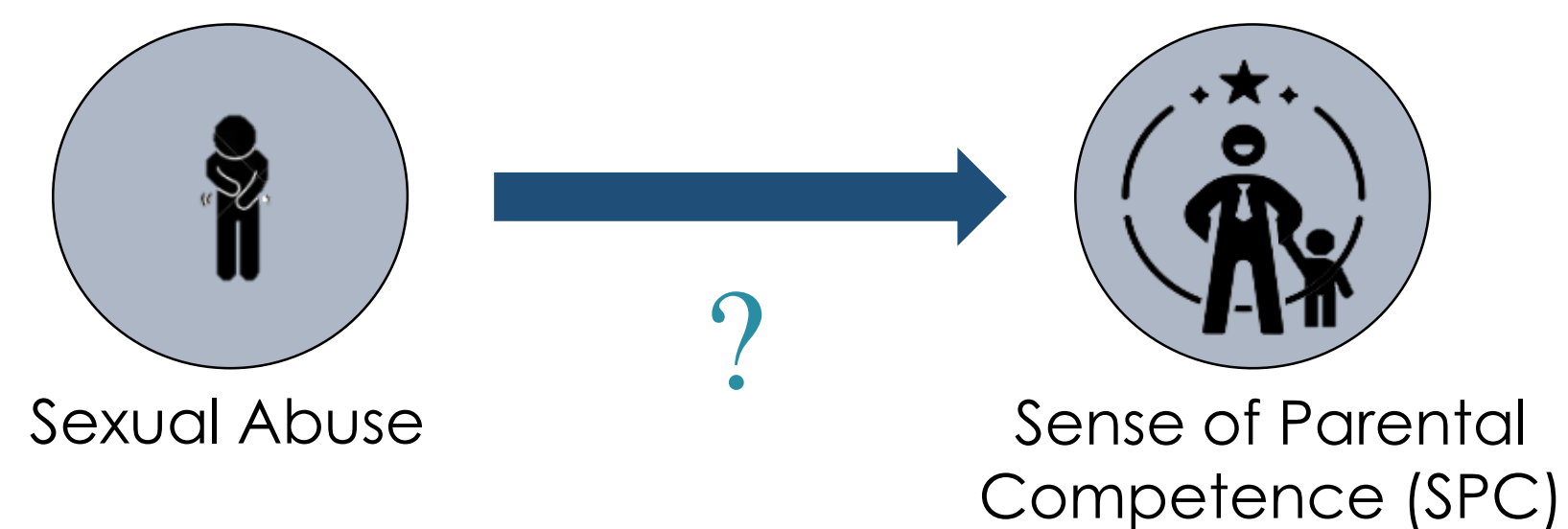


IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE ON RESILIENCE AND SENSE OF PARENTAL COMPETENCE

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Introduction



- Mothers with a history of **childhood sexual abuse** show **less confidence in themselves as parents**¹.
- **Unique impact** of sexual abuse on parenting **can be reduced** when **other forms of childhood maltreatment are addressed**^{2,3,4}.



- **Childhood sexual abuse impacts** victims' adaptive functioning and **resilience**⁵.
- **Parent's resilience** may **mediate the effects of childhood sexual abuse** experience on parenting⁶.

Methods

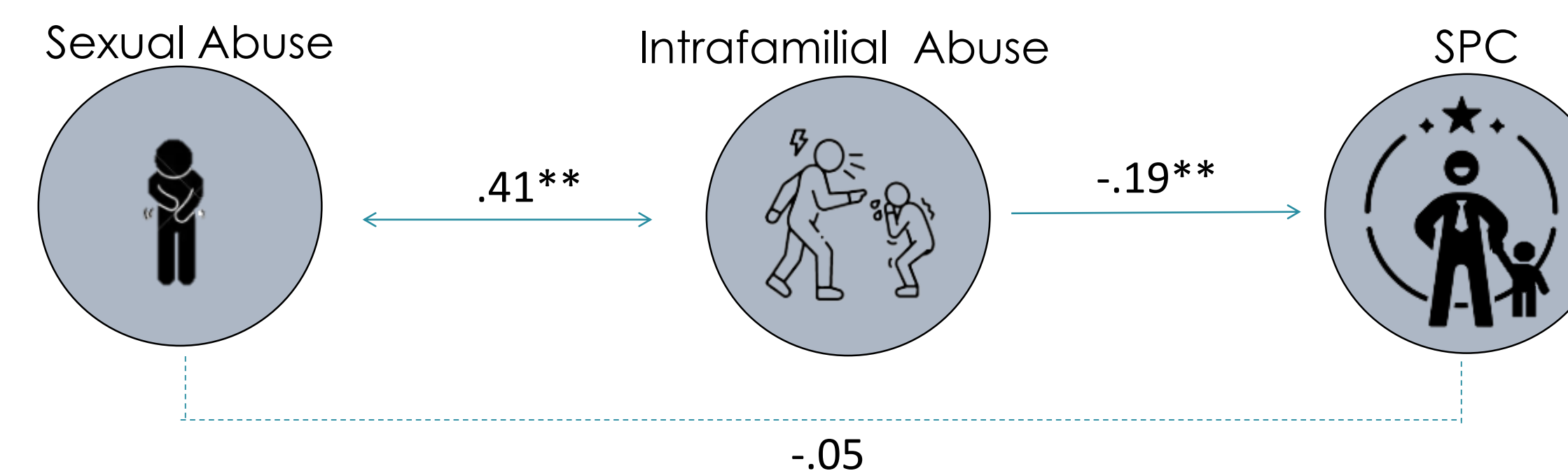
- Online survey.
- Childhood Trauma Questionnaire – Short Form⁷.
- Questionnaire d'Auto-Evaluation de la Competence Educative Parentale⁸.
- Connor and Davidson Resilience Scale⁹.

Sample

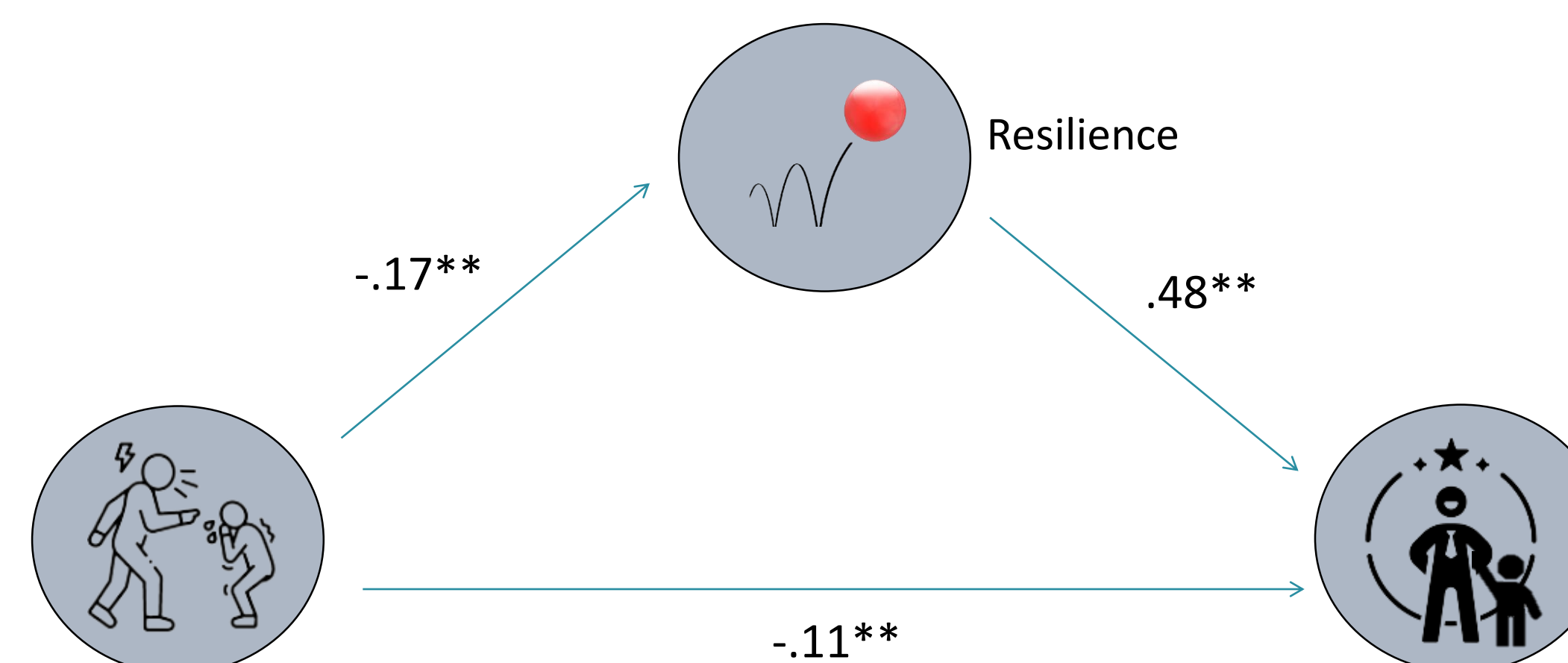
- 1904 mothers of children from 3 to 8 years old.
- 52% Belgian, 41% French, 7% Other.
- 84% have no financial difficulties, 15% have financial difficulties, 1% are unable to cope financially.
- 35% Graduate, 31% Master, 28% Secondary, 2% PhD.
- 23% have been sexually abused during childhood (71% extrafamilial).
- 53% have experienced at least one type of childhood abuse, 35% have experienced more than one type.

Results

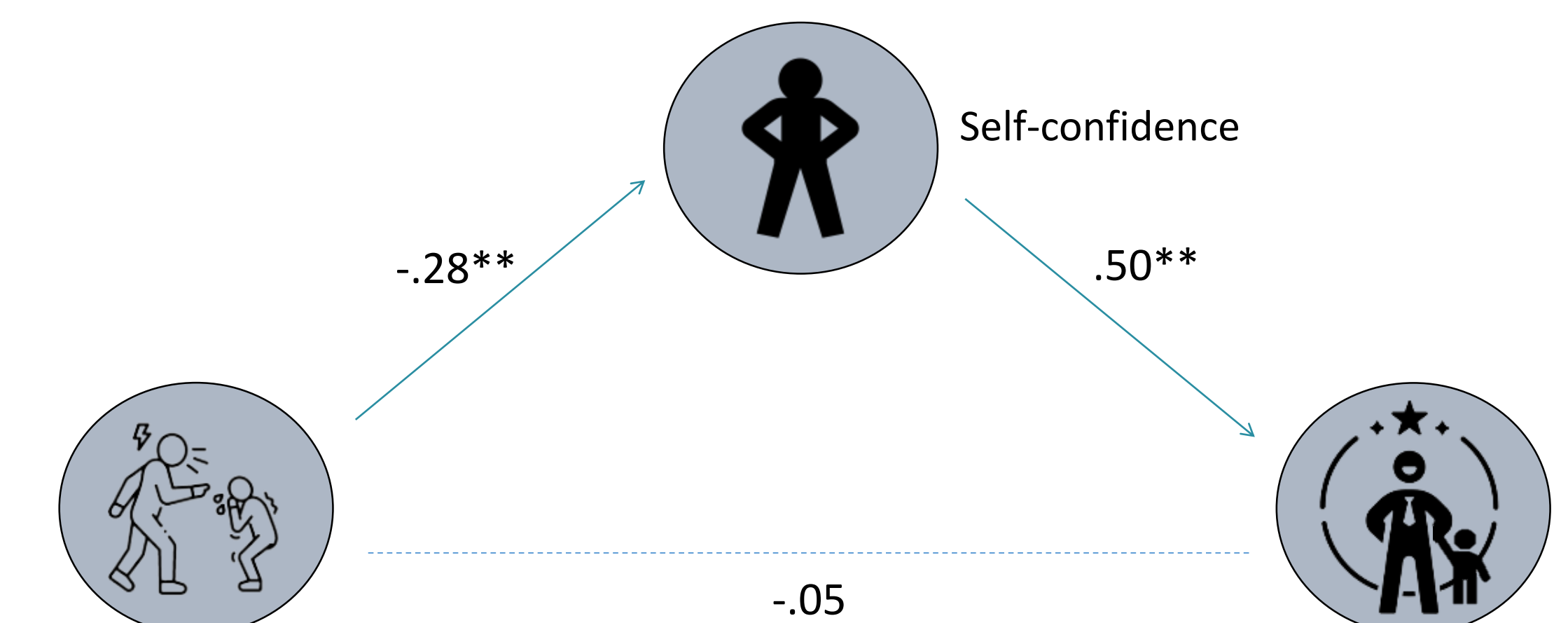
The effect of **childhood sexual abuse** on SPC was **not significant** ($\beta = -.05, p = .05$), while the effect of **childhood intrafamilial maltreatment** on SPC was ($\beta = -.19, p < .00$).



Significant partial mediation of resilience :
indirect effect = $-.08, p < .000$, total effect = $-.20, p < .000$
The model explained 27% of the variance of the mothers' SPC



Significant full mediation of self-confidence :
indirect effect = $-.14, p < .000$, total effect = $-.20, p < .000$
The model explained 27% of the variance of the mothers' SPC



Discussion

The **impact of childhood sexual abuse** on SPC is **indirect** and explained by the **effect of cumulative childhood abuse**

- Factors influencing SPC are not explained by the sexual abuse itself. Childhood sexual abuse impacts mothers' SPC when it occurs in situations of **repeated and multiple abuse** where children are subjected to a **chaotic and disorganized family context**.

Cumulative childhood abuse reduced SPC of mothers

- This study confirms the importance of **taking into account mothers' childhood experiences** to better understand their parenting difficulties and to provide a fitting intervention.
- **Interventions** with mothers exposed to childhood abuse would be **more effective** when **they are sensitive to SPC**. Those interventions should focus on **reinforcing adaptive parenting behaviors** rather than criticizing maladaptive parenting behaviors.

Total resilience partially mediates the link between cumulative childhood abuse and SPC. **Self-confidence** emerges as the strongest mediator and as an **important protective factor**.

- **Interventions** offered to mothers with a history of childhood abuse should target **the reinforcement of self-confidence**, which in turn would contribute to increase SPC.

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