

The protective role of adult supports in the relationship between family risk and youth depression via victimization

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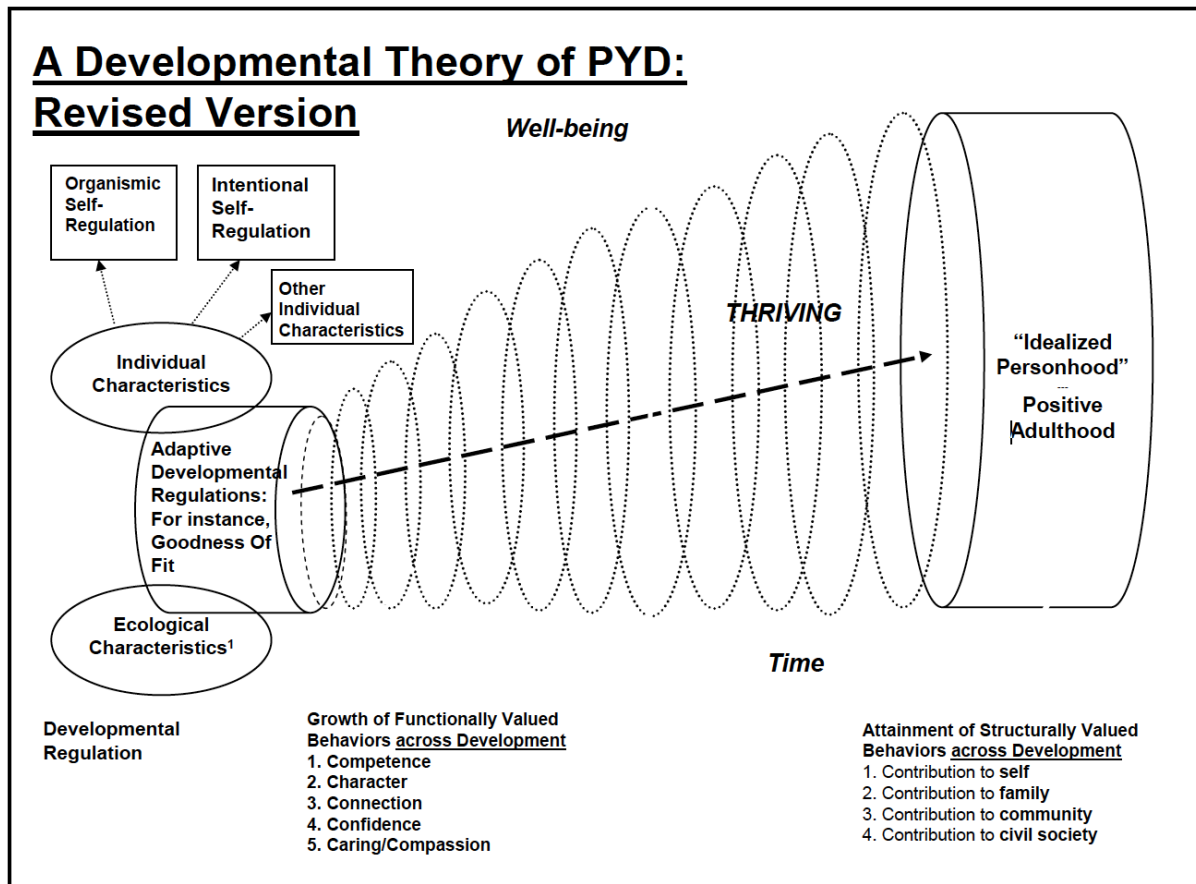
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Research Background

Adolescent depression is increasingly recognized as a significant public health concern that has been linked to adverse outcomes including suicidality (Balázs et al., 2013), smoking and substance use (Diego, Field, & Sanders, 2003), academic difficulties (Owens, Stevenson, Hadwin, & Norgate, 2012), and disordered eating behaviors (Liechty & Lee, 2013) and is predictive for depression in adulthood (Fergusson, Horwood, Ridder, & Beautrais, 2005; Jonsson et al., 2011).

Family risk has been recognized as a key precursor of youth psychosocial maladaptation that may contribute to school failure and juvenile delinquency.

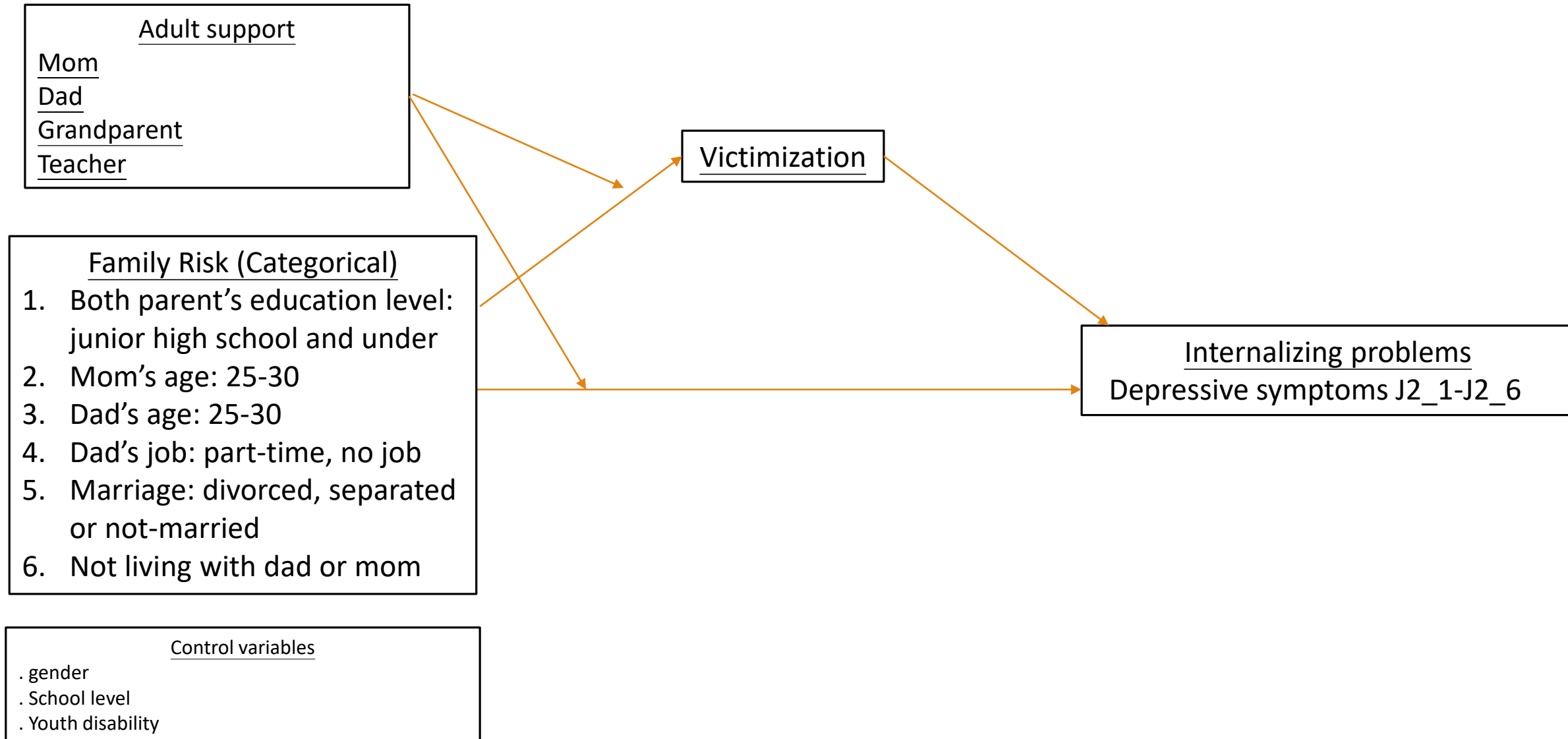
Positive Youth Development model



- ◆ Adolescents are resource to be developed instead of problem to be solved
- ◆ Adaptive developmental regulation = individual strength match with environmental resource
- ◆ Youth-adult mutually beneficial relationship

¹Human resources; physical/institutional resources; collective activity; and accessibility in families, schools, and communities (Theokas, 2005)

Current Research



Participants

- ◆ This is a secondary data analysis study from “Cross-culture comparison of resilience theory: a study of adolescents’ aggression, substance use, and mental distress (CCR)” (MOST 108-2410-H-003-137).
- ◆ Participants are from the northern part of Taiwan
- ◆ N= 1712
 - ◆ 7th grader: 1153
 - ◆ 10th graders: 559

Survey procedure

- ◆ Surveycake

- ◆ An online questionnaire fill-in system was built

- ◆ The standardized trained instructors from our research team went to each school to guide participants with the online questionnaire

- ◆ avoid the influence of the teachers or other school staff.

Measures

Variables	Measures	Other
Depressive symptoms (DV)	<p>The measurement of depressive symptoms was adopted from the depression scale of the Brief Symptom Inventory (Derogatis, 1992). Depressive symptoms were measured by six items including having suicidal thoughts and no interest in things, as well as feeling loneliness, Blue, hopeless about the future, and worthless. The response options ranged from 0 (not-at-all) to 4 (extremely).</p>	<p>Range=6-30 Cronback alpha=.86</p>
Family Risk (IV)	<p>Family risk was cumulated from six indicators: (1) the education levels of the student's parents were both junior high school and under, (2) the student's father had a part-time job or no job, (3) the marriage status of the parents was divorced, separated or not-married, (4) the student does not live with neither father or mother, (5) the student lives with any family members who hit others when angry, (6) the student lives with any family members who got drunk.</p>	<p>Range=0-6</p>

Measures

Variables	Measures	Other
Victimization (Mediators)	Two items were used to measured youth victimization experiences at school	Range=0-8
Family Support (Moderators) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mother support 2. Father support 3. Grandparent support 	The participants will be asked the extent to which they endorsed statements about their relationships with their mother, father and one of grandparents separately. Response options range from 1 (not true) to 5 (very true). The scale was designed to assess emotional support, problem-solving and moral support from parents. The participants will report whether, “my mother (or father, or grandparent) enjoys hearing about what I think”; “my mother (or father, or grandparent) is good at helping me solve problems”; and “I rely on my mother (or father, or grandparent) for moral support.”	(Cronbach’s alpha =.93; .94; .93, for mother, father, and grandparent support, respectively)

Measures

Variables	Measures	Other
Teacher support (Moderatos)	This scale was a subscale of the Inventory of School Climate-Student (ISC-S) (Brand et al., 2003). Six items were used to measure the extent that the students endorsed statements about teacher support, such as “Teachers go out of their way to help students” and “If students want to talk about something teachers will find time to do it”. The response options range from 1 (never) to 5 (always).	The Cronbach’s alpha was .93.
Covariates: Gender contained boy (=1) and girl (=2). School level included junior high school (=1) and senior high school (=2). Disability was scored as 1 if the student had a Handicap Handbook issued by the government.		

Analytic procedure

- ◆ A moderated mediation model proposed by Hayes (2013)
 - ◆ In order to examine whether the protective effects of multi-facet family and school supports on the depressive symptoms corresponding to the family risk, we conducted
- ◆ Post-hoc analyses
 - ◆ were conducted to evaluate the moderated direct effects of adult support between family risk and youth victimization
 - ◆ the indirect effects of each adult support on depressive symptoms victimization
- ◆ All of the above analyses were conducted with the PROCESS macro version 3.4 of SPSS, and all models were adjusted for student's sex, school level and disability.

Table 1 Descriptive
(n=1,712)

Variables	N (%)	Mean (SD)	Range
Gender			
Male	827 (51.7)		
Female	885 (48.3)		
Household			
Other	424 (24.8)		
Two-parent	1288 (75.2)		
Parent education			
Middle school	338 (19.7)		
High school	738 (43.1)		
College	439 (25.6)		
Graduate school	71 (4.1)		
Family Risk			
low	1150(67.2)		
medium	413(24.1)		
high	149(8.7)		
Depressive symptoms	1712	12.86 (6.15)	6-30
Mother support	1646	3.49 (1.19)	0-5 (0=14)
Father support	1623	3.28 (1.28)	0-5 (0=37)
Grandparent support	1707	2.67 (1.17)	0-5 (0=300)
Teacher support	1712	3.58 (0.93)	1-5
Victimization	1712	0.55 (1.26)	0-8

Results

- ◆ Results indicated that victimization partially mediated the effects of family risk on depressive symptoms.
- ◆ Adult supports from mother, grandparent, and teacher moderated the detrimental effects of high family risk on victimization.
- ◆ Additionally, mother support moderate the path from family risk to youth depressive symptoms via victimization. (i.e. moderated mediation)

Results_partially mediation model

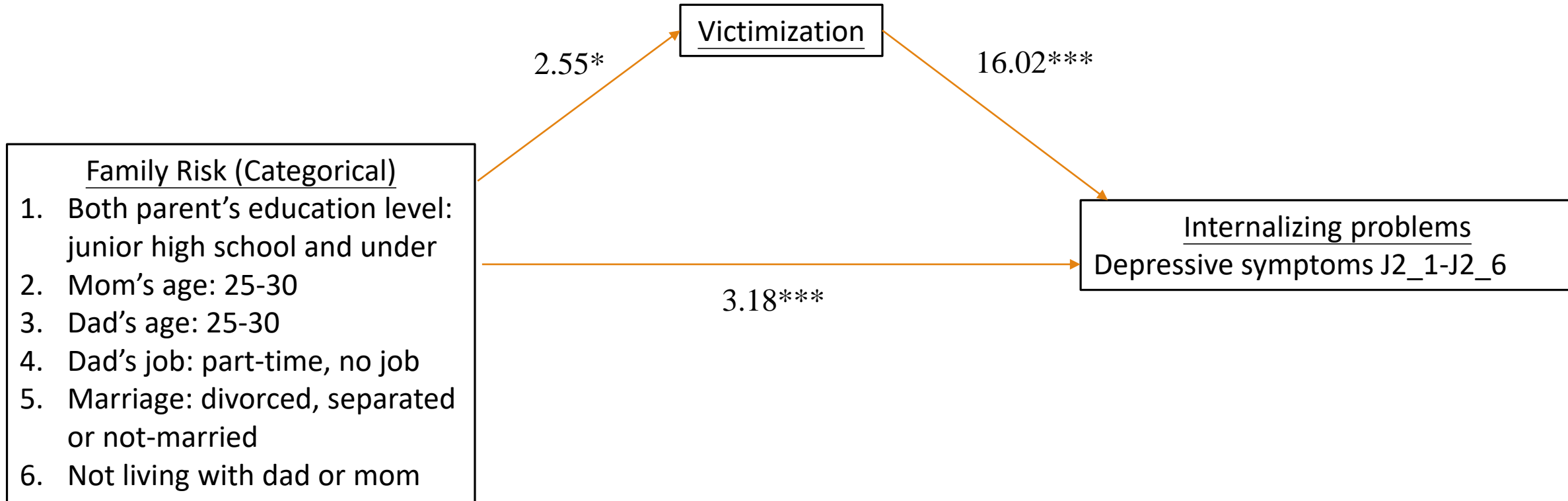
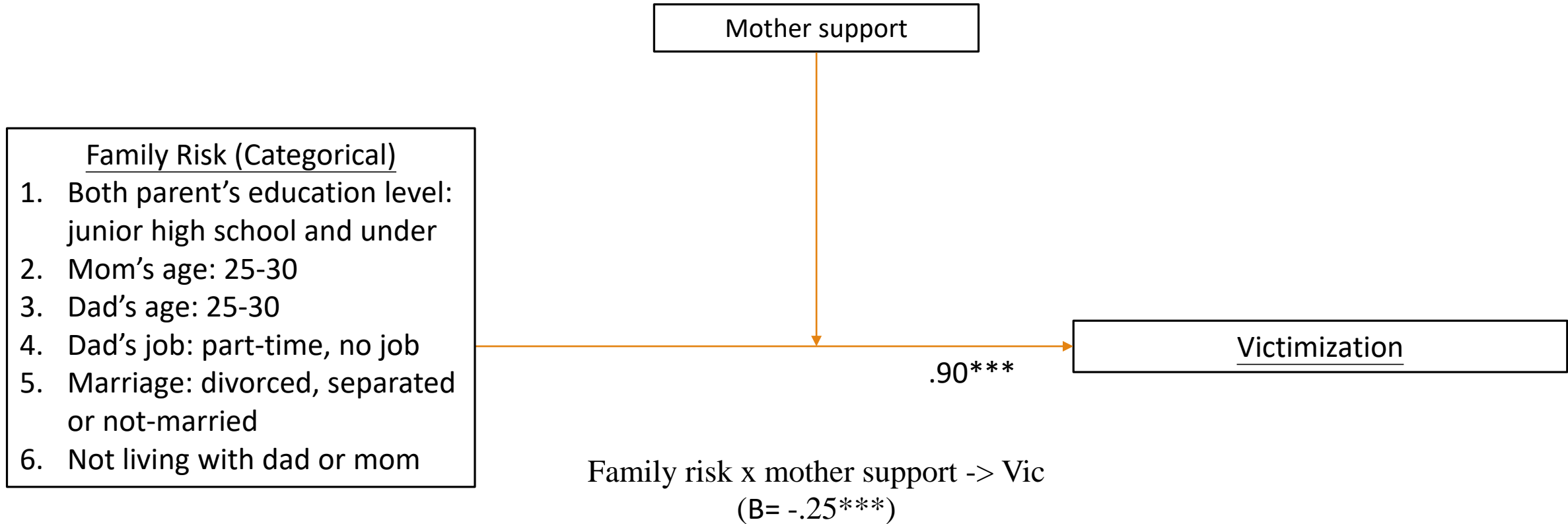


Table 2. Results for the mediation analyses (n=1,707)

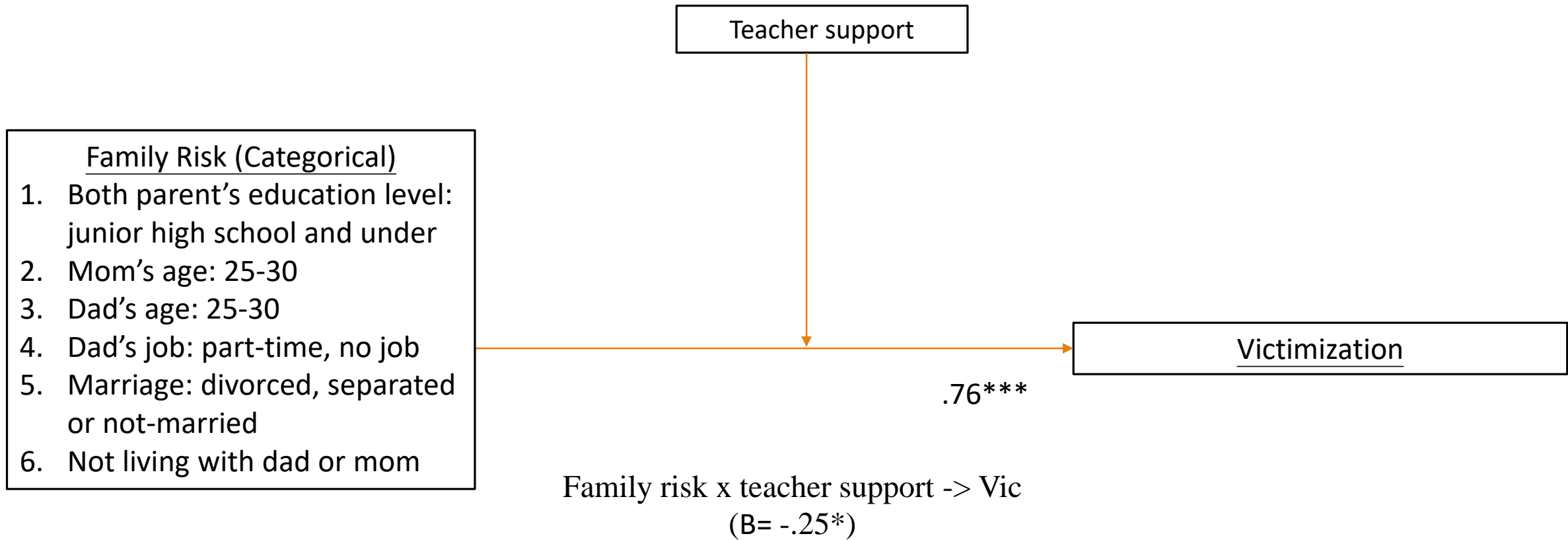
	<i>M: Victimization</i>			<i>Y: Depressive symptoms</i>		
<i>Antecedents</i>	B	SE	<i>t</i>	B	SE	<i>t</i>
<i>Constant</i>	1.03	.17	7.79***	4.09	.59	6.93***
<i>X: low Family risk</i>	.04	.07	.49	1.02	.32	3.20***
<i>X: high Family risk</i>	.28	.11	2.55*	1.53	.48	3.18***
<i>Med: Victimization</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.70	.11	16.02***
				Effect	SE	Bootstrap 95% CI
<i>Indirect effect of low family risk</i>				.06	.13	-.17 .32
<i>Indirect effect of high family risk</i>				.48	.23	.05 .96
	$R^2 = 0.08, F(7,1707)=28.98, p < .001$					

Notes: Unstandardized regression coefficients are shown. Bootstrap sample size=5000, significant at: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; and *** $p < .001$.

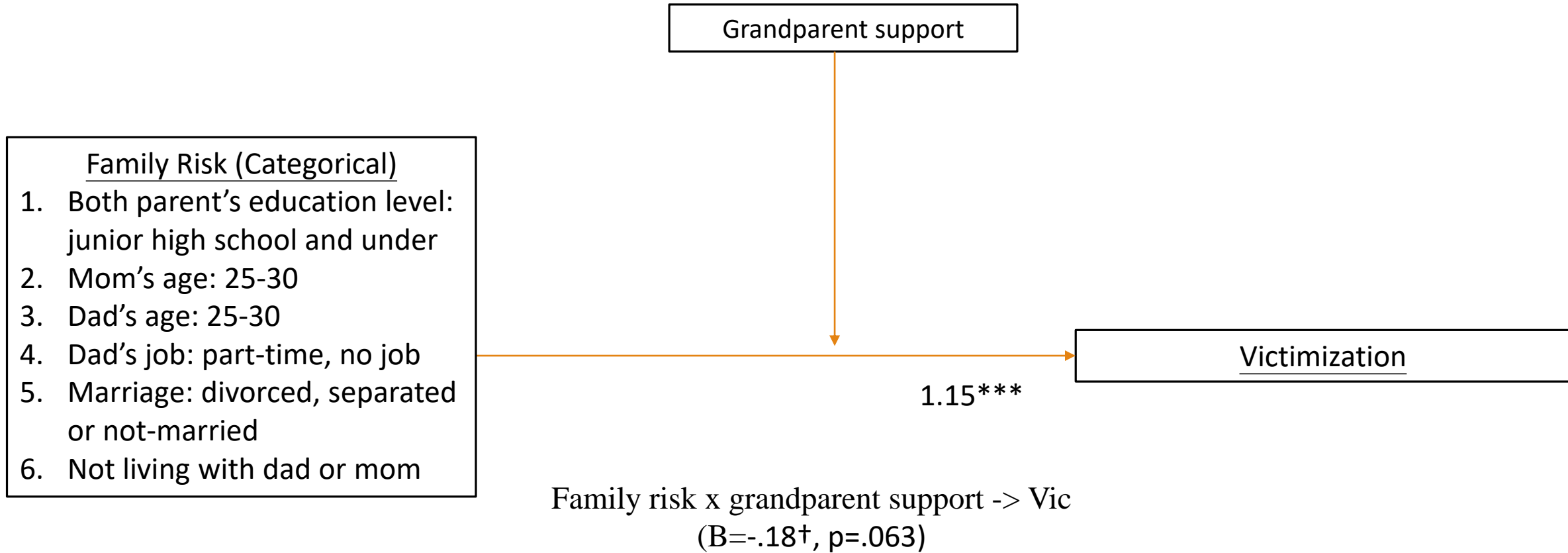
Results_moderation models



Results_moderation models



Results_moderation models



Results_moderated mediation model

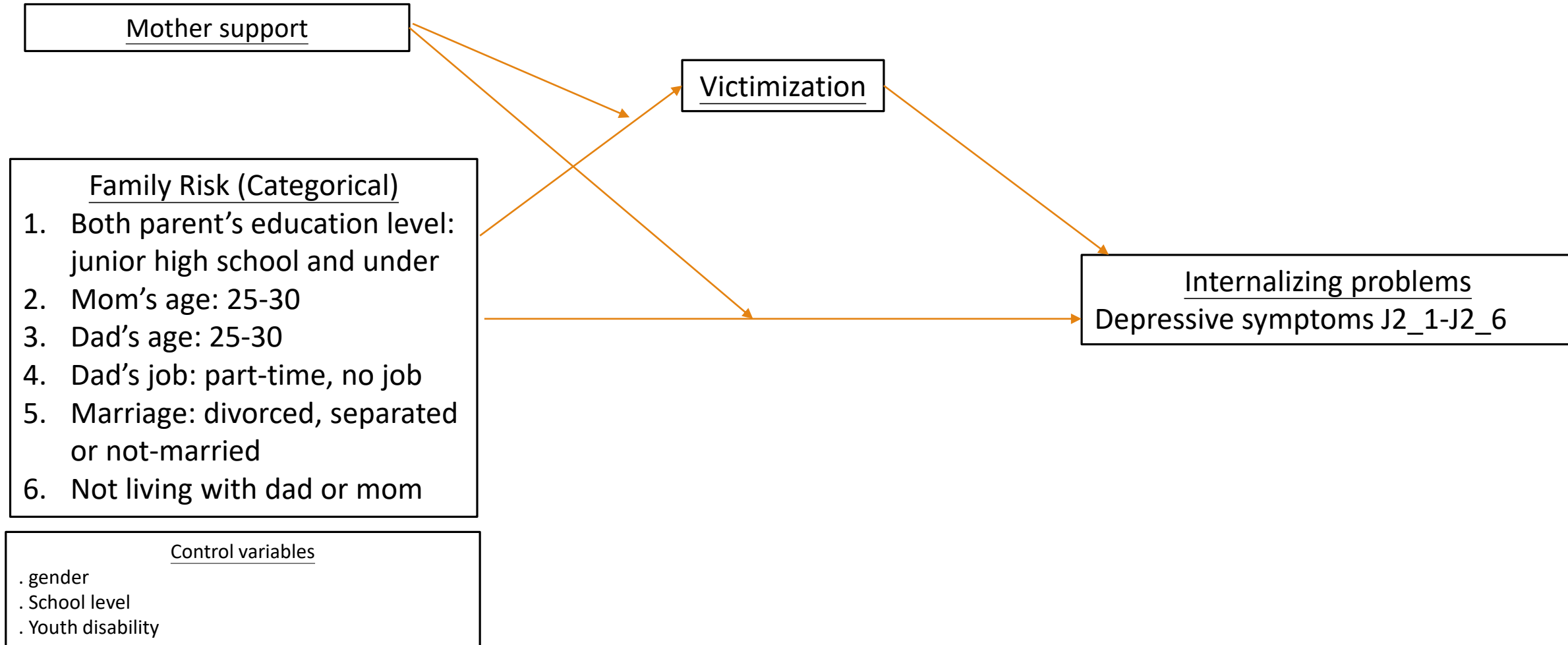


Table 3 Results for the moderated mediation analyses (n=1,641)

	<i>M: Victimization</i>			<i>Y: Depressive symptoms</i>		
	B	SE	<i>t</i>	B	SE	<i>t</i>
<i>Direct effects</i>						
Constant	1.17	.17	6.72***	7.7	.78	9.84*
<i>X: low Family risk</i>	.19	.22	.88	.34	.97	.35
<i>X: high Family risk</i>	.90	.29	3.09**	1.30	1.29	.31
<i>Med :Victimization</i>	--	--	--	1.66	.11	15.19
<i>Mod :Mother support</i>	-.03	.03	-.81	-.95	.14	-6.71*
<i>Low Family risk X Mother support</i>	-.05	.06	-.76	.18	.26	.69
<i>High Family risk X Mother support</i>	-.25	.08	-2.92***	-.03	.38	-.09
<i>R²</i>		.023***			.22***	

Conditional Indirect effect of low family risk on youth depressive symptoms (Family risk-> victimization-> youth depressive symptoms)

<i>Mother support</i>	Effect	Boot SE	Boot LLCI	Boot ULCI
-1 SD	.15	.20	-.22	.56
Mean	.05	.13	-.19	.31
+1 SD	-.06	.20	-.45	.34

Index of moderated mediation

	Index	Boot SE	Boot LLCI	Boot ULCI
<i>Mother support</i>	-.08	.11	-.30	.14

Conditional Indirect effect of high family risk on youth depressive symptoms

<i>Mother support</i>	Effect	Boot SE	Boot LLCI	Boot ULCI
-1 SD	.59	.31	.02	1.25
Mean	.02	.18	-.32	.39
+1 SD	-.56	.27	-1.05	-.006

Index of moderated mediation

	Index	Boot SE	Boot LLCI	Boot ULCI
<i>Mother support</i>	-.41	.16	-.75	-.12

Notes: Unstandardized regression coefficients are shown. Bootstrap sample size=5000, significant at: **p*<.05; ***p*<.01; and ****p*<.001. Covariates: school level, youth gender, and youth disability.

Conclusion

- ◆ In conclusion, establishing various adult supports is warranted for youth to protect them from victimization and depressive symptoms.
- ◆ The mechanism between family risk and youth depressive symptoms via victimization at school shed a new light on addressing other risk factors generated from family risk for youth mental distress, especially among families encounter higher risks.
- ◆ Grandparent support is a valuable but seldom mentioned adult support for protecting victimization and mental health distress among youth.

Discussion

- ◆ More studies on the role of father support is needed and future research can explore the mechanism of father support and how it can be add on mother support as well as other adult support including grandparents, teachers or mentors to **form a support net** for youth.

Thank you!

Q & A

