

# The Influence of Maternal Well-Being on Low-Income Adolescents' Emotional and Behavioral Outcomes

by  
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## Research Questions

- Do maternal depression and mastery mediate the impact of poverty on adolescent outcomes and do these outcomes vary by race?
- Does maternal mental health buffer or exacerbate youth socio-emotional outcomes?



## Sample

- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth
- Original Sample of 12,600 respondents with an over sample of low-income and African American families
- Includes family assessments including 1) Mother Supplement 2) Child Supplement, and 3) Child self-administered Supplement
- This sample includes 854 African American and Caucasian youth between the ages of 10 and 14 years old matched with their mothers from the maternal data set.



## Measures

Dependent variables (Behavioral Problems Index):

- Depression and Anxiety Measures
- Peer Problems and Social Withdrawal Measures

Latent Measures:

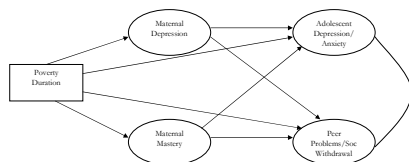
- Depressive Symptoms (CES-D) and Mastery (Pearlin Scale)

Independent Variables:

- Poverty Duration, Maternal Background, Race, Sex



## Conceptual Path Model



## Sample Characteristics

Table 1. Descriptive Statics (N=854)

	Total 854	African American 313	Caucasian 541
<b>Independent Variables</b>			
<b>Child Variables</b>			
	Mean (SD)		
African American	0.37		
Female	0.53	0.54	0.52
child age	12.19 (1.30)	12.15 (1.23)	12.17 (1.29)
<b>Mother Variables</b>			
Poverty Duration	0.23 (0.31)	0.40 (0.34)	0.14 (0.24)
Married*	0.45	0.40	0.77
Never Married	0.11	0.25	0.03
Divorced	0.44	0.35	0.20
Years of Schooling	13.09 (3.52)	12.89 (5.02)	13.25 (2.21)
AFQT Score	41.19 (28.38)	21.19 (17.65)	52.76 (26.95)
Age at First Birth	22.39 (3.25)	20.97 (3.25)	25.21 (2.98)
Emotional Support to Child	111.97 (18.88)	102.68 (20.11)	117.35 (15.82)

\*Always married is the omitted category



## Results

Table 2a. Estimated Effects of Child Race, Child Sex, Poverty Duration, Maternal Depression, Mastery, and Background Variables on Adolescent Peer Problems/Social Withdrawal (N=854)

Dependent Variable/ Independent Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
PeerSoc/ Race	0.277 (0.303)*	0.097 (0.109)	0.102 (0.115)	-0.017 (0.135)
PeerSoc/ Sex	-0.180 (0.090)*	-0.197 (0.091)*	-0.209 (0.096)*	-0.205 (0.096)*
PeerSoc/Poverty Duration		0.696 (0.165)*	0.312 (0.182)	0.298 (0.212)
PeerSoc/Depression			0.237 (0.057)*	0.205 (0.053)*
PeerSoc/Mastery			-0.257 (0.058)*	-0.244 (0.054)*
PeerSoc/Never Married				-0.340 (0.195)*
PeerSoc/Divorced				0.107 (0.113)
PeerSoc/ Years of Schooling				-0.009 (0.022)
PeerSoc/AFQT				0.004 (0.003)
PeerSoc/ Age at First Birth				-0.017 (0.019)
PeerSoc/Supportive Parenting				-0.012 (0.003)*
PeerSoc/Child Age				-0.005 (0.037)
Latent R-square	0.03	0.06	0.16	0.19

## Results cont.

Table 2b. Estimated Effects of Child Race, Child Sex, Poverty Duration, Maternal Depression, Mastery, and Background Variables on Adolescent Depression and Anxiety (N=854)

Dependent Variable/ Independent Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
DepAnx/ Race	0.013 (0.096)	-0.109 (0.098)	-0.114 (0.104)	-0.203 (0.123)
DepAnx/ Sex	-0.110 (0.082)	-0.120 (0.082)	-0.126 (0.087)	-0.111 (0.089)
DepAnx/Poverty		0.470 (0.160)*	0.078 (0.171)	0.080 (0.193)
DepAnx/Depression			0.222 (0.056)*	0.200 (0.052)*
DepAnx/Mastery			-0.262 (0.054)*	-0.244 (0.048)*
DepAnx/Never Married				-0.156 (0.187)
DepAnx/Divorced				0.025 (0.109)
DepAnx/ Years of Schooling				-0.017 (0.020)
DepAnx/AFQT				0.005 (0.002)
DepAnx/ Age at First Birth				-0.003 (0.018)
DepAnx/Supportive Parenting				-0.011 (0.003)*
DepAnx/Child Age				0.002 (0.033)
Latent R-square	0.00	0.02	0.14	0.14

## Results cont.

Table 3. Estimated Effects of Poverty Duration and Maternal Background Characteristics on Mother's Depression and Mastery

Independent/ Dependent Variable	Model 1	Model 2
Depression/PovDur	0.81 (0.15)*	0.47 (0.18)*
Depression/ Race		-0.14 (0.11)
Depression/ Sex		-0.12 (0.08)
Depression/Never Married		0.09 (0.16)
Depression/Divorced		0.14 (0.11)
Depression/ Years of School		0.04 (0.02)
Depression/AFQT		-0.01 (0.00)*
Depression/ Age at First Birth		-0.01 (0.02)
Mastery/PovDur	-0.91 (0.149)*	-0.44 (0.19)*
Mastery/ Race		0.29 (0.12)*
Mastery/ Sex		0.01 (0.08)
Mastery/Never Married		-0.01 (0.19)
Mastery/Divorced		0.10 (0.11)
Mastery/ Years of School		0.04 (0.02)
Mastery/AFQT		0.01 (0.00)
Mastery/ Age at First Birth		0.04 (0.02)*
Latent R-Square for Depression	0.06	0.08
Latent R-Square for Mastery	0.08	0.12

## Conclusions

- Poverty duration and adolescent outcomes are mediated by maternal depressive symptoms and sense of mastery.
- For maternal depressive symptoms, poverty duration is the strongest predictor, while for mastery, poverty duration and race are the strongest predictors.