

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Emotional maltreatment is a prevalent form of child maltreatment associated with long-term emotional, behavioral, and psychosocial consequences (Strathearn et al., 2020; Yu et al., 2023)
- ❑ Yet, compared to more overt forms of maltreatment, it has received relatively less empirical attention (Gilbert et al., 2009; Salzmann et al., 2022)
- ❑ Early environmental (including social determinants of health) and behavioral factors that may contribute to EN remain insufficiently understood (Hunter & Flores, 2021; Nazari et al., 2025)
- ❑ Identifying these early risk factors is thus critical for prevention and intervention efforts

OBJECTIVE

- ❑ To examine how early environmental and behavioral factors assessed in childhood predict retrospective self-reported childhood emotional maltreatment in early adulthood

METHODS

Participants

- ❑ $N = 774$ child–parent dyads from Quebec, Canada
- ❑ Child age: $M = 8.43$ (T1); $M = 21.58$ (T14)

Measures

Outcome (T14; self-report)

- ❑ Emotional abuse (CTQ; Bernstein et al., 1994)

Early Predictors (T1; parent-report)

- ❑ Behavioral factor

- Conduct problems (CBCL; Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001)

- ❑ Environment factors

- Problems in the family
- Parental psychological distress (IDPESQ; Prévile et al., 1992)
- Parental Acceptance-Rejection (PARQ; Rohner, 2005)
 - ❖ Coldness and lack of affection
- Family income
- Parental education
- Socioeconomic level of the school neighborhood

- ❑ Demographics

- Child sex
- Child age



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- ❑ Figure 1: Multiple Linear Regression

	β	SE	z	p
Constant	.280	.572	.490	.624
Child assigned sex	.199	.035	5.729	.000
Child age	.037	.039	.942	.346
Child conduct problems	.172	.046	3.720	.000
Family income	-.073	.037	-1.989	.047
Parental psychological distress	.031	.051	.610	.542
Problems in the family	.059	.043	1.373	.170
Parental education	-.023	.045	-.514	.607
Socioeconomic level of the neighborhood of the child's school	-.015	.043	-.335	.737
Undifferentiated rejection	-.040	.049	-.813	.416
Coldness and lack of affection	.117	.055	2.145	.032

- ❑ A **multiple linear regression** examined predictors of **emotional abuse** including child characteristics, family factors, and parental behaviors
- ❑ **Child assigned sex** significantly predicted retrospectively reported emotional abuse ($\beta = .20, p < .001$)
- ❑ **Child conduct problems** were positively associated with retrospectively reported emotional abuse ($\beta = .17, p < .001$)
- ❑ **Family income** showed a **negative association** with emotional abuse ($\beta = -.07, p = .047$), indicating higher income was linked to lower retrospectively reported emotional abuse
- ❑ **Coldness and lack of affection** from parents significantly predicted higher retrospectively reported emotional abuse ($\beta = .12, p = .032$)

SUMMARY

- ❑ Higher levels of retrospectively reported emotional abuse were linked to **lower family income, parental coldness/lack of affection, child conduct problems, and female sex**
- ❑ Several more general environmental factors, such as school neighborhood SES and parental distress, were not significant predictors
- ❑ The results emphasize that **caregiving practices** and the **socioeconomic background of the home** may influence subsequent experiences and reporting of emotional maltreatment

DISCUSSION

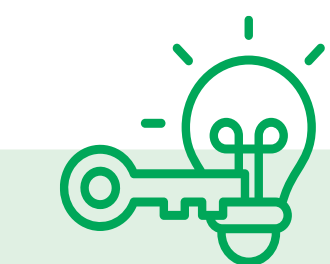
Interpretation

- ❑ **Females** reported higher levels of retrospectively reported emotional abuse, which may reflect **gender differences** in experiences and reporting of emotional maltreatment or reporting
- ❑ Children may be subjected to more emotional maltreatment in families where caregivers are **colder** and express **less affection**
- ❑ Parent-child dynamics may be shaped by a child's **conduct problems**, which may lead to more unpleasant emotional interactions
- ❑ **Household economic disadvantages** may increase the risk for emotionally harmful caregiving environments

Future Directions

- ❑ Future research should include a more culturally diverse sample to gain a deeper understanding of these inter-relations in various sociocultural contexts

TAKEAWAY



- ❑ The findings underscore the importance of **family socioeconomic context and caregiving quality** in identifying risk for childhood emotional maltreatment.
- ❑ Prevention and intervention efforts may benefit from addressing **family-level economic stressors alongside strategies that support emotionally responsive parenting.**



REFERENCES

