

PARENTAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DURING EMERGING ADULTHOOD: A SERVICE OR A DISSERVICE FOR EMERGING ADULTS PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING?

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Background

Emerging adults (and their parents) consider reaching financial self-reliance an essential milestone on the road to adulthood (Arnett, 2014).

It is also known that parental financial assistance during emerging adulthood may shape EA's wellbeing and development:

In positive ways:	In negative ways:
Parental financial support may serve as a protective factor that safeguards emerging adults from the experiences of economic strain (Cobb-Clark & Gørgens, 2014).	Prolonged parental financial support may reduce EAs self-efficacy (Mortimer et al., 2016).
Earlier decrease of family financial support is linked with higher levels of financial insecurity later in their lives and vice versa (Bea & Yi, 2019).	Prolonged parental financial support may increase emerging adults' negative affectivity and reduce self-esteem (Johnson, 2013).

Goal

In this study we sought to:

- Uncover different types of parental financial assistance profiles based on the indicators of direct and indirect financial support, proportion of income coming from parental support, and perceived financial independence.
- Investigate how emerging adults, characterized by different type of parental financial support, differ in terms of parenting characteristics and psychological ill- and well-being.
- Investigate the indirect effect of type of parental financial support on negative affectivity and thriving via the need-supportive and need-thwarting parenting.

Sample and sampling strategy

Exactly **600 Lithuanian emerging adults** ($M_{\text{age}} = 24.94$, $SD_{\text{age}} = 3.03$, range 19–29 years; 52.3% women) **took part in the study**.

All participants were recruited from an online survey panel at random, using a controlled quota sampling strategy

In line with the quotas established before the study:

- precisely 300 participants were 19-24-year-olds and 300 were 25-29-year-olds;
- the distribution of occupational status within each age subgroup was identical to that of the Lithuanian EA population

11 participants did not respond to parenting measures and were excluded from analysis

Measures

Parental financial assistance

Direct support: „...how much money do you get from your parents every month?“

Indirect support: Who covers various life expenses? E.g., Clothing

Relative income: “How much of your income comes from parental support?“

Subjective financial dependence: „How economically dependent are you on your parents?“

Need-supportive and need-thwarting parenting (SDT approach)

Interpersonal Behaviors Questionnaire (Rocchi et al., 2017) adapted to parenting.

Two global dimensions of **need-supportive parenting** (12 items; $\alpha = .91$) and **need-thwarting parenting** (12 items; $\alpha = .93$) were constructed and used for this study.

Negative affectivity

Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale (12 items; $\alpha = .91$; Antony et al., 1998)

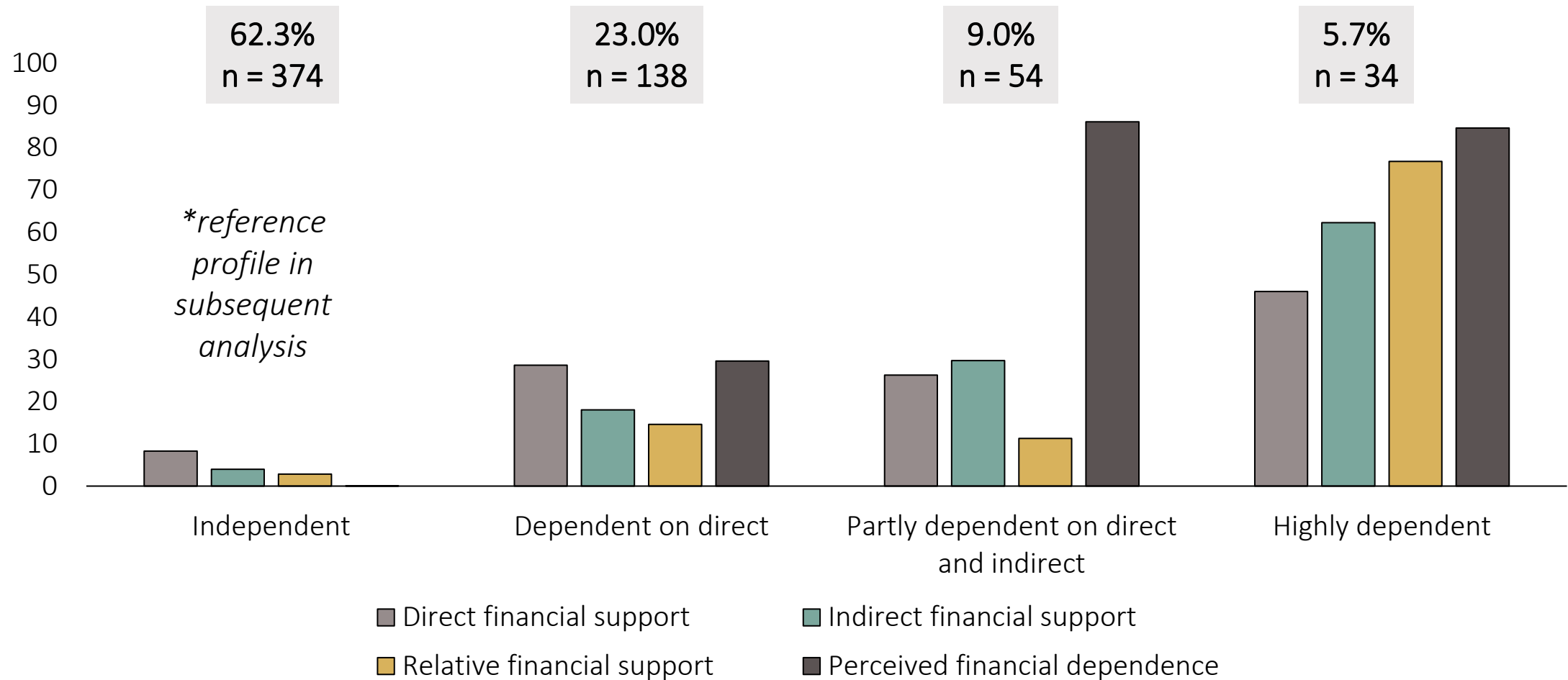
Thriving

Brief Inventory of Thriving (10 items; $\alpha = .93$; Su et al., 2014)

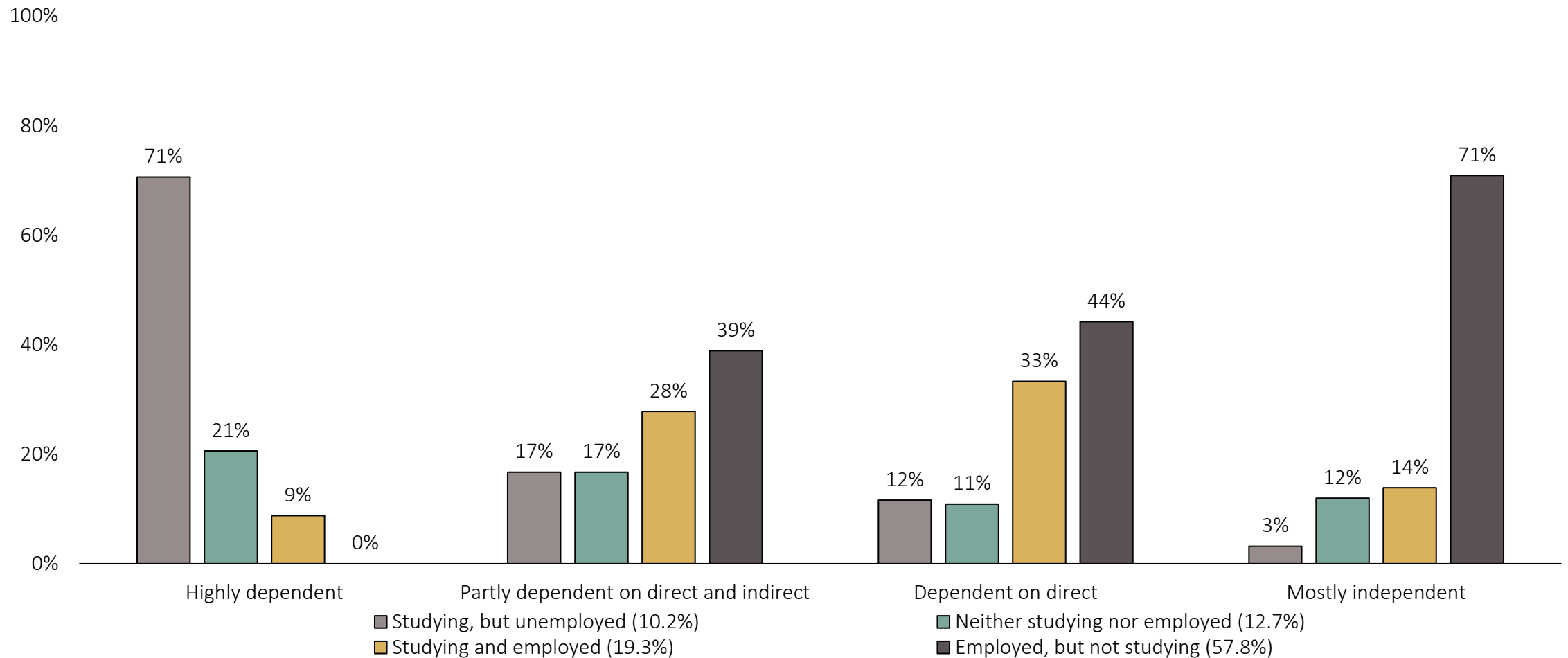
Latent profile analysis results

MODEL:	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
	<i>1 Profile</i>	<i>2 Profiles</i>	<i>3 Profiles</i>	<i>4 Profiles</i>	<i>5 Profiles</i>	<i>6 Profiles</i>	<i>7 Profiles</i>	<i>8 Profiles</i>	<i>9 Profiles</i>
#parameters	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48
Log-likelihood	-11054,92	-10524,00	-10284,35	-10128,88	-9986,10	-9901,396	-9834,77	-9703,01	-9690,02
Scaling factor	1,99	1,93	2,02	2,25	2,37	2,79	2,41	2,18	2,31
BIC	22161	21131	20684	20405	20151	20014	19913	19681	19687
AWE	22236	21253	20853	20621	20414	20324	20270	20085	20138
CAIC	22169	21144	20702	20428	20179	20047	19951	19724	19735
Entropy	1,000	0,984	0,987	0,99	0,998	0,997	0,995	0,98	1,00
LMR-LRT		1029,648	464,776	301,509	276,895	160,632	129,217	126,545	25,611
p		0	0,000	0,031	0,205	0,677	0,031	0,129	0,590

Profiles of parental financial assistance (PFA) and their characteristics

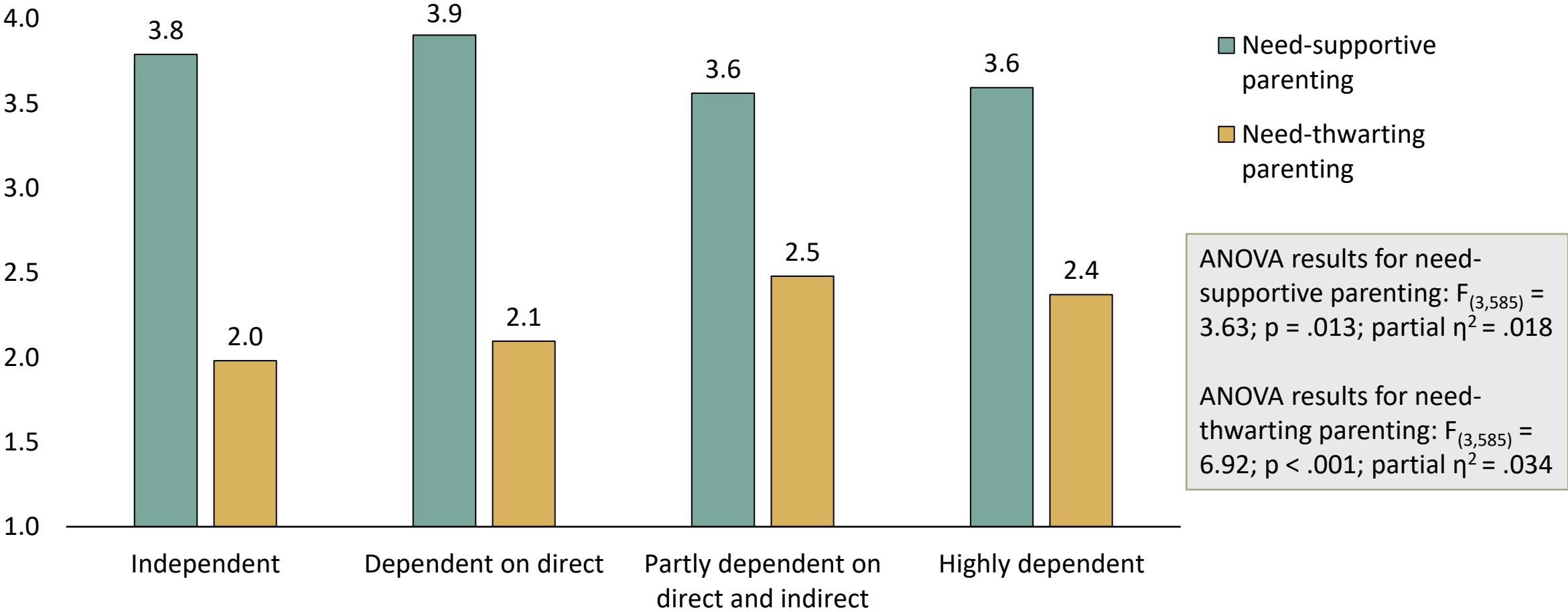


Associations with occupational status

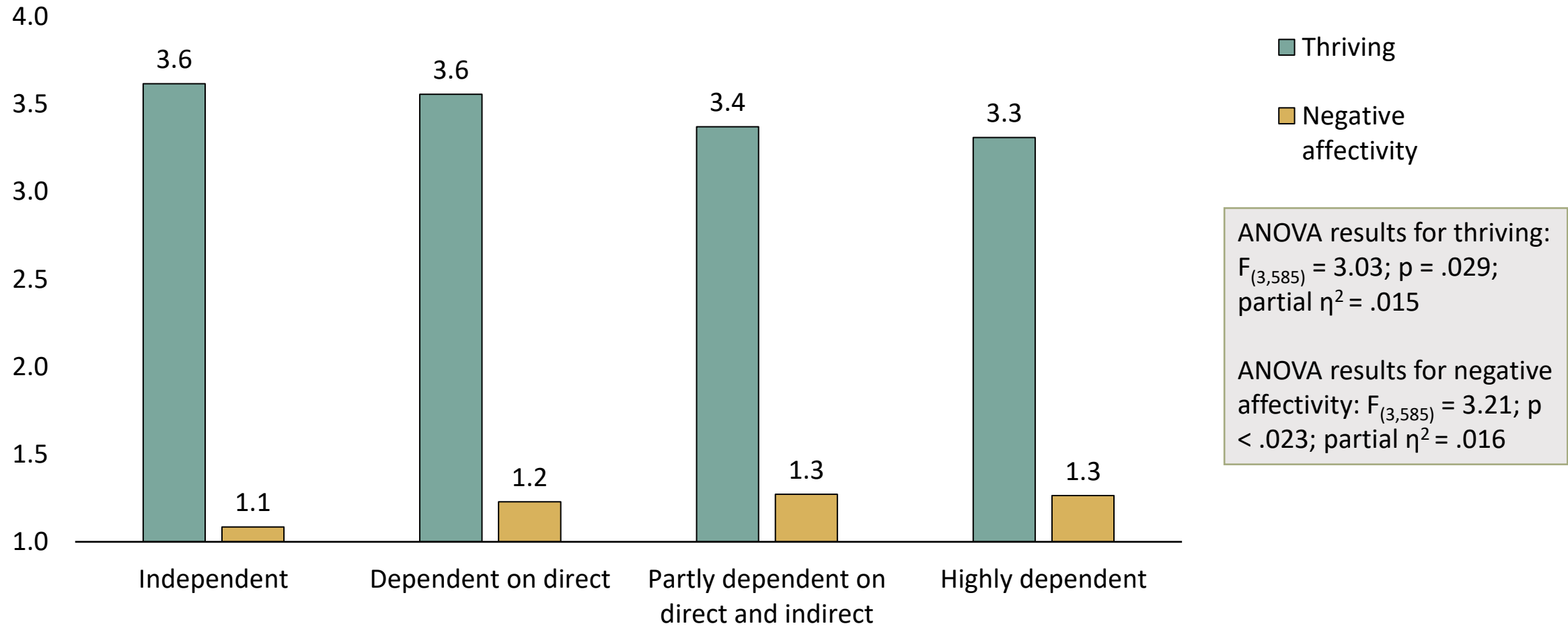


Strong associations between profiles of reliance on parental financial support and occupational status were found:
 Cramer's $V = .339$; $\chi^2 = 207.301$; $df = 9$; $p < .001$

Levels of perceived need-supportive and need-thwarting parenting across the four profiles



Levels of well- and ill-being across the four profiles



Analysis of direct and indirect effects

Antecedent variable: 4 profiles, dummy coded (3 variables) using “independent” profiles as a reference group

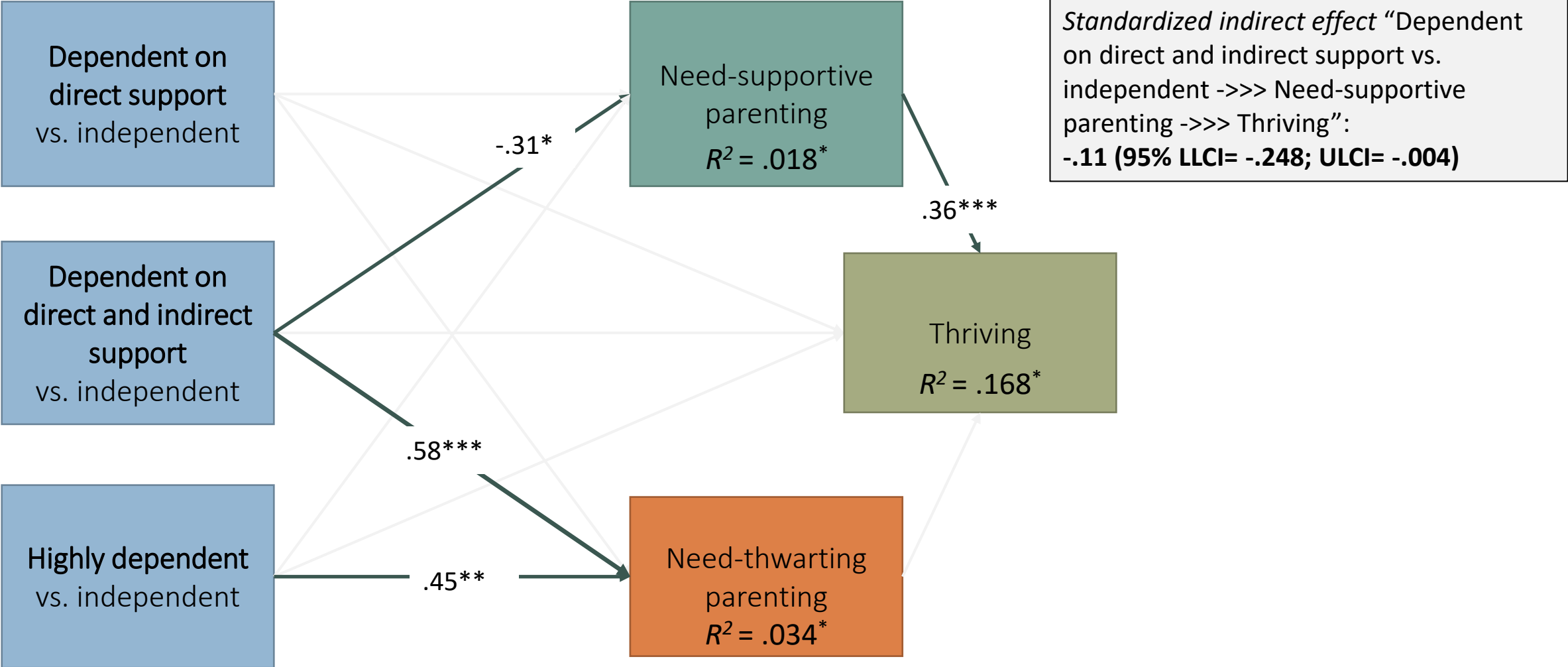
Mediating variables: Need-supportive and need-thwarting parenting

Outcome: Negative affectivity and Thriving (two separate models for each outcome)

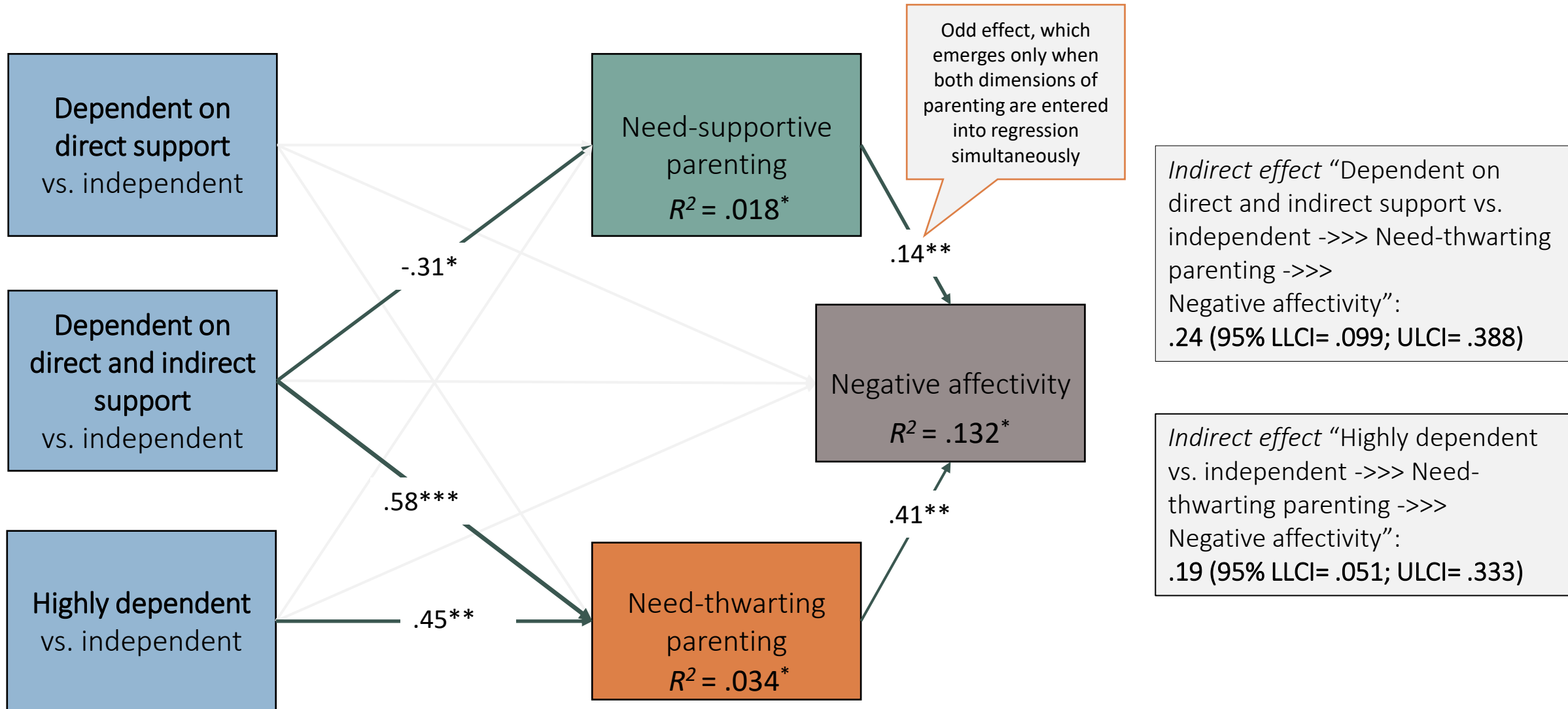
Inference of indirect effects: Bootstrapped Confidence Intervals (B = 5000)

Tool: PROCESS v.4 macro in SPSS

Results for thriving



Results for negative affectivity



Summary of findings and implications

- Future studies should consider different type of parental financial support.
- Financial support is associated with need-supportive and need-thwarting parenting, as well as with negative affectivity and thriving. However, our findings indicate that this effect is not particularly strong. The actual parenting was more strongly associated with well- and ill-being than the levels of financial support.
- Negative affectivity and thriving are more strongly linked to parenting than to financial support.
- Parenting differences across those who are more or less dependent on parental financial support may explain the effects of financial support on well-being