The Association between Household Type and Antisocial Diagnosis among Children of Parents with Substance Abuse Disorder

William Allen, Applied Data Analysis, Wesleyan University

Introduction

- Parental substance abuse is a known risk factor for developing antisocial personality disorder (ASPD), but most research into other factors surrounding this tend to focus on income levels. (Earls et al., 1988, Kuperman et al., 1999)
- The prevalence of ASPD vary by income level; for example, lower income individuals tend to be more likely to develop ASPD than higher income individuals. (Sareen et al., 2011, Piotrowska et al., 2015)

Research Questions

- Are children of parents who abused substances more likely to be diagnosed with antisocial disorder in their adult life?
- Does this relationship differ by household type?

Methods

Sample

- Individuals (n=9490) were drawn from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) who were living in mobile homes, apartments, and singe-family households whose parent(s) were alcoholics or some other substance dependency.

Measures

- Respondents were subset by the presence of a parent with substance abuse issues which was decided by the individual's answers about their blood mother/father's problems with drugs or alcohol.
- The individual's household types were categorized into mobile homes, apartments, or single-family households. This variable was recorded by the interviewer.
- The respondents were further categorized by their income levels: poverty ($0-$14,999), low income ($15,000-$34,999), middle income ($35,000-$79,999), and high income ($80,000+).

Results

Bivariate

- Chi-square analysis showed that household type is significantly associated with ASPD diagnosis rates (p<0.001).
- The proportion of individuals diagnosed with ASPD was higher in those living in mobile homes.

Multivariate

- Logistic regression analyses showed that individuals living in single-family households were less likely than those living in apartments to be diagnosed with ASPD (OR 0.7703, p<0.01).
- Further analyses showed that income marginally influences the likelihood of ASPD diagnosis, specifically individuals living in poverty (OR 1.502, p=0.051).
- When controlling for income, the association between individuals single-family households and ASPD diagnosis rates is no longer significant (p=0.3701).
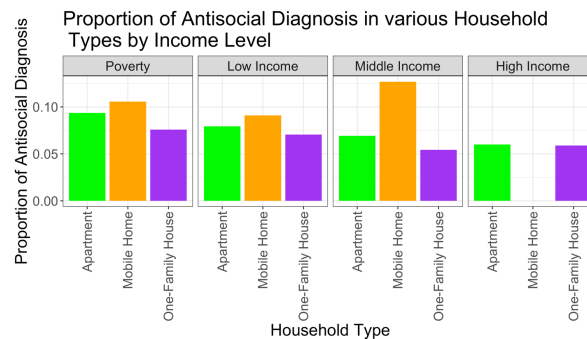

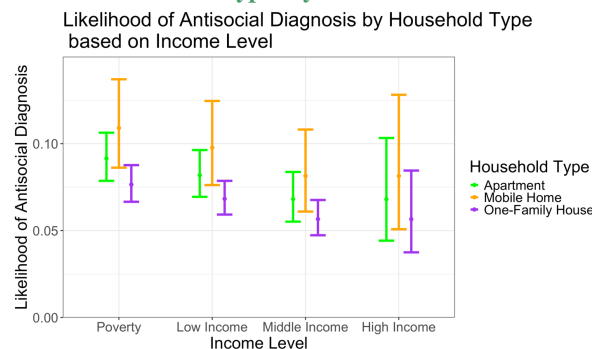**Figure 1:** The Proportion of Antisocial Diagnosis in various Household Types by Income Level

Figure 2: Likelihood of Antisocial Diagnosis by Household Type based on Income Level

Discussion

- Throughout all the income levels (apart from high income), respondents living in mobile homes have the highest rates of ASPD diagnosis.
- Contrary to Figure 1, the likelihood of respondents living in a mobile home with ASPD diagnosis seems to go down as the income level increases.
- Future research is needed to determine the role of other covariates such as race, access to health care, and cultural influences that might lead one to not getting diagnosed.

References

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