

Parent-adolescent discrepancies of parental monitoring and adolescent delinquency



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Introduction



- Researchers and practitioners utilize multiple informants when assessing childhood psychopathology
- However, discrepancies exist among these different informants (Achenbach, McConaughy, & Howell, 1987)
 - Effects = difficulties in making diagnoses, negotiating treatment goals, and targeting appropriate problem areas during treatment (e.g., Hawley & Weisz, 2003; Yeh & Weisz, 2001)

Informant Discrepancies



- Informant discrepancies are often interpreted as bias or measurement error (Beck et al. 2006; Guion et al. 2009)
- Yet, discrepancies might be meaningful in predicting behavior over time (e.g., De Los Reyes et al., 2013)

Parental Control/Monitoring



- Lack of parental control is associated with higher levels of delinquency and criminal behavior (e.g., Harris-McKoy & Cui, 2012; Hoeve et al., 2009)
- Poor monitoring, parental rejection, and family conflict influence the development of mental health illness, substance abuse, and behavioral problems in adolescents (Rowe, 2010)

Current Study



- De Los Reyes et al. (2009): mothers who reported higher levels of parental monitoring, in comparison to their child's ratings, had children who reported greater levels of juvenile delinquency two years later

Current Study



- **Current study extended these findings:**
 - Data from a MDFT randomized clinical trial (Henderson, Dakof, Greenbaum, & Liddle, 2010) involving detained, substance-abusing juvenile offenders
 - Measured delinquent behaviors by both self-report and juvenile justice data
- **Hypothesis: informant discrepancies with parents reporting higher levels of monitoring than adolescents will be associated with higher levels of self-reported and official counts of delinquent behaviors**

Methods



Population:

- 154 youths and their families
 - 83% male
 - 61% African American
 - Average age of 15.4 years
 - 65% reported a single-parent home environment).
- Multidimensional Family Therapy (Rowe, 2010; Henderson et al., 2010)
 - Reduction in: involvement with antisocial peers, delinquency, substance use
 - Improvement in: academic performance & internalizing symptoms

Methods



Measures:

- Parenting Monitoring Scale (Steinberg, Dornbusch, & Darling, 1992) completed by parents and adolescents at 8 time points (from baseline to 42 months post-intake).
- Adolescents' delinquent activities: National Youth Survey Self Report Delinquency Scale (SRD; Elliot, Huizinga, & Ageton, 1985), and the juvenile justice records up to nine months post-intake.

Procedures:

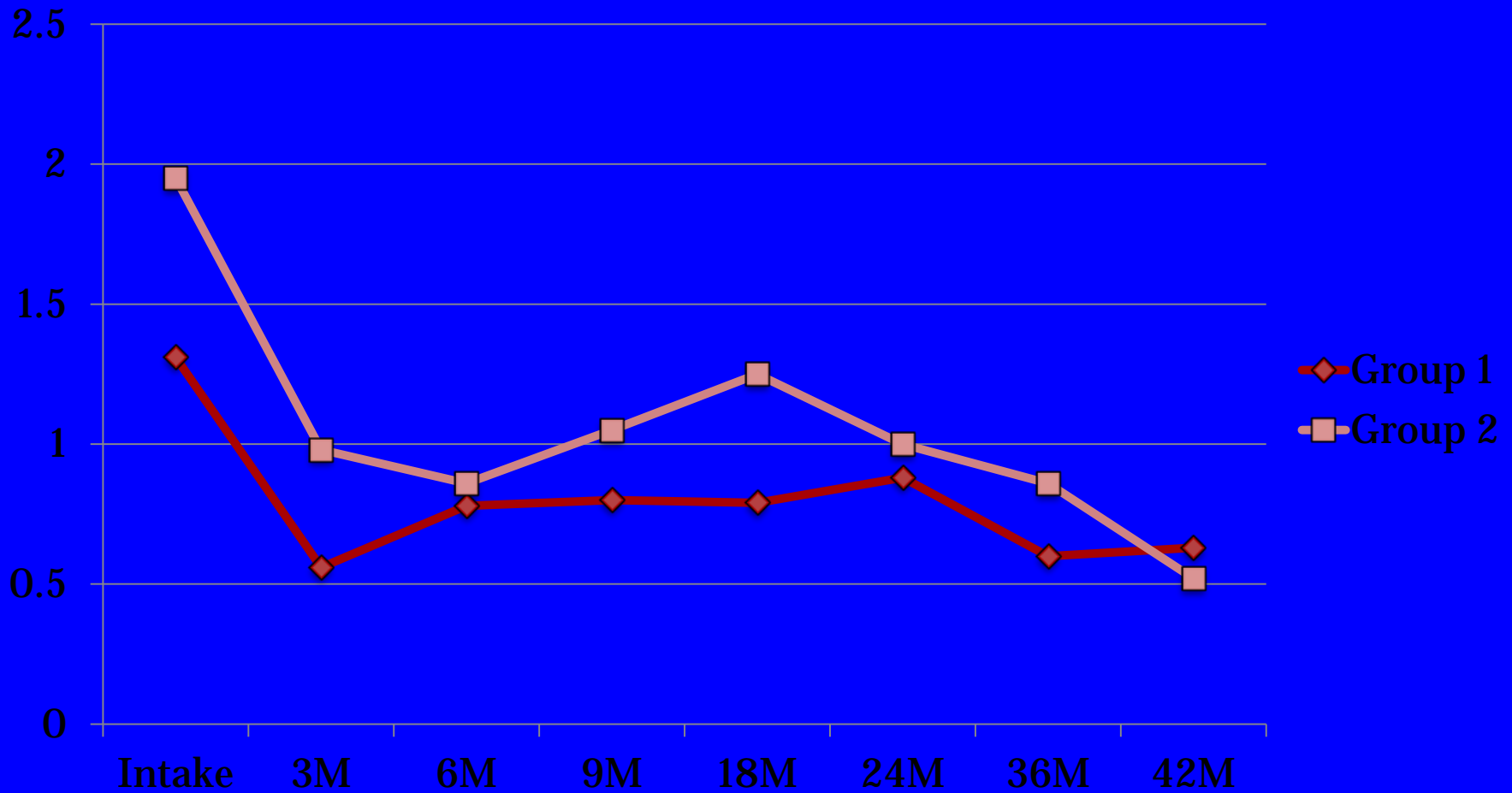
1. Parental Monitoring Scale total scores converted into z-scores
2. Adolescents' Z scores – Parents' Z scores
3. Natural log transformation of the SRD total scores.

Preliminary Results



- Group 1: no differences in + adolescents reporting higher levels of, parental monitoring
- Group 2: parents reporting higher levels of parental monitoring

Self-Reported Delinquency



Effect Sizes



	Intake	3M	6M	9M	18M	24M	36M	42M
Group 1 M (SD)	1.31 (1.32)	0.56 (0.98)	0.78 (1.14)	0.80 (1.19)	0.79 (1.19)	0.88 (1.09)	0.60 (1.01)	0.63 (1.05)
Group 2 M (SD)	1.95 (1.57)	0.98 (1.14)	0.86 (1.12)	1.05 (1.19)	1.25 (1.43)	1.00 (1.26)	0.86 (1.20)	0.52 (1.02)
d	0.44	0.40	0.07	0.21	0.36	0.10	0.24	0.11

Preliminary Results



- 1-1. Adolescents in Group 2 generally reported more delinquent behavior, except for 42-months post intake when the trend was reversed.
- 1-2. Results involving official arrest and charge data were not significant, which might be in part due to substantial number of adolescents who did not have any post-intake contact with the juvenile justice system.

Discussion



- Summary

- Results suggest informant discrepancy can be informative
- Consistent with hypothesis, parents reporting higher levels of parental monitoring have adolescents reporting higher levels of delinquency

- Implications

- Suggesting that informant discrepancy of parental monitoring can be a helpful indicator of treatment progress in family therapies, as improved communication is often a targeted area.

- Further research

- Exploring how treatment affects informant discrepancy and if decreases in informant discrepancies predict better outcomes

Acknowledgements



- This study was funded under a cooperative agreement from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health (NIDA/NIH), with support from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (all part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); and from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice. The authors gratefully acknowledge the collaborative contributions by NIDA, the Coordinating Center (George Mason University/University of Maryland at College Park), and the Research Centers participating in CJ-DATS (Brown University, Lifespan Hospital; Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; National Development and Research Institutes, Inc., Center for Therapeutic Community Research; National Development and Research Institutes, Inc., Center for the Integration of Research and Practice; Texas Christian University, Institute of Behavioral Research; University of Delaware, Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies; University of Kentucky, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research; University of California at Los Angeles, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs; and University of Miami, Center for Treatment Research on Adolescent Drug Abuse). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, NIDA, or other CJ-DATS participants.