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**Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**

**Title**

Parental Bonding Styles and Their Association with Childhood Maltreatment Along the California-Mexico Border

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4tf2n8p6>

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**Publication Date**

2021

**Data Availability**

The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: N/A

## Introduction

- 78% of Latino children experience at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE) and 28% suffer 4 or more ACEs.<sup>1</sup>
- Affectionless control parenting is associated with childhood trauma.<sup>2</sup>
- Poor paternal bonding has been linked to psychosis.<sup>2</sup>
- Maternal control is associated with childhood anxiety in Latin American and Mexican children.<sup>3</sup>

## Objectives

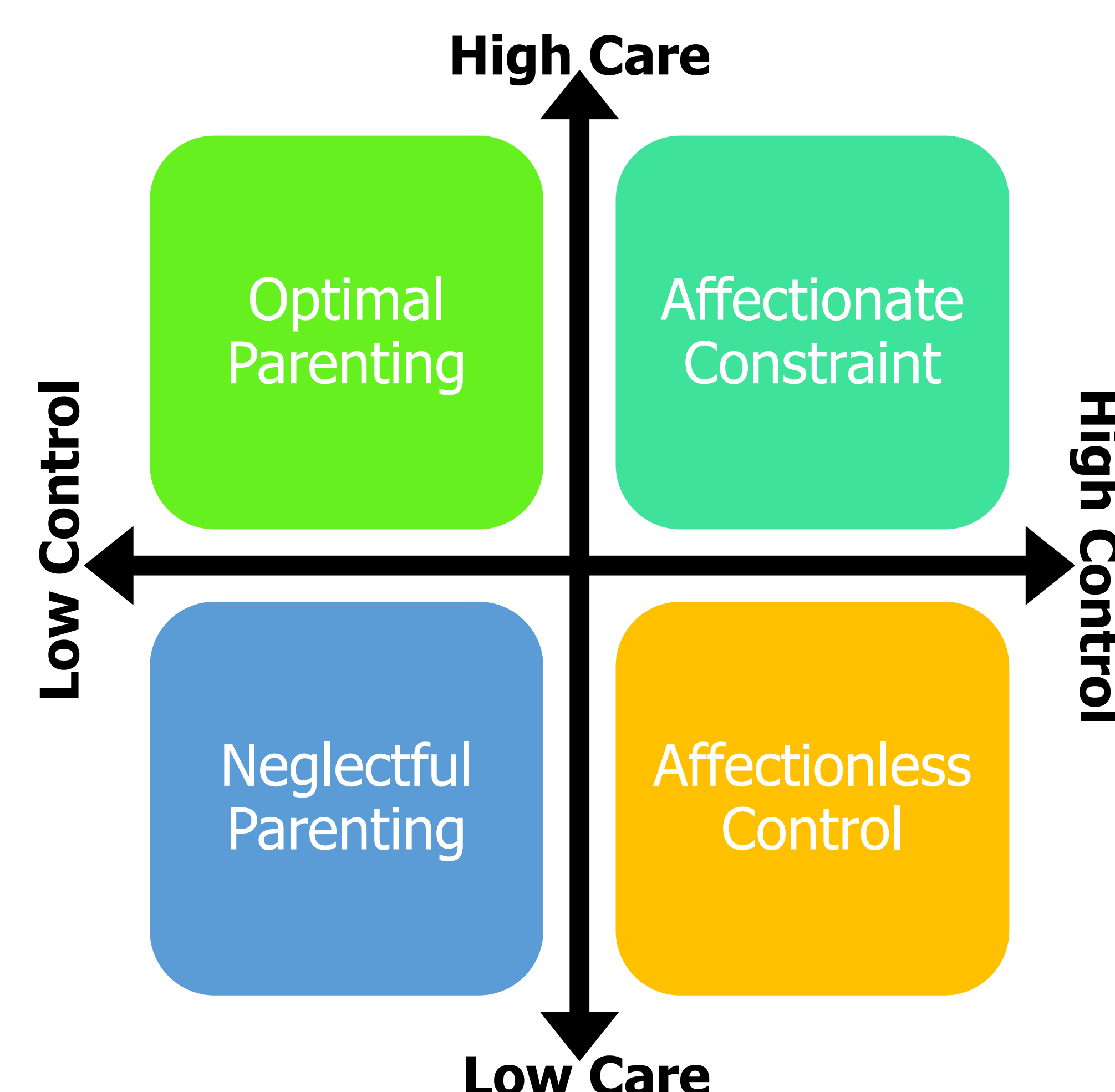
To explore the relationship between childhood maltreatment and parental bonding amongst adult Mexican American and Mexican nationals attending primary care and mental health clinics on both sides of the California-Mexico border.

## Methods and Analysis

- Surveyed 516 patients at primary care and mental health clinics along the CA-Mexico border using:
  - Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ)
  - Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI)
- Primary outcome = dichotomous history of any moderate/severe maltreatment
- Independent variable: parental bonding quadrant
- Statistical analyses included Chi-square tests and multivariable logistic regression.

## Results

Parental bonding quadrant was associated with history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and emotional and physical neglect.



**Figure 1:** Parental bonding quadrants

## Maternal and paternal bonding are associated with childhood maltreatment history.

Paternal Parental Bonding Quadrant	Moderate/Severe Maltreatment (n=242)	Absent/Mild Maltreatment (n=175)	AOR vs. Optimal Parenting (95% CI)
Affectionate Constraint	47 (19%)	77 (44%)	2.06 (0.92-4.60)
Affectionless Control	159 (66%)	49 (28%)	10.90 (4.96-23.96)
Optimal Parenting	12 (5%)	35 (20%)	Reference
Neglectful Parenting	24 (10%)	14 (8%)	6.57 (2.42-17.82)

Maternal Parental Bonding Quadrant	Moderate/Severe Maltreatment (n=294)	Absent/Mild Maltreatment (n=209)	AOR vs. Optimal Parenting (95% CI)
Affectionate Constraint	52 (18%)	106 (51%)	1.13 (0.57-2.24)
Affectionless Control	199 (68%)	44 (21%)	8.94 (4.51-17.73)
Optimal Parenting	17 (6%)	39 (19%)	Reference
Neglectful Parenting	26 (9%)	20 (10%)	2.96 (1.28-6.86)

**Tables 2 and 3:** Maltreatment history stratified by paternal (Table 2) and maternal (Table 3) parental bonding quadrant and adjusted odds ratio (AOR) of childhood moderate-to-severe maltreatment for each quadrant relative to optimal parenting, adjusted based on clinic location.

	Moderate/Severe Maltreatment (n=306)	Absent/Mild Maltreatment (n=210)	P-Value
Gender <sup>1</sup>			0.17
Female	226 (74%)	144 (69%)	
Male	79 (26%)	66 (31%)	
Location			<0.0001
California PC	80 (26%)	89 (42%)	
California Psych	164 (54%)	50 (24%)	
Mexico PC	50 (16%)	64 (30%)	
Mexico Psych	12 (4%)	7 (3%)	

<sup>1</sup>Data missing for 1 patient; PC = Primary Care Clinic; Psych = Psychiatry Clinic

**Table 1:** Gender, clinic location, and clinic type of moderately to severely maltreated patients compared to patients who were not mistreated or mildly mistreated as children.

## Conclusions/Further Study

- Suboptimal parenting near the California-Mexico border is associated with childhood maltreatment.
- Of parenting styles, affectionless control parenting has the strongest association with childhood maltreatment and may put children at risk for poor mental health.
- Neglectful parenting is also associated with higher risk of maltreatment.
- Parenting interventions in the border region aimed at increasing optimal parenting and decreasing affectionless control should be investigated.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our sponsors, the Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA) and the Migration and Health Research Program (PIMSA).

## References

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Paternal and maternal affectionless control were associated with a 10.90-fold and 8.94-fold higher odds of moderate-to-severe childhood maltreatment compared to optimal parenting, respectively.

Paternal and maternal neglectful parenting were associated with a 6.57-fold and 2.96-fold higher odds of moderate-to-severe childhood maltreatment compared to optimal parenting, respectively.