

Concordance in Child-Parent Reporting of Social Victimization Experiences in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study

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The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Received for publication June 15, 2022; accepted September 23, 2022.

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: To investigate child-parent concordance in reporting social victimization experiences and whether concordance was associated with child behavioral symptoms.

METHODS: This was an observational study with data from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development study. The analytic sample was 11,235 9- or 10-year-old children from the United States. Exposure variables were demographic and protective factors (child perceptions of parental relationships, school protective factors, neighborhood safety). The outcome was parent-child concordance on 6 domains of child social victimization: conventional crime, peer victimization, witnessing violence, internet victimization, school victimization, and gun violence. Child behavior symptoms were measured using the Child Behavior Checklist.

RESULTS: Exposure to social victimization was low (9% of the sample). Concordance ranged from 18% to 50%. The highest levels of concordance were observed for conventional

crime ($k = 0.48$, $P < .001$) and witnessing violence ($k = 0.48$, $P < .001$). Parents' perceptions of greater neighborhood safety was associated with lower odds of concordant conventional crime (odds ratio [OR] = 0.92, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.86–0.99) and witnessing violence (OR = 0.92, 95% CI 0.84–0.99). Concordance was associated with more internalizing/externalizing behaviors.

CONCLUSIONS: Parents under-report social victimization in relation to children. Concordance in reporting social victimization may be an indicator of the severity of experiences, underscoring the need to consider child reports when screening for adversity.

KEYWORDS: adversity; behavioral problems; community violence; maltreatment; screening

ACADEMIC PEDIATRICS 2022;XXX:1–8

WHAT'S NEW

This population-based study identified sociodemographic variables and community protective factors associated with concordance in reporting child-exposed social victimization. Concordance may be a marker of event severity that warrants behavioral health follow-up, which has implications for child mental health clinical practice.

TRAUMATIC EVENTS IN childhood can have lifelong consequences for health and development.^{1,2} However, there are challenges to measuring these events in clinical care where trauma is often reported by parents or caregivers, especially for younger children.^{3,4} Parents tend to under-report their children's trauma experiences and related symptoms, with lower concordance for interpersonal trauma.⁵ Discordance in perceptions of maltreatment between parents and their children is associated with

higher levels of child trauma symptoms and behavioral problems, as discordance may be a marker of family communication problems, lack of parental support, or parental misunderstanding of trauma and its harm.^{5–7} Less is understood about patterns of concordance in trauma reporting for community and social victimization experiences. Several studies have documented poor concordance between parents and children in reports of bullying, with child self-reports of bullying being consistently higher than their parents.^{8,9} Other studies have found discrepancies in parent versus child reports of witnessing violence in homes, neighborhoods, and schools.^{10–12}

Secondary prevention of childhood adversity through screenings is critical for preventing negative health consequences as by-products of altered neurodevelopment and changes in physiological systems.^{13,14} Efforts are underway to implement screening for maltreatment and other adverse childhood experiences, including social victimization experiences, in pediatric clinical care throughout

the United States.¹⁴ Many commonly used adversity screening instruments rely on parent-report only or youth-report only and do not assess concordance in scoring algorithms, despite known discordance between parent and child reports of maltreatment adversity and limited empirical evidence on concordance in reporting social victimization experiences.¹⁴ Further understanding the nature of concordance/discordance in reporting adversity from the perspectives of youth and parents, as well the relationship of concordance and discordance to child health outcomes, has critical implications for best practices in implementation of these screening tools.

Our study aimed to address this knowledge gap on concordance in social victimization reporting by investigating agreement in child versus parent reports in the population-based Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study. We had 3 specific aims: 1) measure inter-rater agreement (concordance) between parents and children on 6 domains of social victimization, 2) assess what sociodemographic variables and family/community protective factors were associated with concordance in reporting social victimization; and 3) estimate the association between concordance and child internalizing/externalizing behavioral symptoms, which may be one sign of toxic stress and a signal of need for trauma-specific intervention.¹⁵ We included investigation of family and community protective factors because they may have a protective influence on the relationship between social victimization experiences and behavioral symptoms, as well as concordance in reporting victimization.

METHODS

DESIGN

This observational study was a secondary analysis of data from the ABCD study. The ABCD study is a large, population-based investigation of brain development of children in the United States, with approximately 12,000 children recruited at ages 9 or 10 years who will be followed prospectively into adulthood.¹⁶ We used ABCD data from baseline and year one follow-up. Because some measures required for the analysis were only collected at one—but not both—time points, we treated the 1-year period from baseline to the first follow-up as a cross-section and used measures from both time points. As an analysis of de-identified data, the study was determined to be exempt from Institutional Review Board oversight at the University of California, Los Angeles.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Details about data collection in the ABCD study are reported elsewhere.¹⁷ Briefly, a probability sample of children was recruited from 21 school-based catchment areas. The sample was recruited on the basis of age, sex, race and ethnicity, socio-economic status, and urbanicity to reflect population demographics from the American Community Survey. Recruitment took place through schools with mailed letters, face-to-face recruitment, and parent

referrals. Each catchment area had a research site where neuroimaging, biologic, and survey data from parents and children were collected. Participants were compensated and provided childcare, transportation, and food to promote long-term retention in the ABCD study.¹⁸

SAMPLE

There were 11,878 children in the ABCD baseline sample. All children in the cohort were eligible for inclusion except those who were missing social victimization measures. After excluding children who did not meet this eligibility criterion (6% of the overall sample), the final analytic N was 11,235 children. Participants in our analytic sample were not different from the larger ABCD sample with respect to sex or age. There was slight statistical under-representation of children who identified as Asian, Black, and Hispanic in the analytic sample ($P < .001$), but overall proportions of children in these race and ethnicity groups were comparable to the US population.

MEASURES

OUTCOMES

Social Victimization. Lifetime incidence of child social victimization experiences were measured with the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire, a validated measure developed for the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence.¹⁹ Children and parents each reported individually on this 32-item measure in the baseline ABCD survey.²⁰ Items were reported as Yes/No for the following domains: conventional crime (9 items), peer victimization (8 items), witnessing violence (8 items), internet victimization (2 items), school victimization (2 items), and gun violence (2 items). To reduce multiple testing, we collapsed items within each domain into a total of six Yes/No victimization domains. Internal consistency reliability was acceptable for both child report (Cronbach alpha = .75, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.73–0.76) and parent report (Cronbach alpha = .72, 95% CI 0.71–0.74). Discordance was defined as child reports of social victimization when parents did not report the exposure, because prior studies suggest that parents under-report trauma in relation to their children; concordance was defined as agreement between parents and children on exposures. We examined concordance/discordance for each social victimization domain and the total number of discordant/concordant social victimization experiences (0–6).

Child Internalizing/Externalizing Behavior. The Child Behavior Checklist is a 113-item measure of emotional and behavioral problems among children, scored on a 3-point Likert scale of problem frequency.^{21,22} The Child Behavior Checklist is completed by parents/caregivers and has 2 broadband scales for internalizing and externalizing behavior problems. Internalizing behaviors reflect withdrawn mood disturbances, including depression and anxiety, while externalizing behaviors entail aggression, attentional, oppositional symptoms. Broadband scores are age-normed into t scores with a mean of 50 and standard

deviation of 10. Scores of 65 to 69 are considered borderline for a clinical-range behavioral problem, while scores of 70 or higher are indicative of a clinical-range problem.²¹ We examined t scores as continuous variables and overall internalizing/externalizing t scores of 65 or greater.

EXPOSURES

Family and Community Protective Factors. We examined measures of child perceptions of parental monitoring and school protective factors, and parent perceptions of neighborhood safety. Child perceptions of parental monitoring were measured with the 5-item ABCD Parental Monitoring Survey. This survey was administered to children and scored on a 5-point Likert scale assessing frequency of parent monitoring of child location, contact, and disclosure.²⁴ Child perceptions of school protective factors were measured with the PhenX School Risk and Protective Factors Survey.^{23,24} The School Risk and Protective Factors Survey is a 12-item survey administered to children that measures agreement with statements about general connectedness of a child to their school environment and academic interests. Parental perceptions of neighborhood safety were measured by the ABCD Parent Neighborhood Safety/Crime Survey modified from the PhenX toolkit.²³ The 3-item measure assesses agreement on a 5-point Likert scale to statements regarding feelings about safety and presence of crime in the neighborhood, with higher scores indicating more perceived safety. Scores from each measure were summed to measure child and parental perceptions of home, school, and community safety.

Children's Reports of Parental Behavior Inventory (CRPBI). The CRPBI measures child perceptions of the quality of relationship with their primary and secondary caregivers, by assessing a caregiver's warmth and acceptance toward their child from their behavior.²⁵ The CRPBI is a 5-item measure of parental relationship quality, which is completed by children and scored on a 3-point scale to describe accuracy of the parent's behavior. Responses were dichotomized into 2 scores: "Not at all like him/her" (1) and "Somewhat like him/her" or "A lot like him/her" (0). Scores for all 5 items were summed.

Demographics. Child and family demographic variables included child sex (male, female, other), child race and ethnicity (White, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Multiracial, Native American/Alaskan, and other), and total estimated family income (<\$25,000, \$25,000–\$49,999, \$50,000–\$74,999, \$75,000–\$99,999, \$100,000–\$199,999, or >\$200,000).

ANALYSIS

All statistical analyses were conducted using R, version 4.0.4.²⁶ We used frequencies and descriptive statistics to characterize all study variables. For aim 1, Pearson chi-square tests were used to test for differences in parent-versus child-report of the 6 domains of social victimization. We also calculated inter-rater agreement between

parents and children using Cohen's Kappa and Prevalence-Adjusted Bias-Adjusted Kappa (PABAK). Cohen's Kappa is used to measure inter-rater agreement, above and beyond agreement expected due to chance. PABAK is an alternative measure of inter-rater agreement adjusted for reporting relatively rare experiences.^{27,28} It has been used previously to study agreement in trauma reporting and other behavioral health constructs.^{29,30} Because Cohen's Kappa may under-estimate agreement for rare events, PABAK was included as an indicator of agreement. Kappa values were evaluated as follows: ≤ 0 = no agreement; 0.01 to 0.20 = none to slight agreement; 0.21 to 0.40 = fair agreement; 0.41 to 0.60 = moderate agreement; 0.61 to 0.80 = substantial agreement; and 0.81 to 1.00 = close to perfect agreement.³¹

For aim 2, multiple logistic regression models were used to estimate the odds of concordant social victimization experiences (ie, concordance in reporting between parents and children for a given social victimization domain) from demographic predictor variables including the child's race and ethnicity, sex, total household income, and family/community protective factors (child perception of parental monitoring, child perception of school protective factors, parent perception of neighborhood safety). For these models, we restricted the sample to children who had concordant social victimization (agreement between parent and child) compared to those with discordant social victimization (reported by the child but not the parent) with four of the six domains of social victimization (conventional crime, peer victimization, witnessing violence, school victimization). Two domains had too few exposed children in the subsample (internet victimization $n = 55$, gun violence $n = 39$) and thus were not included in models.

Then, multiple linear and logistic regression models were used to estimate the association between concordant social victimization experiences and child internalizing and externalizing behavioral symptoms (t scores and clinical-range scores). These models were adjusted for the child's age, sex, race and ethnicity, and household income given known disparities in adverse childhood experience (ACE) exposure by demographics.³² We adjusted for the overall count of the child's social victimization experiences to increase confidence that odds ratios were estimating the influence of concordance in ACE reporting, not simply cumulative ACE exposures. We also adjusted models for family/community protective factors and the child's perception of the quality of the relationship with their caregiver (CRPBI scores), which are stress-buffering factors that might bias odds ratios towards under-estimation of effect size.

RESULTS

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

The sex distribution of the total sample of children ($N = 11,235$) was 48% male ($N = 5347$), 52% female ($N = 5869$), and 0.2% other ($N = 17$) (Table 1). The race and ethnicity distribution was reflective of the U.S.

Table 1. Sample Description

	N (%)
Total	11,235 (100%)
Child sex	
Male	5347 (47.6%)
Female	5869 (52.2%)
Other	17 (0.2%)
Child race and ethnicity	
White	5999 (53.4%)
Asian	217 (1.9%)
Black/African American	1670 (14.9%)
Hispanic/Latinx	1825 (16.2%)
Multiracial	1378 (12.3%)
Native American/Alaskan	27 (0.3%)
Other	108 (10.0%)
Parent income	
<\$25,000	1454 (12.9%)
\$25,000–\$49,999	1478 (13.2%)
\$50,000–\$74,999	1426 (12.7%)
\$75,000–\$99,999	1528 (13.6%)
\$100,000–\$199,999	3129 (27.9%)
>\$200,000	1219 (10.9%)

N = 11,235 children ages 9 and 10 in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study.

adolescent sample, with 53% identifying as White, 2% Asian, 15% Black/African American, 16% Hispanic/Latinx, 12% Multiracial, 1.0% Other, and less than 1 % Native American/Alaskan. Child exposure to social victimization experiences was relatively low. Only 9% (N = 954) of the sample had one or more social victimization experiences as

reported by either children or parents. The most frequently endorsed item was witnessing violence (2.2%, n = 247).

PARENT-CHILD CONCORDANCE ON CHILD SOCIAL VICTIMIZATION

There were differences between parent-reported and child-reported social victimization across all six domains (Table 2) when using Cohen’s Kappa, but strong agreement when using PABAK. With Cohen’s Kappa, moderate agreement was observed for conventional crime (k = 0.48, P < .001), peer victimization (k = 0.41, P < .001), and witnessing violence (k = 0.48, P < .001). Fair agreement was observed for school violence (k = 0.25, P < .001), and low agreement was found for both internet (k = 0.18, P < .001) and gun violence (k = 0.18, P < .001).

PREDICTORS OF CONCORDANT SOCIAL VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCES

Several community factors and demographic variables were related to concordance in parent-report and child-report of social victimization experiences among the subsample of children who had self-reported victimization (Table 3). Parents’ perceptions of neighborhood safety was negatively associated with concordance, such that perceiving one’s neighborhood to be more safe was associated with lower odds of concordant conventional crime (odds ratio [OR] = 0.91, 95% CI 0.85–0.98) and witnessing violence (OR = 0.91, 95% CI 0.84–0.98). Identifying

Table 2. Parent Versus Child Report of Social Victimization Experiences

		Child Report		Cohen’s K	PABAK
		n (%)	n (%)		
Conventional crime Parent report	No	10573 (97.9%)	223 (50.0%)	0.48*	0.92*
	Yes	216 (2.0%)	223 (50.0%)		
	Total (%)	10789 (100%)	446 (100%)		
Peer victimization Parent report	No	10566 (97.3%)	186 (50.3%)	0.41*	0.91*
	Yes	299 (2.8%)	184 (49.7%)		
	Total (%)	10865 (100%)	370 (100%)		
Witnessing violence Parent report	No	10693 (98.3%)	173 (49.0%)	0.48*	0.94*
	Yes	189 (1.7%)	180 (51.0%)		
	Total (%)	10882 (100%)	353 (100%)		
Internet victimization Parent report	No	11136 (99.6%)	45 (81.8%)	0.18*	0.98*
	Yes	44 (0.4%)	10 (18.2%)		
	Total (%)	11180 (100%)	55 (100%)		
School victimization Parent report	No	10983 (99.3%)	134 (77.9%)	0.25*	0.96*
	Yes	80 (0.7%)	38 (22.1%)		
	Total (%)	11063 (100%)	172 (100%)		
Gun violence Parent report	No	11175 (99.8%)	33 (84.6%)	0.18*	0.99*
	Yes	21 (0.19%)	6 (15.4%)		
	Total (%)	11196 (100%)	39 (100%)		

PABAK indicates Prevalence-Adjusted Bias-Adjusted Kappa. Inter-rater agreement between parent- and child-reported social victimization experiences with Cohen’s kappa coefficient in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study (N = 11,235). *P < .001.

Table 3. Predictors of Parent-Child Agreement on Social Victimization

	Physical Victimization (n = 446) OR (95% CI)	Peer Victimization (n = 370) OR (95% CI)	Witnessing Violence (n = 353) OR (95% CI)	School Victimization (n = 172) OR (95% CI)
Child perception of parental monitoring	0.99 (0.91, 1.06)	0.96 (0.88, 1.04)	0.96 (0.88, 1.05)	0.96 (0.83, 1.13)
Parent perception of neighborhood safety	0.91 (0.85, 0.98)	0.95 (0.88, 1.03)	0.91 (0.84, 0.98)	0.97 (0.83, 1.13)
Child perception of school protective factors	0.99 (0.96, 1.03)	1.01 (0.96, 1.05)	1 (0.96, 1.05)	0.99 (0.92, 1.07)
Race and ethnicity				
Asian	NA	0.39 (0.05, 2.27)	NA	NA
Black/African American	0.45 (0.25, 0.79)	1.08 (0.59, 2)	0.75 (0.39, 1.45)	0.49 (0.15, 1.46)
Hispanic/Latinx	0.29 (0.09, 0.85)	0.96 (0.3, 3.09)	0.33 (0.06, 1.4)	NA
Multiple	0.79 (0.4, 1.57)	1.24 (0.62, 2.52)	1.25 (0.57, 2.76)	0.68 (0.17, 2.41)
Other	0.91 (0.13, 7.6)	0.32 (0.02, 2.4)	0.66 (0.11, 4.11)	NA
Female sex	0.73 (0.48, 1.12)	1.3 (0.82, 2.07)	1.2 (0.73, 1.97)	0.9 (0.39, 2.07)
Household income				
<\$25,000	0.99 (0.49, 2.01)	0.71 (0.32, 1.56)	1.64 (0.75, 3.61)	0.47 (0.13, 1.63)
\$25,000–\$49,999	2.04 (0.95, 4.43)	1.02 (0.44, 2.35)	1.66 (0.72, 3.88)	0.94 (0.22, 3.83)
\$75,000–\$99,999	0.86 (0.36, 2.01)	1.11 (0.43, 2.83)	1.13 (0.4, 3.19)	0.82 (0.16, 3.91)
\$100,000–\$199,999	1.04 (0.5, 2.17)	1.83 (0.85, 3.95)	1.02 (0.4, 2.6)	0.81 (0.21, 3.2)
>\$200,000	0.47 (0.16, 1.32)	1.92 (0.7, 5.46)	2.65 (0.76, 9.81)	0.43 (0.05, 2.66)

OR indicates odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Multiple logistic regression models estimating odds of parent-child agreement on four domains of social victimization experiences in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study (N = 11,235). There were 6 social victimization domains in total; however, 2 domains had a too-small number children in the subsample for modeling (internet violence n = 55, gun violence n = 39). Children who identified their gender category as “Other” are not shown in the above table due to small cell counts (n = 17).

as Black/African American (OR = 0.45, 95% CI 0.25–0.79) and Hispanic/Latinx (OR = 0.29, 95% CI 0.09–0.85) were negatively associated with concordance in conventional crime.

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN CONCORDANCE SOCIAL VICTIMIZATION AND CHILD BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

Multiple linear and logistic regression models were used to evaluate the association of social victimization concordance with child behavioral symptoms, adjusting for child age, sex, race and ethnicity, household income, and overall exposure to social victimization experience (Table 4 and 5). Having a greater number of discordant social victimization experiences was associated with fewer internalizing and externalizing symptoms, as well as lower odds of clinical-range scores on both broadband scales. Also, a greater number of concordant social victimization experiences were associated with higher t

scores and odds of clinical-range scores for both broadband scales. When examining individual social victimization domains, concordance in parent-child reports of conventional crime was significantly associated with more internalizing behavioral symptoms ($\beta = 3.42$, SE = 1.50), while discordance was associated with fewer symptoms ($\beta = -2.95$, SE = 1.21) and lower odds of a clinical-range internalizing t score. Concordance in conventional crime reports ($\beta = 2.85$, SE = 1.41) and internet victimization reports ($\beta = 8.13$, SE = 3.81) were both associated with more externalizing behavioral symptoms.

DISCUSSION

Our study examined concordance in child-/parent-reporting of social victimization experiences and found discrepancies in agreement when parents, children, or both endorsed social victimization. This study supports

Table 4. Association of Parent-Child Social Victimization Concordance/Discordance to Child Behavioral Symptoms

	Internalizing T Score B (SE)	Clinical-Range Internalizing B (SE)	Externalizing T Score B (SE)	Clinical-Range Externalizing B (SE)
Discordant social victimization experiences (0–6)	-1.12 (0.3) [†]	-0.29 (0.12)*	-0.37 (0.15)*	-0.35 (0.15)*
Concordant social victimization experiences (0–6)	2.12 (0.33) [†]	0.24 (0.09)*	1.17 (0.17) [†]	0.36 (0.1) [†]

SE indicates standard error.

Multiple linear regression models estimating t scores on internalizing/externalizing behavior broadband scales from the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL); and multiple logistic regression models estimating clinical-range internalizing/externalizing t scores (scores ≥ 65) in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study (N = 11,235). Exposure variables are the number of social victimization experiences (0–6) that were discordant and the number that were concordant. Discordance refers to child-reported victimization when parents did not also report victimization; concordant refers to both parent- and child-reported victimization. Models are adjusted for child sex, race and ethnicity, household income, neighborhood safety school, and school protective factors score.

*Value is significant at the 0.05 level.

†Value is significant at the 0.01 level.

Table 5. Association of Parent-Child Social Victimization Concordance/Discordance to Child Behavioral Symptoms

	Internalizing T Score B (SE)	Clinical-Range Internalizing B (SE)	Externalizing T Score B (SE)	Clinical-Range Externalizing B (SE)
Conventional crime discordant	-2.95 (1.21)*	-1.77 (0.8)*	-1.78 (1.14)	-0.48 (0.65)
Conventional crime concordant	3.42 (1.5)*	0.6 (0.52)	2.85 (1.41)*	0.32 (0.67)
Peer victimization discordant	-1.34 (1.16)	-0.37 (0.49)	-1.21 (1.1)	-1.36 (0.7)
Peer victimization concordant	0.38 (1.31)	-0.41 (0.53)	0.24 (1.24)	-0.31 (0.6)
Witnessing violence discordant	-0.52 (1.29)	-0.52 (0.59)	-1.03 (1.22)	-0.87 (0.77)
Witnessing violence concordant	0.1 (1.52)	-0.16 (0.54)	0.82 (1.44)	0.67 (0.58)
Internet victimization discordant	-1.1 (2.38)	-0.49 (0.79)	4.3 (2.25)	0.68 (0.74)
Internet victimization concordant	0.87 (4.03)	-11.09 (171.83)	8.13 (3.81)*	-12.05 (267.73)
School victimization discordant	-0.82 (1.44)	0.24 (0.55)	-2.25 (1.36)	0.22 (0.61)
School victimization concordant	1.13 (3.27)	1.48 (0.85)	5.33 (3.09)	1.58 (1)
Gun violence discordant	0.39 (2.55)	1.07 (0.95)	0.76 (2.41)	0.69 (0.95)
Gun violence concordant	0.11 (5.31)	0.96 (1.23)	1.57 (5.02)	-12.79 (429.69)

SE indicates standard error.

Multiple linear regression models estimating t scores on internalizing/externalizing behavior broadband scales from the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL); and multiple logistic regression models estimating clinical-range internalizing/externalizing t scores (scores ≥ 65) in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study (N = 11235). All exposure variables of social victimization concordance/discordance are in reference to no victimization. Discordance refers to child-reported victimization when parents did not also report victimization; concordant refers to both parent- and child-reported victimization. Models are adjusted for child sex, race and ethnicity, household income, neighborhood safety school, and school protective factors score.

*Value is significant at the 0.05 level.

existing literature demonstrating that discrepancies between child and parent reports of stressful or traumatic experiences are common, with children reporting more experiences than their parents.^{5,7} Though there are several studies indicating disagreement in reporting between parents and children for child maltreatment,^{5,7,29} less is known about reporting agreement for social or community victimization. When there was discordance in reporting social victimization experiences among dyads in our sample, parents tended to under-estimate the social victimization experiences of their children. This finding suggests a need to reconsider current methods of evaluating social victimization adversity from only the perspective of parents and instead adding or prioritizing assessments of the child's account of events.

We found that several demographic and community factors were independently associated with of lower odds of concordant parent-child reported social victimization experiences, including identifying as Black/African American or Hispanic and perceiving one's neighborhood to be safe. Lowered concordance for Black and Hispanic was only observed for conventional crime. Studies of ethnicity, culture, and child violence or abuse disclosure have mixed findings, but some research suggests that non-White children may delay disclosure because of cultural norms emphasizing family and filial loyalty or a perception that caregivers may not be supportive following disclosure.³³ Parental perceptions of living in a safer community were also predictive of discordant parent-child reported victimization experiences. It is possible that parent assumptions about neighborhood safety prevent them from talking with their children about social victimization risks and experiences.

Because concordance in parent-child reported social victimization was associated with internalizing and

externalizing behavioral symptoms in our analysis, concordance in social victimization reporting may be a marker of the severity of the experience. This finding differs from prior research on concordance in maltreatment reports. Discordance between children and their parents in reporting maltreatment experiences have been previously associated with behavioral and trauma symptoms.²⁹ However, in our study of nonmaltreatment social victimization, concordance was associated with behavioral symptoms. Concordant endorsement of social victimization for children in this age group may indicate severe enough social victimization that parents were more likely to be aware of the experience and that the event had a negative behavioral impact on children.

Overall, our findings suggest that child reports should be prioritized when assessing on social victimization exposures and that parent reports may have limited added value, except to identify concordant or discordant ACEs that might be markers of severity—or markers of a lack parental awareness of child experiences. Future research should investigate the validity of parent-child concordance in endorsement of social victimization experiences as an indicator of the severity of the experience. While it is evident that using multiple reporters for childhood adversity, including children themselves, is beneficial in clinical care, more research is needed to determine how to incorporate reporting concordance in scoring algorithms, as discordance may be an indicator of need for some types of adversity (eg, maltreatment) while concordance may be an indicator of severity for others (eg, social victimization).

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

The ABCD study sampled a diverse, representative population sample of children and their parents in the

United States. Social victimization experiences were independently reported by both parents and their child, and there were a variety of measures available to examine the community context of the family. There were also some study limitations inherent to the design of the ABCD Study. The study relies on self-reported data, and social victimization reports cannot be independently verified and may be subject to recall bias. This study also does not measure the impact of experiencing such social victimization events, nor does it ask about child disclosure of their experiences to their parents. These may be important factors to consider in investigating concordance in child and parent reporting. Children of color were slightly underrepresented in the analytic sample compared to the ABCD sample as a whole, although overall race and ethnicity proportions in this analysis were comparable to US population demographics.

When reporting social victimization experiences that happen outside of households in a child's community, parents and children generally disagree. Concordance in reporting social victimization is lower for Black/African American and Hispanic families and families that live in unsafe neighborhoods, and concordantly-reported social victimization experiences are associated with child behavioral problems. In clinical care, child-report instruments should be used whenever possible when assessing childhood adversity. There is also potential value in determining how concordance/discordance in reporting can be incorporated in adversity scoring and risk assessment algorithms in future research.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Financial statement: This research was supported by the UCLA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Dr. Dunn receives funding from the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health (E.C.D., award number R01MH113930). Data used in the preparation of this article were obtained from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive DevelopmentSM (ABCD) Study (<https://abcdstudy.org>), held in the NIMH Data Archive (NDA). This is a multisite, longitudinal study designed to recruit more than 10,000 children age 9-10 and follow them over 10 years into early adulthood. The ABCD Study[®] is supported by the National Institutes of Health and additional federal partners under award numbers U01DA041048, U01DA050989, U01DA051016, U01DA041022, U01DA051018, U01DA051037, U01DA050987, U01DA041174, U01DA041106, U01DA041117, U01DA041028, U01DA041134, U01DA050988, U01DA051039, U01DA041156, U01DA041025, U01DA041120, U01DA051038, U01DA041148, U01DA041093, U01DA041089, U24DA041123, U24DA041147. A full list of supporters is available at <https://abcdstudy.org/federal-partners.html>. A listing of participating sites and a complete listing of the study investigators can be found at https://abcdstudy.org/consortium_members/. ABCD consortium investigators designed and implemented the study and/or provided data but did not necessarily participate in the analysis or writing of this report. This manuscript reflects the views of the authors and may not reflect the opinions or views of the NIH or ABCD consortium investigators. The ABCD data repository grows and changes over time. The ABCD data used in this report came from NIMH Data Archive Digital Object Identifier (DOI): [10.15154/1528099](https://doi.org/10.15154/1528099). DOIs can be found at <https://doi.org/10.15154/1528099>.

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