

The Influence of Adherence to Traditional Cultural Values on Family Conflict & Emotion Dysregulation in Predicting Suicide Behavior in Latina Adolescents

Joseph D. Hovey, Ph.D.
Professor
Psychological Science Department
www.jhoveyphd.com; www.behhealthlab.com
joseph.hovey@utrgv.edu

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley[™]

Background Information

- Latina adolescents report high levels of suicide ideation, planning, attempts (CDC, 2020).
- Zayas et al. (2005, 2008) posited that increased suicide behavior in Latina adolescents may be due to parent-adolescent differences in traditional values.
- In specific, in families that support cultural beliefs emphasizing deference to parents, restrictions on adolescent female autonomy, and family unity – family conflict may arise when Latina adolescents exert autonomy and adapt non-traditional values, with conflict surrounding dating being especially stressful.
- The consequent intense interpersonal stress then leads to increased suicide thoughts and behavior in Latina adolescents.
- De Luca et al. (2012) found that, in Latina adolescents, perceived support from fathers, rather than mothers, was associated with lower suicide ideation & attempts.

Research Questions / Aims

- Does greater adherence to traditional gender expectations (marianismo) predict greater family conflict and suicide behavior in Latina adolescents?
- Does family conflict and emotion dysregulation interact to predict suicide behavior?
- To examine moderated mediation model of suicide behavior in Latina adolescents. Model included marianismo, family conflict, emotion dysregulation, and suicide behavior.

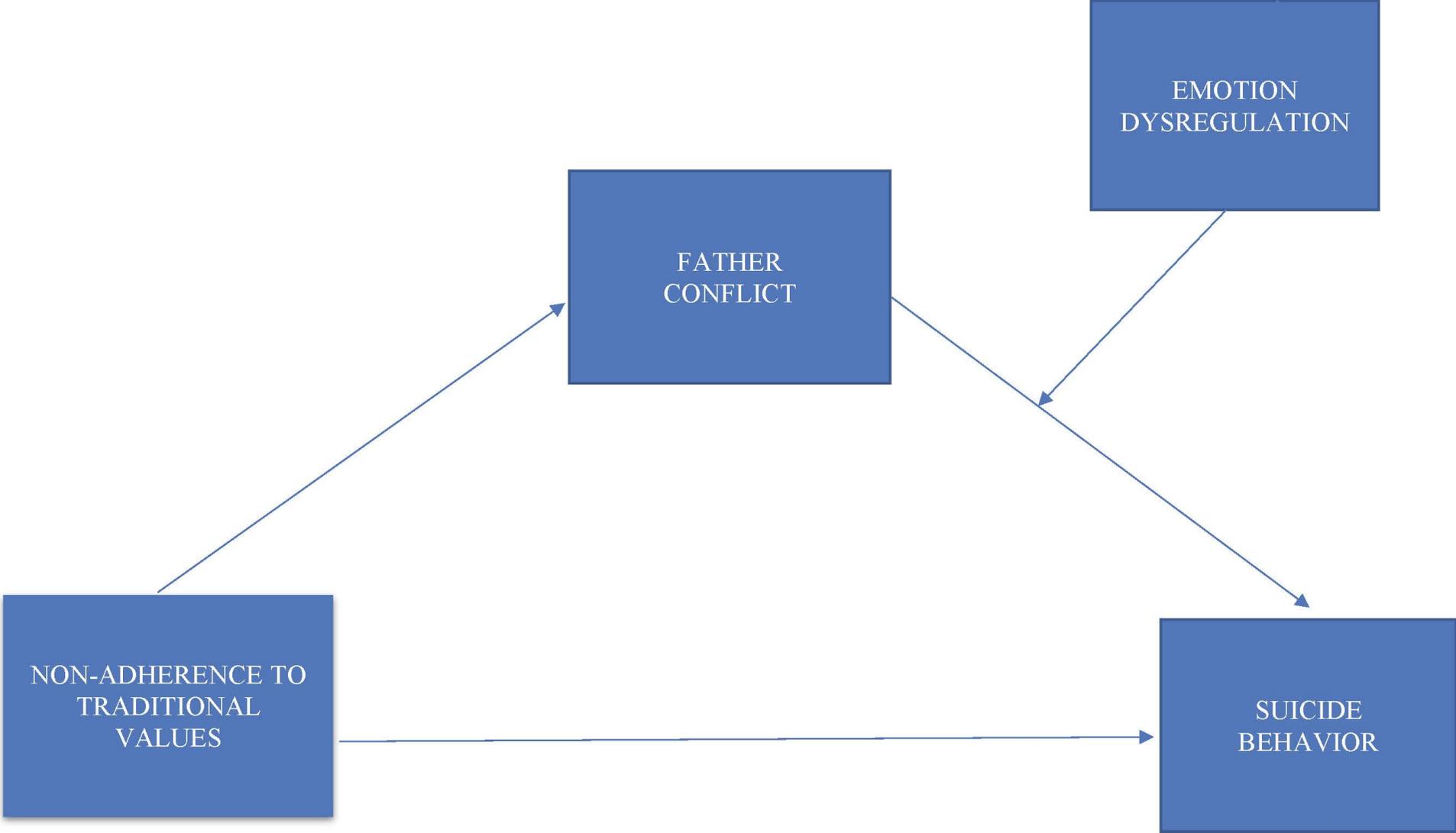
Methods

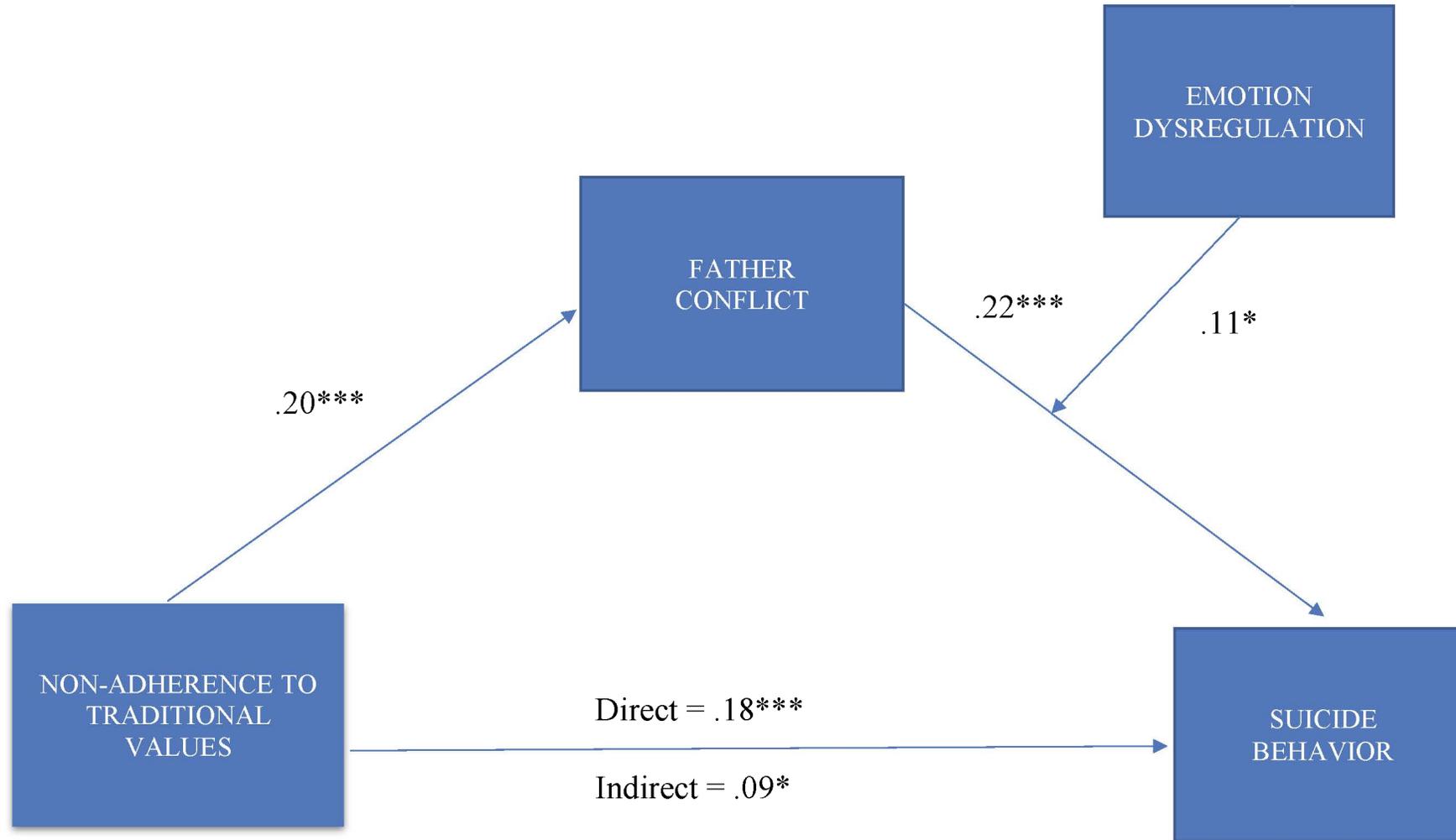
- Participants & Procedure: 368 females of Mexican heritage, aged 18 & 19, from university in Rio Grande Valley, TX. Recruited through Sona Systems & data collected through Qualtrics.
- Measures:
 - *Marianismo Beliefs Scale* (Castillo et al., 2010), which assesses the extent to which a Latina believes that she should practice cultural values related to the female gender in Hispanic cultures. Subscales include Virtuous/Chaste, Subordinate to Others, Self-Silencing to Maintain Harmony, Family Pillar, and Spiritual Pillar.
 - *Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale* (Gratz & Roemer, 2004).
 - Family Conflict subscale of *Family Environment Scale* (Moos & Moos, 1994).
 - *Conflict Behavior Questionnaire* (Schroder, 2004) to measure conflict with mother & father.
 - *Suicidal Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised* (Osman et al., 2001).

Correlations

	Family Conflict	Mother Conflict	Father Conflict	Emotion Dysregulation	Suicide Behavior
Virtuous / Chaste	.09*	.10*	.20***	.11*	.18***
Family Conflict	--	.46***	.51***	.28***	.32***
Mother Conflict	.46***	--	.32***	.27***	.25***
Father Conflict	.51***	.32***	--	.29***	.35***
Emotion Dysregulation	.28***	.27***	.29***	--	.38***

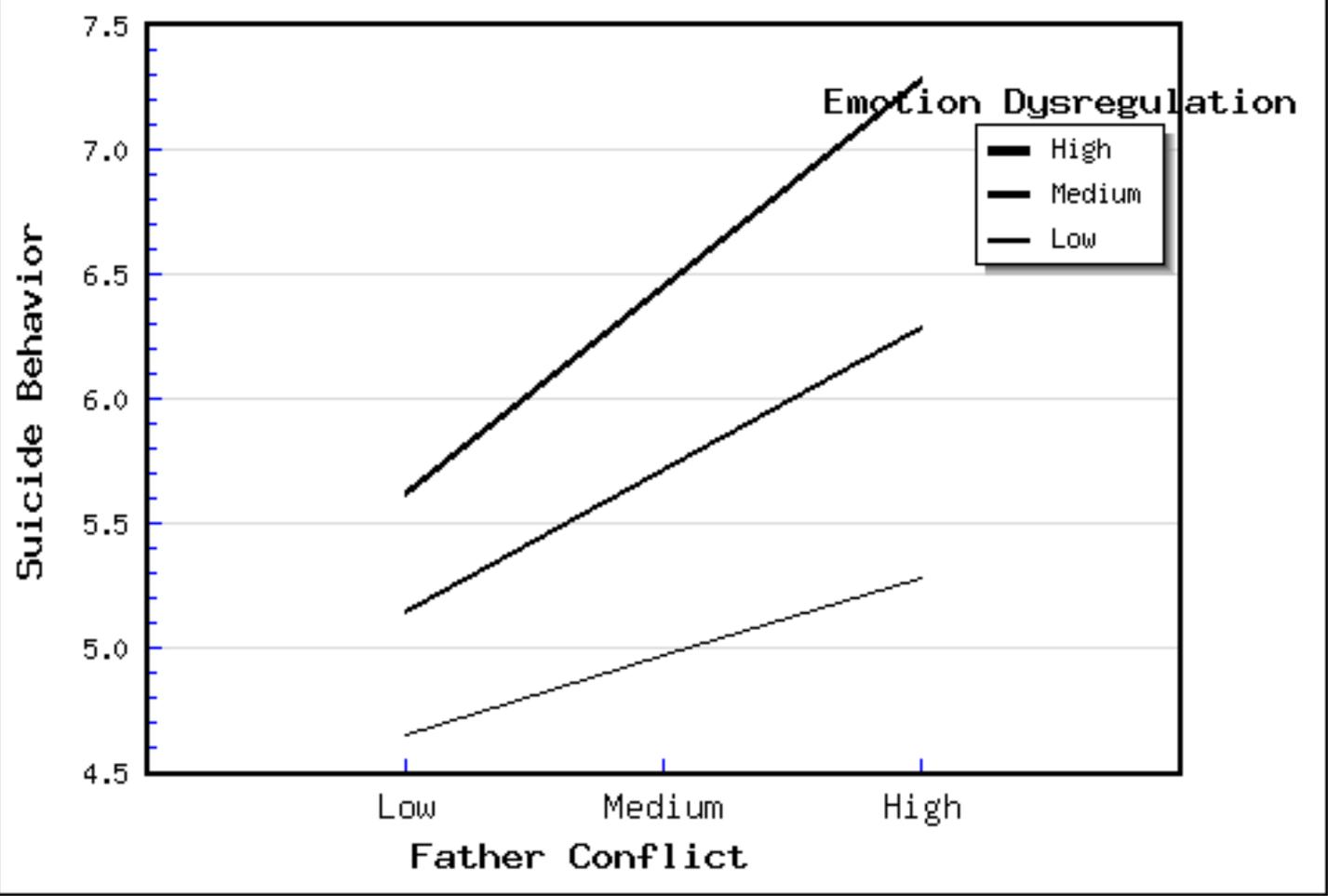
*Note: * $p \leq .05$, *** $p \leq .001$.*





Notes: Above values are standardized beta coefficients. * $p < .05$, *** $p < .001$. Non-adherence had a significant indirect effect on suicide behavior through interaction of father conflict and emotion dysregulation (unstandardized CI = $-.0013, -.0001$).

Interaction of Emotion Regulation and Father Conflict



Summary & Future Directions

- Findings provide support for "cultural values" model.
- Clinical implications.
- Need to generalize findings.
- Prospective research can verify directionality of variables.

Thank You

- Questions and comments.