Dynamic Processes Between Irritability and Trauma Exposure Within the Family System: A Network Approach

**Aim 1:** Irritability, Trauma & Symptom Dynamics Within the Family

![Diagram of network dynamics between irritability, trauma, and symptom dynamics within the family system.]

**Demographics**
- Age: 5.67 ± 3.7 years
- Male: 357 (56.8%)
- Race:
  - White: 93 (34.6%)
  - Hispanic: 101 (37.5%)
  - Black: 55 (20.4%)
  - Multi-Racial: 13 (4.8%)
- Other: 7 (2.6%)
- Not Reported: n = 403

**Measures**
- Child and Mom Self Report
  - STRESS: Adult Trauma, PTSD
  - STRESS: Childhood Trauma
  - DASS: Stress, Anxiety, Depression
  - DERS: Emotion Regulation
  - MAI: Anger Arousal
  - ABI: Psychological and Physical Abuse
- Caregiver Report on Child
  - STRESS: Trauma, PTSD
  - SDQ: Irritability

**RESULTS**

**Child's Irritability (A1) was related to:**
- B1: STRESS: PTSD symptoms (.28)
- H3: MomABI_PsychPartner (.08)
- E3: DadABI_PsychPartner (.05)
- D1: DadSTRESS_sum (.03)
- C3: DadSTRESS Threat (.02)
- D4: DadDASSdope (.02)
- D5: DadDERS (.02)
- G4: MomDASSdope (.02)
- G5: MomDERS (.02)

**DISCUSSION**
- Results suggest cumulative experiences of trauma may play a role in childhood irritability.
- Future studies could benefit from adopting the network method to explore family system dynamics.

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**References:**

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**Aim 2:** Of kids with trauma exposure, what percent are irritable?

**SDQ #5:** "often loses temper"
- 1 = somewhat true
  - Child Reported: 43.4% (N = 240)
  - Caregiver Reported: 28.2% (N = 240)
- 2 = certainly true
  - Child Reported: 16.3% (N = 240)
  - Caregiver Reported: 16.3% (N = 240)

**Aim 3:** Of those with trauma exposure, how do irritability vs. non-irritable kids differ?

**Child's Trauma Exposure (Caregiver Report)**
- Total Trauma: 5.71 (2.65)
  - Interpersonal Violence: 1.88 (1.40)
  - Physical Abuse: 2.27 (1.42)
  - PTSD Symptoms: 5.57 (2.43)
- Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence (Caregiver Report)
  - Community Exposure: 4.69 (2.48)

**Child's PTSD Symptoms (Caregiver Report)**
- Irritable Youth (N = 93)
  - Non- Irritable Youth (N = 401)
  - T
  - P-Value (Bonferroni-Corrected)

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<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childhood Trauma</td>
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<td>PTSD Symptoms</td>
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**Child's Total PTSD Symptoms**
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**Mother's PTSD Symptom**
- Irritable Youth (N = 93)
  - Non-Irritable Youth (N = 401)
  - T
  - P-Value (Bonferroni-Corrected)

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