

Slides Accompanying Lecture on  
“Family Transmission of Alcohol Abuse  
(Psychological and Social Factors)”

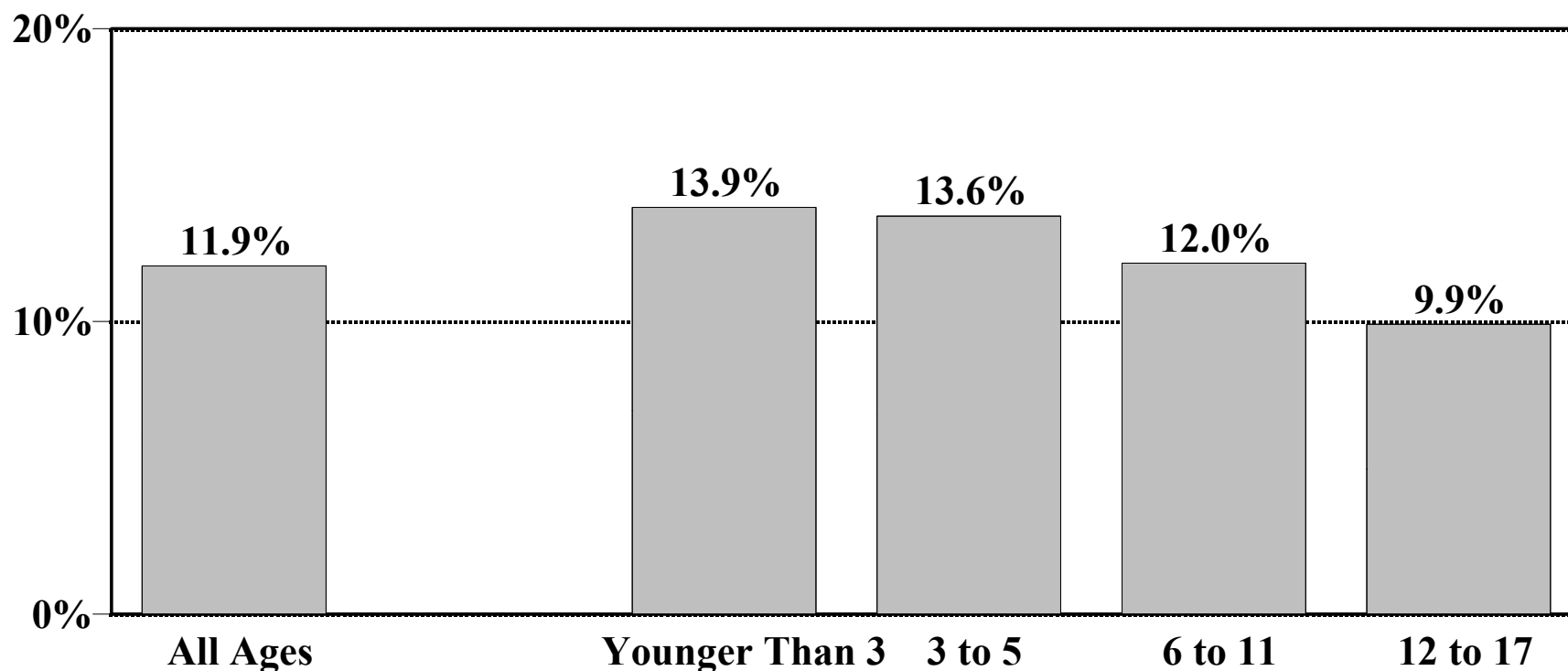
BD295

Spring 2018

Professor Perkins

## Percentage of U.S. Children Living with One or More Parents with Past Year Alcohol or Illicit Drug Abuse or Dependence, by Age

(2002 to 2007 Data Combined)



NOTES: Children under 18 years of age who were not living with one or more parents were excluded from this analysis (approximately 4% of children). Abuse and dependence were defined using DSM-IV criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Children Living with Substance-Dependent or Substance-Abusing Parents: 2002 to 2007," *The NSDUH Report*, April 16, 2009. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/SParents/SParents.cfm>.

**TABLE 1**  
**Problem Drinking Rates of College Students With and Without Diagnosed or Treated Alcoholic Parents and Grandparents**

Student Problem Drinking Measure	Diagnosed or Treated for Alcoholism			
	Neither Parent Nor Grandparent ( <i>n</i> = 727)	Parent(s) Only ( <i>n</i> = 41)	Grandparent(s) Only ( <i>n</i> = 77)	Parent(s) and Grandparent(s) ( <i>n</i> = 10)
Frequent heavy consumption Percentage of <i>n</i>	37.0	52.5	49.4	70.0
Frequent intoxication Percentage of <i>n</i>	29.9	34.2	48.1	50.0
Self-concern Percentage of <i>n</i>	7.2	17.1	14.3	40.0
Frequent negative consequences Percentage of <i>n</i>	28.9	32.5	34.2	30.0

Source: Perkins, H. Wesley, and Alan D. Berkowitz. 1991. "Collegiate COAs and Alcohol Abuse: Problem Drinking in Relation to Assessments of Parent and Grandparent Alcoholism." *Journal of Counseling and Development*, Vol. 69, No. 3, pp. 237-240.

**TABLE 2**  
**Problem Drinking Rates by Abbreviated CAST Score for College Students**  
**Not Reporting a Parent Diagnosed or Treated for Alcoholism**

Student Problem Drinking Measure	Abbreviated CAST Score		
	None (n = 497)	1 to 6 (n = 228)	7 to 12 (n = 42)
Frequent heavy consumption Percentage of n	36.9	40.5	40.5
Frequent intoxication Percentage of n	30.6	32.6	40.5
Self-concern Percentage of n	6.3	7.0	16.7
Frequent negative consequences Percentage of n	27.0	31.0	48.8

Note. CAST = Children of Alcoholics Screening Test. The abbreviated CAST score refers to the respondent's number of indications of personal distress and family discord from parental alcohol abuse based on 12 yes/no questions. Scores ranged from 0 to 12.

Source: Perkins, H. Wesley, and Alan D. Berkowitz. 1991. "Collegiate COAs and Alcohol Abuse: Problem Drinking in Relation to Assessments of Parent and Grandparent Alcoholism." *Journal of Counseling and Development*, Vol. 69, No. 3, pp. 237-240.

Table 2. Family and Social Characteristics of ACOA and NonACOA College Students (HWS Undergraduates)

	ACOA (n=263)	nonACOA (n=1219)
Family Stress (% with any problem below)	63.5**	31.9
Divorced Parents (%)	45.6**	22.1
Family Violence (%)	18.3**	3.2
Financial Hardship (%)	27.0**	14.1
Average Nights/Week Spent Socializing	3.6*	3.9
Close Faculty/Administrator Relationships (Mean)	2.3	2.0
Organizational Involvements (Mean)	1.5	1.5
Average Hours/Week of Exercise and Athletics	7.5	8.2

\*Significant ACOA/nonACOA difference at  $p < .01$  ( $X^2$  test);

\*\* $p < .001$ .

Table 1. Family Stresses, Weekly Alcohol Use, and Alcohol Abuse Score  
for ACOAs and nonACOAs by Gender. (HWS Graduates in Young Adulthood)

	Females		Males	
	ACOAs (n=127)	nonACOAs (n=391)	ACOAs (n=117)	nonACOAs (n=488)
	(percentages)		(percentages)	
Sibling with alcohol problem	18.9***	8.7	26.5***	9.4
Partner with alcohol problem	12.6*	6.9	6.8**	.8
Partner/sibling illness or death	16.5*	10.2	15.4**	8.0
Parents divorce	26.8*	18.7	35.0***	12.9
Own divorce	3.9	2.6	2.6	3.3
Family violence	18.1***	5.1	14.5***	2.5
Serious financial hardship	32.3**	22.0	30.8**	19.5
	(means)		(means)	
Family stress score <sup>a</sup>	1.54***	.86	1.60***	.72
Average drinks per week	4.42	3.79	7.05	7.32
Alcohol abuse score <sup>b</sup>	1.11*	.72	2.05*	1.42

\*Percentage/mean of ACOAs is significantly greater than that of nonACOAs  
at  $p < .05$ ; \*\*  $p < .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

Table 8

*Problem Areas Identified by the Adult Children of  
Alcoholics and Comparison Groups<sup>a</sup>*

	Children of alcoholics	Children of nonalcoholics
Problems trusting people	60.3**	34.9
Problems identifying feelings	57.8**	35.1
Problems expressing feelings	65.2**	51.5
Dependency problems	52.5**	30.1
Work-relationship problems	20.9*	12.4
Problem-solving problems	27.3*	17.5
Responsibility problems	24.6*	15.2
Intimacy problems	62.1**	40.5
Expressing-needs problems	74.3**	59.3
Putting-self-first problems	65.0**	49.7
Confusion	46.1**	17.4
Depression	45.2**	23.1

<sup>a</sup>All variables are measured in percentages.

\* $p < .05$ .

\*\* $p < .01$ .

Table 3

*Pattern of Familial Alcoholism for the Adult Children of  
Alcoholics and Comparison Groups<sup>a</sup>*

	Children of alcoholics	Children of nonalcoholics
Mother alcoholic	39.7**	0
Father alcoholic	84.8**	0
Alcoholic	36.8**	9.5
Spouse alcoholic	20.7*	12.9
Previous spouse alcoholic	28.4	22.8
Paternal grandfather alcoholic	26.4**	9.9
Paternal grandmother alcoholic	8.3**	1.1
Maternal grandfather alcoholic	22.0*	14.5
Maternal grandmother alcoholic	7.4*	1.7
Stepparent alcoholic	7.8	4.0
Brother alcoholic	34.3**	20.0
Sister alcoholic	21.8**	3.2
Sibling's spouse alcoholic	27.8	23.1

<sup>a</sup>All variables are measured in percentages.

\* $p < .05$ .

\*\* $p < .01$ .



ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

Table 6

*Percentage of Physical and Sexual Abuse for the Adult Children of Alcoholics and Comparison Groups<sup>a</sup>*

	Children of alcoholics	Children of nonalcoholics
Mother was violent while drinking	13.1**	0
Father was violent while drinking	43.3**	0
Mother violent	26.5**	6.7
Father violent	68.9**	6.8
Respondent was violent	9.0**	1.1
Brother violent	19.4**	1.7
Sister violent	12.8**	.6
Sexual abuse	18.5**	9.6
Body fondling	16.5*	9.0
Oral sex	4.1*	0
Intercourse	3.4	1.1
Mother physically abused (Never)	72.4	96.6**
Father physically abused (Never)	70.4	98.9**
Respondent physically abused (Never)	77.8	89.9**

<sup>a</sup>All variables are measured in percentages.

\* $p < .05$ .

\*\* $p < .01$ .

**Table 7**

*Emotional and Interpersonal Response to Familial Alcoholism for the  
Adult Children of Alcoholics and Comparison Groups<sup>a</sup>*

	Children of alcoholics	Children of nonalcoholics
Took on much responsibility	60.8	51.7
Problem-causing child	21.8*	12.3
Sensitive child	65.4	72.0
Detached from family members	43.3*	37.4

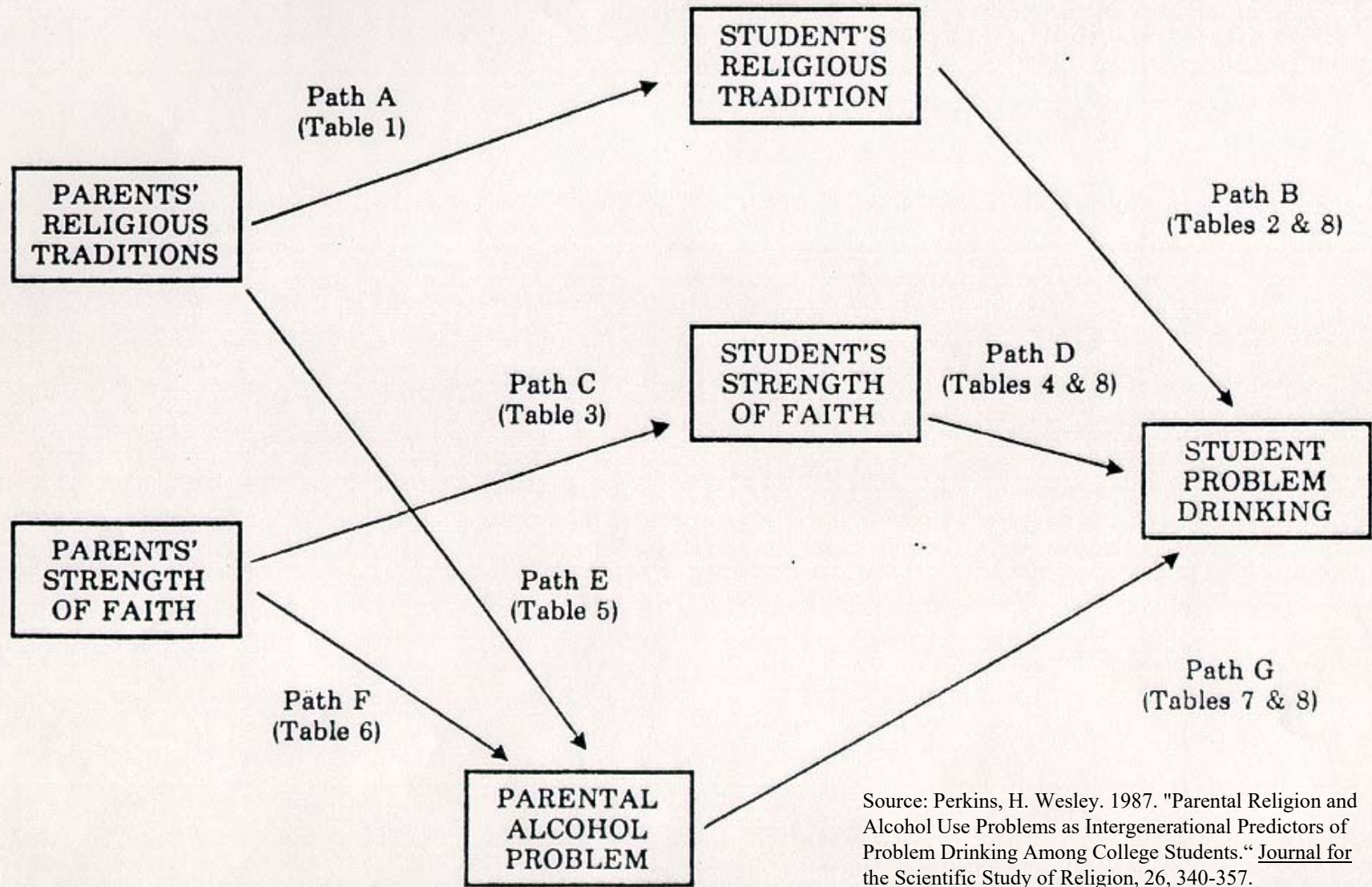
<sup>a</sup>All variables are measured in percentages.

\* $p < .05$ .

\*\* $p < .01$ .

**FIGURE 1**

**HYPOTHETICAL PATHS LINKING PARENTAL RELIGIOUS IDENTIFICATION  
TO YOUTHFUL STUDENT PROBLEM DRINKING  
(TABULAR DATA ASSOCIATED WITH PATHS ARE NOTED IN PARENTHESES)**



Source: Perkins, H. Wesley. 1987. "Parental Religion and Alcohol Use Problems as Intergenerational Predictors of Problem Drinking Among College Students." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 26, 340-357.

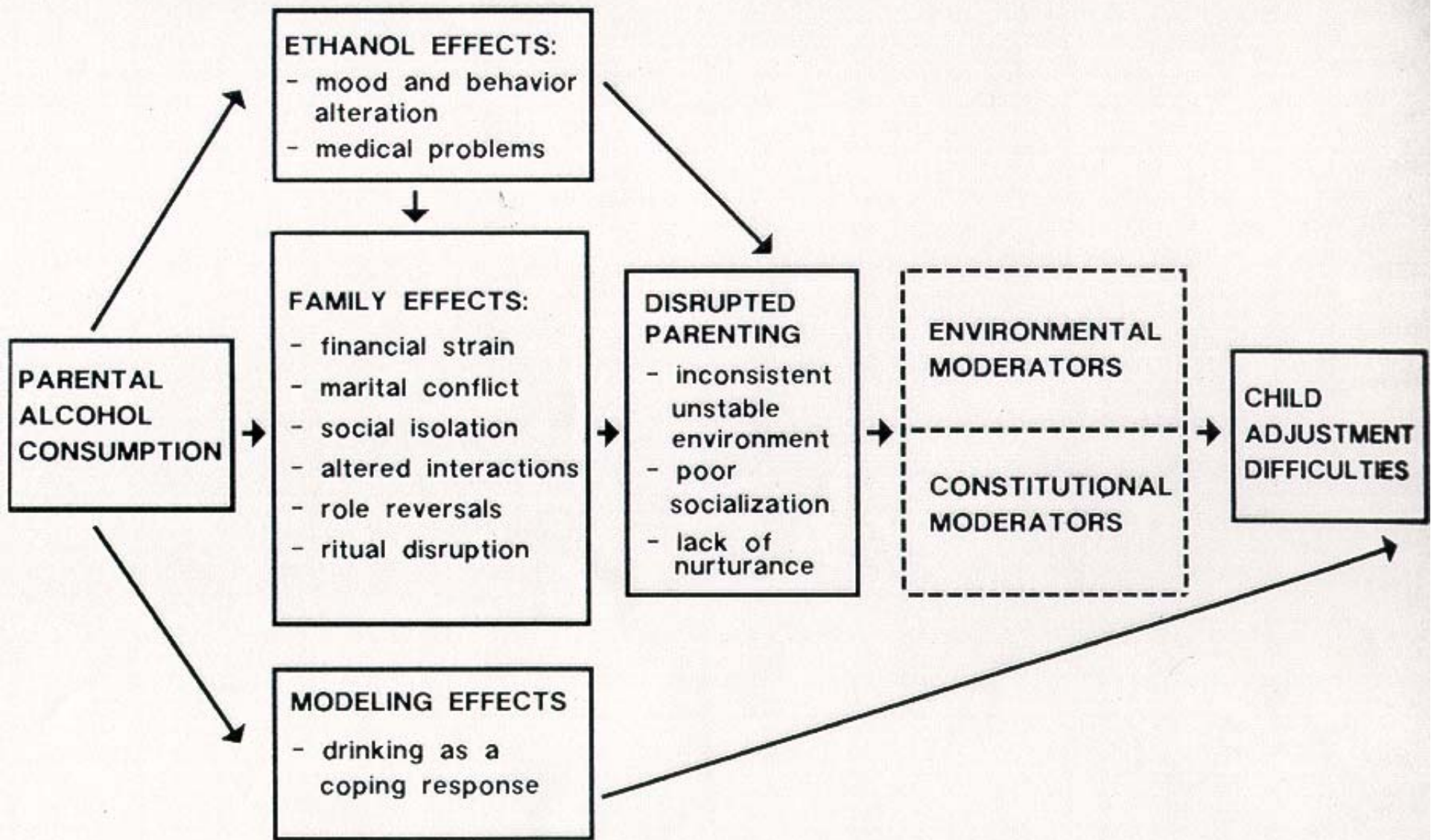
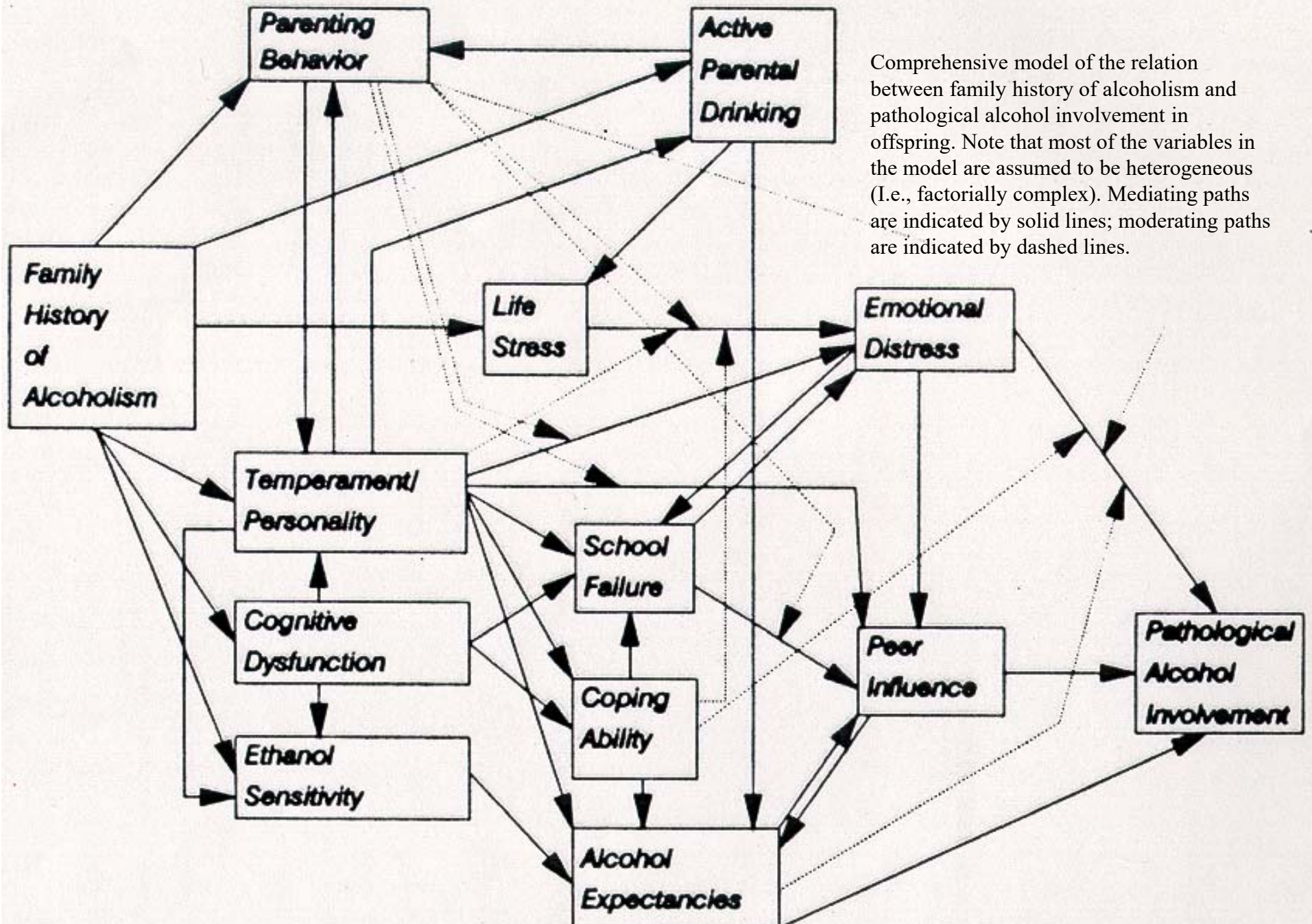


FIGURE 7.1 Influence of parental alcoholism on offspring adjustment.



Comprehensive model of the relation between family history of alcoholism and pathological alcohol involvement in offspring. Note that most of the variables in the model are assumed to be heterogeneous (I.e., factorially complex). Mediating paths are indicated by solid lines; moderating paths are indicated by dashed lines.

SOURCE: From Kenneth J. Sher, *Children of Alcoholics: A Critical Appraisal of Theory and Research*. Copyright 1991 by The University of Chicago Press. Reprinted by permission.