



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Childhood Victimization Pathways and Violent Extremism

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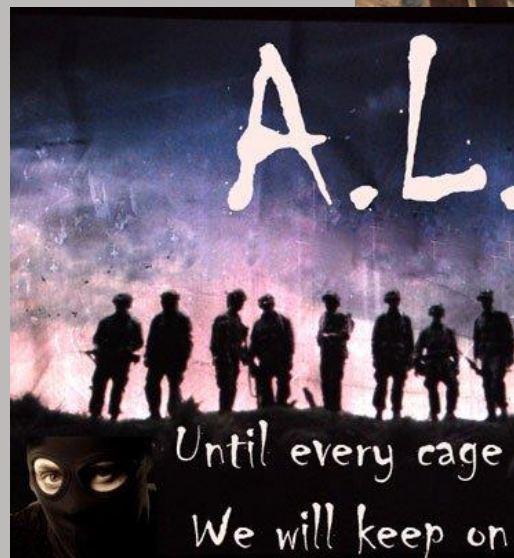
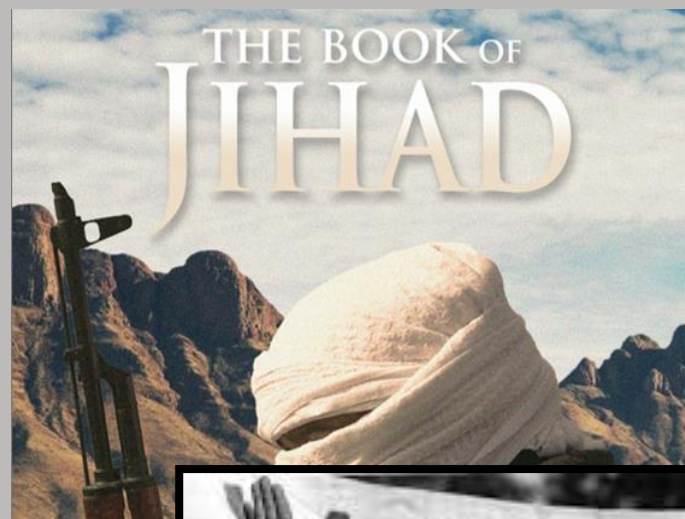
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Today's Agenda

1. Scope of the problem
2. Theoretical framework
3. Methodology
4. Results
5. Key take-aways





Scope of the Problem

- In 2014, approximately 702,000 children were the victims of maltreatment¹.
- Childhood maltreatment is associated with a variety of both internal and external consequences².
 - Anxiety, aggression, depression, risky sexual behaviors, substance abuse, truancy.





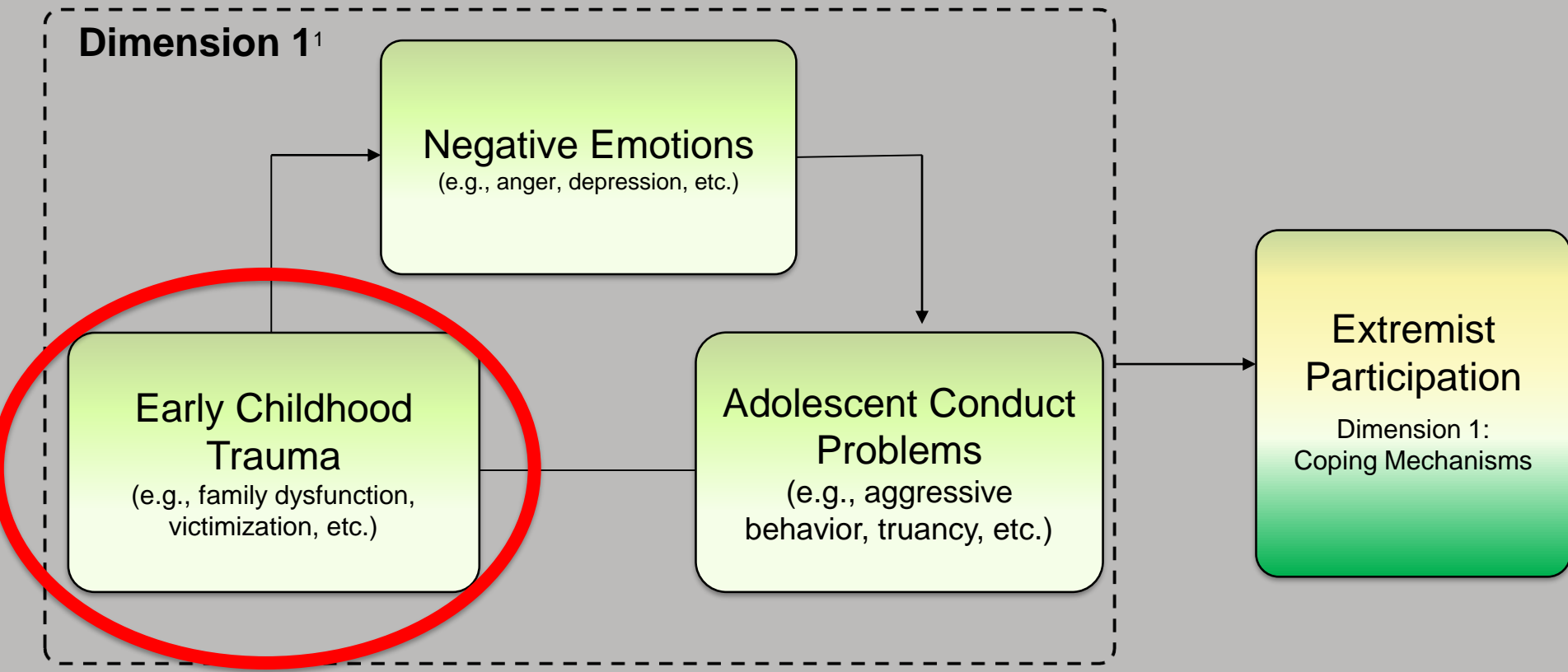
Scope of the Problem





Theoretical Framework

Sequential Model of VE Participation





Sample and Methodology

1. Former violent right-wing extremists ($n = 44$)
2. Life history interviews
3. Modified grounded theory approach





Childhood Victimization Experiences

Victimization Types	<i>f</i>	%
Physical Abuse	19	43.2%
Sexual Abuse	10	22.7%
Community Violence	19	43.2%
Witnessed Family Violence	17	38.6%
Witnessed Community Violence	17	38.6%
Neglect	18	41.0%
Abandonment	16	36.0%
Parental Incarceration	12	27.0%
Parental Substance Abuse	26	59.0%
Any One Type	37	84.1%
Poly-Victims	30	68.18%
<i>Low (2-3)</i>	19	43.18%
<i>High (4-6)</i>	11	25.00%

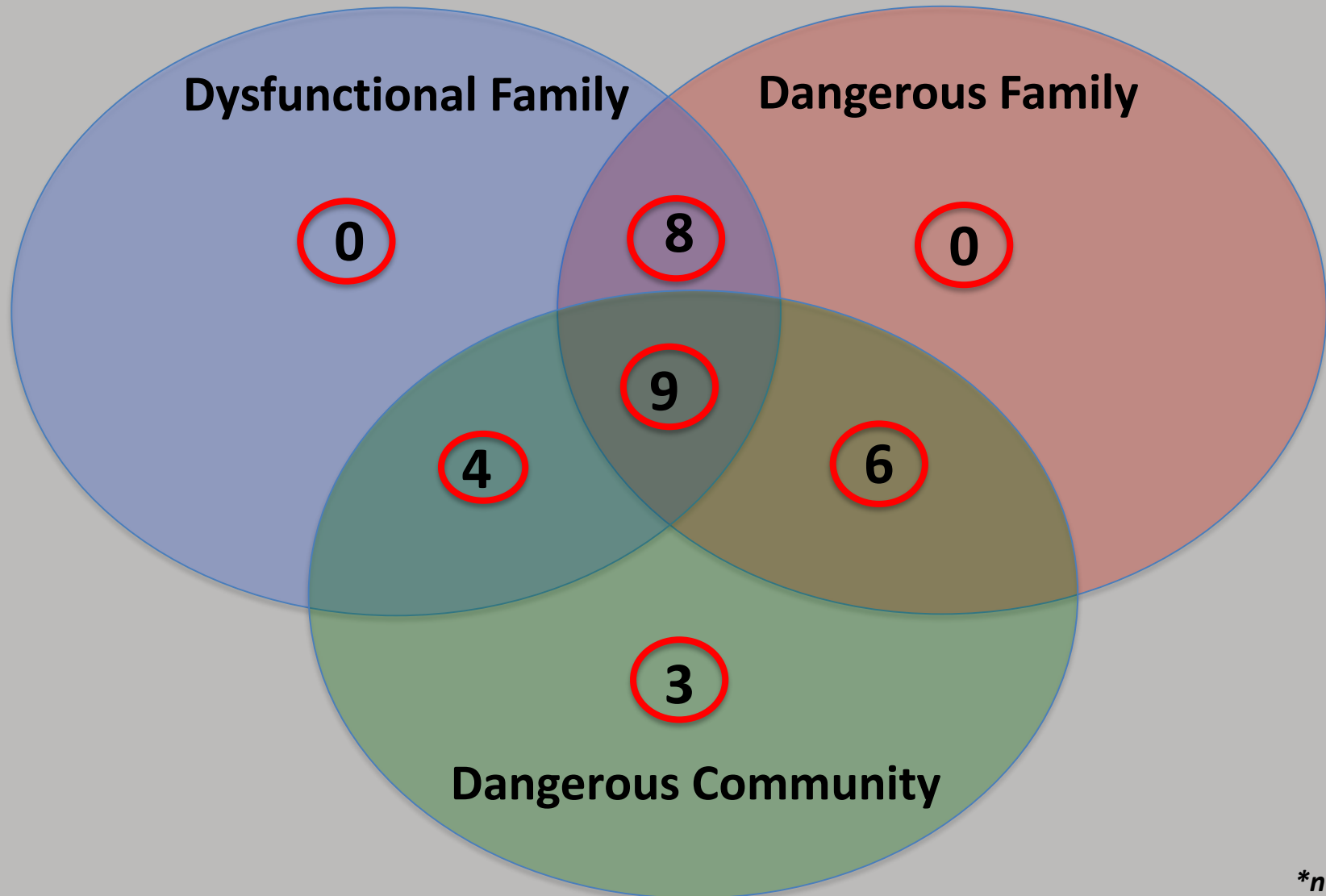


Pathways to Poly-Victimization

Dysfunctional Family	Dangerous Family	Dangerous Community
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Emotional and physical neglect2. Abandonment3. Parental incarceration4. Parental substance abuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Physical abuse2. Sexual abuse3. Witnessed family violence	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community violence2. Witnessed community violence



Pathways to (Poly)-Victimization





Dysfunctional Family

“...she [mom] was not like a compassionate or loving person at all...
There was like no affection...they never taught me anything like right from wrong or told me not to do anything. There was none of that ...
good behavior was never encouraged, and bad behavior was never discouraged...I had extremely low self-esteem and felt worthless from never having heard anything positive about myself from my parents...
(Jacqueline, 4/5/14).”



Dangerous Family

“... I mean there was a bunch of times when I got my ass whipped and, took it... **Nobody beat me as bad as my step dad beat me**...a thirty-six-
...thirty-seven-year-old man who used to **beat the shit out of me at**
twelve and that's called a fair fight...I was...fighting for survival (Freddie, 5/31/15).”



Dangerous Community

“We lived right on the corner from the projects, I think that had a lot to do with what happened to me. A gang would always come into our neighborhood and **steal our stuff, start fights, beat people up**, stuff like that. I think even from a very early age I had a **negative feeling towards black people** from that. When I met people later on, I was ready to go. I was already prepped (Sebastian, 5/26/14).”



Key Take-Aways

- Importance of non-ideological factors and violent extremism
- Similarities between pathways into crime and violent extremism
- Intervention opportunities in early childhood



Thank you for your time.

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