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Intermediary Mechanisms in the Transmission of Alcohol Use Behaviors from Parents to Adolescents: Examining the Role of Parents' Socialization Practices

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BACKGROUND

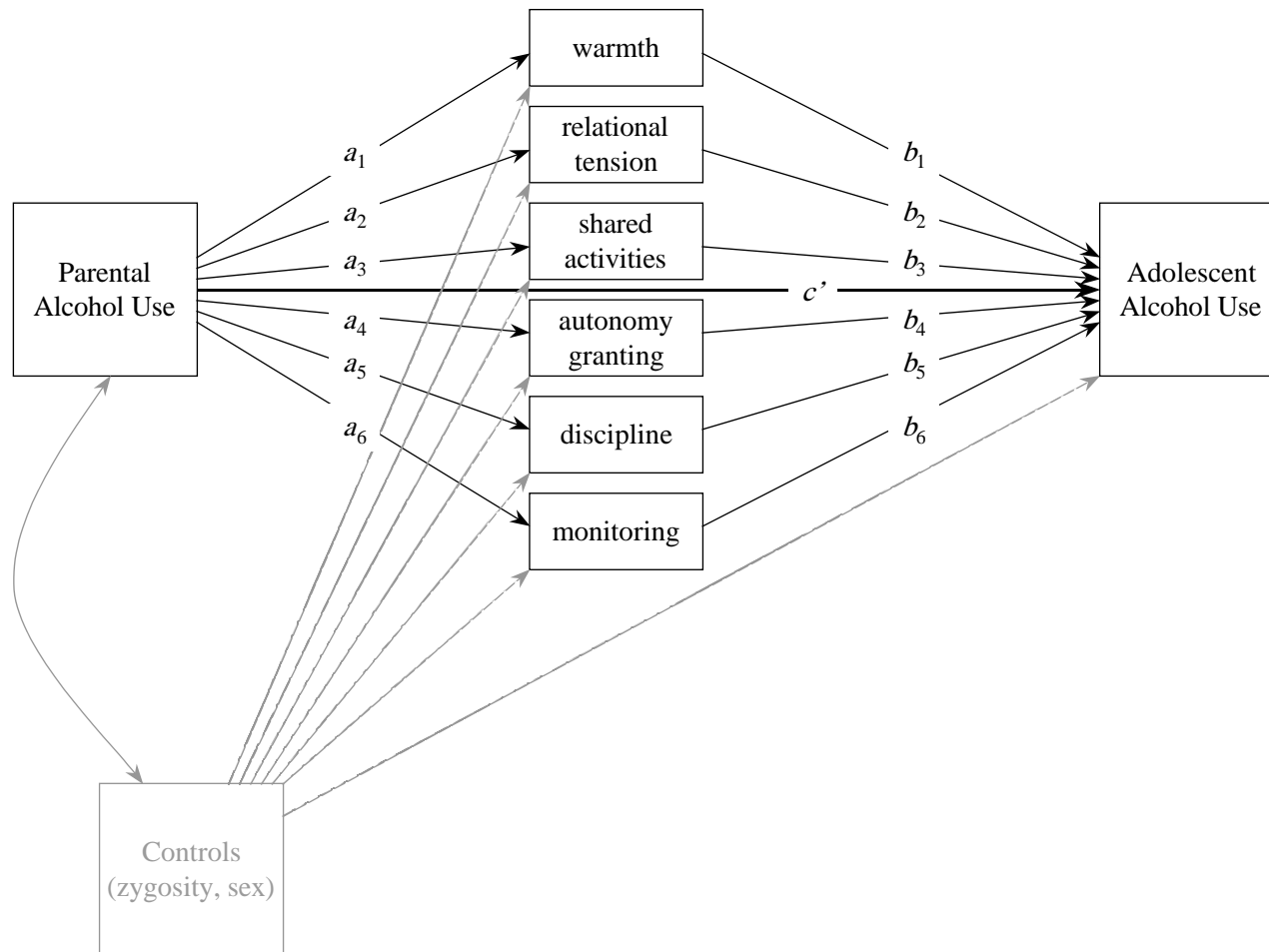
- ❑ Adolescence is a critical period with regard to the initiation and early escalation of alcohol use (Blum et al., 2000; Johnston, O'Malley, & Bachman, 1998).
- ❑ Research on familial risk and protective factors provides independent support for multiple domains of parental influence on adolescent drinking; including parents' own drinking behaviors (Johnson & Johnson, 2001; Lieb et al., 2002), as well as the practices they employ to socialize their children (Ary et al., 1999; Fletcher & Jefferies, 1999; Nash, McQueen, & Bray, 2005; Simons-Morton & Chen, 2005; Herman, Dornbusch, Herron, & Herting, 1997).
- ❑ Whether and how these distinct associations are related to one another is still not entirely clear.

OBJECTIVES

- To test the nature of associations between:
 - (a) parents' frequencies of alcohol use and intoxication
 - (b) adolescents' perceptions distinct parenting behaviors
 - (c) adolescents' frequencies of alcohol use and intoxication

- To assess whether parental alcohol use behaviors influence adolescent alcohol use directly, or if they operate through indirect associations with parenting (i.e., globally and/or through specific dimensions of parenting)

THEORETICAL MODEL



METHODS

□ Sample

- 4731 Finnish adolescents drawn from a population-based twin study of health related behaviors and correlated risk factors (i.e., FinnTwin12; Kaprio, Pulkkinen, & Rose, 2002)

□ Procedure

- Self-report questionnaires were completed by adolescents and their parents when the adolescents were 12 years old. Adolescents completed follow-up questionnaires at 14 and 17 years of age.

METHODS

□ Constructs Measured

- Maternal and Paternal baseline frequencies of alcohol use and intoxication
- Adolescent frequencies of alcohol use and intoxication at ages 14 and 17
- Adolescents' perceptions of parenting:
 - Warmth
 - Relational Tension
 - Shared Activities
 - Autonomy Granting
 - Discipline
 - Monitoring

□ Analytic Plan

- Multiple Mediation Analysis carried out in Mplus version 4.1 (Muthén & Muthén, 1998-2006)

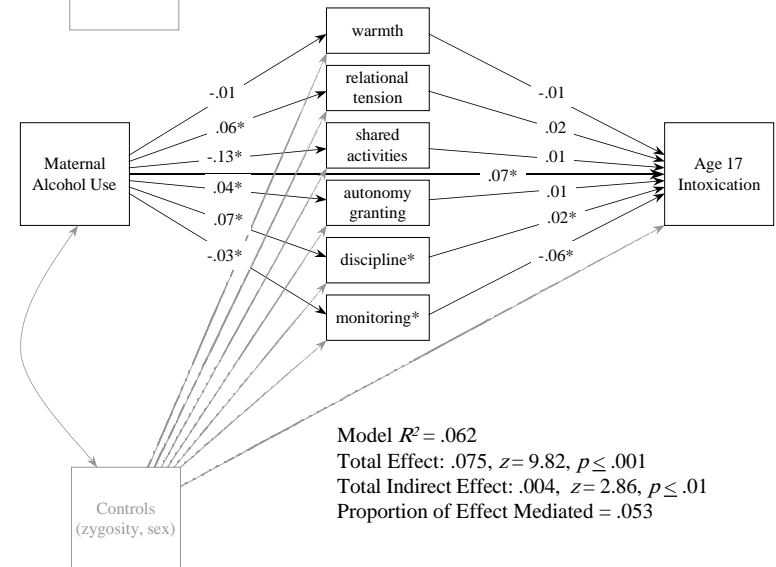
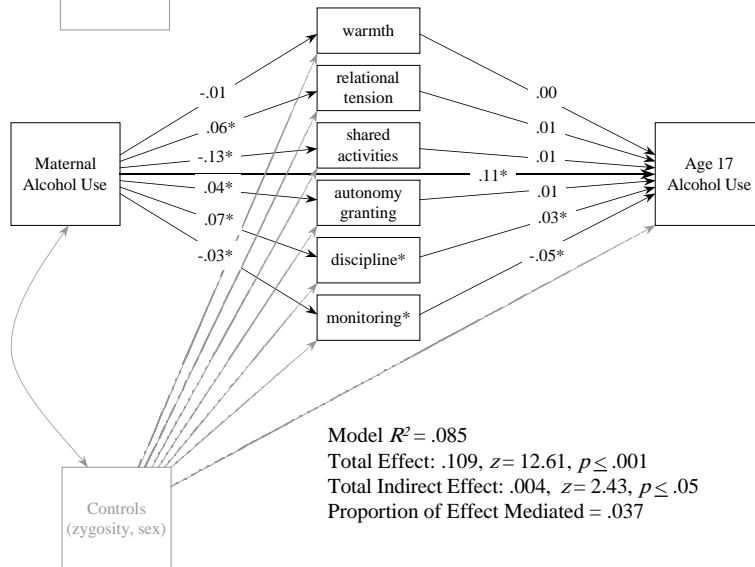
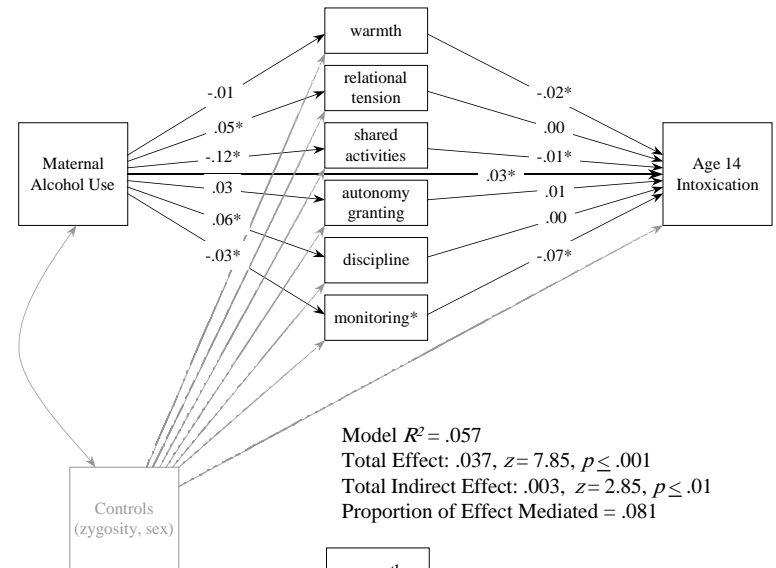
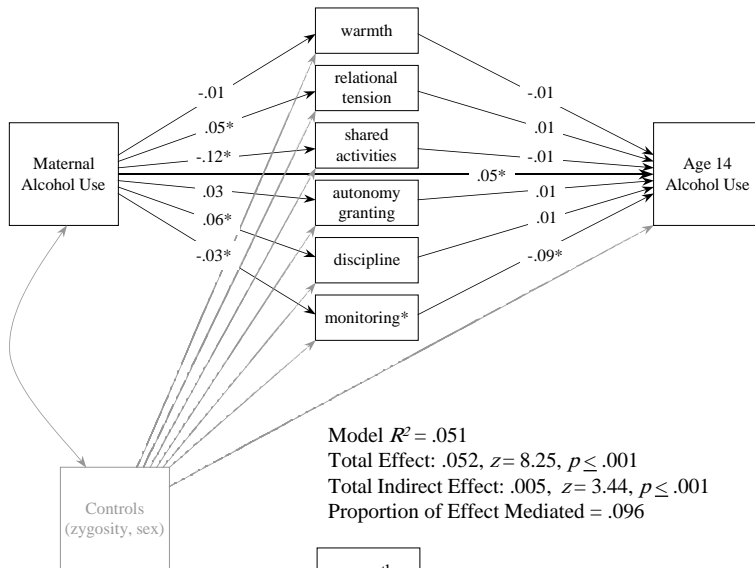
RESULTS

- ❑ Across models, parents' alcohol use behaviors consistently accounted for a significant variation in adolescents' alcohol use behaviors, and appeared to account for increasingly more over time.
- ❑ Parental alcohol use behaviors had significant direct effects on adolescents' alcohol use behaviors at ages 14, and were even stronger at age 17 (i.e., *c* ' paths increased with age).
- ❑ Increases in parents' drinking behaviors were associated with (i.e., *a* paths) :
 - ↑ *discipline*, ↓ *monitoring* & *shared activities* – for both moms' and dads' use
 - ↑ *relational tension* – for moms' use only
 - Little evidence of links with warmth and autonomy granting
- ❑ Increases in adolescents' drinking behaviors were associated with (i.e., *b* paths) :
 - ↓ *monitoring* – at ages 14 and 17
 - ↑ *discipline* – only at ages 17
 - ↓ *warmth* & *shared activities* – only for intoxication at age 14
 - ↑ *relational tension* & *autonomy* – only for intoxication at age 17

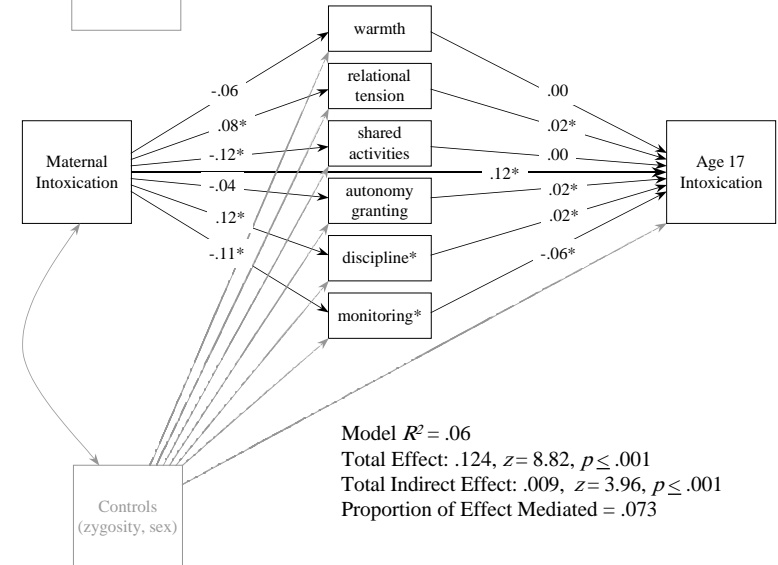
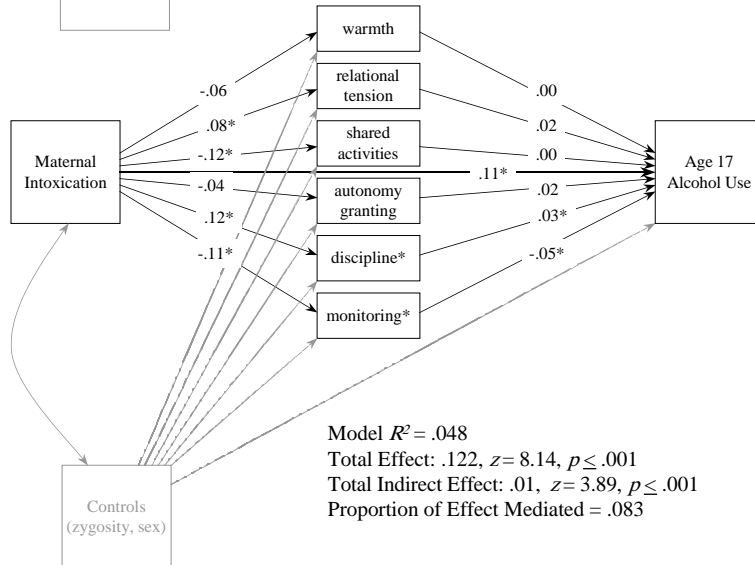
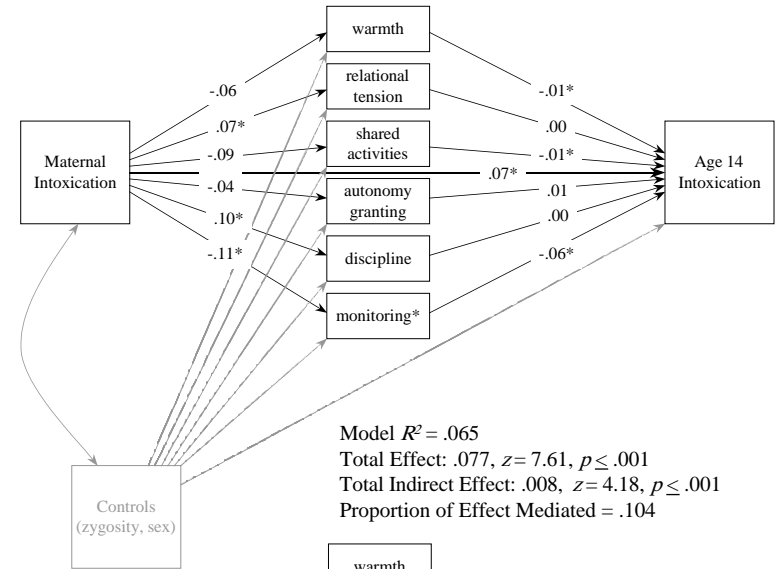
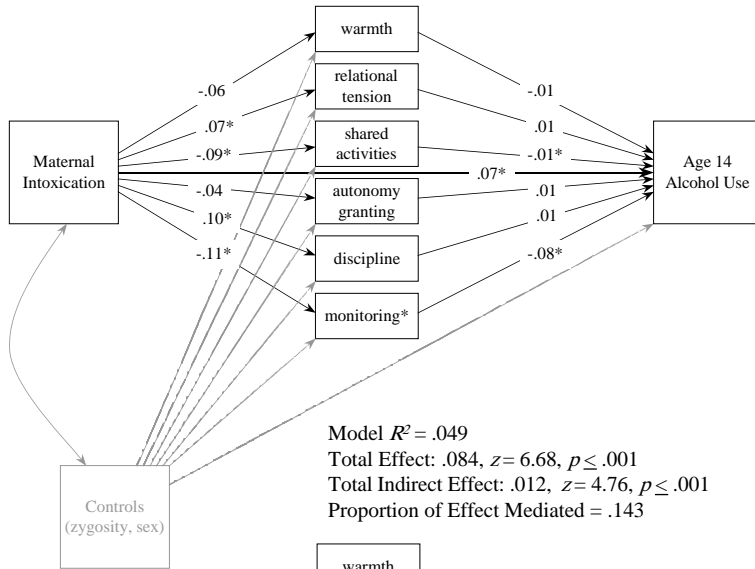
RESULTS

- ❑ When examined collectively, multivariate path analyses indicated that associations between parents' and adolescents' alcohol-related behaviors were mediated by adolescents' perceptions of the parenting that they received, though not in full.
- ❑ Parental monitoring and discipline had unique ability to mediate these associations, over and above the collective contributions of the other parenting behaviors.

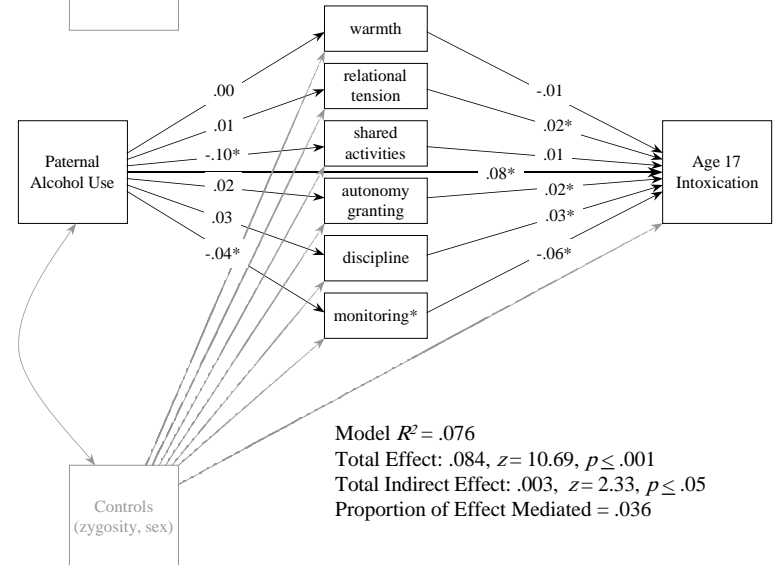
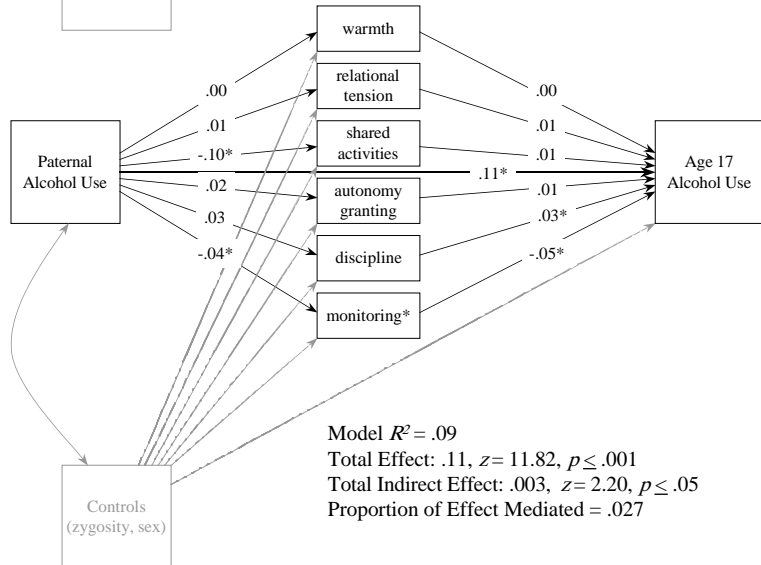
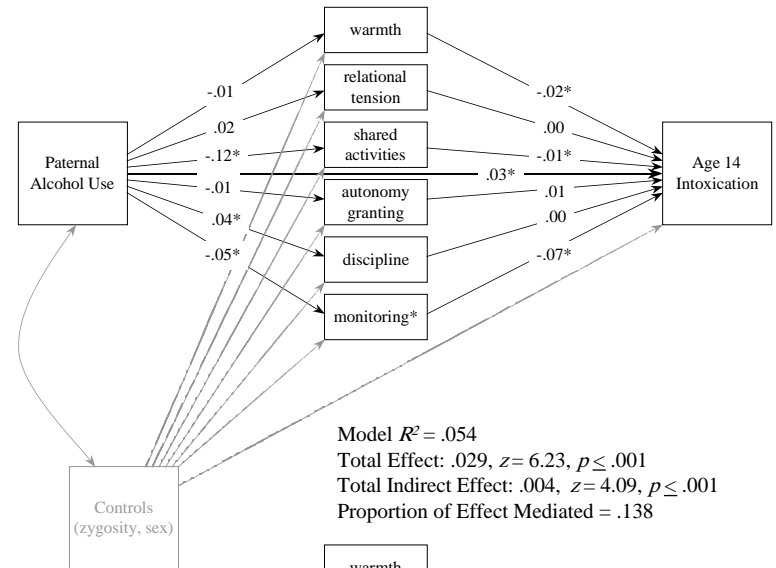
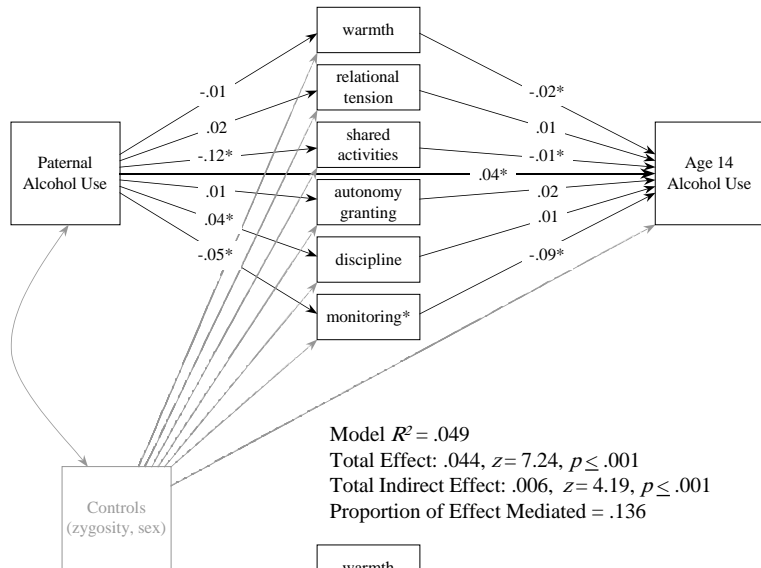
Mediation of Maternal Alcohol Use



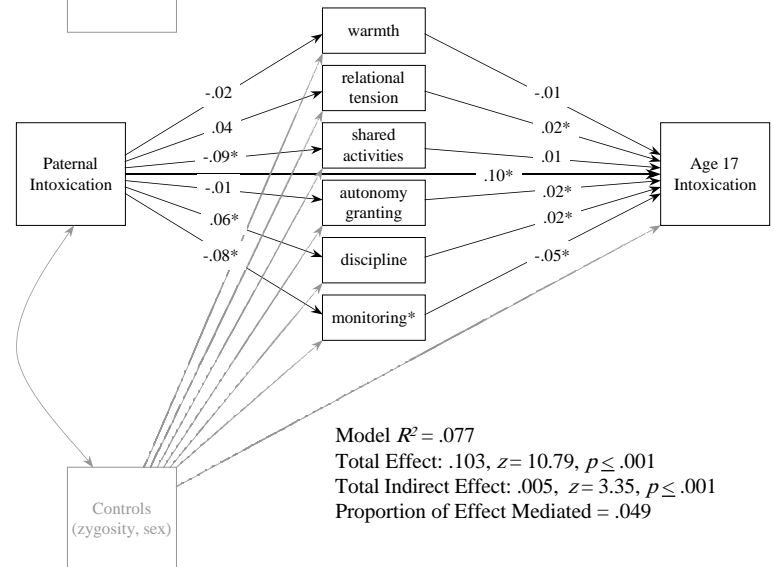
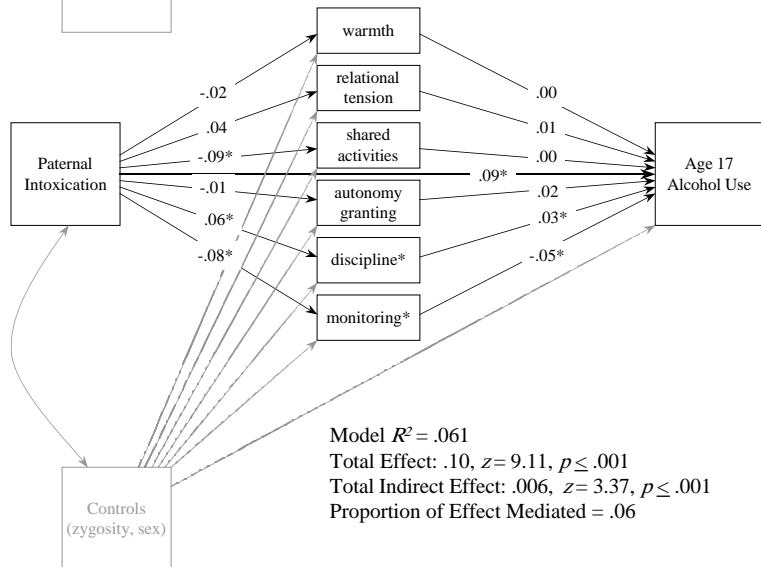
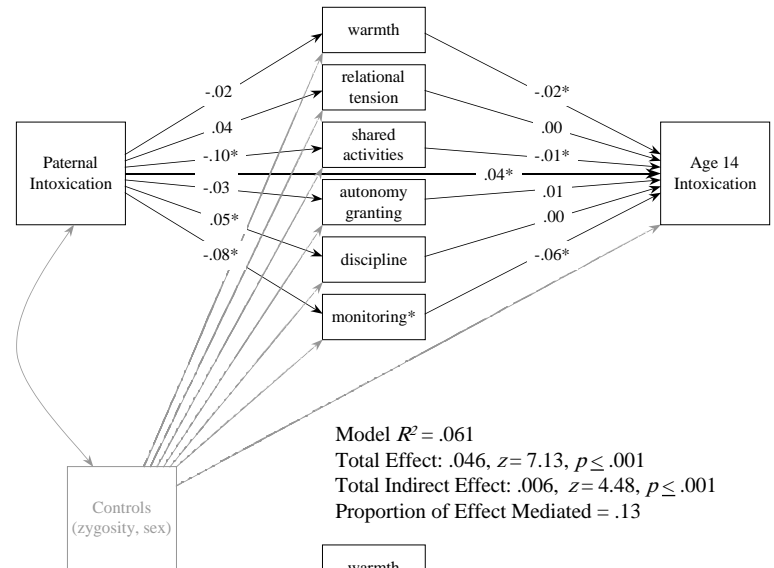
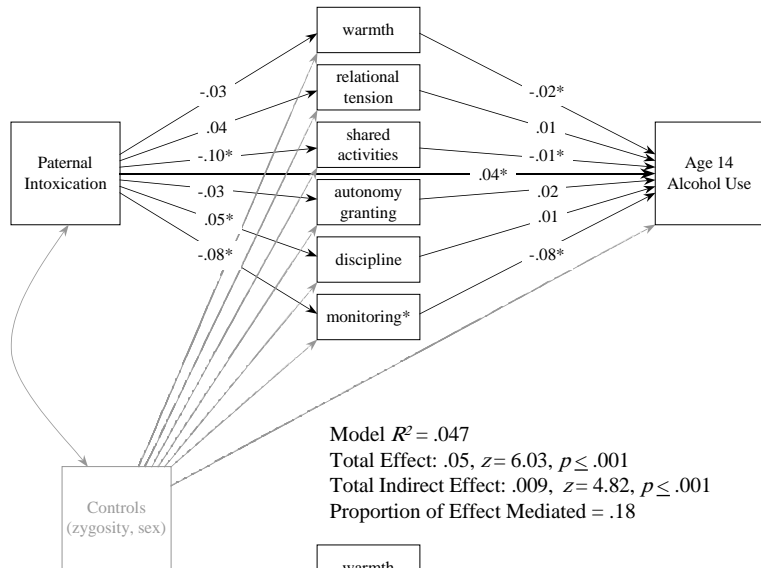
Mediation of Maternal Intoxication



Mediation of Paternal Alcohol Use



Mediation of Paternal Intoxication



Significant Partial Mediation Effects

Effect coefficients and test-statistics for parenting variables demonstrating significant partial mediation

Dependent Variable	Outcome	Monitoring			Discipline		
		<i>B (a*b)</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Z-score</i>	<i>B (a*b)</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Z-score</i>
Maternal Use	Age 14 Use	.003	.001	2.68			
	Age 14 Intoxication	.002	.001	2.66			
	Age 17 Use	.002	.001	2.09	.002	.001	2.45
	Age 17 Intoxication	.002	.001	2.26	.001	.001	2.13
Maternal Intoxication	Age 14 Use	.004	.001	3.70			
	Age 14 Intoxication	.003	.001	3.67			
	Age 17 Use	.002	.001	2.56	.004	.001	2.53
	Age 17 Intoxication	.002	.001	2.78	.002	.001	2.08
Paternal Use	Age 14 Use	.009	.002	4.14			
	Age 14 Intoxication	.007	.002	3.99			
	Age 17 Use	.006	.002	2.79			
	Age 17 Intoxication	.006	.002	3.19			
Paternal Intoxication	Age 14 Use	.007	.002	4.49			
	Age 14 Intoxication	.005	.001	4.29			
	Age 17 Use	.004	.001	2.93	.002	.001	1.97
	Age 17 Intoxication	.004	.001	3.10			

Critical ratios (i.e., *Z-scores*) of 1.96, 2.58, and 3.29 correspond to *p*-values of .05, .01, and .001, respectively.

Note: standardized effect coefficients and associated standard errors are rounded to the nearest thousandth.

CONCLUSIONS

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Future research should focus on disaggregating the genetic and environmental components of the pathways through which parents' drinking influences adolescents' alcohol use behaviors.

REFERENCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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