



The Association Between Mistreatment by Adults and Personality Behaviors

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MATH 315 | Section 1| CSU Chico | Undergraduate

INTRODUCTION

•A child abuse report is made every ten seconds in the United States. In one study done by the Childhelp agency, 80% of 21-year-olds who reported childhood abuse met the criteria for at least one psychological disorder. We believe there is a correlation between child abuse and developing psychological disorders. We will be testing out how emotions, physical, and sexual abuse affects a person's personality.

Is there an association between mistreatment by adults and personality behaviors?

•The goal of this research is to see if there is evidence supporting that mistreatment by adults could lead to psychological disorders in the future, and make a person more susceptible to committing crimes, being arrested, and getting involved in dating violence.

•Neurobiological and psychiatric consequences of child abuse and neglect, states that in the US alone, there are about 3 million child maltreatment reports every year. The clinical consequences discovered because of maltreatment are mood and anxiety disorder, bipolarism, anxiety, panic disorder, phobias, and posttraumatic stress, all which affect their personalities. Personal and social difficulties that follow abuse that have been identified include insecure attachment, avoidance in social relationships, and deficits in social-interpersonal processing.

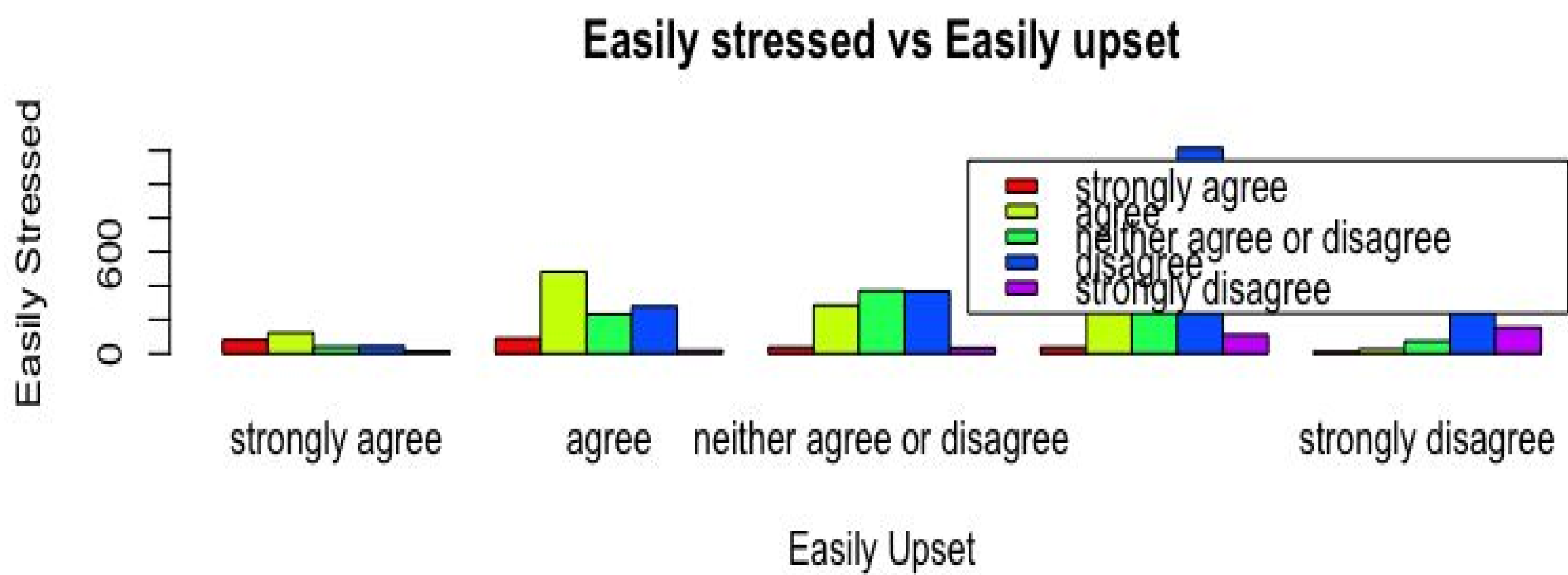
METHODS

- To understand and analyze mistreatment by adults and personality behaviors, we used the Add Health Wave IV data set.
- Variables: “emotional abuse,” “easily stressed,” “easily upset,” “moodswing frequency,” “physical abuse,” and “sexual abuse.”
- We first tested being a felon as a moderator for a person who had been physically abused based on their gender. We then tested for gender being a potential confounder.
- regression analysis- interpret the regression coefficients, and test for a potential confounder Z.
- bivariate relationships- one association with a categorical explanatory and categorical response variable.

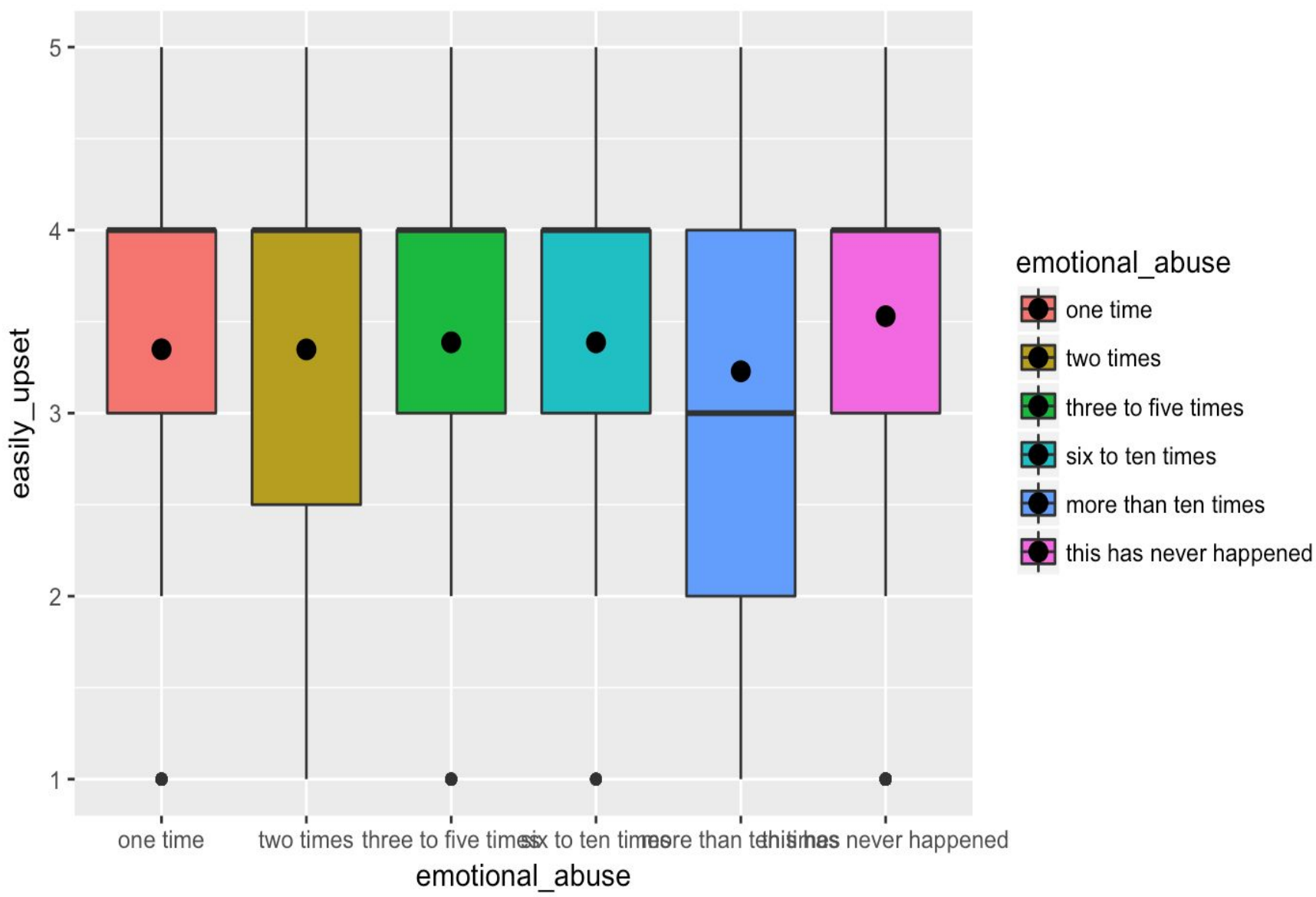
SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

- We used data given from 6 variables; 3 from mistreatment by adults codebook and 3 from personality behaviors codebook.
 - Of the variables we chose to study from Sections 24 & 26, there were 6,504 participants.
 - 48% were male and 52% female, aged 24 to 32.
 - Below is **Table 1**. Univariate description of variables used.
- | Variable | Min | 1st. Qu. | Median | Mean | 3rd Qu. | Max | NA's | |
|-----------------|-----|----------|--------|------|---------|-----|------|------|
| Emotional abuse | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4.581 | 6 | 6 | 1470 |
| Physical abuse | | 1 | 6 | 6 | 5.454 | 6 | 6 | 1453 |
| Easily stressed | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3.226 | 4 | 5 | 1402 |
| Easily upset | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3.43 | 4 | 5 | 1400 |
- For variables easily stressed and easily upset, the numbers 1-5 represent, in order, strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree.
 - For variables emotional and physical abuse, the numbers 1-6 represent, in order, one time, two times, three to five times, six to ten times, more than ten times, and this has never happened.

RESULTS



- The highest bar shown (1215 individuals) represents disagreeing that they are easily upset and disagreeing that they are easily stressed.
- We were hoping to find a correlation between strongly agreeing/agreeing to being easily stressed and strongly agreeing/ agreeing to being easily upset, however, we did not find that in this sample.



- This box plot is a regression coefficient analysis after controlling for emotional abuse, physical abuse is significantly associated with being easily upset.
- Emotional abuse is not significantly associated with being easily upset, the average amount of times someone is easily upset stays relatively the same as emotional abuse increases.

CONCLUSIONS

- The effects of mistreatment by adults and its consequences for personality behaviors are reviewed. The prevalence and clinical sequelae of early emotional and physical abuse, and personality behaviors such as being easily upset, stressed, and having mood swings, are described.
- Our research hypothesis was not supported. This is likely due to having a small amount (>20%) of individuals who have claimed that they have been abused as a child, therefore we didn’t get an accurate representation of individuals who have been abused since in the US alone, there are approximately 3 million child maltreatment reports annually, of which nearly 1 million are substantiated; among the substantiated cases, about 60% are classified as neglect, 20% as physical abuse, and 10% as sexual abuse (Heim, Shugart, Craighead, & Nemeroff, 2010).
- For our univariate analysis we tested easily stressed, for bivariate we looked at easily stressed vs. easily upset, and for multivariate we tested gender, mood-swings and felony. Our results for the univariate, multivariate, and bivariate analysis all showed no connection.

IMPLICATIONS

- After conducting multiple tests, we concluded that our results showed that there were no effects on the mistreatment people under the age of 18 suffered and their personality behaviors.
- This research is important because, “In the US alone, there are about 3 million child maltreatment reports every year. The clinical consequences discovered because of maltreatment are mood and anxiety disorder, bipolarism, anxiety, panic disorder, phobias, and posttraumatic stress, all which affect their personalities. Personal and social difficulties that follow abuse that have been identified include insecure attachment, avoidance in social relationships, and deficits in social-interpersonal processing.” (Heim, C., 2010)

REFERENCES

1. Heim, C., Shugart, M., Craighead, W. E., & Nemeroff, C. B. (2010, September 29). Neurobiological and psychiatric consequences of child abuse and neglect.
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4. Abajobir, A. A., Kisley, S., Williams, G., & Clavarino, A. (2017, April 1). Gender-based differences in injecting drug use by young adults who experienced maltreatment in childhood: Findings from an Australian birth cohort study.