

Answering Questions about Growing Up Overindulged and Adult Relationships

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Abstract

This study, the fifth in the overindulgence project, focuses on the linkage between childhood overindulgence and adult relationships: relationship locus of control, relationship satisfaction, financial management, and conflict resolution styles. In addition to answering questions concerning these four topics, this study explores the “Relationship Overindulgence Triangle” - the tendency for overindulged children is to be in an adult overindulgent relationship: (1.) Overindulged during childhood, (2.) Overindulges partner, and (3.) Overindulged by partner. 233 participants from thirty-one states and seven other countries were recruited for this study through www.overindulgence.info.

Research Methods

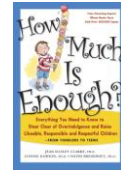
233 participants were recruited for this web-based study, which was accessed at www.overindulgence.info. Participant’s ages ranged from 16-68 with a mean of 34.81, all currently in a relationship (dating, committed dating relationship, engaged, cohabitating, or married). The following measures were used:

- the **Miller Marital Locus of Control Scale** (revised to say “relationship” and “partner” rather than “marriage” and “spouse”);
- the **Index of Marital Satisfaction** (modified to be inclusive of all relationship types);
- the **Financial Management Scale** from PREPARE/Enrich;
- the **Conflict Resolution Scale** from PREPARE/Enrich; and
- **Overindulged** (a 16 item overindulgence scale).

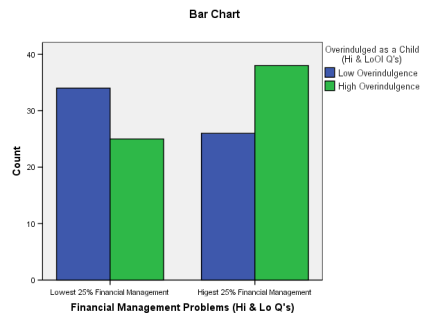
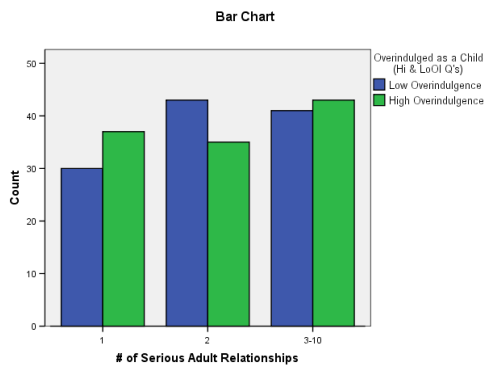
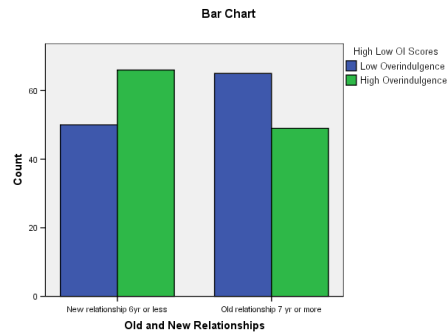
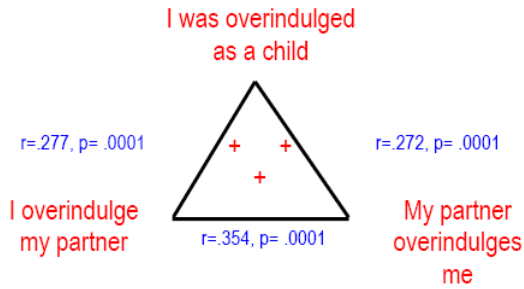
Results (n=233)

Is childhood overindulgence correlated with financial management difficulties, relationship locus of control, overindulgence in adult relationships, relationship satisfaction, and conflict resolution in adult life?

- * Financial Management Problems $r=.160$, $p=.015$ **YES**
- * External Relationship Locus of Control $r=.154$, $p=.019$ **YES**
- * Internal Relationship Locus of Control $r=.042$, **NO**
- * My Partner Overindulges Me $r=.241$, $p=.0001$ **YES**
- * I Overindulge my Partner $r=.230$, $p=.0001$ **YES**
- * Relationship Satisfaction $r= -.020$ **NO**
- * Conflict Resolution Difficulties $r=.065$ **NO**



Relationship Overindulgence Triangle



Tips for Family Life Educators

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