Maternal and paternal control has been linked to anxiety. By latter adolescence, a moderation model best explained anxiety, with 63% girls (n = 458 youth, Age M = 12.93, SD = 2.75) attending public school in New Orleans, Louisiana. Youth were divided into four cohorts (Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12).

Children’s maladaptive schemas related to Disconnection/Rejection and Impaired Autonomy/Performance may mediate the relation between parental control and childhood anxiety (e.g., Creveling, Varela, Weems, & Corey, 2010).

Children’s emotion regulation skills (e.g., cognitive reappraisal) have been implicated in the development of anxiety (e.g., Zeman, Shipman, & Suveg, 2002) and may serve to influence the relations between parental control, schemas, and anxiety.

Lastly, children’s schemas may change over time and relate differently to parental control and anxiety as children age (Chorpita & Barlow, 1998).

HYPOTHESES

- For young children, early maladaptive schemas will mediate the relationship between parental control and anxiety, which will be moderated by children’s cognitive reappraisal skills.
- For older adolescents, early maladaptive schemas and cognitive reappraisal will moderate the relationship between parental control and anxiety, such that higher levels of parental control and/or maladaptive schemas will be related to higher levels of anxiety.

METHOD

Participants: 458 youth (Age M = 12.93, SD = 2.75) attending public school in New Orleans, Louisiana. Youth were divided into four cohorts (Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12).

- 63% girls (n = 285), 37% boys (n = 164).
- 54% African American (n = 248), 15% Latin American (n = 72), and 30% European American (n = 138).

CONCLUSIONS

- Consistent with the proposed model, both schemas mediated or partially mediated the relation between maternal/paternal control and anxiety for younger children (Grades 4 & 5), but failed to mediate this relation in older adolescents (Grades 11 & 12).
- By latter adolescence, a moderation model best described the relation between parental control, the Impaired Autonomy/Performance schema, and anxiety.
- Emotion regulation failed to influence either the mediation or moderation models.

IMPLICATIONS

- These findings suggest that developmental variations may exist in how parenting practices, emotion regulation, and cognition relate to youth’s anxiety.