



Differences in the Parenting Styles of Military and Civilian Mothers

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Parenting Styles

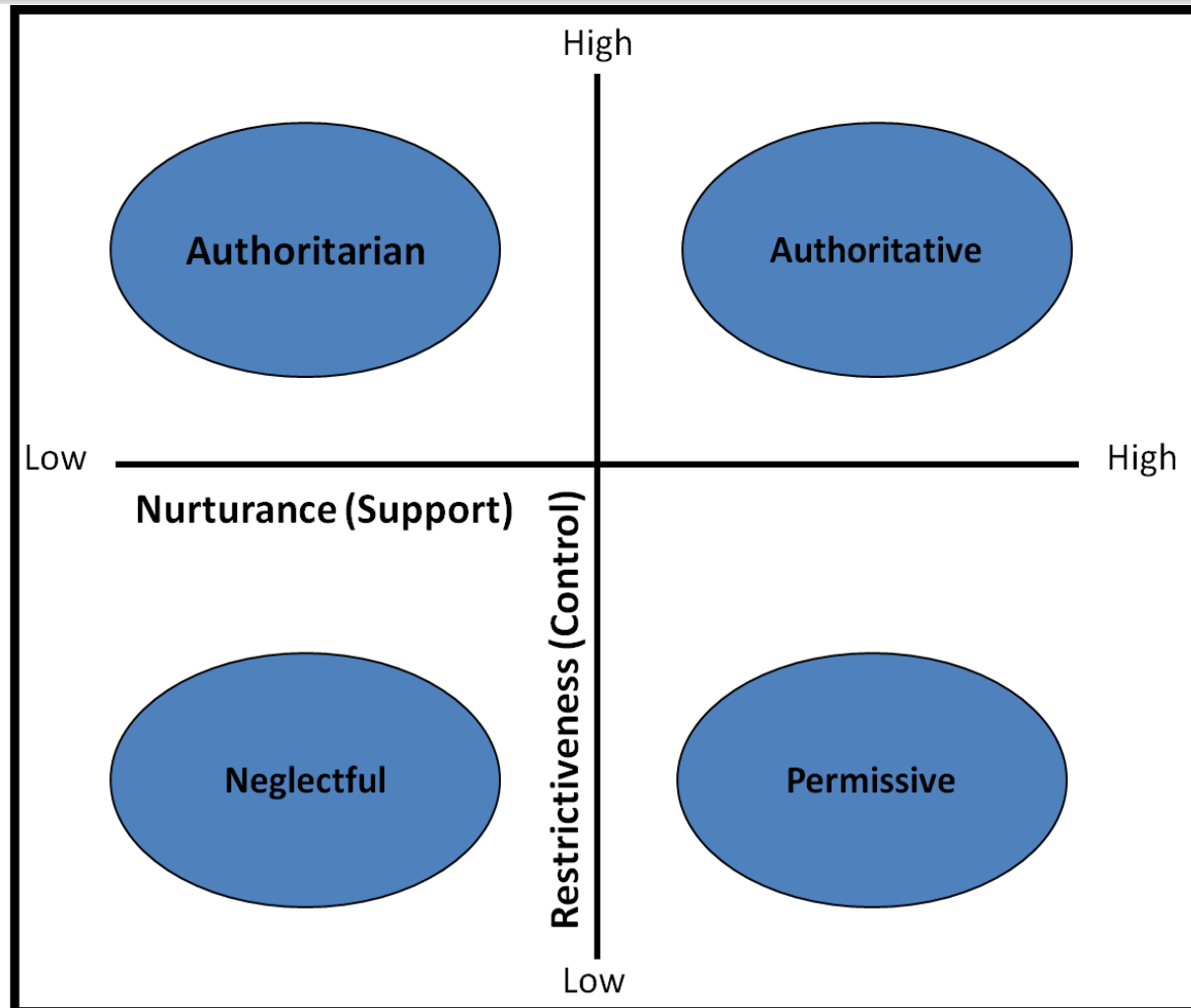


Figure 1

- 2 Dimensions
 - Nurturance
 - Restrictiveness
- 4 Styles (Baumrind, 1967, 1971; Maccoby & Martin, 1983).
 - Authoritarian
 - Authoritative
 - Neglectful
 - Permissive



Effects of Parenting Styles

- Better school performance associated with authoritative parenting (Steinberg, Elmen, and Mounds, 1989)
- Parenting warmth, firm control and autonomy related to higher psychological and social functioning (Maccoby and Martin, 1983)
- High levels of restrictiveness and nurturance, was associated with lower levels of depressive symptoms (Radziszewska et al., 1996) and more active and problem focused coping (Wolfradt et al., 2002)



Factors Related to Parenting Style

- Depression
 - Maternal depression associated with decreased nurturance and increased restrictiveness (Bluestone & Tamis-LeMonda, 1999; Koblinsky & Kuvalanka, 2006)
 - Maternal depression related to parenting laxness and over reactivity (Herwig, Wirtz, Bengel, 2004)
- Anxiety
 - Maternal anxiety related to parenting laxness and over reactivity (Herwig, Wirtz, Bengel, 2004)
 - No relationship between maternal anxiety and parenting warmth or granting of autonomy (Moore, Whaley, & Sigman, 2004)
- Marital Relationship
 - Satisfying and supportive marital relationship is related to more nurturing parenting (Cox, Owen, Lewis, & Henderson, 1989; Bond & McMahon, 2007; Easterbrooks & Emde, 1988; Harrist & Ainslie, 1998)
 - Marital hostility related to less nurturance and more restrictiveness (Dielman, Barton & Cattell, 1977; Stoneman, Brody & Cattell, 1989)



Military Families

Impact of Deployment

- More distress, anxiety and depression than community sample (Lester et al., 2010)
- Increased stress which was related to greater risk of depression (Warner et al., 2009)
- Marital satisfaction declining since 2003 (Riviere, Merrill, Thomas, Wilk, & Bliese, 2012)
- Spouses of military report higher marital discord than do spouses of civilians (Asbury & Martin, 2012)



Participants & Procedures

- Procedures
 - Recruitment
 - PTA meetings & listservs , Meade HS webpage, links in email communications, flyers at school, correspondence mailed home, local newspapers, social networking sites, flyers at mil medical facilities
 - Online survey (survey monkey)
- Participants
 - 413 total respondents (179 military & 234 civilian)
 - All reported one child aged 12-18 living at home
 - 316 females (114 military & 202 civilian)
 - Primary analysis w/mothers only
 - 97 males (65 military & 32 civilian)



Measures

- **Demographic Questionnaire**
- **The Child Rearing Practices Report (CRPR)**
(Rickel & Biasatti, 1982)
- **The Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS)**
(Antony, Bieling, Cox, Enns, & Swinson, 1998)
- **The Couples Satisfaction Index (CSI4)**
(Funk & Rogge, 2007)

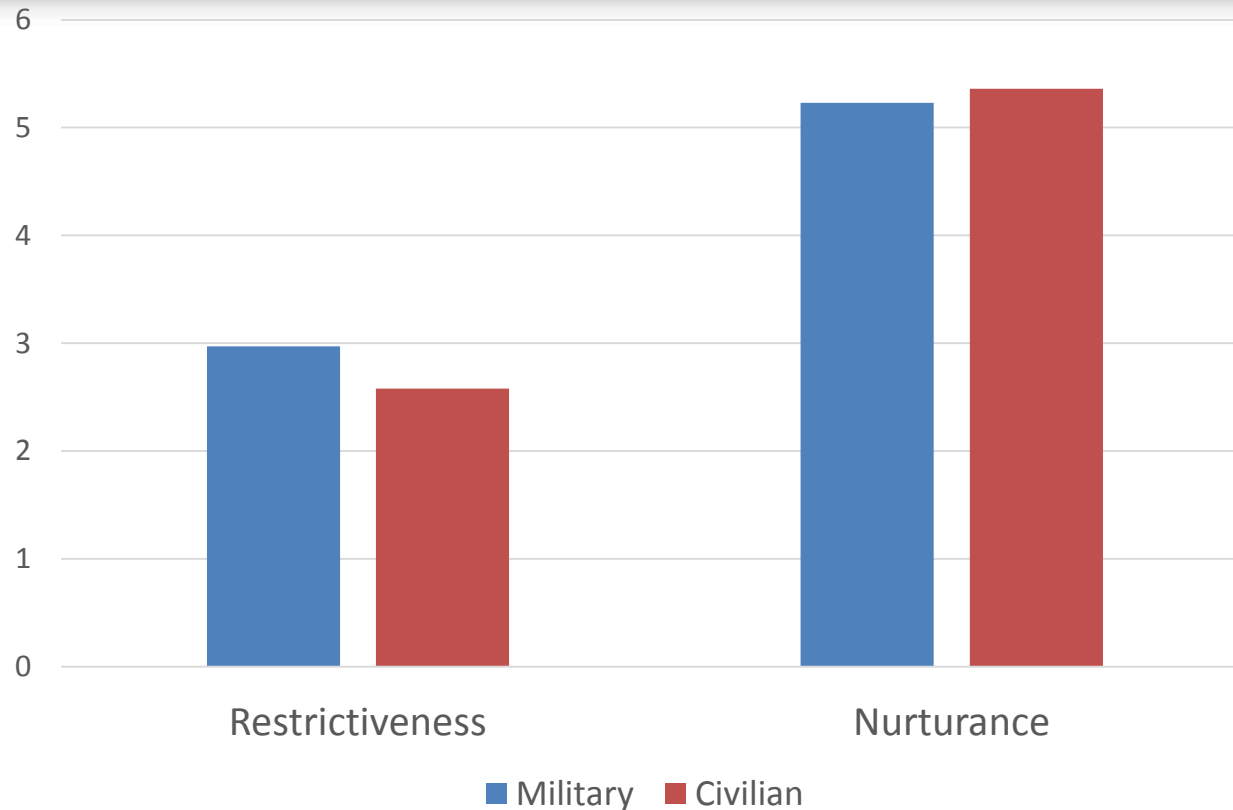


Demographic Characteristics

	Military	Civilian	<i>p</i>
Age	40.70 (6.93)	47.29 (6.16)	<.001
Years partnered	14.77 (6.61)	18.98 (5.47)	<.001
Years in current location	4.65 (4.91)	10.90 (6.43)	<.001
Number of moves for eldest child	5.19 (3.15)	2.02 (2.18)	<.001
Number of children	2.52 (1.31)	1.93 (.89)	<.001
Percent married	89.4	81.7	ns
Percent Caucasian	72.1	88.1	< .005
Gender of eldest child (percent male)	58.9	57.9	ns
Education			
Less than BA	40.4	17.4	<.005
BA	30.7	34.2	
Post-BA Degree	29.0	48.5	



CRPR Scores by Military Status

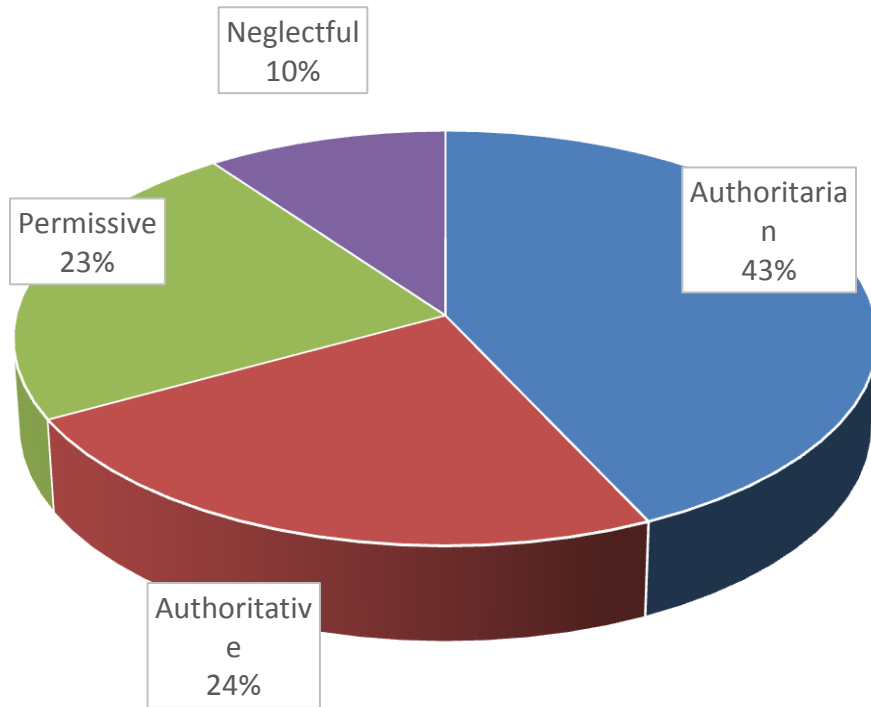


Females	t	df	Sig.	Cohen's D	Effect Size r
Restrictiveness	5.045	310	<.001	0.573	0.275
Nurturance	-2.223	309	.027	-0.253	0.125

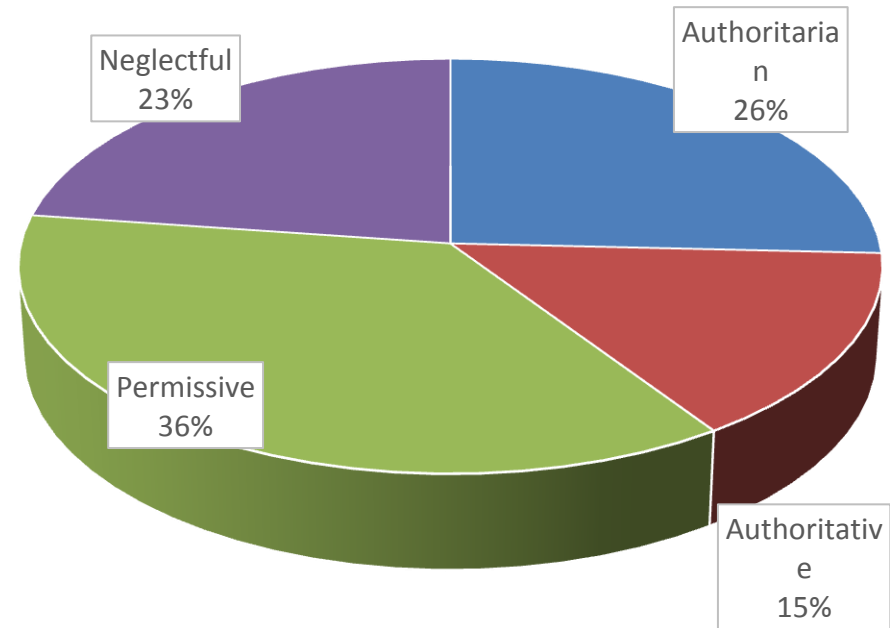


Parenting Styles Based on Median Split of Combined Samples

Military



Civilian





Demographic Variables and Parenting

Differences in parenting style accounted for by demographic differences between the groups

- Age, number of years in current location, and race accounted for relationship between military/civilian status and restrictiveness
- Age, number of moves, education and income levels accounted for relationship between military/civilian status and nurturance



Correlations among variables related to parenting style

(military below diagonal – civilian above diagonal)

	Restrictive-ness	Nurturance	Relationship Satisfaction	Stress	Anxiety	Depression
Restrictive-ness		-.31***	-.10	.16*	.16*	.17*
Nurturance	-.21*		.32***	-.36***	-.28***	-.35***
Relationship Satisfaction	-.11	.13		-.31***	-.22**	-.34***
Stress	.05	-.12	-.16		.51***	.64***
Anxiety	-.05	-.08	-.25*	.77***		.54***
Depression	.00	-.06	-.41***	.74***	.68***	

* - $p < .05$; ** - $p < .005$; *** - $p < .001$



Deployment and Parenting

- No significant correlations between deployment variables and potential mediators.
- Number of deployments, total months deployed, and deployment/dwell ratio was not related to restrictiveness.
- Months deployed was significantly and negatively related to nurturance-not significant with outlier removed.



Summary

- Military mothers more restrictive, less nurturing than civilian mothers
- Increased age related to less restrictiveness and more nurturance
- Transitory nature of military lifestyle may also be related to parenting style
- Among military mothers, there was not the expected relationship between marital satisfaction, anxiety, and depression and parenting constructs (particularly nurturance)
- Deployment experiences had no apparent impact on parenting



Study Limitations

- Cross sectional investigation
- Limitations of online data collection
- Generalizability considerations
 - Prior vs. current military status
 - Time since last deployment
 - Difference in type of units
- Did not assess outcome variables for adolescents



Future Directions

- Longitudinal through deployment cycle
- Multiple informants of parenting style
- Expand to additional child ages
- Types of units (NG/AD, FORSCOM/TRADOC)
- Measure of military acculturation
- Is restrictiveness “bad” for military families