

Abstract

The association between childhood parental physical punishment and physical aggression in emerging adulthood and the possible moderation by child-beneficial interpretation will be examined. The total sample size is 98 emerging adults aged 18-26 years old. They reported their experience of childhood parental physical punishment, levels of physical aggression, and their levels of child-beneficial interpretation of parental physical punishment. After some preliminary and multiple regression analyses, a positive association between childhood parental physical punishment and physical aggression in emerging adulthood is found, and only under high levels of child-beneficial interpretation did childhood parental physical punishment predict physical aggression. The results highlight the importance of directly studying the subjective interpretation of physical punishment to further understand how the contextual factors of parenting may possibly affect the effect of physical punishment. Moreover, it is hoped that the results of this study can provide insights into improving interventions aimed at reducing the negative outcome of parental physical punishment, such as physical aggression.