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The Influence of Parents' Pathological Social Media Engagement and Parenting Style on Delinquent Behavior Among Mexican American Adolescents

Martha Lilia Varela-Rios
Walden University

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Walden University

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Martha Lilia Varela-Rios

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Walden University

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Abstract

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Delinquent Behavior Among Mexican American Adolescents

by

Martha Lilia Varela-Rios

MA, Walden University, 2019

MS, University of Texas-Pan American, 2008

BS, University of Texas-Pan American, 1995

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Clinical Psychology

Walden University

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Abstract

The pathological use of social media is a growing problem for diverse groups today. For parents, the resulting detachment from their adolescent children, compromised communication, and limited monitoring of children's activities appear highly correlated with increased adolescent delinquency. The purpose of this quantitative correlational study was to examine the predictive relationships between Mexican American parents' pathological use of social media and their adolescent's delinquent behavior and between these parents' parenting style and their adolescent's delinquent behavior. Unhealthy parenting styles have also been associated with delinquency in adolescents. The theoretical foundation of the study was based on Bowlby's attachment theory and on Lakey and Orehek's relational regulation theory. Participants were Mexican American parents of adolescents who were involved in the legal system. As part of an online survey, the Social Networking Addiction Scale and the Social Media Engagement Questionnaire were used to determine addictive social media patterns. The Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire was used to determine healthy and unhealthy parenting typologies. An ordered logistic regression analysis indicated no significant statistical relationship between participants' use of social media and their adolescent's delinquent behavior and between participants' parenting styles and their adolescent's delinquent behavior. The study's implications for positive social change include informing the development of educational materials and parenting programs that target the growing population of Mexican American families in South Texas; dissemination of these resources may lead to a decrease in adolescents' delinquent behavior.

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Dedication

First and foremost, I dedicate this dissertation to my two favorite angels in heaven. To my beautiful mother, Martha, who during her lifetime was always inspirational and supportive in every decision I made. Gracias mami por tu infinito amor y apoyo en todas mis ideas y locuras. Te amo y te extraño cada día de mi vida. To my grandpa Juan: More than my grandpa, you were my dad. No hay palabras para agradecer sus cuidados y su amor mi “guelito” hermoso.

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To my younger children, Sabrina and Hiram, who were still home during this time. You guys also agreed to support me during this time, and you have until this day. Sabrina, as the “second mom” to Hiram, you have continually shared my role as a mother since you were in high school, and because of that, I have been able to reach my professional goals. You have been instrumental in running my business and even helped me by reminding me to take care of myself. Mi Sol, what would I do without you?

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Delinquent behavior in adolescents is a growing problem in which youngsters ages 13-18 engage in actions that infringe societal norms. Early delinquent behavior may evolve into long-term and more severe offending behaviors throughout the person's lifetime (Gaik et al., 2013). Among other factors, parents' influence is an essential contributor to adolescents' delinquent behavior. Research indicates that adolescents' delinquent behavior is positively associated with parenting factors and is affected by communication and alienation, mainly from mothers (Gaik et al., 2013). Mexican American adolescents are not exempt from this phenomenon. In a study of Mexican American parents, Taylor et al. (2015) noted the importance of positive parenting practices as a preventive factor for adolescents' engagement in delinquent or risky behavior. Taylor et al. suggested that effective parenting practices prevent delinquent and other risky behaviors in adolescents while increasing their competencies to become socially skilled individuals. This is because parents guide their children to function physically and economically and in psychosocial circumstances. Parents' role is to nurture and protect their children. However, to effectively play their role, parents need to understand their behaviors as individuals and as parents. Identifying addictive patterns is a crucial aspect of regulating parenting practices.

Self-identification of their own problematic media behaviors, especially those related to social media, is a factor in parents' ability to effectively perform their role. The use of social media platforms has been extending rapidly among all groups, with more individuals presenting pathological signs (Andreassen et al., 2017). The pathological use

of social media affects a person's social functioning (Fabris et al., 2020). Even though internet addiction is not in the latest version of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (fifth ed.; *DSM-5*; American Psychiatric Association, 2013), this phenomenon is receiving more attention among the adolescent population. Many adolescents overuse their electronic devices to connect with others for social interaction, playing of games, and completion of homework (Lam & Wong, 2015; Valencia Ortiz & Castaño Garrido, 2019). Research indicates that adolescents also overuse the internet to reduce their stress (Lam & Wong, 2015); reduce feelings of alienation and neglect (Gaik et al., 2013); reduce uneasiness, and even foster a sense of acceptance and belonging (Fabris et al., 2020).

According to the Collins online English dictionary, the term *pathological* is an adjective that “describes a person or their behavior ... when they behave in an extreme and unacceptable way and have very powerful feelings that they cannot control” (Collins, n.d., Adjective section, para. 1). Bankoglu and Cerkez (2019) suggested that, during their face-to-face interactions, individuals feel compelled to use electronic devices for the sake of maintaining active engagement in their different roles (e.g., as employees, parents, and/or friends). The authors suggested that the pathological use of electronic devices results from individuals feeling pressured to meet the expectations of their dissimilar roles. Parents' pathological use of the internet has not been extensively studied despite the understanding that social media addiction affects individuals of all ages (Fabris et al., 2020; Lam & Wong, 2015).

Experts' concerns about pathological usage of the internet have increased with the proliferation of smartphones, though they acknowledge some positive aspects of these devices for communication. For instance, Kushlev and Dunn (2019) emphasized the use of smartphones to become closer to those physically distant from oneself while also disconnecting from those who are physically close. The authors evaluated social connection changes because of parents' use or lack of use of smartphones while spending time with their children. Based on their observations, Kushlev and Dunn argued that, despite parents' beliefs regarding their ability to reengage with their children while using their smartphones, their distraction affected their parent-child interactions. Fang et al. (2020) described people's tendency to use their smartphones to disregard others during in-person interactions. The authors pointed out that social media addiction relates to emotional support-seeking behaviors and the "fear of missing out" from others' desirable experiences and that it affects parenting practices. Bankoglu and Cerkez (2019) suggested that individuals with fear of missing out express feeling nervous and out of place when they are not actively using their electronic devices. From this perspective, parents' social media addiction significantly influences their children's behaviors.

Because of its impact, more research is needed on social media addiction of parents. There is a need for research on parents from different population groups. Researchers studying Mexican participants suggested that the pathological use of electronic devices is also increasing among this population (Valencia-Ortiz & Cabero-Almenara, 2019; Valencia Ortiz & Castaño Garrido, 2019). The present study may further the understanding of South Texas Mexican American parents' role in preventing

their adolescents' delinquent or risky behaviors. Specifically, the study results may inform the development of educational materials and parenting programs that target the growing population of Mexican American families in South Texas; dissemination of these resources may help to reduce delinquent behavior in adolescents within this group. This study may extend understanding of other addictive behaviors and compromised parenting practices that affect the parent-child relationship within the group, fostering children's maladaptive behaviors. In this chapter, I provide an overview of the current study, which includes background information, the problem and purpose statements, the research questions (RQs) and hypotheses, and overviews of the theoretical framework and methodology. I also define key terms and discuss the assumptions, scope and delimitations, limitations, and significance of the study.

Background

Delinquent behavior in adolescents is a growing problem in society. Gaik et al. (2013) asseverated that early delinquent behavior is a predictor of long-term and more severe offending behaviors in adulthood. Gaik et al. noted that detachment from parents, compromised parent-child communication, and alienation influence adolescents' delinquent behavior. Xiuquin et al. (2010) listed parenting style and parental attitudes as factors that affect adolescents' psychosocial and personality development. The authors added that there is a negative correlation between parental rearing styles and internet addiction in adolescents. Lam and Wong (2015) explained that a growing number of adolescents overuse their electronic devices to connect with others for social interaction, playing games, and completing homework.

Problematic internet behaviors can also be a way for adolescents to self-regulate their emotions. Research by Gaik et al. (2013) and Lam and Wong (2015) indicated that adolescents' pathological use of the internet is a way to manage feelings of alienation and neglect and decrease stress. Other research indicated that adolescents engage in pathological internet usage to manage symptoms of anxiety, depressed mood, apprehension, and to foster a sense of acceptance and belonging (Fabris et al., 2020). Family-related factors that may serve as causal or protective factors for adolescents' delinquent behavior include the degree of interaction between parents and children, the type of interaction between them, and parenting practices (Nqweni et al., 2010). Few researchers, however, have explored the pathological use of the internet and social platforms by parents despite general awareness regarding the effects of internet addiction in individuals of all ages (Fabris et al., 2020; Lam & Wong, 2015).

In general, world-wide use of internet usage has been increasing among adolescents and adults within the last decade with an impressive speed (Kuss et al., 2014). Statista (n.d.) indicates that 89% of the total adult population in the United States accessed the internet in 2018, while 244 million adults used social media. Statista (n.d.) added that in 2019, 79% of the country's total population had an active social media profile. By 2023, over 257 million people in the United States will be social media users, according to the company's forecast. Andreassen and Pallesen (2014) emphasized lack of self-control, compulsivity, and negative consequences as critical factors to determine pathology in social media use. Valencia Ortiz and Castaño Garrido (2019) added that online social media networks facilitate an individual's interaction with many others with

whom the individual may or may not have a relationship in the real world while allowing them to end unwanted relationships more easily. Social media addiction is also gaining more attention as a precursor of some mental health deficits (Andreassen & Pallesen, 2014; Ho et al., 2014), in adolescents (van den Eijnden et al., 2016), as a causal factor in problematic interactions between parents and children (Koning et al., 2018), and as related to adolescents' social media addictive patterns.

Contrary to the extensive research on the effects of adolescents' pathological use of the internet, I found few studies of parents' pathological use of social media and its impact on their children's behavioral patterns. Ghazarian and Roche (2010) suggested parents' emotional responsiveness as a factor that prevents delinquent behaviors in children. Parents' pathological use of social media represents limited or lack of emotional availability for their children. Because of their noted closeness, this phenomenon describes a significant threat to the interdependent cultural orientation of the Hispanic family unit. Ghazarian and Roche (2010) added that compromised parenting behaviors relate to their children's delinquent behavior. Considering that there were over 82,000 Hispanic families in the United States in 2016 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016), the impact of Mexican American parents' pathological use of social media is a relevant phenomenon to be studied. I was unable to find research on how Mexican American parents' pathological social media engagement has impacted their parenting behaviors. Ghazarian and Roche listed engaged parenting, parental involvement, and parental acceptance as parenting behaviors that contribute to a healthy parent-adolescent bond. Nqweni et al. (2010) suggested that the type and quality of the interaction between parents and their children

are also determinants in developing such healthy bonds. Ghazarian and Roche indicated that a warm, involved, and consistent parenting style favors such a wholesome family bond and reduces adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviors.

This study's purpose was to fill this gap in the literature by focusing on identifying possible associations in parenting behaviors and styles to the pathological use of social media in Mexican American parents and the effects on their children's delinquent behavior. Chang and Qin (2018) argued that parental tracking of the adolescents' activities and whereabouts is a critical aspect used by Latino minorities (including Mexican Americans) to remain connected to their children and suggested that the lack of research in this area may correlate adolescent's delinquent behavior. Nqweni et al. (2010) indicate that adolescents' perception of their bond's quality with their parents may determine their involvement in delinquent behavior. This may correlated to how they view the tracking of their activities to the closeness of their relationship with their parents.

Problem Statement

The effects of adolescents' delinquent behavior have tremendous consequences for their families, communities, and society. There is a growing number of U.S. adolescents engaging in delinquent behavior. Nqweni et al. (2010) found that adolescents in the United States engage in a wide range of delinquent behaviors, including antisocial behaviors. For this study, adolescents' delinquent behavior was associated with actions that represent involvement with the juvenile legal system. Nqweni et al. noted that this group displays little regret for their behaviors and identified limited parental involvement

as a motivation factor for delinquent behavior engagement. Ninety percent of their sample of U.S. adolescents who were involved in delinquent behavior perceived lack or limited parental engagement. Evans et al. (2014) associated adolescents' delinquent behavior with problems later in life. The authors noted that these early problems may extend to employment, criminal behavior, and health problems in adulthood.

With these dire consequences to adolescents, families, community, and society, it is imperative to reflect on parents' role. Just like adolescents worldwide, who have significantly increased their use of social media and the internet, parents are increasing their use of these social tools. There is extensive research on adolescents' use of the internet. However, current research reflects the limited exploration of parents' pathological engagement in social media and the effects of such on their availability, responsiveness, knowledge, and warmth towards their children even when these behaviors link to the prevention of children's delinquent behavior (Leung & Shek, 2018; Liu & Wang, 2020; Schofield et al., 2017). Chang and Qin (2018) noted that parental knowledge relates to the degree of trust between adolescents and their parents, and that family trust can deter delinquent behavior. As opposed to Evans et al. (2014), who supported the idea that adolescents' behavior is rooted in their influence by peers, Gaik et al. (2013) noted that a detached relationship between adolescents and their parents loosens the connection within the dyad and may prompt delinquent behavior in adolescents. In Mexican American families, the lack of ability to communicate freely can impact the family dynamics and parents' and children's roles (Chang & Qin, 2018).

Some researchers have explored parenting behaviors (Roditti, 2005), parenting practices and styles (Evans et al., 2016; Gaik et al., 2013; Ghazarian and Roche, 2010; Koning et al., 2018; Lam & Wong, 2015; Lippold et al., 2018; Moreno-Ruiz et al., 2019; Schaeffer et al., 2009; Schroeder & Mowen, 2014; Wang et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2019; and Xiuquin et al., 2010), and parental knowledge (Nqweni et al., 2016). I found little information, though, regarding social media effects on parenting and the consequential effects on adolescent's delinquent behavior. Thus, I concluded that social media's pathological use represents an area of concern that needs exploration as parents' pathological engagement in social media may influence behaviors that could prevent adolescents' maladjustment into risk or criminal factors.

Purpose of the Study

This study's purpose was to examine associations in parenting behaviors resulting from the pathological and non-pathological social media engagement of Mexican American parents of adolescents that display delinquent behaviors. I decided to use a quantitative, ordered logistic regression to analyze the data. I provided a questionnaire (see Appendix A) to participants to obtain demographic information, including age, gender, marital status, work status, type of extended family support, total number of children, total number of children involved in legal proceedings, and ages and gender of children involved in legal proceedings. I used the Social Networking Addiction Scale (SNAS; see Appendix B) to identify addictive patterns in parents of children involved in delinquent behaviors. I used the Social Media Engagement Questionnaire (SMEQ; see Appendix C) to determine the pathological or excessive use of social media by Mexican

American parents. I used the Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ; see Appendix D) to identify the parenting style and associated behaviors of parents. For this study, I related healthy parenting behaviors to the authoritative parenting style; healthy parenting behaviors were those that indicate warmth, involvement, reasoning, induction, and democratic participation and that present the parent as easygoing and accessible to the child. On the contrary, I correlated unhealthy parenting behaviors with the authoritarian and permissive parenting styles. Parenting behaviors associated with the authoritarian style include verbal hostility, corporal punishment, punitive strategies, and directedness. I associated the permissive parenting style with lack of follow-through, inattention to misbehavior, and overconfidence.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

The RQs and null and alternative hypotheses for this study were as follows:

RQ1: What is the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior?

H_0 1: There is no relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior.

H_a 1: There is a relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior.

RQ2: What is the relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors?

H₀2: There is no relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

H_a2: There is a relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

Theoretical Framework

For the study's theoretical framework, I used Bowlby's (1969) attachment theory and Lakey and Orehek's (2011) relational regulation theory. The attachment theory proposes that parenting behaviors are linked to the degree of quality in the parent-child attachment and describes the negative consequences to children resulting from an insecure attachment to their parents (Bowlby, 1969). Badenes-Ribera et al. (2019) noted the pertinence of attachment theory to explaining online addiction; individuals with insecure attachment, who struggle with face-to-face interactions, may find it easier to fostering online relationships instead. The relational regulation theory supports the idea that it is perceived support rather than actual support that positively affects people's mental well-being (Lakey & Orehek, 2011). The authors suggested that the regulation of feelings, thoughts and behavior are associated to shared conversations and activities between the parties. The active sharing of time and communication serves as a stress management technique and as a perceived source of support.

A theoretically informed understanding of parents' excessive use of social media is essential to determine pathology in their use of social media. Badenes-Ribera et al. (2019) connected the excessive use of internet to other addictive behaviors. The authors

explained internet addiction as the disproportionate and maladaptive use of the technology. They suggested that symptoms of compulsivity and withdrawal are present along with mental and physical addictive symptoms when the use of the internet is excessive. Cho et al. (2016) emphasized that someone who is addicted to the internet will recurrently have thoughts about it, and its use will produce conflict to the point of interfering with other activities. For parents, this becomes significant when considering that interaction with their children is one of those activities compromised by the addiction to the internet or pathological social media use (Liu et al., 2019). Parenting behaviors may include establishing and enforcing rules, communicating with the adolescent, and moderating the adolescent's independence. Leung and Shek (2018) and Liu et al. (2019) noted that parenting behaviors are affected by parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive). Researchers have noted that the likelihood of pathological internet's use is less when people's emotional needs are met offline by their loved ones. In this study, I sought to gauge the effects of parents' addictive social media patterns and children's delinquent behavior.

Nature of the Study

I used a descriptive, correlational quantitative design to examine the possible relationship between Mexican American parents' pathological level of engagement with social media use and the consequential effects of such attention on their children's delinquent behaviors (see Matua & Van, 2015). This type of research is consistent with broader scholarly efforts to identify, understand, and interpret the effects of a parent's behavior on their children's delinquent behavior. Consistent with attachment theory, the

lack of attachment between parents and children is known to endanger the children's emotional security (Bowlby, 1969). I also sought alignment to the relational regulation theory (Lahey & Orehek, 2011) by emphasizing the effects of the self-perception that parents' have of their emotional availability and support to their adolescents. For this reason, I used a purposive sample of South Texas Mexican American parents of adolescents who display delinquent behaviors. I used the SurveyMonkey hosting platform to collect data and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 25 to analyze it. The dependent variable was children's involvement in legal proceedings (delinquent behavior). I used the SNAS, which addresses social media addiction, plus the SMEQ, which addresses social media level of engagement, to measure the independent variable social media use. I also used the PSDQ to recognize parenting typologies (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) in parents (self and partner) as part of the second independent variable.

Definitions

Adolescent delinquency: For this study, the involvement in a legal proceeding of individuals ages 13-17.

Authoritarian parenting: A parenting style characterized by higher levels of demandingness and lower levels of responsiveness to children's needs (Baumrind, 1971). It is considered an unhealthy parenting style based on Westernized views that are contrary to those of non-Western groups.

Authoritative parenting: A parenting style characterized by a combination of demandingness and responsiveness to children's needs (Baumrind, 1971). It is considered a healthy parenting style based on Westernized views.

Pathological use of social media: The addictive use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Snapchat) as based on scores above 84 on the SNAS (Shahnawaz & Rehman, 2020) and more than 4.5 points of average weekly frequency of use of social media platforms, as measured on the SMEQ (Przybylski et al., 2013).

Permissive parenting: A parenting style characterized by lower levels of demandingness and higher levels of responsiveness to children's needs (Baumrind, 1971). It is considered an unhealthy parenting style based on Westernized views that are contrary to those of non-Western groups.

Assumptions

The assumptions of this nonexperimental study pertained to general methodology, theory, and measurement. Assumptions inform how a researcher determines what questions to ask and what methods to use (Haegele & Hodge, 2015). They are a set of beliefs that a researcher employs to conduct a study. Specifically, assumptions are the views that a researcher holds about the nature of reality related to what is studied, the role of values in research, and the processes used to conduct their research (Haegele & Hodge, 2015). General assumptions in research concern the philosophical beliefs of the researcher. Quantitative researchers most often have an objective view of reality drawn from a positivist perspective (Antwi & Hamza, 2015). Researchers using a quantitative

design want to empirically measure the relationships between variables by testing hypotheses (Antwi & Hamza, 2015). I conducted the study from a positivist ontological stance. My goal was to better understand Mexican American parents' pathological use of social media and their parenting styles as influences on their children's delinquent behavior.

Scope and Delimitations

In this study, I focused on Mexican American parents of adolescents who display delinquent behaviors. The study's scope extended to parents' social media addiction, level of engagement in social media, and parenting styles. Due to constraints of time and resources, I decided to focus on parents of children currently involved in legal proceedings while avoiding including parents of children not involved in legal proceedings as part of the study. The same constraints justified the lack of inclusion of adolescents in the study.

Limitations

Initially, potential barriers to this study included obtaining the partner site agreements and getting parents to agree to participate in study and answer questionnaire items. The study's population was Mexican American parents in South Texas. As such, the results may not be applicable to Mexican Americans in other areas of the United States and to individuals from other minority groups. As the Hispanic population is changing rapidly in the South Texas region, the need to include other ethnic groups and factors affecting parenting and adolescents' delinquent behaviors appears warranted and as such I recommend their consideration in future studies. This study also excluded

adolescents as part of the study while focusing solely on their parents. This may have contributed to a partial picture of how parental support is viewed from the adolescents' perspective.

Significance

Research shows that parenting behaviors are correlated to children's behaviors. Parenting styles, practices, and attitudes affect children's mental, emotional, social, and spiritual development (Xiuqin et al., 2010). Riggs (2009) added that an insecure attachment between parents and children fosters emotional dysregulation and negative self-views and affects children's ability to appropriately function within a social context. Juffer et al. (2017) associated the positive consequences of a solid parent-child attachment relationship to the parents' modeling of positive behavior and warned of the effects of opposite attachment and learning patterns. Parenting behaviors compromised by the pathological engagement in social media negatively impact parents' relationship with their children in ways that contribute to adolescents' poor decision making, thus increasing the likelihood of delinquent behavior. Andreassen and Pallesen (2014) raised the importance of considering sociocultural factors that may have a role in the parents' pathological engagement with social media. In this study, I sought to identify factors related to pathological engagement with social media among Mexican Americans that may impact their parenting styles and their adolescents' involvement in delinquent activities. The results of the study may offer a basis for further research on social media addiction and the effects on families and society while promoting parents' nonpathological social media engagement and healthy parenting behaviors.

Summary

The pathological use of social media is a growing problem in the United States. Engagement in social media activities appears to negatively influence parents' ability to form healthy attachments with their children, contributing to delinquent behavior in adolescents (Bowlby, 1969; Camacho-Thompson et al., 2019). The population of South Texas Mexican American parents does not seem to be exempt from this phenomenon. I initially presumed a negative correlation between pathological social media use among Mexican American parents and their children's delinquent behavior based on the literature review. I also presumed a negative correlation between unhealthy parenting styles and children's delinquency based on my review of the literature. The following literature review provides further clarification of this social phenomenon and related concepts.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

Parenting style is a key factor in parents' attachment to their children, which influences children's propensity to engage in delinquent behavior. The quality of the adolescents' relationships with their parents and other social figures correlates to their prosocial behaviors (Bluhm et al., 2014; Estevez et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2020). Gaik et al. (2013) supported the idea that securely attached children are better accepted by their peers and more open to satisfying relationships with others and practicing prosocial behaviors. Oilfield et al. (2016) and Zhang et al. (2020) suggested that a securely attached parent-child dyad helps improve adolescents' self-regulation and helps promote prosocial behaviors. Tur-Porcar (2017) explained responsiveness and demandingness as the two dimensions of parenting styles and noted the influence of parenting styles on the attachment between parents and children. Cho et al. (2016) and Gaik et al. noted that adolescents with an insecure parental attachment are more prone to delinquent behavior and mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, drug use, and social inadequacy. Wang et al. (2019) explained that moral disengagement between parents and adolescents may produce adverse behaviors. Evans et al. (2016) warned against the possibility of these behaviors becoming present throughout the lifetime. Thus, the importance of the connection between parents and their adolescents.

Recognition of the importance of parental involvement is growing in importance as parents face the need to become skilled in monitoring their children's online interactions (Daneels & Vanwynsberghe, 2017). Although there is extensive research on

the impact of social media use on adolescents, little research exists, according to my review of the literature, on how parents' pathological use of social media impacts their parenting behaviors. Research is even more limited that specifically addresses social problems among Mexican American parents and the impact on the parents' relationship with their children and the children's delinquent behavior. Taylor et al. (2015) emphasized the importance of quality relationships between Mexican American parents and their adolescents, indicating that positive parenting behaviors help increase adolescents' social competence. The relationship among Mexican American parents and their children surpasses in importance any other relationship, including a romantic relationship, within this minority group (Killoren et al., 2020).

In this study, I addressed parenting behaviors that affect Mexican American adolescents who engage in maladaptive behavior. This chapter's review of the literature provides information regarding Mexican American parenting cultural and socialization factors that may function as preventive measures for delinquent behavior. I also highlight those factors that seem to contribute to adolescents' delinquent behavior. More insight on parents' pathological use of social media may inform the development of strategies to improve parenting behaviors and consequently reduce Mexican American adolescents' involvement in delinquent activities. In the chapter, I also describe the literature search strategy and theoretical foundation for the study.

Literature Search Strategy

With few exceptions, the literature that I reviewed was published between 2014 and 2022. The literature on attachment theory, the first part of the theoretical framework,

dates to 1969 and provides the original work of Bowlby regarding his theory. The second part of the theoretical framework was Lakey and Orehek's (2011) relational regulation theory. I reviewed selected articles relating to pathological engagement with social media, parenting styles, parenting attachment, and the effects of parenting behaviors, especially on delinquent behaviors in adolescents. I used the following keywords: *parenting styles, parenting practices, disengaged parenting, childhood maltreatment, parents' moral disengagement, parents' internet addiction, excessive internet use, social media addiction, parental rearing practices, parents' social media addiction, neglectful parenting, and parental lability*. The databases and search engines that were used included Thoreau Multi-Database Search, Google Scholar, Elsevier, and SAGE Journals.

Theoretical Foundation

Attachment Theory

In this research, I analyzed the possible relationship between the parents' pathological engagement in social media and the consequences on their adolescents' delinquent behavior. Bowlby (1969) explained the importance of forming a secure attachment in the relationship between mother or caregiver, and child. The author suggested that secure attachment within the parent-child dyad prevents detachment and promotes the child's appropriate adjustment. Withers et al. (2016) indicated that secure attachments between parents and children challenge the development of internalizing and externalizing symptoms of mental health concerns in adolescents. Bluhm et al. (2014) explained that children attach more efficiently to figures with whom they can engage socially rather than just with those meeting their physical needs. The adolescents' social

needs are of particular importance because parents involved in social media experience minimal opportunities for visual contact and socialization with their children while sending them detachment signals (Bluhm et al., 2014).

Higher autonomy and positive adjustment is expected when adolescents can preserve a connection with their parents while searching for their independence. (Whitters et al., 2016). Tur-Porcar (2017) supported that the authoritative parenting style is conducive to this connection between parents and children. Early attachment is an affectional tie or bond between an attachment figure and an individual (Bowlby, 1969; Camacho-Thompson et al., 2019). Such bonds can be reciprocal when two adults are involved; however, between a caregiver and a child, these connections are customarily based on the child's need for protection, security, and safety. (Perez, 2019). Bowlby's theory suggests that children instinctively attach to caregivers for genetic replication and survival reasons. Survival is the biological aim, whereas security is the psychological purpose (De Los Reyes & Ohannessian, 2016). In a relationship between a child and an adult, the child's tie is referred to as attachment, whereas the caregiver's mutual bond is known as the caregiving bond. Gaik et al. (2013) suggested that the attachment theory can explain changes in emotional and behavioral patterns in adolescence. The authors indicated that effective communication, trust, and emotional closeness determine the degree of quality in the attachment between the parent-child dyad. Bluhm et al. (2014) explained that attachment is vital and adaptive because it entails natural selection that leads to a survival advantage. From early experiences between caregivers and infants, infants appear to adapt to how caregivers act and create internal mental images of

themselves and their environment (Bowlby, 1969; Camacho-Thompson et al., 2019). This interaction with caregivers shapes the level to which infants emerge securely attached to their mothers. Tur-Porcar (2017) indicated that authoritative parenting strengthens the attachment of parents with their adolescents. The adolescents' interaction with peers also modifies and molds their internal working model of others and themselves but less intensively as compared to the parent-child attachment (Gaik et al., 2013). Infants develop attachments to a caregiver who is consistent in offering responsive and sensitive social interactions (Bowlby, 1969; Liu & Wang, 2020; Tur-Porcar, 2017; White et al., 2019). The quality of engagement is more influential than the duration of it. The quality of the attachment that a child develops with a caregiver is significant due to the caregiver's response when the caregiver's attachment system is activated (Liu & Wang, 2020; Morris et al., 2017; Tur-Porcar, 2017). Examples of an attachment system are present when the infant is emotionally upset or physically hurt, when the infant is frightened, or when the infant's feelings of security or safety are threatened, for instance, when they are ill. Infants' critical patterns of responses to distress have resulted in specific organized attachment patterns (White et al., 2019). For instance, as early as 6 months of age, children can anticipate how specific caregivers will respond to their distress and modify their behaviors based on the consistent interactions with the caregivers.

Adolescence is shaped by biological processes and by social factors. Oilfield et al. (2016) indicated that adolescents transition into a more independent self-stance by integrating others into their mental organization of attachments. As such, peers become

the adolescents' primary source of social support and intimacy and school becomes a source for increasing social connections. The social atmosphere in which adolescents develop influence their path, which can be better or worse (De Los Reyes & Ohannessian, 2016). Bousono et al. (2017) suggested that variations in the family and social context can significantly affect the adolescents' pathological use of the internet, which, in turn, may exacerbate other maladaptive behaviors and mental health concerns. Other researchers emphasized insecure attachments with peers as factors that promote delinquent behaviors in adolescents which diminish prosocial behaviors and promote other mental health concerns (Badenes-Ribera, 2019; Oilfield et al., 2016; Tur-Porcar, 2017). The authors found that of parental attachment, peer attachment, and school connectedness, the first one remains the most influential factor to a healthy development of adolescents. Cho et al. (2016) suggested that parents who have a good relationship with their adolescents describe a closer bond with fewer conflicts. A conflicted relationship diminishes the bond between parents and children and intensifies the battle between the dyad.

Parents' awareness of their adolescents' concerns reduces conflicts resulting from pubertal maturation (Cho et al., 2016). The opposite is true when parental awareness is low. Badenes-Ribera (2019) explained that a compromised parent-adolescent bond promotes addictive behavior, including addiction to social media use. Early developmental stages associated with intense bonding and secure infant-mother attachment protect the child from unfavorable environmental impacts on pubertal maturation (Cho et al., 2016). Rangel and Shoji (2020) suggested that social factors shape

the child's identity by building cohesion and questioning "who am I?" Some adolescents integrate across various social identity categories in response to this question. Children are likely to compete, explain, negotiate, and comprehend the meaning of social belonging as their cognitive capabilities and social demands increase. Social factors influence adolescents' sexuality and gender roles during their development. Cho et al. (2016) warned against the limited connection between parents and their offspring during adolescence. The authors noted behavioral negative repercussions resulting from the disrupted connection.

Parent behaviors may foster attachment with their adolescents. Baumrind (1971) described parenting behaviors within the context of parenting styles including authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive. The author noted the demandingness of an authoritarian parent and the non-punitive and lax style of the permissive parent as factors that negatively skew the parent-child relationship. Zeinali et al. (2011) associated adolescents' drug use and aggressive behavior to the permissive style of their parents. The authoritative parent uses firm control over their children promoting their independence while effectively exercising their rights and responsibilities as a parent (Baumrind, 1971). Robinson et al. (2001) developed an instrument for assessing parenting styles and dimensions known as the PSDQ. The authors mapped the ideas of independence, trust, cooperation, psychosocial growth, and academic accomplishment as effects of authoritative parenting on their children. Zeinali et al. (2011) added that authoritative parents have improved capabilities for self-management and avoidance of risky activities including drug use and delinquency. Robinson et al. (2001) emphasized

the positive effects of socialization associated with authoritative parenting. This type of parenting style is linked to a secure attachment between parents and children (Zeinali et al., 2011). The authors noted that children of authoritative parents develop a positive concept of themselves and others. Oldfield et al. (2016) utilized consistent appraisals of secure attachment to the caregiver to investigate the influence of early attachment on life satisfaction. This study's results show that securely attached adolescents showed less uneasiness, discouragement, and stress as opposed to their anxiously attached partners. Anxious individuals, display increasing trouble establishing and maintaining personal relationships outside the family circle (Oldfield et al., 2016). Zeinali et al. (2011) associated the adolescents' insecure attachment to their unhealthy concept of themselves and others. In this study, I intend to contribute to previous studies' findings by analyzing associations among healthy and unhealthy parenting behaviors based on parenting styles, parents' pathological vs. non pathological levels of engagement in social media, and adolescents' delinquent behavior.

A secure and responsive connection with parents may impact the relationship of adolescents with intimate partners. In a longitudinal study following participants from birth to young adulthood, Farrell et al. (2019) found that people with a secure connection during childhood had more significant emotional relationships in young adulthood than those without a secure connection. Liu & Wang (2020) indicated that communication, parental warmth, affectability, and a strong relationship between parents and their adolescents increase closeness, fulfilling relationships, and openness toward emotional connections during adulthood. The researchers found that nurturant-involved parenting,

which involves warmth, parental monitoring, and a lack of harsh discipline, was the most striking indicator of high warmth and low aggression in the interaction between adolescents and their parents and influenced a positive interaction with their significant others. Consequently, it appears that parents who promote a secure connection with their adolescents model healthy relationship practices that allow their children to acquire more fulfilling relationships with others (Farrell et al., 2019; Liu & Wang, 2020).

Relational Regulation Theory

The relational regulation theory explores the concepts of perceived support and its effects on mental health (Estevez et al., 2017). Estevez et al. (2017) emphasized social interaction as the basis for perceived support and suggested that individuals react to others' relational influence. Adolescents who perceive low positive affect or high negative affect from parents may struggle regulating their thoughts, emotions, or behavior. Hence, this theory associates the adolescents' delinquent behavior to their perception of their parents as authoritarian or permissive. Tur-Porcar (2017) suggested that the authoritative parenting style prevents adolescents' delinquent behavior by offering affection, support, positive interaction, establishing boundaries and maintaining close supervision of adolescents' activities. Bluhm et al. (2014) and Estevez et al. (2017) emphasized the importance of socialization between parents and adolescents. The authors forecasted adverse effects when this interaction is compromised. Positive results produce secure attachment and prevent undesirable behavior in response to appropriate perceived support. The relational regulation theory is related to collectivistic ethnic groups such as the Mexican American group (Cuellar et al., 2019). Cuellar et al. (2019) suggested that

the migrating status of Mexican Americans affects the level of support perceived from each other. Killoren et al. (2020) added that, adolescents with strong ties to other family members perceive improved social and family connectedness. A sense of connectedness with their parents serves as a deterrent to negative influences and decisions during adolescence. Taylor et al. (2015) indicated that Mexican Americans who perceive limited emotional support from family members may establish connections outside of their family.

Review of the Literature Related to Key Variables and/or Concepts

Acculturation and Parenting

Acculturation as a concept occurs amidst the gathering of diverse cultural groups. Killoren et al. (2020) suggested that this gathering promotes changes to minority groups' cultural practices and values, family dynamics, and personal changes. The authors suggested positive effects when adolescents maintain cultural values as part of their interactions with family members. Acculturation indicates the intensity upon which someone from a minority group obtains and practices the customs and behaviors of the primary culture of the region they live in. Bornstein (2017) studied the principle of acculturation and concluded that there are diverse ways to reach this point. For instance, someone who adopts the values and norms of another culture seems to have assimilated into the new culture. Those who resist the new culture's values and standards remain separated.

An integrated individual practices values and norms of both cultures separately, and those who do neither are marginalized (Bornstein, 2017). Cuellar et al. (2019)

explained that a good predictor for mental health concerns among minorities implies divorcing the values, norms, and traditions of the culture of origin. For instance, feelings of loneliness and social isolation are prominent in assimilated minority group members, especially those coming from a collectivistic ethnic group (Cuellar et al., 2019). The authors noted that most minority group members perceive less support from their families because of their migrating status. Killoren et al. (2020) added that, adolescents with solid roots in *familism* have fewer adjustment problems and support the perception of the family as a source of social connectedness. Taylor et al. (2015) indicated that parents depend on other relatives for emotional support but seek to establish new connections when they perceive their support network threatened. The authors added that social factors including poverty, low income, and low education influence their parenting practices which, in turn, affect the poor psychosocial adjustment of their adolescents. The assimilation of Mexican Americans parents in the United States has resulted in higher social media participation (Statista, n.d.). Assimilation influences adolescents' delinquent behavior, substance use, suicidal ideation, and depressive symptoms (Marsiglia et al., 2014; Pei et al., 2020; Schofield et al., 2017). I found little research exploring how cultural assimilation has impacted the pathological use of social media among Mexican American parents, and their children's delinquent behavior.

Social Media Use as a Behavioral Addiction

Interestingly, Andreassen and Pallesen (2014) and Andreassen (2015) noted similarities between drug addictions and behavioral addictions, suggesting that they share common symptoms. Andreassen (2015) indicated that pathological engagement in social

media is considered a behavioral addiction that may contribute to health, social, and psychological problems. Signs of a behavioral addiction include

- excessive time and thoughts about spending more time on social media
- increased need to connect with others online
- use of social media connections to help alter negative feelings or problems
- negative consequences in settings such as home, work, or school
- negative feelings if unable to connect with others online
- inability to cut down or avoid the desire to connect online

Andreassen et al. (2012) suggested that the pathological engagement in social media is associated with a desire to be judged favorably and seek social support.

Andreassen (2015) differentiated between the pathological and non-pathological nature of social media engagement, indicating that the first one represents negative consequences and compulsive use. Andreassen et al. (2012) related social media addiction to neuroticism, extroversion, and low conscientiousness. Despite the strong presence of addictive symptoms, the *DSM-5* does not include a diagnosis for social media addiction or even internet addiction. Instead, the internet gaming disorder is the closest behavioral addiction diagnosis in the *DSM-5* as a condition for further study. According to Kuss et al. (2017), the *DSM-5* clarified the need for further research to validate "excessive use of social media" as a mental health disorder. The present study aims to set some background related to parents' addictive social media patterns instead of arbitrating the use of social media exclusively to adolescents.

Drouin et al. (2020) examined parents' perceptions and their children's utilization of social media in the wake of COVID-19 preventive measures in the United States and established a link between technology and social media engagement and anxiety. According to the study's results, parents admitted to an increase in social media use and reported an analogous situation regarding their children's use of social platforms. Although Drouin et al. (2020) justified the increase of social media use indicating activities related to information seeking and social support, the cross-sectional nature of their study raises concerns. The researchers were unable to establish if elevated levels of anxiety resulted from COVID-19 or if elevated levels of social media use elevated anxiety levels even more. Despite directionality, social media appears linked to higher levels of anxiety. This fact suggests that those with significant tension levels might benefit from a decrease in their utilization of internet-based media during seasons of emergency.

Parents' Engagement in Social Media

Existing research outcomes have frequently centered around adolescent' use of social media, relating it to levels of stress, isolation, depression, and other comparative emotional health issues (Fabris et al., 2020; Gaik et al., 2013; Lam & Wong, 2015; van den Eijnden et al., 2016). Noted advantages to parents' use of social media relate to acquiring social support and knowledge about parenting practices (Haslam et al., 2017). Other researchers are starting to link problems in parenting practices with the parents' overuse of social media. Kushlev and Dunn (2019) identified problems in the parent-

child interaction associated with parents' use of smartphones to engage in social interactions while overlooking their interactions with their children.

Previous researchers have raised an assortment of significant inquiries about internet use. For instance, some authors suggest that internet use lessens family time while keeping people connected through online communications more regularly (Andreassen & Pallesen, 2014; Ho et al., 2014; Koning et al., 2018; van den Eijnden et al., 2016). This situation negatively impacts their level of joy and connection within the family, which may influence different connections in their lives and their satisfaction with their children. Daneels and Vanwynsberghe (2017) raise the topic of protecting children from the effects of internet use as a new concern for parents. The authors enlist several mediating strategies such as access restriction, monitoring, and co-use as resources to manage children's internet overuse (Daneels & Vanwynsberghe, 2017). The researchers noted that adolescents' internet use is harder to monitor and entails parental knowledge and creativity in internet mediation strategies. Interestingly, Drouin et al. (2020) found that the use of internet was adversely correlated to personal satisfaction, even though different discoveries indicated additional recreation time and social support prompted positive personal satisfaction. Other researchers accept that the pathological use of social media causes people to lose focus from the presence of close ones while remaining entertained in a distant engagement with others (Rangel & Shoji, 2020). This supports distracted parenting and changes to parenting style and practices (Kushlev & Dunn, 2019).

There is limited research on how parents' use of social media may influence the consideration and care they give to their children (Özgüngör, 2020). Drouin et al. (2020) clarified that adults with children use more internet-based media than adults without children. Some authors suggested the positive effects of parents' use of the internet (Özgüngör, 2020) while others listed consequences such as expanded rates of problematic or delinquent behavior, separation, nervousness, and opposing control (Wang et al., 2017; Xiuqin et al., 2010; Zeng et al., 2016). Significantly more examination should be possible on the effects of pathological social media's effects on parenting style and practices. This study aimed at focusing on this topic within the Mexican American population. One of the reasons for risky behaviors in adolescence relates to the increase of internet use in recent times (Bousono et al., 2017).

Younger parents are highly influenced by internet-based media, causing parenting to appear as a moderately new wonder (Lippold et al., 2018). Future research will require work with this group of younger parents encircled by social media consistently. Such research can focus on a wide range of variables, including the adolescents' capacity to associate, the parents' capacity to dedicate time and energy to their children, and how social media influences the parent-child relationship (Özgüngör, 2020; Taylor et al., 2015). By studying parents with younger children who use online media, significance can consist of interest and monitoring during adolescence and how this consideration influences the adolescents' future behavior (Daneels & Vanwysberghe, 2017; Drouin et al., 2017). Restricting social media time can prompt better time management and less

pressure on family connections (Kushlev & Dunn, 2019). Fewer interruptions in activities of daily living can facilitate parent's availability to communicate with their adolescents.

Haslam et al. (2017) indicated that parents' communication habits have diversified because of social media, facilitating online social support access. The authors explored parent's involvement in various social media sites and assessed the possible aspects that promote social media utilization for parental support. The results of their study outlined that parents' supported blogging platforms, parenting strategies websites, and Facebook as commonly utilized platforms. However, Haslam et al. (2017) did not relate social media use among parents with delinquent behavior among adolescents, which the current study explores. The authors noted that social media use among parents results from online support, internet self-efficacy, and social media views. Khouri et al. (2018) agreed with Haslam et al (2017) indicating that several organizations and societies use social media to get to their intended audience. The researchers added that the rate of social media use among parents of patients with craniofacial anomalies is not determined. Khouri et al. (2018) indicated that the use of social media use by parents of children with palate and cleft lip relates to their children's care. The authors found that parents primarily use social media to access treatment and diagnosis of cleft pathology, for support and companionship, and to seek advice concerning perioperative care.

Wang et al. (2019) and Zeng et al. (2016) identified neglectful parenting models and permissive parenting practices as precursors of adolescents' behavioral issues or antisocial behaviors. Computerized innovations, for example, portable health applications, internet-based media groups, and other internet-based assets, are 21st-

century arrangements that directly address the requirement for open health data and correspondence. Schroeder and Mowen (2014) suggested that medical practitioners use online support and learning strategies to help patients manage their conditions. The capacity of these advanced innovations offers social help to parents of children with special health care needs who accomplish the customary points of training and data sharing through online educational resources.

The openness of these advancements to parents across racial and financial lines is extending each year. Khouri et al. (2018) indicated that social media destinations, especially Facebook groups for parents of children with special needs, offer significant levels of closeness and promptness, implying that help is accessible despite people's physical distance from each other. This factor prompts typically elevated levels of social help. Social help is most helpful when it comes from those in a relationship. Online friend support may offer sharing of data and assets, empathy, and consideration (Schroeder & Mowen, 2014). Diverse types of online interactions, for example, online journals, listservs, talk rooms, and applications to record and share a youngster's achievements or medical care encounters, can also offer social help. The authors added that when used by parents of children with special health care needs, online help is said to lessen segregation, increment sentiments of restraint, increase parents' feelings of association with other people who understand their concerns, increase fearlessness, and decrease worries and tension. Even when social media is a good source of support for parents, there is a gap in the literature causally relating social media use among parents with parenting behavior and the influence of such on adolescents' behavior.

There are positive and negative implications of the parents' use of social media. Lippold et al. (2018) presumed that cell phones, the internet, and online media use crossed segment lines, for example, pay, race, and age. Parents of infants have been using email correspondence and internet-based media since their adolescence or early adulthood. These parents are familiar with applications, messaging, and internet-based media applications for social help. A wide range of computerized communications— cell phones, internet applications, Facebook, and other online media use—is used by parents ages 18 to 29 (Lippold et al., 2018). Fang et al. (2020) suggested that people may use their smartphones to create barriers between themselves and others during in-person interactions. The researchers added that social media addiction implies seeking emotional support from distant acquaintances or family members and wanting to be part of their experiences while detaching from those physically close.

Mexican American Parents' Involvement with Their Adolescent Children

Parents' involvement in their children's relationships, such as supervising and monitoring peer interactions and offering support and guidance, is linked with psychological functioning, social competence, and peer relationship among families (Park & Holloway, 2018). Maiya et al. (2020) indicated that parents undertake monitoring roles as a unique tenet of the parent-child relationship through their social lives. Zhang et al. (2020) identified parents as overall authorities over their children's social life. The researchers also identified various approaches in which minority parents shape the social lives of their children, which entails offering consultation and advice, orchestrating their involvement in extracurricular activities, and choosing their place of

residence. Some researchers have investigated how Mexican American parents involve themselves with their children's peer competence and social relationships (Chang & Qin, 2018; Killoren et al., 2020). Other researchers seek to explain Latino migrant parents' socialization with their children to instrumentalize their children's academic success (Camacho-Thompson et al., 2019).

Park and Holloway (2018) focused on instructional approaches and the parents' provision and management of opportunities to influence their children's peer relationships significantly. Park and Holloway (2018) noted a discrepancy in adolescents' motivational principles based on their parents' degree of perceived support. As anticipated, parents' involvement in their children's activities increases the youngster's desire to participate and do better in those activities. However, the authors noted that parental involvement in school activities decreases during adolescence, in response to the increased intricacy of the high school system. Camacho-Thompson and Simpkins (2022) indicated that Latino parents are less inclined to display connections with their children than African American or European American parents. However, Park and Holloway (2018) and Camacho-Thompson and Simpkins (2022) agreed on the importance of parental involvement at home and school environments during school years as determinants of academic success for their children. Specifically, Camacho-Thompson and Simpkins (2022) noted that parental involvement in school during their children's adolescence is significant for their long-term academic success. The authors added that Mexican- American parents utilize several strategies to socialize with their children regarding the value of their education, including conversations about the topic and even

exposing them to hard manual labor, hoping that their children would be motivated to excel academically. The opposite is true in situations where parents are less involved. For instance, Camacho-Thompson and Simpkins (2022) adduced Latino children's academic lack of success, in part, to less parental involvement and socialization with their children and to untimed conversations which usually occur last minute and in response to unmet anticipated academic goals.

Internet use has increased among adults and adolescents in the recent past at an impressive speed (Kuss et al., 2014). Statista (n.d.) indicates that 89% of the total adult population in the United States accessed the internet in 2018, while 244 million adults used social media. Statista (n.d.) added that in 2019, 79% of the country's total population has an active social media profile. By 2023, over 257 million people in the United States will be social media users (Statista, n.d.). Andreassen and Pallesen (2014) emphasized lack of self-control, compulsivity, and negative consequences as critical factors to determine pathology in social media use. Social media addiction is also gaining more attention as a precursor of mental health conditions (Andreassen & Pallesen, 2014; Ho et al., 2014), mainly in adolescents (van den Eijnden et al., 2016). It causes problematic relationships and interactions between parents and children (Koning et al., 2018) and adolescents' social media addictive patterns.

The attention to parents' pathological use of social media platforms and their influences on their children's behavioral patterns is limited. Leung and Shek (2018) suggested parents' emotional responsiveness as a factor that prevents delinquent behaviors in children. Parents' pathological use of social media represents limited or lack

of emotional availability for their children. This phenomenon describes a significant threat to the interdependent cultural orientation of the Hispanic family unit. Leung and Shek (2018) added that compromised parenting behaviors correlate to their children's delinquent behavior. Considering that there were over 82,000 Hispanic families in the United States in 2016 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016), the impact of Mexican American parents' pathological use of social media stands out as a significant phenomenon to be studied. Research does not show how Mexican American parents' pathological social media engagement has impacted their parenting behaviors.

Munno et al. (2017) listed authoritative parenting, parental involvement, and parental acceptance as parenting behaviors that contribute to a healthy parent-adolescent bond. Several researchers suggested that a warm, involved, and consistent parenting style favors such healthy family bonds and reduces adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviors (Hoeve et al., 2009; Munno et al., 2017; Xiong et al., 2020). Chang and Qin (2018) argued that parental tracking of the adolescents' activities and whereabouts is a crucial aspect used by Latino minorities (including Mexican Americans) to remain connected to their children and suggested that neglect in this area may result in adolescent's delinquent behavior. The purpose of this study is to fill this gap in the literature by focusing on identifying associations in parenting behaviors and styles to the pathological and non-pathological use of social media in Mexican American parents and the effects on their children's delinquent behavior.

Family Structure in Mexican American Culture

Despite the inconclusive results of their study, Zeiders et al. (2011) initially proposed family structure as a determinant factor associated with adverse outcomes in Mexican American adolescents. For instance, the authors noted that the lack of a father figure is associated with a higher prevalence of delinquency in Mexican American adolescents, especially males. Some researchers have proposed that mothers relate more intensely with caregiving and nurturing prowess in the Latino culture than fathers (Chang & Qin, 2018; Liu & Wang, 2020; Zeiders et al., 2011). The role of mothers in their children's externalization of behavioral problems appears significant. For instance, Chang and Qin (2018) found that Latino mothers' prominent level of monitoring or their knowledge of their children's whereabouts and their activities is correlated to lower adolescents' delinquent behaviors. Researchers suggested that an increase in family cohesion, preferably including both parents, can be instrumental in increasing the adolescents' trust and preventing adolescents' involvement in delinquent behavior (Chang & Qin, 2018; Zeiders et al., 2011). Liu and Wang (2020) added that a solid and positive relationship to both parents and peers may result in improved social skills, social interactions, and self-regulation.

Killoren et al. (2020) described Mexican American families as having solid devotion and closeness to the more distant or extended family (*familismo*), interactions among various ages, and a family structure with clearly delineated duties and responsibilities for parents and their children. This kind of family structure accentuates parental regard (*respeto*) and authority and displays differences for male and female

adolescents (Serrano-Villar et al., 2017). Zeiders et al. (2011) and Serrano-Villar et al. (2017) suggested that when a single Mexican American mother receives support from extended family members prevents adverse outcomes in children's behavior, increasing self-efficacy in mothers and influence their ability to provide positive parenting practices. Marsiglia et al. (2014) suggested that differences in parenting male and female Mexican American children also affect the outcomes. For instance, in Mexican American families with a high degree of familism and adherence to traditional values, substance use among male adolescents is more acceptable than among female adolescents. The authors noted that the parent-child interaction is mediated by *personalismo* and *simpatia*, accentuating the role of warm connections within the family. This double social accentuation on demandingness and responsiveness correlates with an authoritative style (Schofield et al., 2017). For some, certain characteristics of the parenting practices of Mexican American parents, such as physical discipline are more closely related to the authoritarian parenting style than to Western parenting views (Serrano-Villar et al., 2017). Parenting represents the way of life of an ethnic group and is a crucial component of such.

Parenting Styles

Omer et al. (2013) referenced Baumrind's (1996) hypothetical structure of nurturing that portrayed four measurements to parenting styles: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful. One of Baumrind's basic thoughts is that parenting styles circumvent aspects of demandingness and responsiveness (Baumrind, 1971; Omer et al., 2013; Tur-Porcar, 2017; Zeinali et al., 2011). Leung and Shek (2018) and Zeinali et al. (2011) emphasized the importance of parents' warmth and

responsiveness for their children's physical and emotional well-being. For instance, permissive parents are non-directive, tolerant, warm, and cherishing. Authoritarian parenting relates to low dissemination levels of parental warmth and strict principles; authoritative parenting is related to high parental warmth and delineated limits; neglectful parents display dismissing and careless behaviors (Leung & Shek, 2018; Tur-Porcar, 2017; Zeinali et al., 2011). Omer et al. (2013) suggested that parents who are well attached to their role as parents can serve a protective role for their children when they are experiencing developmental conflict, as is the case of adolescence. Several researchers concluded that authoritative parenting is related to school execution, social competence, and psychosocial development (Fischer et al., 2016; Leung & Shek, 2018; Omer et al., 2013). For instance, while exploring parenting styles and liquor use among non-Latinos, McKinney et al. (2018) indicated that authoritative parenting is related to less liquor use among adolescents. Schofield et al. (2017) suggested that this is also true for Mexican American adolescents. Marsiglia et al. (2014) indicated that adolescents whose parents are overly permissive tend to have higher levels of drug use. Zeinali et al. (2011) supported this asseveration adding adolescents' risky behaviors to the effects of permissive parenting.

The parent-adolescent relationship is another critical component to consider when taking a gander at family factors, especially in Latino families (LaFreniere, 2020). The connections, practices, and feelings traded among parents and their adolescents can be warm or antagonistic. LaFreniere (2020) mentioned that the kind of parenting style used is frequently an extension of how parents grew up. For instance, physical discipline is a

harsh discipline common in the Latino culture, which is not conducive to positive outcomes in children according to Western views (Serrano-Villar et al., 2017). Killoren et al. (2020) described Mexican American parents as centered on their children and emphasize the importance of this dyad's relationship over other connections. However, LaFreniere (2020) noted that when adolescents perceive conflict in their communication patterns with their parents, they can potentially opt-out of their close relationship. The Latino family's centeredness on *familismo* incorporate help, advising, guidance giving, and skill-building practices (Schofield et al., 2017). The support and counsel given in a Latino family represent a parent-child connection more substantial than the authoritative style. This connection elucidates adolescents' positive advancement in different areas, for example, conflict situations, hostility, and substance use (Holden et al., 2017).

Haslam et al. (2017) indicated that the online social help hypothesis extends the hypothetical social help system found on the internet. For instance, a person's capacity to adjust to critical changes, such as accepting the child's need for medical care, is affected by personal and health elements, socioeconomics, and, progressively, internet use. The online social help hypothesis suggests that online help, primarily through internet-based media, is beneficial for parents of family members with health concerns, including parents of children with special health care needs (Khouri et al., 2018). Haslam et al. (2017) suggested that parents who rely on internet-based social support know how to navigate the web and are interested in finding information about parenting practices. The authors noted that, as children grow, parents' use of social media can be associated with monitoring of their adolescents' online activities.

Parenting and Adolescents' Delinquency

Delinquent behavior in adolescents is a growing problem affecting society. Rasskazova et al. (2019) and Xiong et al. (2020) asserted that early delinquent behavior is a predictor of long-term and more severe offending behaviors in adulthood. The influence of parents appears a significant factor that contributes to or deters adolescents' delinquent behavior. Rasskazova et al. (2019) noted that parents' detachment, altered parent-child interaction, and alienation influence adolescents' delinquent behavior. Zemel et al. (2016) suggested that parenting style and parental behavior impact adolescents' psychosocial and personality development. The authors added that there is a negative correlation between parental rearing styles and internet addiction in adolescents.

Parents of adolescents get blamed for the delinquent conduct of their children. In specific courts, parents confront rebuffing for their children's conduct overtures (van Gelder et al., 2018). The authors suggest an association between parenting and delinquent behavior among adolescents correlated to harsh and inconsistent discipline and parents' aggressive behavior. However, explicit judgments concerning the degree of the association are challenging to distinguish. In a longitudinal study, Xiong et al. (2020) found that the authoritative parenting style is a determinant protective factor for adolescent delinquency. The authors clarified that it is the combination of demandingness and responsiveness which facilitate parenting practices that increase monitoring of the adolescents' activities while providing communication and trust.

In the absence of positive parent-child interaction, adolescent delinquency and other issues may result. Lam and Wong (2015) explained that a growing number of

adolescents overuse their electronic devices to connect with others for social interaction, playing games, and completing homework. Other researchers associated the adolescents' pathological use of the internet to express feelings of alienation and neglect (Rasskazova et al., 2019), decrease stress (Lam & Wong, 2015), and the management of symptoms of anxiety, depressed mood, apprehension, and even to foster a sense of acceptance and belonging (Fabris et al., 2020). Family-related elements that can serve as causal or protective factors for adolescents' delinquent behavior include the degree of interaction between parents and children, the kind of interaction between them, and parenting practices (De Los Reyes & Ohannessian, 2016). Limited studies have addressed the exploration of the pathological use of internet sites (e.g., social platforms) by parents despite general awareness regarding internet addiction's effects on people of all ages (Fabris et al., 2020; Lam & Wong, 2015).

Exploration on correlates of delinquency and family antecedents is of great significance to practice as well as theory. Interest in the family was evident in the early research on social organization (Liu et al., 2019). The adolescent's delinquent behavior influences parents' disciplinary procedures, bringing about harsher, conflicting disciplines and minor inclusion by parents in the socialization cycle (Baek et al., 2020). Xiuquin et al. (2010) added family conflict and fractured families as factors associated with maladjusted behavior in adolescents. Evans et al. (2016) and Baek et al. (2020) added that these negative parent-child interactions can set the path for numerous and more serious criminal behavior in adulthood. Understanding these cycles can help improve or anticipate intervention procedures at an early age. Baek et al. (2020) indicated

that treatment interventions should be dependent on research to be effective. Information on the connection between parenting and delinquent behavior enlist parenting lessons and practices to mediate and deter such negative behavior.

Mexican American Parental Practices

Moreno-Ruiz et al. (2019) and Liu and Wang (2020) disseminated findings that support the idea that authoritative parenting reduces adolescents' participation in delinquent activities. In a study involving 27 low-income adolescents with delinquent behavior, Moitra et al. (2018) established that parenting behavior directly affects the development of delinquent behavior among adolescents. Xiuquin et al. (2010) supported a detrimental effect between certain parenting practices and attitudes on internet addiction and the psychosocial and personality development in adolescents. Moitra et al. (2018) added that some parents of adolescents engaged in delinquent behaviors display non-authoritative parenting practices. For instance, some adolescents find jobs to support their families, thus participating in a role reversal that affects parenting behavior.

According to Evans et al. (2016) and Carter (2019), delinquent behavior is standard during adolescence and may upset work-related achievement. Carter (2019) noted that delinquent behavior during adolescence limits job opportunities and quality of work in later years. Adolescents who participate in illegal activities differ significantly from those who do not (Evans et al., 2016; Carter, 2019). Carter (2019) inspected the relationship between adolescents' involvement in delinquent behavior and four proportions of work-related accomplishment, including occupational earnings, employer-provided benefits, personal earnings, and unemployment. The author concluded that a

history of delinquent behavior is partially and causally related to less productive employment-seeking skills and quality of work, which can have a long-term effect on work-related factors in offending individuals.

Koning et al. (2018), Lam and Wong (2015), Mesch (2018), and Schroeder and Mowen (2014) speculated on the bi-directional interactions between adolescents' problematic use of social media and how their behavior impacts their parents' parenting styles. The authors emphasized the preventive role of parental mediation. Lippold et al. (2018), Moreno-Ruiz et al. (2019), and Schroeder and Mowen (2014) addressed the role of parents' emotional lability (rapid mood changes), suggesting that it increases adolescents' risky or illegal behavior. Marsiglia et al. (2014) studied Mexican American adolescents who disclosed a history of drug use. The researchers also studied the adolescents' parents who detailed their assimilation and communication, inclusion, and parenting practices with their children. The researchers concluded that more significant parental assimilation levels anticipate increased use of marijuana, while parent communication anticipates lower cigarette and marijuana use among female adolescents (Marsiglia et al., 2014). Results of the study show that when parent assimilation was higher, adolescents' drug use increase, while lower levels of parents' assimilation resulted in less adolescent drug use. For female adolescents, positive parenting correlates with lower cigarette use, even in assimilated parents. For male adolescents, positive parenting associates with decreased cigarette use for low assimilated parents. Lam and Wong (2015) referenced the influence of parents' pathological engagement in internet activities in their adolescents' addictive patterns of internet use. The researchers

identified an increasing association on those parent-adolescent dyads with low levels of stress. In the parent-adolescent dyads presenting an elevated level of stress, the influence of parental pathological use of the internet appears insignificant.

Schroeder and Mowen (2014) and Fabris et al. (2020) addressed parental psychosocial development as a precursor of parenting practices, styles, and attitudes that influence their communication and interaction with their children. Zeng et al. (2016) provided insight regarding lower self-esteem and loneliness as factors contributing to the pathological use of the internet in adolescents. Zhou et al. (2014) established a positive relationship between paternal encouragement of their adolescents' use of the internet and the adolescents' pathological use of it. However, fathers who have limited understanding of internet use appear to lack the necessary skills to provide guidance and monitor their children's pathological use of the internet (Zhou et al., 2014). The researchers found a contradicting correlation between mothers' use and knowledge of the internet and their children's addictive use.

The accentuation in Mexican culture on family reliance and relatives as essential sources of support may imply that the more connected to the Mexican culture, the less dependence on peer connections (Chang & Qin, 2018; Serrano-Villar et al., 2017; Zeiders et al., 2011). Conversely, the mainstream culture's accentuation on the importance of friend connections during adolescence may imply more reliance on peer connections on assimilated parents (Marsiglia et al., 2014). Elsaesser et al. (2018) emphasized the importance of understanding differences among Latino subgroups regarding the influence of social support. Mexican Americans are more prone to experience social prejudice

(Elsaesser et al., 2018; Serrano-Villar et al., 2017). Elsaesser et al. (2018) argued that adolescents from the Mexican American culture display the lowest levels of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral engagement in school than other non-Mexican American Latinos. Thus, the importance of teacher support. Also, Mexican American adolescents seek more parental and teachers' support than peer support (Elsaesser et al., 2018).

Parenting Practices and Socioeconomic Status

Several components clarify the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and parenting practices that might be appropriate for investigating parents' connections with their adolescents. Rangel and Shoji (2020) distinguished between middle-class and working-class parenting practices suggesting that the first one focuses on nurturing the natural talents of their children while the latter emphasizes the provision of basic needs to support the natural evolution of their children's capacities. Leung and Shek (2018) identified income-related hardships as one of the factors affecting underprivileged and single-parent homes, affecting the mothers' and adolescents' interactions and behaviors. Chang and Qin (2018) suggested that lower-paying families, for instance, might not have the option to pick settings that support positive peer connections and externalization of positive behaviors. The authors further noted that many Latino families might live in high-crime areas. Mexican Americans are associated with a lower SES (Elsaesser et al., 2018; Serrano-Villar et al., 2017; Taylor, 2015). As such, high SES facilitates parents' connections with their children and involves less stressful interactions between them, even fostering increased support and involvement with their peers' peer connections.

Latino and Mexican American parents also consider peer elements. Mexican American parents influence the social connections of their children (Pereyra & Bean, 2017). Chang and Qin (2018) suggested that parental knowledge and monitoring of their children result from trust within the Mexican American parent-adolescent dyad. Further, this connection facilitates the parents' influence on their children's choices of peer relationships. Elsaesser et al. (2018) suggested that the influence of parents and teachers on adolescents can hamper the involvement of their children with conflicting or unsupportive peers. Other researchers indicated that positive parenting practices discourage adolescent's association with peers involved in delinquent behavior (Chang & Qin, 2018; Haslam et al., 2017). Holden et al. (2017) suggested that coercive responses to adolescents' behavior differ from one cultural group to another. However, a misunderstood matter is associated to parental metacognition in the Mexican American group. The researchers suggested that Mexican American mothers consistently think about how to parent their children and reflect on introducing them to issues associated with self-regard, discrimination, and maintenance of their own ethnic identity. Munno et al. (2017) support Holden et al. (2017) in concluding that the quality in the parent-adolescent relationship is the prominent element in this relationship. Munno et al. (2017) indicate that a compromised parent-adolescent relationship can correlate to delinquent behavior in the adolescent. The current study will explore how social media use among Mexican American parents correlates with adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

Summary and Conclusions

My review of literature explored past and, more importantly, current research studies relating to early attachment, psychological issues, mental health barriers, and life satisfaction among infants, youth, and adults. My study particularly emphasizes the topic of parents' social media pathological engagement and their children's delinquent behavior. These topics linked to the attachment and the relational regulation theories allow us to understand how parents' social media pathological engagement affects children's delinquent behavior. For instance, pointing out the impacts and effects of secure, neglectful, and avoidant attachment styles is essential in developing connections between adolescent behavior and parenting patterns among Mexican Americans, which has received little scholarly attention in the existing literature. My review of the literature presents a variety of studies discussing parenting and delinquency, social media involvement among parents, and different parenting patterns, which provide a reasonable understanding of factors that contribute to delinquent behavior and psychological health (Andreassen & Pallesen, 2014; Ho et al., 2014). However, my research focused on understanding how parents' social media pathological engagement and parenting behaviors impact children's delinquent behavior. (Holden et al., 2017).

My literature review indicates that social media usage among parents, which occurs during the search for social support or parenting behavior, plays a significant role in their emotional and social development. Therefore, the quality and kind of information retrieved from social media is the core of practical parenting approaches for some, which may discourage delinquent behavior (Özgüngör, 2020). However, there is little scholarly

focus on evaluating the influence of Mexican American parents' social media pathological engagement on their children's delinquent behavior. My study tries to address the existing literature gap by examining varied factors related to social media use among Mexican American parents contributing to their children's delinquent behavior. Chapter 3 details the study's methodology and review the ethical considerations and limitations of the study.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Introduction

The purpose of this purpose was to identify associations in parenting behaviors resulting from the pathological social media engagement of Mexican American parents of adolescents who display delinquent behaviors. The RQs and hypotheses for the study were as follows:

RQ1: What is the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior?

H₀1: There is no relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior.

H_a1: There is a relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior.

RQ2: What is the relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors?

H₀2: There is no relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

H_a2: There is a relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

Chapter 3 encompasses an overview of the methodology that I used to collect the study's data. It includes details on the type of design, population, sampling method and size, instrumentation, methods of data analysis, and ethical issues and procedures.

Research Design and Rationale

I employed a nonexperimental, correlational design to determine if there was a relationship between parents' level of engagement in social media and parenting typologies (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) and associated behaviors. Using a nonexperimental quantitative approach with a correlational design appeared more suitable than a qualitative approach. The focus of qualitative researchers is on investigating a phenomenon or forming a theoretical model or definition (Antwi & Hamza, 2015). McCusker and Gunaydin (2015) noted that quantitative research involves the analysis of numerical data to test research hypotheses. Antwi and Hamza (2015) added that such analysis helps to decrease preconceptions about the study's outcomes. The authors noted that another advantage of the quantitative correlational design is that its use helps to foster neutrality between the researcher and the research participants (see also McCusker & Gunaydin, 2015). In a correlational design, independent variables are not manipulated; instead, the connection between the dependent(s) and the independent(s) variables is examined (McCusker & Gunaydin, 2015). Data may be collected through feedback forms such as surveys and questionnaires.

Antwi and Hamza (2015) also noted that manipulating preexisting statistical data by using computational techniques as another option for effective quantitative research (see also McCusker & Gunaydin, 2015). According to the nature of the RQs posed,

ordinal logistic regression was the best fit for data analysis for this study. An ordinal logistic regression analysis was used to predict the dependent variable in situations in which the dependent variable is of ordinal type in single and multilevel studies (Arfan & Sherwani, 2017). Arfan and Sherwani added that the proportional odds model is the most used model for ordinal regression. In this model, the effect of each predictor is equal for each category of the response variable.

This study had a small sample size, due to financial constraints. Aidoo et al. (2021) warned that, when using small samples, the maximum likelihood estimation of the ordered logistic regression model may create biased estimates with standard errors. Another problem with this model is the probability of multicollinearity (Aidoo et al., 2021). The authors describe multicollinearity as the incidence of multiple correlations among two or more than two independent variables in a model of multiple regression analysis. In this study, the variables were the demographic variables of age, gender (male, female), marital status (single, married, divorced), work status (employed part-time, employed full-time, unemployed), type of family structure (single parent, nuclear, blended, grandparent, extended), total number of children, total number of children involved in legal proceedings, ages of children involved in legal proceedings (9 and under, 10-13, 14-16, 17), and gender of children involved in legal proceedings (male, female). The demographic factors helped seek for multiple correlations among these familial factors.

Methodology

Population

The study population consisted of Mexican American parents in South Texas. According to the U.S Census Bureau (2016), Mexican Americans comprised 11.3% of the U.S. population and 61.9% of all Latinos in 2016. Because of the growing number of Latinos in the United States, studying this population warrants a clearer understanding of their characteristics.

Sampling and Sampling Procedures

I used a purposive sample of Mexican American parents of adolescents who are currently involved in legal proceeding. The participants responded to advertisements (flyers) posted on poster boards, social media websites, and word of mouth. I relied on personal judgment when choosing members of the population to participate in the study. This purposive sampling was based on characteristics of a population and the study's objective (Warner, 2013). Purposive sampling offers advantages applicable to this study. These include greater accessibility, faster speed, and lower costs associated with recruiting samples for the study (Yang & Banamah, 2014). I chose a purposive sampling strategy for the study because participants need to meet specific inclusion criteria to be eligible to participate in the study (Yang & Banamah, 2014). Mexican American parents of adolescents that display delinquent behaviors represent the inclusion criteria of the study.

Considering such a huge population size, correspondingly a larger sample size was required. However, larger sample size has undesirable logistical implications. For

instance, going with the standard definition of representative sample size (as illustrated by Cochran, 2007) requires 10% of the total population. Collecting data from such a vast sample size would consume a considerable amount of time. Additionally, analysis of such a huge sample size would require more excellent computational resources not currently at this researcher's disposal. For this study, an alternative approach to determining the appropriate sample size was Cochran's (2007) G*Power technique. The G*Power technique does not require estimation for situations in which the population size is unknown or huge, hence not feasible for practical sampling.

I used the priori power analysis to ascertain the minimum sample size needed for this study. The power analysis was guided by the statistical technique, the tests' power, and the expected effect size. The Type I error refers to the probability of rebuffing a true null hypothesis (Haas, 2012) and Sullivan and Feinn (2012) found that the power of the test lies in correctly rejecting it. The researchers added that most quantitative studies use an 80% power (Sullivan & Feinn, 2012). A 95% confidence level provides adequate numerical data of a quantitative analysis (Warner, 2013). The author described the effect size as the projected relationship between the variables measured. Sullivan and Feinn (2012) purported that a mid-size effect was preferred. Ordered logistic regression measures the likelihood of a dependent variable by quantitative or categorical independent variables (Warner, 2013).

I considered using the G*Power to measure the minimum sample size. However, the limited knowledge of the expected effect size rendered the calculation as challenging. Warner (2013) suggested the use of an estimate to determine the suitable sample size.

Even when they suggested a minimum of ten observations per independent variable, Hosmer et al. (2013) recommended increasing to 20 observations per variable as feasible. LeBlanc and Fitzgerald (2000) differed, suggesting a minimum of 30 observations per independent variable. I opted to use Leblanc and Fitzgerald's (2000) computation using a minimum sample size of 30 x the number of independent variables evaluated (30 x 2) totaling 60 participants. Further, to account for incomplete surveys, I decided to double this amount to 120 participants.

Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection

To collect data, I used a survey to measure the study's variables. After obtaining Walden University Institutional Review Board approval (approval number 11-02-21-0260780), I posted flyers and other advertisements to recruit individuals for the study. I contacted the authorized representative for juvenile departments, juvenile bootcamps, juvenile programs and schools seeking an agreement to assist with the online distribution of the survey to interested parents. I provided an email address and telephone number on the advertisements and a description of the study. Interested individuals were to either email or call the researcher for more information. All interested parties received an Institutional Review Board-approved general introduction statement through a link to a SurveyMonkey created questionnaire form. SurveyMonkey is a third-party survey hosting company that hosted this study's survey. All activity for this research required respondents to voluntarily participate.

Upon agreeing to participate and agreeing to the informed consent, participants participated in the survey. When they did not agree, they were instructed to click on "I do

not agree" and exit from the survey. Once the individual clicked on "Agree" to give consent, they were guided to the first of four instruments. The first instrument was a demographic questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of questions of age, gender, marital status, work status, family structure, the total number of children, total number of children involved in legal proceedings, ages of children involved in legal proceedings, gender of children involved in legal proceedings. The second instrument, the SNAS, and the third instrument, the SMEQ, measured the level of social media use as an independent variable. Last, the fourth instrument is the PSDQ which assessed parenting styles as another independent variable. The PSDQ was used to determine parenting typologies including the authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting styles and to assist in identifying the parenting behaviors associated with each typology. For this study, the authoritative parenting style was associated with healthy parenting behaviors while the authoritarian and permissive styles were linked to unhealthy parenting behaviors. I thanked participants for their participation at the end of the survey.

Instrumentation and Operationalization of Constructs

Dependent Variable: Children's Delinquency

The dependent variable of the study was the level of delinquency of participants' adolescent children. I determined delinquency of children based on their current involvement in legal proceedings. All sought participants were prescreened and identified to be parents of children with current involvement in the legal system.

Independent Variable: Social Media Use

The SNAS is a tool used in psychological research to distinguish between an individual's pathological use of networking sites (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Snapshot) versus the use of the internet for interactive collaborations, gaming, blogging or participation in social networks and computer-generated worlds or the use of Facebook alone (Shahnawaz et al., 2020). Shahnawaz et al (2020) emphasized that the SNAS follows a model of behavior addiction to quantify addictive patterns associated to social networking. They described this 21-item self-report scale as a six-dimensional, valid, and reliable tool. The authors noted that convergent validity resulted in more than .50 in average variance explained with more than .70 for the compositive reliability of each factor noted. The instrument consists of twenty-one items that are measured on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from *strongly disagree* to *strongly agree*; the items relate to six dimensions of behavior addiction including salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal, conflict, and relapse. When used to explore addiction dimensions, the researchers suggested adding up items in each dimension and generating a total score adding the scores of all dimensions. Scores range from 21 to 147; any score over 84 identifies addiction to social networking. In the present study, I mostly followed this advice, except for having the index variables represent the arithmetic mean of the constitutive elements as opposed to sum. Standardizing the index variables using the arithmetic mean provided the same level of precision as the additive measure with an additional benefit of facilitating comparisons across dimensions of social media use (Shahnawaz et al., 2020). I obtained permission to use the instrument (see Appendix E).

I used the SMEQ, along with the SNAS, to measure the first independent variable of level of social media use. Przybylski et al. (2013) created the SMEQ to measure the frequency of use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.). The possible responses range from *not one day to every day* on a 7-point Likert scale. The questions relate to time spent using social media and its use during specific activities of daily living. I averaged the responses and then dichotomized them into nonpathological and pathological use of social media, with nonpathological defined by an average score of less than 4.5 and pathological use defined by an average score greater than or equal to 4.5. According to Przybylski et al., the scale has good reliability with a Cronbach's alpha of .89. I obtained permission to use the instrument (see Appendix F).

Independent Variable: Parenting Styles

I used the PSDQ to assess authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting styles and the parenting behaviors associated with each typology. The PSDQ is a 62-item self-report questionnaire developed by Robinson et al. (2001) to assess parents' perception of their parenting style and the parenting style of their partner (spouse); the perceptions are later used to link specific parenting behaviors to each typology. According to the authors, questions that relate to the authoritative parenting style measure warmth, acceptance, reasoning, and responsiveness. To determine an authoritarian parenting style, this questionnaire offers items that identify punitive parenting strategies, physical punishment, verbal aggression, and elevated levels of control. The permissive parenting style is identified based on items that indicate low parental control and discipline and lax parenting practices. The PSDQ features a 5-point Likert scale

ranging from 1 (*never*) to 5 (*always*) to measure the frequency in which parents demonstrate specific behaviors to their children. In this study, measures for parenting styles were standardized to the original 5-point scale to enable the more direct comparison across parenting styles as in the social networking measure. I obtained permission to use the instrument (see Appendix G).

Data Analysis Plan

I used the SPSS Version 25 to examine the data collected including missing data. I used a listwise deletion strategy for missing values while only selecting the analysis of complete sets of data. I included a synopsis of an explanatory account for the predictor and dependent variables of the incidence and proportions of the categorical variables. I conducted an ordered logistic regression to evaluate the following two models:

(1) $\text{ologit}(\text{Level of Delinquency}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{ Social Media Addiction} + \text{Social Media Engagement}$

(2) $\text{ologit}(\text{Level of Delinquency}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{ Parenting Styles}$

According to Warner (2013), the following assumptions must be met when conducting an ordered logistic regression: The first assumption indicates that the dependent variable is measured at the ordinal level (based on coding). The second assumption indicates that one or more independent variables are continuous, ordinal, or categorical based on model specification. The third assumption indicates that there is no multicollinearity, and the last assumption of an ordered logistic regression indicates the presence of proportional odds. Once the assumptions are evaluated, to explore the first hypothesis, the dependent variable (children's level of delinquency) was entered into

SPSS. Then, the independent variable social media addiction was entered in SPSS. The independent variable social media engagement was then entered. Significance was assessed at the 5% level. Thus, any p-value less than or equal to 0.05 was deemed significant. To test the second hypothesis, I entered the same dependent variable followed by the independent variable of parenting styles in SPSS. Then, I entered the independent variable parental typology (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive). I assessed significance at the 5% level. To test the bivariate relationship (without controls), I ran the Spearman correlations between social media addiction and social media engagement variables as well as proportion of delinquency among children in the family. This test is appropriate in the presence of an ordered dependent variable and interval independent variables. I ran the ordered logistic regression model to examine the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables while including controls.

Threats to Validity

Validity is an important aspect of a research study. For instance, internal validity refers to obtaining study outcomes that may be used to make causative judgments and is dependent of greater control of irrelevant variables (Warner, 2013). The author explains that external validity is associated to the applicability of the study to other groups, situations, or experiences. Further, rejecting or failing to reject a null hypothesis can represent threats to the study's internal validity (Warner, 2013).

Ethical Procedures

In all research studies, researchers must adhere to ethical concerns and take appropriate steps in ensuring that their studies meet ethical research standards. According

to the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research (1979), the *Belmont Report* key component of ethical research focuses on informed consent. The *Belmont Report* requires that researchers provide participants with an informed consent form that uses accurate and clear to understand language. It also requires an explanation of the purposes and procedures of the study, identifies risks and benefits associated with the study, and guarantees that participants may choose to withdraw from the study at any time. Accordingly, this researcher used SurveyMonkey, an online survey platform. I included a URL link to the survey, provided by SurveyMonkey, in the flyers that I made available to participants. If the participants believed they met the criteria and agreed to participate, they were free to choose to participate in the study. I included an informed consent agreement in the initial page of the online questionnaire. Once informed consent was agreed to, the participants were able to click on a link to direct them to the demographic data and subsequent questions in the survey. I collected no personal identifying information such as participants' names, email addresses, or internet protocol addresses in the survey, thus protecting participants' identity. I gave participants the choice to withdraw their participation in the survey at any time.

Summary

This study's purpose was to identify associations in parenting behaviors resulting from the pathological social media engagement of Mexican American parents of adolescents that display delinquent behaviors. I used a Spearman correlation and a

quantitative, ordered logistic regression analysis to address this gap. I addressed the following RQs:

RQ1: What is the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior?

RQ2: What is the relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors?

Chapter 3 provides an exhaustive description of the quantitative correlational research design used for this study. Chapter 4 presents the results and findings from the data analysis. Chapter 4 also includes the tables and graphics providing the descriptive results and inferences regarding the underlying connection between the study's variables. Chapter 5 includes the interpretations, limitations, recommendations for future studies, and implications for positive social change associated with the study.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

I evaluated the relationship of pathological social media engagement and parenting behaviors among parents of Mexican American adolescents involved in the legal system. Specifically, using a quantitative survey design, I sought to identify the relationship between social addiction and the level of social engagement among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system. As part of the study, I also studied the relationship between social media use and parenting behaviors (healthy and unhealthy) among the same population. According to researchers, there appears to be a relationship between parenting styles and delinquency (Andreassen & Pallesen, 2014; Ho et al., 2014) and among the pathological use of social media and adolescents' delinquent behavior. (Holden et al., 2017). The survey for the study included demographic information, the SNAS, the SMEQ, and the PSDQ. The study's two RQs and corresponding hypotheses were as follows:

RQ1: What is the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior?

H_0 1: There is no relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior.

H_a 1: There is a relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior.

RQ2: What is the relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors?

H_02 : There is no relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

H_a2 : There is a relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors.

This chapter includes an overview of the sample population, demographic information about the participants, and descriptive and correlational statistics that confirm or refute the formulated hypotheses. I administered a survey that included questions on participant demographics, along with three existing instruments: the SNAS, the SMEQ, and the PSDQ. In total, 167 parents participated in the study. I used a Spearman's correlation (without controls) to analyze data for variables assumed to be ordinal. Then, I used an ordered logistic regression (with controls) method to calculate the probability of observations falling within the ordered outcome. The statistical analysis was aimed at assessing the statistical relationship among perceived parenting styles and behaviors, frequency of use of social media, and symptoms of social addictive patterns among parents of adolescents involved in legal proceedings.

Data Collection

From November 2021 to January 2022, I invited parents of adolescents involved in a legal proceeding to participate in the study using a link to SurveyMonkey. I drew a purposive sample of Mexican Americans in the South Texas region; I used Leblanc and

Fitzgerald's (2000) computation system and sought a minimum sample size of 60 participants. These participants were intended to be Mexican American parents with one or more adolescent child(ren) involved in legal proceedings. I initially selected the participants through SurveyMonkey's targeted sampling method to obtain a sample of 60 participants. However, I decided to at least double the size of the sampling population (to 120) to account for any missed or otherwise incomplete surveys. From the SurveyMonkey platform, the data were then transferred into SPSS. Participants were encouraged to enter the SurveyMonkey anonymous questionnaire by copying and pasting or clicking on a link that would take them directly to the survey. This link was made available to participants through flyers posted at various locations (e.g., juvenile probation offices, outpatient substance abuse programs, etc.).

Once participants opened the survey, the informed consent advised the participants of their right to withdraw from the survey without penalty at any time. Participants agreed to participate by clicking "next." To assure confidentiality of their responses, I request no identifying information from participants. Also, I set up the SurveyMonkey tool to avoid collecting information on internet protocol addresses. The online survey included a section for demographic information, followed by the SNAS, SMEQ, and the PSDQ. I set up the SurveyMonkey software to allow participants to skip questions. I expected 120 responses. However, 171 participants completed the survey.

Results

Descriptive Statistics

I computed descriptive statistics to determine the relationship between the dependent variable (children involvement in legal proceedings) and the independent variables (social media use and parenting styles) as measured by Spearman's correlations and ordered logistic regression. The control variables used in the ordered logistic regression computations included level of parenting health (self, partner, and combined), age, gender, and number of children in the family.

Regarding demographic factors associated with the sampled population, the following represents the statistical frequencies in distinct categories. Table 1 represents the frequencies related to participants' age categories. For instance, 1.8% of participants were between the ages of 30 and younger while 21.1% were between the ages of 31 and 40. Ninety-two participants were identified to be between the ages of 41- and 50-years old amounting to 53.8% of the surveyed population while 19.9% of participants fell in the bracket of those 51 to 60 years old. Only six participants were identified to be above 61years of age.

Table 1

Frequencies: Participant Age Categories

Age group	<i>N</i>	%
30 years old or younger	3	1.8
31-40 years old	36	21.1
41-50 years old	92	53.8
51-60 years old	34	19.9
61 years and older	6	3.5

Table 2 represents the proportion of frequencies associated with the gender of the survey participants. One hundred twenty-three participants identified themselves as females (71.9%) while 45 identified themselves as males (26.3%). A total of 1.8% of data within the sample was missing.

Table 2

Frequencies: Gender

	N	%
Male	45	26.3
Female	123	71.9
Missing System	3	1.8

Table 3 representing the marital status of the participants identified over 50% of the participants as married (53.8%) while 22.8% of participants indicated a partnered relationship. Single, never married, and widowed individuals were represented at 8.8%, 5.3%, and 1.2% of the sampled population, respectively.

Table 3

Frequencies: Marital Status

	N	%
Married	92	53.8
Single	15	8.8
Divorced	14	8.2
Partnered	39	22.8
Never married	9	5.3
Widow	2	1.2

Interestingly, ethnicity frequencies indicate that 95.3% of the surveyed participants identify themselves as belonging to the Mexican American population while 4.1% identified themselves as African American. Responses to this question were missing for .6% of the sample (see Table 4).

Table 4

Frequencies: Ethnicity

	N	%
Mexican American	163	95.3
African American	7	4.1
Missing System	1	0.6

Table 5 indicates that less than 40% of the survey participants indicated a traditional family structure in which both parents are present in the household (36.8%). Families that include one parent and one stepparent represent 26.3% of the total sample population followed closely by the extended family group (22.2%). Single parents amounted to 8.2% of the sampled population and families headed by grandparents comprised 4.7% of the total sample population. Response data for this question was missing for 1.8% of the sample.

Table 5*Frequencies: Family Structure*

	N	%
Traditional (2 parent-family plus biological or adopted children)	63	36.8
Single parent (One parent plus children)	14	8.2
Extended family (Parent(s) and/or one or more other adult related by blood/marriage plus children)	38	22.2
Blended family (One parent and one stepparent plus children)	45	26.3
Grandparent family (One or two grandparents plus children)	8	4.7
Missing System	3	1.8%

In Table 6, most surveyed participants indicated having between two (26.9%) and three (25.1%) children under the age of 17. Thirty participants indicated having four children under the age of 17 while 30 others indicated having more than five children under 17 in their household. The group of five or more children was represented by the number 5 (as one group) during computation of data to facilitate analysis and interpretation. A total of 12.9% of parents indicated having one child under the age of 17 in the family.

Table 6*Frequencies: Number of Children in the Family under 17*

	N	%
1	22	12.9
2	46	26.9
3	43	25.1
4	30	17.5
5 or more	30	17.5

A significant finding regarding the number of children involved in legal proceedings whose parents participated in the survey showed that 73.1% of these children are between the ages of 14 and 16. Children ages 11 through 13 account for 12.3% in this group. Seventeen-year-old children of the survey participants' account for 8.2% while three children of participants are identified to be 10 years old or younger. Data responses were missing for 4.7% of the sample (see Table 7).

Table 7*Frequencies: Age of Children Involved in Legal Proceedings*

	N	%
10 years old or younger	3	1.8
11-13 years old	21	12.3
14-16 years old	125	73.1
17 years old	14	8.2
Missing System	8	4.7

Most children involved in legal proceedings whose parents participated in the survey were identified as males (69.6%) while a total of 25.1% were identified as females. Data responses were missing for 5.3% of the sample (see Table 8).

Table 8

Frequencies: Gender of Children Involved in Legal Proceedings

	N	%
Male	119	69.6
Female	43	25.1
Missing System	9	5.3

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable represents categories of the percentage of children (under the age of 17) that are currently involved in legal proceedings. Parents of children not involved in legal proceedings were not included in the sample. This design choice led to low levels of variation within the sample. To address this issue, I first calculated the proportion of children within the household who were involved in legal proceedings. I then created categories for families with Low Rates of delinquency (25% or fewer) Moderate rates of delinquency (25% - 50%) and high rates of delinquency (50% or greater). Although imperfect, the creation of these categories enabled me to test my hypotheses and to study the relationship between the dependent variable (categories of children involved in legal proceedings) and the independent variables (see Table 9).

Table 9*Summary Statistics: Children Delinquency*

	N		Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Percentiles		
	Valid	Missing					25	50	75
Number of children involved in legal proceedings	161	10	1.09	.304	1	3.0	1	1	1
Percentage of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings	161	10	.43	.231	.20	1.0	.25	.33	.50
Categories for % of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings	161	10	2.12	.839	1	3.0	1	2	3

Independent Variable 1: Social Media Use

The independent variable social media use scores were standardized to facilitate interpretation and to enable direct comparison of the factors. Another justification for the standardization of these scores was to avoid masking the significance of each value. In the SNAS, standardizing the scores to represent the arithmetic mean keeps all the measures (salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal, conflict, and relapse) on the original scoring scale (1-7) and thus makes the measures more directly comparable regardless of the number of factors contained within the indexed measures. The Overall SNAS shows a mean of 4.64 and a standard deviation of 1.253. The frequency of social media use which was measured using the SMEQ in a scale of 0-7 indicates a mean of 4.94 and a standard deviation of 1.766. An overall social media score (an additive score including the overall SNAS scores plus the SMEQ scores), which ranged from 0 to 14, was used to avoid arbitrary standardization of the measures because the scores did not

exist on the same scale. The mean for the overall social media use was 9.57 and the standard deviation, 2.873 (see Table 10).

Table 10

Summary Statistics: Social Media Use

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.Deviation
Saliency	166	1	7	3.86	1.618
Mood Modification	168	1	7	5.44	1.247
Tolerance	166	1	7	5.25	1.274
Withdrawal	168	1	7	4.12	1.738
Conflict	164	1	7	4.73	1.518
Relapse	166	1	7	4.42	1.499
Social Media During Meals	164	0	7	5.07	1.832
Social Media around Sleep	165	0	7	4.81	1.952
Overall SNAS Scale	159	2	7	4.64	1.253
Frequency of Social Media Use	164	0	7	4.94	1.766
Overall Social Media	157	2	14	9.57	2.873
Valid N (listwise)	157				

Independent Variable 2: Parenting Styles

I examined the second independent variable, parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) by itself. I used specific parenting style and parent (self or partner) in my analysis.

Authoritative Parenting Style. Table 11 displays the summary statistics related to the authoritative parenting style-partner. Regarding the standardized overall authoritative score, the results indicate a mean of 2.92 and a standard deviation of .85 in a population of 106 participants. As it relates to warmth and involvement, results within a

population of 116 respondents in the authoritative parent (partner) group indicate a mean of 2.96 and a standard deviation of .88. In measuring reasoning and induction within this group, the results indicate that with a population of 118 participants, the mean is noted as 2.84 and the standard deviation is .97. Regarding democratic participation, 116 parents (partner) responded to questions related to this measure. The mean is registered as 2.77 and the standard deviation as .92. Results for good-natured/easygoing (partner) show that within 118 participants, the mean is 2.98 and the standard deviation is .94.

Table 11

Summary Statistics: Authoritative Parenting Style- Partner

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Standardized Overall Authoritative Score- Partner	106	1	5	2.92	.85
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Warmth & Involvement- Partner	116	1.00	5.00	2.96	.88
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Reasoning / Induction- Partner	118	1.00	5.00	2.84	.97
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Democratic Participation- Partner	116	1.00	5.00	2.77	.92
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Good Natured / Easy Going- Partner	118	1.00	5.00	2.98	.94
Valid N (listwise)	106				

Table 12 below displays the summary statistics related to the authoritative parenting style-self. Regarding the standardized overall authoritative score, the results indicate a mean of 3.24 and a standard deviation of .72 in a population of 136 participants. As it relates to warmth and involvement, results within a population of 142 respondents in the authoritative parent (self) group indicate a mean of 3.31 and a standard deviation of .76. With a population of 146 participants, the mean for reasoning and induction was 3.08 and the standard deviation, .89. One hundred forty-seven parents (self) responded to questions related to the democratic participation. The mean was 3.0 and the standard deviation, .79. Results for the good-natured/easygoing (self) show that with 147 participants the mean was 3.35 and the standard deviation, .74.

Table 12*Summary Statistics: Authoritative Parenting Style- Self*

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Standardized Overall Authoritative Score- Self	136	1.48	4.96	3.24	.72
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Warmth & Involvement- Self	142	1.64	5.00	3.31	.76
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Reasoning / Induction- Self	146	1.14	5.00	3.08	.89
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Democratic Participation- Self	147	1.20	5.00	3.08	.79
Standardized Authoritative Scale: Good Natured / Easy Going- Self	147	2.00	5.00	3.35	.74
Valid N (listwise)	136				

Authoritarian Parenting Style. Table 13 displays the summary statistics related to the authoritarian parenting style-partner. Regarding the standardized overall authoritarian score-partner, the results indicate a mean of 2.87 and a standard deviation of .607 in a population of 109 participants. As it relates to verbal hostility, results within a population of 124 respondents in the authoritarian parent (partner) group indicate a mean of 2.83 and a standard deviation of .995. In measuring corporal punishment within this group, the results indicate that with a population of 118 participants, the mean is noted as 2.84 and the standard deviation is .970. Regarding directiveness, 118 parents (partner) responded to questions related to this measure. The mean is registered as 2.98 and the

standard deviation as .941. Results for the nonreasoning/punitive strategies (partner) show that within 116 participants, the mean is 2.77 and the standard deviation is .918.

Table 13

Summary Statistics: Authoritarian Parenting Style- Partner

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Standardized Overall Authoritarian Score- Partner	109	1	4	2.87	.607
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Verbal Hostility- Partner	124	1	5	2.83	.995
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Corporal Punishment- Partner	118	1	5	2.84	.970
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Directiveness- Partner	118	1	5	2.98	.941
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Nonreasoning / Punitive Strategies- Partner	116	1	5	2.77	.918
Valid N (listwise)	109				

Table 14 displays the summary statistics related to the authoritarian parenting style-self. Regarding the standardized overall authoritarian score-self, the results indicate a mean of 3.12 and a standard deviation of .522 in a population of 140 participants. As it relates to verbal hostility, results within a population of 151 respondents in the authoritarian parent (self) group indicate a mean of 3.00 and a standard deviation of .928. In measuring corporal punishment within this group, the results indicate that with a

population of 146 participants, the mean is noted as 3.08 and the standard deviation is .888. Regarding directiveness, 147 parents (self) responded to questions related to this measure. The mean is registered as 3.35 and the standard deviation as .737. Results for the nonreasoning/punitive strategies (self) show that within 137 participants, the mean is 3.08 and the standard deviation is .785.

Table 14

Summary Statistics: Authoritarian Parenting Style- Self

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Standardized Overall Authoritarian Score- Self	140	2	4	3.12	.522
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Verbal Hostility- Self	151	1	5	3.00	.928
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Corporal Punishment- Self	146	1	5	3.08	.888
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Directiveness- Self	147	2	5	3.35	.737
Standardized Authoritarian Scale: Nonreasoning / Punitive Strategies- Self	147	1	5	3.08	.785
Valid N (listwise)	140				

Permissive Parenting Style. Table 15 displays the summary statistics related to the permissive parenting style-partner. Regarding the standardized overall permissive score-partner, the results indicate a mean of 2.75 and a standard deviation of .538 in a population of 113 participants. As it relates to lack of follow-through, results within a population of 117 respondents in the permissive parent (partner) group indicate a mean of

2.85 and a standard deviation of .732. In measuring ignoring misbehavior within this group, the results indicate that with a population of 121 participants, the mean is noted as 2.56 and the standard deviation is .780. Regarding self-confidence, 117 parents (partner) responded to questions related to this measure. The mean is registered as 2.84 and the standard deviation as .453.

Table 15

Summary Statistics: Permissive Parenting Style- Partner

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Standardized Overall Permissiveness Score- Partner	113	1	4	2.75	.538
Standardized Permissiveness Scale: Lack of Follow-Through- Partner	117	1	5	2.85	.732
Standardized Permissiveness Scale: Ignoring Misbehavior - Partner	121	1	5	2.56	.780
Standardized Permissiveness Scale: Self-Confidence- Partner	117	1	4	2.84	.453
Valid N (listwise)	113				

Table 16 displays the summary statistics related to the permissive parenting style-self. Regarding the standardized overall permissive score-self, the results indicate a mean of 3.00 and a standard deviation of .493 in a population of 143 participants. As it relates to lack of follow-through, results within a population of 150 respondents in the

permissive parent (self) group indicate a mean of 3.13 and a standard deviation of .665. In measuring ignoring misbehavior within this group, the results indicate that with a population of 150 participants, the mean is noted as 2.75 and the standard deviation is .655. Regarding self-confidence, 145 parents (self) responded to questions related to this measure. The mean is registered as 3.06 and the standard deviation as .389.

Table 16

Summary Statistics: Permissive Parenting Style- Self

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Standardized Overall Permissiveness Score- Self	143	2	4	3.00	.493
Standardized Permissiveness Scale: Lack of Follow-Through- Self	150	2	5	3.13	.665
Standardized Permissiveness Scale: Ignoring Misbehavior- Self	150	1	5	2.75	.655
Standardized Permissiveness Scale: Self-Confidence- Self	145	2	4	3.06	.389
Valid N (listwise)	143				

Parenting Health

Table 17 presents the summary statistics of parenting style health. Standardization of scores was developed to provide more meaning to parenting style scores as the lack of standardization would have resulted in functionally meaningless scores. To create the unhealthiness score, I developed additive measures of authoritarian and permissiveness

scores for each parent (partner and self) as well as a combined score. The standardized measures for the overall health scores for each parent (self and partner) and combined are identified as the healthy scores but an “S” was added to facilitate comparison and interpretation. The overall health score of parenting style was calculated as $(\text{Authoritative} - (\text{Authoritarian} + \text{Submissive})/2) = \text{Health}$. Thus, the higher the score the healthier the parenting style. I used the standardized scores for the analysis. As shown in Table 20, the level of parenting health for partner was measured in 131 respondents with a mean of .12 and a standard deviation of .542. The level of parenting health for self was measured in 101 respondents with a mean of .17 and a standard deviation of .566. The level of parenting health for combine was measured in 95 respondents with a mean of .17 and a standard deviation of .458.

Table 17

Summary Statistics: Parenting Style Health

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Level of Parenting Health-Partner	101	-1	2	.12	.542
Level of Parenting Health-Self	131	-1	2	.17	.566
Level of Parenting Health-Combined	95	-1	2	.17	.458
Valid N (listwise)	95				

Measures represent overall authoritative score – (overall authoritarian – overall permissiveness scores)

Diagnostic Testing

An ordinal logistic regression analysis requires four assumptions to be met to be considered valid. These assumptions include the following: (a) the dependent variable is

ordered; (b) one or more of the dependent variables is categorical, ordinal, or continuous; (c) the variables have no multicollinearity; and (d) the variables have proportional odds. The first assumption passed as the dependent variable was measured at the ordinal level based on coding. Regarding the second assumption, the requirement is that one or more independent variables (IVs) are continuous, ordinal, or categorical. The analysis shows that, based on model specification, this assumption was also met.

Assumption 3 refers to the presence of multicollinearity. This test refers to the variance inflation factor which indicates that scores 10 or higher suggest that two variables are measuring the same thing (multicollinearity). Test 1 to determine multicollinearity identified collinearity among authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles for both self and partner (as shown in Table 18). However, subsequent tests indicated that parents were collinear within the observed individual. In other words, authoritarian-self was collinear with authoritative-self, and authoritarian-partner was collinear with authoritative-partner.

Table 18*Multicollinearity Test #1*

Model	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
Salience	.271	3.694
Mood Modification	.307	3.261
Tolerance	.238	4.203
Withdrawal	.292	3.428
Conflict	.273	3.666
Relapse	.278	3.601
Social Media During Meals	.286	3.491
Social Media around Sleep	.337	2.972
Overall Authoritative Score- Partner	.071	14.043
Overall Authoritarian Score- Partner	.068	14.812
Overall Permissiveness Score- Partner	.678	1.474
Overall Authoritative Score- Self	.051	19.725
Overall Authoritarian Score- Self	.059	16.944
Overall Permissiveness Score- Self	.511	1.958
Number of children in the family under 17	.828	1.207
Age	.765	1.308
Gender	.444	2.251

a. Dependent Variable: Categories for % of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings

Table 19 justifies the assumption of no multicollinearity in a second multicollinearity test, in which the separated authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive scores were replaced by the transformed parenting style health scores for self and partner. Using these scores eliminated the multicollinearity found when tests were run on the constitutive terms. Table 19 shows evidence that the variance inflation factor scores are all under 10 suggesting that no two variables are measuring the same thing. The study's hypotheses were analyzed using these transformed parental health scores.

Table 19*Multicollinearity Test #2*

Model	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
Saliency	.298	3.353
Mood Modification	.331	3.024
Tolerance	.248	4.027
Withdrawal	.335	2.981
Conflict	.295	3.396
Relapse	.317	3.151
Social Media During Meals	.313	3.191
Social Media around Sleep	.344	2.910
Level of Parenting Health- Self	.557	1.794
Level of Parenting Health- Partner	.675	1.481
Number of children in the family under 17	.919	1.088
Age	.846	1.183
Gender	.688	1.454

a. Dependent Variable: Categories for % of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings

Table 20 shows proportional odds with continuous and ordinal terms Only. Here, the exclusion of the binary term *gender* enabled me to run these tests. A significance value in which $p > .05$ indicates that Assumption 4 is passed when excluding this variable. In other words, significance values that are greater than .05 allow for the acceptance of the null hypothesis and illustrate that the model does fit the proportional odds assumption of ordered logistic regression.

Table 20

Proportional Odds: Continuous and Ordinal Terms Only

Test of Parallel Lines ^a				
Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Null Hypothesis	73.809			
General	67.636	6.174	5	.290

The null hypothesis states that the location parameters (slope coefficients) are the same across response categories.

a. Link function: Logit.

Data Analysis

Hypothesis 1

The Spearman's correlation (without controls) is used where one or both variables being compared are not normally distributed but are assumed to be ordinal. This model was used to analyze independent variables without controls (i.e., salience, mood modification, tolerance). The ordered logistic regression (with controls) model is based on a maximum likelihood estimation in which we seek to calculate the probability of observations falling within the ordered outcome categories of a dependent variable. This model was used when including the controls related to level of parenting health (partner, self and combined), age, number of children in the family, and gender.

Spearman's Correlations (Independent Relationships Without Controls).

Table 21 shows the correlation between each component measure of the overall social media use index term and the ordered categories representing the proportion of children within the family that are in legal proceedings. Using the Spearman's correlations tests the significance of the independent relationship between the variables without controlling

for any other factors. Of the different relationships among variables, the only relationship that shows significance is the one between conflict and proportion of children in legal proceedings ($p < .05$). Results suggest that greater levels of conflict around social media use correlate with lower percentages of children in legal proceedings. In other words, even when this test suggests that I can reject the null hypothesis, with relation to conflict, the relationship is in the opposite of the hypothesized direction. Interestingly, this may be related to the lack of participants that have no children in legal proceedings.

Table 21*Correlation of Social Media Use and Proportion Family's Children in Legal Proceedings*

Categories of Proportion of Children in Legal Proceedings	Correlation Coefficient	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
Ordinal DV	--	.	161
Saliency	.044	.584	158
Mood Modification	-.045	.572	160
Tolerance	-.028	.724	158
Withdrawal	-.082	.301	160
Conflict	-.185	.020	157
Relapse	-.045	.572	158
Social Media During Meals	-.107	.180	157
Social Media around Sleep	-.092	.253	158
Overall SNAS Scale	-.076	.349	152
Frequency of Social Media Use	-.107	.183	157
Overall Social Media	-.097	.236	151

Significance measured as Spearman's rho

Ordered Logistic Regression (With Controls). Table 22 shows the results from an ordered logistic regression that evaluates the impact of the overall social media use score on the proportion of delinquent children within the family while controlling for parenting health (self and partner), the number of children in the family, age, and gender. Results indicate that social media use does not significantly impact the proportion of children caught in the legal system.

Table 22*Ordered Logit Results: Overall Social Media Use and Proportion of Delinquent Children*

Parameter Estimates

		Estimate	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 25% or fewer]	-9.386	2.962	.002	-15.193	-3.580
	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 26% to 49%]	-5.882	2.741	.032	-11.254	-.509
Location	Overall Social Media	.197	.169	.244	-.135	.529
	Level of Parenting Health- Partner	.098	.679	.885	-1.232	1.429
	Level of Parenting Health- Self	1.152	.736	.117	-.290	2.594
	Number of children in the family under 17	-3.271	.535	<.001	-4.319	-2.223
	Age	.275	.510	.591	-.726	1.275
	[Gender=0]	.496	.807	.539	-1.086	2.078
	[Gender=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.

Link function: Logit.

a. This parameter is set to zero because it is redundant.

Table 23 shows the regression output for an ordered logistic regression, $X^2 = 118.527$, $df = 6$, $p < .001$, which tests the probability of an observation aligning with each of the ordered outcome categories of the dependent variable. I included all the social media categories in this test because we observed significance in the correlations for the constitutive terms but not the indexed variables. Indexed variables were excluded from the model to avoid redundancy. Conflict, which was found to be significant when testing the constitutive terms, is not significant when testing with controls. Number of children in family, level of parenting style health (self and partner), age, and gender were the controls included in this model. Both cut points (effectively the intercepts for each outcome level of the dependent variable) were significant at the $p < 0.001$ level. Mood

modification was significant at the $p < .1$ level. This may be worth noting as this observation may have reached significance with a greater sample size. The negative coefficient indicates that an increase in the use of social media for mood modification leads to lower proportions of children in legal proceedings. This finding conflicts with the original hypothesis. Social media around sleep was significant at the $p < 0.05$ level. The positive coefficient indicates that individuals use social media more before bed and/or immediately after waking up are likely to have an increased proportion of their children within the legal system. This finding supports the original hypothesis.

Table 23*Ordered Logistic Regression Influence of Social Media Use on Children Delinquency*

Parameter Estimates						
Parameters	Estimate	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval		
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Threshold	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 25% or fewer]	-14.974	4.512	<.001	-23.817	-6.132
	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 26% to 49%]	-10.377	4.015	.010	-18.246	-2.507
Location	Salience	.653	.493	.185	-.313	1.619
	Mood Modification	-1.208	.694	.082	-2.569	.153
	Tolerance	-.267	.713	.708	-1.665	1.132
	Withdrawal	.446	.543	.411	-.618	1.510
	Conflict	-.268	.572	.639	-1.389	.852
	Relapse	-.031	.479	.948	-.969	.907
	Social Media During Meals	-.342	.414	.409	-1.153	.469
	Social Media around Sleep	1.010	.423	.017	.181	1.838
	Level of Parenting Health- Partner	.636	.991	.521	-1.305	2.578
	Level of Parenting Health- Self	2.174	1.001	.030	.212	4.136
	Number of children in the family under 17	-4.075	.766	<.001	-5.577	-2.573
	Age	.857	.700	.220	-.514	2.229
	[Gender=0]	.731	1.073	.495	-1.371	2.833
[Gender=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.

Link function: Logit.

a. This parameter is set to zero because it is redundant.

Findings for Hypothesis 1. The analysis of data shows extremely limited support for this hypothesis. As a result, the null hypothesis is accepted suggesting that there is no relationship. Table 24 indicates that the parenting styles of participants are not significantly related to the proportion of children that display delinquent behavior within the family. The one exception is in terms of parents' authoritative style. This relationship is only significant at the $p < .1$ value but suggests that a closer look may be in order. The positive correlation suggests that parents with higher authoritative scores have more

delinquent children in the family. This contradicts the direction of the relationship stated in the second hypothesis.

Table 24

Spearman Correlations of Parenting style (Self) and Child Delinquency

	Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings		
	Correlation Coefficient	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings	--	.	161
Overall Authoritative Score- Self	.152	.080	133
Overall Authoritarian Score- Self	.133	.125	135
Overall Permissiveness Score- Self	.006	.943	139
Level of Parenting Health- Self	.088	.321	128

Significance measured using Spearman's rho

Table 25 indicates that individuals' perceptions of their partners' parenting style does not significantly correlate with the proportion of children displaying delinquent behavior in the family.

Table 25*Spearman Correlations of Parenting Style (Partner) and Child Delinquency*

	Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings		
	Correlation Coefficient	Sig. (2-tailed)	N
Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings	--	.	161
Overall Authoritative Score- Partner	.060	.550	102
Overall Authoritarian Score- Partner	.066	.508	104
Overall Permissiveness Score- Partner	.070	.471	108
Level of Parenting Health- Partner	-.010	.921	97

Significance measured using Spearman's rho

Hypothesis 2

Ordered Logistic Regression (With Controls). Table 26 shows the results from an ordered logit regression that examines the impact of an individuals' parenting styles on the proportion of children involved in legal proceedings in the household, controlling for other dimensions of their parenting styles, their partner's overall parenting style, age, gender, overall social media use, and the number of children within the family, $X^2 = 118.760$, $df = 8$, $p < .001$. The results indicate that there is no significant relationship between individuals' parenting styles and the proportion of children in the family that fall into delinquency.

Table 26*Ordered Logistic Regression Parenting Styles (Self) and Proportion of Delinquent Children*

Parameter Estimates

		Estimate	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 25% or fewer]	-10.363	4.806	.031	-19.782	-.944
	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 26% to 49%]	-6.842	4.595	.136	-15.847	2.164
Location	Overall Authoritative Score- Self	.984	1.565	.529	-2.083	4.052
	Overall Authoritarian Score- Self	-.537	2.315	.817	-5.074	4.000
	Overall Permissiveness Score- Self	-.902	.907	.320	-2.680	.875
	Level of Parenting Health- Partner	.128	.687	.852	-1.218	1.474
	Overall Social Media	.224	.183	.221	-.135	.583
	Number of children in the family under 17	-3.284	.537	<.001	-4.337	-2.230
	Age	.349	.572	.541	-.772	1.471
[Gender=0]	.350	.890	.694	-1.394	2.094	

Link function: Logit.

Table 27 shows the results from an ordered logistic regression that examines the impact of partners' parenting styles on child delinquency controlling for one's own parenting style, age, gender, social media use, and the number of children in the family, $X^2 = 119.048$, $df = 8$, $p < .001$. The results indicate that there is not a significant relationship between partners' parenting styles and the proportion of children involved in legal proceeding in the household.

Table 27*Ordered Logistic Regression Parenting Styles (Partner) and Proportion of Delinquent Children*

Parameter Estimates

		Estimate	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 25% or fewer]	-6.804	4.730	.150	-16.074	2.467
	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 26% to 49%]	-3.291	4.630	.477	-12.365	5.784
Location	Overall Authoritative Score-Partner	-.488	1.436	.734	-3.304	2.327
	Overall Authoritarian Score-Partner	1.089	2.169	.616	-3.163	5.340
	Overall Permissiveness Score-Partner	.238	.714	.738	-1.160	1.637
	Level of Parenting Health- Self	1.174	.747	.116	-.290	2.638
	Overall Social Media	.202	.171	.237	-.133	.537
	Number of children in the family under 17	-3.261	.540	<.001	-4.318	-2.203
	Age	.344	.523	.511	-.681	1.369
[Gender=0]	.270	.882	.760	-1.459	1.998	
[Gender=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.

Link function: Logit.

a. This parameter is set to zero because it is redundant.

Table 28 presents the results of an ordered logit regression that examines the impact of overall parenting health (self and partner) on children's involvement on legal proceedings, controlling for gender, age, number of children in the household, and social media use. The results indicate that levels of overall parenting health do not significantly affect the proportion of children within the household that fall in delinquent behavior.

Table 28*Ordered Logistic Regression Levels of Parenting Health and Proportion of Delinquent Children*

Parameter Estimates

		Estimate	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 25% or fewer]	-9.386	2.962	.002	-15.193	-3.580
	[Categories for Proportion of Family's Children in Legal Proceedings = 26% to 49%]	-5.882	2.741	.032	-11.254	-.509
Location	Level of Parenting Health- Self	1.152	.736	.117	-.290	2.594
	Level of Parenting Health- Partner	.098	.679	.885	-1.232	1.429
	Overall Social Media	.197	.169	.244	-.135	.529
	Number of children in the family under 17	-3.271	.535	<.001	-4.319	-2.223
	Age	.275	.510	.591	-.726	1.275
	[Gender=0]	.496	.807	.539	-1.086	2.078
	[Gender=1]	0 ^a	.	.	.	.

Link function: Logit.

a. This parameter is set to zero because it is redundant.

Findings for Hypothesis 2. Results suggest that we need to accept the null hypothesis, in other words, that there is not a relationship between parenting styles and the children's involvement in legal proceedings. This is also contrary to the original predictions of the study. Something to note, however, is that there was significance for the parenting health-self score within regression models for Hypothesis 2 in which the social media score was broken into its multiple components. This suggests that further examination into the relationship between these factors may be in order. In other words, it is suggested to further examine the relationship between social media use and parenting styles as possible contributing factors to worsening children's delinquent behaviors.

Summary

In summary, 171 participants completed the survey to determine the relationship between the dependent variable (children involvement in legal proceedings) and the

independent variables (social media use and parenting styles). The Spearman's correlations and ordered logistic regression did not identify a high correlation among the independent and dependent variables of the study. In other words, data analysis demonstrated that there were no statistically significant relationships between children's involvement in legal proceedings and the social media and parenting behaviors of Mexican American parents. Using the Spearman's correlations, the only relationship that shows significance is the one between conflict and the number of children in legal proceedings ($p < .05$). However, even when the result of this test suggests that I can reject the null hypothesis, as it relates to conflict, the relationship is in the opposite direction to the original hypothesis. When testing with controls through the ordered logistic regression, conflict was found not significant, yet mood modification was found significant at the $p < .1$ level. Counter to the original hypothesis, this result indicates that a higher use of social media leads to lower proportions of delinquency in children. Positive coefficients of social media around sleep ($p < 0.05$ level) suggest that parents' use of social media (before bed and/or immediately after waking up) is associated with an increased likelihood of having children involved in legal proceedings. Despite this finding supporting the original hypothesis, the overall results of the data analysis do not provide enough support to reject the null hypothesis.

Using the ordered logistic regression to test the second hypothesis also helped me figure out that, except for the authoritative parenting style, the parenting styles of the survey participants are not significantly related to the number of children that are involved in legal proceedings. Despite the low relationship found ($p < .1$), the positive

correlation suggests that parents with higher authoritative scores are likely to have more children that are involved in legal proceedings. This result contradicts the direction of the relationship stated in the second hypothesis and suggest that I must accept the null hypothesis. Therefore, the overall results of the study support the null hypotheses identified regarding both RQs and suggest no statistically significant relationship between the level of social media use of Mexican American parents and their children's delinquent behavior and no relationship between these group of parents' parenting styles and their children's delinquent behavior. In the next chapter, I elaborate on the interpretation of the findings, discuss the study's limitations, and make recommendations for future studies. Further, I present a discussion of the implications of the study, including those for social change.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Introduction

In this study, I explored the relationship between parents' pathological social media use and parenting behaviors and styles that may influence their adolescents' risky or criminal actions. Some researchers have explored the influence of parents' parenting behaviors and styles on their children's behaviors (Evans et al., 2016; Koning et al., 2018; Lippold et al., 2018; Moreno-Ruiz et al., 2019; Nqweni et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017; and Wang et al., 2019). However, there is a gap in the literature on parenting behaviors related to pathological social media use, among the study population of Mexican American parents.

To address the gap in the literature, I administered an online survey to Mexican American parents of adolescents involved in legal proceedings in South Texas. The online survey included demographic information and questions from the SNAS, the SMEQ, and the PSDQ. Participants' demographic information included age, gender (male, female), marital status, work status, type of family structure, total number of children in the family, total number of children in the family involved in legal proceedings, ages of children involved in legal proceedings (9 and under, 10-13, 14-16, 17), and gender of children involved in legal proceedings (male, female). The first two tools (SNAS and SMEQ) were used to measure the parents' level of social media use while the PSDQ was used to measure their parenting styles and behaviors. The parenting styles that were studied include authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive styles.

Interpretation of the Findings

RQ1 was, what is the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior? Findings provide support to the null hypothesis and indicate that the level of social media use among Mexican American parents of children involved in legal proceedings did not significantly impact the percentage of children involved in the legal system. The results of the Spearman's correlations (independent relationships without controls) method show that greater levels of conflict around social media use were associated with lower percentages of children in legal proceedings. This result appears to be related to the lack of study participants identified as having no children involved in legal proceedings because the targeted population were Mexican American parents of children involved in legal proceedings.

The results of an ordered logistic regression (with controls) show that social media use did not significantly impact the proportion of children involved in the legal system. Although results of the Spearman's correlations indicate greater levels of conflict related to social media use to be associated with fewer children involved in legal proceedings, results for the ordered logistic regression did not show conflict to be a significant factor in a pathological level of social media use among Mexican American parents and their children's delinquency. However, results of the ordered logistic regression indicate that a high level of mood modification is associated with a reduced percentage of children involved in legal proceedings. These findings conflict with the original hypothesis associated with social media use, which was that the parents'

pathological use of social media would indicate higher, not lower, levels of delinquency in their adolescents.

Results related to Mexican American parents' use of social media around their sleeping time indicate that participants with higher levels of social media use before bed and/or immediately after waking up are likely to have an increased number of their children involved in the legal system. This finding supports the original hypothesis, which suggested that higher use of social media among Mexican American parents would result in more of their children involved in legal proceedings. Overall, the findings related to the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their children's delinquent behavior do not support the hypothesis that social media use has a detrimental outcome on their children's behavior. Instead, the findings indicate a limited relationship between these two factors. The results indicate that, even when there is an elevated level of social media use among Mexican American parents, this does not appear to be correlated to their children's delinquency.

RQ2 inquired as to the relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behaviors. Findings related to this question support the null hypothesis. In other words, the results indicate that there was no significant relationship between the parenting styles of Mexican American parents of children involved in the legal system and the proportion of their children found to be involved in delinquency. According to the results, parenting styles of participants were not significantly related to the proportion of children who exhibit delinquent behavior. These results contradict those of numerous researchers

(Wang et al., 2017; Xiuqin et al., 2010; Zeng et al., 2016) that support that unhealthy parenting behaviors are positively linked to children's delinquent behavior. However, the authoritative parenting style did show a positive correlation with adolescents' delinquency. This correlation suggests that parents with higher authoritative scores are more likely to have delinquent children in the family; this finding opposes the direction of the relationship stated in the second hypothesis. Nqweni et al. (2010) suggested that cultural factors may play a role in how parental engagement and children's delinquency relate. The authors found that, despite increased levels of parental engagement associated with the authoritative parenting style, Western individualistic influences are associated with higher delinquency rates in their children. The authoritarian parenting style is associated with lower delinquency in children in non-Western cultures.

Theoretical Aspects of Parents' Use of Social Media and Parenting Styles

Numerous researchers have investigated the importance of a secure parent-child attachment and suggest that such attachment is critical for the appropriate social emotional development of children while acting as a deterrent to inappropriate and even sometimes delinquent behaviors in children (Bowlby, 1969; Liu & Wang, 2020; Tur-Porcar, 2017; White et al., 2019). These researchers note the importance of quality over quantity regarding the level of parent-child attachment. While some authors suggest positive effects related to parents' use of the internet (Özgüngör, 2020) other researchers have identified consequences to parents' use of internet or social media with such problematic or delinquent behavior in children (Wang et al., 2017; Xiuqin et al., 2010; Zeng et al., 2016). The literature review supports the premise that delinquent behavior in

adolescents is a growing problem affecting society and may be predictive of long-term and more severe offending behaviors in adulthood (Rasskazova et al., 2019; Xiong et al., 2020). Most reviewed articles suggest that the influence of parents appears significant to the display of delinquent behavior in their children. For instance, Rasskazova et al. (2019) identify parents' detachment and limited interaction among the dyad as factors influencing delinquent behavior. Zemel et al. (2016) suggest that children's psychosocial and personality development are linked to their parents' parenting style and parenting behaviors. Family conflict, maladjusted or fractured families, negative family interactions appear highly correlated to development of delinquent behaviors in adolescents (Baek et al., 2020; Evans et al., 2016; Xiuquin et al., 2010). However, the results of this study which focus on Mexican American parents' social media use as determinant factor to influence delinquency in children do not hold the same predictions.

The findings of the study do not support the premise that higher use of social media by Mexican American parents influences their children's engagement in delinquent behavior. Further, it does not associate the authoritative parenting style with children's decreased involvement in delinquent activities. Also, unhealthy parenting styles including the authoritarian and the permissive styles were not found to be linked to delinquent behavior in children of Mexican American parents. The study's findings indicate that higher use of social media during the wake/sleep times of parents are associated with higher rates of delinquency. Also, the study's results only found that greater levels of conflict associated with parents' social media use are linked to lower percentages of delinquency in their children. These findings are opposed to the assertions

of some researchers who point to family conflict as a factor that increases delinquent behavior in children (Baek et al., 2020; Evans et al., 2016; Xiuquin et al., 2010).

Different researchers also point at parenting behaviors as crucial factors to promote connection between adolescents and their parents. Baumrind (1971) describes parenting styles such as authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive as determinants for specific parenting behaviors that influence the parent-child relationship, and thus, the child's behavior. Along with other authors, Baumrind (1971) identify the authoritative parenting style as a healthy style that promotes firm control over their children while also promoting their independence (Baumrind, 1971; Zeinali et al., 2011). These authors associate adolescents' drug use and other maladaptive behaviors to the authoritarian and permissive parenting styles. According to the relational regulation theory, the children's perception of their parents' supports an effect on their mental health (Estevez et al., 2017). Estevez et al. (2017) suggest that individuals respond based on others' relational influence. The authors add that the adolescents' ability to regulate their emotions, thoughts, and behaviors are associated to how they perceive their parents' affect (low positive or high negative). As such, Estevez et al. (2017) suggest that the relational regulation theory justifies the idea that adolescents' delinquent behavior relates to the adolescents view of their parents as authoritarian or permissive.

According to the results of my study, there is not enough evidence to support that the authoritative parenting style prevents delinquent behavior in children. The study's results indicate that parents with higher authoritative scores are more likely to have children involved in legal proceedings, which contradicts the predictions of earlier

researchers (Baumrind, 1971; Chang & Qin, 2018; Haslam et al., 2017; Moitra et al., 2018; Zeinali et al., 2011).

Limitations of the Study

There were some limitations to the findings of my research study. One of the most relevant limitations was the lack of participants that did not have children involved in the legal system. Because the population was specific to Mexican American parents of children involved in legal proceedings, this lack appears to have hampered the possibility of clearly differentiating between the two groups, parents with and without children involved in the legal system, regarding social media use and parenting styles and behaviors. Another limitation was the fact that I did not include adolescents as part of the study. The inclusion of adolescents in the study would have allowed me to gather their perception regarding their parents' use of social media and the effect on their own behavior. Also, it would have provided me with the adolescents' perception of their parents' parenting styles and behaviors rather than focusing on the parents' self-perception of their parenting styles. Gaylord et al. (2003) indicate that discrepancies between the parents' self-perception of their parenting styles and the perception of their adolescents may represent greater problems within the dyad and be more reflective of negative effects on the children. The authors add that this difference in how parents and children see the parenting style of the parent may result on higher behavioral problems among children and a compromised level of social competence.

The online survey also presented some unfavorable factors that might have influenced the results. For instance, the length of the survey could have been an important

determinant in whether participants answered all questions to the best of their ability or chose to answer randomly. Further, it may have determined the decision of some to not complete the survey entirely. Some questions in the online survey were short of a clear description. This may have influenced participants ability to answer these questions accurately. Including two scales for social media use, the SNAS and the SMEQ, as part of the online survey was perhaps unnecessary; clearer results could have been obtained by using only one of the scales. Also, choosing the shorter version of the PSDQ would have been more effective in keeping the participants engaged and open to answer questions accurately.

Recommendations

My research study was designed based on the premise that the pathological use of social media by Mexican American parents represented a change to their parenting styles and consequently, had an influence on their adolescents' delinquent behaviors. Even though there is limited research on the effects of social media use of parents in their children and more so in the Mexican American group, extensive research on the effects of social media use with diverse groups justified my hypothesis that Mexican American parents' social media pathological use was to be found influential to adolescents' delinquent behaviors (Koning et al., 2018; Lam & Wong, 2015; Mesch, 2018; Schroeder & Mowen, 2014). However, this was not supported by the results of my study. On the contrary, the overall results reject the possibility of a positive correlation between these two variables. An explanation of the differences between Western vs. non-Western influences on parenting styles and children's behavior may provide a plausible

justification for the results that associate the authoritarian parenting style with less delinquent behavior in children of Mexican American parents (Nqweni et al.,2010).

Previous research focusing on the authoritative parenting style as a precursor of a healthy parent-child interaction provided the basis for my alternative hypothesis regarding parenting styles of Mexican American parents of children displaying delinquent behavior (Bowlby, 1969; Liu & Wang, 2020; Tur-Porcar, 2017; White et al., 2019). I hypothesized that a healthy authoritative parenting style was predictive of adolescents' lesser involvement in legal proceedings while unhealthy, authoritarian, or permissive, parenting styles represented an increase in the children's involvement in the legal system. This assumption was also not supported by the study's results. The results of the study suggest that children of authoritative parents are more likely to be involved in delinquent behavior. The literature review supported that authoritative parents exercise a healthy parenting style, which prevents rather than exacerbates delinquent behavior in children (Koning et al., 2018; Lam & Wong, 2015; Mesch, 2018; Schroeder & Mowen, 2014). Other researchers note that for non-Western collectivist groups, the authoritarian parenting style is associated with factors that prevent delinquent behaviors in children (Nqweni et al., 2010). Specifically speaking of Mexican Americans, Marsiglia et al. (2014) indicate that the levels of parental acculturation have a significant effect on their children's risky behaviors. For instance, first generation adolescents report lower use of alcohol as compared to second and third generation counterparts.

I recommend several modifications to the original study with the aim of improving the applicability of this study to the target population. First, I would

recommend the inclusion of both parents of children who are involved in the legal system and parents of children not involved in the legal system. I would expect to find whether the inclusion of both groups provides a better understanding of the patterns of social use and self-perception of parenting style among Mexican American parents in South Texas. A second recommendation for replication of this study is to include adolescents as part of the study. The inclusion of adolescents in the study can improve the overall perception regarding their parents' use of social media and parenting styles and provide an added glare to how these factors affect the adolescents' behavior.

Recommendations to improve the online survey are also in order. For instance, the length of the survey and the clarity of the questions may improve participants' ability and willingness to answer all questions while avoiding attempts to answer randomly. Choosing short and relevant scales might be beneficial in fostering increased engagement and participation in the participants.

Implications

There are several implications for social change because of this study. It is important to note that the results of the study justify continued studying of this phenomenon in minority populations, including Mexican Americans. The results of this study exemplify the notion that concepts that apply to the mainstream group might not necessarily apply to minority groups. This may be true to the effects of social media and parenting styles on the family's children as well as to other phenomena. By considering the results of this study, the development and implementation of parenting programs can be improved to account for the unique characteristics of the group. Also, this study's

results may be considered when organizing and delivering public awareness regarding social media use among parents, parenting styles, and the factors affecting children's delinquent behavior. Private practitioners, counselors, educators, and other professionals can benefit from this study. For instance, counselors may find this study useful in individual, group and family therapy when working with members of this specific group.

Conclusion

My study focused on Mexican American parents of children involved in the legal system. One of my goals was to find out if there was a positive relationship between Mexican American parents' use of social media and their children's delinquent behavior. I was also interested in learning whether their parenting styles influenced their children's delinquent behaviors. For this purpose, RQ1 aimed to find the relationship between social media use among parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and their adolescents' delinquent behavior. The results of the study support the null hypothesis which indicates no relationship between Mexican American parents' social media use and their children's delinquent behaviors. RQ2 aimed at identifying a possible relationship between the parenting styles of parents of adolescents involved in the legal system and the adolescents' delinquent behaviors. The results of the study also support the null hypothesis indicating no relationship between parenting styles of Mexican Americans and their children's involvement in delinquent activities.

While I was not able to confirm that Mexican American parents pathological use of social media and their unhealthy parenting styles influence children's delinquent

behavior, I did find out that the authoritative parenting style among study participants was predictive of adolescents' higher involvement in legal proceedings. This finding suggests that children of Mexican American authoritative parents are more likely to be involved in legal proceedings. An explanation for these results may be justified by cultural factors that associate Mexican Americans to collectivistic views as opposed to the Western, individualistic views that correlate healthy parenting with the authoritative parenting style (Marsiglia et al., 2014; Nqweni et al., 2010).

The increasing number of social problems associated with the pathological use of social media among diverse groups justifies repeating this study with consideration to cultural factors that may impact the results among Mexican American parents from first, second, and third generations of immigrants. Also, it is recommended to include parents of children that are and that are not involved in delinquent behavior to have a clearer view of the parenting style differences among the two groups. Future research is expected to assist in reducing adverse outcomes associated with the pathological use of social media for parents and their children by provide more significant findings that can impact adolescents' behaviors and parents' parenting styles. Also, it is expected to improve the public and professionals' understanding of relationship among parent and children in the Mexican American group in South Texas.

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Appendix A: Demographic Information

My age is:

- 1) 30 years old or younger
- 2) 31- 40 years old
- 3) 31- 40 years old
- 4) 50- 60 years old
- 5) 60 years old or older

My gender is:

- 1) Male
- 2) Female

My marital status is:

- 1) Married
- 2) Single
- 3) Divorced
- 4) Partnered
- 5) Never Married
- 6) Widow

I am:

- 1) Mexican American
- 2) Other Hispanic/Latino
- 3) African American
- 4) Asian American
- 5) Native American
- 6) Caucasian

My family structure is:

- 1) Traditional (Two parent family plus biological or adopted children)
- 2) Single parent (One parent plus c60 years old or older hildren)
- 3) Extended family (Parent(s) and one or more other adults related by blood or marriage)
- 4) Blended family (One parent and one stepparent plus children)
- 5) Grandparent (One or two grandparents plus children)

Total number of children in the family under 17

- 1) 1
- 2) 2
- 3) 3
- 4) 4
- 5) 5 or more

Total number of children currently involved in legal proceedings:

- 1) 1
- 2) 2
- 3) 3
- 4) 4
- 5) 5 or more

Ages of children involved in legal proceedings:

- 1) 10 years old and below
- 2) 11-13 years old
- 3) 14-16 years old
- 4) 17 years old

Gender of children involved in legal proceedings:

- 1) (1) Male (2) Female

I use _____ for online social networking:

- 1) Facebook
- 2) Twitter
- 3) Snap Chat
- 4) WhatsApp
- 5) YouTube
- 6) LinkedIn
- 7) Tumblr
- 8) TikTok
- 9) Instagram

Appendix B: Social Networking Addiction Scale

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Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. The responses will be kept confidential. It is important that you try to answer as honestly as possible.

Salience:

1. While I work/study, my mind remains on social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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2. I go to social networking sites instantly after waking up in the morning.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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3. I check for updates on social networking sites while studying/working.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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4. I check my social networking account before starting any task or activity.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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Mood Modification:

5. I go to social networking sites whenever I am upset.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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6. Social networking helps me lift my mood.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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7. I feel relaxed whenever I am on social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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Tolerance:

8. These days I spend more and more time on social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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9. When compared I spend more time on social networking sites now than I did in the past.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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10. I need to be on social networking sites for longer time than before to be satisfied.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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Withdrawal:

11. I feel sad when I am unable to log in to social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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12. I become irritable whenever I cannot log in to social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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13. I feel frustrated when I cannot use social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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14. I become restless when I do not get time for social networking.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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Conflict:

15. I try to hide the time I spend on social networking.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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16. I need to lie to my parents and others when they ask about my social networking usage.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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17. I ignore my sleep because I have/want to be on social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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Relapse:

18. I have failed to cut down the time I spend on social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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19. I have tried to stop using social networking sites, but have failed.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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20. I am unable to cut-down the time I spend on social networking sites.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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21. My repeated attempts to reduce the time I spend on social networking sites have failed.

1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Somewhat Disagree	4 Neither Agree or Disagree	5 Somewhat Agree	6 Agree	7 Strongly Agree
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The scale follows the component model given by Griffiths (2005) which highlights the importance of dimensions in addictions.

The scale can be used in two ways depending on the research/practice. If the goal is to find/ explore the addiction dimensions, or it is to be used on patients, dimension wise score can be obtained by summing up item under each dimension. A total score can be obtained by summing up all the items. The score can range from 21 to 147. Any score above a total score of 84 signifies addiction.

Appendix C: Social Media Engagement Questionnaire

Citation: Przybylski, A. K., Murayama, K., DeHaan, C. R., & Gladwell, V. (2013).

Motivational, emotional, and behavioral correlates of fear of missing out. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 29, 1814-1848. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2013.02.014>

Participant Instructions Please reflect on how you used social media (e.g. Facebook or Twitter) in last week and respond to the following items.

Response Anchors

Not one day | 0

One day | 1

Two days | 2

Three days | 3

Four days | 4

Five days | 5

Six days | 6

Every day | 7

Items

1. How often did you use social media in the 15 minutes before you go to sleep?
2. How often did you use social media in the 15 minutes after you wake up?
3. How often did you use social media when eating breakfast?
4. How often did you use social media when eating lunch?
5. How often did you use social media when eating supper?

Calculating Individual Scores

Individual scores can be computed by summing responses to all five items and forms a reliable composite measure ($\alpha = .82$ to $.89$).

How to Cite

Przybylski, A. K., Murayama, K., DeHaan, C. R., & Gladwell, V. (2013). Motivational, emotional, and behavioral correlates of fear of missing out. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 29, 1814-1848.

Notes on Use

Where and when possible, randomize the presentation order of these items. I am interested to hear about how the work is being used. This scale is provided free for personal and academic use. If you plan on using this in a commercial or for-profit organization let me know and we can work out a licensing arrangement.

Appendix D: Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire

Citation: Robinson, C. C., Mandleco, B., Olsen, S. F., & Hart, C. H. (2001). The Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ). In J. Touliatos, B. F. Perlmutter, & G. W. Holden (Eds.), *Handbook of family measurement techniques* (Vol. 3, pp. 319-321). Sage Publications.

REMEMBER: Make two ratings for each item; (1) rate how often your spouse exhibits this behavior with your child and (2) how often you exhibit this behavior with your child.

SPOUSE EXHIBITS BEHAVIOR:	I EXHIBIT THIS BEHAVIOR:
1 = Never	1 = Never
2 = Once In a While	2 = Once In a While
3 = About Half of the Time	3 = About Half of the Time
4 = Very Often	4 = Very Often
5 = Always	5 = Always

[He/She] [I]

1. [He/she encourages] [I encourage] our child to talk about the child's troubles.
2. [He/she guides] [I guide] our child by punishment more than by reason.
3. [He/she knows] [I know] the names of our child's friends.
4. [He/she finds] [I find] it difficult to discipline our child.
5. [He/she gives praise] [I give praise] when our child is good.
6. [He/she spansks] [I spank] when our child is disobedient.

7. [He/she jokes and plays] [I joke and play] with our child.
8. [He/she withholds] [I withhold] scolding and/or criticism even when our child acts contrary to our wishes.
9. [He/she shows] [I show] sympathy when our child is hurt or frustrated.
10. [He/she punishes] [I punish] by taking privileges away from our child with little if any explanations.
11. [He/she spoils] [I spoil] our child.
12. [He/she gives] [I give] comfort and understanding when our child is upset.
13. [He/she yells or shouts] [I yell or shout] when our child misbehaves.
14. [He/she is] [I am] easy going and relaxed with our child.
15. [He/she allows] [I allow] our child to annoy someone else.
16. [He/she tells] [I tell] child our expectations regarding behavior before the child engages in an activity.
17. [He/she scolds and criticizes] [I scold and criticize] to make our child improve.
18. [He/she shows] [I show] patience with child.
19. [He/she explodes] [I explode] in anger towards our child.
20. [He/she states] [I state] punishments to our child and does not actually do them.
21. [He/she is] [I am] responsive to our child's feelings or needs.
22. [He/she allows] [I allow] our child to give input into family rules.
23. [He argues] [I argue] with our child.
24. [He/she is] [I am] confident about parenting abilities.
25. [He/she gives] [I give] our child reasons why rules should be obeyed.

26. [He/she is] [I am] more concerned with own feelings than with our child's feelings.
27. [He/she tells] [I tell] our child that we appreciate what the child tries or accomplishes.
28. [He/she punishes] [I punish] by putting our child off somewhere alone with little if any explanations.
29. [He/she helps] [I help] our child to understand the impact of behavior by encouraging our child to talk about the consequences of own actions.
30. [He/she is] [I am] afraid that disciplining our child for misbehavior will cause the child to not like us.
31. [He/she takes] [I take] our child's desires into account before asking the child to do something.
32. [He/she grabs] [I grab] our child when being disobedient.
33. [He/she is] [I am] aware of problems or concerns about our child in school.
34. [He/she threatens] [I threaten] our child with punishment more often than actually giving it.
35. [He/she expresses] [I express] affection by hugging, kissing, and holding our child.
36. [He/she ignores] [I ignore] our child's misbehavior.
37. [He/she uses] [I use] physical punishment as a way of disciplining our child.
38. [He/she carries] [I carry] out discipline after our child misbehaves.
39. [He/she apologizes] [I apologize] to our child when making a mistake in parenting.
40. [He/she tells] [I tell] our child what to do.
41. [He/she gives] [I give] into our child when the child causes a commotion about something.

42. [He/she talks it over and reasons] [I talk it over and reason] with our child when the child misbehaves.
43. [He/she slaps] [I slap] our child when the child misbehaves.
44. [He/she disagrees] [I disagree] with our child.
45. [He/she allows] [I allow] our child to interrupt others.
46. [He/she has] [I have] warm and intimate times together with our child.
47. When two children are fighting, [he/she disciplines] [I discipline] children first and asks questions later.
48. [He/she encourages] [I encourage] our child to freely express (himself)(herself) even when disagreeing with us.
49. [He/she bribes] [I bribe] our child with rewards to bring about compliance.
50. [He/she scolds or criticizes] [I scold or criticize] when our child's behavior doesn't meet our expectations.
51. [He/she shows] [I show] respect for our child's opinions by encouraging our child to express them.
52. [He/she sets] [I set] strict well-established rules for our child.
53. [He/she explains] [I explain] to our child how we feel about the child's good and bad behavior.
54. [He/she uses] [I use] threats as punishment with little or no justification.
55. [He/she takes] [I take] into account our child's preferences in making plans for the family.

56. When our child asks why (he)(she) has to conform, [he/she states] [I state]: because I said so, or I am your parent and I want you to.
57. [He/she is] [I am] unsure on how to solve our child's misbehavior.
58. [He/she explains] [I explain] the consequences of the child's behavior.
59. [He/she demands] [I demand] that our child does/do things.
60. [He/she channels] [I channel] our child's misbehavior into a more acceptable activity.
61. [He/she shoves] [I shove] our child when the child is disobedient.
62. [He/she emphasizes] [I emphasize] the reasons for rules.

Appendix E: Permission to Use the Social Networking Addiction Scale

From: Prof. Mohammad Ghazi Shahnawaz (D/o Psychology) <email address redacted>

Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:43 PM

To: Martha Varela-Rios <email address redacted>

Subject: Re: SNAS permission request

Dear Martha, the area of research is looking promising, and which has not been explored much. yes pls use our scale. I am attaching the paper and some other relevant information.

It can be reproduced in your thesis. All the best!

Appendix F: Permission to Use the Social Media Engagement Questionnaire

Andrew Przybylski <email address redacted>

To: Martha Varela-Rios Fri 5/7/2021 10:54 AM

Please do, scale here. <https://osf.io/h4k3g/>

Director of Research

Oxford Internet Institute

University of Oxford

Appendix G: Permission to Use the Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire

Dear Martha,

You are welcome to use the Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) in your research and reproduce it in your dissertation index. Attached are some additional resources for the parenting constructs we have measured that might be useful, including a 2003 chapter that provides the conceptual foundation for the PSDQ that might be helpful for interpretation. How to calculate parenting style dimensions depends on what type of analysis are being conducted (e.g., SEM or traditional statistics).

Attached also are documents showing which items typically go together for each parenting style dimension for the 32-item and 62-item versions of the PSDQ. An additional reference for the 62-item PSDQ is pasted below. The 32-item version contains items that appear to work well based on analyses that we have conducted. There is another 26-item version that seems to work well with Chinese samples (see Wu et al. 2002 attached). The permissiveness scale is eliminated from the Wu et al. 2002 version because permissiveness items do not appear to work as well in Asian cultures. It is uncertain which of the PSDQ measure versions noted above will work best for your sample.

Robinson, C. C., Mandleco, B., Olsen, S. F., & Hart, C. H. (2001). The Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ). In B. F. Perlmutter, J. Touliatos, & G. W. Holden (Eds.), *Handbook of family measurement techniques: Vol. 3. Instruments & index* (pp. 319 - 321). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

We have also used the PSDQ along with other parenting measures as item banks to draw from in adapting measures for addressing specific hypotheses. Attached are several sample articles where we have done so that might be of interest to you. You can also go to my Google Scholar page to see how others are using versions of the PSDQ in their research and where it has already been translated for use in other cultures. Keep in mind that the PSDQ was developed for parents of young children. However, some scholars have found it useful for research with adolescents.

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=KifSD6gAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

I hope that this information about the PSDQ is helpful.

Sincerely,

Craig H. Hart, Ph.D.

Director, BYU Faculty Center

Zina Young Williams Card Professor of Human Development

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah USA 84602

[telephone number redacted]