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Is pleased to announce   
 **The longitudinal impact of maternal mental health, home environment, and neighborhood social context on adolescent mental health among fragile families**

Public and Oral Defense of the Dissertation

**Background:** Maternal mental health, home environments, and neighborhood contexts are all known to be associated with the development of mental illness in adolescence. However, most studies have only used cross-sectional or short-term longitudinal approaches to examine the relationships between these factors and adolescent mental health, even though they are subject to change over time. Thus, it is important to understand the longitudinal impact that these factors have on the resultant mental health of adolescents.

**Objectives:** 1) Examine the longitudinal impact of changes in maternal depression and neighborhood collective efficacy on the mental health of the child in adolescence; 2) Examine the longitudinal impact of transitions or stability in classes of overall “home context” on the mental health of the child in adolescence; and 3) Estimate the cumulative causal effect of maternal depression over time on the mental health of the child in adolescence.

**Methods:** This analysis used data from four time points of the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being study, spanning twelve years in the life of the mother and child. Multi-trajectory modeling was used to identify trajectories of maternal mental health and neighborhood collective efficacy over the time period. Latent transition analysis was used to identify patterns of overall “home context” over time. Regression models were used to examine the relationships between the child’s mental health in adolescence and the previously identified multi-trajectories and transition patterns. Marginal structural models were used to estimate the cumulative causal effect of maternal depression over time on the adolescent’s resultant mental health, after controlling for many other aspects of maternal mental health, home environment, and neighborhood social context.

**Results:** Multi-trajectory modeling identified five trajectories of mothers with similar patterns of depression and neighborhood collective efficacy over time. Children of mothers with increasing or consistently high depressive symptomology had significantly worse mental health in adolescence. Latent transition analysis identified five latent statuses of home context and approximately 75% of mothers remained in the same status over time. Children with mothers who were classified into the two highest risk statuses at all time points had the worst mental health outcomes. The cumulative causal effect of maternal depression at all time points on adolescent mental health was also significant.

**Implications for public health:** Results of these analyses provide an indication of the patterns of exposures experienced throughout the life of a child and the impact these have on the child’s subsequent mental health. The information can be used to tailor the nature and timing of interventions that aim to mitigate adverse mental health. Moreover, the findings emphasize the need to develop multifaceted support systems for children and families.

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10:00AM-12:00PM

Zoom: <https://slu.zoom.us/j/720248718>