

Good Parents, Bad Parents: Parental Effects on their Children's Substance Use

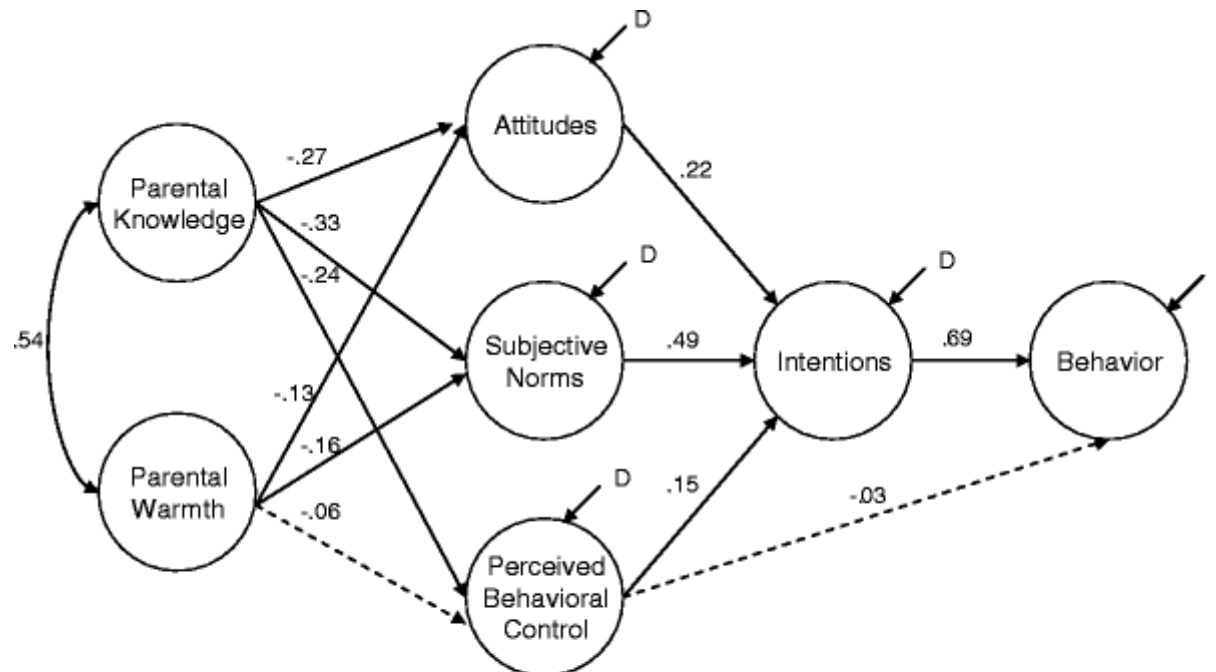
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Parents' effects on children's substance use often are positive - but not always

- Standard advice is to engage parents in prevention of their children's substance misuse
- Usually a good idea
 - Our meta-analysis showed a significant negative relation between parental monitoring and cannabis use in youth (Lac & Crano, 2009)
 - Relation was stronger for girls than boys
 - And stronger if monitoring was defined in terms of parental knowledge (vs. mere surveillance)
- A second study using the TPB indicated that parental monitoring & warmth significantly affected children's intentions and use of marijuana

Positive: Parental factors affecting children's marijuana use

(Lac et al., 2008)

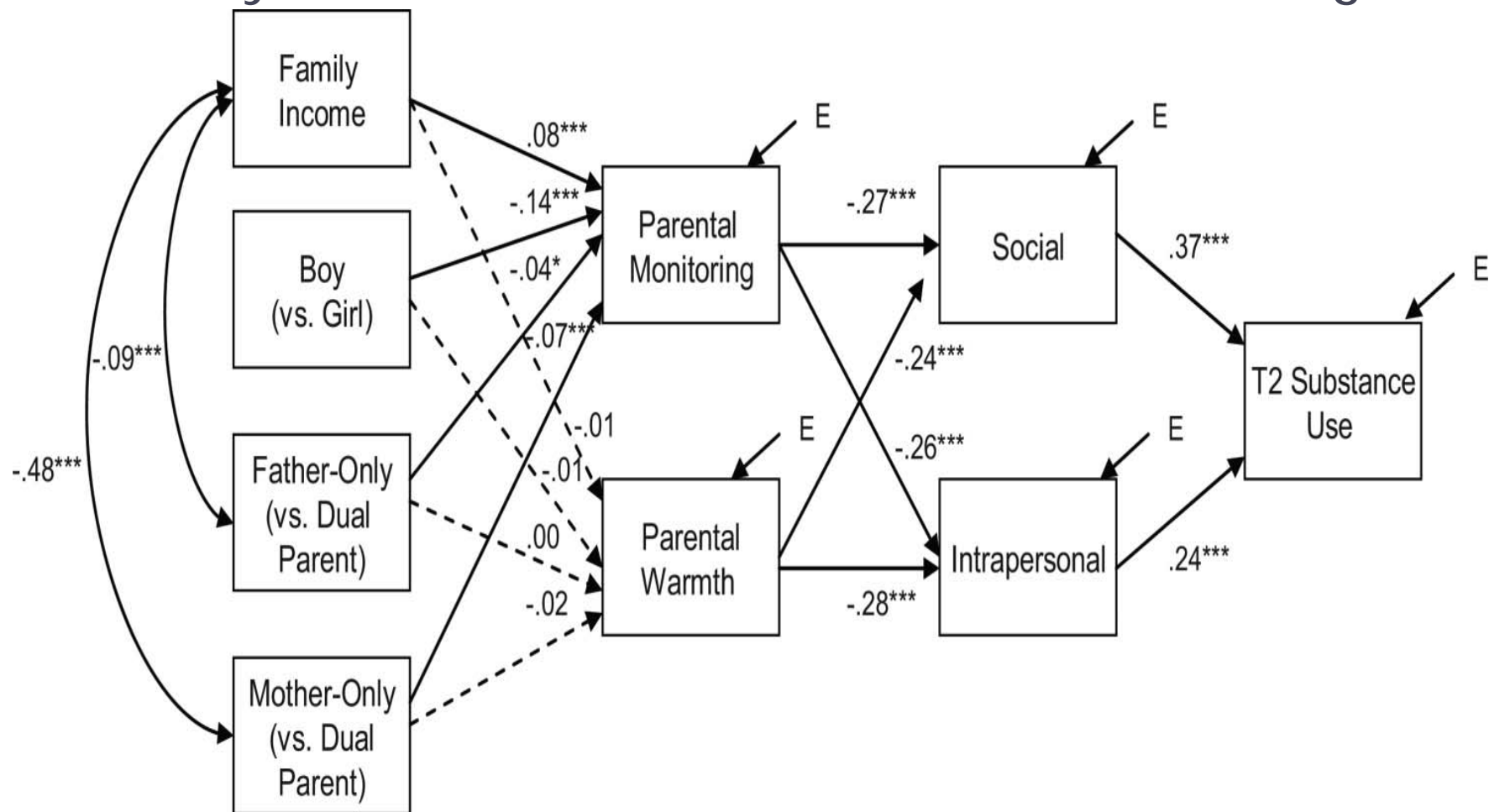


Note. Solid paths are statistically significant, $ps < .001$. Paths represent standardized coefficients. D = disturbance. For clarity, not displayed are factor loadings of the latent factors; and correlations among the disturbance terms of attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control, $ps < .001$.

The TPB informed our next study

- Used the U.S. National Survey of Parents and Youth: we were interested in illicit drug use of children from Intact and non-intact families
- We asked,
 - Why are children from non-intact families more susceptible to social and developmental problems?
 - Alcohol, Drugs, Delinquency
- Studied family variables, gender, parental monitoring, social & intrapersonal differences and substance use 1 year after the predictors were collected

Structural Equation Model of Links between Family/Parent Factors and Adolescents' Drug Use

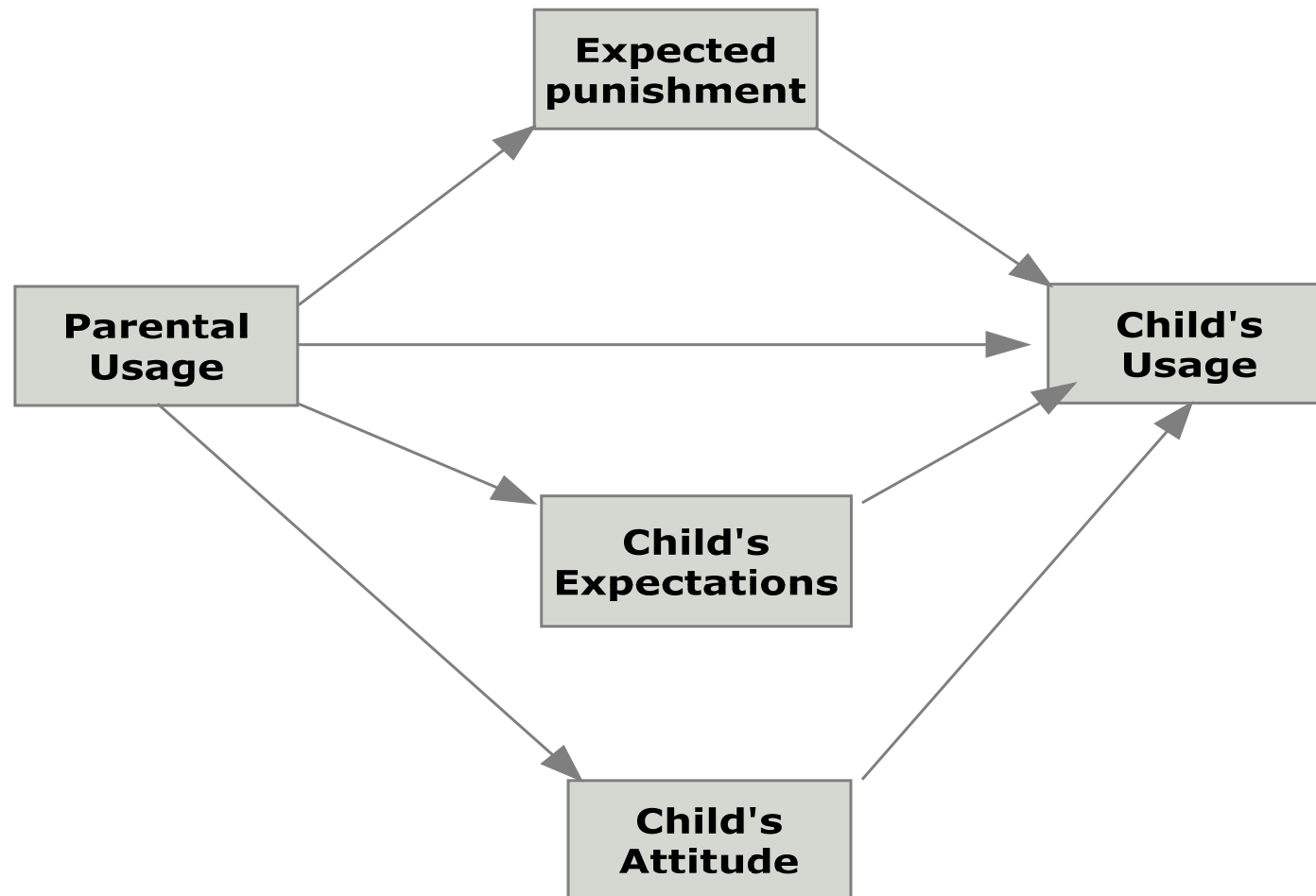


A cautionary warning: Prior results indicated positive parental effects: Not so positive is the link between parental drug use and recency of children's use

- We have found a positive, statistically significant relation between
 - Parental marijuana use and their children's drug use – simple dichotomous measures
 - Furthermore, the relation between recency of parents' usage and children's use was positive, monotonic, and statistically significant
- You might be interested in some of the mediators of the parent's use–children's use relationship...

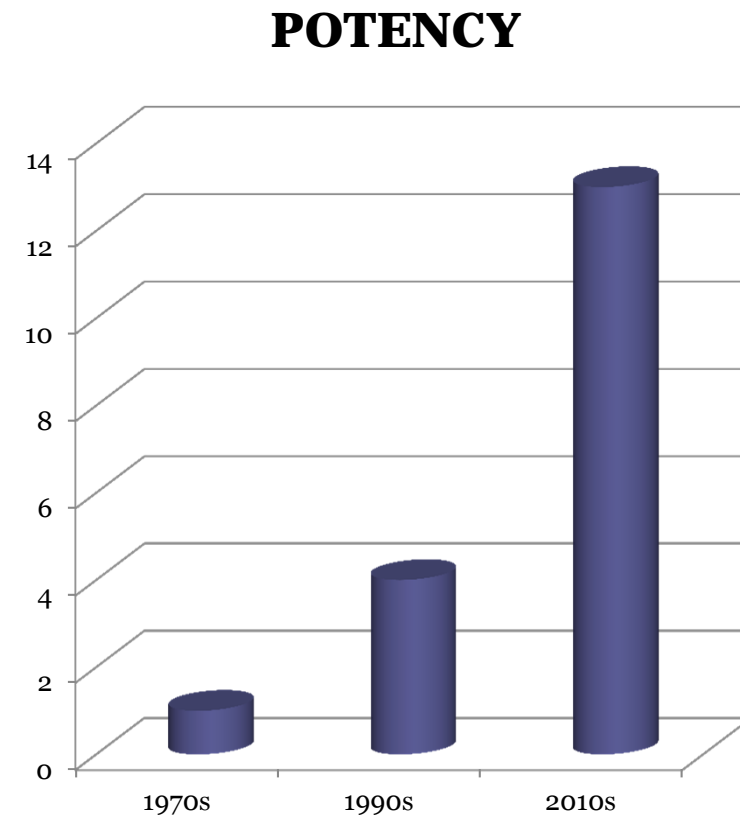
Parental usage & children's attitudes and expectations regarding marijuana use, and usage 1 year later (all paths statistically significant; $N = 1399$ parent/child pairs; Nationally representative U.S. sample; bootstrapped multiple mediation analysis)

[Miller, Siegel, Hohman, Crano, 2013, Psych Add Beh]



Implications of miller et al.

- Interventions targeting parents may influence parental attitudes (thereby altering parental behavior, and may indirectly affect adolescents' attitudes, as they are less likely to counter-argue messages directed toward parents (Crano et al., 2007)
- Parents need to know that today's drugs may be considerably more dangerous than yesterday's



Our earlier study involving parental monitoring and warmth led to questions of generality: do these results hold for NUPM?

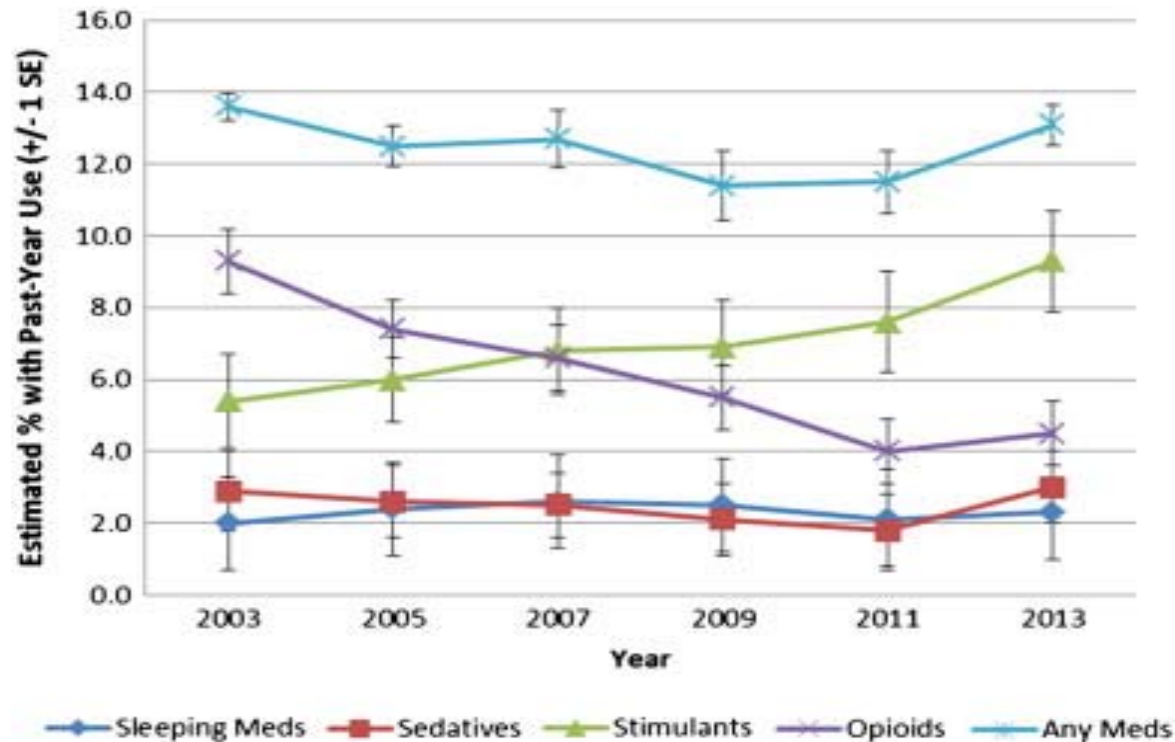
- **Research Question:**
 - Are children from non-intact family structures more susceptible to nonmedical use of prescription meds?

We extended this study to research on youths' misuse of prescription drugs

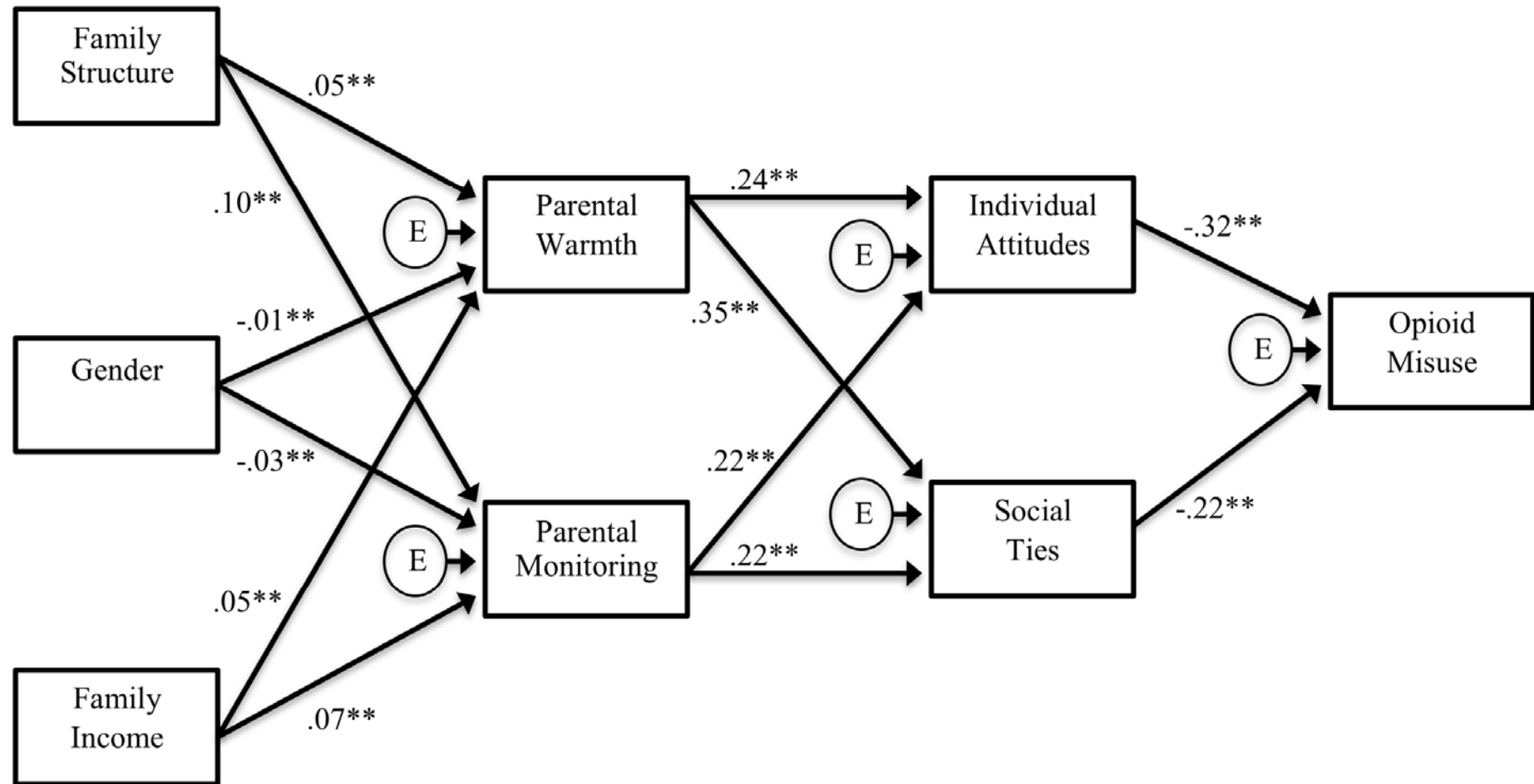
- Fastest growing drug-related problem in US
- In 2009, 4.6 million drug-related emergency dept. visits
- 27% attributed to nonmedical use of prescription drugs, vs 21% for all illicit drugs, and 14.3% for alcohol
- Increase in rate of 98% between 2004 and 2009

Trends in past-year nonmedical use of prescription medications: 2003–2013.

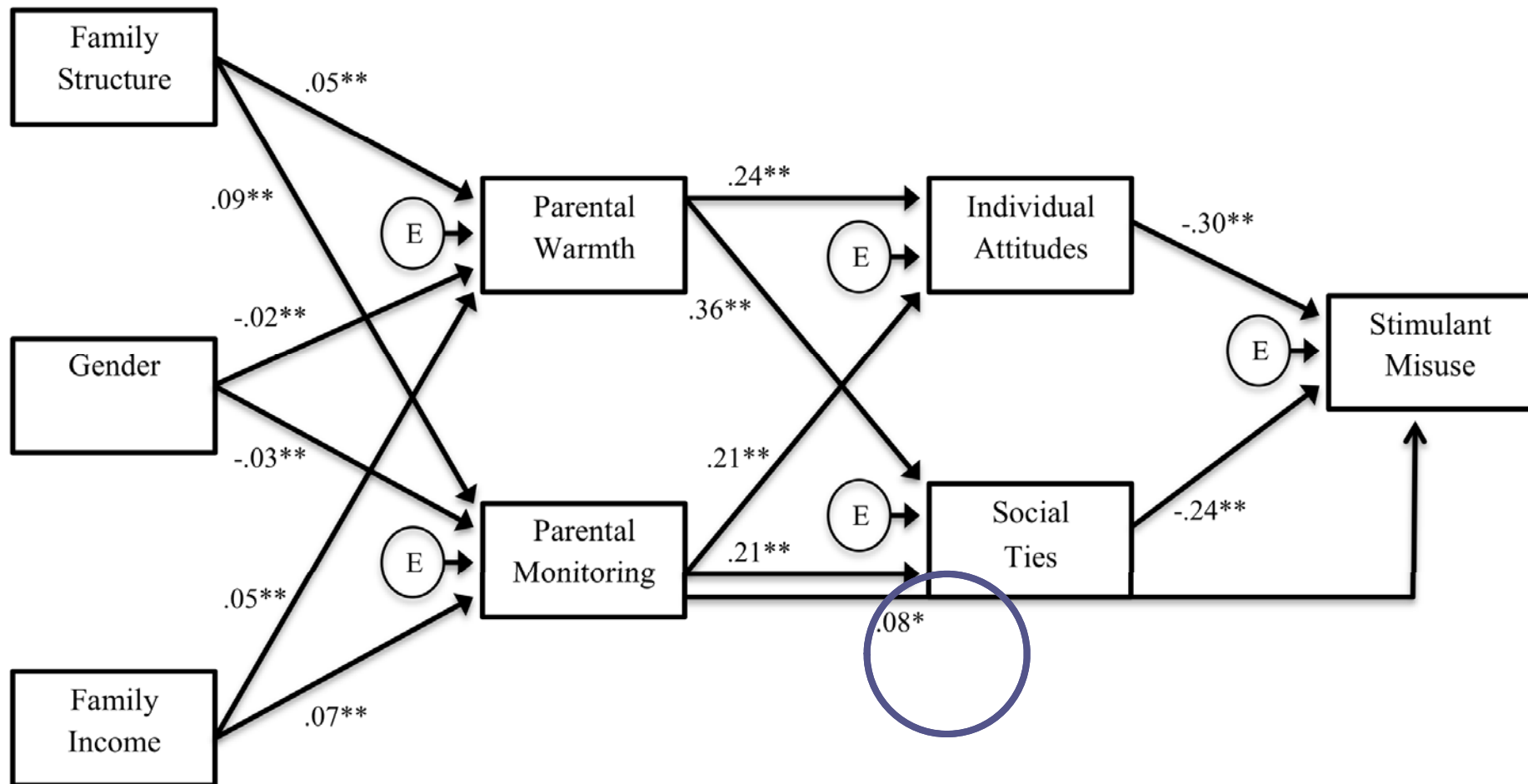
(McCabe et al., 2014, *Add Behs*)



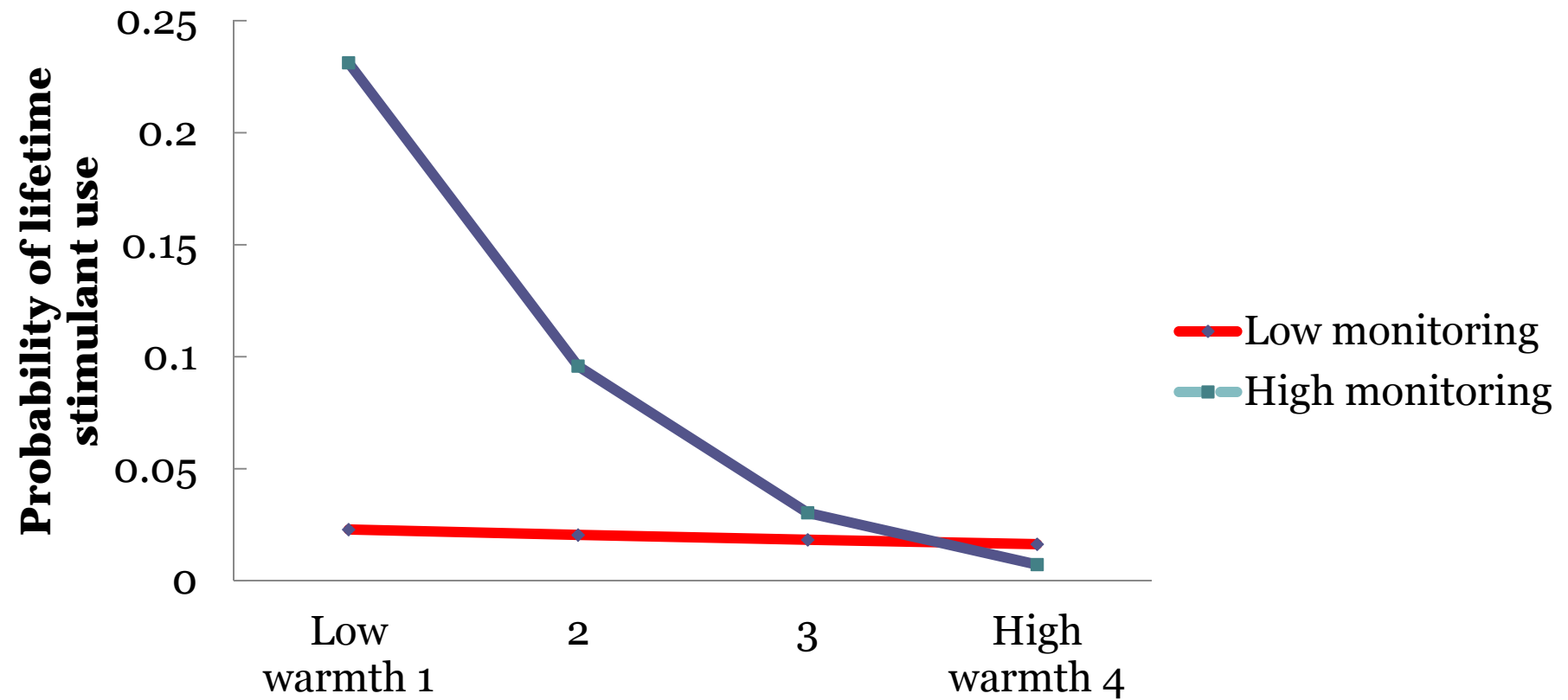
Results: Opioid Misuse – mimics results of earlier marijuana analysis



Results: Stimulant Misuse



Auxiliary analyses



Implications

- In general, high levels of parental monitoring resulted in
 - Diminished levels of opioid use in children
 - Paradoxical levels of stimulant misuse (depending on family warmth)
- High levels of monitoring coupled with low levels of family warmth were associated with higher levels of prescription drug misuse
- Parents = a mixed blessing
- Our research indicates that parents cannot be expected to prevent their children's drug misuse simply because of their status as parents
- Society has been irresponsible by failing to involve parents as knowledgeable agents of prevention of children's substance misuse

Thank you for your kind attention