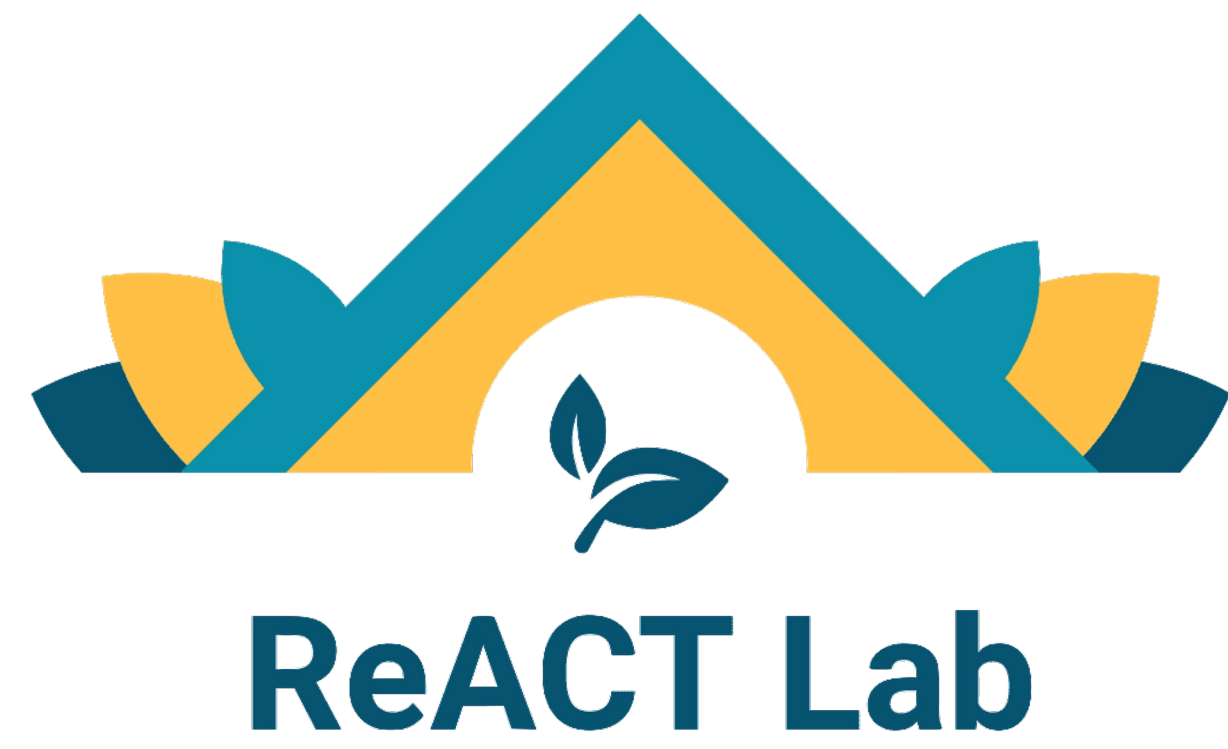


Parental experiences of childhood maltreatment and placement trajectories for children involved with child protective services



Olivia Mazzarello¹, Alesha Frederickson², Sonia Hélie³, Tonino Esposito⁴, & Rachel Langevin²



¹Department of Psychology, McGill University
²Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, McGill University
³Institut Universitaire Jeunes en Difficultés
⁴Department of Social Work, Université de Montréal

INTRODUCTION

- In 2022, 43 688 children received services from Child Protective Services (CPS) in Quebec and 46.3% of these children were placed in out-of-home care
 - Placement instability can have adverse developmental consequences for children
- Intergenerational continuity of child maltreatment (CM) may be a risk factor for placement instability
- Different forms of CM experienced by parents may translate into long-term consequences (e.g., psychopathology, parenting difficulties) affecting future generations
 - These long-term consequences of CM have been found to be associated with placement instability (e.g., higher number of placements) of children involved in CPS

Mental health, emotional and social development

However, little is known about the relationship between parental experiences of specific forms of reported CM and placement outcomes of their CPS-involved children

METHODS

Clinical-administrative database:

- All children reported to CPS for CM between January 2003 and December 2020 in Quebec
- At least one of their parents also reported to CPS during their childhood

- Final cohort:**
- 4819 children
 - 3295 mothers
 - 1376 fathers

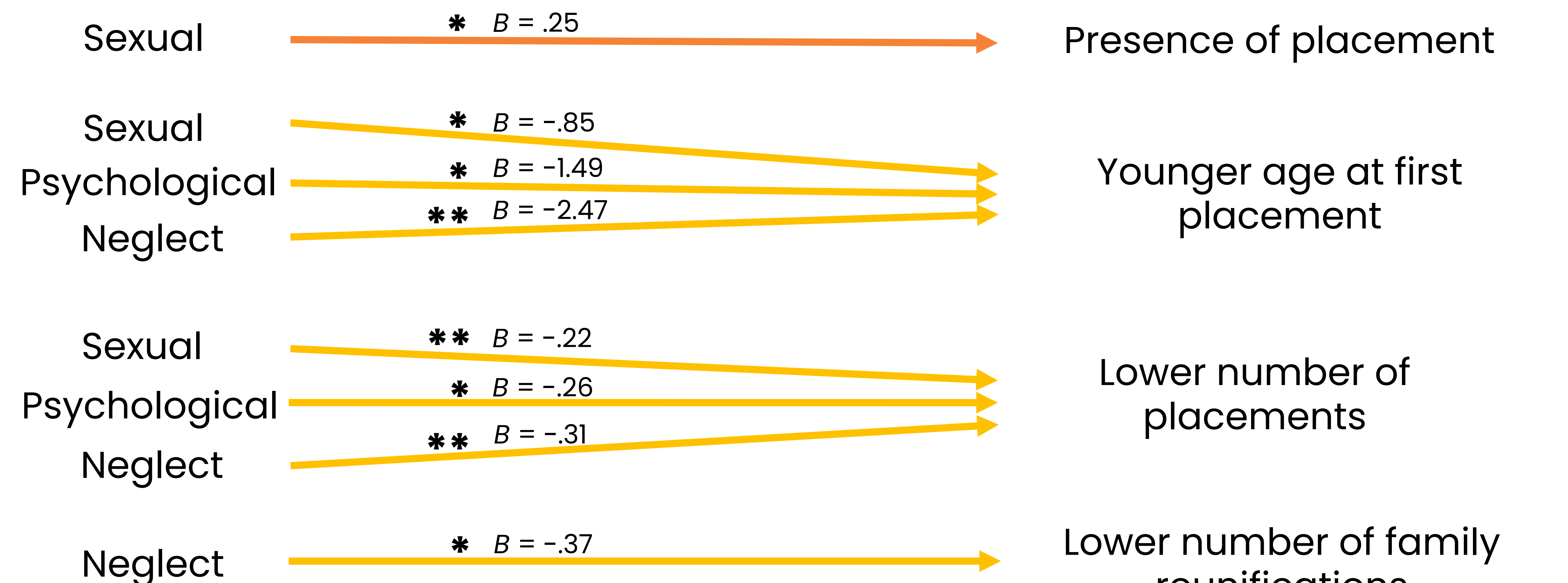
Variables:

(IV) *Parental experiences of CM* → (DV) *Child placement outcomes*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual abuse Physical abuse Psychological abuse Neglect Exposure to domestic violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of placement Age at first placement Cumulative duration in placements Number of placements Number of family reunifications |
|---|---|

RESULTS

Maternal histories of CM



Paternal histories of CM



Note: ** p < .001, * p < .05, → Positive association, → Negative association

CONCLUSIONS

- Parental CM experiences may uniquely impact children's placement outcomes possibly due to certain parenting mechanisms occurring as a consequence of experiencing neglect, sexual abuse, or psychological abuse in childhood
- Parental experiences of physical abuse and exposure to domestic violence may be less influential in explaining placement outcomes for children, due to accounting for the impact of all other forms of CM simultaneously

Implications

- Practice:** Use of interventions targeting parenting skills specific to the form of CM experienced (e.g., Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect)
- Research:** Examine the relationships between parental histories of CM polyvictimization, frequency and severity of parental CM, and future placement outcomes of their children
- Policy:** Allocate funding towards parenting skills training and psychotherapy programs aimed at CPS families

Acknowledgments



References

References available upon request
 olivia.mazzarello@mail.mcgill.ca