

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Research on the Hill (Salt Lake City)

1-30-2014

Family Financial Investment in Organized Youth Sport

Michael King

Utah State University

Kevin Rothlisberger

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/poth_slc



Part of the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

King, Michael and Rothlisberger, Kevin, "Family Financial Investment in Organized Youth Sport" (2014).
Research On Capitol Hill 2014. *Research on the Hill (Salt Lake City)*. Paper 17.

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/poth_slc/17

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research on the Hill (Salt Lake City) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.



Family Financial Investment in Organized Youth Sport

Michael Q. King
Utah State University

Kevin J. Rothlisberger
Utah State University

Introduction

Most American youth are involved in organized sports. A breadth of research has described the **BENEFITS** and **CONSEQUENCES** of this participation. Likewise, much research has been conducted to investigate on how involvement in organized youth sport affects the parent-child relationship.

Recent studies show that **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** in their children's sport of choice increased the child's enjoyment in that sport. They also found that the child's commitment to the sport increased with the support of their parents.

To our knowledge, existing research does not specifically address the relationship among **FAMILY FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**, the enjoyment youth have in organized youth sport, and their subsequent motivation to continue participation. The present study aims to address this gap in knowledge.

Methods

Participants

163 parent-child dyads were recruited through organized youth sports leagues throughout the United States.

PARENTS were 78 fathers and 85 mothers aged 27 to 59 years ($M = 41.02$, $SD = 5.63$). Participants represented biological, step, and adoptive parents, identified primarily as White or Caucasian (61.3%), and reported relatively high gross annual incomes ($M = \$120,685$, $SD = \$66,885$).

ATHLETES were 126 males and 37 females aged 8 to 18 years ($M = 16.22$, $SD = 2.39$). Athletes were drawn from a variety of sports ($n = 14$) and the majority (74.2%) reported participating in two or more sports.

Procedures

After obtaining IRB approval, coaches were emailed to explain the details of the study. Permission was requested to survey parents and athletes on respective travel and recreational teams. If permission was granted, the ONLINE SURVEY INSTRUMENT was disseminated to parents via Email.

Results

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS were run using SPSS v.21 for each study variable. The means and standard deviations are displayed in Table 1.

FAMILY FINANCIAL INVESTMENT: On average, families reported investing \$2,292.42 ($SD = \2554.54) or 1.84% ($SD = 1.55\%$) of their gross annual income.

PRESSURE: On average, athletes reported moderate pressure from their parents ($M = 2.14$, $SD = .73$).

ENJOYMENT: On average, athletes reported relatively high levels of enjoyment ($M = 4.59$, $SD = .79$).

MOTIVATION: On average, athletes reported relatively high levels of motivation to continue participating ($M = 4.39$, $SD = .82$).

BIVARIATE CORRELATIONS are displayed in Table 2. These values reflected statistically significant relationships between all study variables.

Examination of **FIT STATISTICS** yielded an acceptable final model ($RMSEA = .09$; $CFI = .98$; $SRMR = .03$).

PATH ANALYSIS

The **DIRECT RELATIONSHIP** between family financial investment and parental pressure was positive. Increases in family financial investment predicted increases in reported parental pressure ($.20$, $p = .010$).

The **DIRECT RELATIONSHIP** between parental pressure and enjoyment was inverse. Increases in parental pressure predicted reduction in child's enjoyment ($-.53$, $p < .001$).

The **DIRECT RELATIONSHIP** between enjoyment and motivation was positive. Increases in enjoyment predicted increases in motivation ($.75$, $p < .001$).

The **INDIRECT RELATIONSHIPS** from family financial investment to enjoyment ($-.10$, $p = .014$), from family financial investment to motivation ($.08$, $p = .015$), and from parental pressure to motivation ($.40$, $p < .001$) were also significant.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for study variables

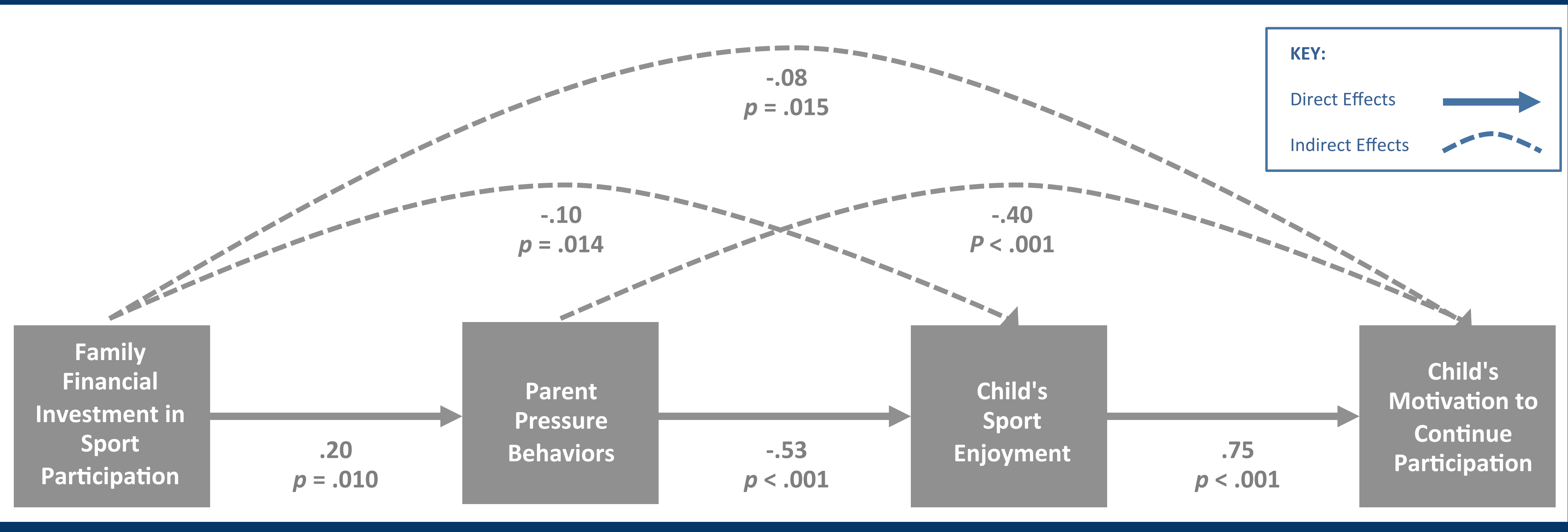
	Investment	Pressure	Enjoyment	Motivation
Range	0-100	1-5	1-5	1-5
Mean	1.22	2.14	4.59	4.39
Std. Deviation	1.35	0.73	0.79	0.82
Minimum	0.00	1.50	1.50	1.25
Maximum	10.28	5.00	5.00	5.00

Table 2. Correlation Matrix for study variables

	Investment	Pressure	Enjoyment	Motivation
Investment				
Pressure	.20*			
Enjoyment	-.21*	-.53***		
Motivation	-.08*	-.45***	.75***	

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Figure 1. Path Analysis depicting family financial investment, parent pressure, child enjoyment and child motivation to continue participation



Discussion

Through our research, we were able to measure the correlation family financial investment and athlete motivation via parent pressure and child enjoyment.

This study informs **PARENTS** who have children participating in organized youth sports as well as **SPORT ADMINISTRATORS** and **COACHES**. Specifically, these providers of sport should be aware of the link of financial investment, parental pressure, child enjoyment, and motivation to continue in sports.

FUTURE RESEARCH should attempt to address the impact of family financial investment on less affluent families, as well as families whose children participate at the highest levels of organized youth sport. Such studies would address the impact of a higher percentage of family financial investment on parenting behavior and child outcomes.

References

- Bremer, K. L. (2012). Parental involvement, pressure, and support in youth sport: A narrative literature review. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 235-248.
- Denault, A., & Poulin, F. (2009). Predictors of adolescent participation in organized activities: A five-year longitudinal study. *Journal of Research on Adolescence (Wiley-Blackwell)*, 19, 287-311.
- Hoyle, R. H., & Leff, S. S. (1997). The role of parental involvement in youth sport participation and performance. *Adolescence*, 32, 233.
- Jellineck, M., & Durant, S. (2004). Parents and sports: Too much of a good thing? *Contemporary Pediatrics*, 21, 17-20.
- Lumpkin, A. (2013). Youth sports: Just win, baby. *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, 93(2), 26.
- Peter, N. E. (2011). Confessions of a baseball mom: The impact of youth sports on parents' feelings and behaviors. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 1, 123-171.
- Turman, P. D. (2007). Parental sport involvement: Parental influence to encourage young athlete continued sport participation. *Journal of Family Communication*, 7, 151-175.
- Weiss, W. M., & Weiss, M. R. (2007). Sport commitment among competitive female gymnasts: A developmental perspective. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 78, 90-102.

The authors would like to Thank Dr. Travis Dorsch of the USU Families in Sport Lab and C. Ryan Dunn for their contributions to this work. Special thanks also go to the many youth sport families who gave generously of their time to participate in this research.



Michael Q. King
Utah State University
Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development
michael.q.king@aggiemail.usu.edu



Kevin J. Rothlisberger
Utah State University
Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development
kevin.rothlisberger@aggiemail.usu.edu