Religiosity among adolescents

- 90% of American adolescents report a belief in God... (Smith, 2005)
- Monthly church attendance increases when the choice is left up to the individual (Smith, 2005)
- Religiosity positively predicts prosocial and negatively predicts antisocial behaviors (Stoltz, Olsen, Henke, & Barber, 2013)
Religiosity and externalizing behaviors

- Impacts behaviors such as sexual activity, drug and alcohol use, and other delinquencies
- Leads to internalized norms which delay sexual behavior and place it within committed relationships (Vasilenko, Duntzee, Zheng, & Lefkowitz, 2013), as well as fostering self-control (Vazsonyi & Jenkins, 2010).
- Family religiosity protective of adolescent drug and alcohol use (Foshee & Hollinger, 1996; Hardesty & Kirby, 1995; Merrill, Folsom, & Christopherson, 2005) and delinquency (L. D. Pearce & Haynie, 2004).
- Further research needed in order to more fully understand the processes involved
Religiosity and internalizing behaviors

- More personal and familial religiosity = greater self-esteem and psychological functioning (Ball, Amistead, & Austin, 2003).
  - Higher levels of physical and emotional health and well-being in comparison with more secularly oriented teens (Chiswick & Mirtcheva, 2013).

- Adolescents who feel a close with God have fewer depressive and anxious symptoms (Goeke-Morey, Taylor, Merrilees, Shirlow, & Cummings, 2014; Wright & Frost, 1993).

- More internalizing problems predicted a weaker perceived relationship with God a year later (Goeke-Morey et al., 2014).

- As with externalized behaviors, processes are not yet fully understood.
“Media” and Adolescents: Effects

- Positive aspects of media exposure
  - New careers, cultures, bridge social capital, encourage involvement in activities (Anderson-Butcher, Lesseigne, Ball, Brzozowski, Lehnert, & McCormick, 2010)
  - Family time: co-playing with parents (Coyne, Padilla-Walker, Stockdale, & Day, 2011)

- Concerning aspects of media exposure
  - Sleep disturbance, depression, ADHD-related behaviors, pubescent obesity (Lemola, Perkinson, Brand, Dewald, & Grob, 2015)
    - TV is a key element in increased obesity (Bickham, Blood, Walls, Shrier, & Rich, 2013)
    - Depression, lack of physical activity are positively correlated
  - Video games and increased aggressive behaviors amongst adolescents
  - Decreased prosocial behavior and academic performance (Ferguson, 2015)
  - More familial conflict and poorer family relationships (Bonnaire, & Phan, 2017)
“Media” and Adolescents: Moving Forward

- Involved parents who create rules for media stopped addictive tendencies (Smith, Gradiser, & King, 2015)
  - Specific hours, no video games in bedrooms, open communication
- Be open with adolescents about the dangers of media use and video games
  - Provide information to make mature choices and empower successful independence (Ozer, & Piotrowki, 2012)
- Encourage adolescent religiosity
  - Religious adolescents prefer less “mature” media (Bobkowski, 2009)
  - Linked to a greater sense of meaning and purpose in transition to adulthood (Chan, Tsai, & Fuligni, 2015)
Family Foundations of Youth Development
- A longitudinal survey that will ultimately follow 2000 families of different faiths for 10 years
- Includes participants from Wave 1
  - 636 Families with adolescents age 12-14
  - One parent and one adolescent
  - 86% LDS and 14% Other faith traditions
  - 88% White and 12% Racial Diversity
Measures

- All variables were taken from established multi-question measures
  - Video Game Addictive Symptoms - DSM-IV criteria for pathologic gambling adapted to video games use (Douglas A Gentile, Coyne, & Bricolo, 2013).
  - Anxiety - Spence Child Anxiety Inventory (Spence, 1998).
  - Positive Youth Development (PYD) - The Positive Youth Development Inventory including measures for 1) Confidence; 2) Competence; 3) Character; 4) Caring; and 5) Connection. Measurement of a 6th C (Contribution) (PYDI; Arnold, Nott, & Meinhold, 2012)
Measures

- All variables were taken from established multi-question measures
  - Religious Strength - The Santa Clara strength of religious faith questionnaire (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997)
  - Daily religious Experiences - A subscale of the NIA/Fetzer Religion and Spirituality scale (Idler et al., 2003)

- Controls
  - Race
  - Income
  - Mormon
Analysis Plan

- Structural Equation Modeling
  - Employing Stata and Mplus
- Theoretical Model
  - Bronfenbrenner’s PPCT (The Process-Person-Context-Time) Model of Bioecological Theory
Overall Structural Equation Model
Anxiety – Male and Female
Anxiety - Female
Delinquency – Males – Parent Report
Delinquency - Females
Delinquency – Males and Females – Parent Report

PYD Conf
PYD Char
PYD Conn
PYD Care
PYD Comp
PYD Cont

Youth Outcome

Rel Strength
Rel Daily
Rel Intrinsic

Youth Outcome

Delinquency – Males and Females – Parent Report

PYD Conf
PYD Char
PYD Conn
PYD Care
PYD Comp
PYD Cont

Youth Outcome

Delinquency – Males and Females – Parent Report

PYD Conf
PYD Char
PYD Conn
PYD Care
PYD Comp
PYD Cont

Youth Outcome

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PYD Care
PYD Comp
PYD Cont

Youth Outcome
Video Game Addiction Symptoms – Number* – Females – Child Report
Video Game Addiction Symptoms – Number* – Males – Child Report