

# Effects of Sociopolitical Development on Healthcare Career Interests Among Rural Adolescents

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### INTRO

- Healthcare workers who grew up in rural areas are more likely to return to work and live in rural areas
- One way to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers into rural areas is to invest in recruitment of rural youth to healthcare professions
- Adolescents in rural areas may lack role models and exposure to healthcare careers
- Female healthcare providers may be less likely than their male counterparts to practice in rural settings
- While there is support within the literature for gender differences within the social cognitive career theory framework, the literature on sociopolitical development (SPD) has largely neglected gender

### PURPOSE

- Given the small empirical base applying a modified healthcare career focused Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT) framework for rural adolescents, the current study is a replication of Ali et al.'s (2021) analyses that examined differences in SPD and healthcare career-related outcomes
- The current study examines the mediating effects of healthcare career self-efficacy and HC outcome expectations on the association between SPD and HC interests, and investigates gender differences within the pathway between SPD and HC interests

### METHODS

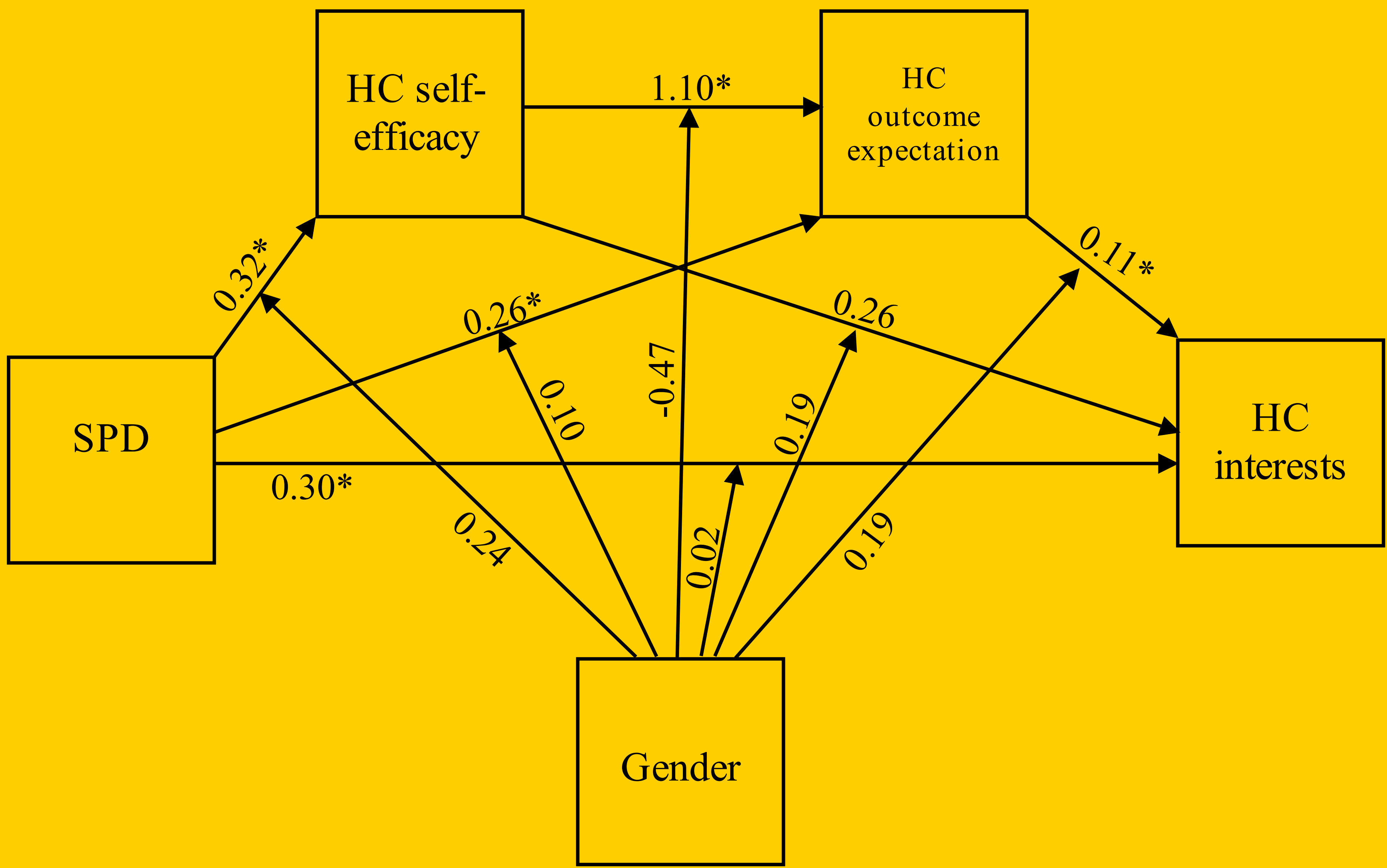
- 85 eighth grade students enrolled in a rural Midwest middle school responded to measures of Healthcare Career (HC) self-efficacy, HC outcome expectations, HC interests, and SPD.
- Survey data was collected via Qualtrics survey.
- We used the PROCESS macro in R to fit the theoretical model and test direct and indirect effects.

## RESULTS

Sociopolitical development (SPD) was found to be directly associated with healthcare career (HC) self-efficacy, HC outcome expectations, and HC interests.

The pathway between SPD and HC interests was *not* mediated by HC self-efficacy or HC outcome expectations

Gender does *not* function as a moderator on the direct effects of SPD, HC self-efficacy, and HC outcome expectations on HC interests



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### DISCUSSION

- Overall findings of the present study support the applicability of a modified SPD and healthcare career focused SCCT framework to the present sample consistent with previous findings
- No support was found for gender as a moderating variable within the model, suggesting that in our sample, there were no differences between males and females within the pathways between SPD and HC interests

### References

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