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Background

- Family quality of life (FQOL) is an umbrella construct that aims to capture different aspects of family life and level of functioning within those areas (Samuel, Rillotta, & Brown, 2012)
- Interest in FQOL emerged as disability services began to become more focused on families (Poston et al., 2003)
- There is much need for further research to support the validity of FQOL measures (Isaacs et al., 2007)
- Outcomes of families with a child with DD may be impacted by
 - social support
 - coping style
 - family hardiness
 - self-efficacy
 - stress
- It is important to establish that FQOL as a whole is different from these other elements, but it is thought that they all play a factor in FQOL

Measures

- Family Quality of Life Survey- 2006** (Brown et al., 2006)
 - 9 Domains → Health of the Family, Financial Well-Being, Family Relationships, Support from Other People, Support from Disability Related Services, Influence of Values, Careers, Leisure and Recreation, and Community Interaction
 - Sum of Attainment and Satisfaction for each; Global FQOL=Sum of all 9
- GO4KIDDS Basic and Extended Surveys**
 - Child's Adaptive and Maladaptive Behavior** → Scales of Independent Behavior- Revised (Bruininks, Woodcock, Weatherman, & Hill, 1996)
 - Child's diagnosis** → DD only, ASD only, DD+ASD
 - Family Hardiness** → Inventory of Family Protective Factors (Gardner, Huber, Steiner, Vazquez, & Savage, 2008)
 - Self-efficacy** → Family Empowerment Scale (Koren, DeChillo, & Friesen, 1992)
 - Mental Health** → Kessler-6 (Kessler et al., 2010)
 - Physical Health** → one question, 5-point Likert scale
 - Social Support** → number of sources of nearby social support
 - Formal Support** → number of services received from list of 20 professionals
 - Socioeconomic Status** → Barratt Simplified Measure of Social Status (Barratt, 2006)
 - Social Activities** → 7 activities- frequency of participation
 - Marital Satisfaction** → 2 items: happiness with marriage, amount of support

Results (continued)

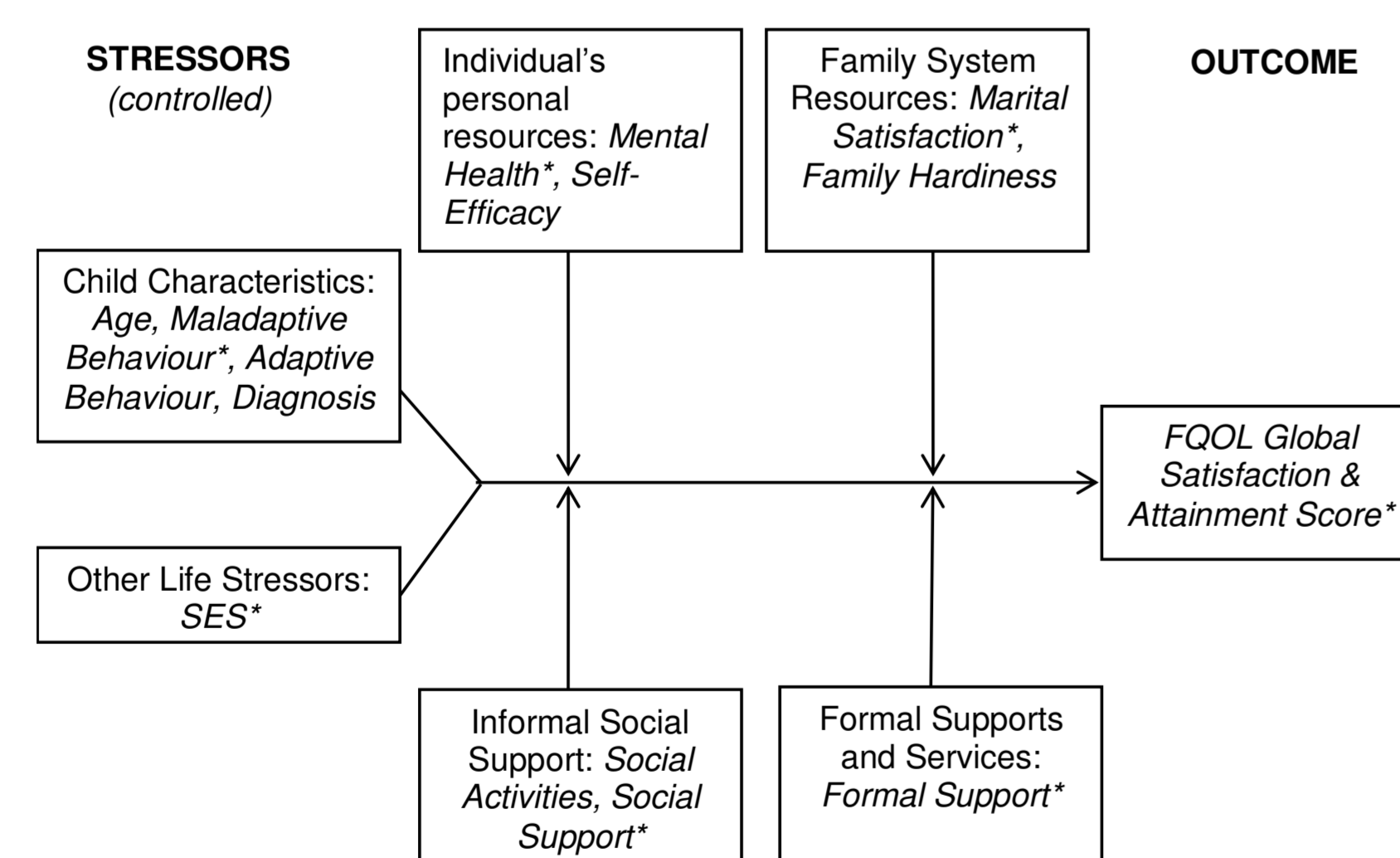
GO4KIDDS Surveys Sections as Predictors of Global FQOL Score

Step and Predictors	B	SE B	β
1. Constant	52.1	6.38	
Maladaptive Behaviour	8	.16	-.11
SES	-.10	.14	.29
	.22		
2. Constant	47.7	8.85	
Maladaptive Behaviour	0	.14	-.23
SES	-.19	.12	.27
Mental Health	.21	2.21	-.43*
Marital Satisfaction	-5.64	1.52	.27
	2.57		
3. Constant	43.7	12.12	
Maladaptive Behaviour	8	.15	-.23
SES	-.20	.12	.27
Mental Health	-.20	2.33	-.41*
Marital Satisfaction	-5.40	1.58	.28
Social Support	2.62	1.33	.10
Formal Support	.82	.23	.01
	.01		

*p < .05. Note: R² = .10 for Step 1, ΔR² = .29 for Step 2 (p < .01), ΔR² = .01 for Step 3, Total R² = .40 (Adj R² = .24)

Purpose and Research Questions

- Examine convergent and divergent validity of FQOL measure
 - Hypothesis: portions measuring similar constructs will be highly correlated, while portions measuring unrelated constructs will show the opposite pattern**
- Examine how traditional family variables contribute to an overall FQOL score
 - Hypothesis: traditional family variables will all contribute significantly to the overall FQOL score, but there will be a large portion of unaccounted variance remaining**



* Variable used in regression model

Results

Intercorrelations Among GO4KIDDS Survey Sections and FQOLS-2006 Domains

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
GO4KIDDS Surveys Sections																				
1. Family Hardiness	1																			
2. Self-Efficacy	.45*	1																		
3. Mental Health	-.23	-.20	1																	
4. Physical Health	.10	.20	-.51**	1																
5. Social Support	-.19	-.14	-.21	.20	1															
6. Formal Support	.07	-.54**	.15	-.12	-.10	1														
7. SES	-.08	.07	.10	.17	.05	.08	1													
8. Social Activities	-.16	-.31	-.49	.37	.36	-.04	.18	1												
9. Marital Satisfaction	.50**	-.00	-.24	.38	-.02	.00	-.12	.26	1											
FQOLS-2006 Domains																				
10. Health of the Family	.21	.15	-.29	.60**	.14	.01	.14	.14	.23	1										
11. Financial Well-Being	.18	-.19	-.14	.14	-.05	.22	.34	.12	.31	.32	1									
12. Family Relationships	.47**	.30	-.18	.40*	.07	.09	.29	.06	.40*	.55**	.50**	1								
13. Support from Other People	-.08	-.08	-.25	.17	.38*	-.24	.16	.17	.28	.08	.17	.11	1							
14. Support from Services	.40*	.12	-.23	-.13	-.10	.08	-.03	.07	.38	.21	.39*	.13	-.05	1						
15. Influence of Values	.29	.14	-.27	.40*	.21	.20	.18	.18	.60**	.23	.56**	-.01	.13	.1	1					
16. Careers	.11	-.05	-.30	.35	.11	.12	.32	.30	.46*	.51**	.34	-.04	.20	.14	.1	1				
17. Leisure and Recreation	.07	.01	-.61**	.35	-.11	-.18	-.44	.23	.20	.40*	.39*	.10	.15	.49**	.14	.32	1			
18. Community Interaction	.09	.17	-.36	.42*	.27	-.11	.26	.25	.17	.52**	.56**	.39*	.38*	.40*	.38*	.48**	.52**	1		
19. Overall FQOL	.29	.08	-.45*	.47*	.17	.00	.30	.25	.38	.71**	.75**	.64**	.34	.52**	.52**	.64**	.63**	.84**	1	

Note: *p < .05, **p < .01

- Expected to be correlated
- Medium correlation
- Large correlation

Discussion

Convergent and Divergent Validity

- The domains of the FQOLS-2006 were mostly correlated in sensible ways with the constructs in the GO4KIDDS Surveys, but were mostly lower than expected
- Limited support for convergent and divergent validity with these measures
- There were unexpected correlations between some constructs

Overall FQOL Score and Family Constructs

- Mental Health problems were the only significant predictors for the FQOLS-2006 Global Score, nothing else contributed to the regression model
- FQOL is more than just the sum of these variables and may be a broader concept

Limitations & Future Research

- Small sample, limited constructs in regression
- Most respondents were mothers, and usually only one family member
- The way in which the GO4KIDDS Surveys measures were used may not be fully representative
- Future studies should explore the best ways to calculate a score, especially using both subjective and objective responses

Participants

- N = 30
- Parents of children with DD
 - Parents' age 31-57 (24 mothers, 3 fathers, 3 both parents)
 - Children's age 6-17 (20 males, 10 females)

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