



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES

# **The Effects of Parental Warmth on Adolescent Delinquency: A Comparison of Adolescents in the U.S. and South Korea**

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# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- **Is there a difference in levels of adolescent delinquency in the U.S. and South Korea?**
- **Is there an association between parental warmth and adolescent delinquency in each country?**
- **Does this association vary by country? (i.e., is there an interaction effect by country?)**



# THEORIES

- **Ecological theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979)**
  - Adolescents' delinquent behaviors can be influenced by multi-level factors from microsystem (e.g., parents) to macrosystem (e.g., cultural context).
  - Parents are the most important environmental factor in the microsystem.
- **Social Bonding Theory (Hirschi, 1969)**
  - Adolescents who are emotionally detached from their parents are at higher risk of delinquent behaviors.



# LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Adolescent Delinquency: the U.S. vs. South Korea**
  - Individualistic adolescents in the U.S. are more likely to engage in antisocial and risk-taking behaviors to explore their identity as compared to collectivistic adolescents in South Korea. Korean adolescents are more likely to follow traditions and conventions and obey to their parents under collectivism from Confucianism (Le & Stockdale, 2005).
  - Delinquency rates increase in early and middle adolescence and then decrease in late adolescence in both countries (Hoeve et al, 2008; Lee & Lee, 2011; Meeus, Branje, & Overbeek, 2004).



# LITERATURE REVIEW (CONT.)

- **Parental Warmth and Adolescent Delinquency**

- Previous studies suggest that parental warmth was negatively associated with adolescent delinquency in the U.S. and South Korea (Buehler, 2006; Fletcher, Steinberg, & Williams-Wheeler, 2004; Kim, Kwak, & Yun, 2010; Windle et al., 2010).
- American parents emphasize independent and autonomous relationships with their children. Also, they show praising frequently and express their affection to their children through kissing, hugging, and saying “I love you” (Kim & Cain, 2008; Kim & Hong; 2007; Le & Stockdale, 2005).



# LITERATURE REVIEW (CONT.)

- Korean parents focus on interdependent relationships with their children. Contrary to American parents, Korean parents have been trained to suppress their feeling and are not accustomed to show their emotion. Instead to expression their affection verbally and physically, they focus on parental obligation and responsibility, providing good education, foods, or clothes to their children

(Kim & Cain, 2008; Kim & Hong; 2007; Le & Stockdale, 2005).



# LITERATURE REVIEW (CONT.)

- **Other factors**
  - **Adolescent Gender:** Boys engage in more delinquent behaviors than do girls (Dodge, Coie, & Lynam, 2006).
  - **Family Structure:** Stability of family structure is strongly related to adolescent delinquency (Malone et al., 2004).
  - **Parents' Education:** Parents' education is related to parents' income. Poor children are more likely to involve in delinquent activities (Fletcher, Steinberg, & Williams-Wheeler, 2004).



# PURPOSE

- The purpose of this study is to examine the differences in levels of adolescent delinquency in the U.S. and South Korea.
- Further, we examine how the association between parental warmth and adolescent delinquency varies by country.



# HYPOTHESES

- **H1: the delinquency levels of the U.S. are higher than those of South Korea.**
- **H2: parental warmth is negatively associated with adolescent delinquency in both countries.**
- **H3: the effect of parental warmth on delinquency is stronger for American adolescents than for Korean adolescents.**



# SAMPLE

- **The U.S. sample: the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)**
  - 80 high schools and 52 middle schools from the U.S. were randomly selected.
  - Wave I : 20,745 students in grades 7-12 were surveyed.
  - Wave II : 14,738 of the students in the original sample were resurveyed.
  - Wave III : 15,197 respondents from the original sample were reinterviewed.
  - Wave IV : 15,701 respondents were resurveyed.



# SAMPLE

- **The Korean sample: the Korean Youth Panel Survey (KYPS)**
  - The National Youth Policy Institute carried out annually for 6 years from 2003 to 2008 (Wave I to Wave VI)
  - 104 middle schools from South Korea were randomly selected.
  - Wave I : 3,449 students in grades 8<sup>th</sup> (age 14) were surveyed.
  - 90% of respondents participated in the five follow-up waves.
  - Wave VI was collected one year after graduating from high school.



# SAMPLE

- **Add Health**

- A total of 4,422 American adolescents aged 14 to 15 were selected from Wave I and Wave II.
- We chose age 14 to 15 group from Add health because Korean data included adolescents aged from 14.

- **KYPS**

- A total of 3,150 Korean adolescents aged 14 to 15 were selected from Wave I and Wave II.



# MEASURES

- **Parental warmth in the U.S. (Wave I)**
  - Two items: “Most of the time, your mother is warm and loving toward you.” and “Most of the time, your father is warm and loving toward you.”
  - These two items were rated on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly agree to 5 = strongly disagree.



# MEASURES

- **Parental warmth in South Korea (Wave I)**
  - One item: “My parents always treat me with love and warmth.”
  - This item was rated on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = very untrue to 5 = very true.
  - The higher score indicated a higher level of adolescents’ perception of parental warmth in the measures from both countries.



# MEASURES

- **Adolescent delinquency (Wave I & II) in both countries**
  - Adolescents' self-report of their delinquent behavior.
  - To keep it consistent across Wave I and Wave II and with delinquency in South Korea, only the same items were used from both samples.
  - Three items are “gang fight”, “threatening other people”, and “stealing”.
  - All items were recoded as 0 = no and 1 = yes and summed together for each wave.



# MEASURES

- **Other variables (Wave I) in both countries**
  - Country was coded as 1 = South Korea and 2 = the U.S.
  - Adolescent gender was coded as 0 = male and 1 = female.
  - Family structure was assessed by five dummy variables (i.e., two-biological parents / step parent / single-mother / single-father / other families).
  - Parents' education was measured by asking respondents mother and father's years of schooling and assessed four dummy variables (i.e., college or more / some college / high school / less than high school).



# ANALYTIC STRATEGY

- Independent sample t-test was used to test the difference in the levels of adolescent delinquency in two countries (H1).
- Multiple regression was used to analyze H2 and H3.
- The interaction between parental warmth and country was created to evaluate the H3.



# RESULTS: DESCRIPTIVES

Variables	<i>United States (N = 4,422)</i>	<i>South Korea (N = 3,150)</i>
Female	54%	50%
Family Structure		
Two-biological parents	55%	93%
Step parent families	17%	1%
Single-mother families	22%	3%
Single-father families	3%	2%
Other families	3%	1%
Parents' Education		
Less than high school	10.5%	9.4%
High school graduation	31.4%	45.7%
Some college	19.5%	7.4%
College or higher	38.6%	37.5%



# Differences in levels of Adolescent Delinquency in the U.S. and Korea (H1)

Variables	<i>United States (N = 4,422)</i>			<i>South Korea (N = 3,150)</i>		
	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Range</i>
Parental Warmth (W1)	4.354***	0.707	1 – 5	3.703***	0.924	1 – 5
Delinquency (W1)	0.491***	0.737	0 – 3	0.165***	0.450	0 – 3
Delinquency (W2)	0.427***	0.689	0 – 3	0.075***	0.320	0 – 3

*Note.* \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .



# Regression of Adolescent Delinquency (Wave II) on Parental Warmth (H2)

Variables	The United States		South Korea	
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>
Parental Warmth (Wave I)	-.071***	.064	-.003	.006
Delinquency (Wave I)	.395***	.013	.219***	.012

*Note.* \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .



# Regression of Adolescent Delinquency (Wave II) on Parental Warmth (H2)

Variables	The United States		South Korea	
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>
Female	-.088***	.019	-.010	.011
Family Structure				
Stepfamilies	.044	.026	.079	.063
Single-mother families	.018	.024	.000	.030
Single-father families	.013	.058	.002	.038
Other families	.121*	.053	-.055	.069
Parents' Education				
Less than high school	.034	.033	.003	.012
Some college	-.005	.027	-.009	.022
College or higher	-.044*	.022	-.020	.020



# Interaction of Parental Warmth and Country on Adolescent Delinquency (H3)

Variables	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>
Parental Warmth (Wave I)	-.032***	.007	.082***	.023
Delinquency (Wave I)	.364***	.009	.359***	.009
Country (U.S.)	.241***	.015	.564***	.062
Country* Parental Warmth			-.079***	.015

*Note.* \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

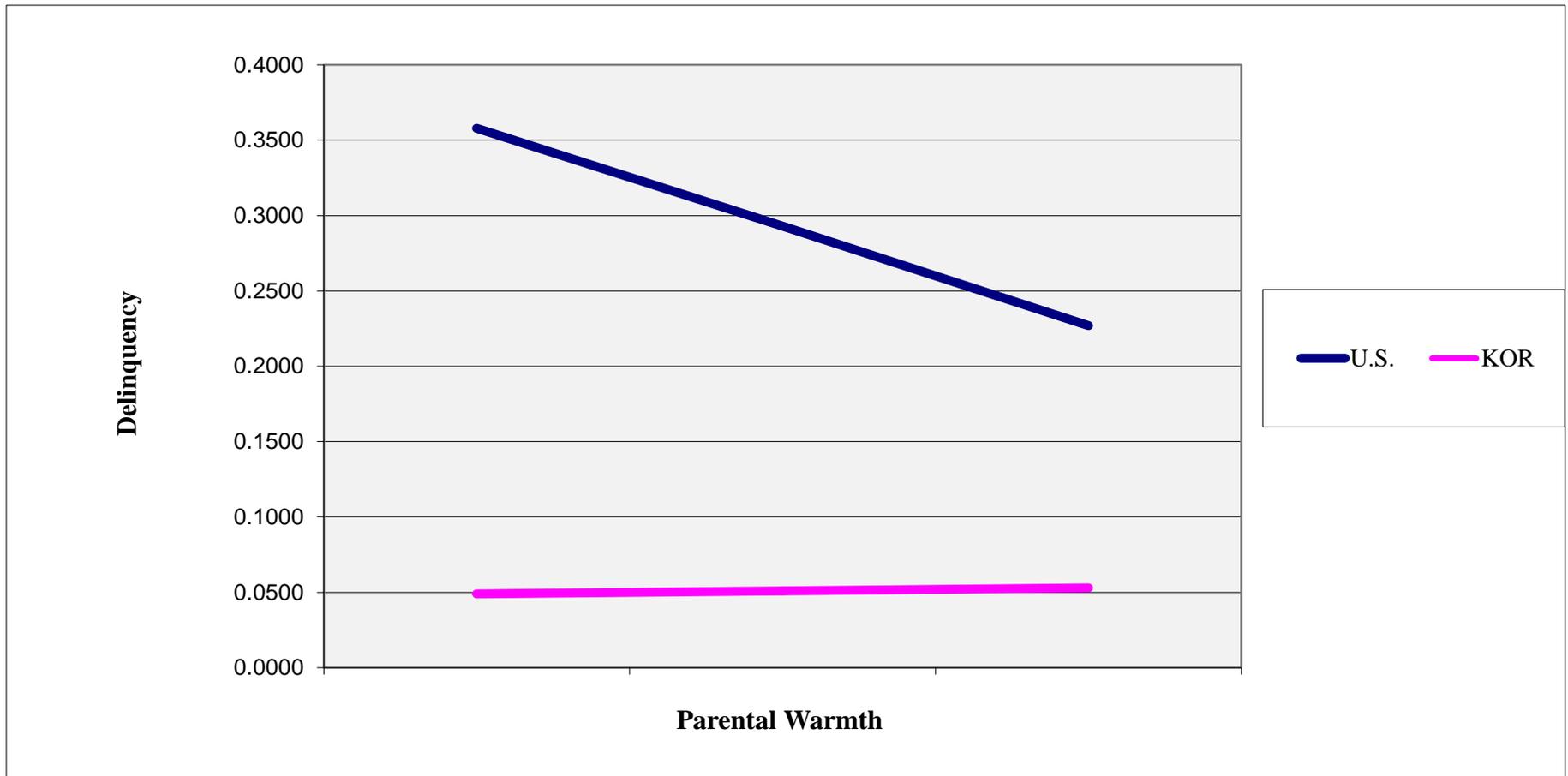


# Interaction of Parental Warmth and Country on Adolescent Delinquency (H3)

Variables	Model 1		Model 2	
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>
Female	-.055***	.012	-.056***	.012
Family Structure				
Stepfamilies	.057**	.021	.051*	.021
Single-mother families	.020	.018	.022	.018
Single-father families	.009	.039	.008	.039
Other families	.109**	.041	.108**	.041
Parents' Education				
Less than high school	.012	.021	.013	.021
Some college	-.003	.019	-.004	.019
College or higher	-.024	.014	-.026	.014



# Interaction of Parental Warmth and Country on Adolescent Delinquency (Wave II)



# DISCUSSION

- This study helps to generalize the effects of parental warmth on adolescent delinquency and to understand cultural differences.
- It would be important to inform both parents and adolescents about cultural differences between the U.S. and South Korea and to reduce the potential difficulties for families living in two different cultures.



# DISCUSSION

- Future studies are needed to use large samples with a narrower historical time gap and reliable measures to test cultural differences and bidirectional relationships on the association between parental warmth and adolescent delinquency.
- When creating valid and reliable measures for parental warmth and adolescent delinquency, cultural aspects could be considered in the future.
- Other multi-level environmental factors (e.g., school system, community, and peers) could be included to examine adolescent delinquency.



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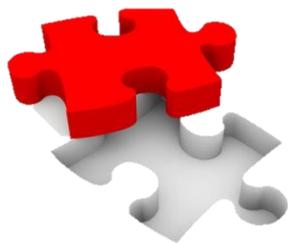
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Questions?





Thank you!

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