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Background

- Harsh-intrusive parenting impacts developmental outcomes⁵, including internalizing symptoms such as anxiety⁷.
- Anxiety disorders have a prevalence of 3-15% in young children², and impacts long-term outcomes, such as brain development, future psychopathology, and academic achievement⁴.
- Infant negative affect could act as a mechanism linking harsh-intrusive parenting and preschool anxiety³.
- The present study examined associations between harsh-intrusive parenting, infant presence of negative affect, and preschool anxiety.**

Methods

- Data came from a subset of participants (N = 153) of the Brain and Early Experience (BEE) Study, a longitudinal study following mother-child dyads from mid-pregnancy through childhood.
- 50.98% of the sample was male, average age at 6-month visit was 7.09 months, and average age at 30-month visit was 35.55 months.
- 6-month Home Visit**
 - Harsh-Intrusive parenting was assessed using a parent-child interaction task.
 - Infant negative affect was observed during the Still Face Paradigm⁶.
- 30-month Remote Visit**
 - Anxiety symptoms were using Preschool Anxiety Scale (PAS) composite and sub-scales of generalized anxiety symptoms, social anxiety, separation anxiety, obsessive compulsive symptoms, and physical injury fears¹.
- Analytical Plan**
 - Ordinary least square regressions were conducted to assess the association between harsh-intrusive parenting (T6), infant negative affect (T6), and preschool anxiety (T30). Each model covaried for infant sex, age, and maternal education.

Results

Figure 1. Association between infant negative affect and obsessive compulsive symptoms

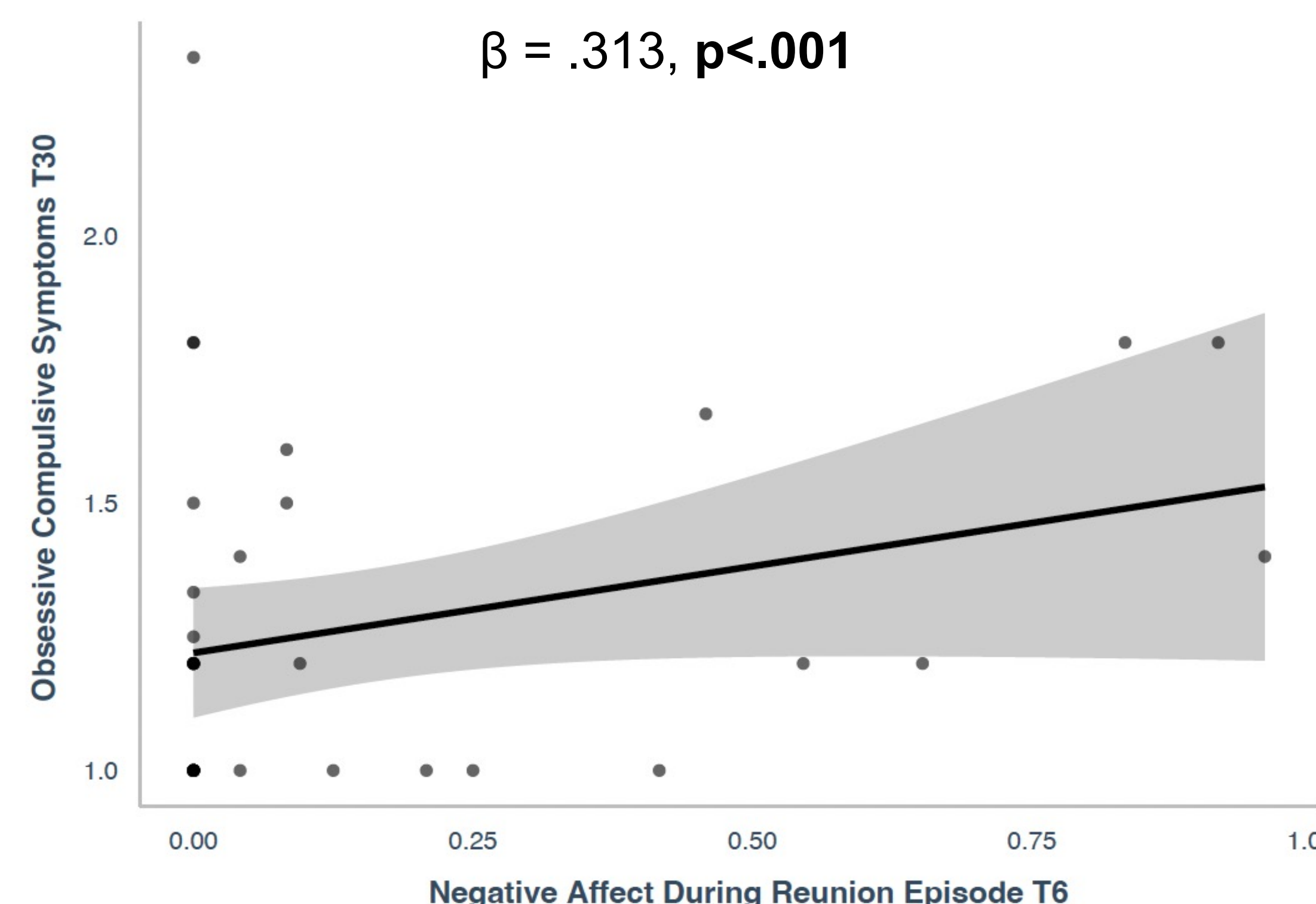


Figure 2. Association between infant negative affect and obsessive compulsive symptoms

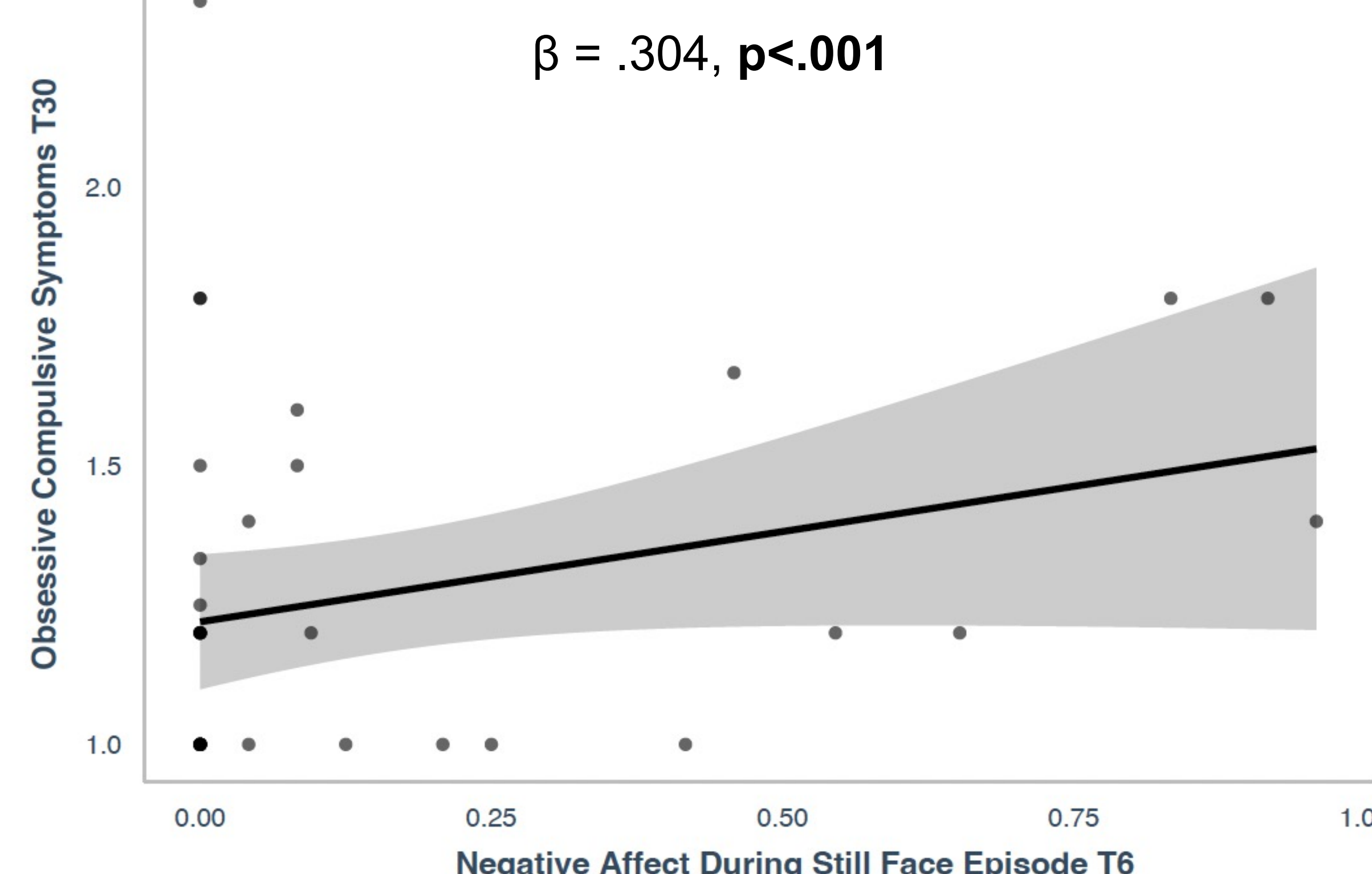
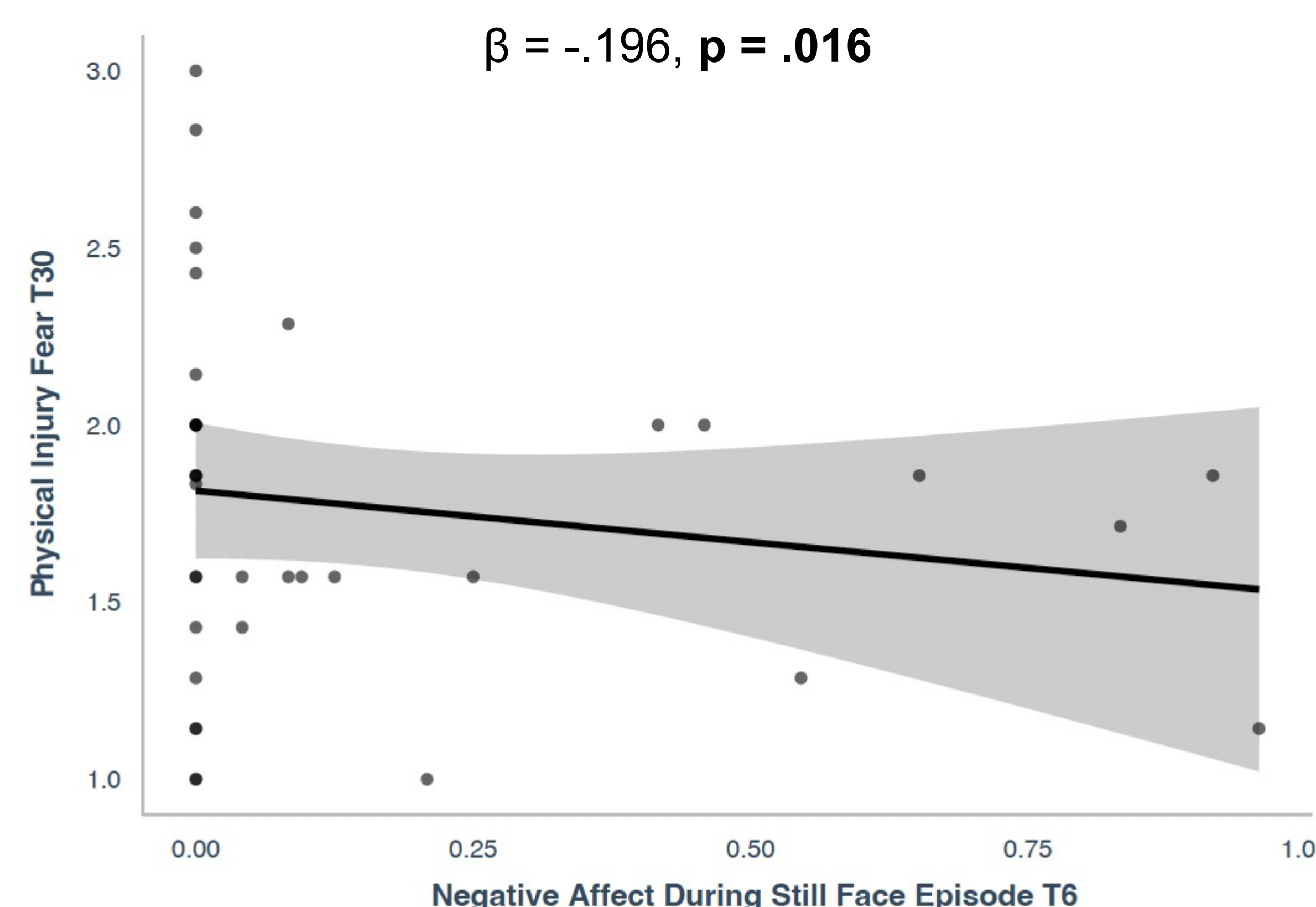
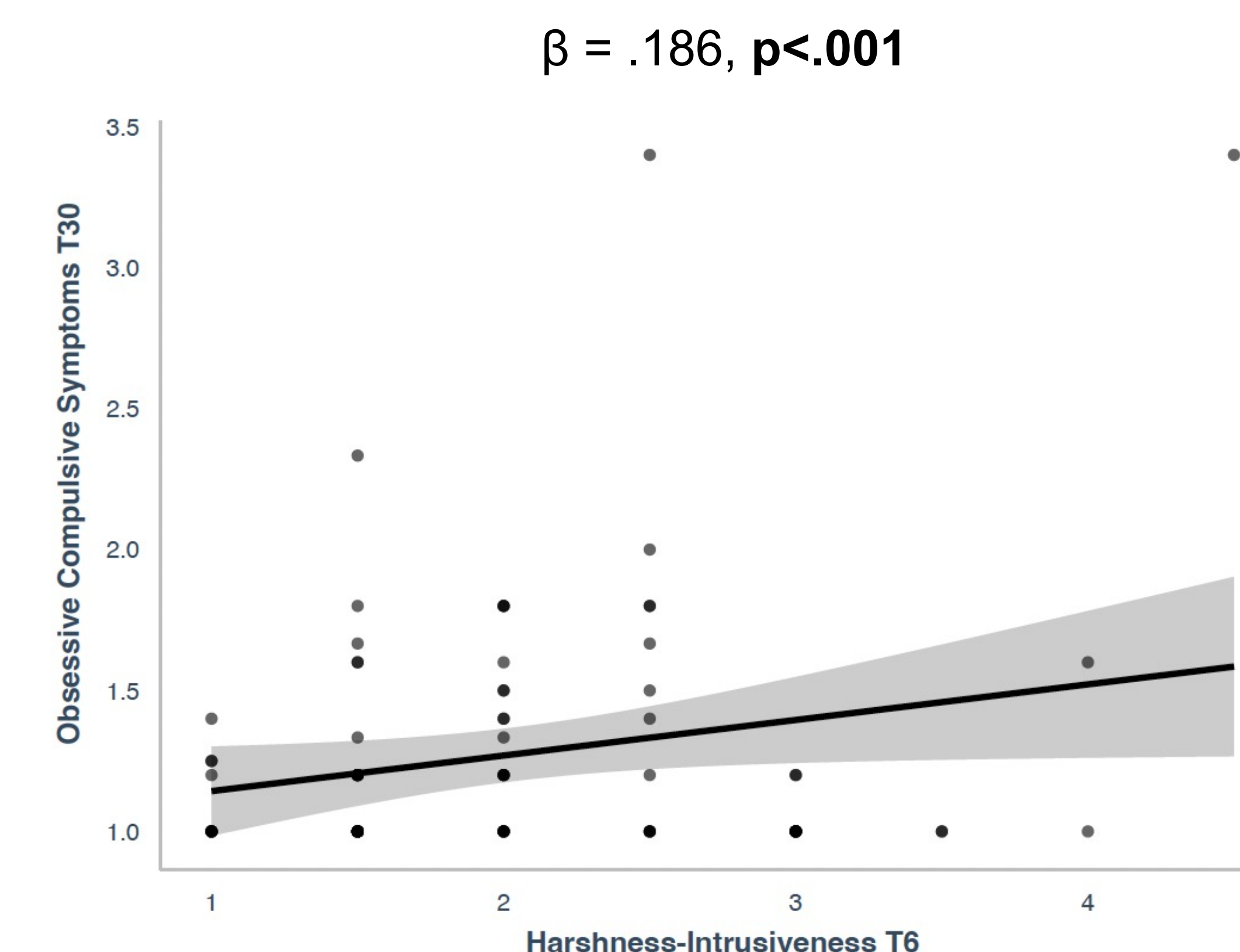


Figure 3. Associations between infant negative affect and physical injury fears



Results

Figure 4. Association between harsh-intrusive parenting and obsessive compulsive symptoms



Conclusions

- These results show that exposure to harsh early experiences and displaying higher negative affect may put children at risk of developing obsessive compulsive symptoms and lesser fear of physical injury.
- Can lead to perfectionism, repetitiveness, attention problems, and future psychopathology risk in young children
- Future directions include exploring how other early environments and temperamental traits are associated with developmental trajectories of anxiety through preschool and early childhood.

References

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Information

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