Answering Questions about Growing Up
Overindulged and Adult Relationships
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Abstract
This study, the fifth in the overindulgence project, focuses on the linkage between childhood overindulgence and adult relationships: relationship locus of control, relationship satisfaction, financial management, and conflict resolution styles. In addition to answering questions concerning these four topics, this study explores the “Relationship Overindulgence Triangle” - the tendency for overindulged children is to be in an adult overindulgent relationship: (1.) Overindulged during childhood, (2.) Overindulges partner, and (3.) Overindulged by partner. 233 participants from thirty-one states and seven other countries were recruited for this study through www.overindulgence.info.

Research Methods
233 participants were recruited for this web-based study, which was accessed at www.overindulgence.info. Participant’s ages ranged from 16-68 with a mean of 34.81, all currently in a relationship (dating, committed dating relationship, engaged, cohabiting, or married). The following measures were used:
• the Miller Marital Locus of Control Scale (revised to say “relationship” and “partner” rather than “marriage” and “spouse”);
• the Index of Marital Satisfaction (modified to be inclusive of all relationship types);
• the Financial Management Scale from PREPARE/Enrich;
• the Conflict Resolution Scale from PREPARE/Enrich; and
• Overindulged (a 16 item overindulgence scale).

Results (n=233)
Is childhood overindulgence correlated with financial management difficulties, relationship locus of control, overindulgence in adult relationships, relationship satisfaction, and conflict resolution in adult life?

* Financial Management Problems r=.160, p=.015 YES
* External Relationship Locus of Control r=.154, p=.019 YES
* Internal Relationship Locus of Control r=.042, NO
* My Partner Overindulges Me r=.241, p=.0001 YES
* I Overindulge my Partner r=.230, p=.0001 YES
* Relationship Satisfaction r= - .020 NO
* Conflict Resolution Difficulties r=.065 NO

To learn more visit: www.overindulgence.info