

## **Childhood Trauma's Modifying Effect on Reward and Punishment Sensitivities' Associations with Eating Disorder Symptoms**

Ziqian Xu

Higher levels of eating disorder (ED) symptoms are often associated with increased levels of reward sensitivity (RS) and punishment sensitivity (PS). Individuals with EDs are also more likely to have experienced more childhood trauma events (CTEs). Because CTEs are correlated with RS and PS, RS and PS's effects on ED symptoms can potentially differ by levels of CTEs. In this study, we hypothesized that individuals with multiple CTEs are more susceptible to RS and PS's influence on ED symptoms than individuals without multiple CTEs. To test the hypothesis, we used stratified multiple regressions to investigate RS and PS in relation to binge eating (BE) and restriction within the two different groups of CTEs. Data from 354 participants who completed the study survey were used. Results of the regressions indicated that RS predicted restriction significantly for both CTE groups, and the association was stronger for individuals with multiple CTEs ( $b = .27, p = .0353$ ) than for individuals without multiple CTEs ( $b = .25, p = .0308$ ). RS predicted BE significantly only for individuals with multiple CTEs ( $b = .68, p < .0001$ ). PS predicted restriction ( $b = .20, p = .0314$ ) and BE ( $b = .39, p = .0004$ ) significantly only for individuals with multiple CTEs.