

INTRODUCTION

- 86-93% of Singaporean children are physically disciplined (Sudo et al., under review).
- Experience of childhood physical discipline is predictive of young adults' favorable attitudes towards physical discipline (Hester et al., 2009).
- Perceptions of parental physical discipline rather than actual occurrence may matter more in predicting problematic outcomes (Mulvaney & Mebert, 2010).
- When physical discipline was perceived as deserved, it was predictive of young adults' favorable attitudes towards physical discipline (Durrant et al., 2017).
- In a culture with high prevalence of physical discipline, it is imperative to identify factors which support its continued practice and acceptability in order to address its endurance.

HYPOTHESES

1. Recollection of more frequent childhood physical discipline will be associated with more favorable attitudes towards physical discipline.
2. Regardless of frequency of childhood physical discipline, perceiving physical discipline as more deserved will be associated with more favorable attitudes towards physical discipline.

REFERENCES

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METHODOLOGY

Participants

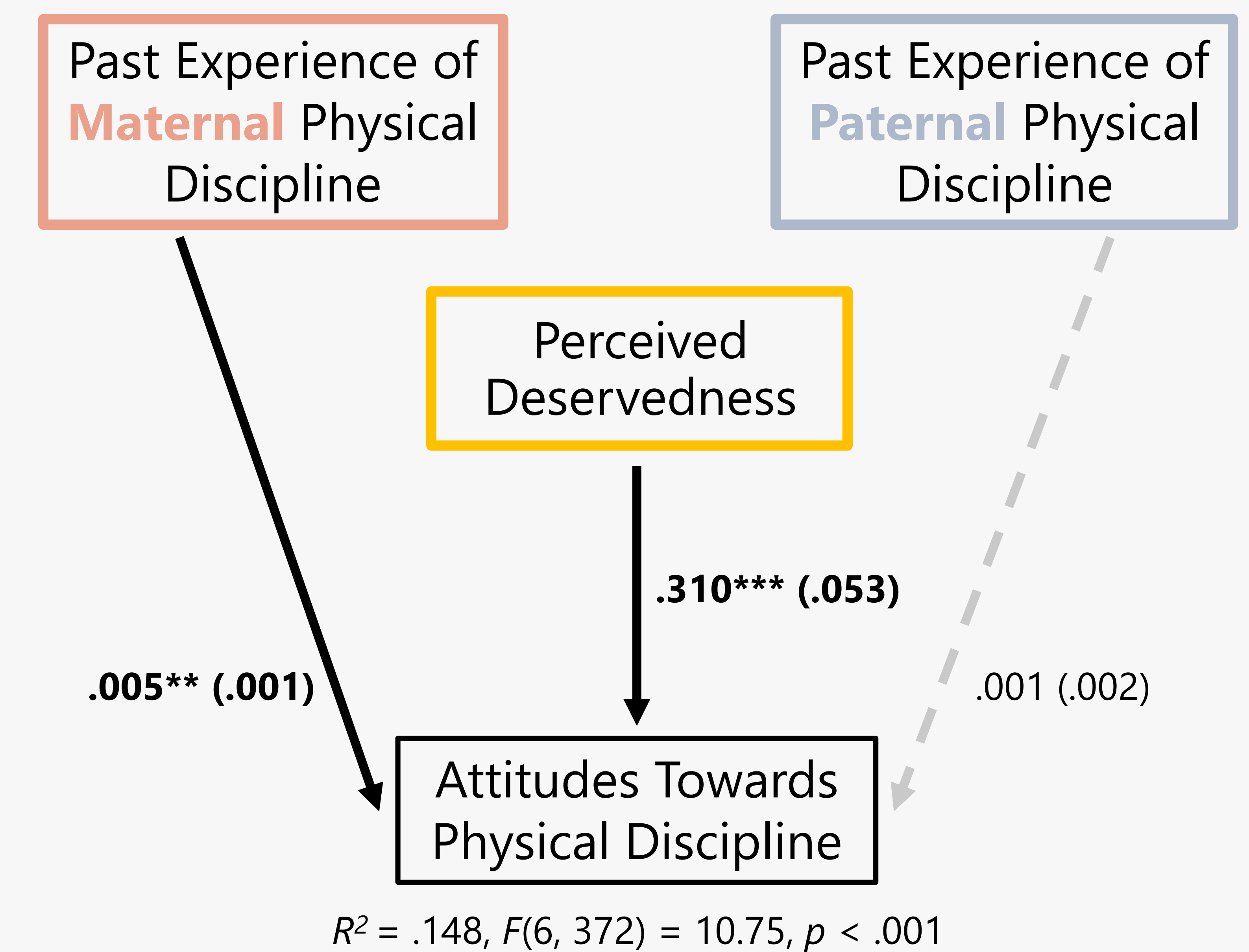
- 385 young adults; 193 females
- Aged 18 to 29; $M = 22.61$ years, $SD = 1.78$ years

| Measure | Example of Items |
|---|--|
| Frequency of Maternal and Paternal Physical Discipline (Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scales; Straus et al., 1998) "0=This has never happened" to "6=More than 20 times" | "Spanked you on the bottom with her/his bare hand" "Slapped you on the hand, arm, or leg" |
| Perceived Deservedness "1=Almost never true" to "4=Almost always true" | "My parent(s) punished me when I deserved it" |
| Attitudes Towards Physical Punishment "-2=Disagree" to "2=Agree" | "Hitting children helps them learn when reasoning alone does not work" |

FACTORS PREDICTING ATTITUDES

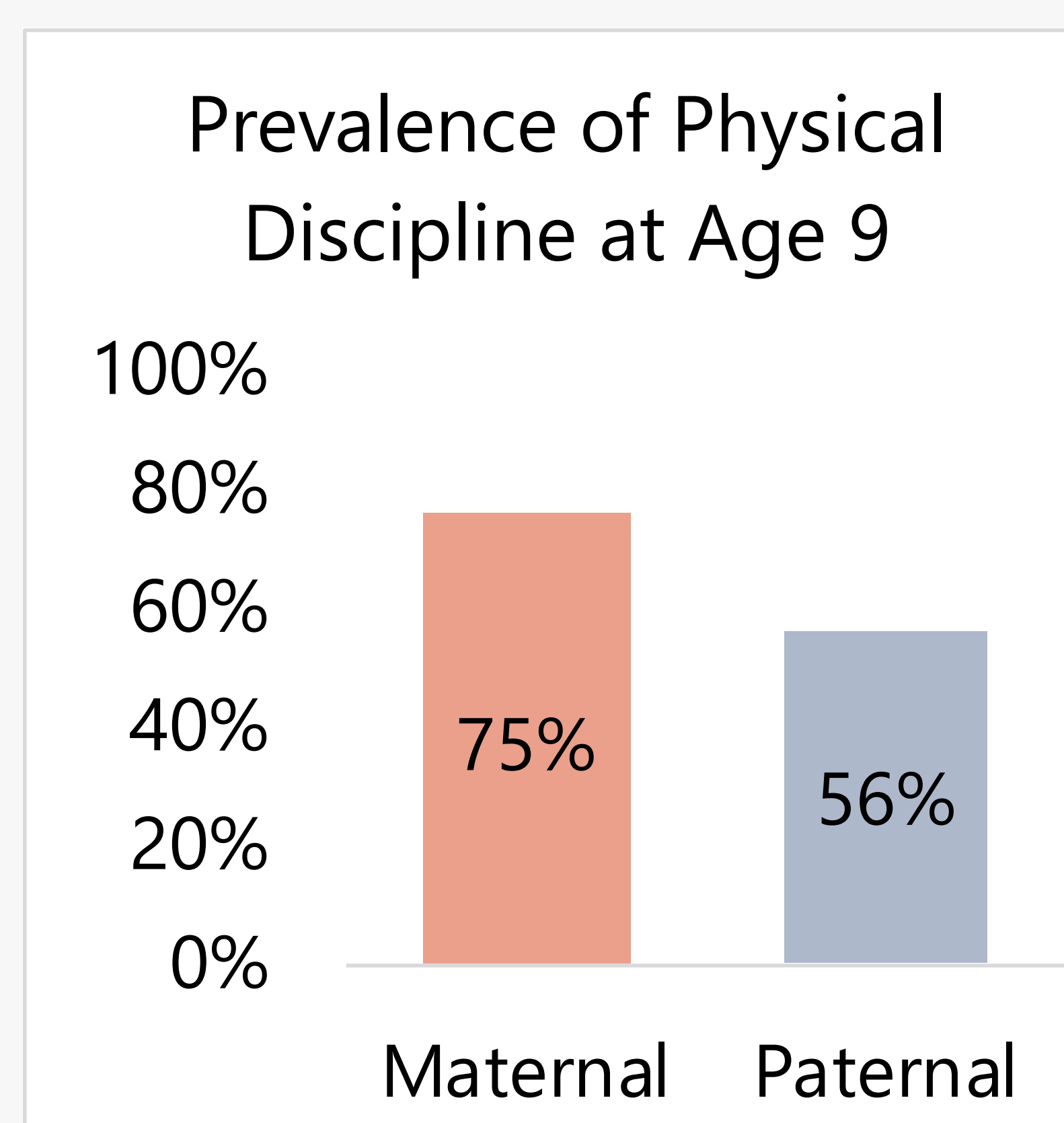
- **Maternal physical discipline and perceived deservedness predicted young adults' favorable attitudes towards physical discipline.**
- Paternal physical discipline did not predict young adults' attitudes towards physical discipline.

Regression Model



Note. $**p < .01$, $***p < .001$. Solid lines represent significant effects.

HIGH PREVALENCE



CONCLUSION

- **More frequent childhood maternal physical discipline and greater perceived deservedness of physical discipline predict young adults' greater favorable attitudes towards physical discipline.**
- Perceived deservedness has a greater influence than frequency of physical discipline on young adults' attitudes.
- Physical discipline administered by mothers matter more than fathers in shaping the attitudes of young adults.
- **Future Research:** Examine the effect of perceived deservedness of physical discipline on various psychosocial outcomes in young adults.