

The Impact of Abuse on the Perceived Speed of Growing Up

Research Questions

- How does child abuse affect the perceived rate of growing up in terms of adult responsibility?
- Does gender moderate the relationship between abuse and perceived rate of growing up?

Significance

- Annually there are nearly 700,000 children abused in the U.S.
- About 30% of abused children will end up abusing their own children.
- Adults who were abused as children are more likely to develop at least 1 psychological disorder.

Background

- Child abuse is classified as:
 - Emotional, physical, sexual abuse, or neglect.
 - May or may not be violent.
- CPS (2016): 676,000 reports of abuse and neglect:
 - 1/4 children experienced abuse or neglect
 - 1,750 child fatalities.
- Many cases of abuse go unreported.

Hypotheses

- Those who experienced more abuse during their childhood will say they grew up faster compared to others their age.
- The relationship between abuse and perceptions of growing up faster will be particularly strong among women.

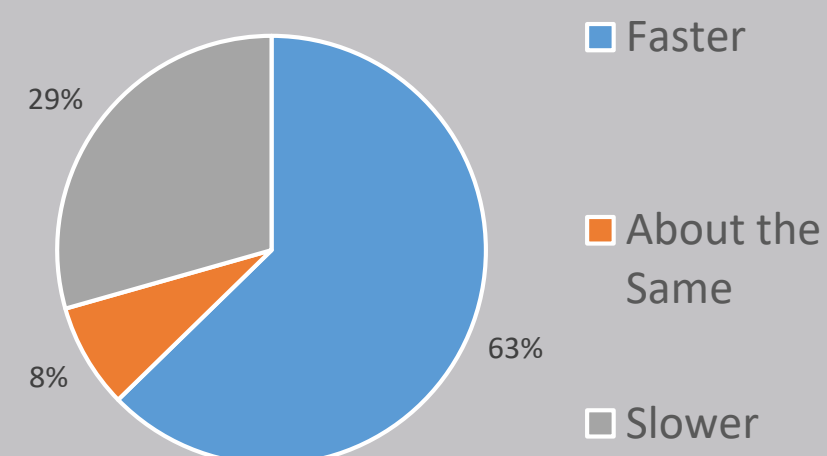
Data and Sample

- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health
- Waves Waves III (2001-2) and IV (2007-8)
- Public use data

Dependent Measure

Perceived Speed of Growing up

“In terms of taking on adult responsibilities, would you say you grew up faster, slower, or at about the same rate?”

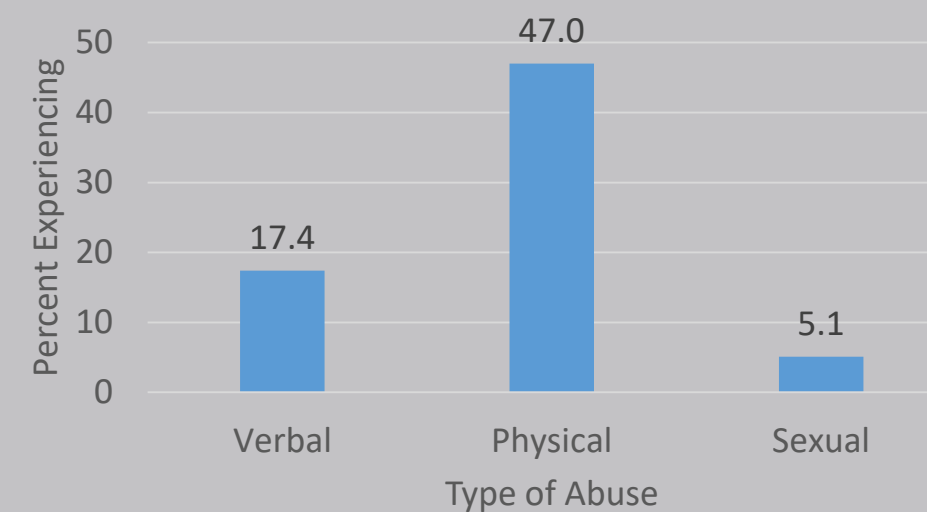


Independent Measure

Types of Abuse Experienced

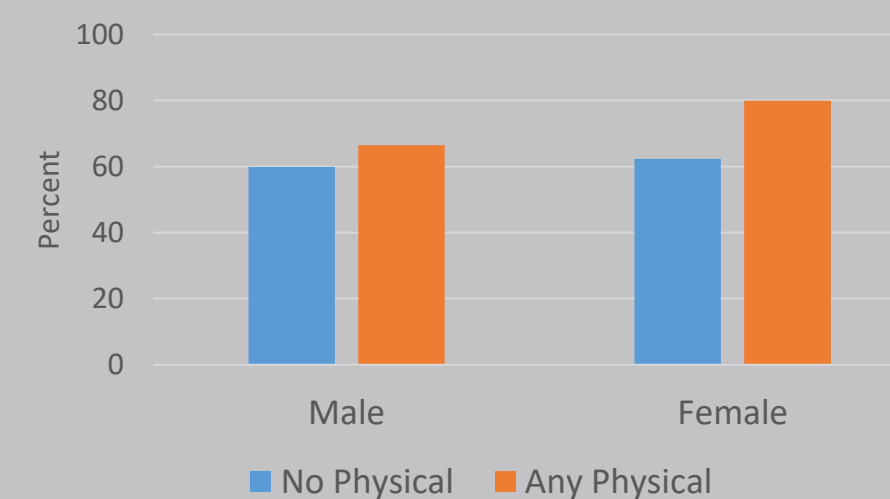
“Before your 18th birthday, how often did a parent or other adult caregiver...”

- say things that hurt your feelings...
- hit you with a fist, kick you...
- touch you in a sexual way, force you to touch [them]...



Results

Growing Up Faster by Experience of Physical Abuse and Gender



Growing Up Faster by Experience of Sexual Abuse and Gender



Summary and Conclusion

- Experiencing abuse during childhood speeds up perceptions of growing up compared to those who did not experience abuse.
- Women experiencing physical or sexual abuse are particularly likely to say they grew up faster.
- Women generally feel they grow up at a faster rate due to societal expectations of responsibility.
- Future Research: Look at how depression and other mental illnesses impact the perceived rate of growing up.

References

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