**PREDICTORS OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE OUTCOMES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**

**Chlöe Hart1, Dr. Adrienne Perry1, Dr. Odette Weiss2**

**1Department of Psychology, York University**

**2Surrey Place**

**Objectives:** Parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may experience negative outcomes, but research also suggests that parents may simultaneously experience positive outcomes. One purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between positive and negative outcomes to determine if they are independent or related. These outcomes can be influenced by various domains of the parents’ lives. Specifically, it is important to examine three domains: stressors, resources and supports (Perry, 2004). Another purpose of this study is to examine five variables, child characteristics (age and functioning), parental self-efficacy, mental health issues and informal social support, each of which falls within one of the three domains. The results will demonstrate whether any of the variables predict positive and/or negative outcomes for parents of children with ASD.

**Method:** A secondary analysis will be conducted on anonymized data collected by a former doctoral student for their dissertation. There were 178 participants who were parents of children with ASD receiving group Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) intervention. The children of participants were between the ages of 3 and 18 years (*M* = 9.17, *SD* = 3.62). Child age and functioning were evaluated using the GO4KIDDS Brief Adaptive Scale, to assess the children’s communication, social and self-help skills (Perry et al., 2015). Self-efficacy was measured using the Family Subscale of the Family Empowerment Scale (Koren et al., 1992). Mental health issues were assessed by the Kessler-10 (Kessler et al., 2003). Helpfulness of social support was measured using 11 items adapted from Dunst et al., 1984. Positive and negative outcomes were assessed using the Family Impact of Childhood Disability Scale (Trute et al., 2002). In the current study it was found that both subscales have good internal consistency (α = .82 for the Positive Family Impact subscale and α = .89 for the Negative Family Impact subscale).

**Results:** Analyses are in progress but will be reported at RSIG. A correlational analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between the positive and negative outcomes. The results supported the hypothesis and demonstrated there is a very weak, positive relationship between positive and negative outcomes (*r* = .03). Two hierarchal multiple linear regression analyses will be conducted to examine how much variance the independent variables can account for in each of the dependent variables, positive and negative outcomes.

**Discussion/Conclusions:** Results of the correlation suggest that even though parents may be experiencing negative outcomes they may be experiencing positive outcomes simultaneously. Based on the results of the two hierarchical multiple linear regression analyses, the present study will demonstrate if there is a relationship between the five variables and positive and negative outcomes for parents of children with ASD. Significant results would suggest that support services should help parents acquire variables that predict positive outcomes and minimize variables that predict negative outcomes.

**Correspondence:**

**Chlöe Hart**

Honours Psychology Undergraduate Student, York University

[chart22@my.yorku.ca](mailto:Chart22@my.yorku.ca)

**Dr. Adrienne Perry**

Department of Psychology, York University

[perry@yorku.ca](mailto:perry@yorku.ca)

**Dr. Odette Weiss**

Surrey Place

[odette.weiss@surreyplace.ca](mailto:odette.weiss@surreyplace.ca)