**Abstract**

Background: High-dimensional mediation analysis is needed to empirically discern mechanisms by which dimensions of early-life adversity – deprivation and threat – differentially influence adolescent psychopathology.

Methods: A sample of 227 children (age 10.8-13.0) and their mothers provided data on the history of deprivation and threat and current emotional, cognitive, and developmental characteristics: threat detection, attention bias to threat, cognitive and affective theory of mind, fear conditioning, pubertal development, language ability, reasoning ability, inhibitory control, working memory, automatic emotion regulation, and reward sensitivity. Internalizing and externalizing psychopathology outcomes were assessed 2 years later. A high-dimensional mediation algorithm (HIMA), combining minimax concave penalty and joint significance testing, identified the strongest of mutually considered mediating pathways.

Results: HIMA identified characteristics suppressing and mediating the relationships between adversity experiences and major depression, attention problems, rule-breaking behaviors, and overall externalizing symptomatology.

Conclusions: Inhibitory control, associated in cardinally opposite ways with threat and deprivation, plays a complex role in externalizing symptomatology. Exposure to threat is associated with cautious behavior when presented with “Go” stimuli, which both mediates and suppresses