

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

Psychology Student Projects

Psychology Department

Spring 2023

The Role of Home Victimization in Preadolescents' General Perceptions of Trust

Abigail Seeman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pillars.taylor.edu/psychology-student-projects>



Part of the Psychology Commons

The Role of Home Victimization in Preadolescents' General Perceptions of Trust

Abigail Seeman

Psychology Directed Research with Dr. Laura Edwards, Spring 2023



Introduction

The transition from childhood to adolescence is marked by youths testing the trustworthiness and consistency of others as they search for a new sense of continuity and sameness (Erikson, 1993). Present studies have concluded preadolescence usually involves a natural decrease in trust perceptions, but the trust directed toward family is more likely to remain fairly stable if not otherwise affected by negative experiences (Groep et al., 2020; Ma et al., 2022). Parental behaviors and emotional involvement have been found to impact children's levels of social trust and reciprocity (Hart et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2018).

Other studies discovered that child maltreatment was linked with increased trauma symptoms and decreased family functioning (Clavete & Orue, 2013; Usta et al., 2013). A final set of studies revealed that positive experiences influenced adolescents' capacity to counterattack and prevent psychological problems (Gardner et al., 2012; Griffith et al., 2022). While one study looked at community violence's effect on adult's generalized trust perceptions, no previous studies focused on the relationships between home victimization and preadolescents' general trust perceptions (Janssen et al., 2021).

Hypothesis

Question: Does young adolescents' experience of assault victimization within the home have any effect on their general perceptions of trustworthiness and integrity?

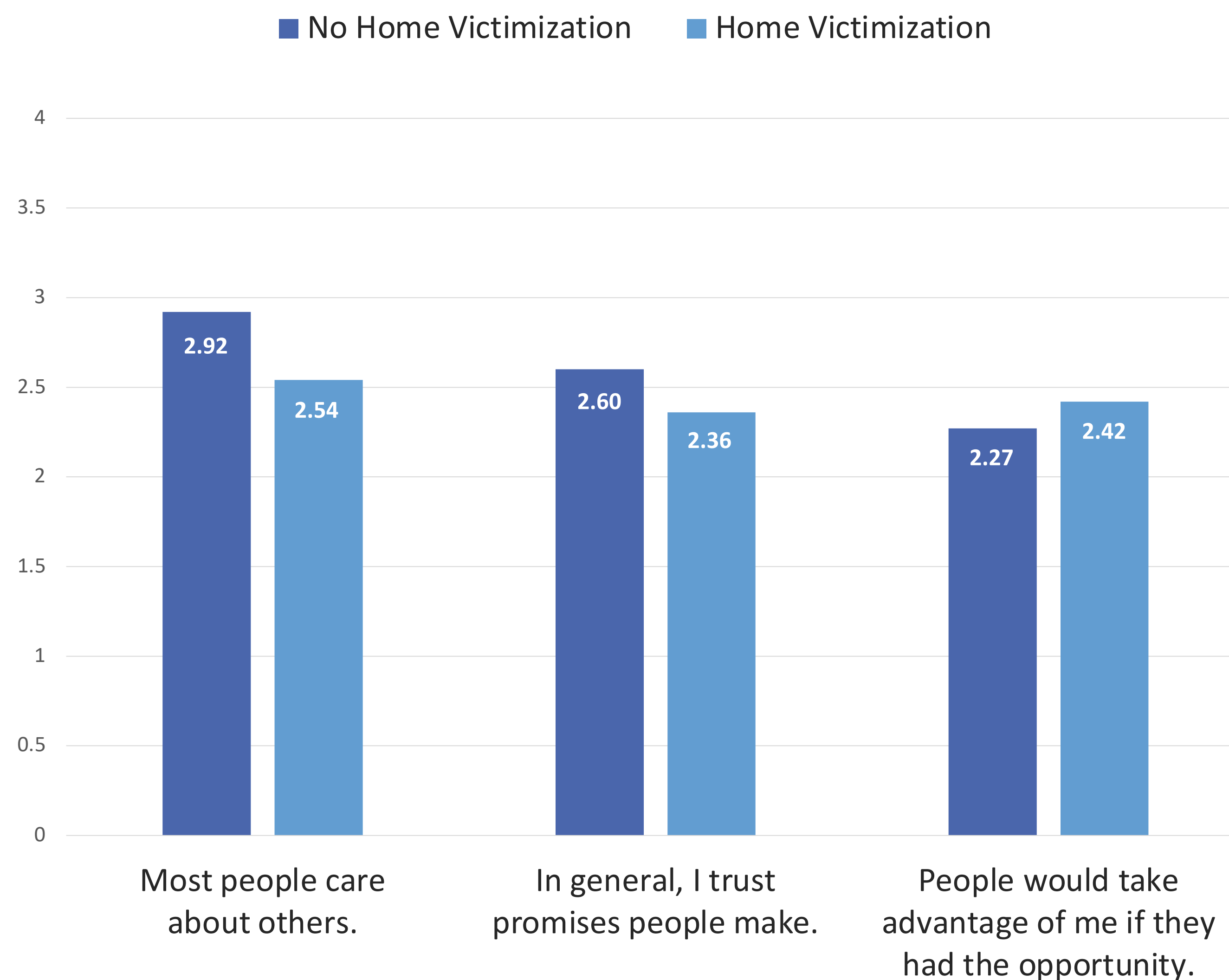
Hypothesis: Suffering home victimization will diminish preadolescents' general perceptions of trustworthiness.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dr. Laura Edwards for her guidance throughout the research process. Learning from her expertise has been an incredible opportunity, and this presentation would not have been possible without her.

Results

How does home victimization impact general trust perceptions?



$p =$.045	.187	.469
$d =$.325	.226	.124

Method

The present study utilized extant data from a cohort longitudinal study conducted with 800 preadolescent participants in Brazil (Edwards et al., 2020). Responses were collected using the São Paulo Legal Socialization Study survey, which contained questions on procedural justice, victimization, and parental legitimacy. Data analysis involved an independent samples t-test between general trust perceptions and the experience of assault within the home.

Discussion

The results were twofold: Consistent with previous cross-sectional studies, the results indicated assault by an adult within the home can statistically significantly decrease preadolescents' perception of genuine care in others (e.g. Clavete & Orue, 2013). Our findings indicated that it is possible that higher levels of assault by an adult in the home could be associated with lower generalized trust in preadolescents.

Similarly, the results indicated that preadolescents' trust in promises decreased and fear of exploitation increased with the experience of home victimization. Contrary to expectations based on the findings of previous cross-sectional studies, the differences that emerged lacked statistical significance, so it is wise to exercise caution in any interpretations and applications of the study's findings.

Limitations:

- Self-reported measures
- Sample limited to São Paulo, Brazil
- Victimization was isolated to the home

Recommendations:

Future studies could measure the long-term effects of victimization on trust perceptions, select more diverse samples, adjust the questionnaire to focus specifically on measuring trust perceptions, and include other forms of victimization outside of the home (school, neighborhood, etc.)

Contact

Abigail Seeman
abbi_seeman@taylor.edu
616-293-3757

Dr. Laura Edwards
lredwards@taylor.edu

References

- Calvete, E., & Orue, I. (2013). Cognitive mechanisms of the transmission of violence: Exploring gender differences among adolescents exposed to family violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 28(1), 73–84. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-012-9472-y>
- Edwards, L. C., Rodrigues, H., & Thomas, K. J. (2019). Factors that differentiate preadolescents' perception-change of parental legitimacy. *International Journal for Child Youth and Family*, 11(1), 22–44. <https://doi.org/10.18357/ijcyf.v11i202019472>
- Erikson, E. H. (1993). Chapter 7 Eight Ages of Man. In *Childhood and Society* (pp. 247–274). W.W. Norton & Company.
- Gardner, M., Browning, C., & Brooks, G. J. (2012). Can organized youth activities protect against internalizing problems among adolescents living in violent homes? *Journal of Research on Adolescence (Wiley-Blackwell)*, 22(4), 662–677. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-7795.2012.00811.x>
- Griffith, A. N., Leggett, C., Billingsley, J. T., Wittrup, A. R., Lee, S. J., & Hurd, N. M. (2022). A mixed methods study exploring the nature of Black adolescents' unfair treatment by school staff: implications for adolescents' trust in adults. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 51(6), 1063–1089. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-021-09669-3>
- Groep, S., Meuwese, R., Zanolie, K., Güroglu, B., & Crone, E. A. (2020). Developmental changes and individual differences in trust and reciprocity in adolescence. *Journal of Research on Adolescence (Wiley-Blackwell)*, 30, 192–208. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12459>
- Hart, J. R., Coates, E. E., & Smith-Bynum, M. A. (2019). Parenting style and parent-adolescent relationship quality in African American mother-adolescent dyads. *Parenting: Science & Practice*, 19(4), 318–340. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15295192.2019.1642085>
- Janssen, H. J., Oberwittler, D., & Koeber, G. (2021). Victimization and its consequences for well-being: A between- and within-person analysis. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 37(1), 101–140. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-019-09445-6>
- Liu, Y., Fei, L., Sun, X., Wei, C., Luo, F., Li, Z., Shen, L., Xue, G., & Lin, X. (2018). Parental rearing behaviors and adolescent's social trust: Roles of adolescent self-esteem and class justice climate. *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, 27(5), 1415–1427. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-017-1010-3>
- Usta, J., Farver, J. M., & Danachi, D. (2013). Child maltreatment: the Lebanese children's experiences. *Child: Care, Health & Development*, 39(2), 228–236. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2214.2011.01359.x>