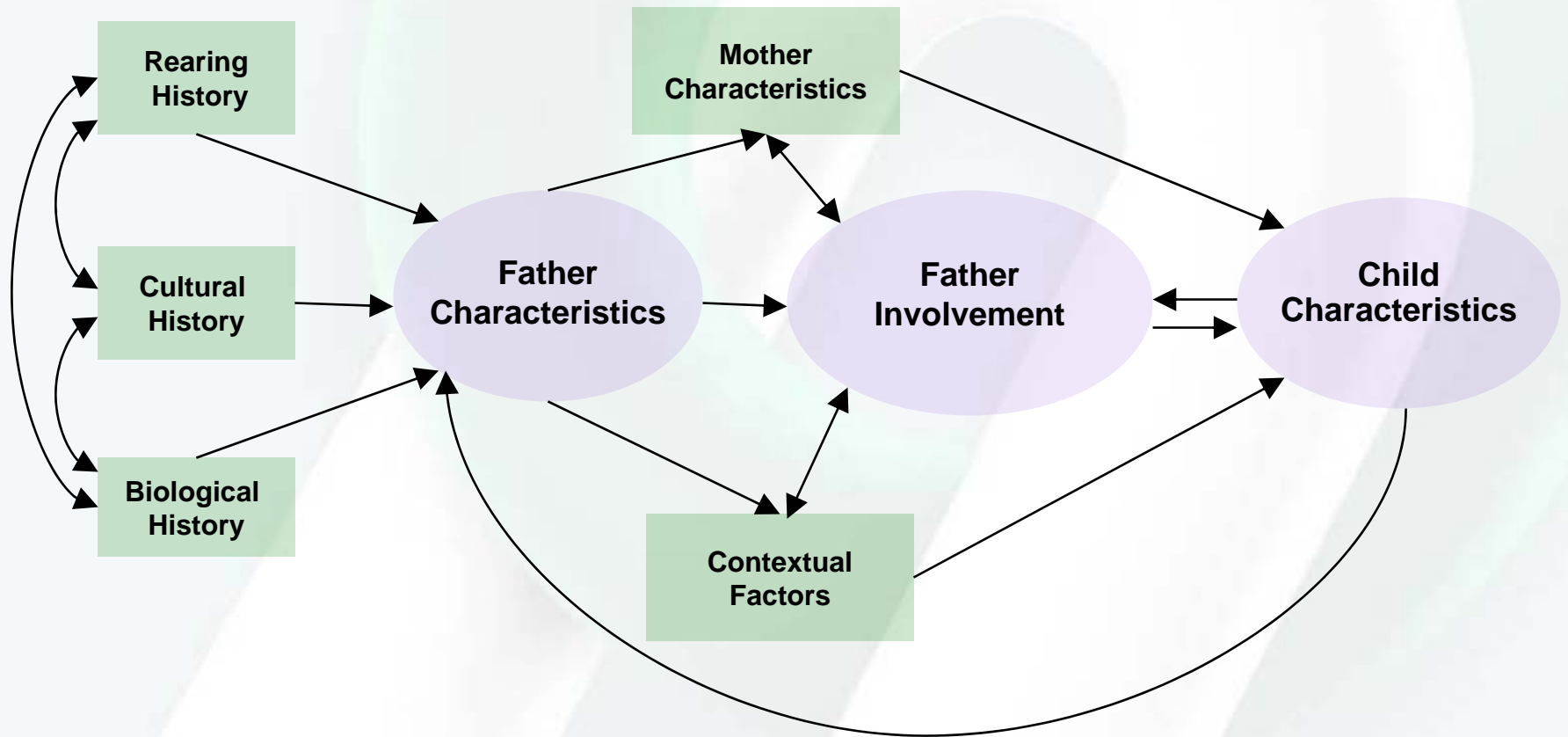
Grant 90Y AA07065 Administration for Children, Youth and Families

Possible transactional linkages in a primary family system (mother, father & children)



Source: Loukas, A., Twitchell, G. R., Piejak, L. A., Fitzgerald, H. E., & Zucker, R. A. (1998). The family as a unity of interacting personalities. In L. L'Abate (Ed.), *Family psychopathology: The relational roots of dysfunctional behavior* (pp. 35-59). New York: Guilford.

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

Model Components

Parental Characteristics

- Antisocial Behavior

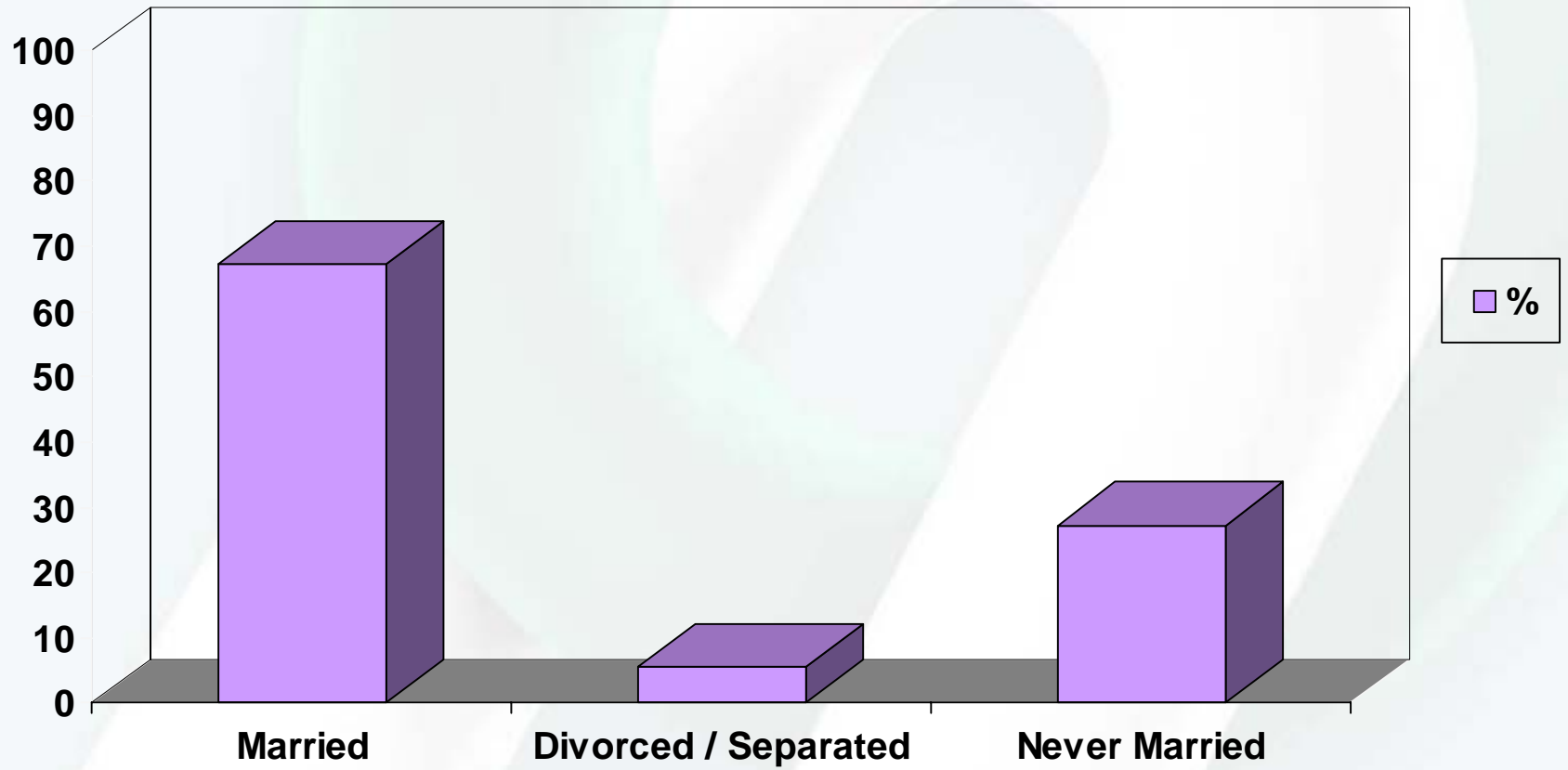
Contextual Factors

- Neighborhood Violence

Research Questions

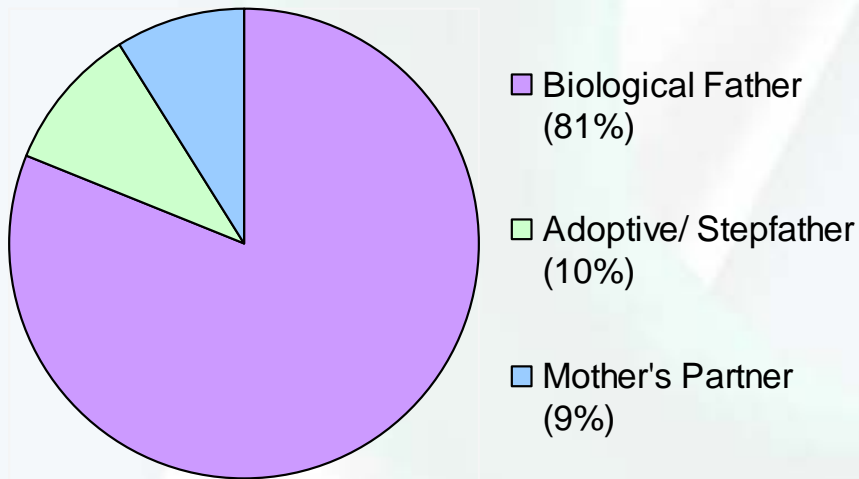
- What are the patterns of paternal antisocial behavior at 36 months in Early Head Start (EHS) eligible families?
- Does paternal antisocial behavior predict child behavioral and cognitive functioning?
- Does paternal antisocial behavior predict maternal functioning?

Sample Characteristics (n = 498)



Sample Characteristics (n = 498)

Father Type

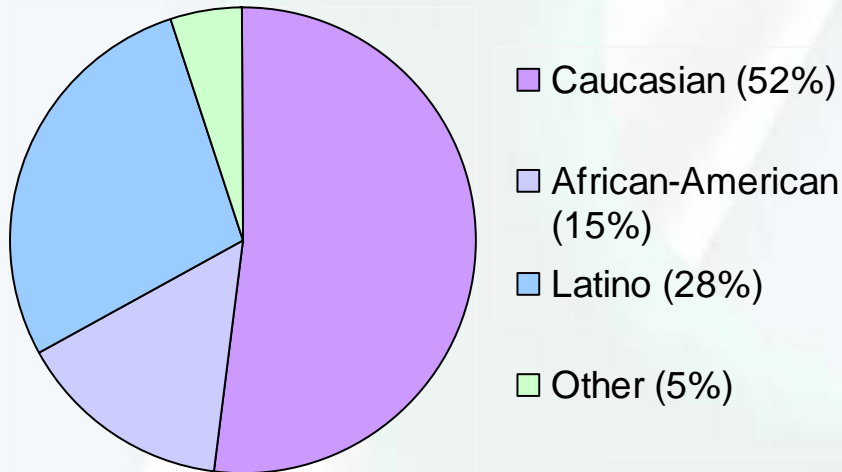


Average age of child at the 36-month Birthday Related Father Interview was 40 months ($SD = 3$)

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

Sample Characteristics (n = 498)

Father's Ethnicity



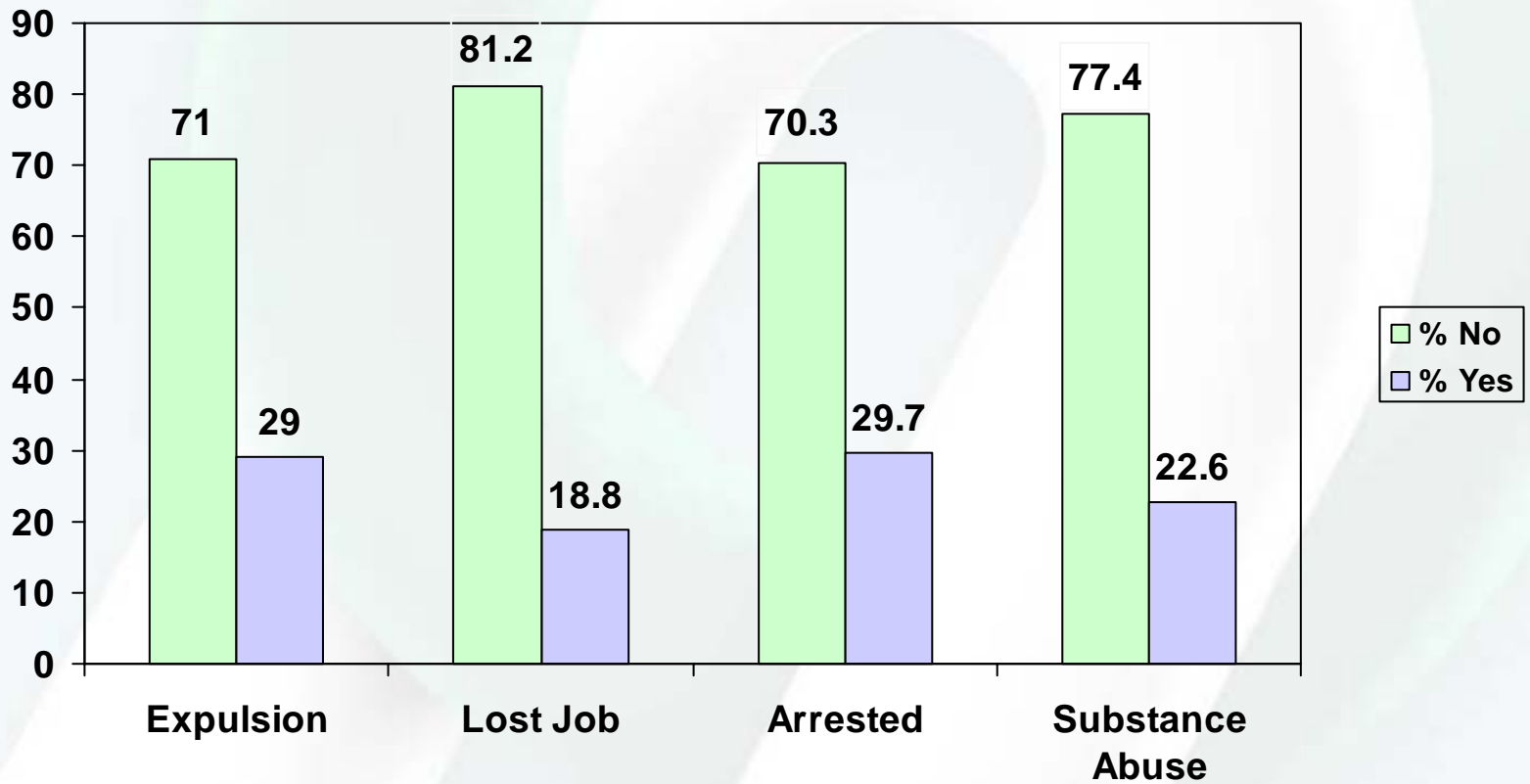
Fathers averaged 12 years of education
(*SD* = 3 years)

Fathers' average income in the month prior to the interview was \$1,780
(*SD* = \$1,146)

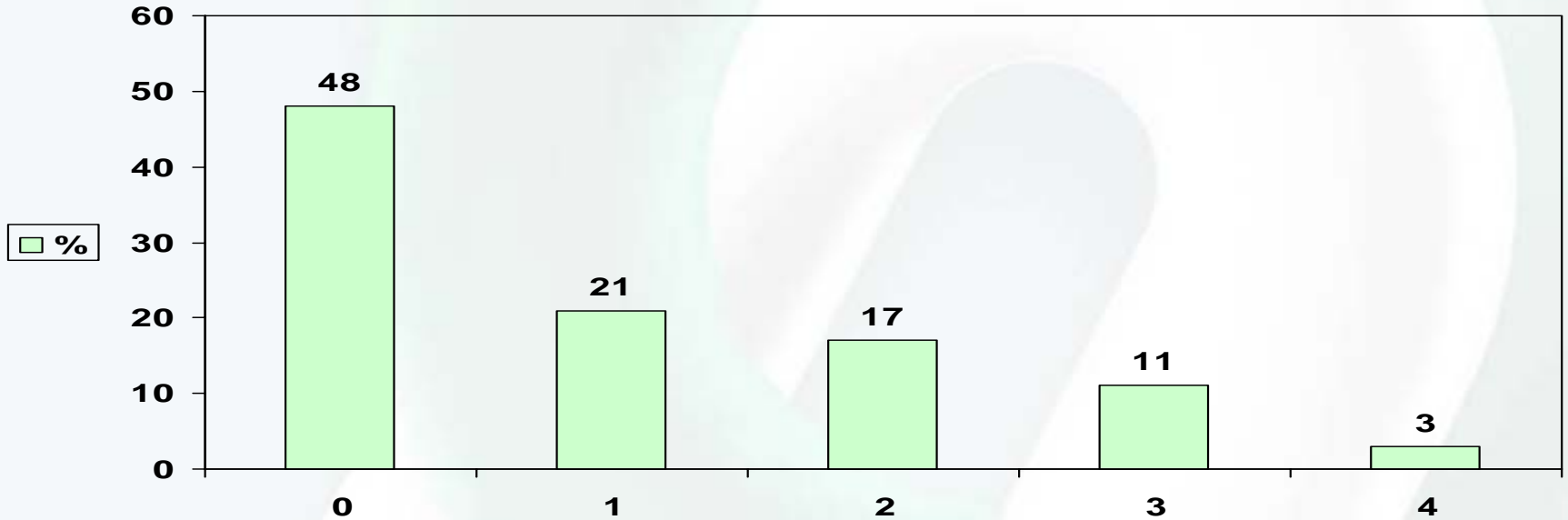
Father Antisocial Behavior Scale

- 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



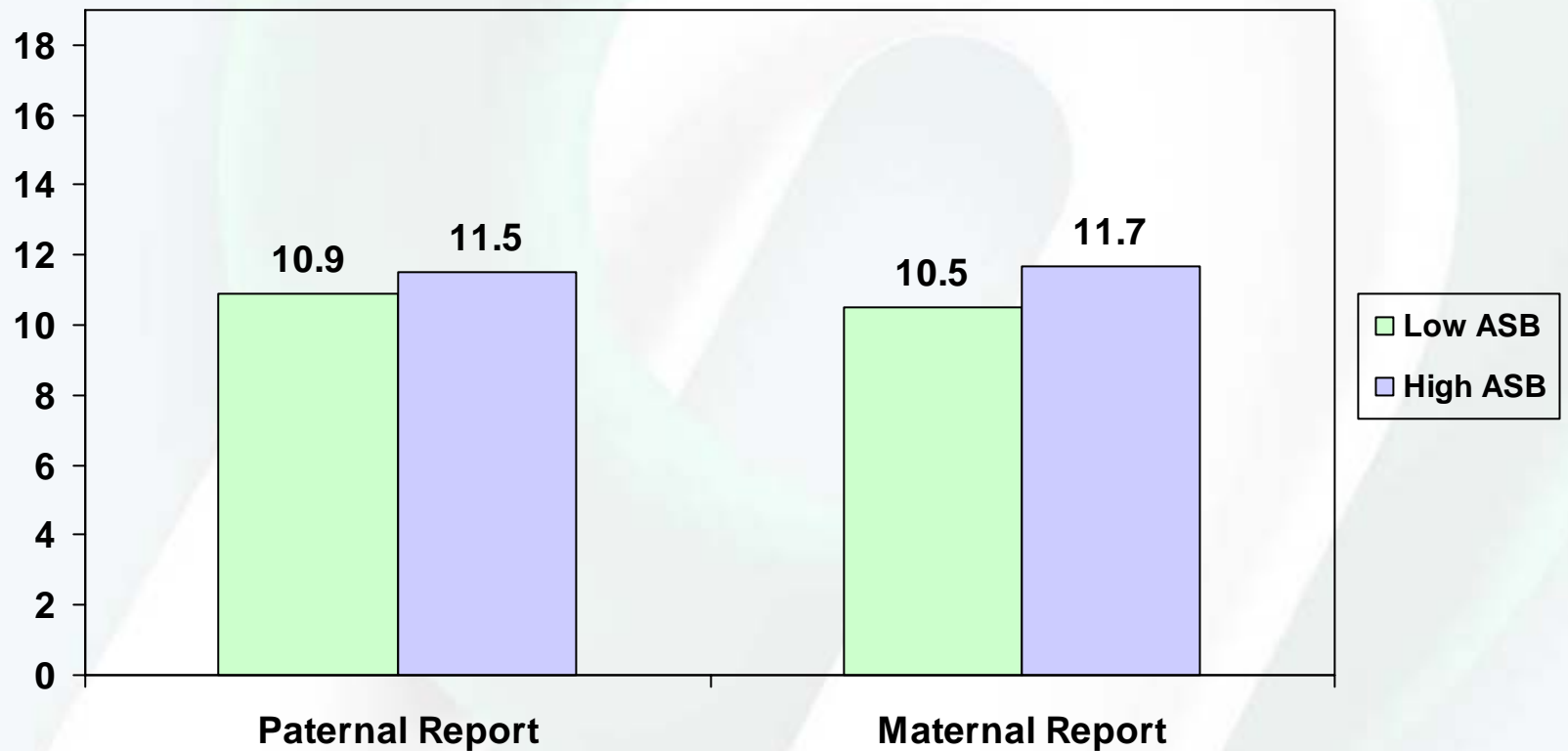
Father Antisocial Behavior



69% low risk (≤ 1 behavior)

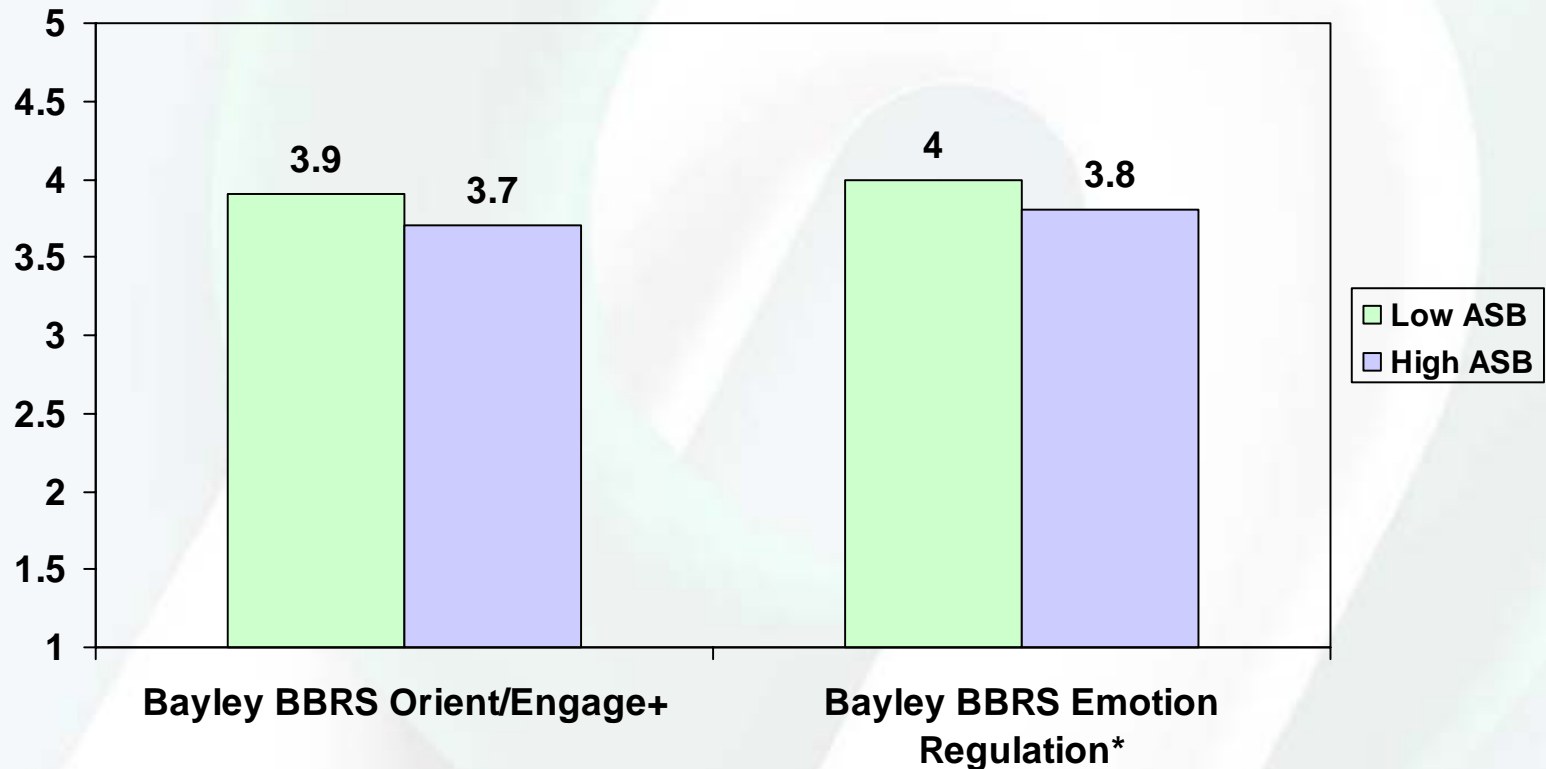
31% high risk (≥ 2 behaviors)

Father Antisocial Behavior and Child Aggression



Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted p -values reported

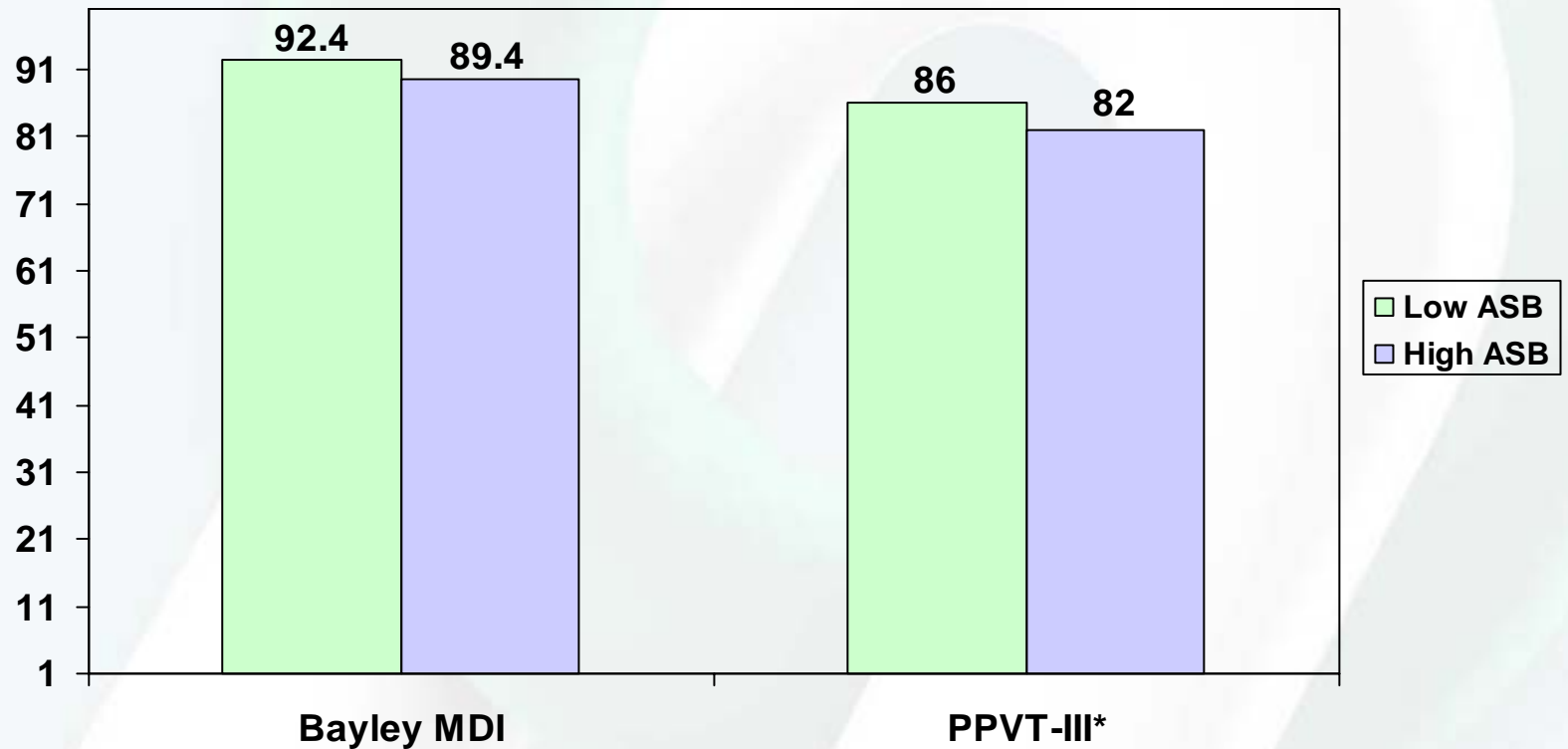
Father Antisocial Behavior and Child Outcomes



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

Ryan-Holm step-down Šidák adjusted p -values reported

Father Antisocial Behavior and Child Cognitive Outcomes



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

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)

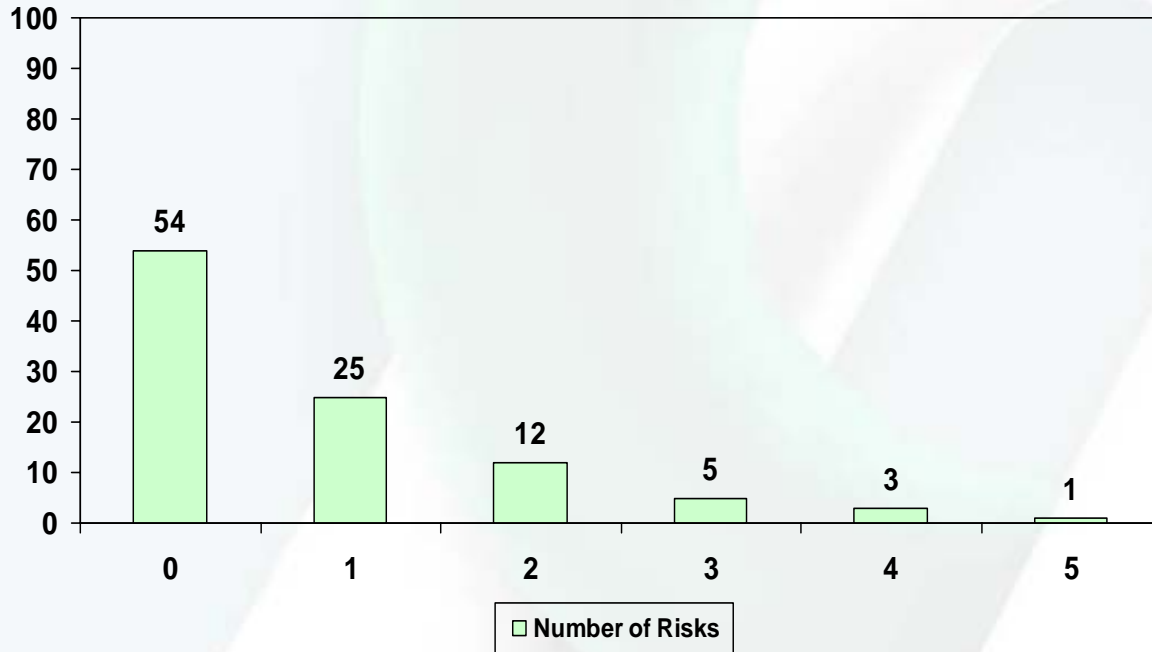
Research Questions

- 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

Father Risk for Antisocial Behaviors	Neighborhood Risk	
	No or Low	High
No or Low	288 (57.8%)	54 (10.8%)
High	104 (20.9%)	52 (10.4%)

Table 1

Early Head Start 36 Month Data: Differences in Children's Behavior as a Function of Neighborhood Risk and Father Risk

	Risk Groups											
	Low Risk		NVE		FASB		NVE - FASB		F	df	p*	p ¹
	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M				
CBCL Aggression	283	10.53	51	12.86	103	11.54	51	11.54	2.76	3,484	.042	.227
BBRS: Emotion Regulation	256	4.07	53	3.84	91	3.89	49	3.67 ^a	5.57	3,445	.001	.009
Child Engagement, Mother	252	5.09	51	5.00	83	5.08	42	4.86	.78	3,424	.423	.808
Child Persistence, Mother	251	4.71	51	4.33	82	4.66	42	4.45	2.43	3,422	.148	.967
Child Engagement, Father	117	5.15	23	5.17	41	5.17	18	5.17	.01	3,195	.999	.999
Child Persistence, Father	117	4.91	23	4.83	41	4.83	18	4.67	.27	3,195	.844	.976
Bayley MDI	243	93.08	49	88.55	83	90.52	47	87.45	3.39	3,418	.018	.119
BBRS Orientation	258	3.89	53	3.85	91	3.71	49	3.71	1.80	3,445	.146	.546
PPVT Standard Score	198	87.34	45	80.22	78	84.38 ^b	43	76.74 ^{a,b}	5.95	3,360	.001	.008

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

p^1 = 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

	Risk Groups											
	Low Risk		NVE		FASB		NVE - FASB		F	df	p*	p ¹
	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M				
FES Family Conflict	281	1.35	52	1.59 ^a	103	1.55 ^a	50	1.61 ^a	8.29	3,482	.000	.000
PSI Parent Distress	285	18.53	51	20.40	103	20.05	51	20.76	4.51	3,486	.004	.021
PSI Parent-child Dysfunction	283	14.17	52	14.63	103	14.33	51	14.94	.62	3,485	.600	.600
CES Depression Father	284	3.38	52	5.08 ^{a,b}	103	5.63 ^a	51	7.06 ^{a,b}	12.63	3,486	.000	.000
Disagree/Conflict with Mother	283	1.46	52	2.00	103	1.87	51	1.80	1.45	3,485	.227	.402
Parent Modernity: Traditional	278	14.96	51	15.69	102	15.17	51	16.33 ^a	3.06	3,478	.028	.082
Discipline Severity Index	285	3.23	52	3.71	103	3.74	51	3.49	3.62	3,487	.013	.051
Internal Physical Environment	255	8.15	50	7.60 ^a	90	7.48 ^a	47	7.38 ^a	8.51	3,438	.000	.000
External Physical Environment	257	12.80	50	11.72 ^{a,b}	89	12.32 ^b	47	10.98 ^{a,b}	10.83	3,439	.000	.000

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

*p*¹ = 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

Father ASB	Neighborhood	Spanking		Odds	Odds Ratio
		Yes	No		
HiFASB	HiNVE	18	30	0.60	1.14
	LoNVE	41	60	0.68	
LoFASB	HiNVE	28	21	1.33	
	LoNVE	80	195	0.41	

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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