

# Testing Explanations for Father-Daughter Incest

Session F26

Chair: Michael Seto

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**The Royal's  
Institute of Mental Health Research**  
*affiliated with the University of Ottawa*

**Institut de recherche en santé mentale  
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# Presentations

1. **Kelly Babchishin**: Factors Associated With Incest In A Representative Sample Of 1200 Fathers From Brazil
2. **Madison McAskill**: Testing Explanations of Father-Daughter Incest: Data From A Market Panel in India
3. **Frederica Martijn**: Exploring Three Theoretical Mechanisms Of Incest



# The Puzzle of Incest

- Incest taboos and incest avoidance
- Yet intrafamilial child sexual abuse is sadly common
- Father-daughter incest is the plurality forensically
- Current models (e.g., motivation facilitation model) don't adequately explain
- Drawing ideas from anthropological and clinical literatures:
  - early proximity
  - paternity confidence
  - family dysfunction



# Factors associated with incest in a representative sample of 1200 fathers from Brazil



Kelly M. Babchishin, Madison  
McAskill, & Michael C. Seto



ATSA 2024  
San Antonio, Texas

Friday, October 18, 2024

# Background

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Current sexual offending theories proposing pedophilia and antisociality as risk factors do not adequately explain incest

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Biological and anthropological theories have suggested other risk factors

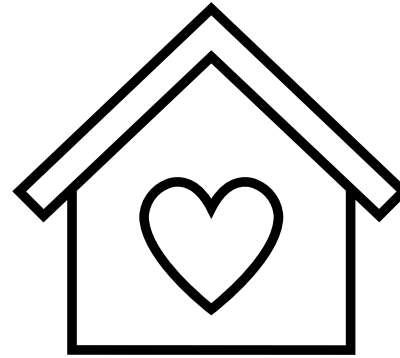
# Background



Westermarck



Paternity Confidence



Family Dynamics

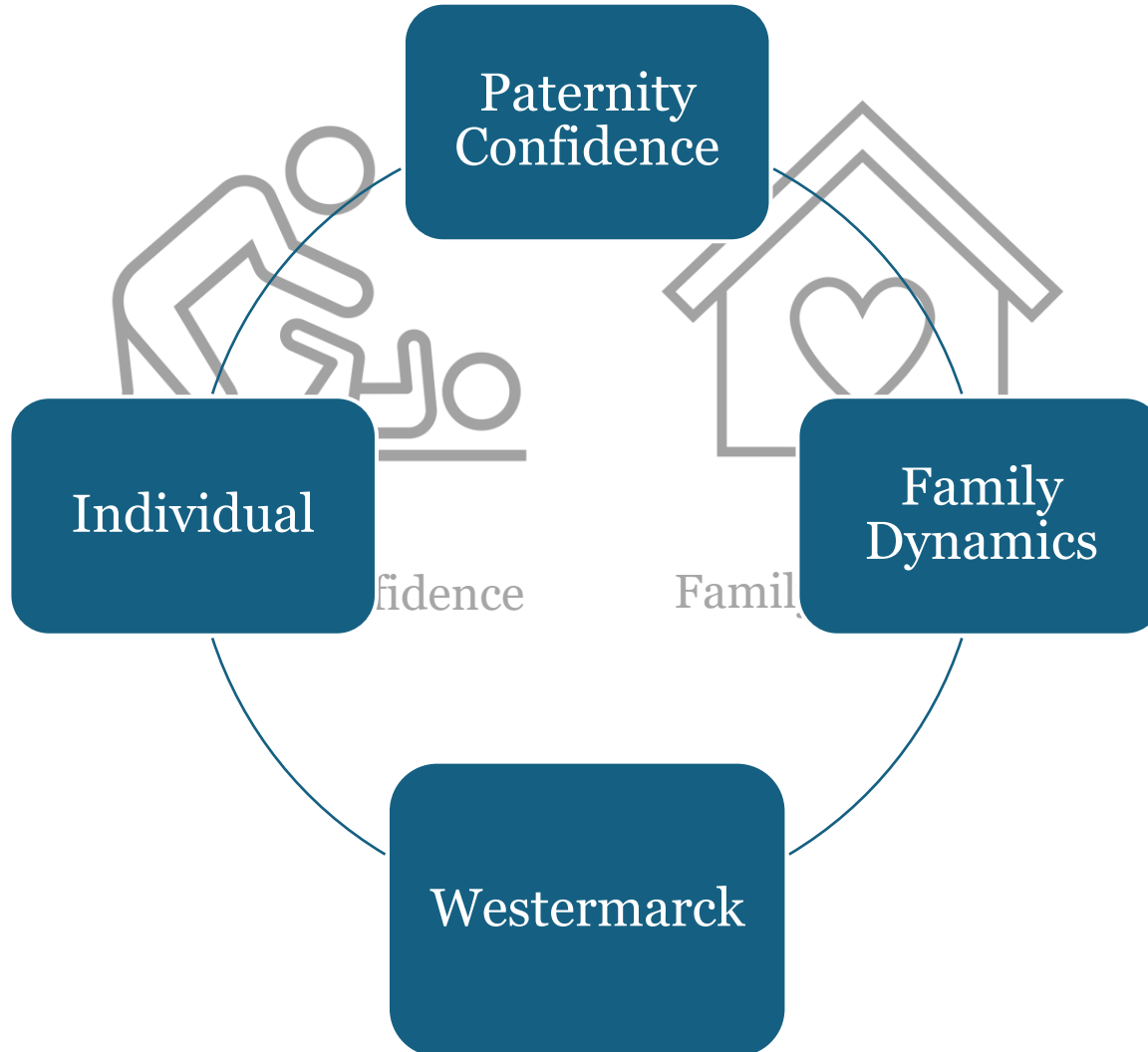


Individual

# Background



Westermarck



Individual

# Purpose of Current Study

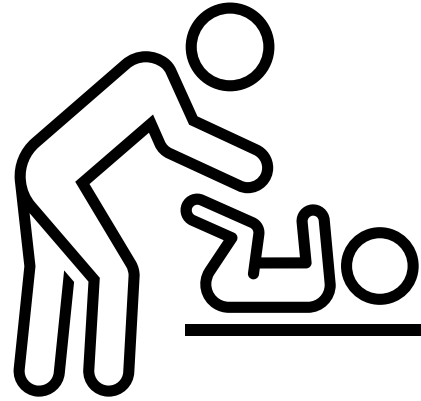
- To what extent to factors related to **Westermarck effect**, **paternity confidence**, **family dynamics**, and **individual characteristics** influence the propensity for incestuous behavior?



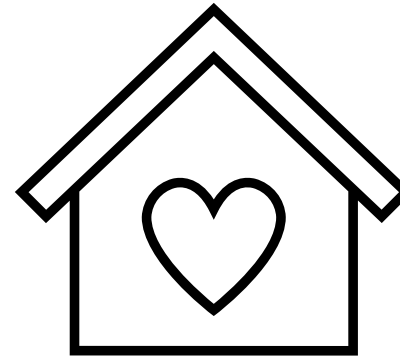
# Hypotheses



Westermarck



Paternity Confidence



Family Dynamics

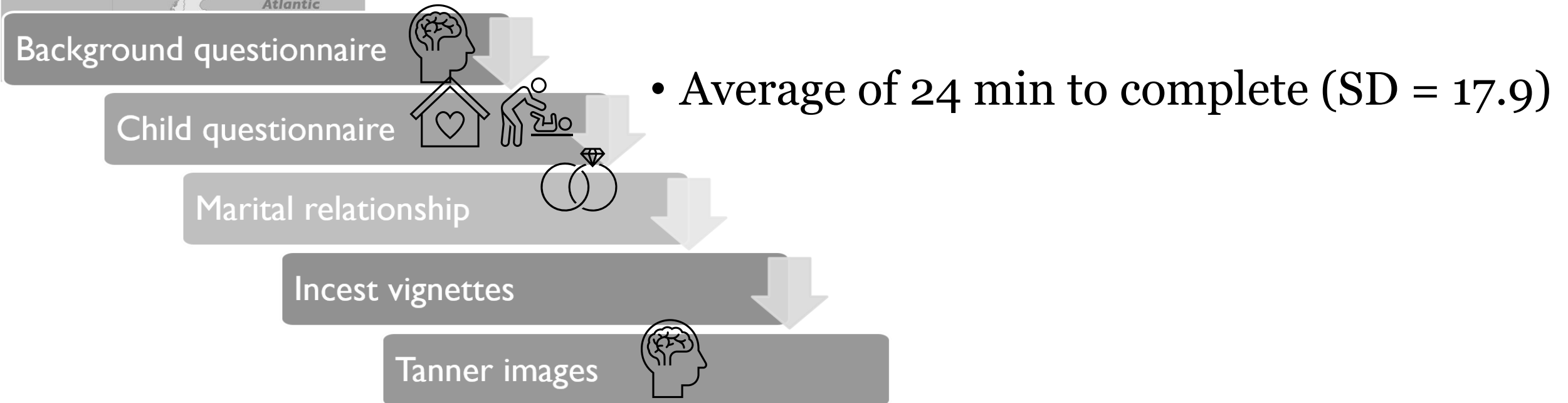


Individual

# Method



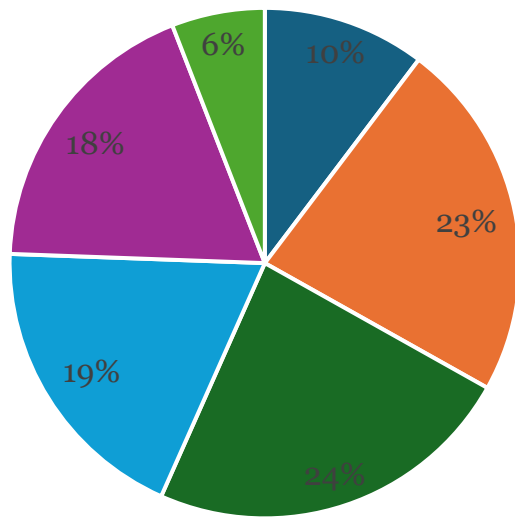
- Online survey (IPSOS)
  - 18+
  - Must be a father with daughters (bio or step)
  - Quota: education, region
  - Survey: Portuguese



# Participants

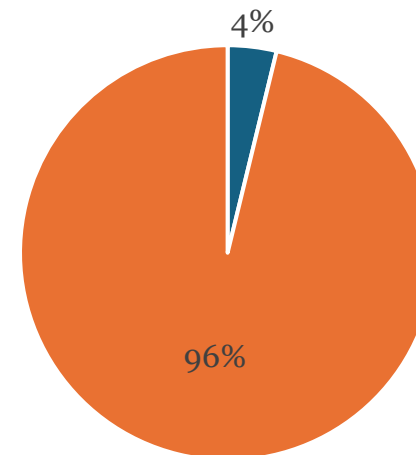
- 1,077 fathers (at least one daughter, at least 18 years of age)
  - Started with 1200, but removed those who failed > 50% of the consistency/validity check or those that did not complete the survey

Age



■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65-99

Any criminal history

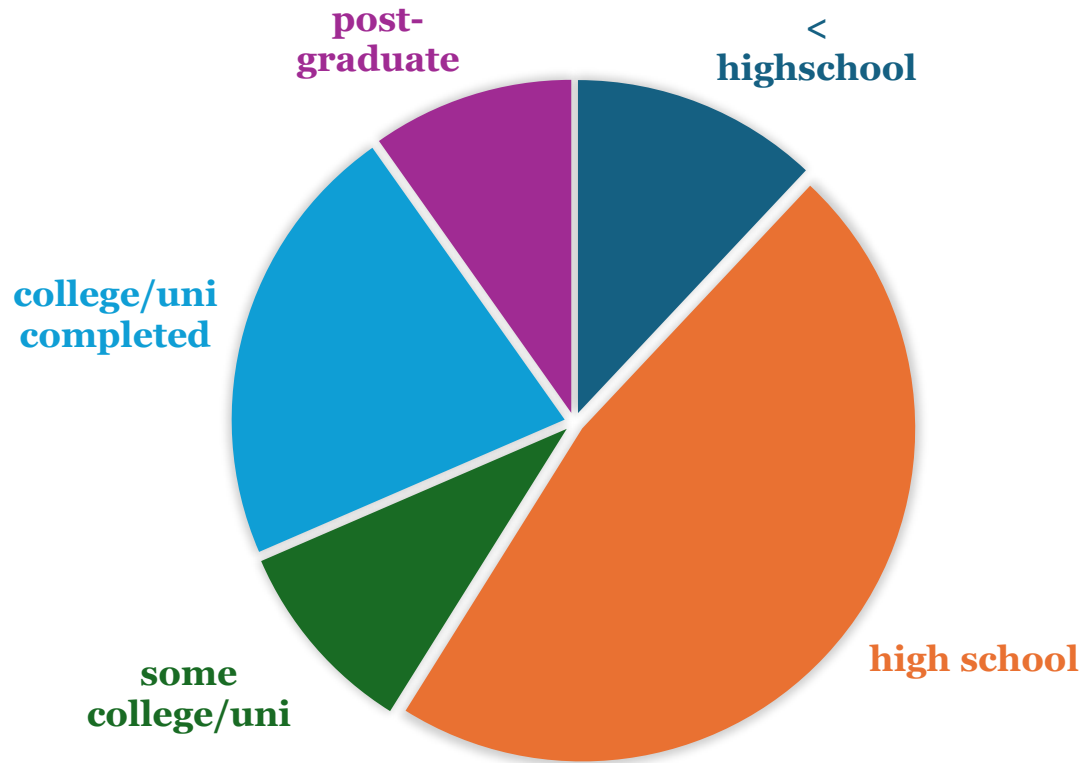


■ Yes ■ No

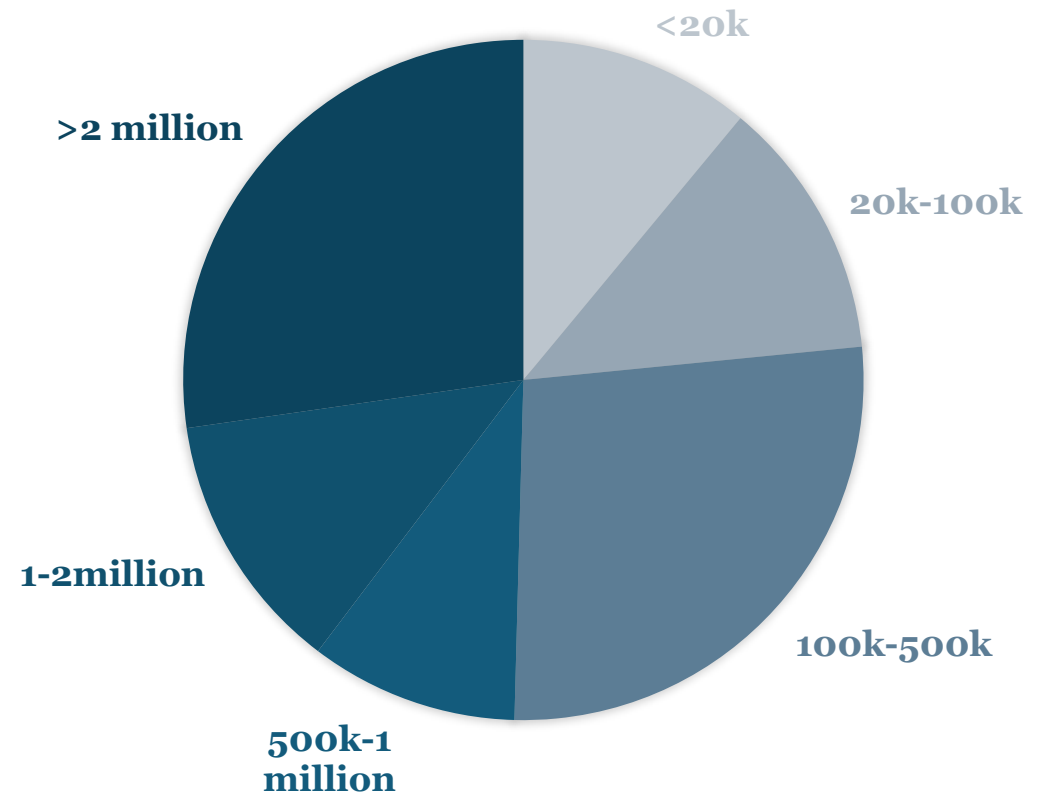
Mean = 43 (SD = 13.6), range 18 to 70

# Participants

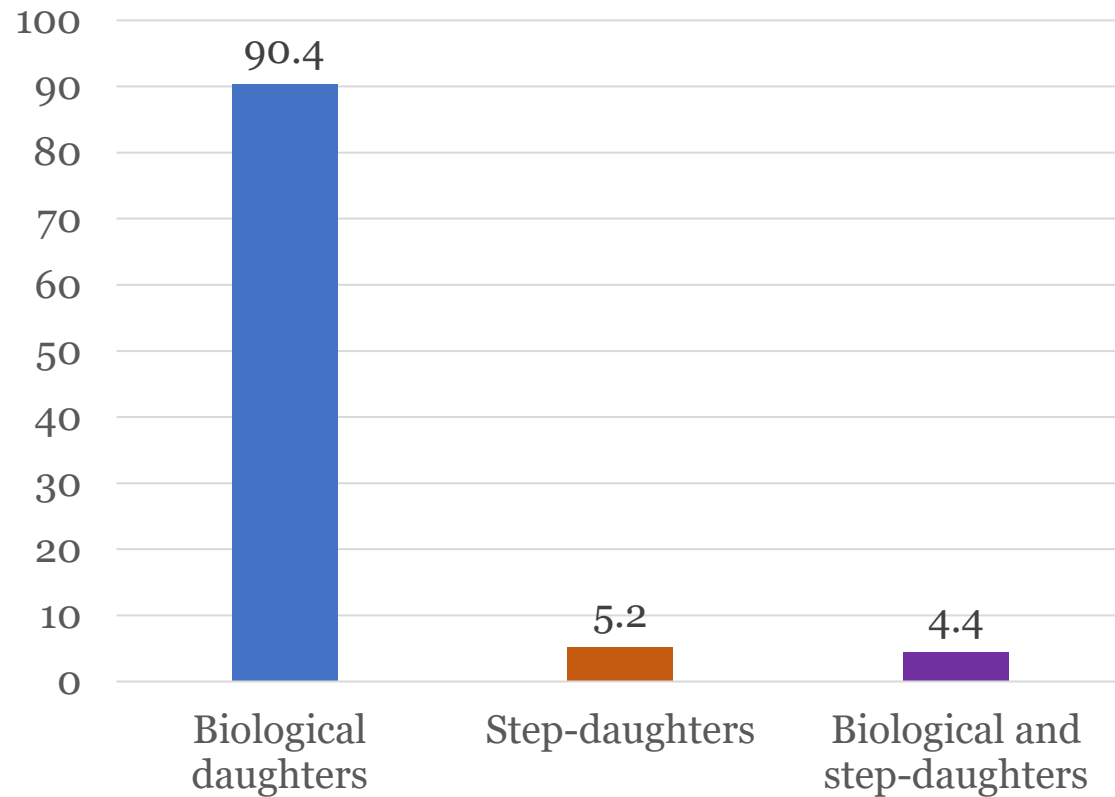
## EDUCATION



## SIZE OF CITY



# Daughter Types



- Average of 2.1 children (SD = 1.2), with an average of 1.4 daughters

# Incest Propensity

“Márcio is alone with his 10 year old [step]daughter, Carolina, in their home on a Friday evening. They are sitting next to each other on the couch and watching a movie. Márcio has a bowl of popcorn in his lap. Carolina reaches her arm with the intention of grabbing some popcorn from the bowl. Instead she touches his genitals and starts caressing them.”

**“How arousing do you find this story?”**

Responses ranged from 1 (Not at all arousing), 5 (Somewhat likely), to 10 (Extremely arousing).

**“If you were in a similar situation, how likely would you be to encourage continued sexual contact with your daughter?”**

Responses ranged from 1 (Not at all likely), 5 (Somewhat arousing) to 10 (Extremely likely).

# Propensity for Incest

- 7.5% reported at least some likelihood of continuing this behavior if they were in a similar situation
- 8.9% reported at least some arousal to the vignette
- Variable was **dichotomized**
  - 0 represented **no** propensity
  - 1 represented **any** propensity



11.4% of fathers  
in Brazil  
demonstrated at  
least some  
propensity  
toward father-  
daughter incest

# Data Analyses

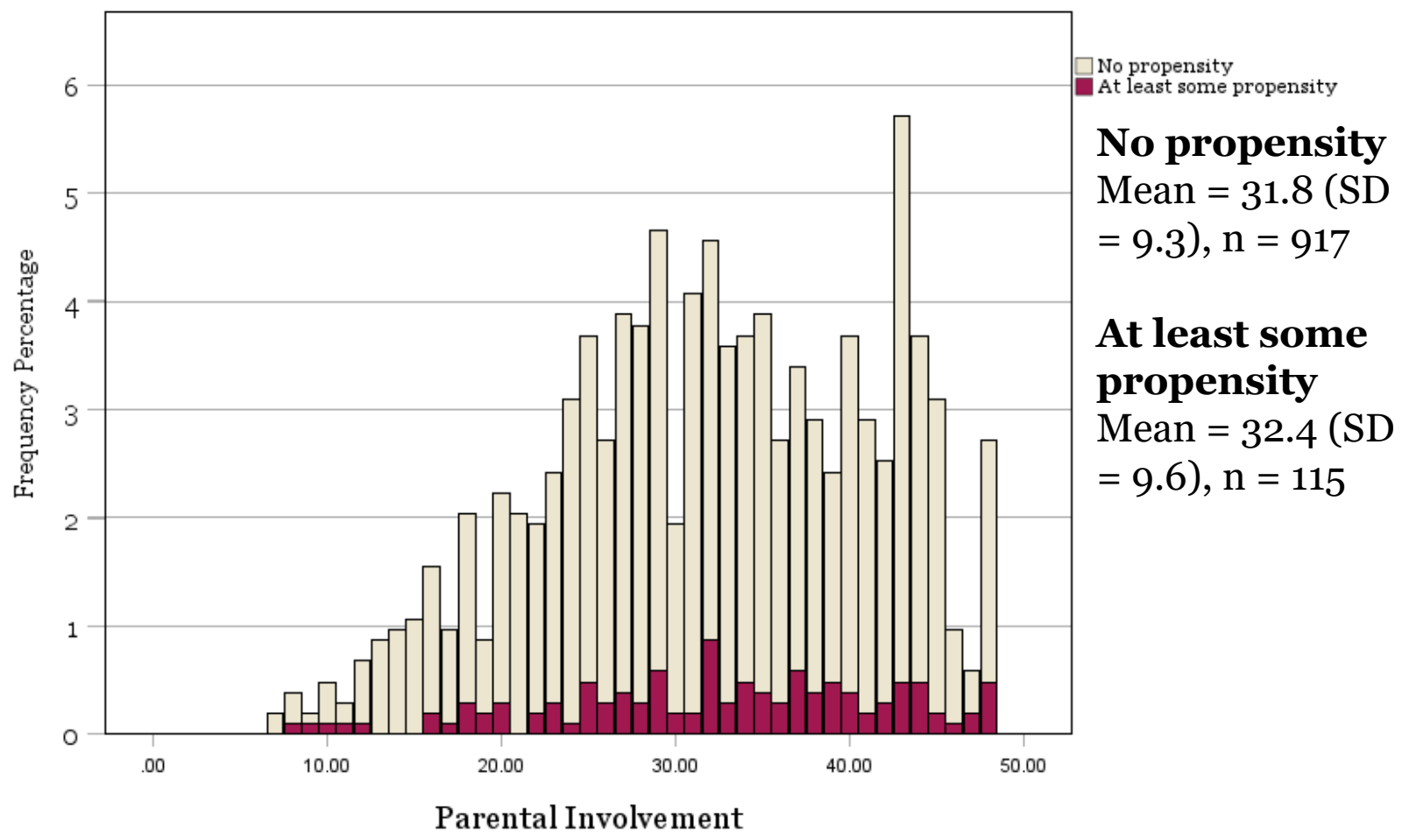
- Non-parametric tests for individual effect
  - Effect size:
    - *r or  $\phi$ : .10, .30, .50*
- Multivariate logistic regression
  - OR > 1.00: higher scores, more likely to report incest propensity
  - OR < 1.00: higher scores, less likely to report incest propensity
  - Effect size
    - 1.44 (small), 2.48 (med), & 4.27 (large)





Westermarck

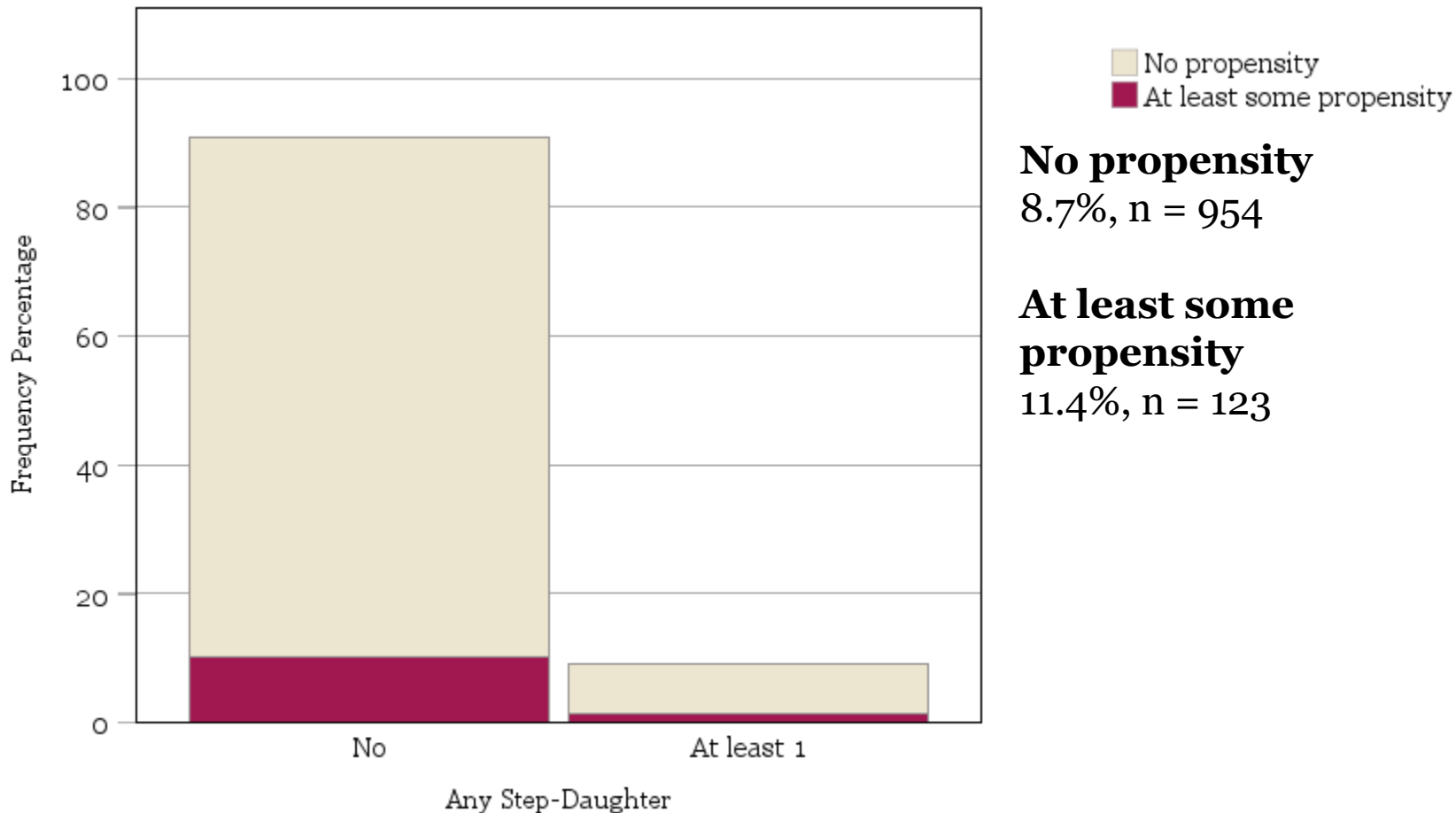
# Parental Involvement



- How often fathers were involved in child rearing activities during the child's first 6 years of life
  - Rated from 1 (not at all) to 6 (at least once per day)
  - Summed to create total score (range 7 to 48)
- Parental involvement was not related to incest propensity ( $z=0.80, r=.02, p=.43$ )



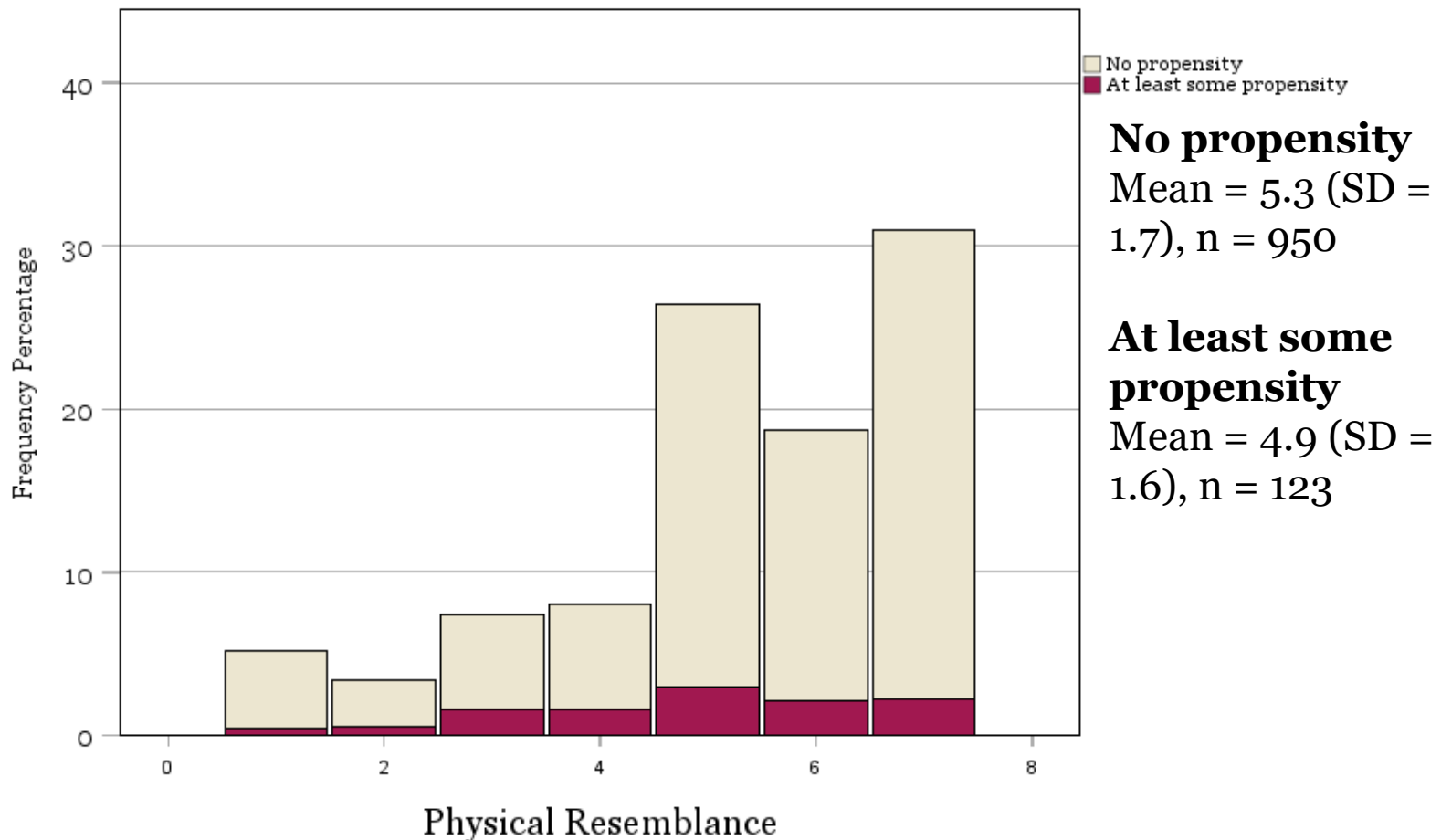
# Step-Daughters



- 9% had at least one stepdaughter
- Incest propensity was not associated with having at least 1 step-daughter,  $\chi^2(1, N=1077) = 0.96, \phi = .03, p = .33$



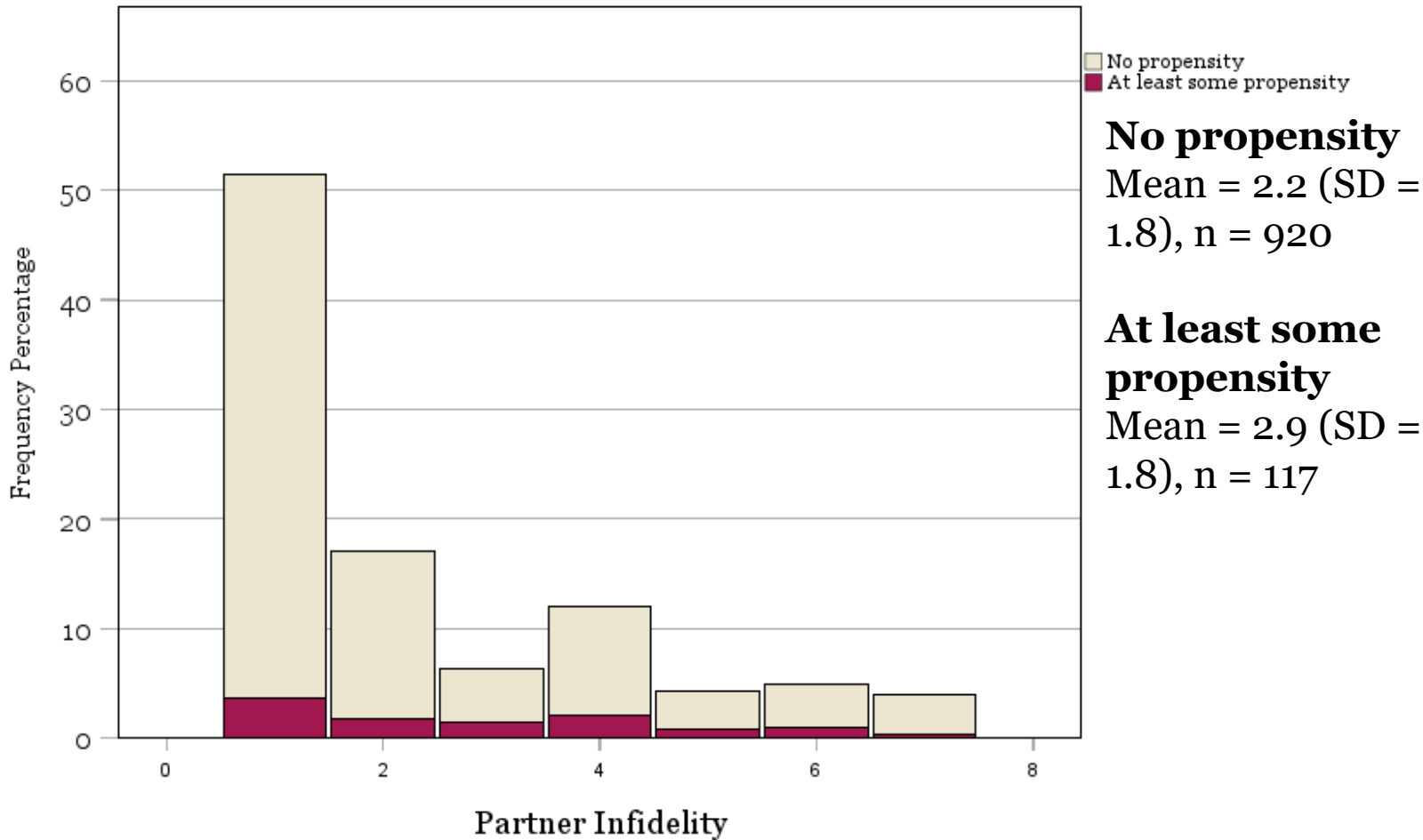
# Physical Resemblance



- How closely does this child resemble you in appearance?
- Lower physical resemblance scores were significantly related to incest propensity ( $z = -3.28$ ,  $r = -.09$ ,  $p < .001$ )



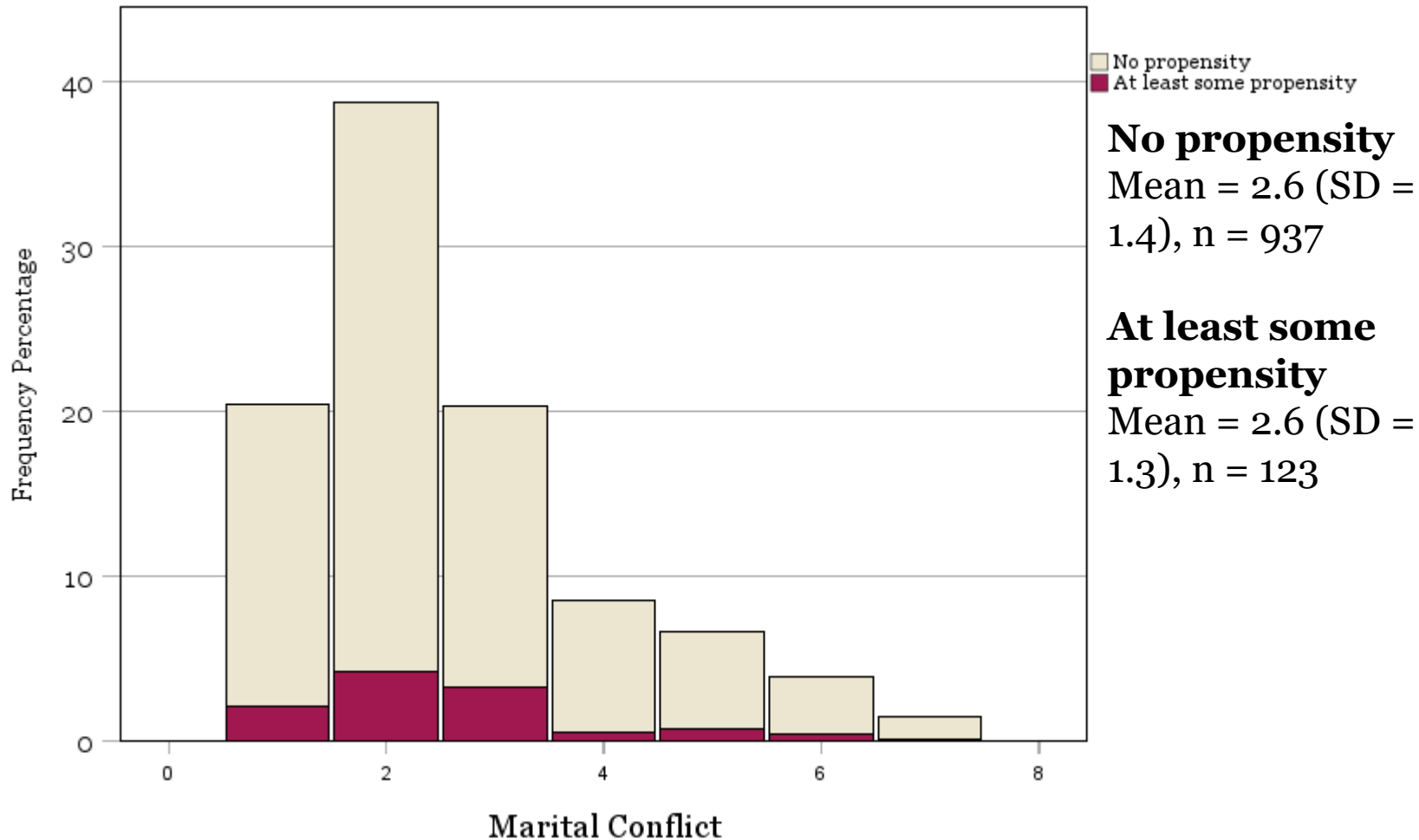
# Partner (In)Fidelity



- How likely do you think it is that the mother of the child ever cheated on you?
- Higher partner infidelity scores were significantly related to incest propensity ( $z=4.61$ ,  $r=.13$ ,  $p < .001$ )



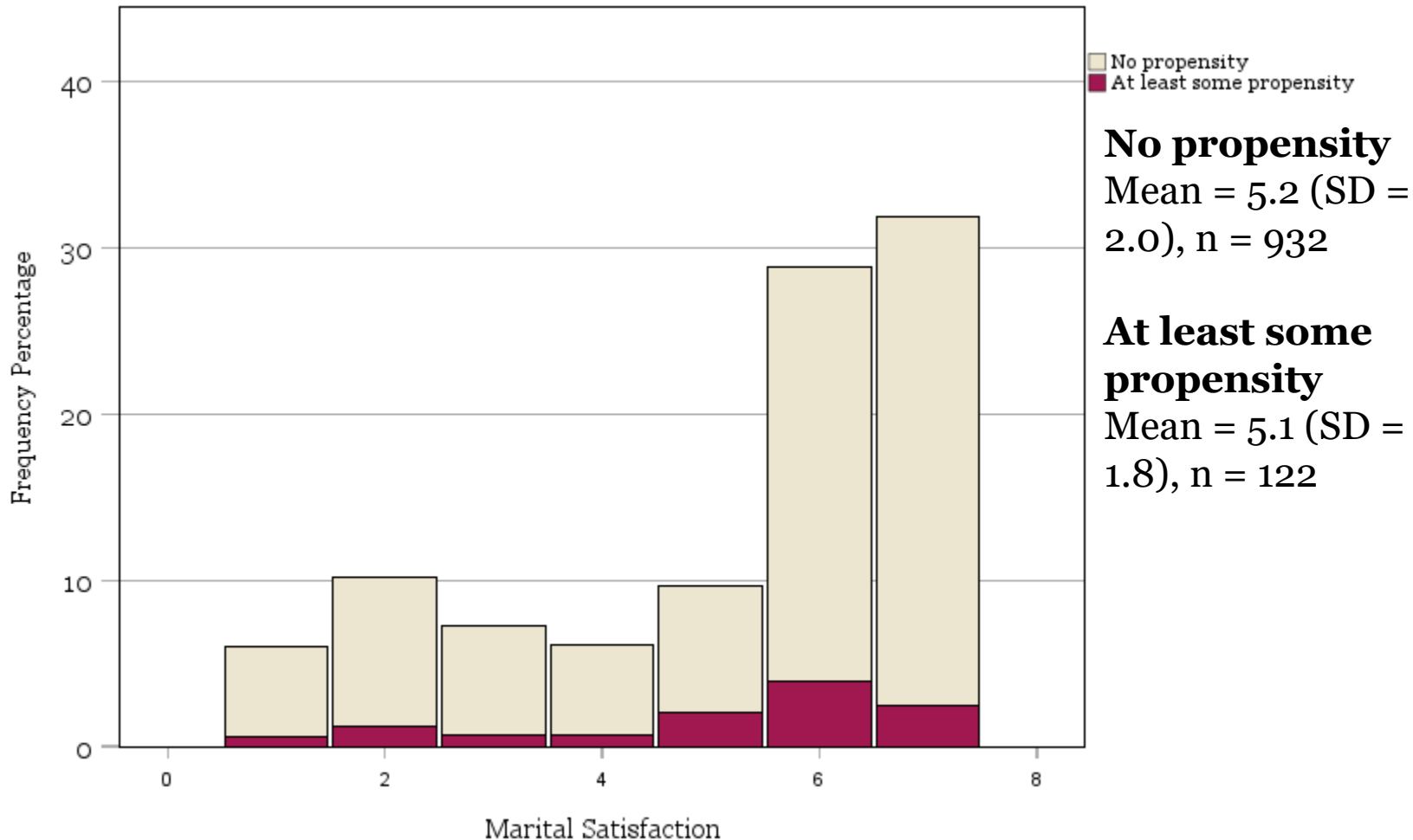
# Marital Conflict



- How much conflict did you experience during your relationship with the mother of this child?
- Marital conflict was not related to incest propensity ( $z=0.37$ ,  $r=.01$ ,  $p=.71$ )



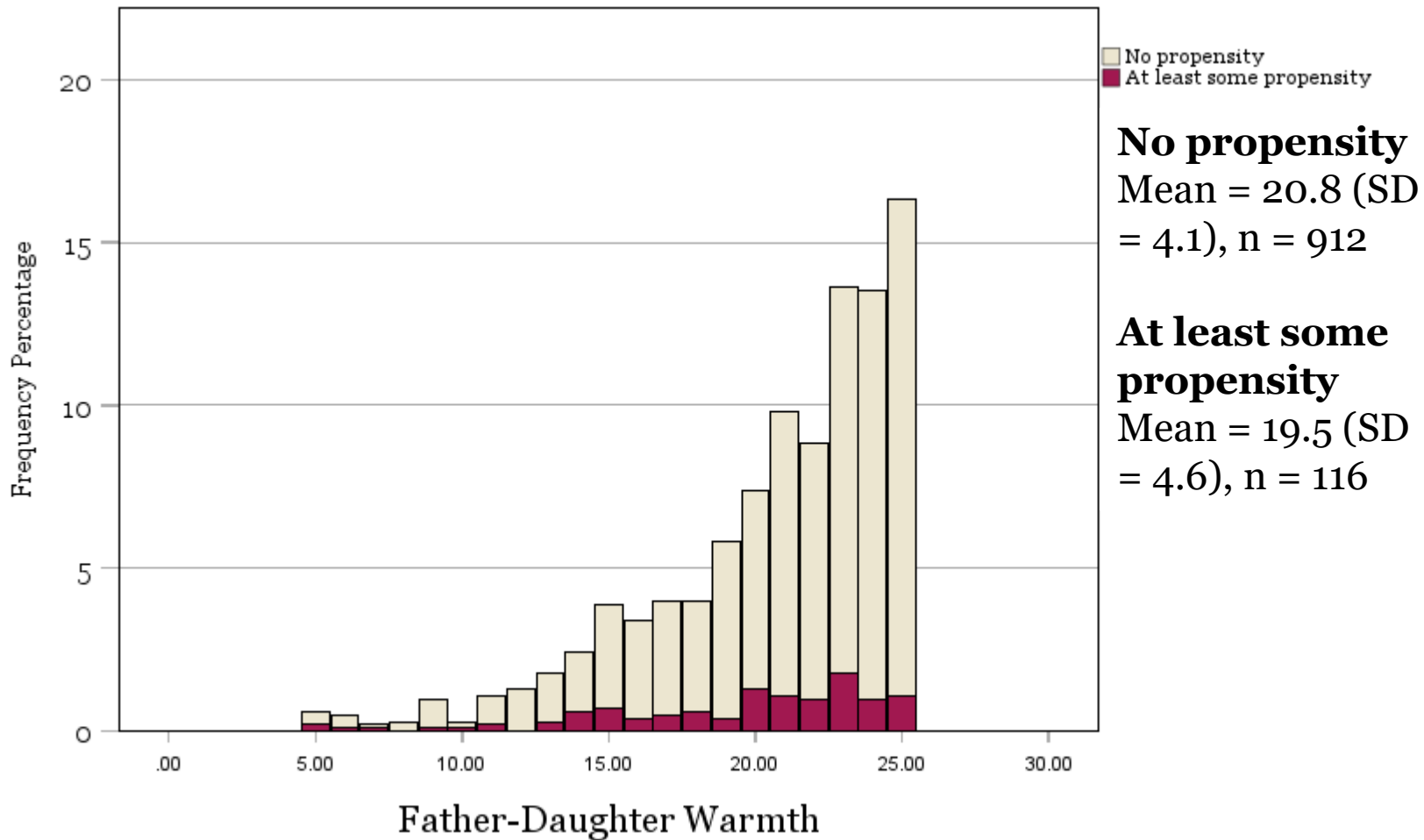
# Marital Satisfaction



- How satisfied were you with your relationship with the mother of this child?
- Marital satisfaction was not related to incest propensity ( $z=-1.61$ ,  $r=-.04$ ,  $p=.11$ )



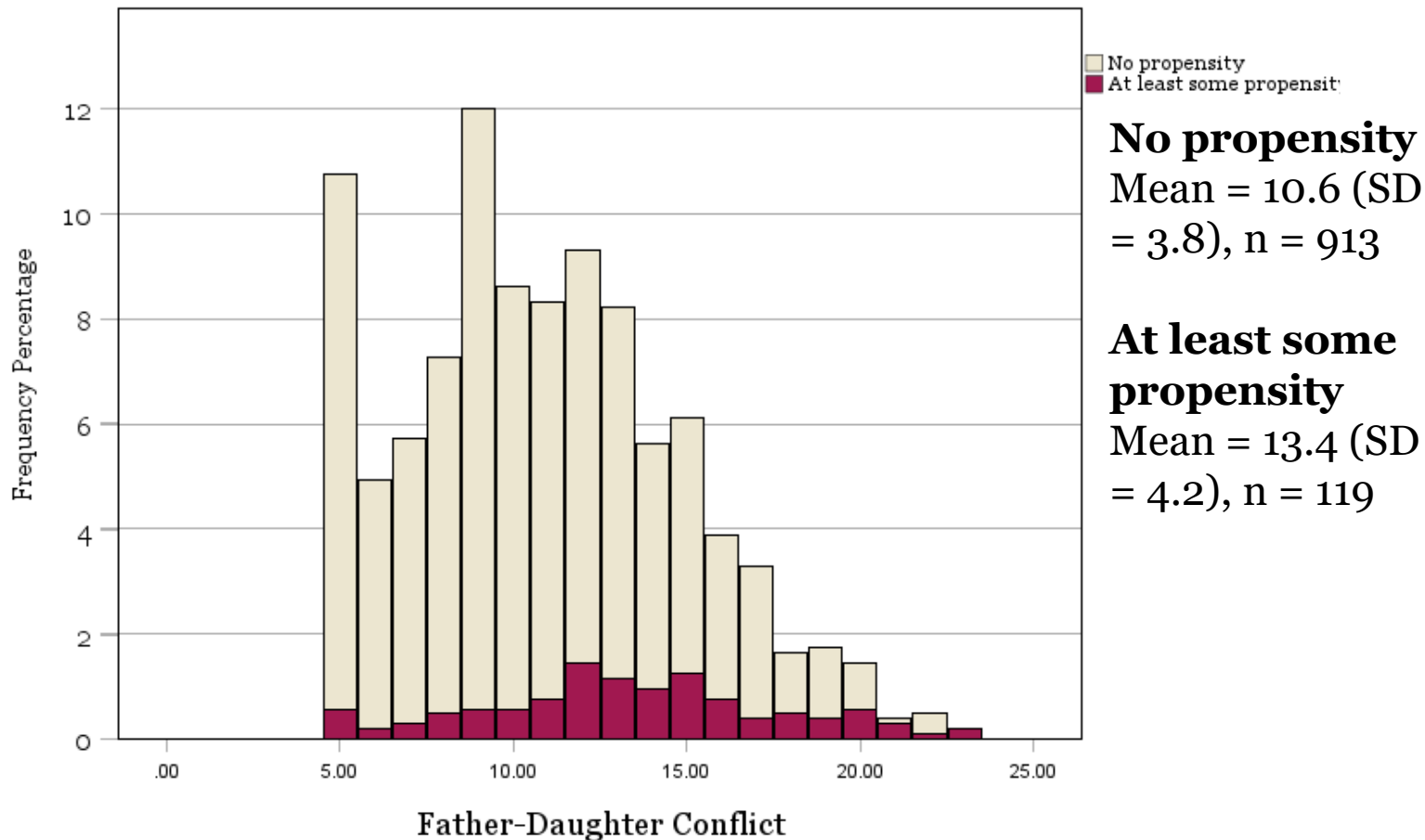
# Father-Daughter Warmth



- Statements describing parent-child warmth
- e.g., “I share an affectionate, warm relationship with my child.”
  - Rated from 1 (*definitely does not apply*) to 5 (*definitely applies*)
- Father-daughter warmth was significantly lower among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=-3.05$ ,  $r=-.08$ ,  $p=.002$ )



# Father-Daughter Conflict



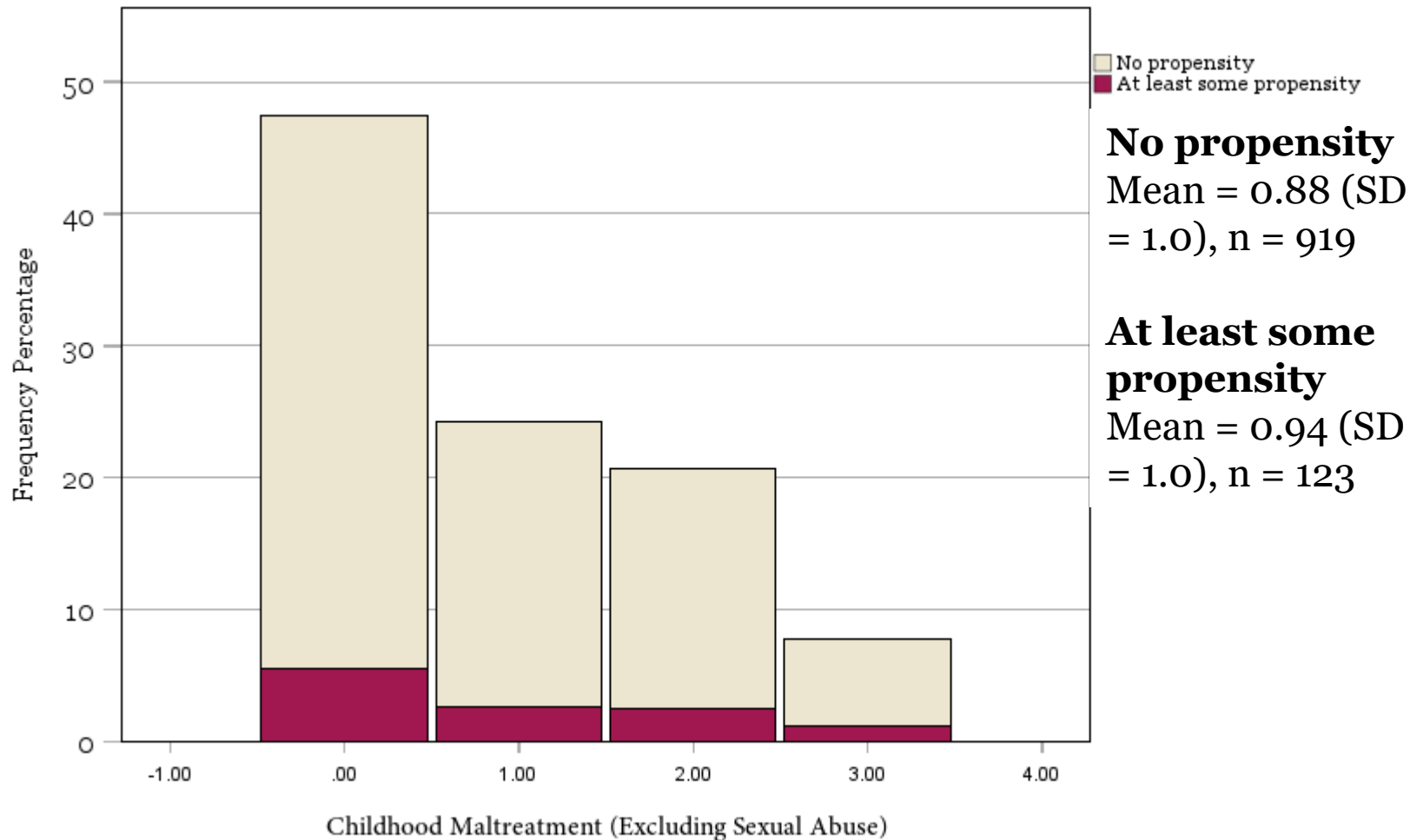
- Statements describing parent-child conflict
  - e.g., e.g., “My child and I always seem to be struggling with each other”
  - Rated from 1 (*definitely does not apply*) to 5 (*definitely applies*)
- Higher father-daughter conflict scores were significantly related to incest propensity ( $z = 6.71$ ,  $r = .18$ ,  $p < .001$ )





Individual

# Childhood Maltreatment

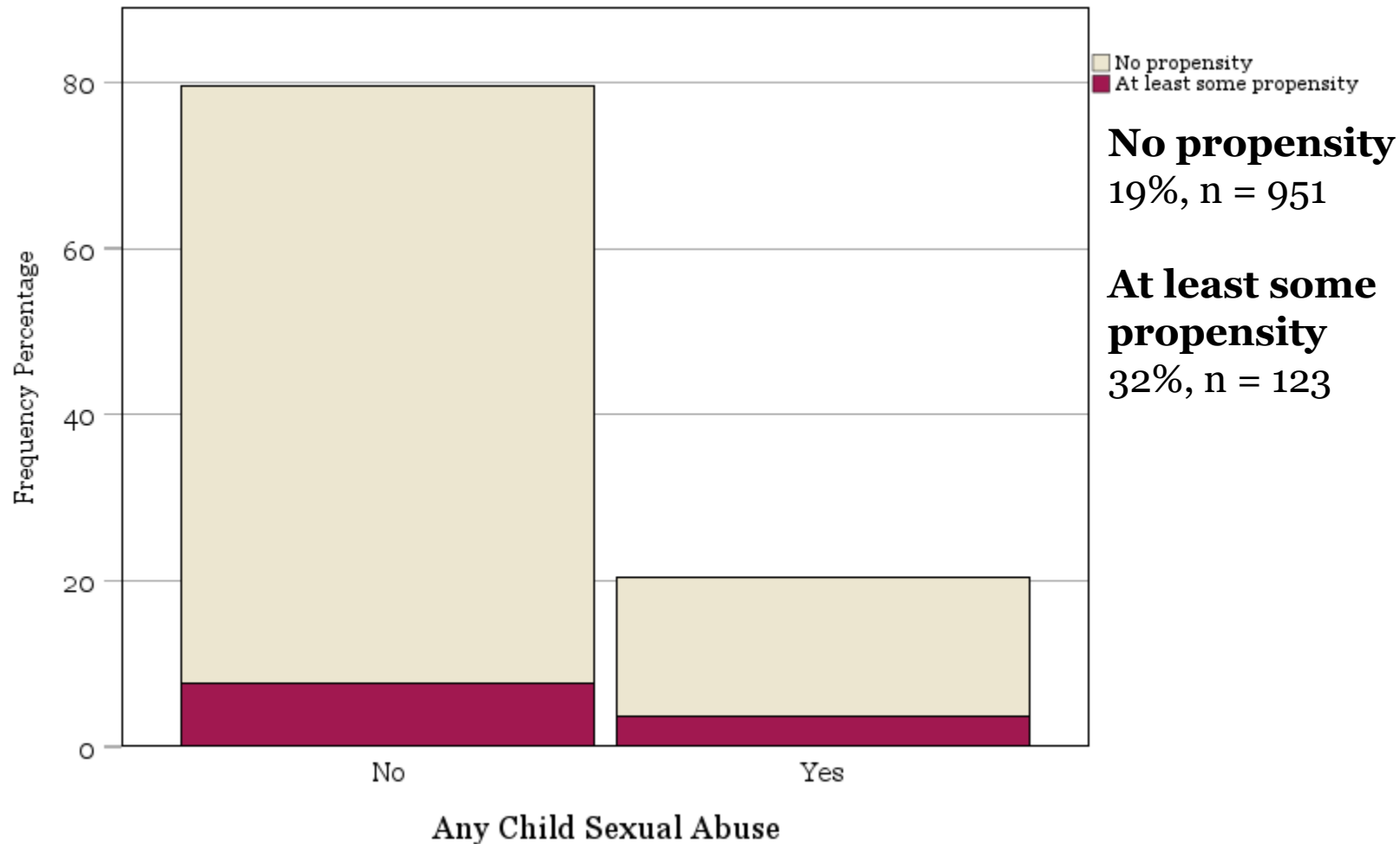


- Physical abuse, neglect, and or witnessed violence during childhood (excludes CSA)
- Child maltreatment was not related to incest propensity ( $z=0.54$ ,  $r=.02$ ,  $p=.59$ )



Individual

# Childhood Sexual Abuse



- Sexual contact with an adult man or woman prior to the age of 12
- Childhood sexual abuse history was significantly more prevalent among fathers with incest propensity,  $\chi^2(1, N=1077)= 12.34, \phi = .11, p < .001$ )



Individual

# Pedohebephilia

- 40 images
- Asked to rate the attractiveness of each image from 1 (very sexually unattractive) to 7 (very sexually attractive)
- Response latencies (viewing time) recorded
- T1 to T5, randomly order within Tanners

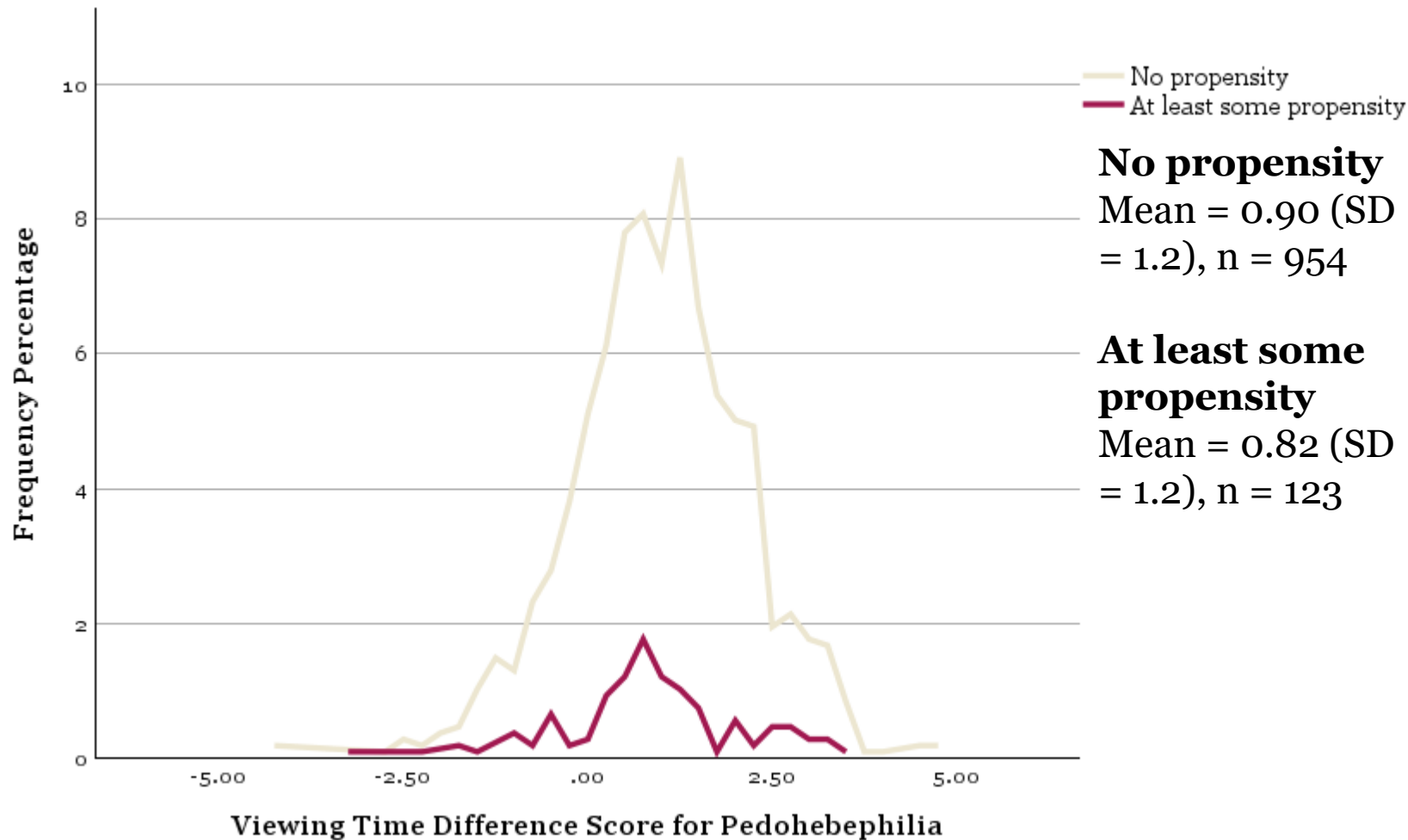


- Difference score (Janhke et al.)
  - Higher score = more interest in children



Individual

# Pedohebephilia- Viewing Time

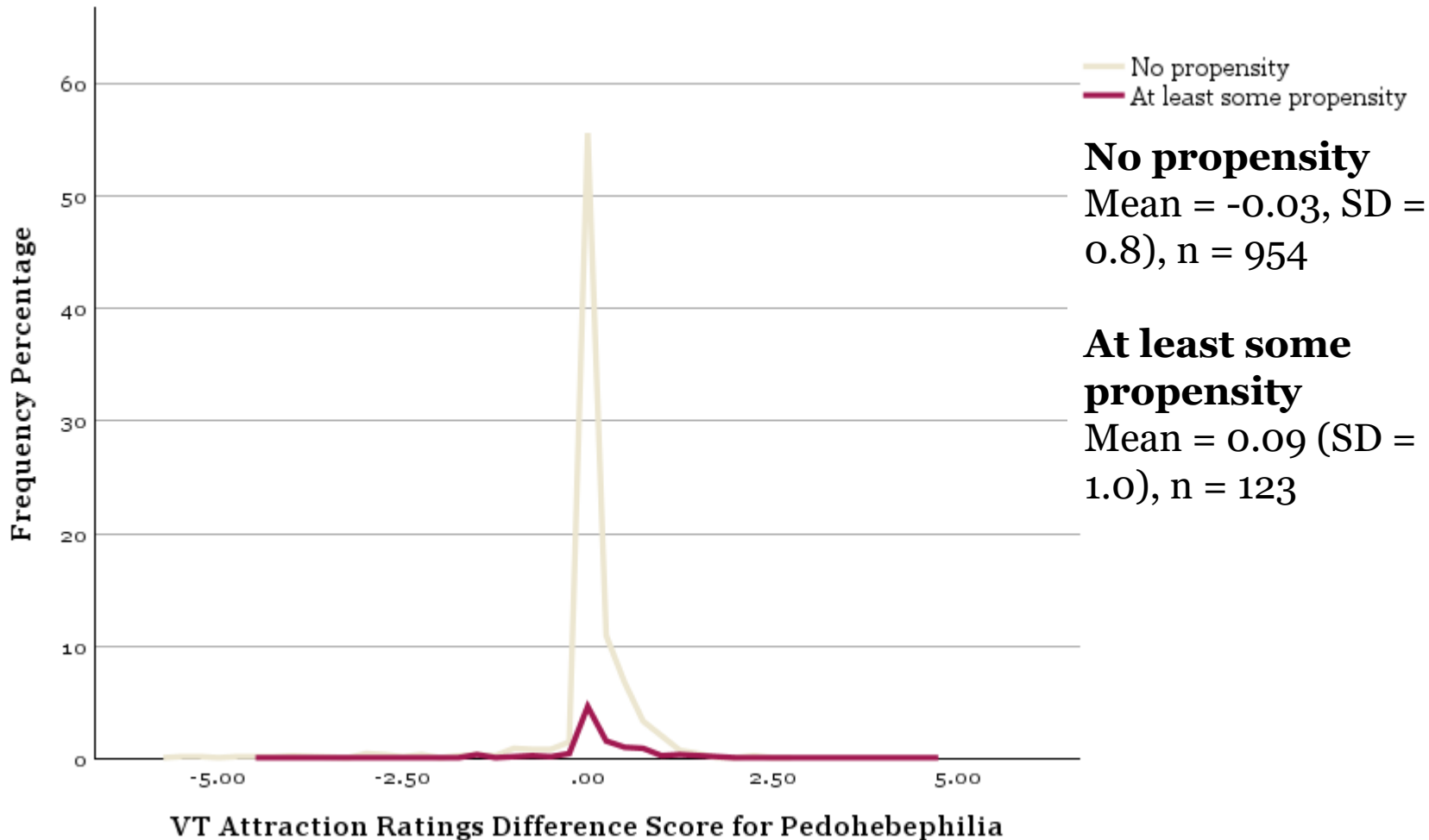


- Viewing Time assessed pedohebephilia was not related to incest propensity
- $t(154.30) = 0.64$ ,  $r = .03$ ,  $p = .52$



Individual

# Pedohebephilia- Attraction Ratings

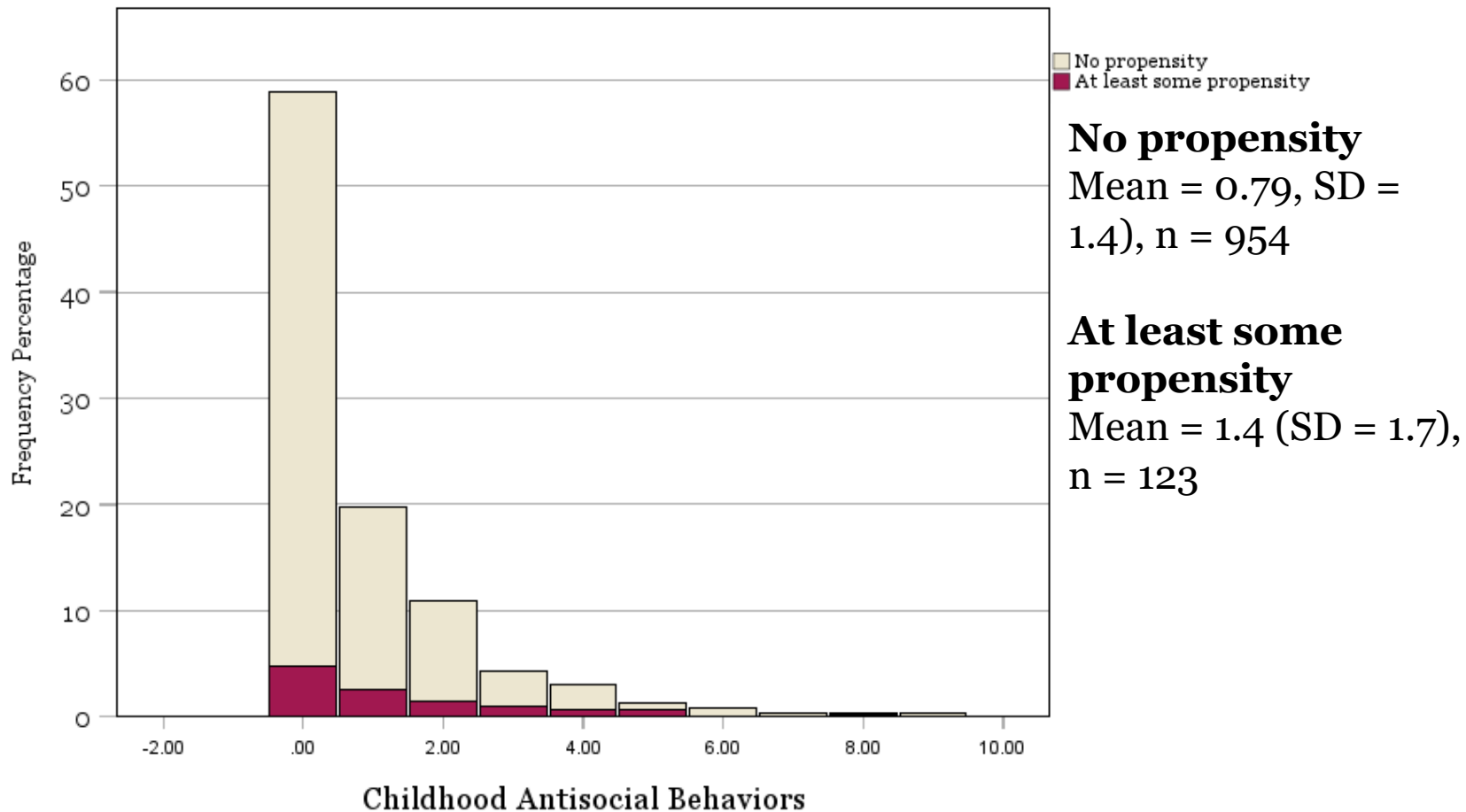


- Attraction ratings were not related to incest propensity
- $t(145.5) = -1.4, r = -.08, p = .18$



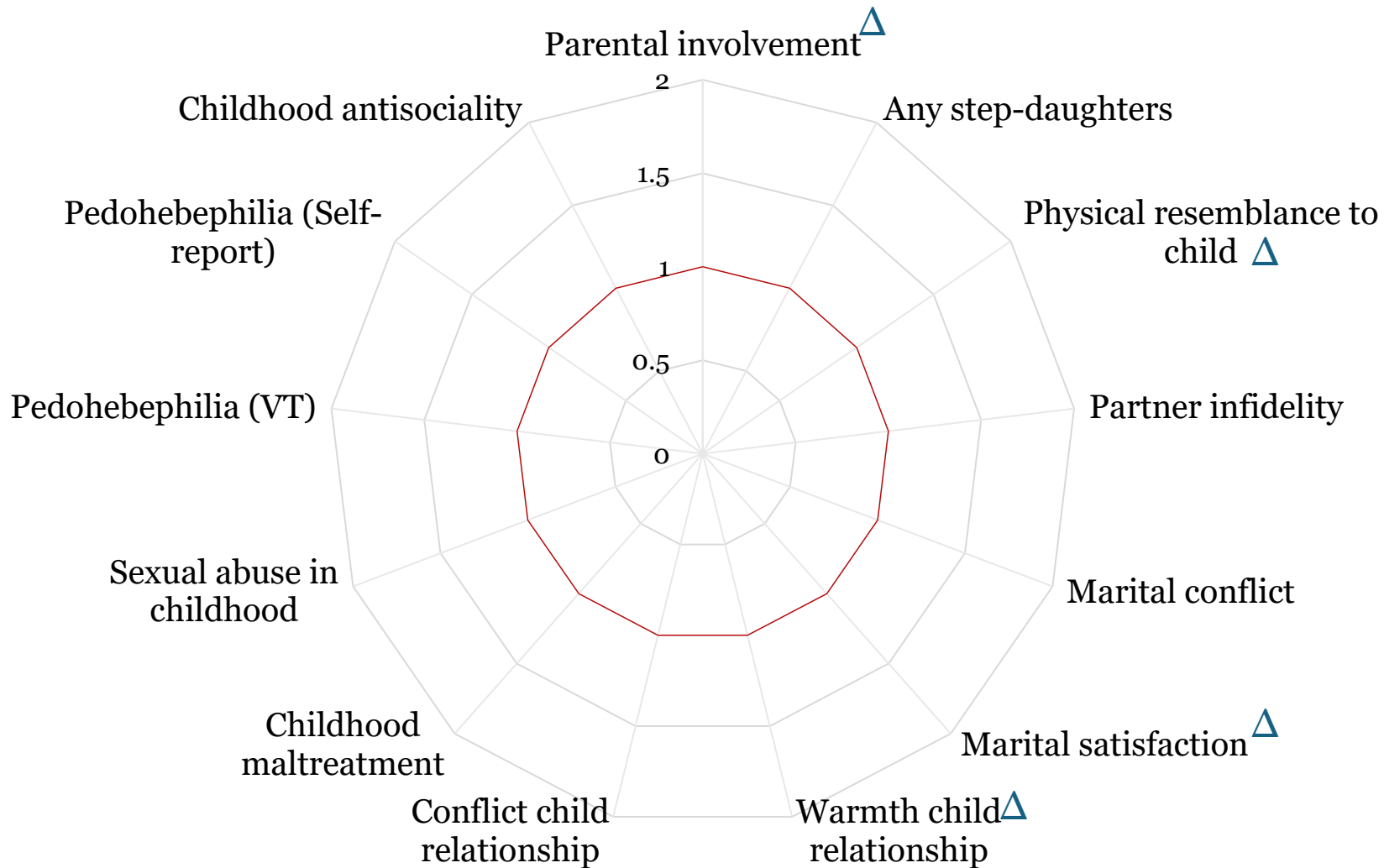
Individual

# Childhood Antisocial Behaviour



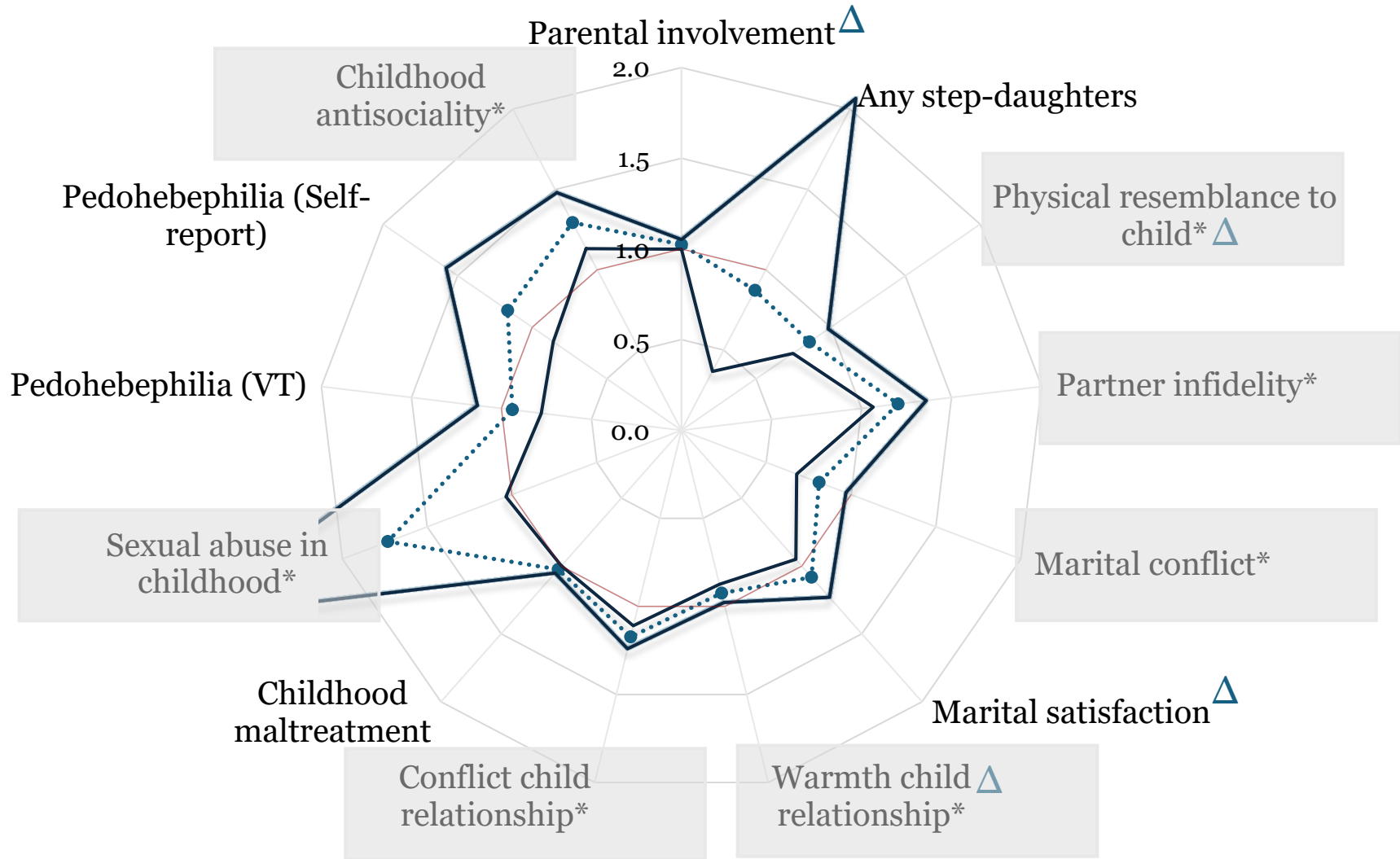
- Childhood and Adolescent Taxon Scale (CATS)
  - E.g., cruel to animals, initiating fights often
- Childhood antisociality was significantly higher among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=4.62$ ,  $r=.13$ ,  $p<.001$ )

# Incest Propensity



$\Delta$  Protective factor

# Incest Propensity



△ Protective factor

\*Correlate reached statistical significance ( $p < .05$ )



# Summary of Findings

11.4% of fathers in Brazil demonstrated at least some propensity toward father-daughter incest

No step-daughter effect

But no influence of marital satisfaction and conflict with spouse protective

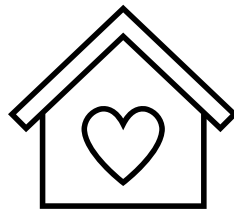
But no influence of pedohebephilia or nonsexual child maltreatment



Westermarck



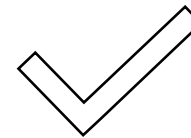
Paternity Confidence



Family Dynamics




Individual



# Conclusion

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Prevention programs targeting child sexual abuse and bolstering the father-child relationship could help reduce father-daughter incest

A photograph of a father and a young girl sitting at a table with a white tablecloth, eating together. The father is on the left, wearing a light blue shirt, and the girl is on the right, wearing a grey sweater. They are both holding small white cups. The background is a soft, pinkish-red wall.

# CE Credit

**True or False:** The study found that some fathers showed a tendency towards father-daughter incest.

• **Answer:** True

**True or False:** The study included over 1,000 fathers from Brazil.

**Answer:** True

**True or False:** Fathers who experienced childhood sex abuse were less likely to have a propensity towards incest with their daughter.

• **Answer:** False (they were more likely to have propensity towards incest)

# Questions?

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University



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Social Sciences and Humanities  
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sciences humaines du Canada

**Canada** 

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ATSA 2024  
San Antonio, Texas

# Testing explanations of father-daughter incest: Data from a market panel in India



University of Ottawa  
Institute of Mental  
Health Research



# OBJECTIVES

- Identify risk factors for incest among non-offending fathers in the community
  - Are there differences between incestuous and non-incestuous fathers on the proposed domains?
- Compare these domains and rates of incestuous sexual interests among non-offending fathers across different countries
  - Are there cultural differences in the rates and explanations for incest?

# HYPOTHESES

1. Fathers with incest propensity will score lower on paternal involvement during early childhood
2. Fathers with incest propensity will score lower on perceived resemblance to their daughter and higher marital conflict and suspicion that their partner cheated
3. Fathers with incest propensity are expected to score lower on measures of family functioning and marital satisfaction
4. Rates of incest propensity will not differ between India and Brazil

# METHOD

- Online survey with IPSOS India
  - Same as Brazil
- Criteria:
  - 18+
  - Must be a father with daughters (biological or sociolegal)
- Quotas:
  - Education
  - Location
- Survey offered in English, Hindi, and Tamil





# SAMPLE

Average age was 35.3 yrs old

Fathers ranged in age from 18 to 55 years old

Living in metro & non-metro areas

50.4%  
( $n=668$ )  
metro  
49.6%  
( $n=657$ )  
non-metro

Highly educated sample

79.0%  
( $n=1047$ ) had at least a college / university education

Most were married/ common-law

92.9%  
( $n=1231$ ) were married/ common-law

Minimal criminal history

Only 5.4%  
( $n=66$ ) reported any criminal history

A total of 1325 fathers in India participated ( $n=1225$  included in full analyses)



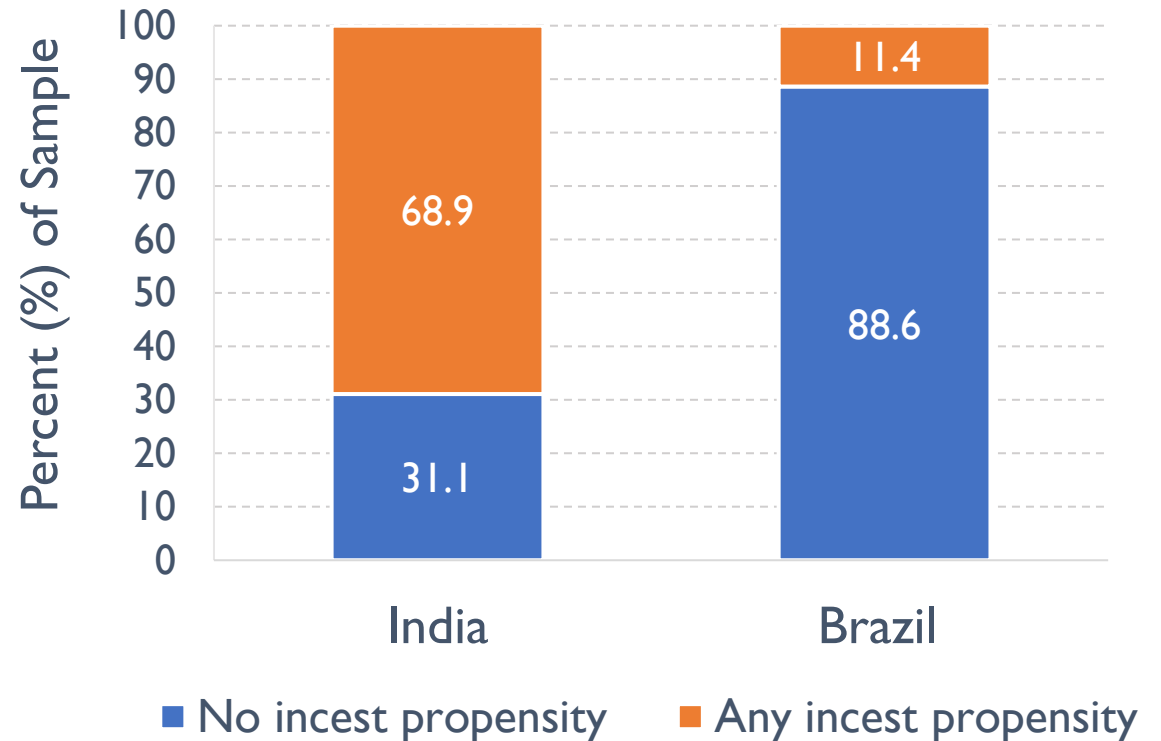
# RESULTS



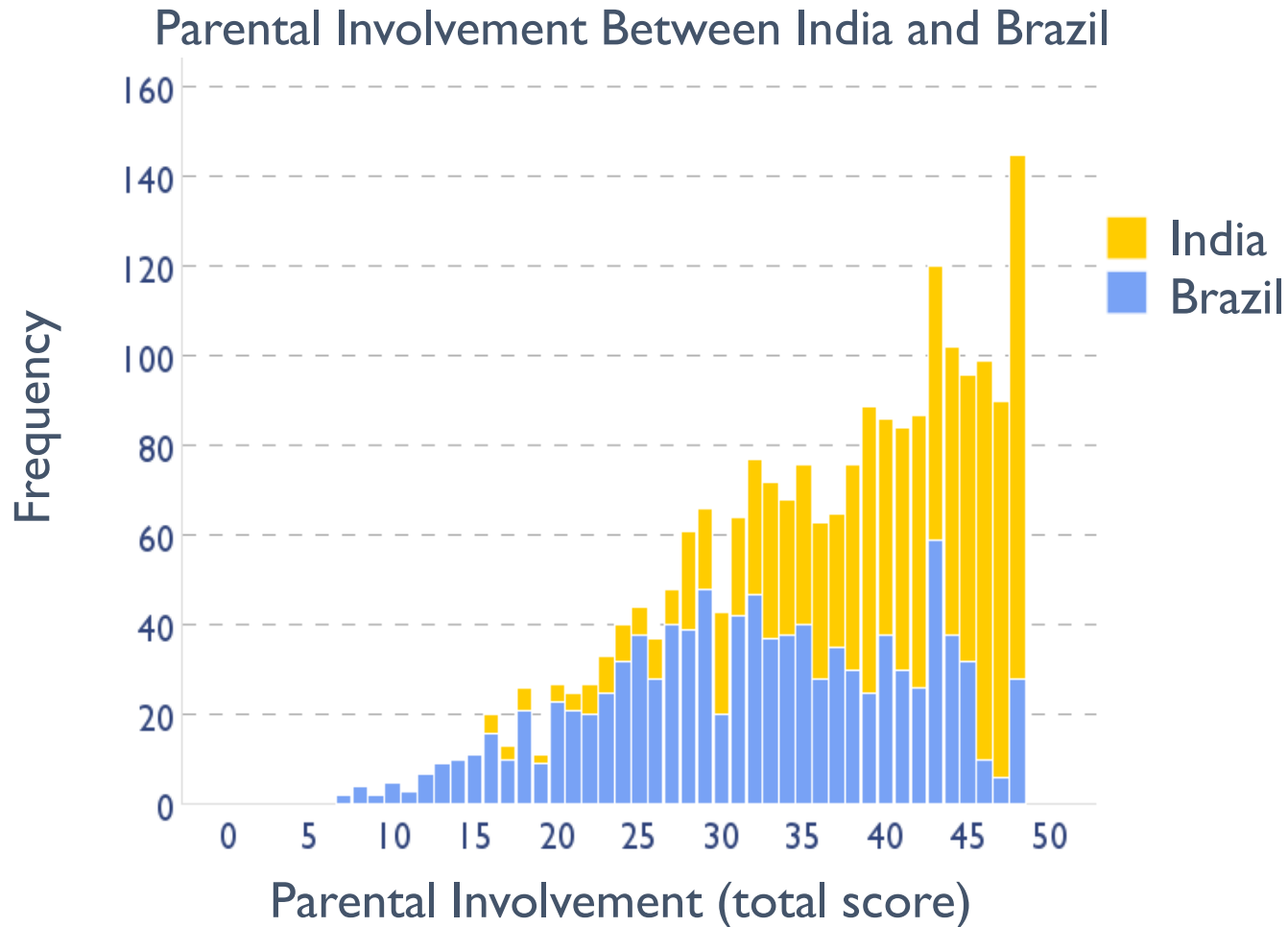
# INCEST PROPENSITY

- Based on fathers':
  - **Self-reported arousal** at vignette ( $m=4.66, sd=3.38$ )
    - 67.3% ( $n=824$ ) reported any arousal
  - **Likelihood of continuing the sexual behaviour** with their own daughter ( $m=1.59, sd=1.29$ )
    - 22.6% ( $n=277$ ) said they would continue the behaviour with their own daughter

Rates of incest propensity significantly differed between India and Brazil,  $\chi^2 (1, N=2302) = 777.22$ ,  $\phi = .58, p < .001$

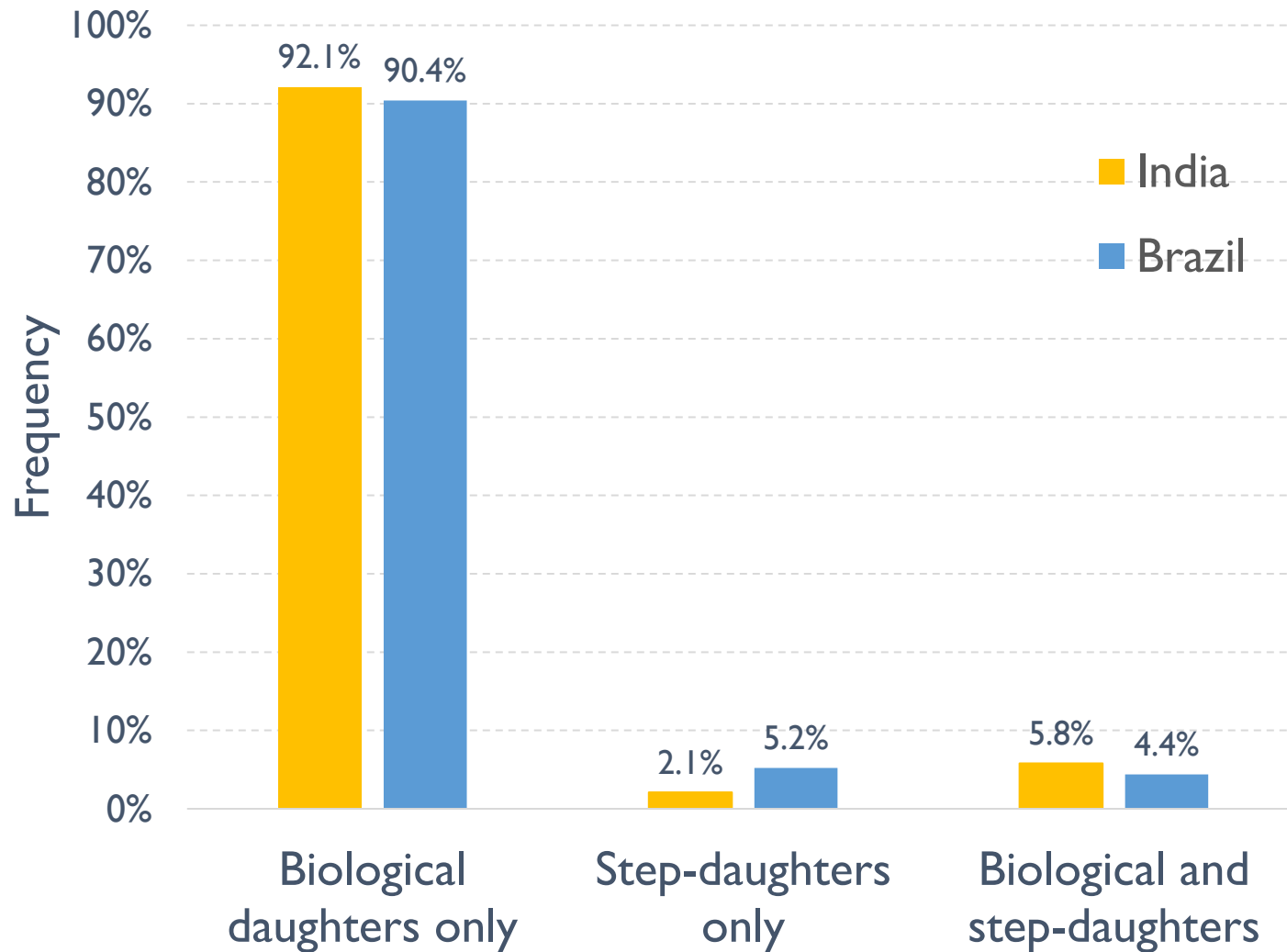


# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ( $m=39.72, sd = 7.11$ )



- How often fathers were involved in child rearing activities during the child's first 6 years of life
- Rated from 1 (*not at all*) to 6 (*at least once per day*)
- Summed to create total score (16 to 48)
- No significant difference between fathers with and without incest propensity ( $z = -1.16, r = -.03, p = .25$ )
- Significantly higher among fathers in India ( $z = 19.83, r = .43, p < .001$ )

## Daughter Types



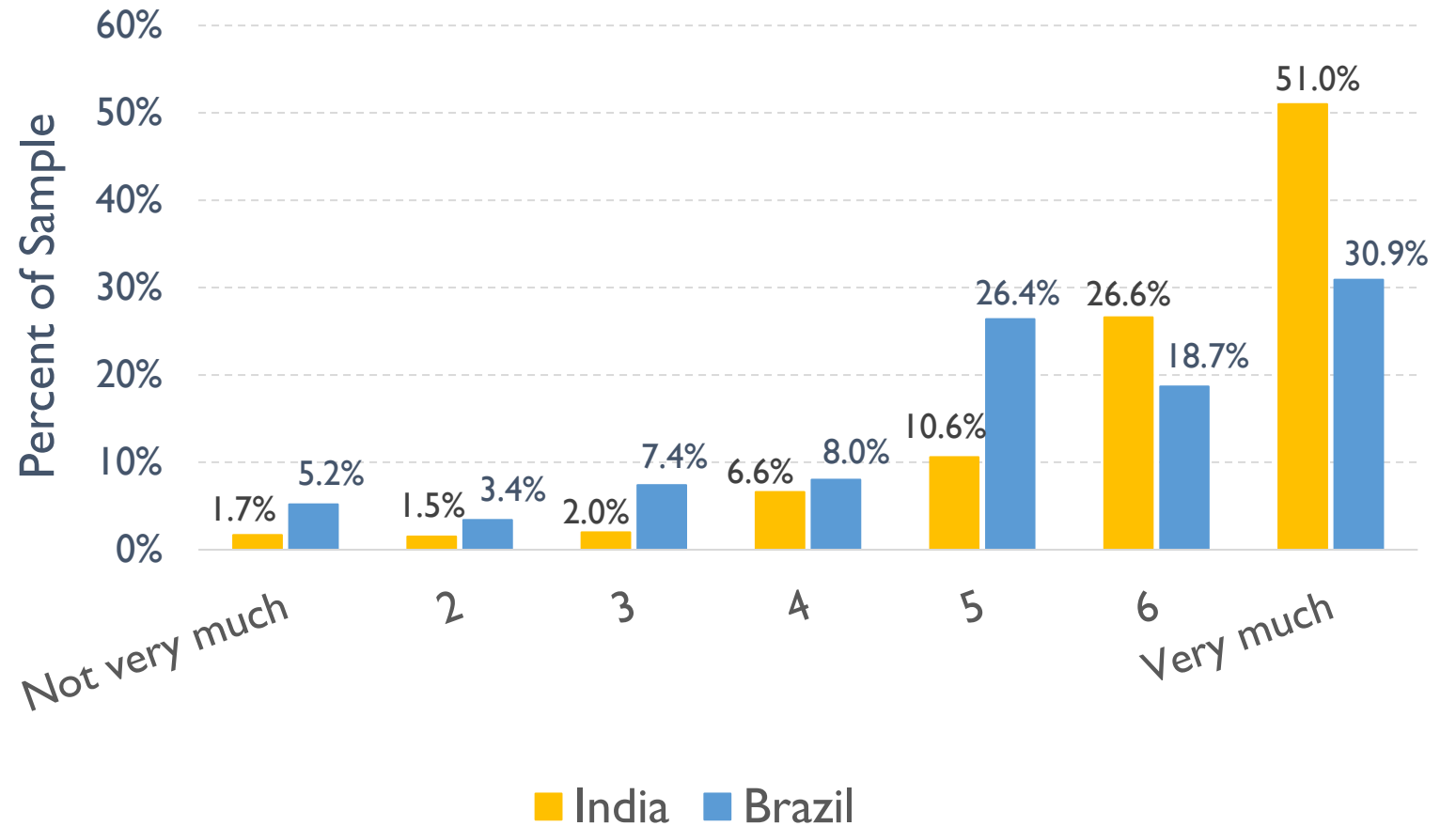
## CHILD INFORMATION

- Fathers had an average of **1.35 daughters**
- Most fathers in India had **biological** daughters
- Incest propensity was significantly associated with having at least 1 step-daughter,  $\chi^2(1, N=1225) = 7.72, \phi = .08, p < .01$
- No significant difference in step-daughters between fathers in India and Brazil  $\chi^2(1, N=2302) = 1.52, \phi = -.03, p = .22$

## PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO CHILD ( $m=6.07$ , $sd=1.31$ )

- Fathers with and without incest propensity did not significantly differ in resemblance to daughters ( $z=.88$ ,  $r=.03$ ,  $p=.38$ )
- Significantly higher levels of physical resemblance to child among fathers in India ( $z=12.71$ ,  $r=.27$ ,  $p<.001$ )

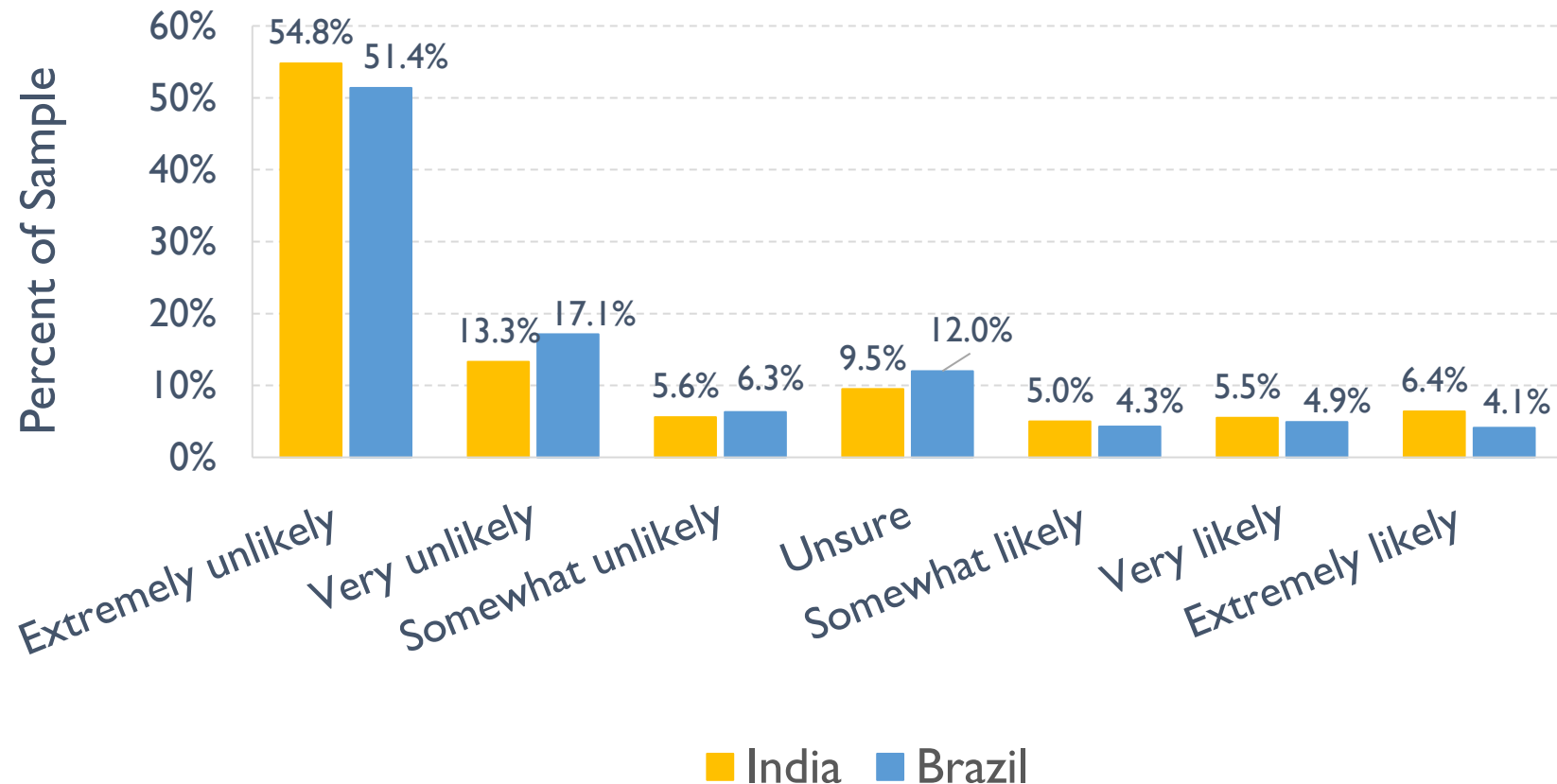
How closely does this child resemble you in appearance?



## PARTNER FIDELITY ( $m=2.39$ , $sd=1.94$ )

- Significantly higher levels of partner infidelity among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=6.45$ ,  $r=.19$ ,  $p<.001$ ).
- No significant differences in partner fidelity between fathers in India and Brazil ( $z=-.44$ ,  $p=.66$ )

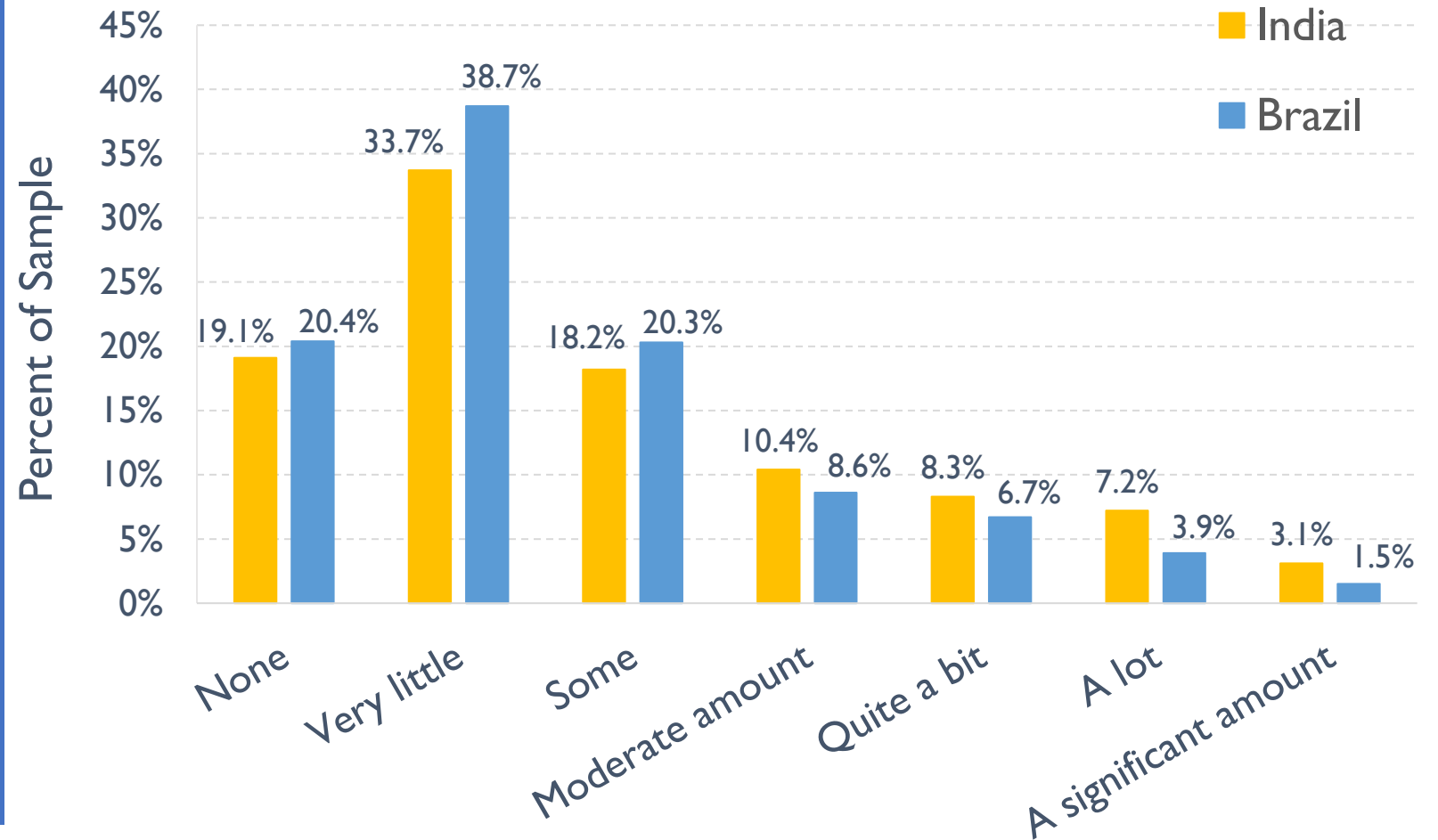
How likely do you think it is that the mother of this child ever cheated on you?



# MARITAL CONFLICT ( $m=2.89, sd=1.63$ )

- Significantly more marital conflict among fathers with incest propensity ( $z= 3.31, r=.09, p<.001$ )
- Significantly more marital conflict among fathers in India ( $z=3.58, r=.08, p<.001$ )

How much conflict did you experience during your relationship with the mother of this child?



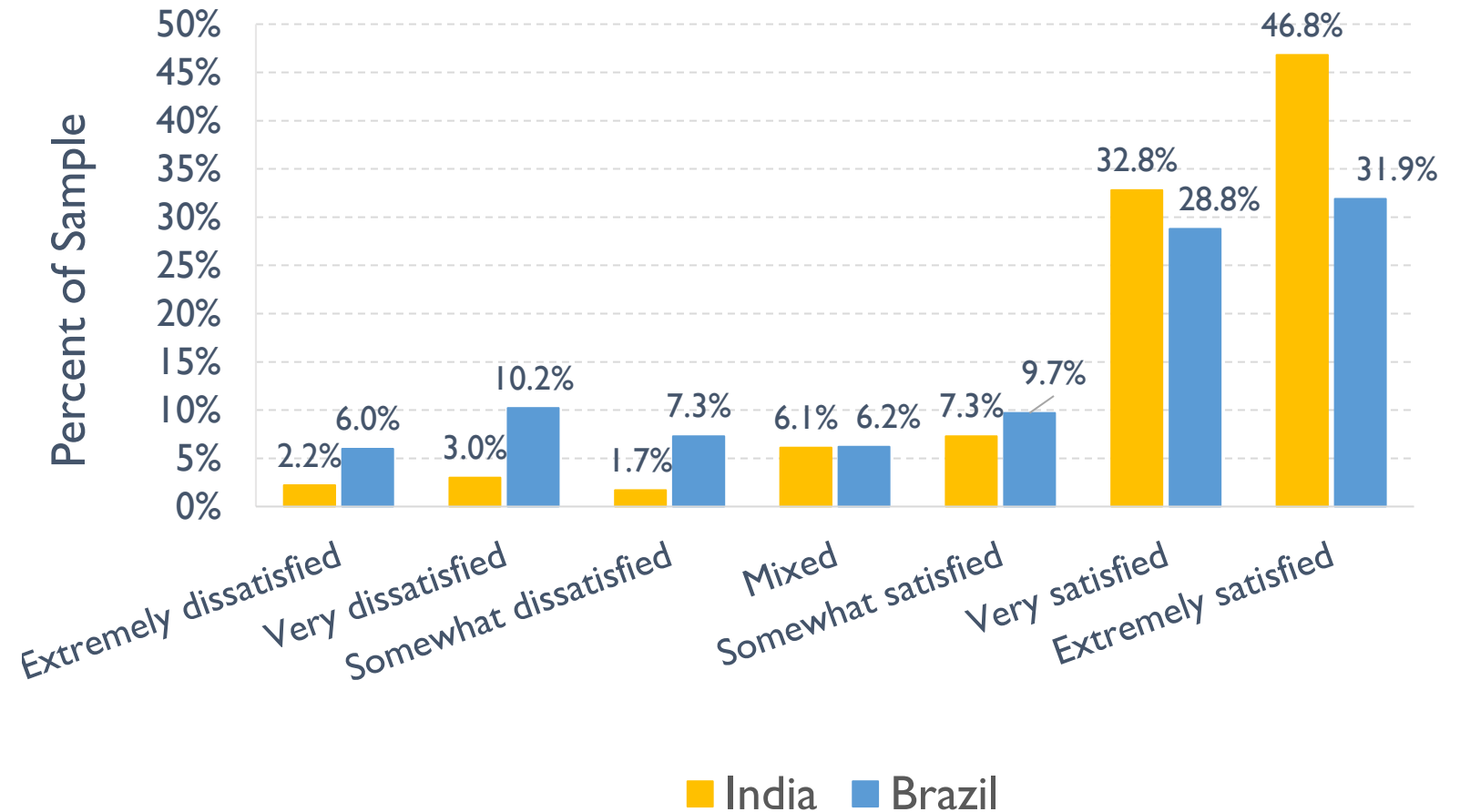


# MARITAL SATISFACTION

( $m=5.99, sd=1.41$ )

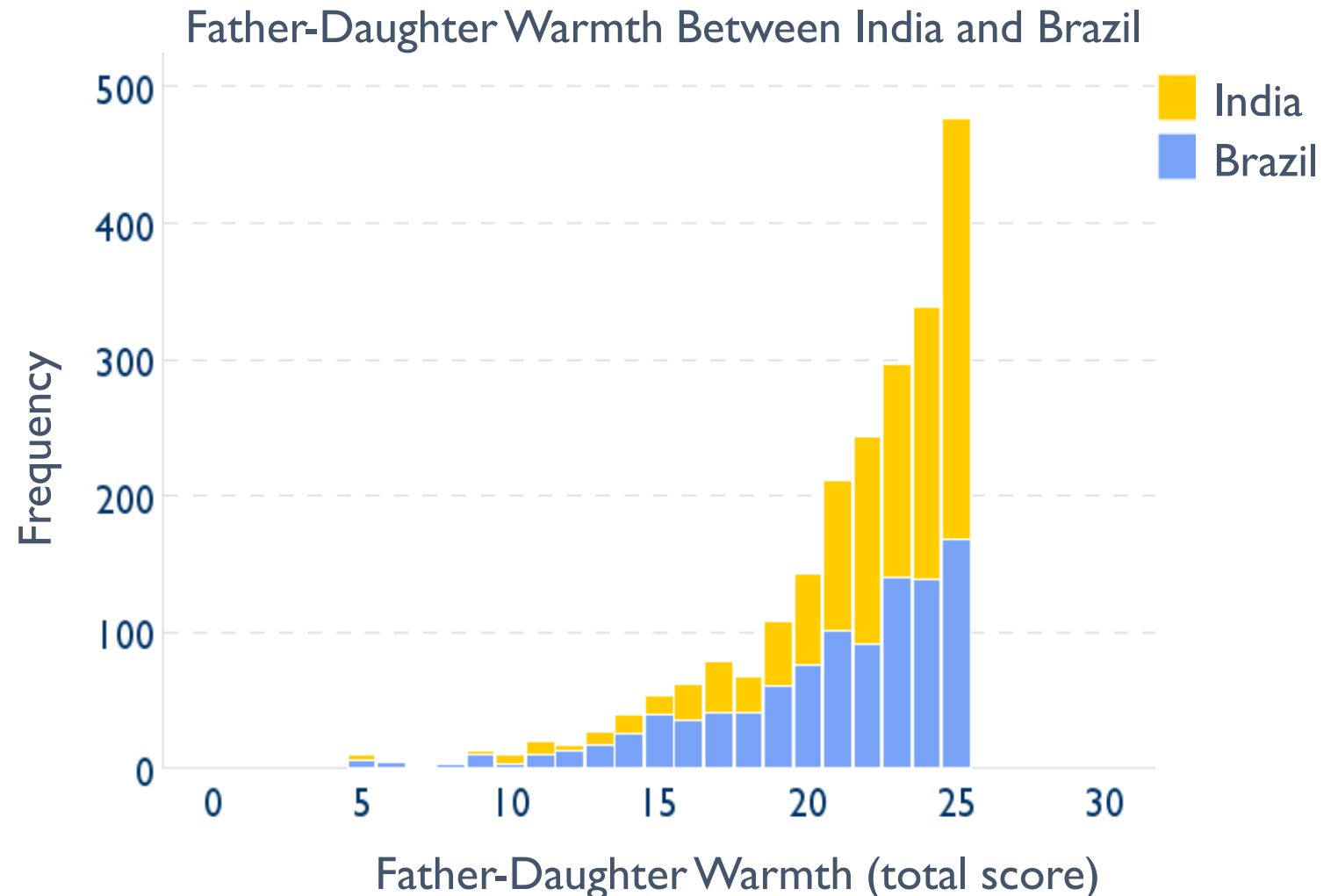
- Significantly less marital satisfaction among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=-3.05, r=.09, p<.01$ )
- Significantly more marital satisfaction among fathers in India ( $z=10.25, r=.22, p<.001$ )

How satisfied were you with your relationship with the mother of this child?



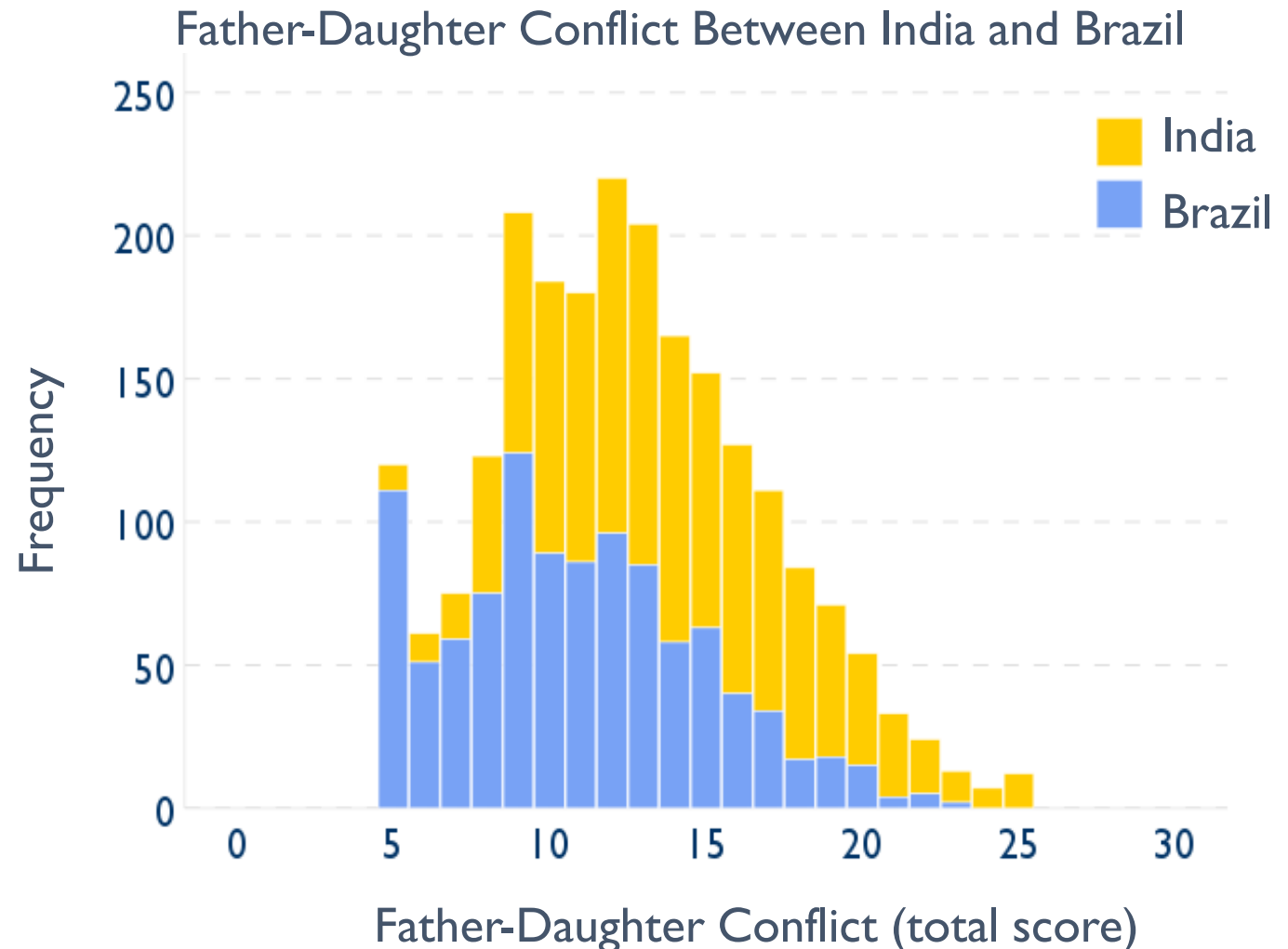
# FATHER-DAUGHTER WARMTH ( $m=21.96, sd=3.45$ )

- Statements describing parent-child warmth
  - Rated from 1 (*definitely does not apply*) to 5 (*definitely applies*)
- Summed to create total score (5 to 25)
- Significantly lower among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=-3.69, r=.11, p<.001$ )
- Significantly higher among fathers in India ( $z=8.10, r=.17, p<.001$ )



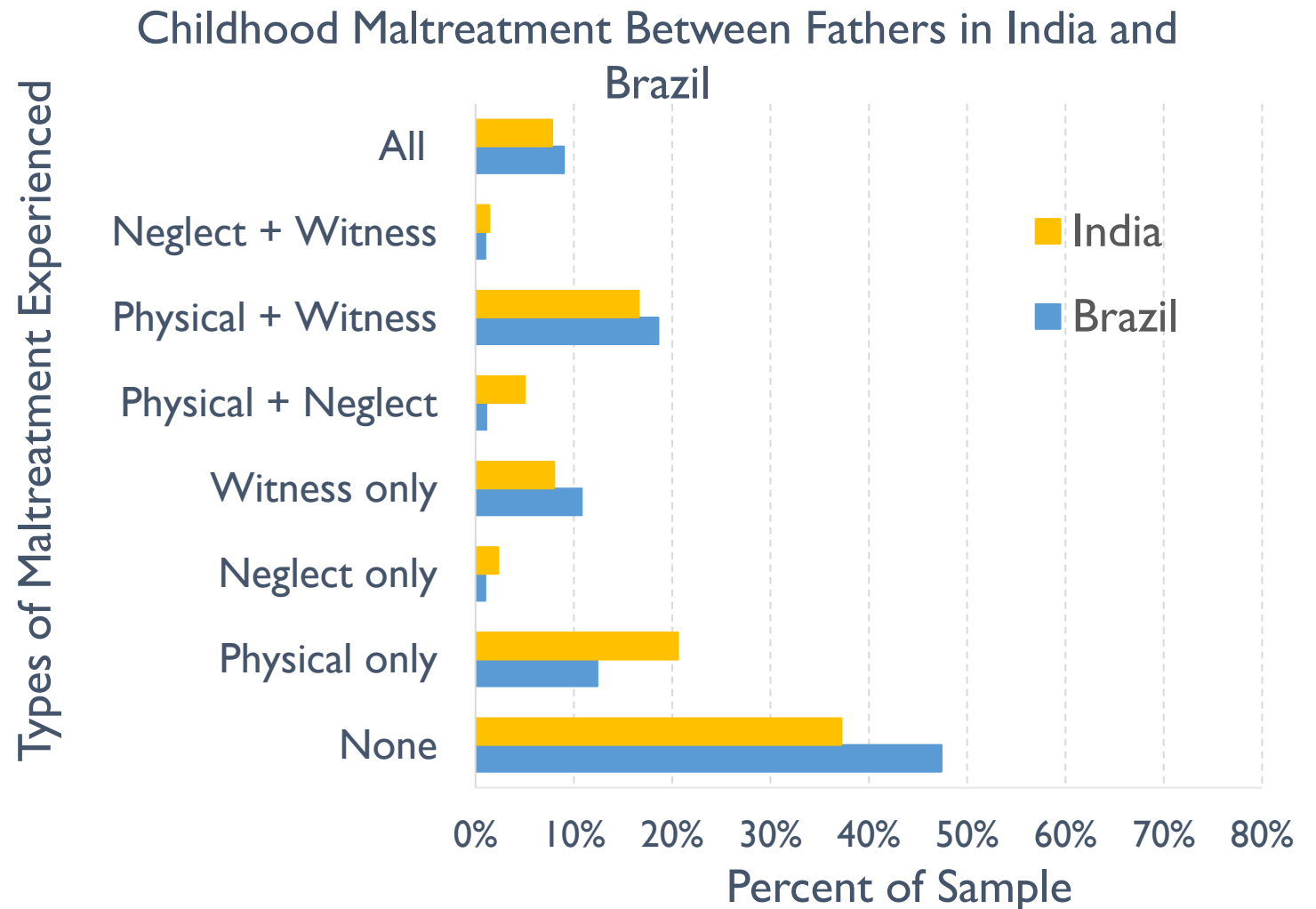
# FATHER-DAUGHTER CONFLICT ( $m=13.92$ , $sd=4.05$ )

- Statements describing parent-child conflict
  - Rated from 1 (definitely does not apply) to 5 (definitely applies)
- Summed to create total score (5 to 25)
- Significantly higher among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=2.63$ ,  $r=.08$ ,  $p<.01$ )
- Significantly higher among fathers in India ( $z=16.41$ ,  $r=.35$ ,  $p<.001$ )



# CHILDHOOD MALTREATMENT ( $m=1.04, sd=.98$ )

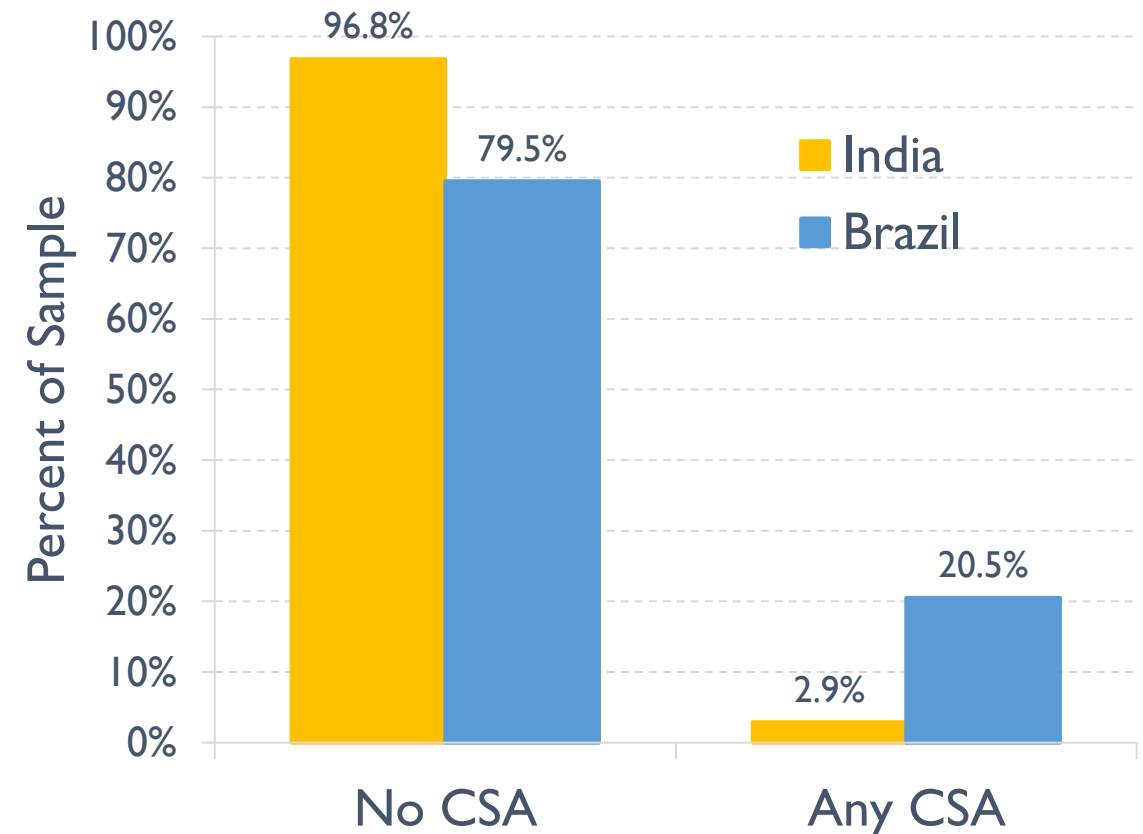
- Whether participants experienced physical abuse, neglect, and/or witnessed violence during childhood
- Summed to create total score (0 to 3)
- Significantly more child maltreatment among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=4.18, r=.12, p<.001$ )
- Significantly more maltreatment among fathers in India ( $z=4.00, r=.09, p<.001$ )



# CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA)

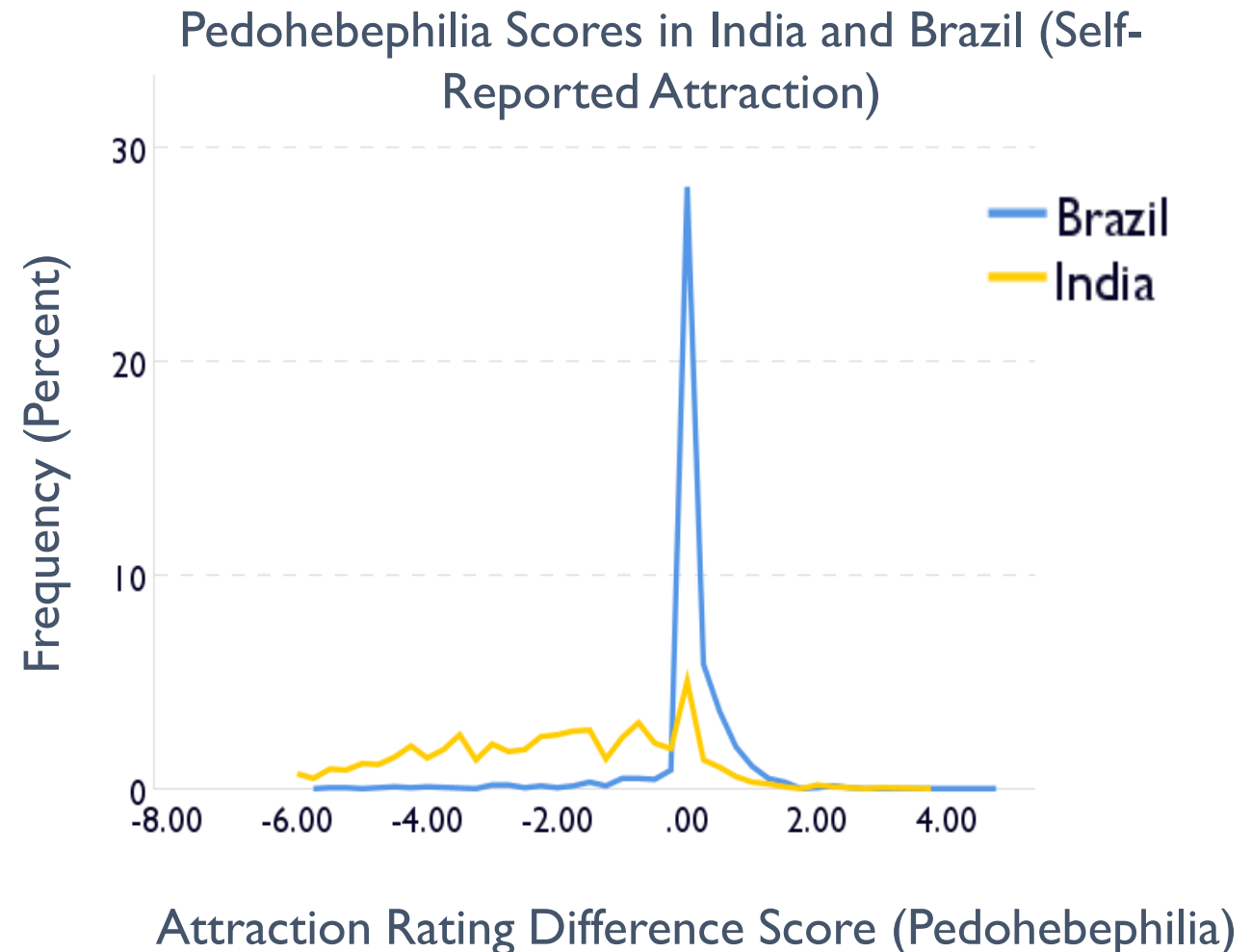
- Sexual contact with an adult man or woman prior to the age of 12
- Very few participants disclosed CSA
- Fathers with and without incest propensity did not significantly differ in rates of CSA
- Significantly more fathers in Brazil reported experiencing CSA,  $\chi^2(1, N=2296) = 177.48, \phi = -.28, p < .001$

Experiences of CSA Between Fathers in India and Brazil



# PEDOHEBEPHILIA (SELF-REPORT SEXUAL ATTRACTION)

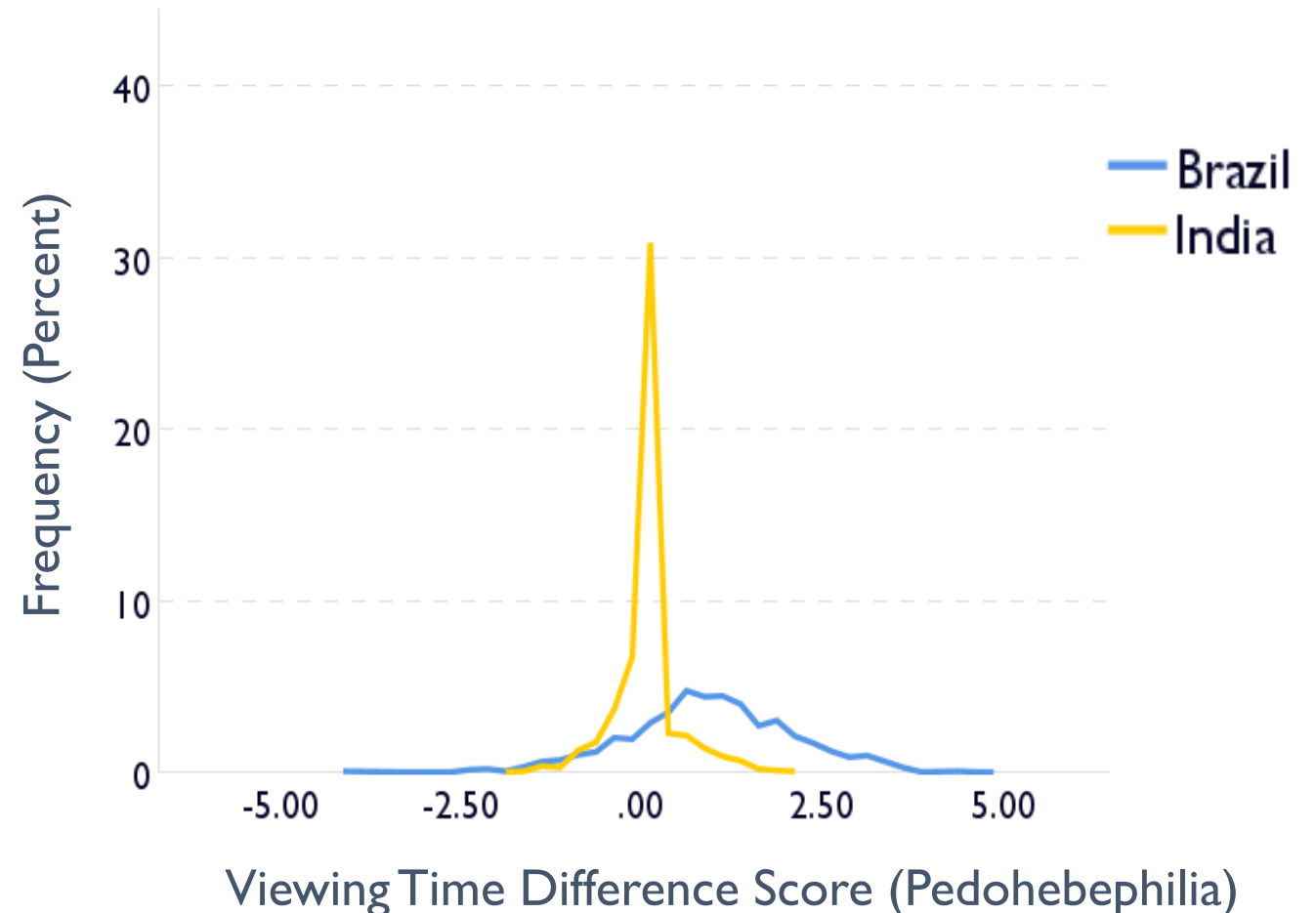
- Rated from 1 (very sexually unattractive) to 7 (very sexually attractive)
- Tanner stages 1 & 2 – Tanner Stage 5
- $m=-2.14, sd=1.84$
- Fathers with incest propensity scored significantly higher on pedohebephilia for attraction ratings [ $t(687.62)=-3.36, r=.10, p<.001$ ]
- Fathers in Brazil had significantly higher attraction rating difference scores [ $t(1746.76)=36.45, r=-.58, p<.001$ ]



# PEDOHEBEPHILIA (VIEWING TIMES)

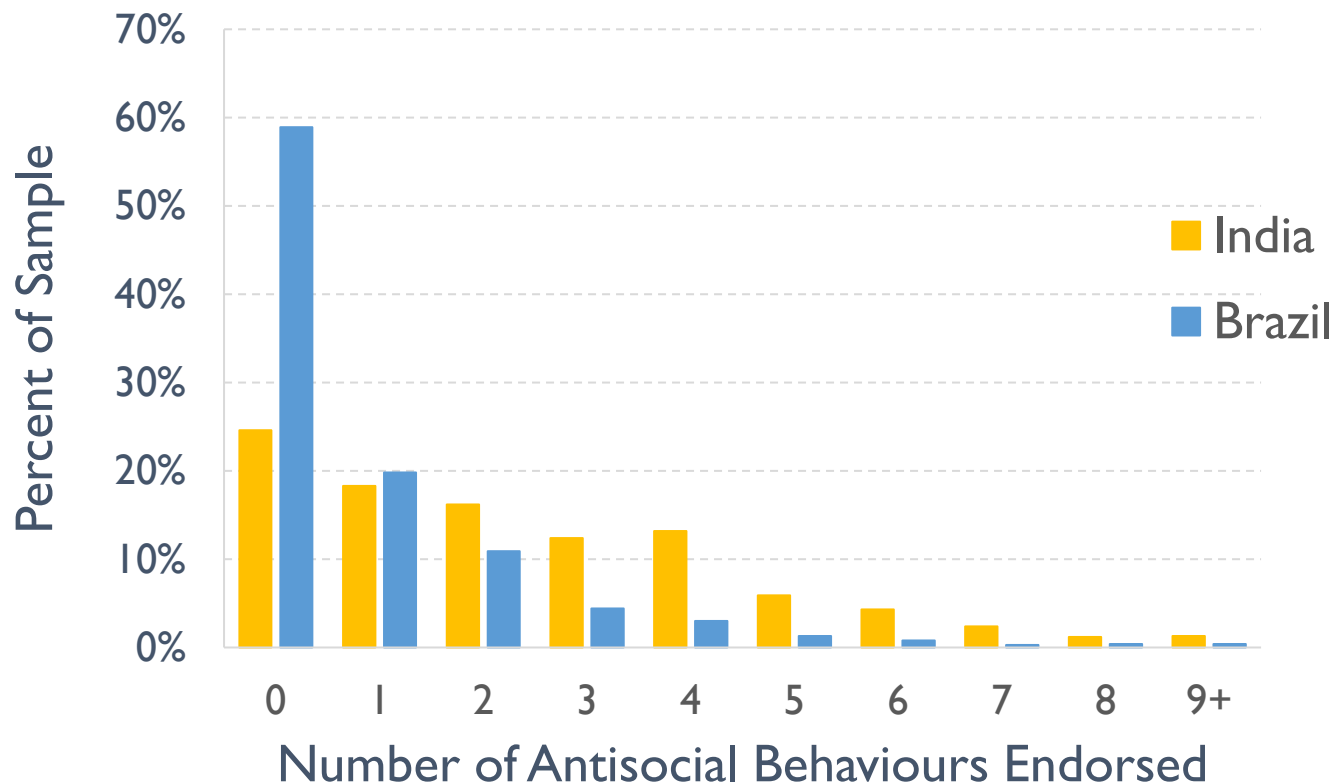
- Tanner stages 1 & 2 – Tanner Stage 5
  - $m=.01, sd=.44$
- No significant difference in pedohebephilia between fathers with and without incest propensity as measured by VTs [ $t(711.90)=-1.86, r=.05, p=.063$ ].
- Fathers in Brazil had significantly higher VT difference scores [ $t(1330.42)=23.14, r=-.45, p<.001$ ]

Pedohebephilia Scores in India and Brazil (VT)



# CHILDHOOD ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOURS ( $m=1.65, sd=1.99$ )

Childhood Antisociality Between Fathers in India and Brazil



- Whether participants engaged in certain antisocial behaviours before the age of 15
- Range 0 to 12
- Significantly higher among fathers with incest propensity ( $z=5.44, r=.16, p<.001$ )
- Significantly higher in India ( $z=19.32, r=.40, p<.001$ )



# SUMMARY OF BIVARIATE FINDINGS

## Westermarck

- Parental involvement

## Paternity certainty

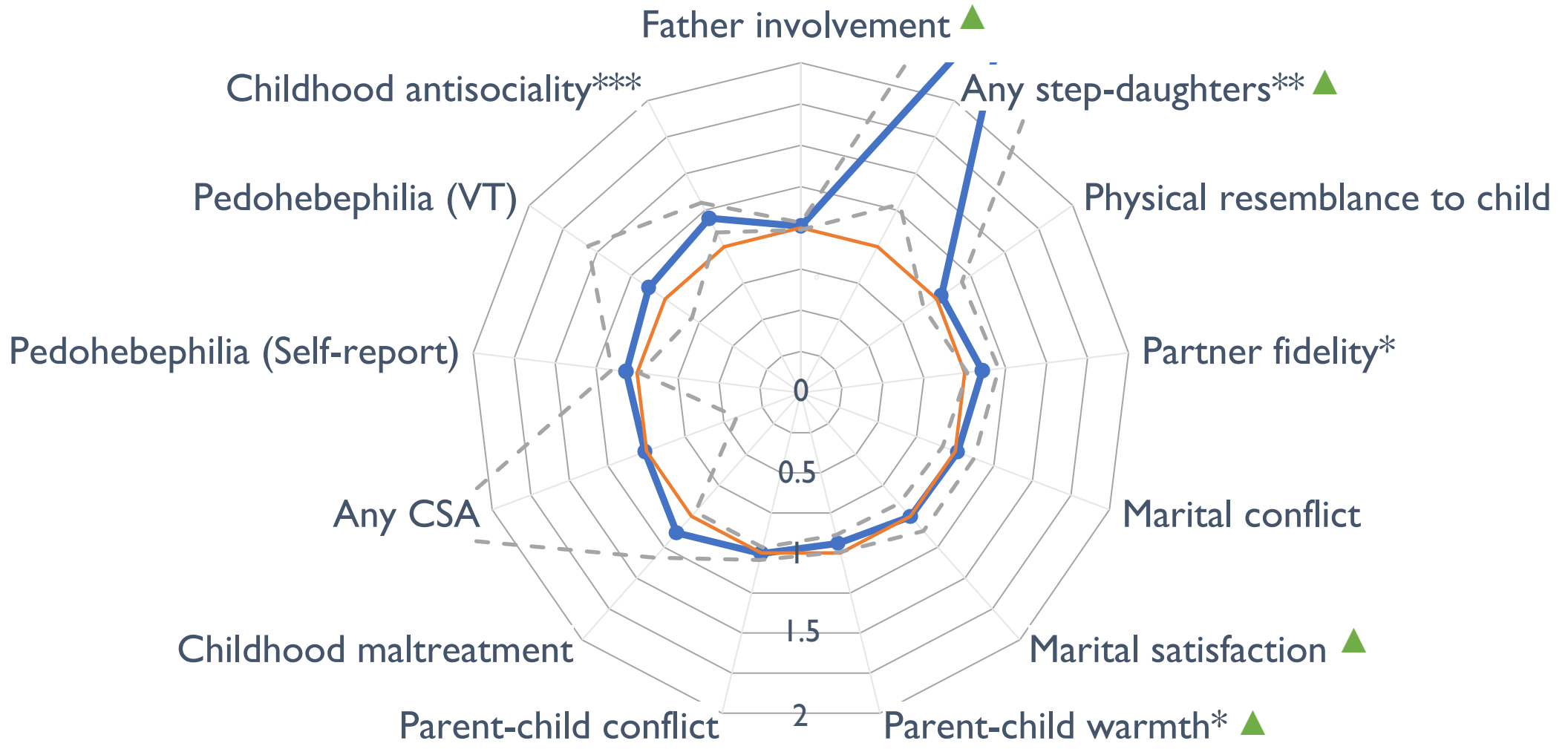
- Step-daughters
- Physical resemblance to child
- Partner (in)fidelity

## Family dynamics

- Marital conflict
- Marital satisfaction
- Parent-child warmth
- Parent-child conflict

## Individual risk factors

- Childhood maltreatment
- CSA
- Pedohebephilia VT
- Pedohebephilia (self-report)
- Childhood antisociality



Note: Figure displays Adjusted Odds Ratios, controlling for other variables in the model.  
 \* $p < .05$     \*\* $p < .01$     \*\*\* $p < .001$     ▲ Protective factor

# DISCUSSION

- Risk factors:
  - Step-daughters
  - Partner fidelity
  - Antisociality
- Protective factor:
  - Parent-child warmth
- India vs. Brazil



Hypothesis 1: Fathers with incest propensity will score lower on paternal involvement during early childhood

**Hypothesis 2:** Fathers with incest propensity will score lower on perceived resemblance to their daughter and higher marital conflict and suspicion that their partner cheated

**Hypothesis 3:** Fathers with incest propensity are expected to score lower on measures of family functioning and marital satisfaction

Hypothesis 4: Rates of incest propensity will not differ between India and Brazil

# LIMITATIONS

- Language
  - 90.1% completed the survey in English
- Cultural differences
  - Sexual topics:
    - CSA
    - Sexual offences
    - Arousal
  - Internet access

# CONCLUSION

## Key take aways:

- Support for theories of **paternity certainty** (partner fidelity, step-daughters) and **family dynamics** (parent-child warmth) as explanations
- Possible **cultural differences** in explanations

## Implications and future directions:

- Compare **non-offending fathers** with incest propensity, fathers with incest offences, and non-fathers with offences against unrelated children
- Identify target areas for prevention and treatment
  - Family dysfunction

## CE CREDIT

**True or False:** Only biological fathers were included in the study.

**False** (Biological, step-, and adoptive fathers were included in the study)

**True or False:** Propensity toward father-daughter incest was assessed based on fathers' responses to reading a story about incest (vignettes).

**True**

**True or False:** A significant proportion of fathers reported a propensity toward father-daughter incest.

**True** (69% indicated any incest propensity)



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# Questions?

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Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



# EXPLORING THREE THEORETICAL MECHANISMS OF FATHER-CHILD INCEST

*in fathers and non-fathers with  
sexual and non-sexual  
convictions*

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Frederica M. Martijn (NTU)

Kelly M. Babchishin (Carleton University)

Michael C. Seto (The Royal)

Nicholas Blagden (University of Derby)

Belinda Winder (NTU)



# **RATIONALE AND AIMS**

- **Three theoretical mechanisms**
  - Kinship recognition mechanisms
  - Family dysfunction
  - Individual (risk) factors
- **Tested in general population**
- **But: how does this translate to men who have offended?**



# METHOD

---

# Procedure

## Recruitment

- 3 Canadian medium-high secure sexual offense treatment/assessment institutions
- 1 UK medium secure sexual offense prison

## Participants

- 118 included men (136 total)
- Convictions: sexual and nonsexual violent

## Procedure

- Laptop questionnaire and viewing task; file review

## Time period

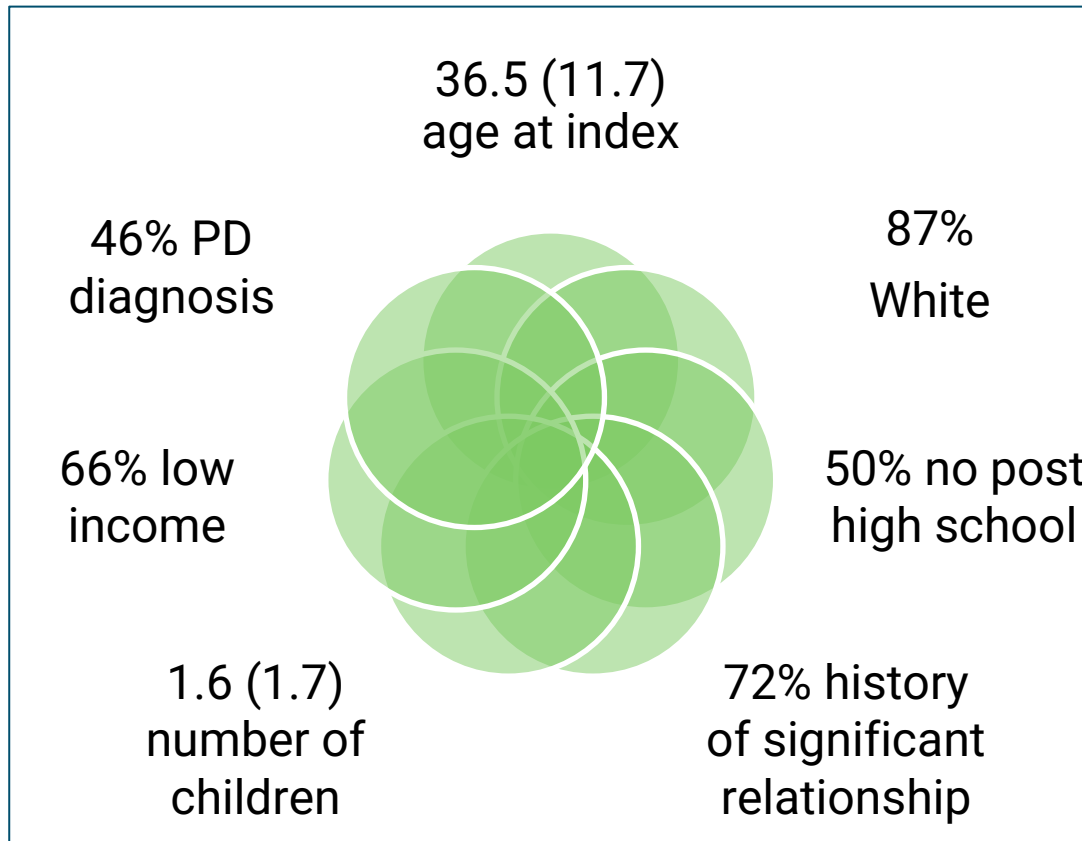
- 2016 – 2021 (most in 2019; then COVID-19)

## Analyses

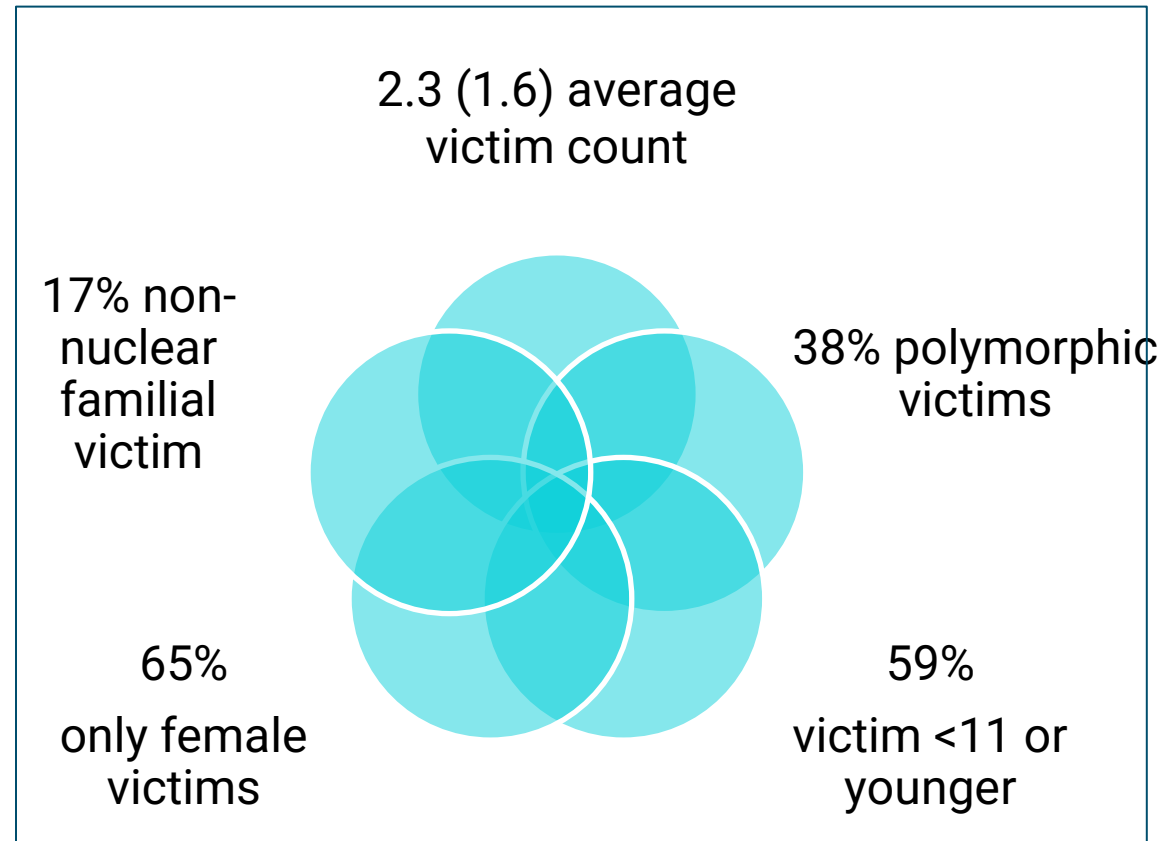
- Descriptive study; simple planned contrasts Hedge's  $g$  and Odds Ratios

# Participants ( $n = 118$ )

## Demographics



## Victim information



# Participant comparison groups

## Kinship recognition ( $n = 68$ )

Biological fathers convicted of sexual offenses against biological child ( $n = 15$ )

Sociolegal fathers convicted of sexual offences against sociolegal child ( $n = 9$ )

Biological fathers convicted of non-incestuous offenses ( $n = 39$ )

Sociolegal fathers convicted of non-incestuous offenses ( $n = 5$ )

## Family dysfunction and risk ( $n = 118$ )

Fathers convicted of sexual offenses against their (biological or sociolegal) child ( $n = 34$ )

Fathers convicted of sexual offenses against extrafamilial children ( $n = 37$ )

Fathers convicted of nonsexual, violent offenses against adults ( $n = 22$ )

Non-fathers convicted of sexual offenses against extrafamilial children ( $n = 25$ )

# Hypotheses

## Kinship recognition mechanisms

**Biological fathers convicted of biological child sexual offences:**

- Fewer kinship recognition cues:
  - Parental involvement < 6 years
  - Phenotypic similarity
  - Partner (in)fidelity

## Family dysfunction

**Fathers convicted of child sexual offences against own (bio or socio) child:**

- More dysfunctional families

## Individual (risk) factors

**Fathers convicted of child sexual offences against own (bio or socio) child:**

- Less atypical sexuality than men with extrafamilial victims, more than men with nonsexual convictions
- Fewer indicators of antisociality

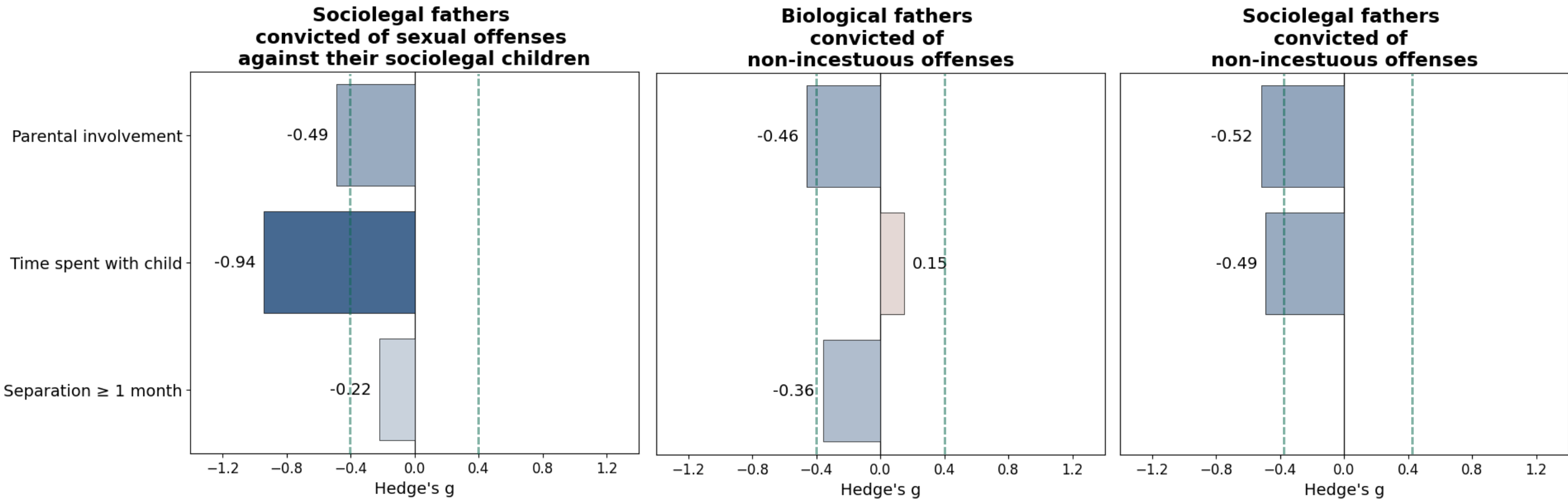


# RESULTS



# Kinship recognition mechanisms: Parental involvement child < 6 years (Westermarck)

**Referent group: Biological fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological children**

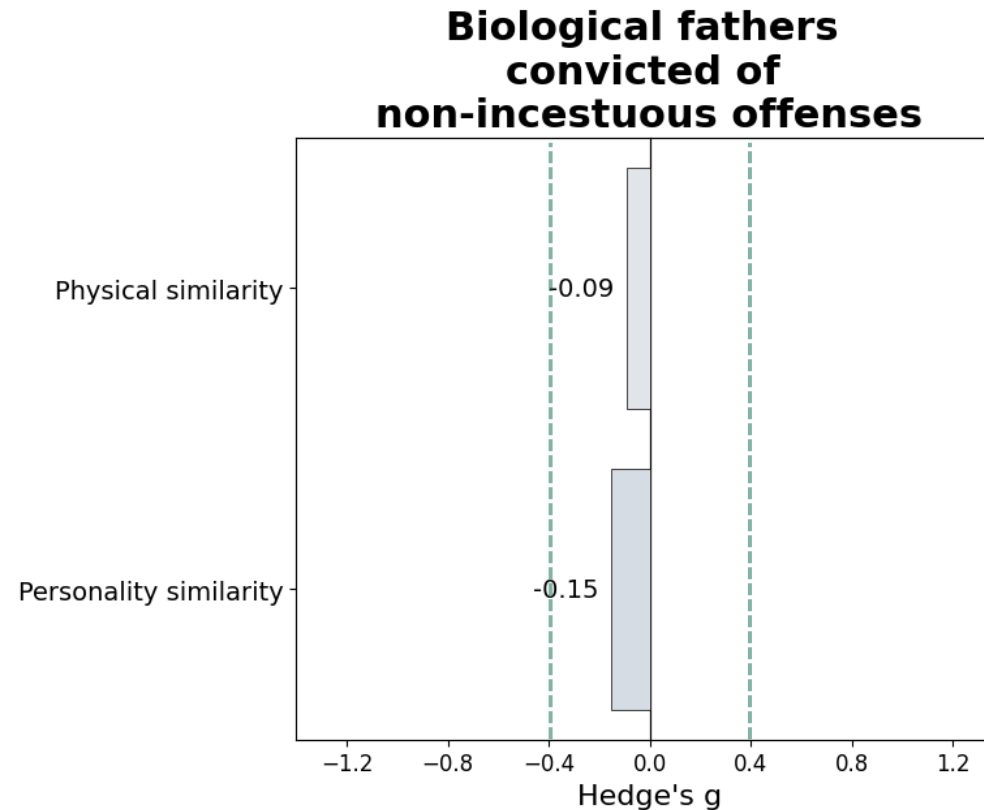


Less risk for referent group ← 0.0 → More risk for referent group



# Kinship recognition mechanisms: Phenotypic similarity

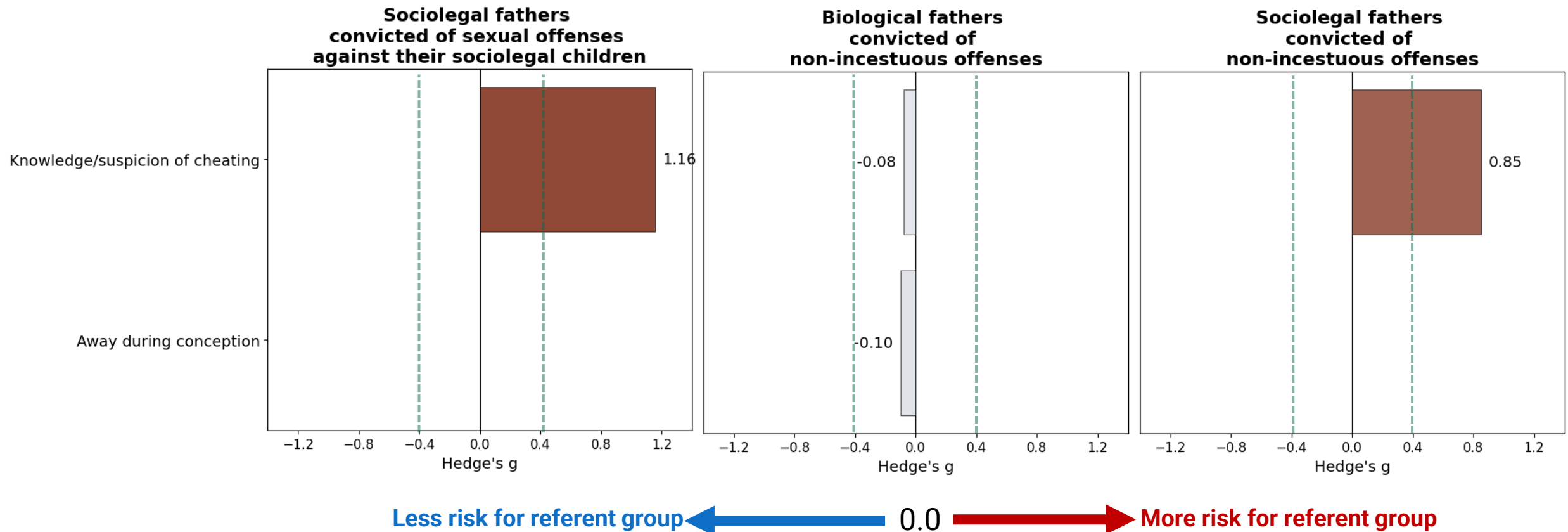
Referent group: Biological fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological children



Less risk for referent group ← 0.0 → More risk for referent group

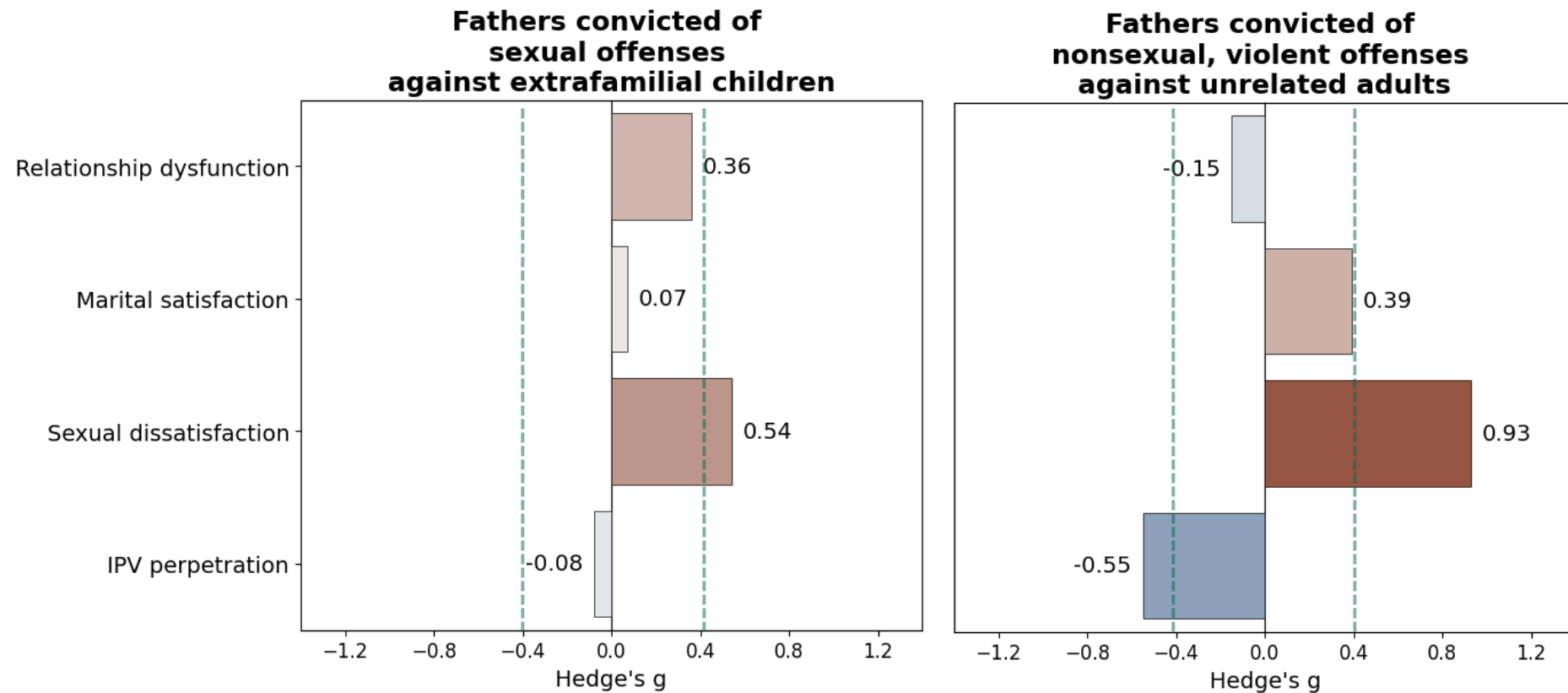
# Kinship recognition mechanisms: Partner (in)fidelity

Referent group: Biological fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological children



# Family dysfunction: Partner relationship

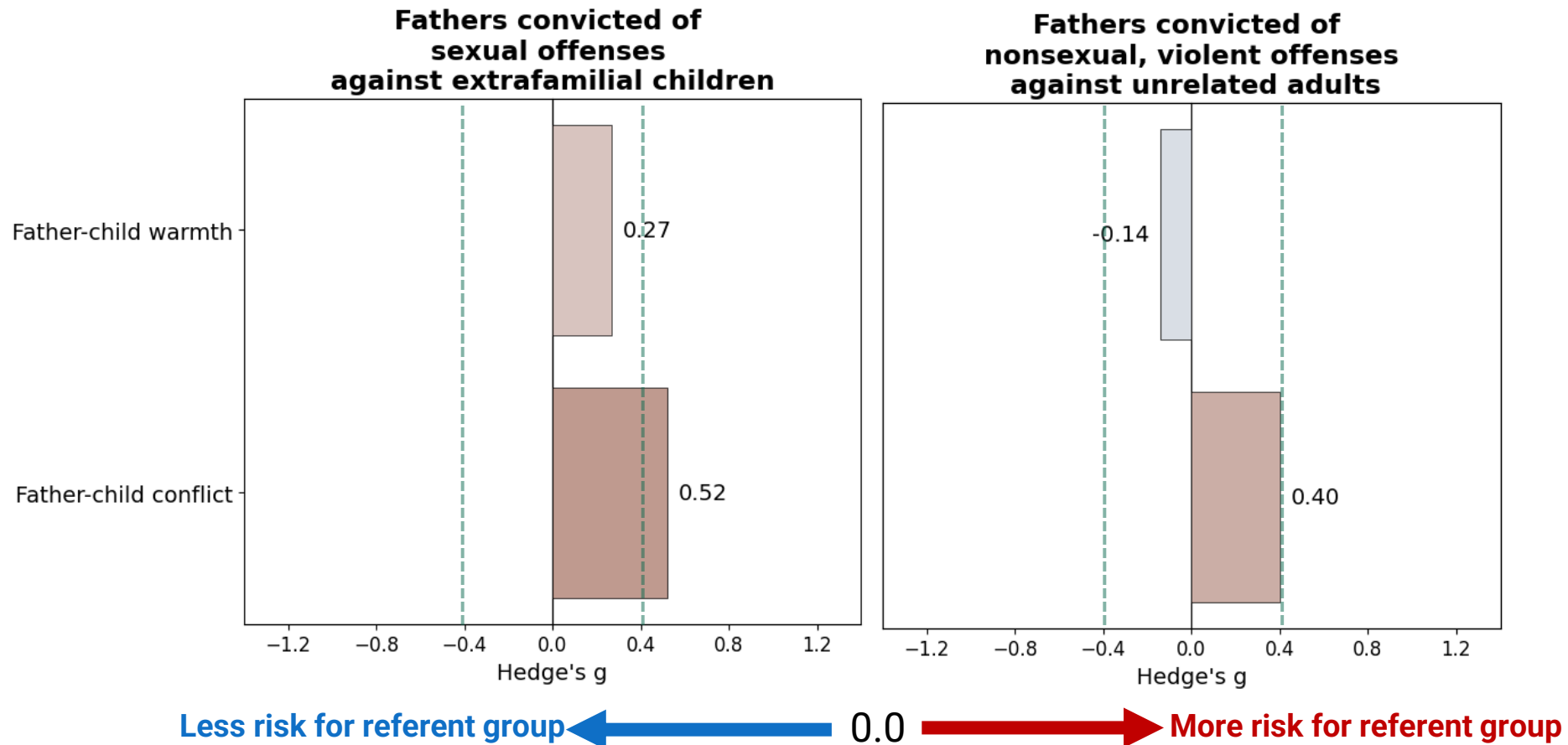
Referent group: Fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological or sociolegal children



Less risk for referent group ← 0.0 → More risk for referent group

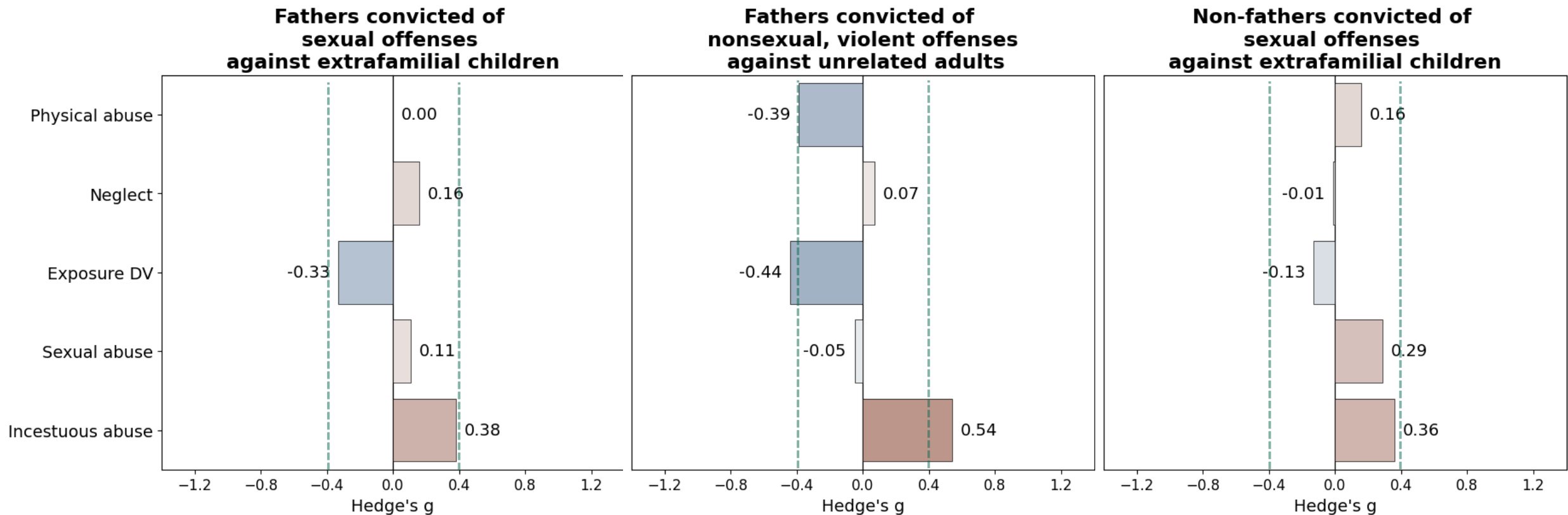
# Family dysfunction: Parent-child relationship

Referent group: Fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological or sociolegal children



# Family dysfunction: Childhood abuse histories (family-of-origin)

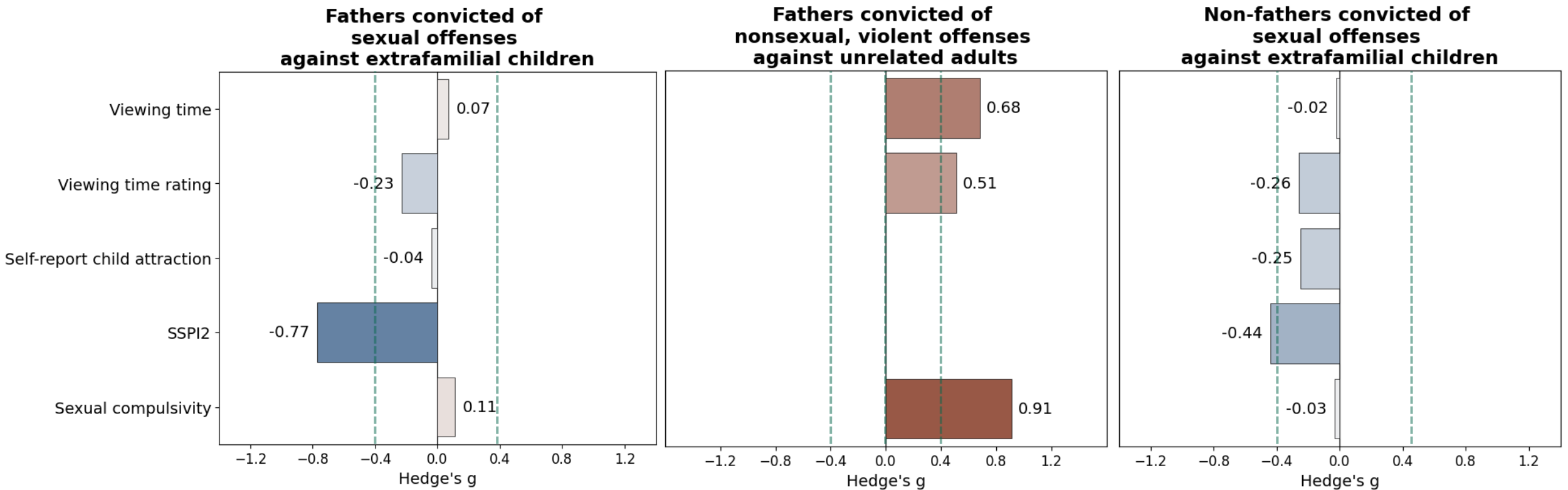
**Referent group: Fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological or sociolegal children**



Less risk for referent group ← 0.0 → More risk for referent group

# Individual (risk) factors: Atypical sexuality

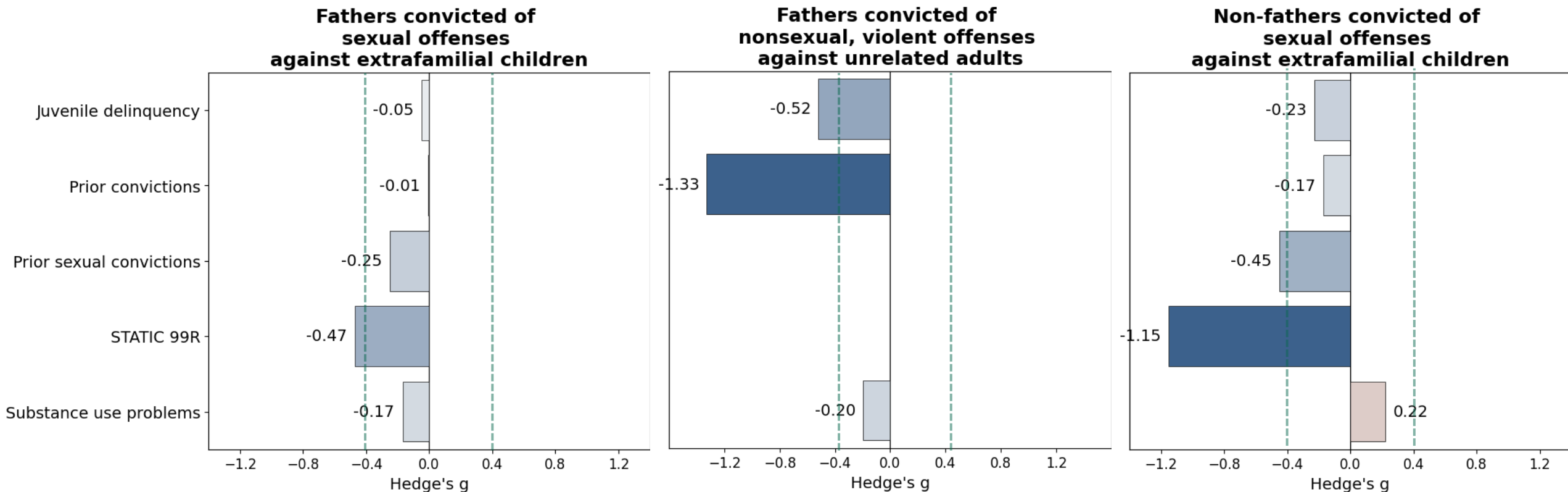
Referent group: Fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological or sociolegal children



Less risk for referent group ← 0.0 → More risk for referent group

# Individual (risk) factors: Antisociality

Referent group: Fathers convicted of sexual offences against their biological or sociolegal children



Less risk for referent group ← 0.0 → More risk for referent group

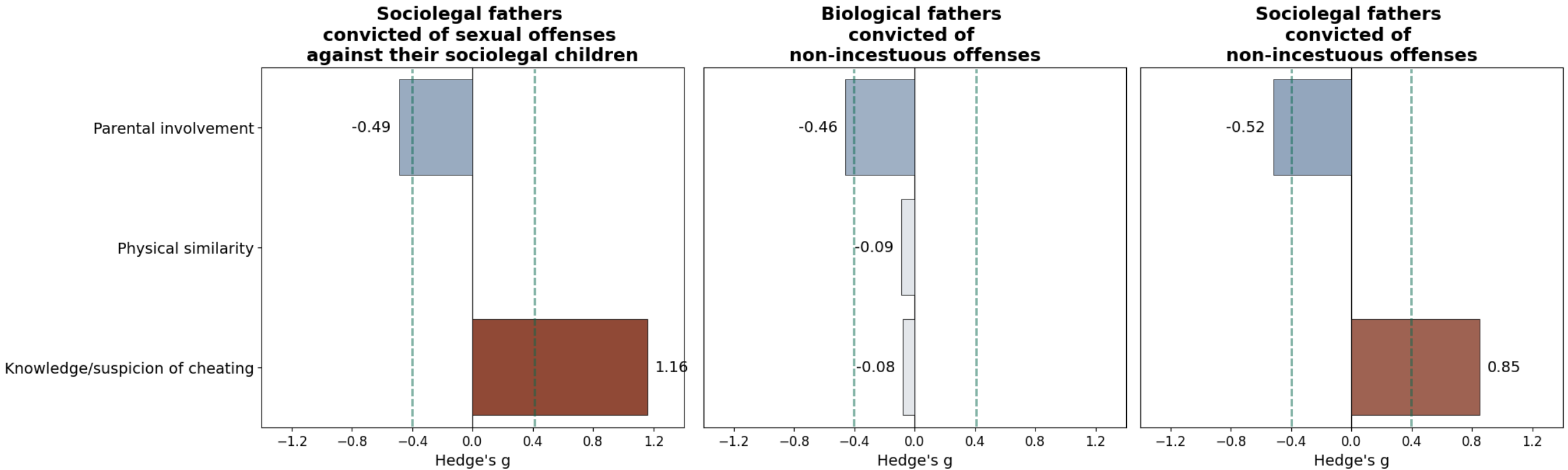


# CONCLUSIONS

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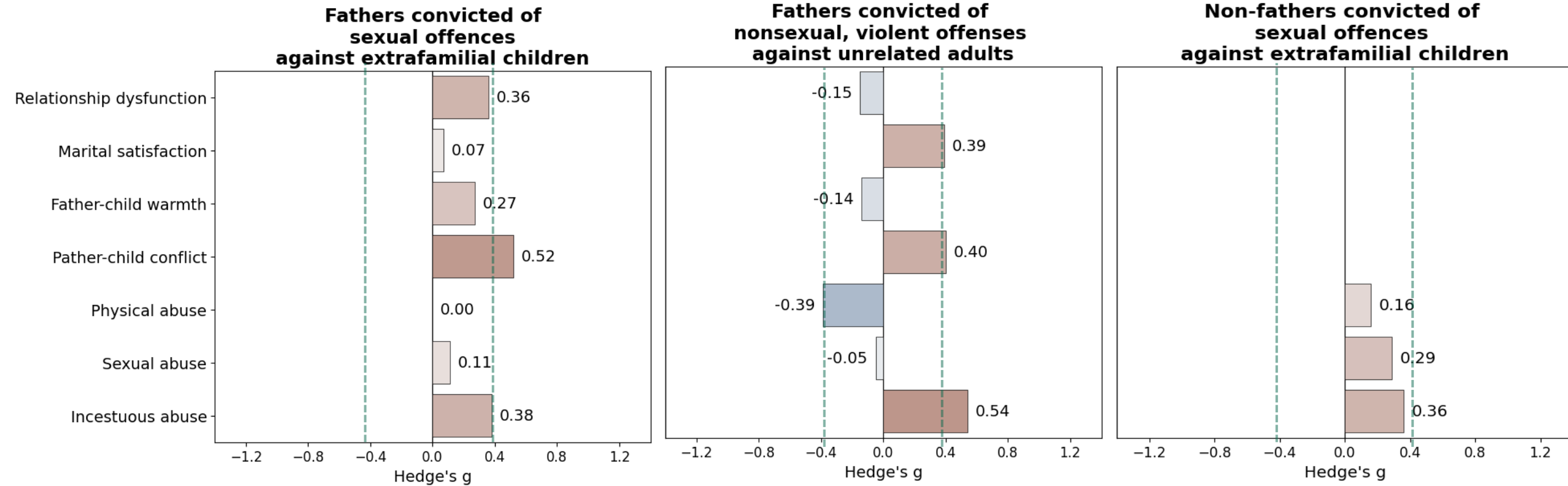
# Kinship recognition mechanisms



## Kinship recognition mechanisms not promising to explain father-child incest

- No evidence for phenotypic similarity; Contra-expected results for parental involvement
- Indications for partner fidelity mechanisms– but mostly compared to sociolegal fathers (why?) + timing was not around birth > Might be more indicative of family dysfunction
  - Other mechanisms (e.g., maternal-infant association) to be explored

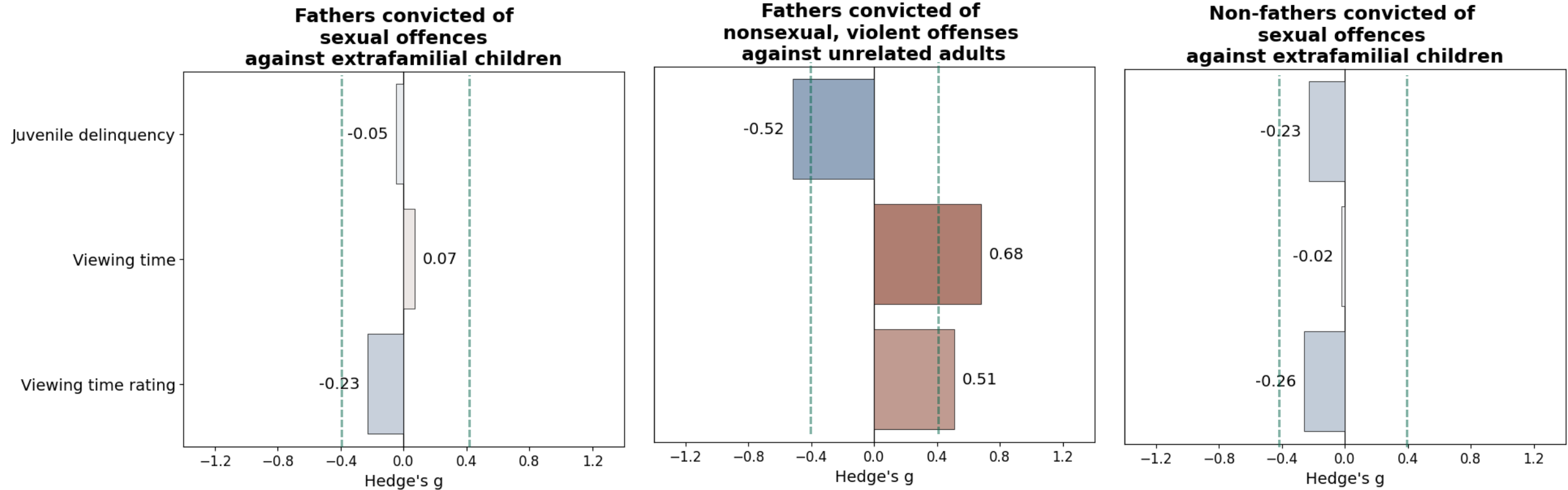
# Family dysfunction



## Family dysfunction seems most promising factor to explain father-child incest

- Mechanisms of partner relationships and parent-child relationships to be further examined
  - Evidence for intergenerationality of abuse
  - Recall bias might color these results
- Clinically intuitive, but (as of yet) scientifically barely substantiated (and under-researched)

# Individual (risk) factors



**Antisociality and atypical sexuality do not explain related over unrelated victim choice, but:**

- Unclear how compares to general population
- Sexuality still seems to play an important role in incest offending

# Across studies

## Brazil

### Supported:

- Physical resemblance
- Partner infidelity
- Parent-child warmth
- Parent-child conflict

### Contra-expected:

- Less marital conflict

### No differences:

- Parental involvement
- Stepdaughter
- Marital satisfaction
- Childhood maltreatment
- Pedohebephilia (VT and rating)

## India

### Supported:

- Stepdaughters
- Partner fidelity
- Parent-child warmth
- Pedohebephilia (rating)
- Childhood antisociality

### No differences:

- Father involvement
- Physical resemblance
- Marital conflict and satisfaction
- Parent-child conflict
- CSA and maltreatment
- Pedohebephilia (VT)

## Prison

### Promising:

- Partner fidelity
- Relational dysfunction
- Parent-child dysfunction
- Incestuous abuse histories

### To be examined:

- Sexuality

### Unsupported:

- Parental involvement
- Physical resemblance
- Physical abuse
- Antisociality

# CE Credit

**True or False:** The study showed uniform support for evolutionary mechanisms to explain incest

**Answer:** False

**True or False:** The study showed that family dysfunction likely plays a role in incest.

**Answer:** True

**True or False:** The study showed that sexuality does not play a role in incest offending

**Answer:** False

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# QUESTIONS?

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