

# The Effect of Offspring Gender on Levels of Parent Strictness

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## SAMPLE

- Respondents recruited via messages posted on a personal Facebook page, the Miami University Class of 2018 Facebook page, and the Miami University Department of Family Studies and Social Work Listerv
- 45 respondents via Qualtrics web based survey
- Between ages 18 and 29
- 41 females and 4 males
- Respondents had to have at least one sibling of the opposite gender

## RESEARCH QUESTION

Do parents have different levels of strictness for their offspring based on gender?

## MEASURES

Parental Strictness:

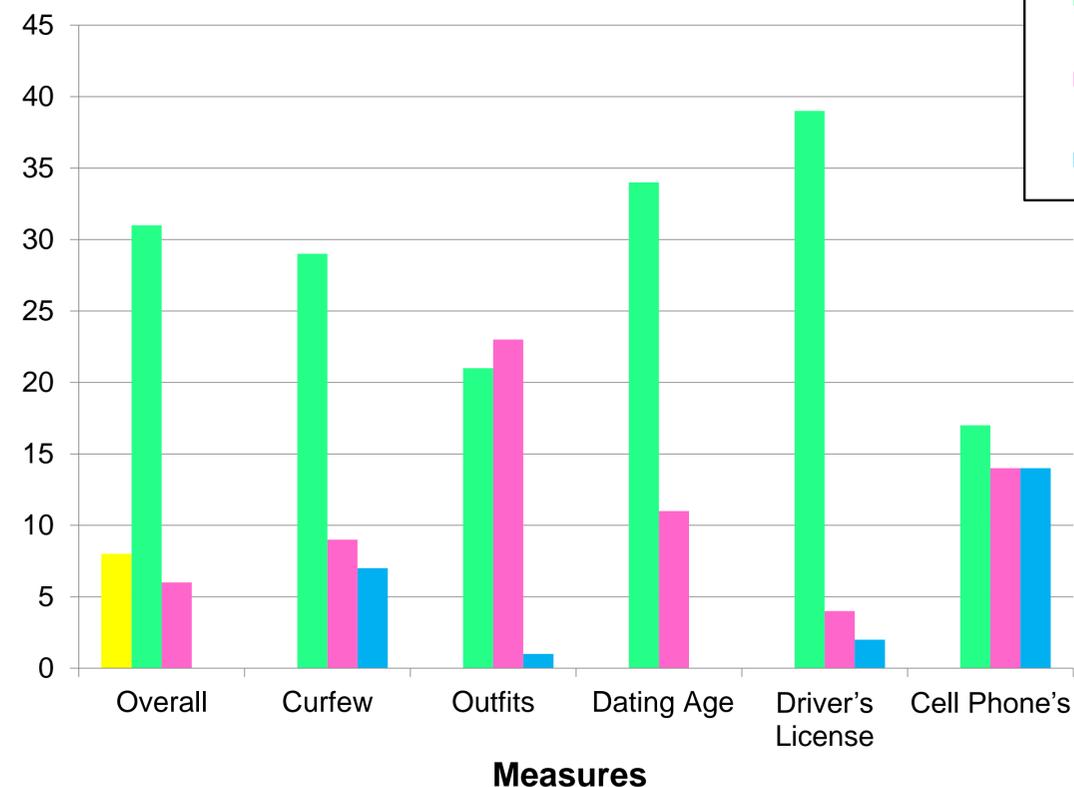
- Curfew hour (earlier = more strict)
- Minimum dating age (older = more strict)
- Number of times the child was forced to change outfits (higher frequency=more strict)
- Age offspring was allowed to receive their driver's license (older=more strict)
- Age the offspring was allowed to own their own cell phone (older=more strict)
  - Same level of strictness for both genders=1
  - Stricter on girl than boy=2
  - Stricter on boy than girl=3

Overall Strictness:

- no trend in levels of strictness was displayed=0
- same level of strictness for both gender's in at least three of the five categories =1
- more strict on the girl offspring than the boy offspring in at least three of the five categories = 2
- more strict on the boy offspring than the girl offspring in at least three of the five categories =3

## Levels of Strictness

Frequency



## RESULTS

- Majority of parents had the same level of strictness for both genders
- If overall stricter rules were displayed for one gender over the other, it was for girls
- No parents were overall stricter or stricter on dating age for the male offspring
- For curfew, the amount of parents that did differ their strictness based on gender was almost the same for both girls and boys
- For age offspring were allowed to own a cell phone, the exact same amount of parents were stricter on girls as those who were stricter on boys
- There is an overwhelmingly large frequency of parents that had the same level of strictness for both gendered children for the age they were allowed to get their driver's license

## DISCUSSION

- Limitations:
  - birth order was not taken into account
  - almost all of the respondents were female
- Driver's license age strictness was overwhelmingly the same for both genders. Possibly due to state laws on driving. Both genders would HAVE to wait until a certain age, depending on what state they live in
- No parents had stricter dating rules for boys, which implies girls are worried about more when it comes to dating. This is possibly due to rape culture and a majority of victims being woman
- Findings suggest parents can display a double standard for their children based on gender
- Future research is needed to look at parent strictness based on offspring birth order, or the combination of birth order and gender