



Stability of Parenting Profiles Observed in Low-Income African American and Latino Mother-Child Interactions

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Introduction

The importance of positive parenting practices, such as sensitivity, on children's optimal development has been well established (Dallaire & Weinraub, 2005; Else-Quest, Clark, & Owen, 2011). However, relatively little is known about the stability of parenting styles over time and what factors contribute to stability and change.

In a longitudinal study of low-income African American and Latino preschool-aged children's development, we examined:

The stability of empirically-derived parenting styles based on observational ratings of mother-child interactions when children were 2 1/2 yrs and 3 1/2 yrs.

Method

Participants

- 340 mothers, from the Dallas Preschool Readiness Project
- 55% Boys, 45% Girls
- 44% (n = 149) African American, 57% (n = 191) Latina mothers
- 78% of African American and 67% of Latino families living below the Federal Poverty Level

Measuring Mothering Qualities:

Videotaped mother-child interactions with standard stimuli during the Time 1 and Time 2 home visit

- Global ratings of parenting qualities (5-point scales): sensitivity, positive regard, cognitive stimulation, detachment, intrusiveness, negative regard

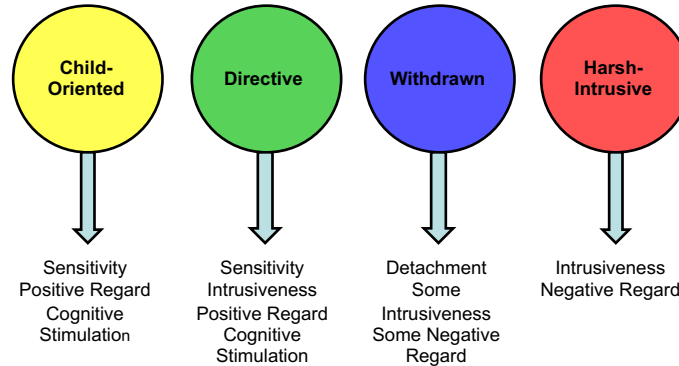
Divers Indicators of Risk Factors:

A cumulative risk index was formed based on the following dichotomous demographic risk indicators:

- Less than high school maternal education, extreme poverty, single parent family, residential move from T1 to T2, change in partner, change from partnered to single, 3+ children per adult

Results

Characteristics Most Salient to Each Mothering Profile



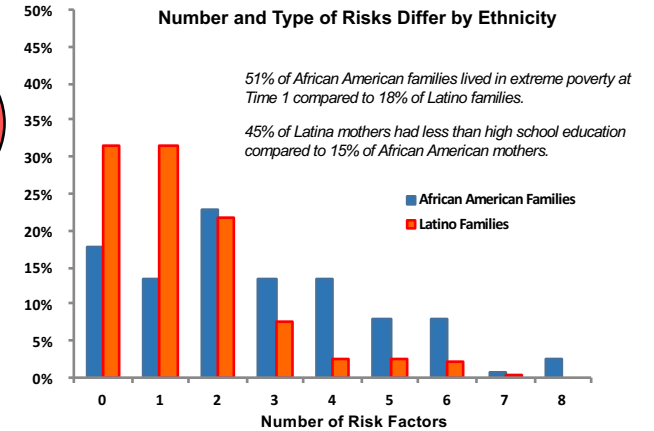
Stability of Mothering Profiles Derived from Latent Profile Analyses of Global Ratings of Mother-child Interactions – African American

Time 1	Time 2 n (%)				n
	Child-Oriented	Directive	Withdrawn	Harsh-Intrusive	
Child-Oriented	22 (50)	18 (40)	2 (5)	2 (5)	44
Directive	20 (40)	12 (24)	6 (12)	12 (24)	50
Withdrawn	0 (0)	10 (43)	13 (57)	0 (0)	23
Harsh-Intrusive	1 (3)	12 (38)	2 (6)	17 (53)	32
n	43	52	23	31	149

Findings

- 43% of African American mothers and 50% of Latina mothers stayed in the same groups across time
- 48% of all African American mothers and 77% of all Latina mothers were classified as only child-oriented or directive across time.

Number and Type of Risks Differ by Ethnicity



Stability of Mothering Profiles Derived from Latent Profile Analyses of Global Ratings of Mother-child Interactions – Latina

Time 1	Time 2 n (%)				n
	Child-Oriented	Directive	Harsh-Intrusive	Withdrawn	
Child-Oriented	77 (83)	6 (7)	2 (2)	8 (9)	93
Directive	49 (56)	16 (18)	4 (5)	18 (21)	87
Harsh-Intrusive	4 (36)	3 (27)	2 (18)	2 (18)	11
n	130	25	8	28	191

Discussion

- Among African American mothers, those who were child-oriented at Time 2 were either child-oriented or directive at Time 1, with the exception of 1 mother. The same was found among Latina mothers, with the exception of 4 mothers.
- What kind of stability matters?** Does moving between child-oriented and directive make a significant impact on the developing child?

