

The Impact of the Number of Positive Adult Relationships on Treatment Participation Among Justice-Involved Adolescents with Substance Use Disorder

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Introduction

- Substance use disorder (SUD) remains a significant public health concern that disproportionately impacts justice-involved adolescents (JIA).
- Existing literature shows that positive non-familial adult relationships can be a protective factor against substance use among adolescents. However, these studies do not assess these relationships' influence on SUD based on the number of positive adult relationships.
- This study examines the influence of the number of positive adult non-familial relationships on treatment participation among JIA with SUD.

Methods

- A statewide cross-sectional dataset of 79,960 JIA from Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (FLDJJ) was used. The variables were derived from the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) utilized by the FLDJJ.
- Multivariate logistic regressions were employed on a subsample of 20,396 JIA with SUD.
- **IV:** Number of positive adult non-familial relationships
- **DV:** Participation in drug or alcohol treatment program
- The model controlled for sex, income, and race.

Results

Positive Adult Relationships = PAR

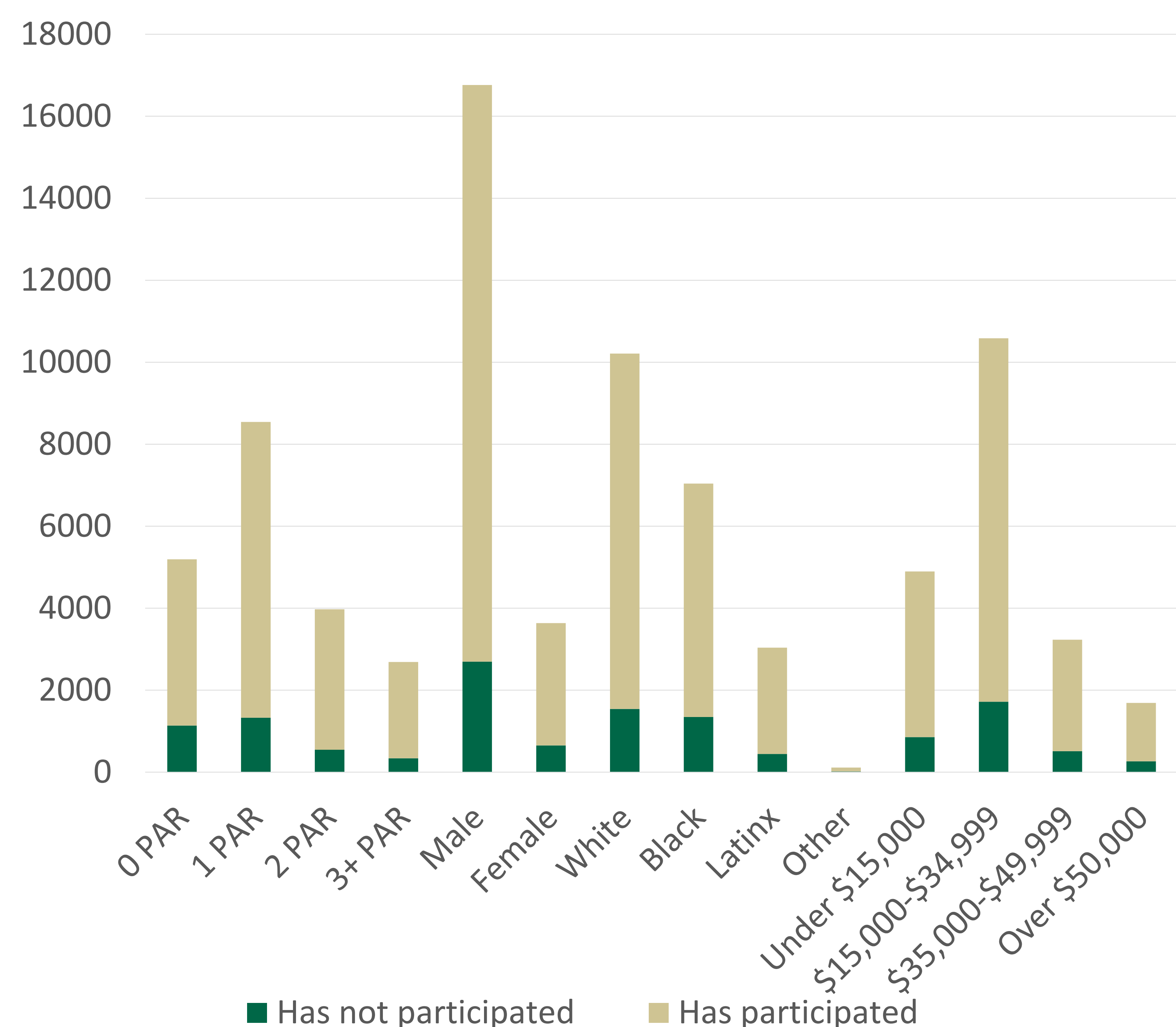
Table 1. The Impact of the Number of Positive Adult Relationships on Treatment Participation Among JIA

	OR	CI
#PAR		
0 PAR	-	-
1 PAR	1.55***	1.42 - 1.69
2 PAR	1.79***	1.60 - 2.00
3+ PAR	1.99***	1.75 - 2.28
Sex		
Male	-	-
Female	0.85**	0.77 - 0.94
Race		
White	-	-
Black	0.72***	0.66 - 0.78
Latinx	1.03	0.92 - 1.16
Other	1.03	0.61 - 1.73
Income		
Under \$15000	-	-
From \$15000-\$34999	1.05	0.96 - 1.15
From \$35000-\$49999	1.02	0.90 - 1.15
Over \$50000	0.99	0.85 - 1.16

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$
95% confidence intervals were used.

- JIA who had one or more PARs were more likely to attend SUD treatment.
- Each PAR categories were statistically significant.

Figure 1. Descriptive Statistics by Treatment Participation



- Among all categories a majority of JIA did attend a treatment program for their SUD.

Discussion and Conclusion

- Further investigation will examine the quantity of these relationships on substance use treatment frequency.
- Additional research may benefit on analyzing the influence of varying degrees of treatment participation on JIA with varying levels of positive adult relationships.
- Initiatives could include community-based outreach programs, structured recreational activities, and mental health and counseling services that focus on increasing treatment participation by working to restore communities and societal ties.

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