



SDSU San Diego State University

Social Engagement and Challenging Behaviors in Children with FASD

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Learning Objectives

1. Learn about social strengths and challenges associated with FASD
2. Learn about social engagement in children with FASD compared to children without FASD
3. Learn about how challenging behavior is related to social engagement

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Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)


Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resiliency • Prosocial behavior • Capacity for human connection • Individual talents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive and behavioral challenges • Increased risk for internalizing and externalizing behavior • Social challenges

Mattson et al., 2019; Flannigan et al., 2021; Knorr & McIntyre, 2016

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Social Challenges

- Children with FASD exhibit differences in social functioning:
 - Social skills
 - Emotional understanding
 - Social problems




Greenbaum et al., 2009; Kully-Martens, et al., 2012; Petrenko et al., 2017

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Social Engagement

Participation in social groups, relationships, or activities



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Benefits of Social Relationships

Social relationships are strongly linked to well-being and healthy development in children:

- Emotion regulation
- Companionship
- Self-esteem
- Communication
- Problem solving




Holder & Coleman, 2015

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Benefits of Activities

- Related to positive academic, physical, psychological, and behavioral functioning
- Why?
 - Membership in a prosocial peer group
 - Less time to engage in problematic behaviors
 - Opportunity to demonstrate effort, persistence, and concentration



Fredricks & Eccles, 2005

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Current Research


- Research suggests that children and adolescents with FASD experience challenges with social functioning.
- Social engagement and community involvement has been shown to support resiliency in individuals with FASD.
 - Limited research specifically on friendships and social participation

Kully-Martens et al., 2012; Knorr & McIntyre, 2016

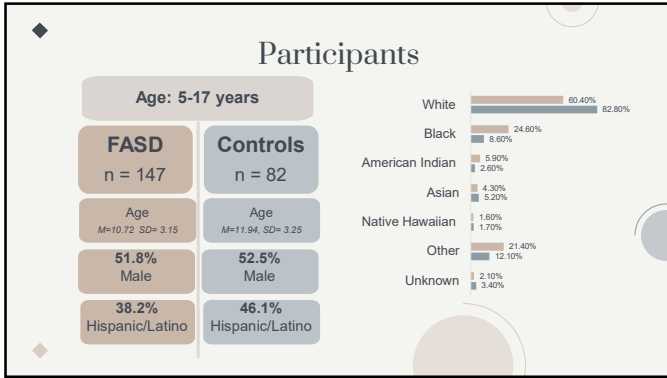
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Goals of the Current Study

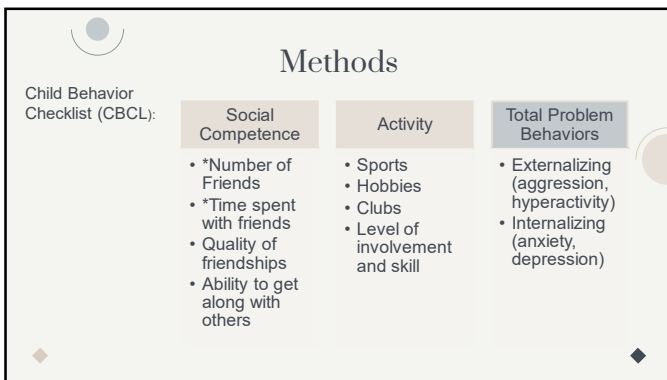
1. To explore social engagement in children with FASD compared to controls
2. To examine if challenging behaviors impact social engagement in children with FASD



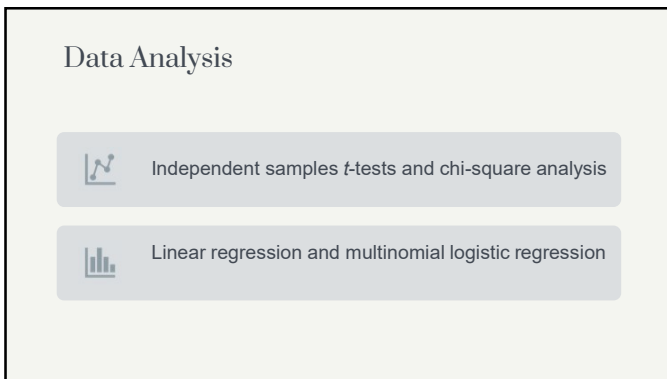
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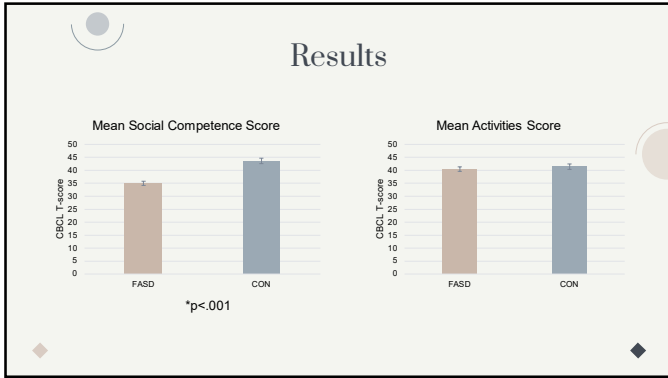
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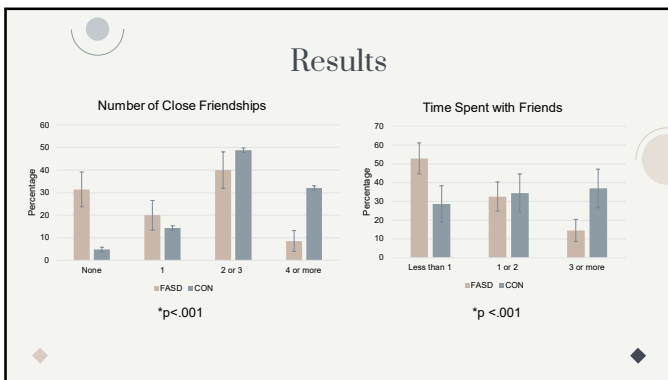
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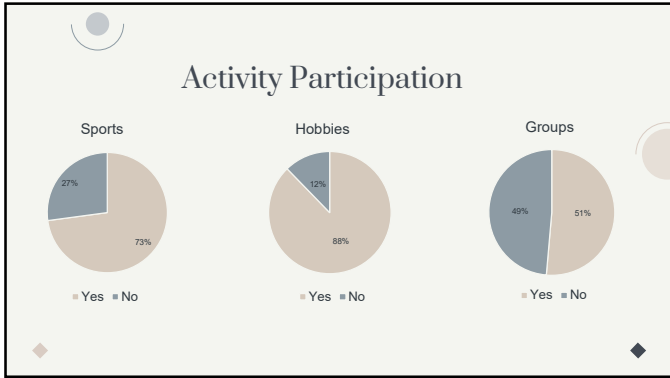


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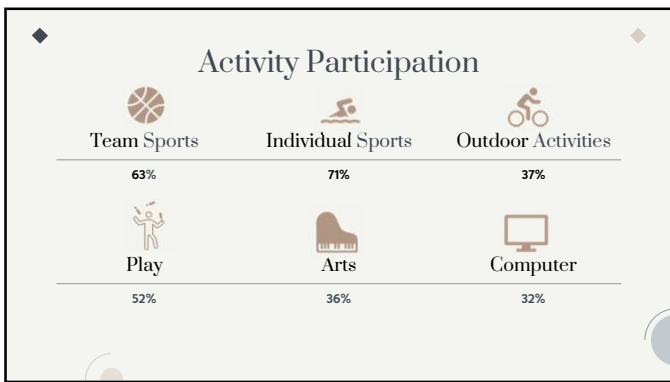
Results

- Challenging behaviors significantly predicted **social competency** but not activities.
- Challenging behaviors also significantly predicted the **number of friends** but not time spent with friends.

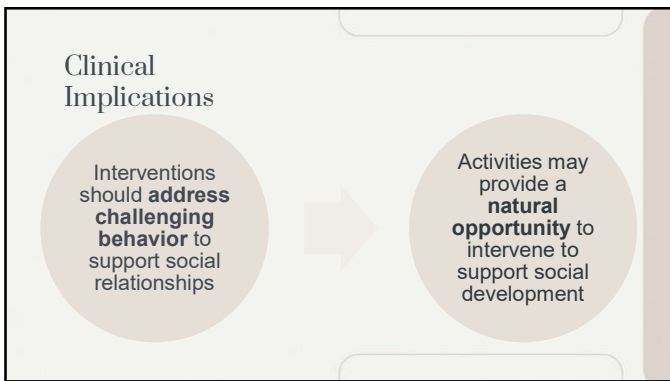
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


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Limitations




UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
SAMPLE



LACK OF
DIVERSITY




CBCL



ENVIRONMENTAL
FACTORS

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Future Research



More research is needed to understand friendships and social participation in children with FASD:

Relationship between social participation and social skill development

- Extracurricular activities
- Play-dates/time spent with friends
- Community involvement



Relationship between social engagement and quality of life

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Acknowledgements

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SDSU Center For Behavioral Teratology

Family Environment Research Study

Researchers at San Diego State University want to explore **caregiver's perspectives** to help answer important questions about **family risk and resilience factors** in children.

We are looking for individuals caring for a child between the ages of 8 and 12. **We are seeking two groups:**


- Caregivers of children who were exposed to alcohol before birth.
- Caregivers of children who were not exposed to alcohol before birth.

What is involved in the Study?

All study respondents can be rewarded privately with merchandise or coupons.

1 After reading and signing a consent form, participants will fill out several questionnaires (20-30 minutes) about their child's behavior, observable life events, and family relationships.

2 Some participants will be asked to participate in a 30-minute Zoom interview about the experience as a caregiver.

For more information, please contact the Center For Behavioral Teratology at: 619.594.1228 or cbt@sdsc.edu OR code to take our screening survey: 

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Citations

- Knorr, L., McIntyre, L.J. 2016. Resilience in the Face of Adversity: Stories from Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. *Exceptionality Education International* 26. <https://doi.org/10.5206/eei.v26i1.735>
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