**Research Questions**
- Is child maltreatment related to mental health issues later in young adulthood?
- Does the correlation vary between gender?

**Significance**
- The ecology of an individual’s childhood has the capacity to foster or hinder adaptive development over the life course (Henry et al., 2018).
- Between 15% and 30% of women have been sexually abused by a man by the age of 16 (Myskow et al., 2006).
- As many as 16% of men in the United States experience childhood sexual abuse, leading to several immediate as well as long term consequences (Mulvey, 2006).

**Background**
- Maltreatment is any form of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and any form of neglect (SCAN).
- Early childhood exposure to toxic environments is related to changes in the brain making it more difficult to regulate stress (Henry et al., 2018).
- Low care from a parent is associated with increased risk for depression in adulthood (Jorm et al., 2003).
- Child sexual abuse victims reported a lifetime history of more exposure to various traumas and higher levels of mental health symptoms (Banyard et al., 2001).
- Women are more likely than men to suffer from mental health consequences of childhood maltreatment (Gayer-Anderson et al., 2015).

**Hypotheses:**
- Child maltreatment by parents is negatively related to mental health as young adults.
- Females are more susceptible than males to the effects of maltreatment in childhood.

**Data**
- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)
- U.S. young adults ages 18 to 26

**Dependent Variable**
- Mental Health
  - Sum of 7 questions (previous week)
    - Bothered by things
    - Couldn’t shake off blues
    - Trouble focusing
    - Depressed
    - Too tired
    - SAD
    - Felt disliked
  - 0 = No symptoms 17.8%
  - 1 = Some symptoms 56.5%
  - 2 = Symptoms all/most of time 25.6%

**Independent Variable**
- Maltreatment in childhood
  - Sum of 4 questions
    - Left alone
    - Basic needs not met
    - Physical abuse
    - Sexual abuse
  - 0 = No maltreatment 49.7%
  - 1 = Any maltreatment 50.3%

**Control Variable**
- Gender
  - Male 46.1%
  - Female 53.9%

**Analysis**
- Cross tabulation and Chi-square test using SPSS

**Results**

**Figure 1. % Distribution of Mental Health by Childhood Maltreatment: Men**
- Most or all the time
- Experiencing Some Symptoms
- No Symptoms

**Figure 2. % Distribution of Mental Health by Childhood Maltreatment: Women**
- Most or all the time
- Experiencing Some Symptoms
- No Symptoms

**Summary of Results**
- Child Maltreatment has a strong impact on mental health status later in young adulthood.
- Women are more susceptible than men to the negative effects of childhood maltreatment.
- Chi-square test significant at p < 0.001.

**Policy Implications**
- Initiatives to prevent maltreatment and provide mental health and social services to victims are critical (Henry, 2018).
- Issues regarding the statute of limitations may need to be further investigated; varies by situation/location.

**References**