



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

# Childhood Victimization Pathways and Violent Extremism

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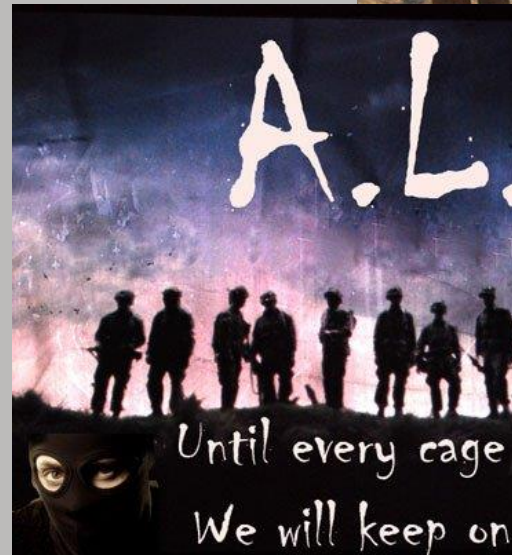
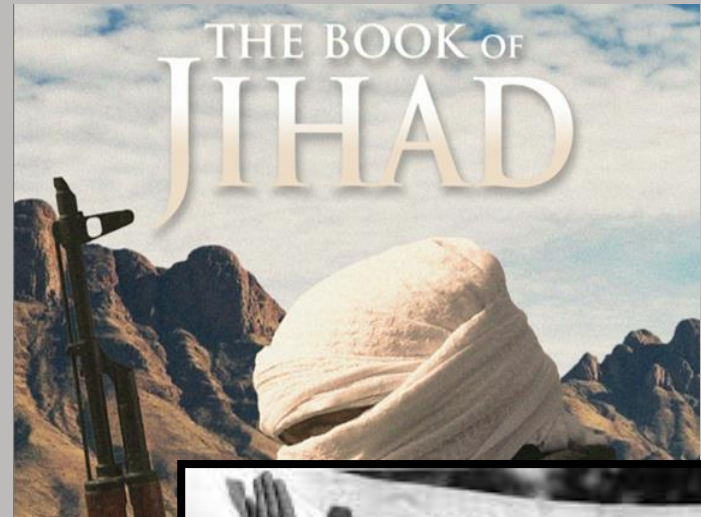
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## Today's Agenda

1. Scope of the problem
2. Theoretical framework
3. Methodology
4. Results
5. Key take-aways





## Scope of the Problem

- In 2014, approximately 702,000 children were the victims of maltreatment<sup>1</sup>.
- Childhood maltreatment is associated with a variety of both internal and external consequences<sup>2</sup>.
  - Anxiety, aggression, depression, risky sexual behaviors, substance abuse, truancy.





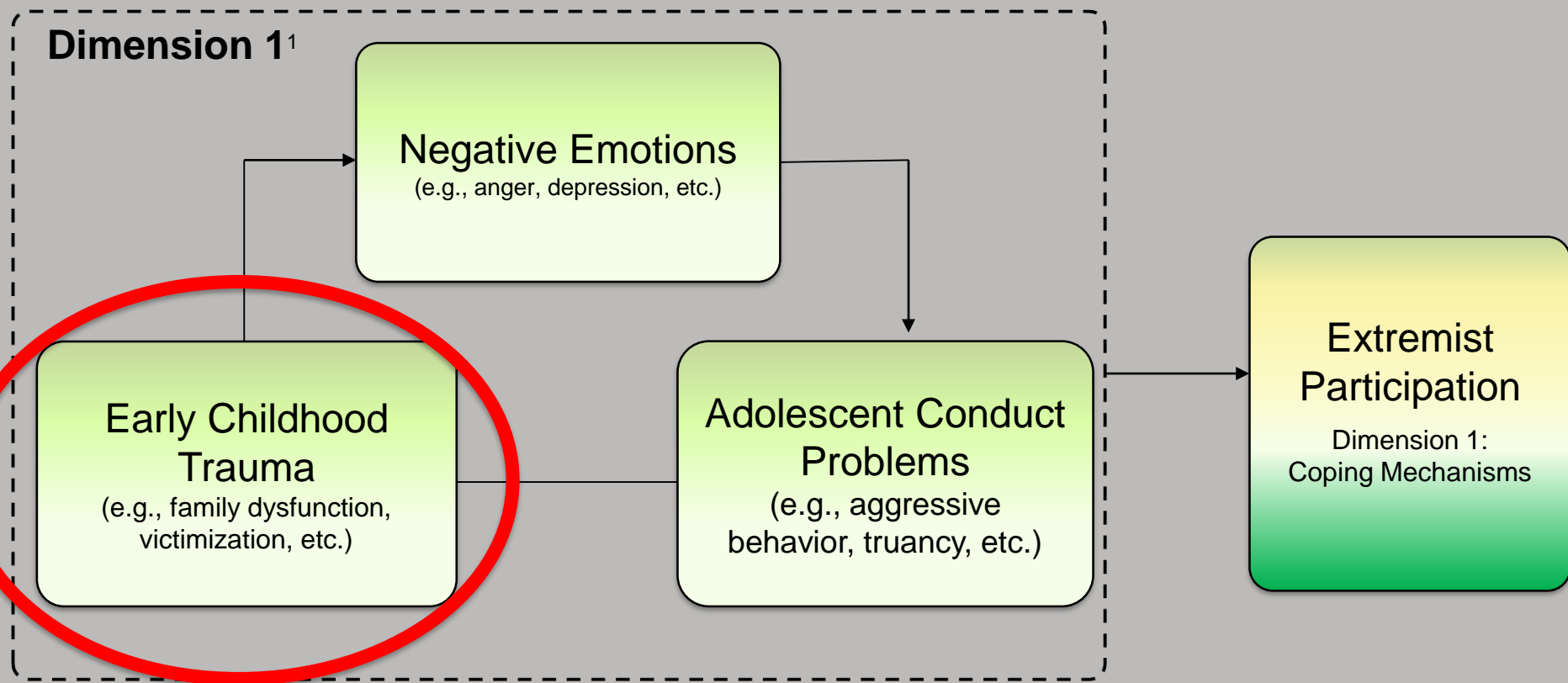
# Scope of the Problem





# Theoretical Framework

## Sequential Model of VE Participation







# Sample and Methodology

1. Former violent right-wing extremists ( $n = 44$ )
2. Life history interviews
3. Modified grounded theory approach





# Childhood Victimization Experiences

Victimization Types	<i>f</i>	%
Physical Abuse	19	43.2%
Sexual Abuse	10	22.7%
Community Violence	19	43.2%
Witnessed Family Violence	17	38.6%
Witnessed Community Violence	17	38.6%
Neglect	18	41.0%
Abandonment	16	36.0%
Parental Incarceration	12	27.0%
Parental Substance Abuse	26	59.0%
Any One Type	37	84.1%
Poly-Victims	30	68.18%
<i>Low (2-3)</i>	19	43.18%
<i>High (4-6)</i>	11	25.00%



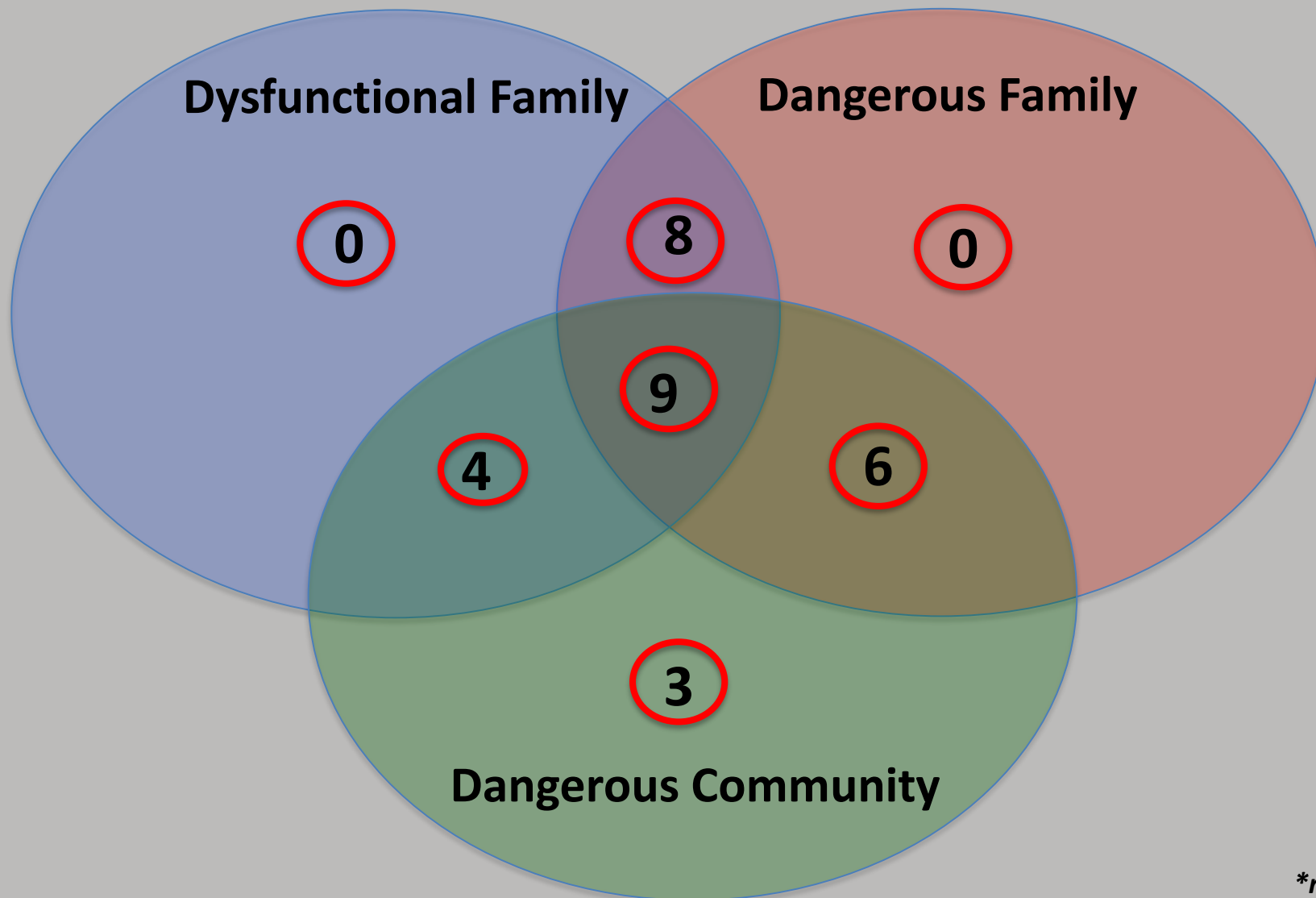
# Pathways to Poly-Victimization

<b>Dysfunctional Family</b>	<b>Dangerous Family</b>	<b>Dangerous Community</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Emotional and physical neglect</li><li>2. Abandonment</li><li>3. Parental incarceration</li><li>4. Parental substance abuse</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Physical abuse</li><li>2. Sexual abuse</li><li>3. Witnessed family violence</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community violence</li><li>2. Witnessed community violence</li></ol>





# Pathways to (Poly)-Victimization





## Dysfunctional Family

“...she [mom] was not like a compassionate or loving person at all...  
**There was like no affection**...they never taught me anything like right from wrong or told me not to do anything. There was none of that ...  
**good behavior was never encouraged, and bad behavior was never discouraged**...I had extremely low self-esteem and felt worthless from never having heard anything positive about myself from my parents...  
(Jacqueline, 4/5/14).”



## Dangerous Family

“... I mean there was a bunch of times when I got my ass whipped and, took it... **Nobody beat me as bad as my step dad beat me**...a thirty-six-  
...thirty-seven-year-old man who used to **beat the shit out of me at**  
**twelve** and that's called a fair fight...I was...fighting for survival (Freddie, 5/31/15).”



## Dangerous Community

“We lived right on the corner from the projects, I think that had a lot to do with what happened to me. A gang would always come into our neighborhood and **steal our stuff, start fights, beat people up**, stuff like that. I think even from a very early age I had a **negative feeling towards black people** from that. When I met people later on, I was ready to go. I was already prepped (Sebastian, 5/26/14).”



## Key Take-Aways

- Importance of non-ideological factors and violent extremism
- Similarities between pathways into crime and violent extremism
- Intervention opportunities in early childhood



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Thank you for your time.

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