

Children *and* Family
Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Level of Child Functionality and Caregiver Report of Physical Assault

International Family Violence and Child
Victimization Research Conference

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Theory

Concerned with disability as a risk factor for future physical abuse

Assumes a linear relationship between disability and maltreatment

- Dependency stress
- Inability to avoid or resist
- Number of caretakers

Possible curvilinear effect?



Purpose

Examine the association between separate continuous measures of functional abilities within specific domains – behavior problems, social skills, daily-living skills, and language development - and the prevalence of both minor and severe physical assault.



Methods

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being - CPS

- Baseline data: 1999
- N=1678; ages 3 to 10 living with biological parent
- Caregiver and Child Interviews

Outcome Variables:

Minor and Severe Physical Assault – CTS-PC

Independent Variables – Standardized Scores:

Behavioral problems

Social skills

Daily-Living skills

Language development scores



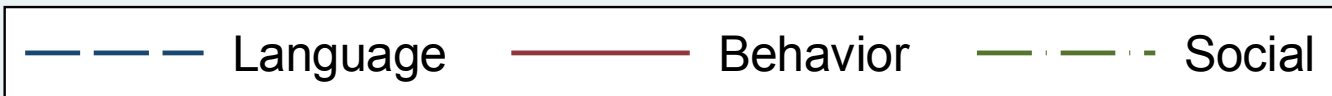
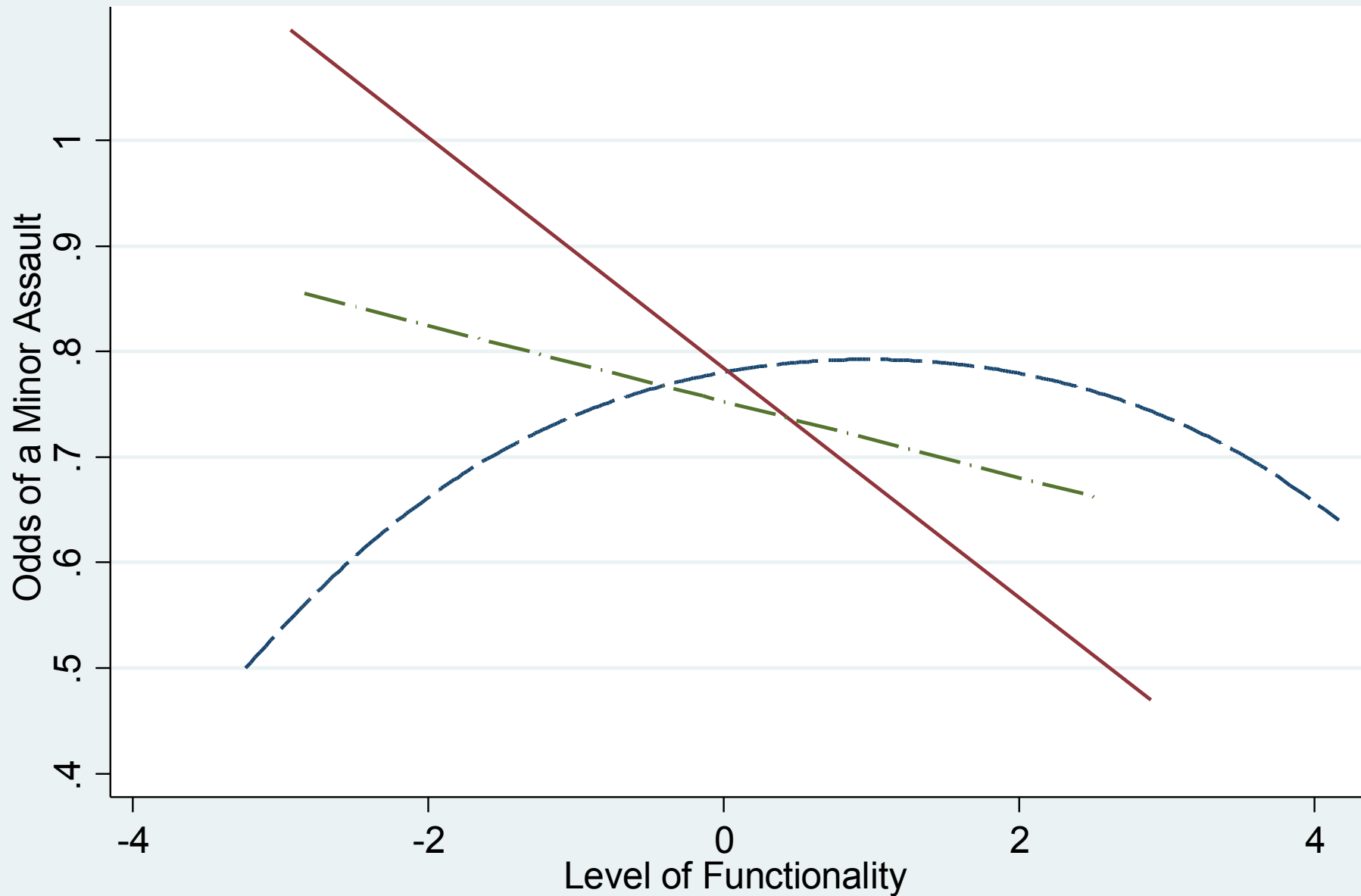
Results

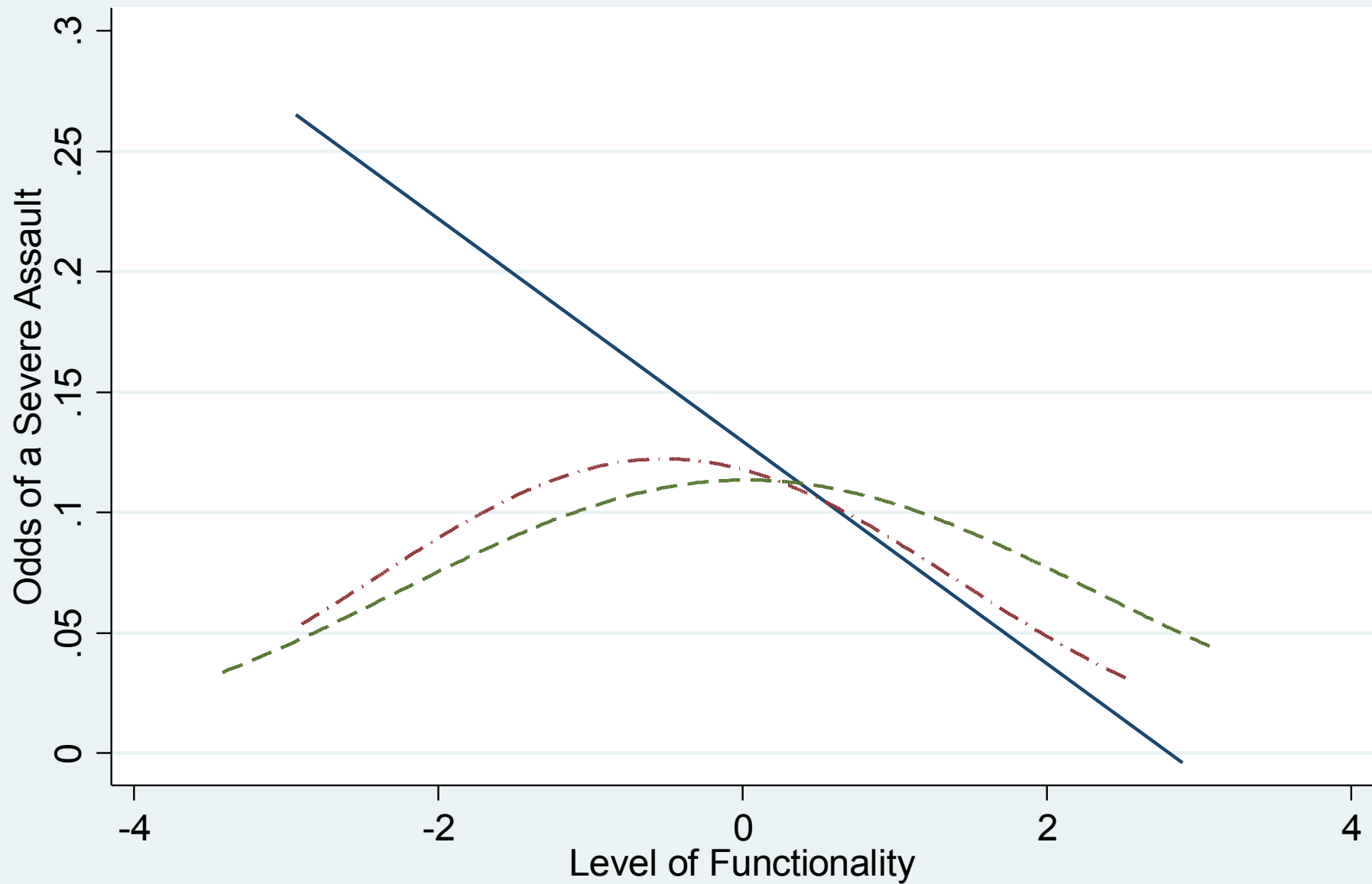
Minor assault: 78%

Severe assault : 9%

Bivariate and multivariate relationships(*)

- Younger age and minor assault
- Older age and severe assault*
- African-American and minor assault*
- African-American and Hispanic and severe assault*
- Poor parental health and severe assault







Conclusion

The relationship between disability and physical abuse depends on type of functionality domain (behavioral, social, daily-living, or language), child's level of ability, and severity of physical assault.

Linear:

- Behavior problems and minor assault
- Social skills and minor assault
- Behavior problems and severe assault

Curvilinear:

- Language development and minor assault
- Social skills and severe assault
- Daily-living skills and severe assault

Possible explanations and Implications?



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