Background

- 53.3% of ED patients report childhood emotional abuse and 45.4% report childhood physical abuse.
- Those with childhood traumatic events (CTEs) twice as likely to report EDs in adulthood.
- Binge eating (BE) and restriction are positively correlated with reward sensitivity (RS) and dysfunctional eating behaviors.
- Positive association between punishment sensitivity (PS) and dysfunctional eating behaviors.
- PS is positively correlated with BE and restriction.

Hypothesis

The effects of RS and PS on BE are modified by the levels of CTEs. RS and PS’s associations with BE and restriction are stronger for individuals with multiple CTEs than for individuals without multiple CTEs.

Methods

Data Collection: Data were collected through a Qualtrics survey from the psychology subject pool.

Variable Operationalization

- RS and PS were measured by self-report through the Sensitivity to Punishment/Sensitivity to Reward Questionnaire (SPSRQ).
- BE and restriction were measured by self-report through the Eating Pathology Inventory (EPI).

CTEs were measured by self-report through the Childhood Traumatic Event Scale (CTES). CTE was defined as a binary measure of two levels:

- 0 = reported < 2 CTE, low CTE
- 1 = reported ≥ 2 CTE, high CTE

Analysis: Linear regression models stratified by CTE group status including covariates of age, BMI, year in school, race, ethnicity, Behavioral Activation System (BAS) and Behavioral Inhibition System (BIS).

- A separate regression was completed for BE and restriction as outcomes.
- Separate regression were also completed for RS and PS as independent variables.

Participants

Participants (N=391) for this study are biological females older than 18 years old (μ = 18.67, σ = 4.32). Only responses from participants who completed the study surveys are used in the analysis (N=354). Most participants are first-year college students (58.2%), Caucasian (68.9%), and non-Hispanic (92.1%) with BMI μ = 22.6, σ = 4.1.

The regression tables only include covariates with p < 0.05. The target predictors (RS and PS, shaded gray) are bolded and colored blue if they are significant.

References