

Abstract

Previous research suggested a possible linkage between parental adverse childhood experiences and negative child developmental outcomes. Yet, the evidence has been discrete and limited, especially in the aspect of family-of-origin conflict. To bridge this research gap, the present longitudinal study aimed to investigate child behavioral problems, including externalizing and internalizing problems, as a function of their mothers' family-of-origin conflict. This study also took the intergenerational transmission of maternal bonding in to account, and tested the mediating role of it. Participants were a 642-person sub-sample of the school-aged children and their mothers recruited for the China Jintan Child Cohort Study, led by Dr. Jianghong Liu. Results supported our hypotheses: maternal family-of-origin conflict positively predicted child problem behaviors, including externalizing and internalizing behaviors, sequentially through the effect of maternal care of two generations. The findings could provide insights for the academia and clinical practices in the prevention and intervention of child problem behaviors.

Keywords: family conflict, family-of-origin, maternal care, child behavioral problems, intergenerational transmission, parental bonding