

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:

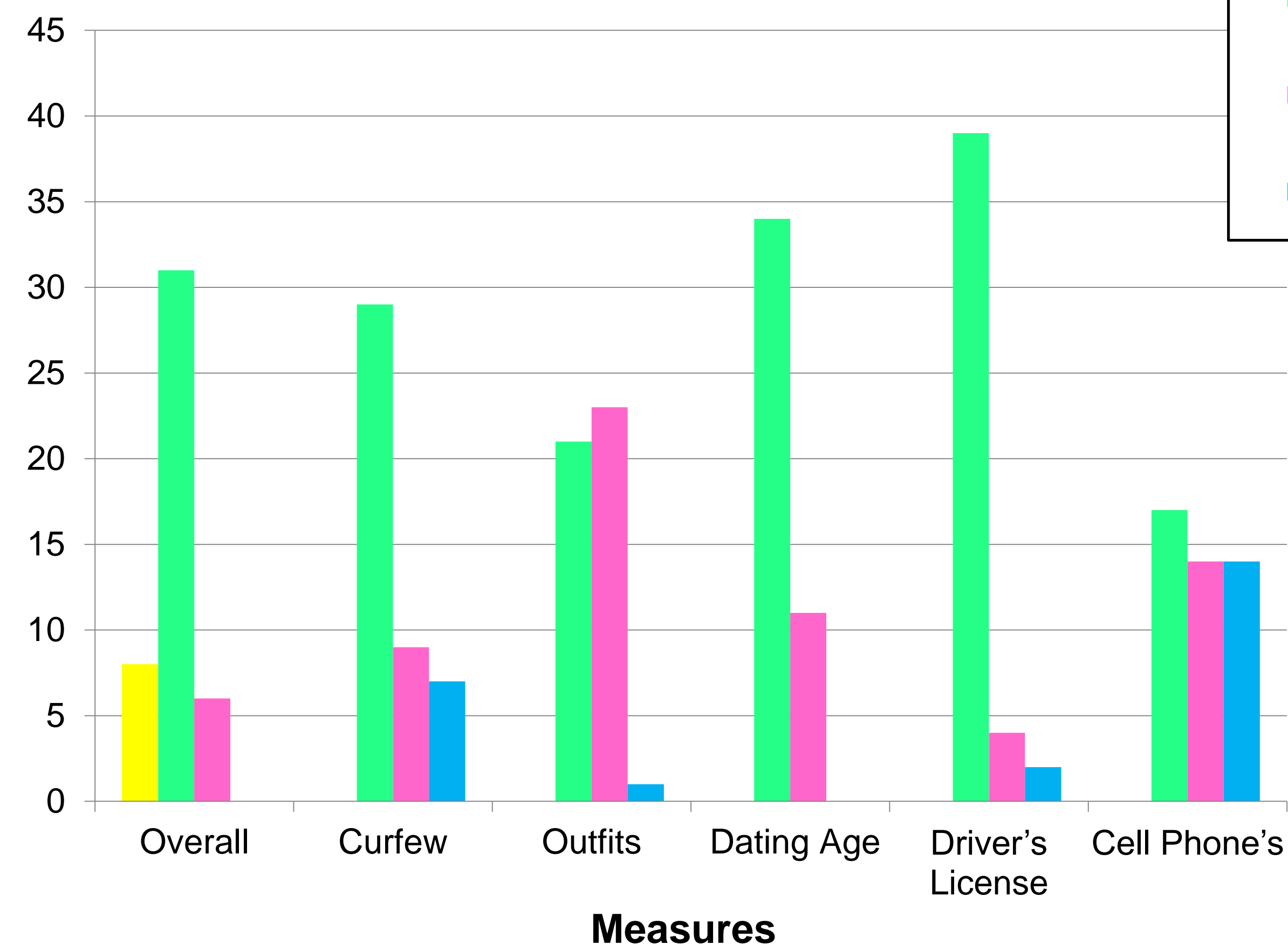
- Curfew hour (earlier = more strict)
- Minimum dating age (older = more strict)
- Number of times the child was forced to change outfits (higher frequency=more strict)
- Age offspring was allowed to receive their driver's license (older=more strict)
- Age the offspring was allowed to own their own cell 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