

# Resilience factors in child abuse experiences: a retrospective study

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## INTRODUCTION

The literature shows that early maltreatment experiences have negative consequences in terms off the ability to carry out the evolving tasks of the early stages of development effectively, contributing to the development of forms of maladjustment. In particular among the different forms of child maltreatment, experiences of negligence have greater and negative consequences than others forms of child abuse. Studies suggest that the consequences of neglect are enduring and may result in profound developmental deficits, which are at least as serious as or surpass those resulting from physical abuse (Ben-David & Jonson-Reid, 2017). However, a number of research points out that **some of those who have experienced of child maltreatment** have adaptive outcomes, **showing high levels of resilience** (Sagy & Dotan 2001). Research on possible moderators has highlighted how both **environmental factors** (parenting, relationships with peers) and **individual factors** (social competence, perseverance, optimism) play an important role in promoting well-being and **defining resilience trajectories** in abusive family environments.

## AIMS

To investigate the role of **moderation of individual resilience factors**, in particular **perseverance in overcoming difficulties**, on the impact that emotional neglect in childhood has on well-being in early adulthood.

## Participants

## METHOD

## Measures

We conducted a **retrospective study** in a sample of 45 university students (91% female; 9% males) of the School of Psychology of the University of Florence of age between 22 and 27 years of age (M=24; DS=1.3).

## Data Analysis

We conducted linear regression analysis using **the bootstrap method** with SPSS software.

- **Childhood Trauma questionnaire (CTQ)** (Bernstein et. al., 1994; 2003) to detect experiences of emotional neglect.

The subscale taken into consideration in the study is that of emotional neglect ( $\alpha=.88$ )

- **EPOCH measure of adolescent Well-being** (Kern et. al.2015) to detect the dimensions of happiness and perseverance.

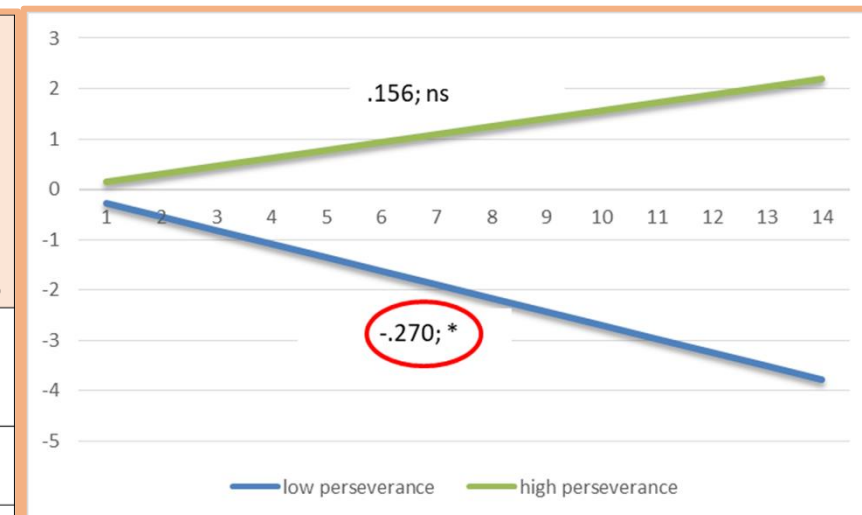
The subscale used in the study are those related to the dimension of perseverance ( $\alpha=.81$ ) and happiness ( $\alpha=.87$ )

## References

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## RESULTS

Outcome	Predictors	Model 1					Model 2				
		B	SE	Sign. Bootstrap	Low.	Up.	B	SE	Sign. Bootstrap	Low.	Up.
Happiness	Emotional neglect	-.14	.12	.23	-.40	.09	-.03	.14	.80	-.42	.16
	Perseverance	.38	.15	<b>.02</b>	.09	.66	.36	.14	<b>.02</b>	.10	.62
	Emotional neglect *Perseverance						.05	.03	<b>.04</b>	-.01	.12
	R2			.22					.29		
	F			5.71*(2,40)					5.28*(3,39)		



The results of linear regression analyses using the bootstrap method shows that emotional neglect is associated with a lower level of happiness and well-being only in those students with low levels of perseverance (**B= -.270; se=.139; p=.05**).



## CONCLUSIONS

The results show how **experiences of emotional neglect during childhood predict a lower level of well-being, especially for happiness**, but this is only **true for those with a low level of perseverance** and low positive expectations for the future. These results underline **the importance of individual variables such as perseverance** and positive expectations for the future in moderating the negative impact of childhood maltreatment, **suggesting possible guidelines for prevention and intervention**.