



UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES
UPPER AUSTRIA

Social Development in Adolescence: The Impact of Family Conditions

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Content

- Introduction
- Aim of the study
- Method of data collection
 - > Investigated variables
 - > Sample
- Results
- Discussion

Introduction

In adolescence neglectful/unengaged or authoritarian parenting styles are associated with an increased risk for drinking, smoking, and/or using drugs.

(e.g., Radziszewska et al., 1996; Patock-Peckham et al., 2001; Patock-Peckham & Morgan-Lopez, 2006; Stephenson et al., 2005; Pico & Balázs, 2012; Dembo et al., 2015)

Introduction

Parenting style is associated with adolescents' reactions to conflict and the risk of becoming a victim and a bully/victim.

Significant gender-related differences were found for aggression involvement as well as for other risk factors.

(e.g., Miller, Dilorio & Dudley, 2002; Lereya, Samar, & Wolke 2013; Gómez-Ortiz et al., 2014; Gómez-Ortiz, Romera & Ortega-Ruiz, 2016)

Aim of the study

The study investigated the relation between family conditions and risk factors in adolescence from the perspective of adolescents in vocational schools.

- **Hypothesis 1:** Boys show higher scores in risk factors than girls.
- **Hypothesis 2:** Adolescents reporting unfavorable family conditions show higher scores in risk factors than adolescents with more favorable conditions

Method of data collection

Longitudinal study Cohort-sequence-design with two measurements

- Measurement 1: at the beginning of a school term
- Measurement 2: at the end of a school term

- Data were collected with online questionnaires students filled out during regular school hours.

- Three vocational schools in 41 different classes in Upper Austria.

Family Conditions

Scale – Parental engagement

- Four items:
 - > My parents like me very much.
 - > My parents are interested in my vocational education.
 - > If we have problems, my parents and I talk about it.
 - > My parents support me.
- 6-point rating-scale: strongly disagree – strongly agree
- Reliability: $\alpha = .85$

Family Conditions

Scale – Parental pressure

- Four items:
 - > We have many problems at home.
 - > The situation in my family is stressing me.
 - > My parents expectations put me under pressure.
 - > If there is a conflict at home, it can happen that someone loses his temper and cannot stop himself from hitting someone.
- 6-point rating-scale: strongly disagree – strongly agree
- Reliability: $\alpha = .80$

Risk factors

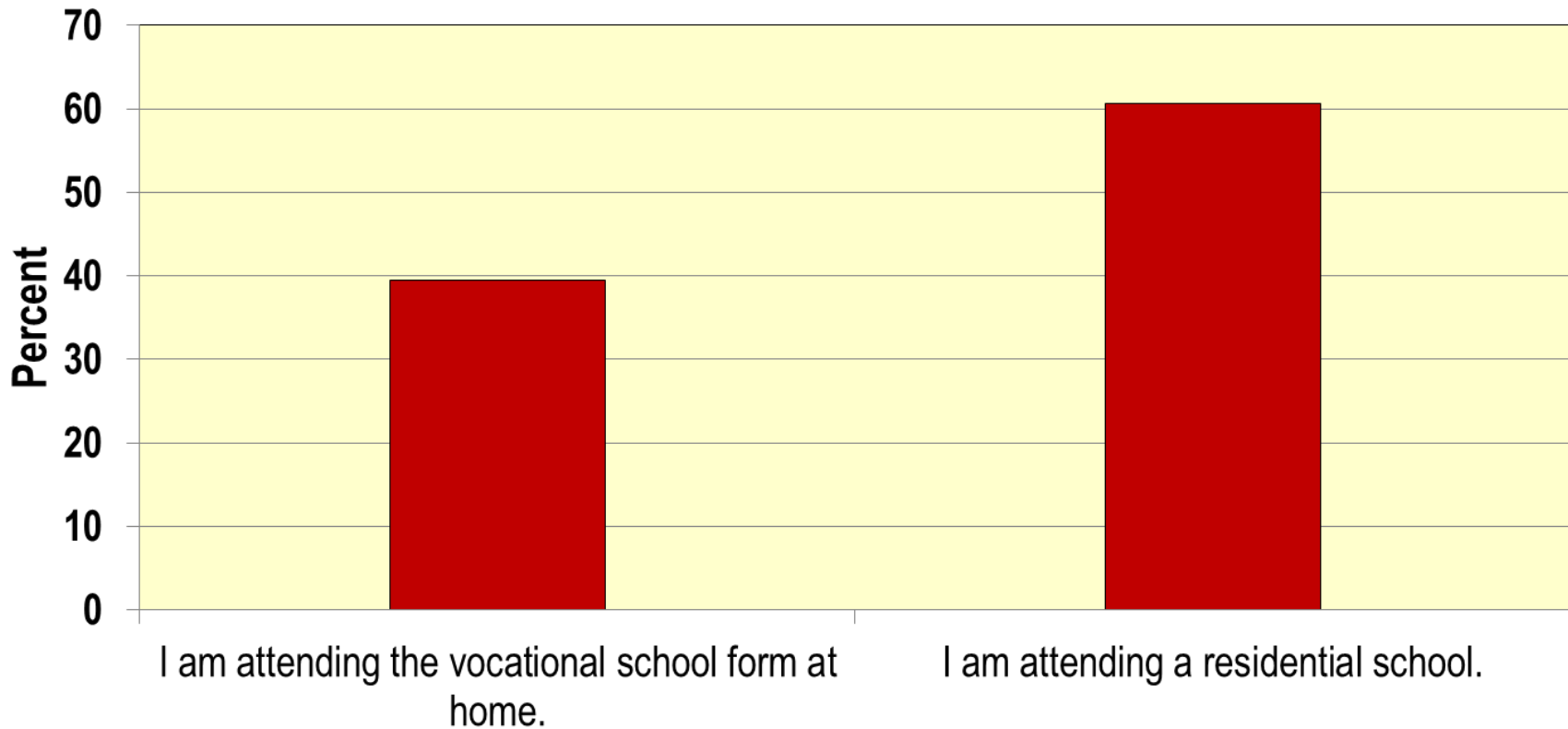
Scale	Items	Reliability M1	Reliability M2	Answering format
Attitude to delinquency	4	$\alpha = .88$	$\alpha = .90$	6-point rating-scale
Attitude to violence	6	$\alpha = .88$	$\alpha = .92$	6-point rating-scale
Delinquent behavior	7	$\alpha = .80$	$\alpha = .87$	6-point rating-scale
Violent behavior	4		$\alpha = .85$	6-point rating-scale

Sample

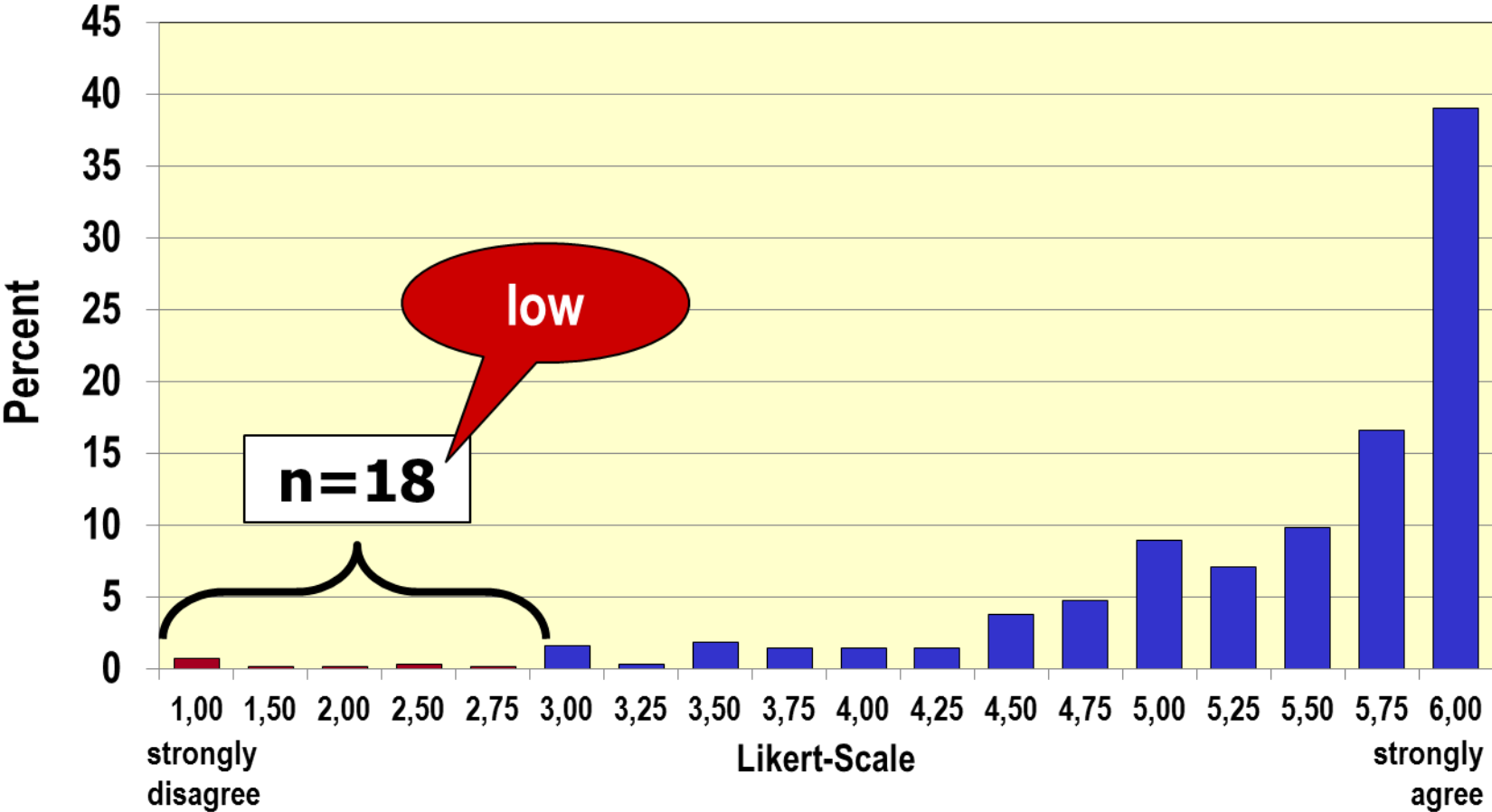
548 adolescents for both measurement points

Boys	Girls	Age
258 47%	290 53%	M = 17.52 years SD = 1.92 Range: 15-23 years

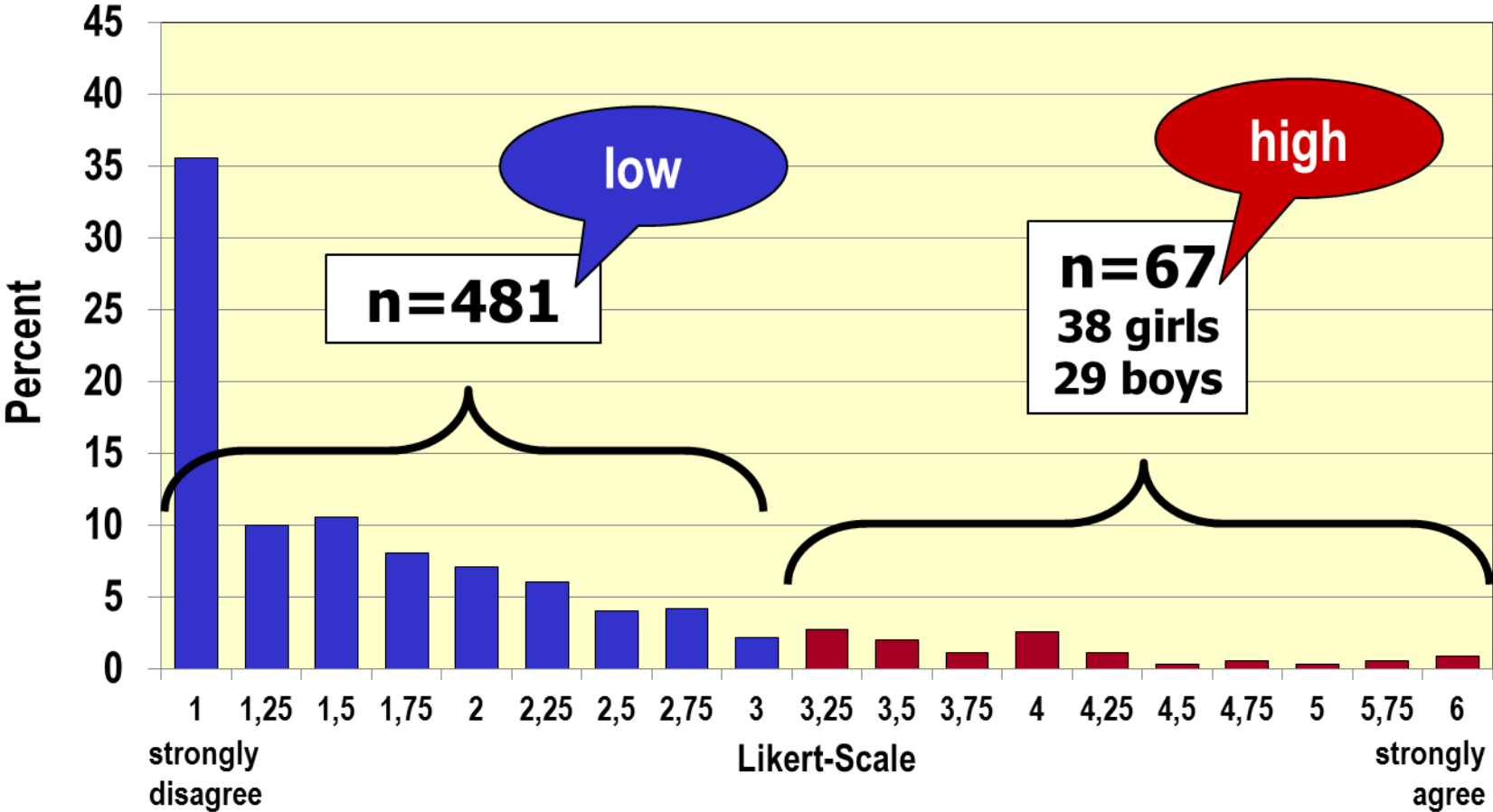
Place of residence during school term



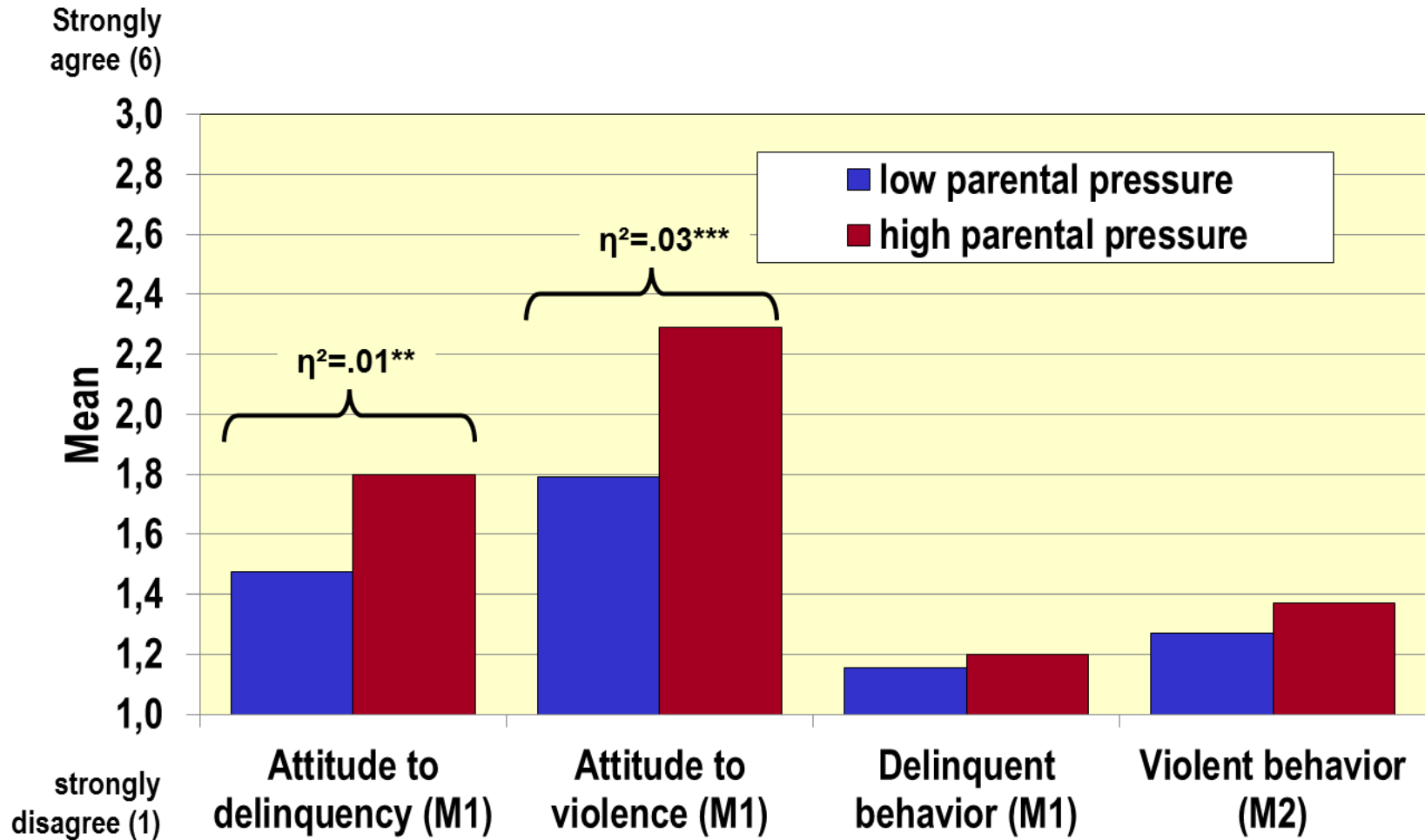
Parental engagement



Parental pressure

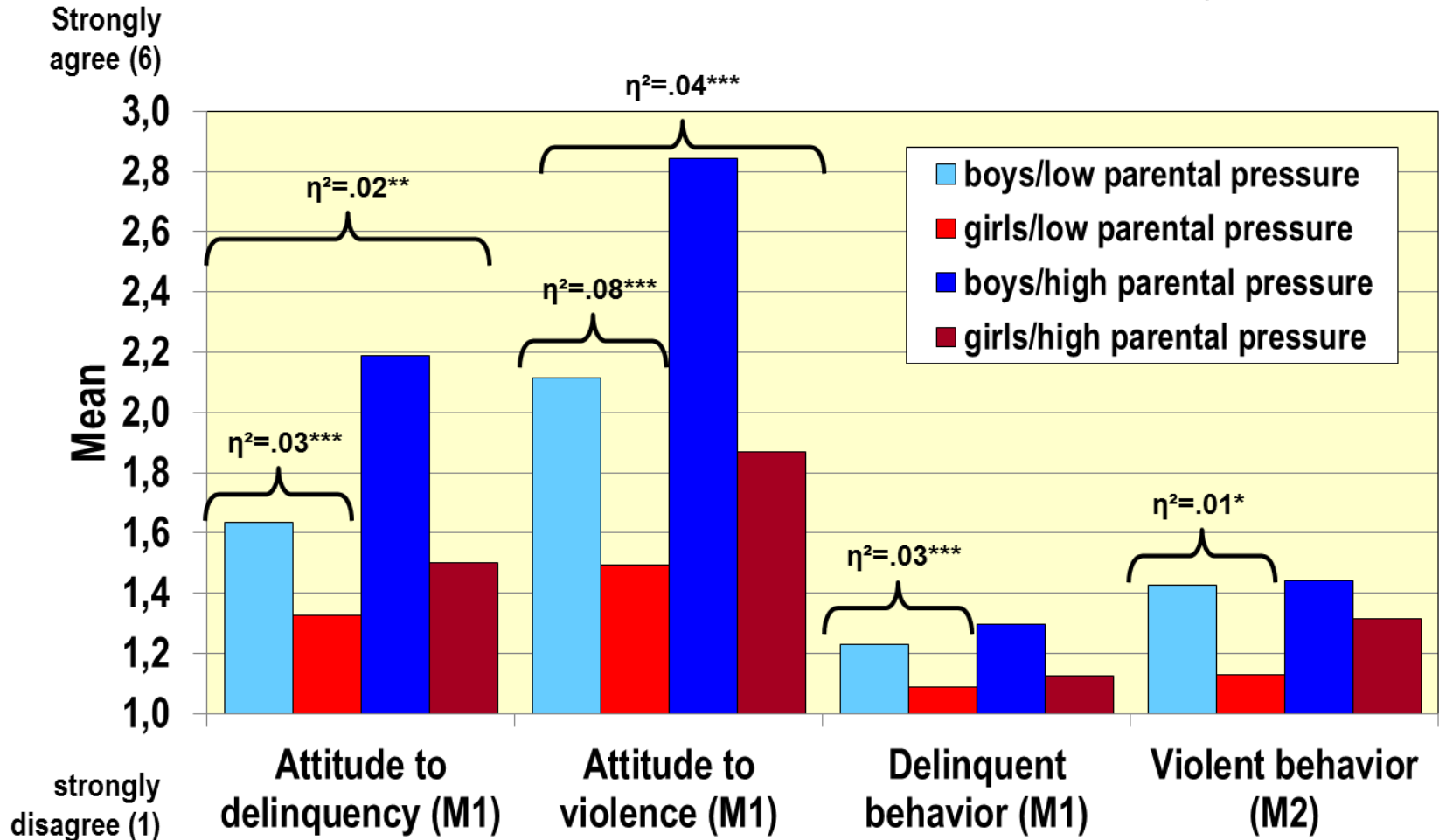


Risk Factors - Multivariate variance analysis



MANOVA: $F(4;543)=4.33$, $p=.002$, $\eta^2=.03$

Risk Factors - Multivariate variance analysis

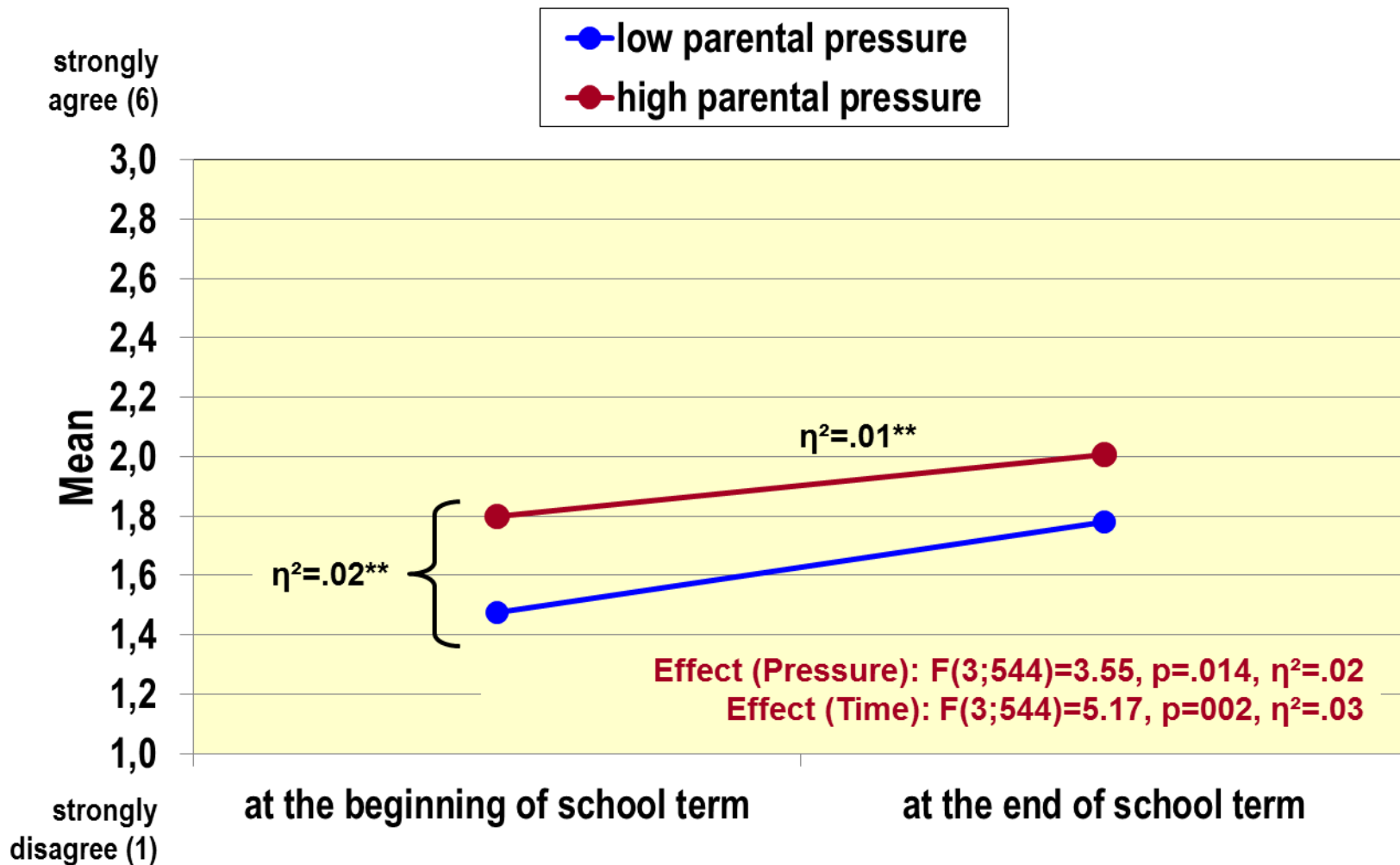


Effect (Gender): $F(4;541)=13.65$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=.09$

Effect (Pressure): $F(4;541)=5.90$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=.04$

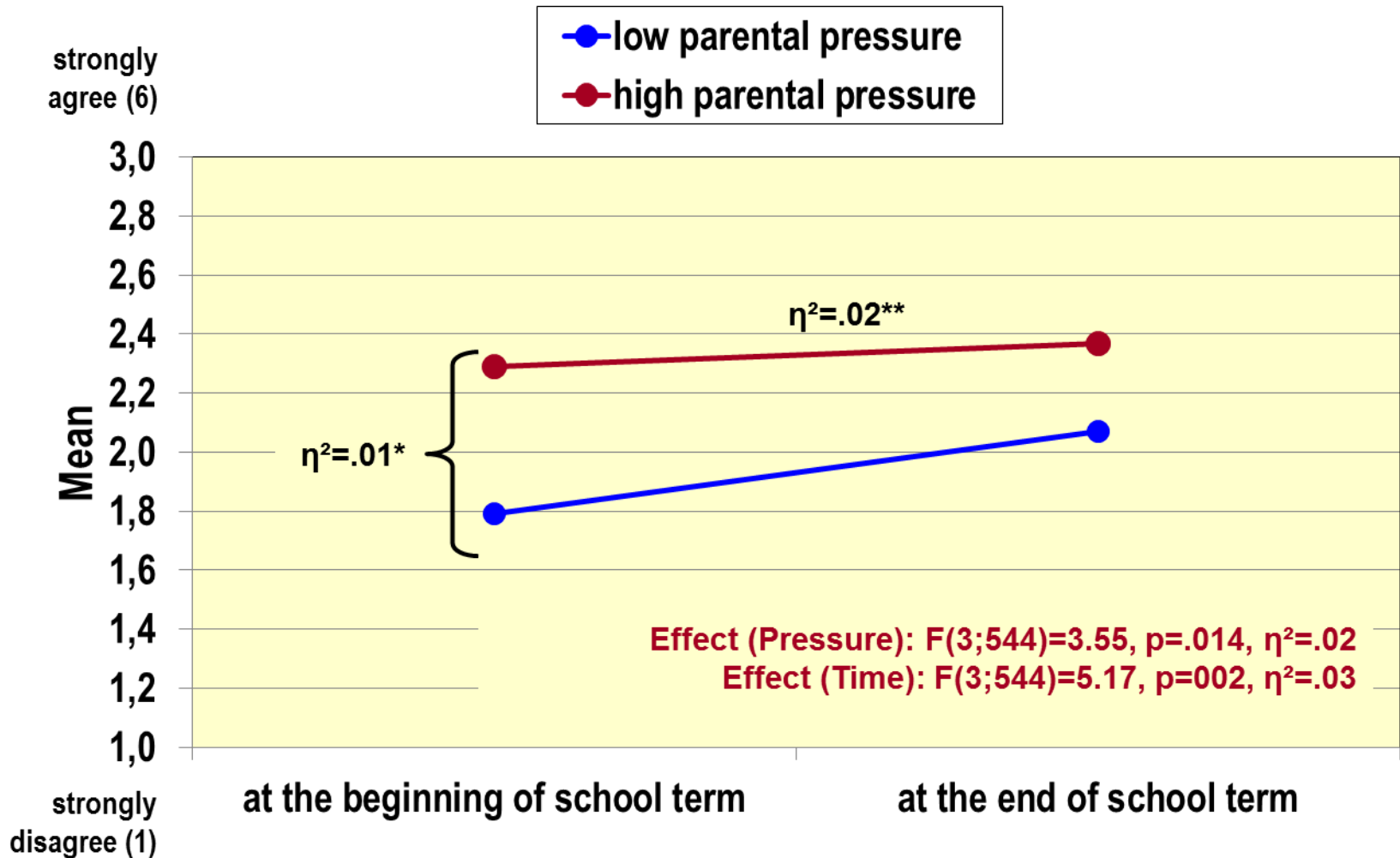
Attitude to delinquency

Variance analysis with repeated measurement

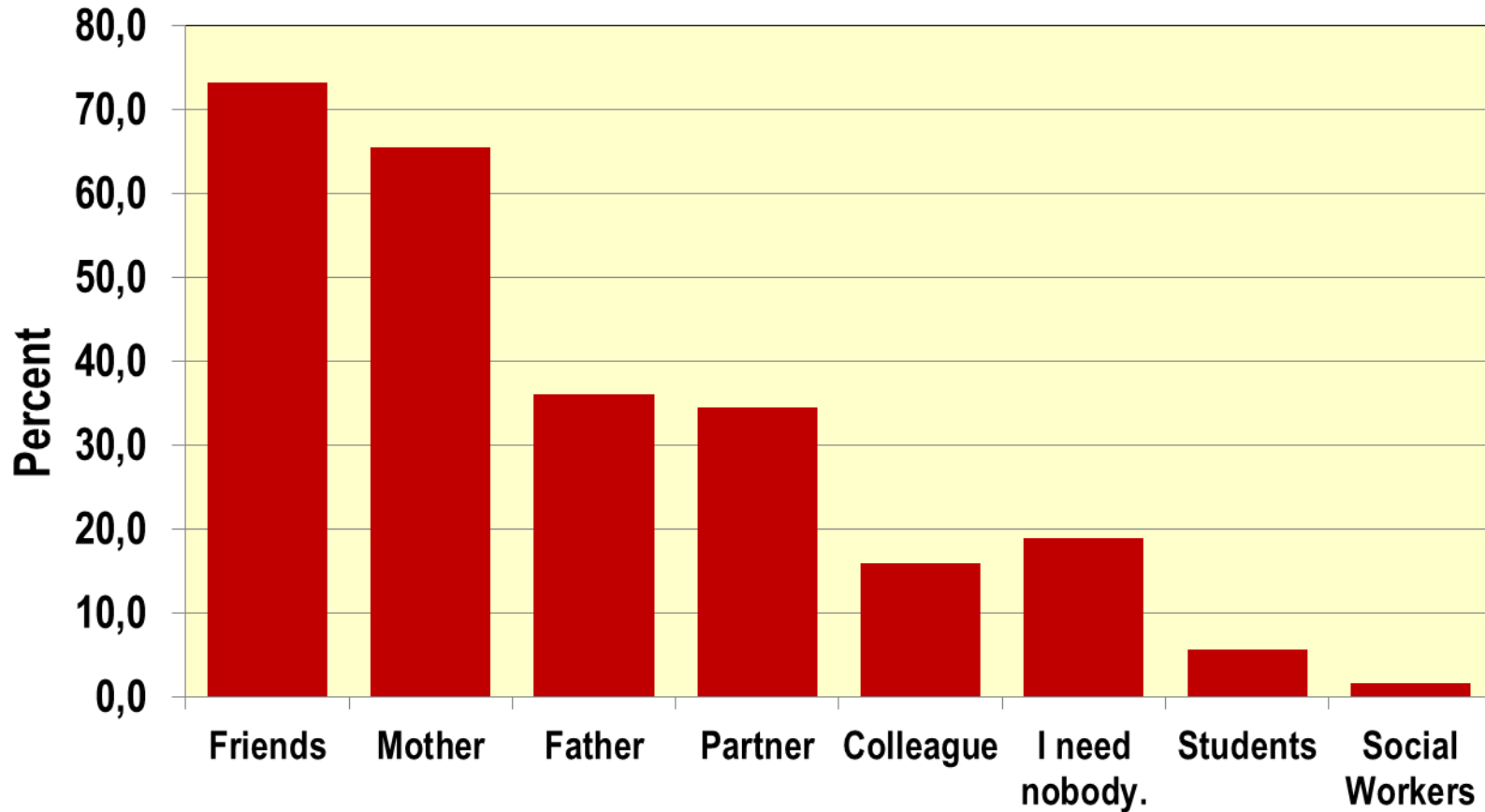


Attitude to violence

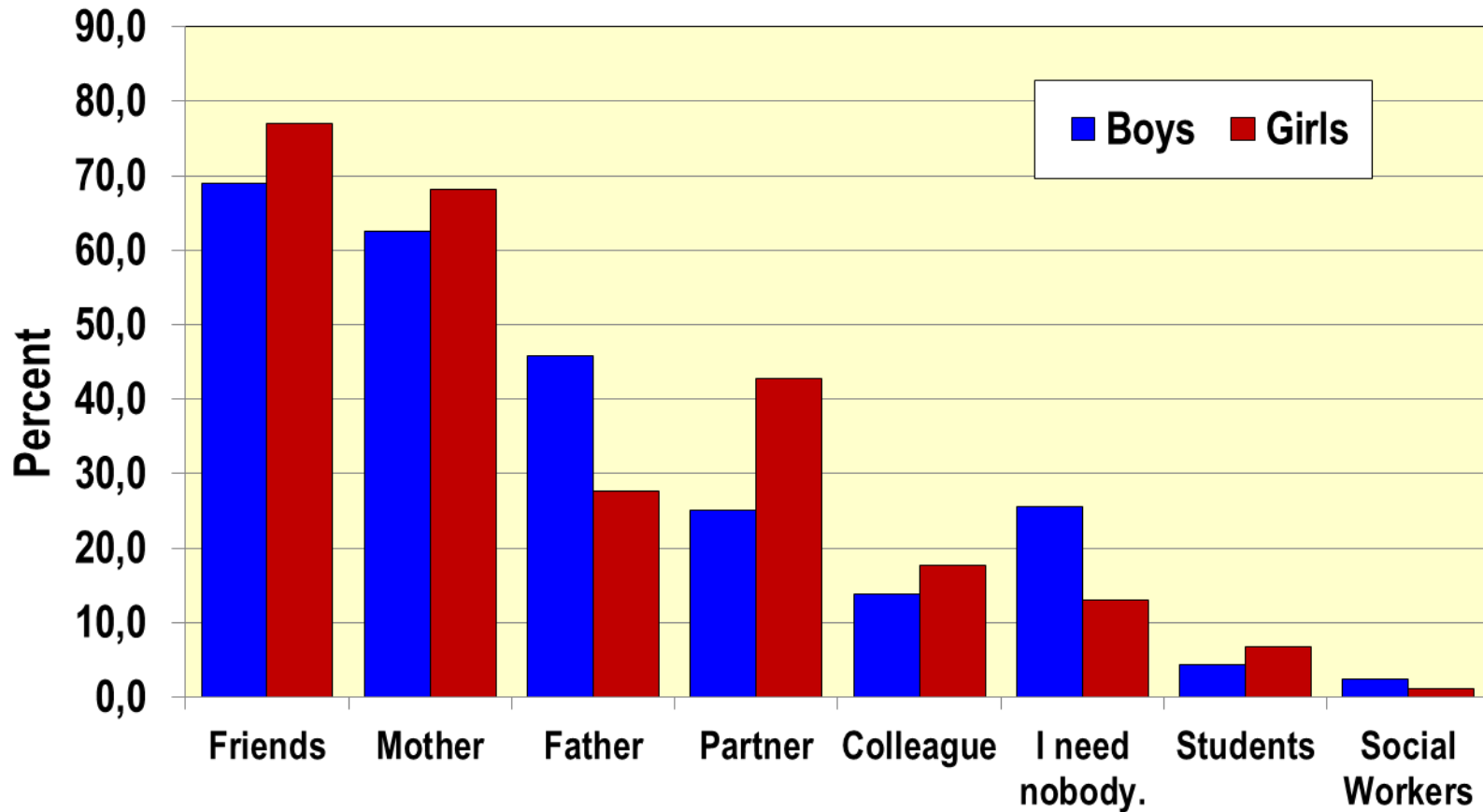
Variance analysis with repeated measurement



Parental support - Whom are you talking to if you have personal problems?



Parental support - Whom are you talking to if you have personal problems?



Discussion

Hypothesis 1: Boys show higher scores in risk factors than girls.

- Gender-related effects were found for attitudes as well as for risk behavior.

Hypothesis 2: Adolescents reporting unfavorable family conditions show higher scores in risk factors than adolescents with more favorable conditions.

- Findings support the hypothesis concerning attitudes but not for reported behavior.
- Small sample for "low parental engagement"

DANKSCHEEN
 SPASIBO SNACHALNYA
 HURUH
 CHILTU YAQHANYELAY
 TASHAKKUR ATU
 HASEEJA MATTEKA
 TUPRAGBATIM
 GRACIAS
 SUKSAMA
 EKHMET
 TINGKI
 BIYAN
 SHUKRIA
 ARIGATO
 SHUKURIA
 GOZAIMASHITA
 EFCHARISTO
 KOMAPSUMNIDA
 MAAKE
 GRAZIE
 MEHRBANI
 PALDIES
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