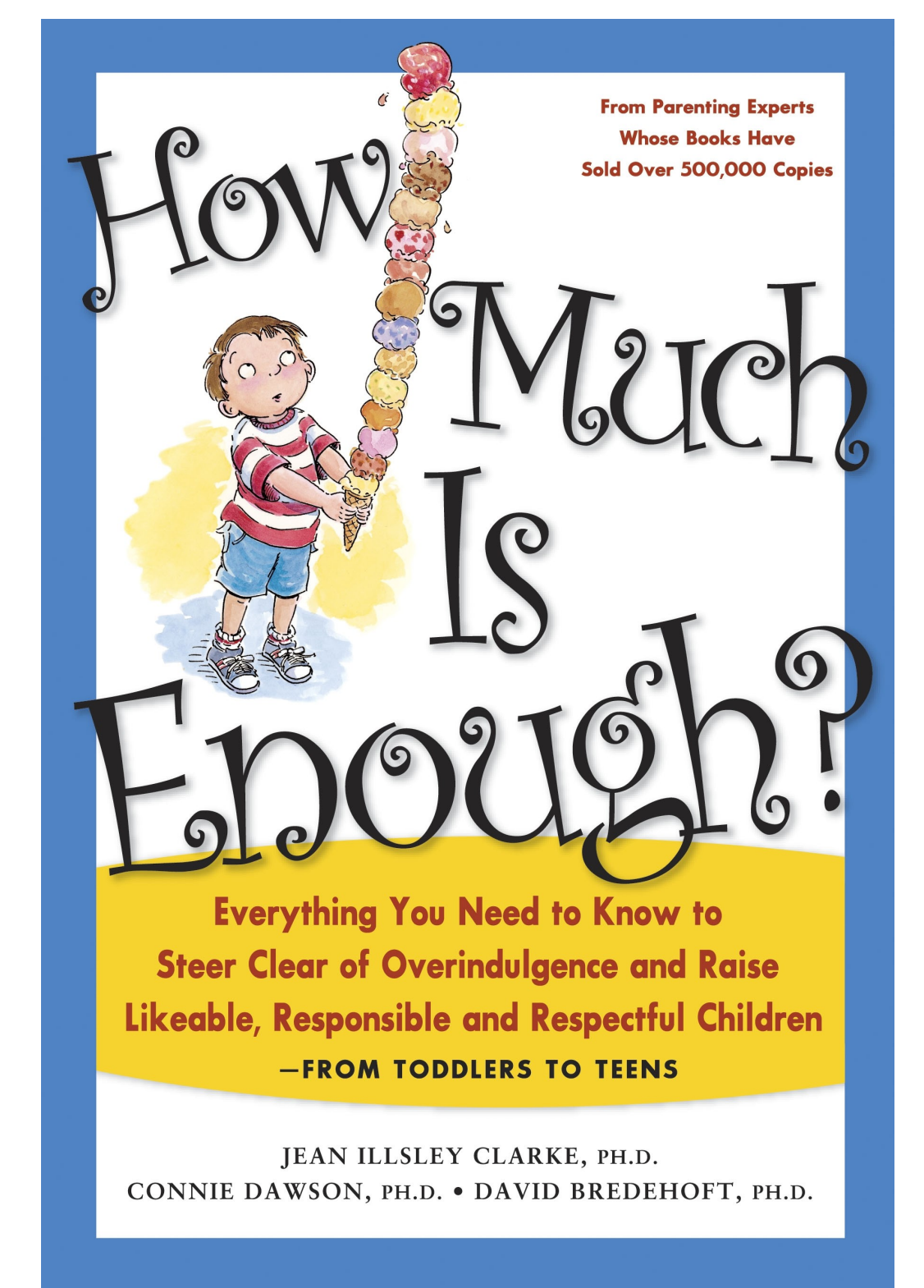


# Answering Questions about Growing Up Overindulged and Adult Relationships

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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](http://www.overindulgence.info).

## Research Methods

233 participants were recruited for this web-based study, which was accessed at [www.overindulgence.info](http://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, cohabitating, or married). The following measures were used:

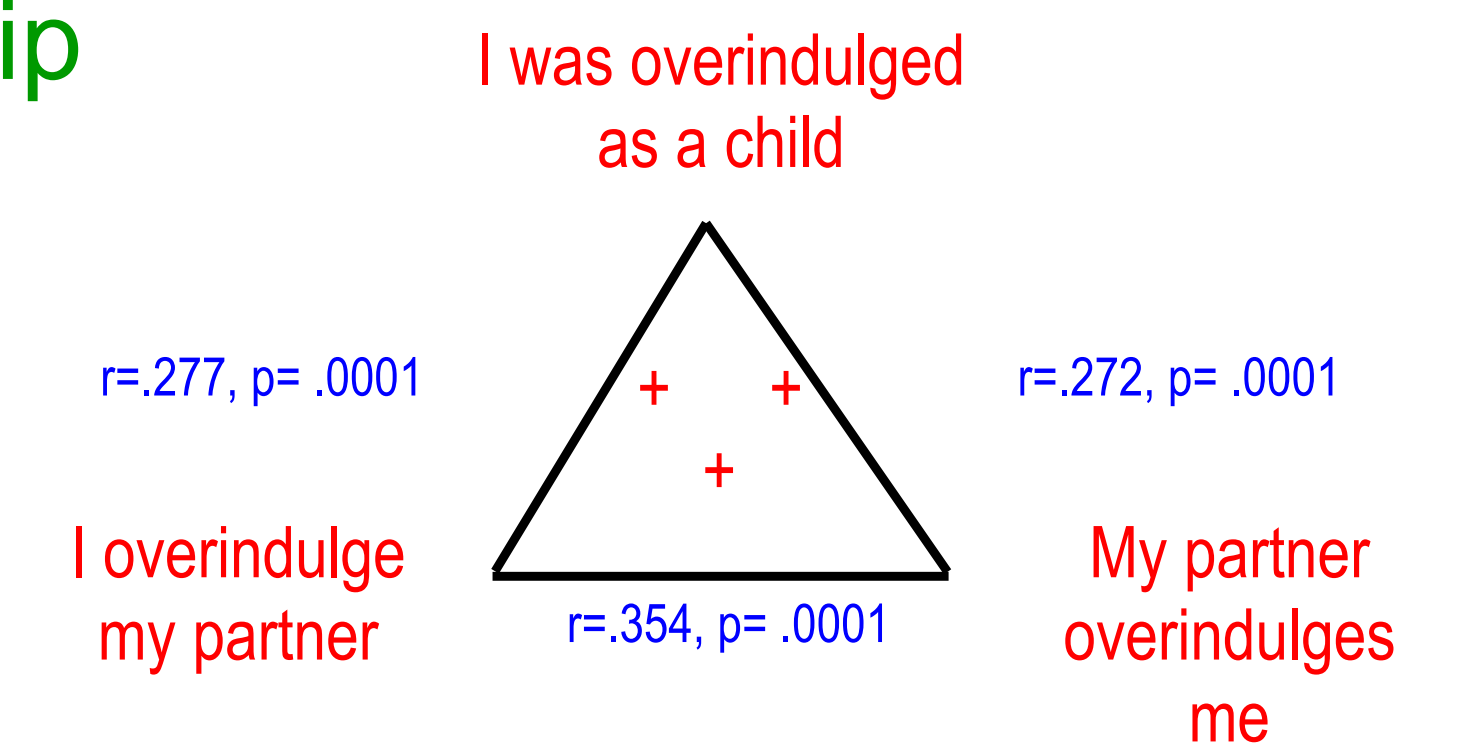
- the **Miller Marital Locus of Control Scale** (revised to say "relationship" and "partner" rather than "marriage" and "spouse");
- the **Index of Marital Satisfaction** (modified to be inclusive of all relationship types);
- the **Financial Management Scale** from PREPARE/Enrich;
- the **Conflict Resolution 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**

## Relationship Overindulgence Triangle



## Sample Characteristics N=233

