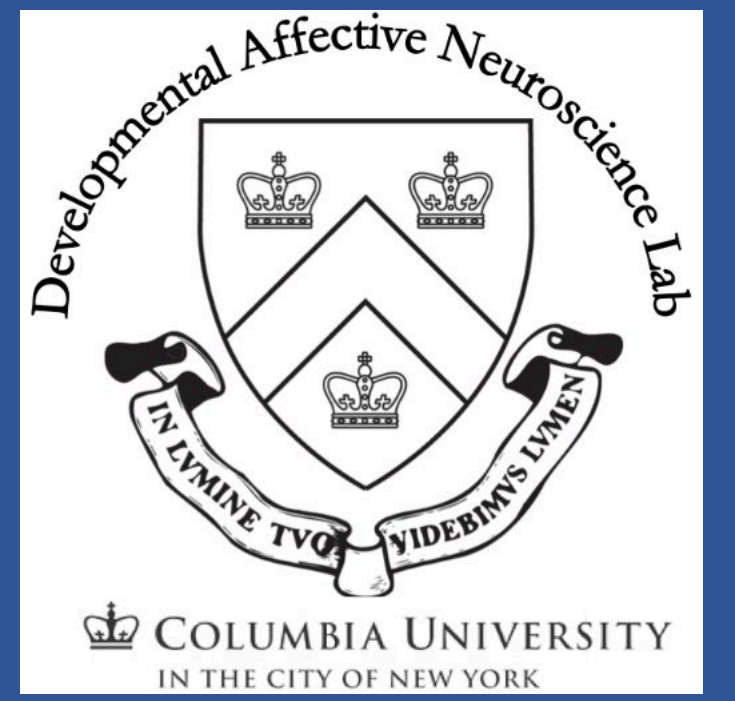




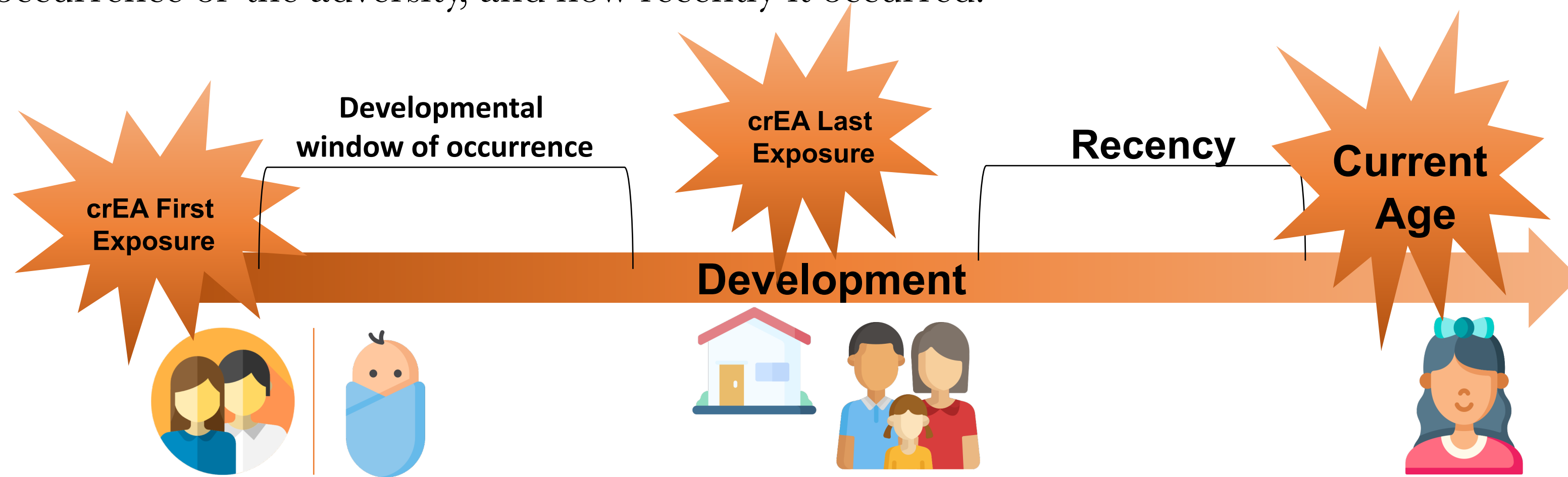
Impact of Early Caregiving Adversity Timing on Later Life Anxiety Symptoms in Children

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Introduction

- Children who experience early life adversities, such as abuse, neglect, and institutionalization have an increased risk for developing later childhood psychopathology, including anxiety (Harpur, Polek, & van Harmelen, 2015).
- A subcategory of early life adversity is caregiving related early adversities, or crEAs. These adversities include adoption, disrupted caregiving, and institutionalization.
- Researchers have found that the developmental **timing** of such adversities have significant effects on later life psychopathological outcomes (Dunn, McLaughlin, Slopen, Rosand, & Smoller, 2013). These timing variables include the age of first exposure to the adverse event, the developmental window of occurrence of the adversity, and how recently it occurred.



- Little is known about the effects of timing of **caregiving related early adversities** on **later childhood** psychopathology.

Objective: To examine the relationship between various timing variables of crEA and anxiety symptoms in children.

Methods and Materials

Participants

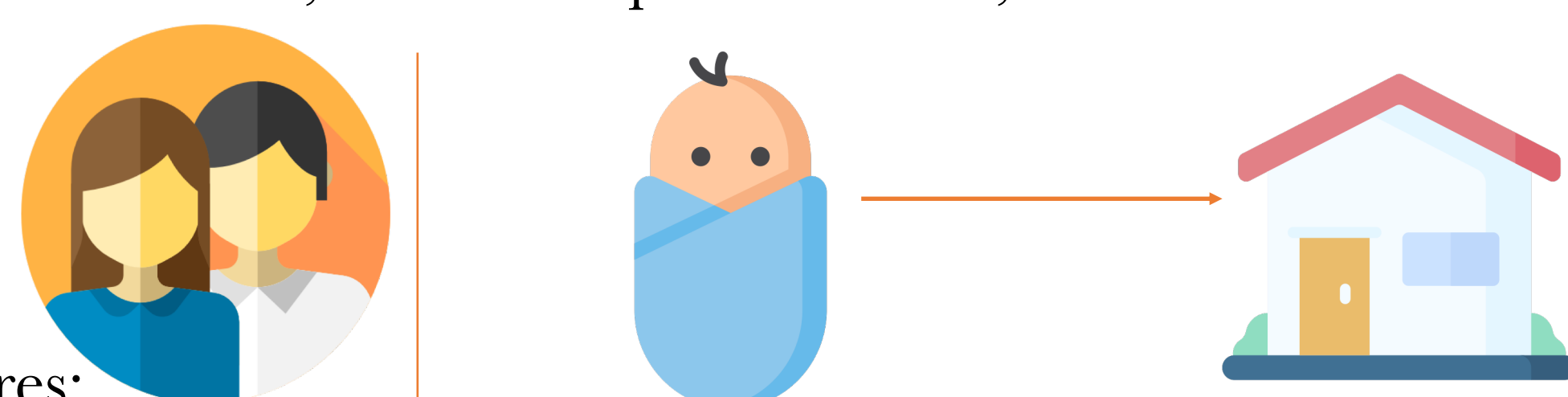
- Recruited for a longitudinal study of neurobehavioral development
- n = 255
- Ages 6-13 at baseline
- 136 females, 119 males
- Race: 10.5% Asian; 28.2% Black; 32.2% Caucasian; 11.3% Hispanic/Latinx; 17.6% other

Measures

- Caregiving-related early adversity measures:
 - Traumatic Events Screening Inventory- Parent Report
 - Caregiving History Interview
 - Maternal Maltreatment Classification Interview
- Anxiety: Revised Children's Anxiety and Depression Scale (RCADS) – total anxiety subscale

Methods

- Linear regression models were estimated for each timing variable:
 - Independent variables:
 - crEA age of first exposure
 - crEA developmental window of occurrence
 - crEA recency
 - Dependent variable: RCADS total anxiety score
 - Covariates: age, gender, and cumulative crEA score



Results

Results of the linear regression models indicate:

- crEA age of first exposure did not significantly predict anxiety ($B = -0.02 (0.02)$, $\beta = -0.05$, $p = .42$)
- A **significant positive effect** between crEA developmental window of occurrence and anxiety ($B = 0.05 (0.01)$, $\beta = 0.21$, $p = .003$)
- A **significant negative effect** between crEA recency and anxiety ($B = -0.05 (0.02)$, $\beta = 0.16$, $p = .01$) (Results shown in Figures 2-4).

Figure 1:

Correlation showing Pearson's r for crEA timing Matrix and anxiety data:

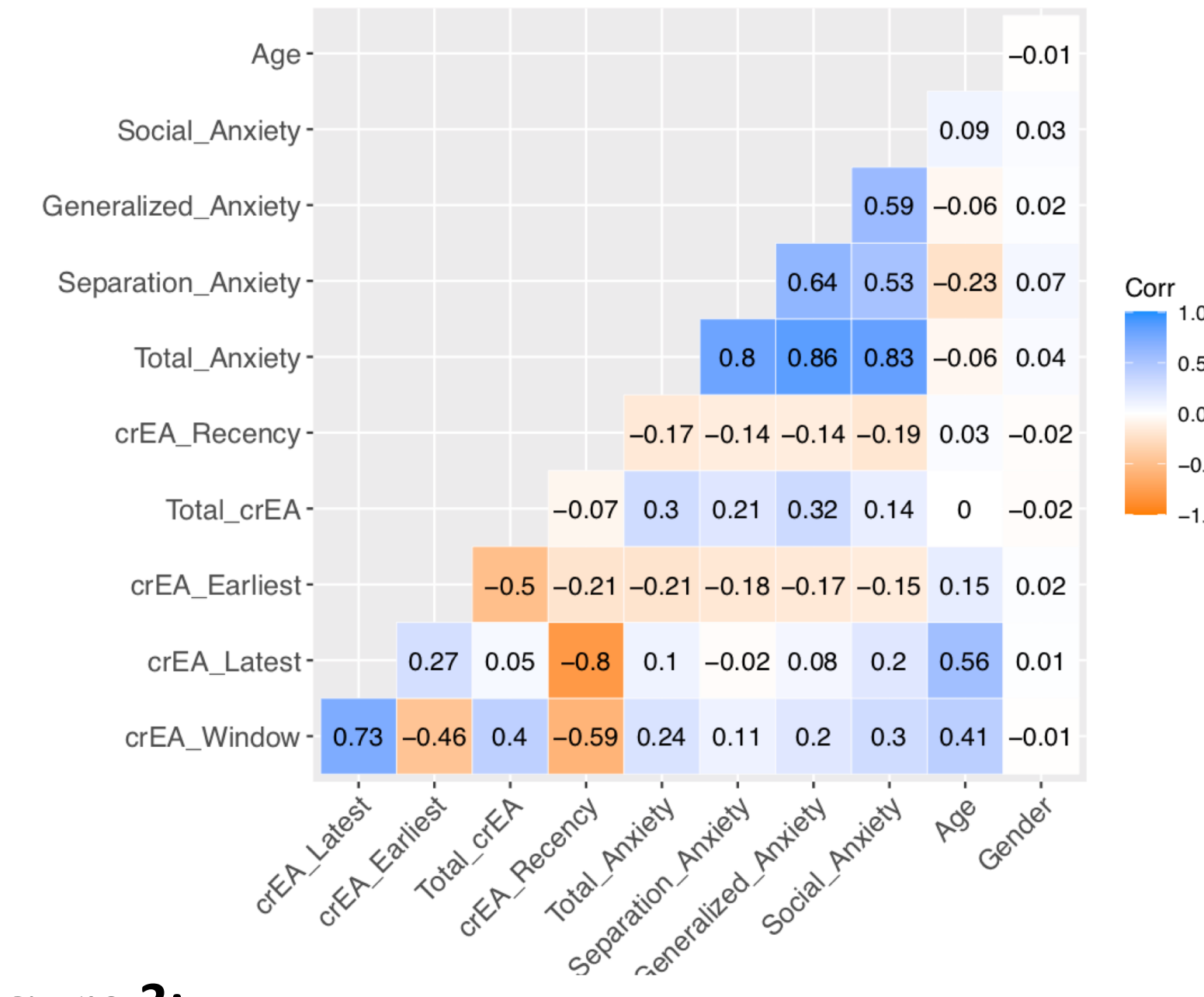


Figure 2:

crEA Age of First Exposure and Anxiety

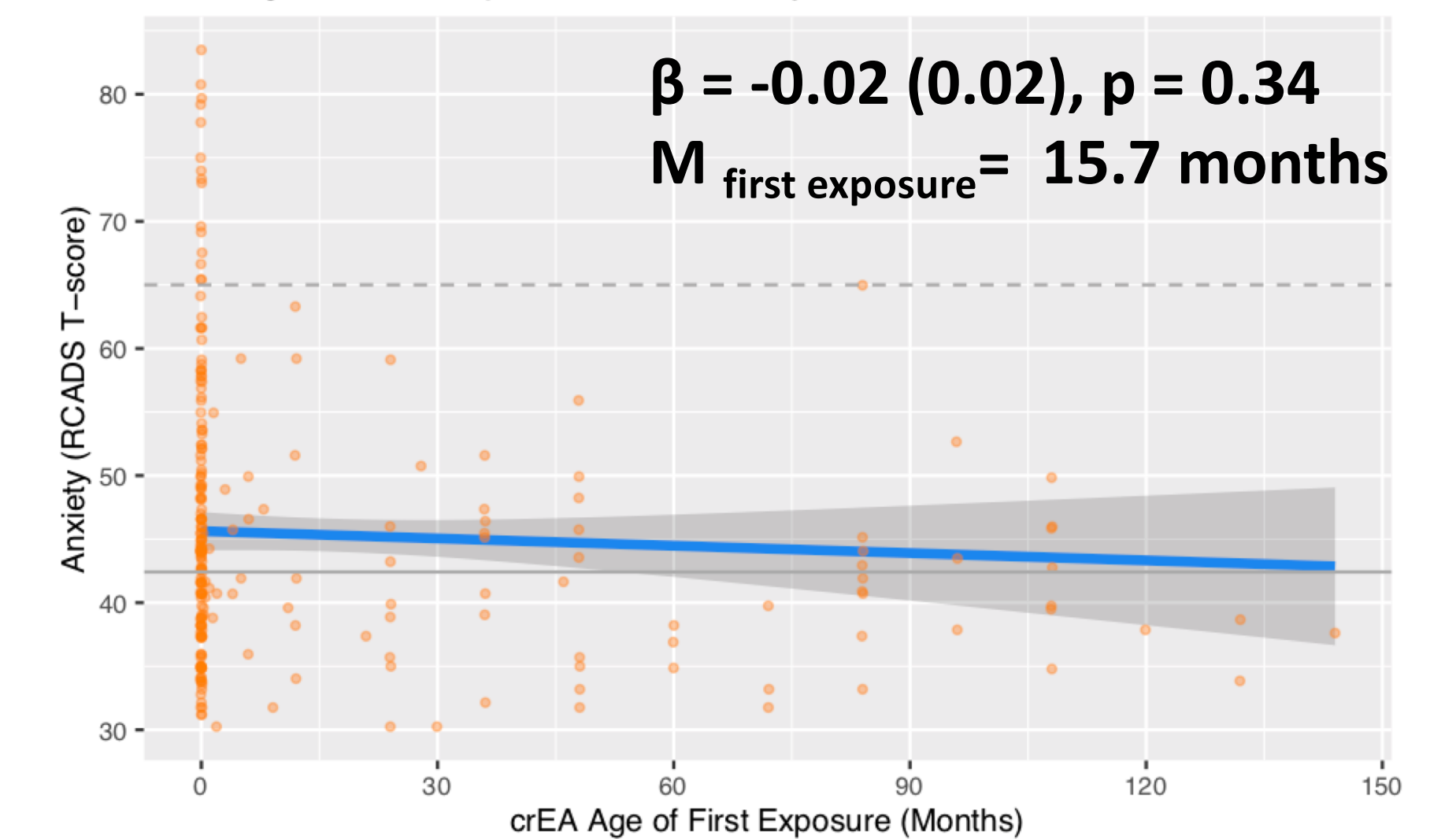


Figure 3:

crEA Developmental Window of Occurrence and Anxiety

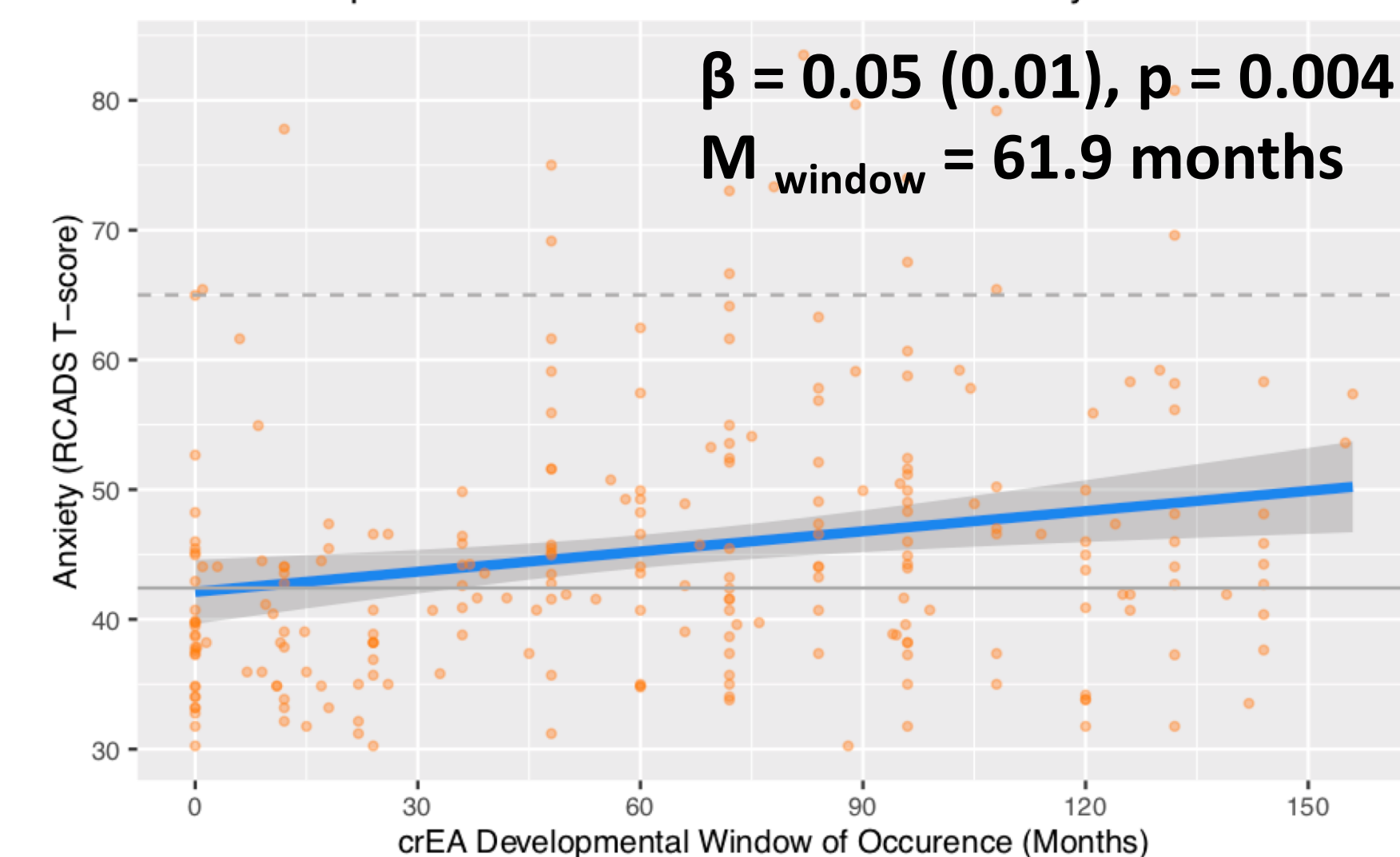
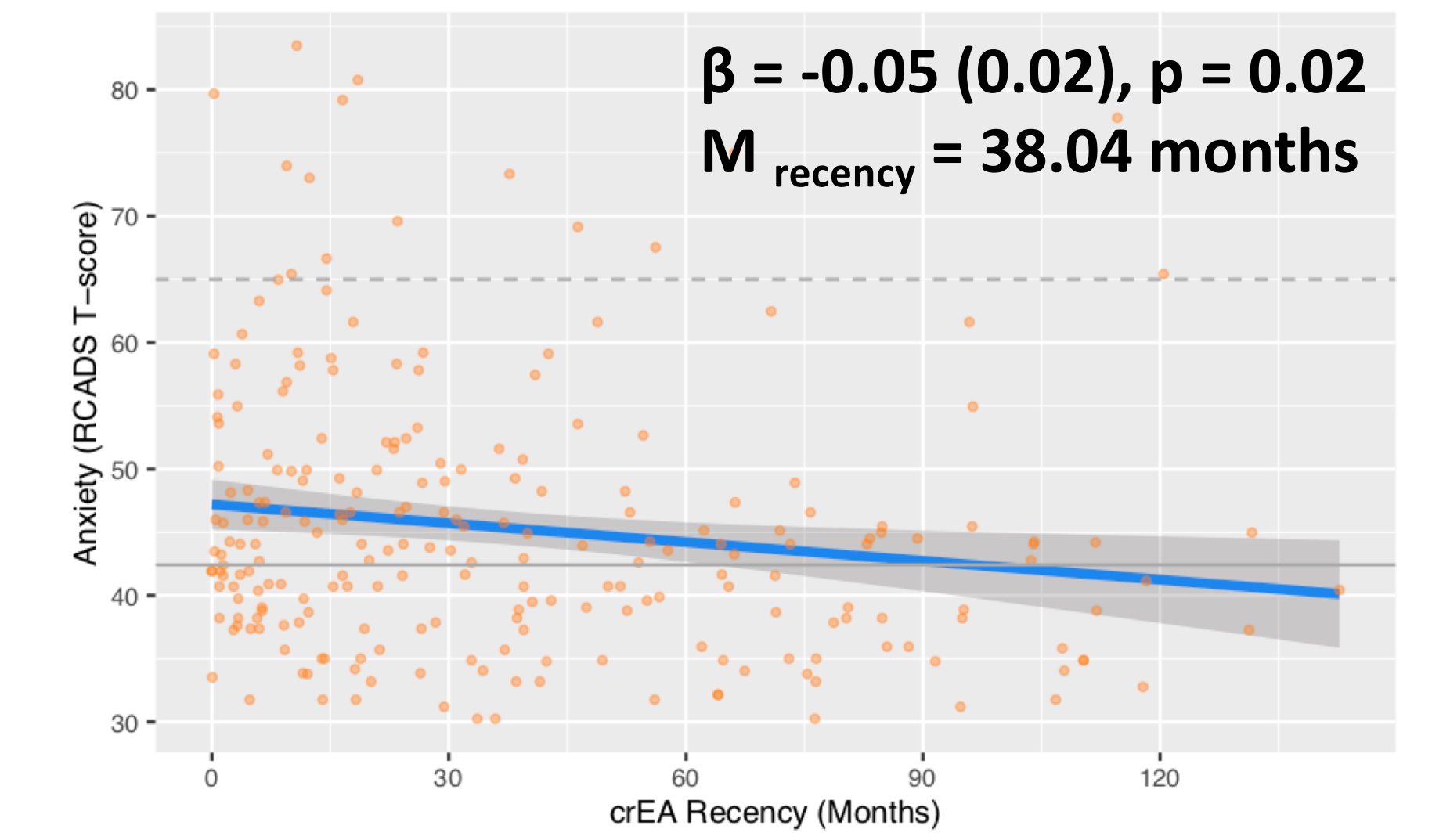


Figure 4:

crEA Recency and Anxiety



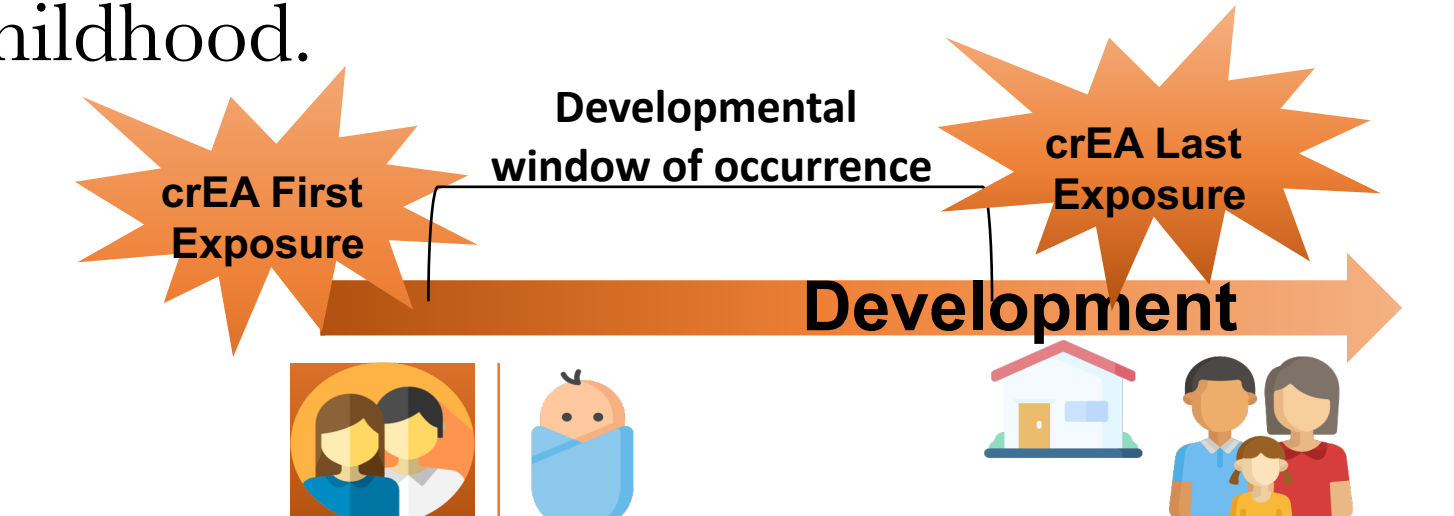
*Solid horizontal lines represent the mean anxiety of youth without crEAs (42.4).

**Dashed horizontal lines represent the clinical cutoff for the RCADS total score (T = 65).

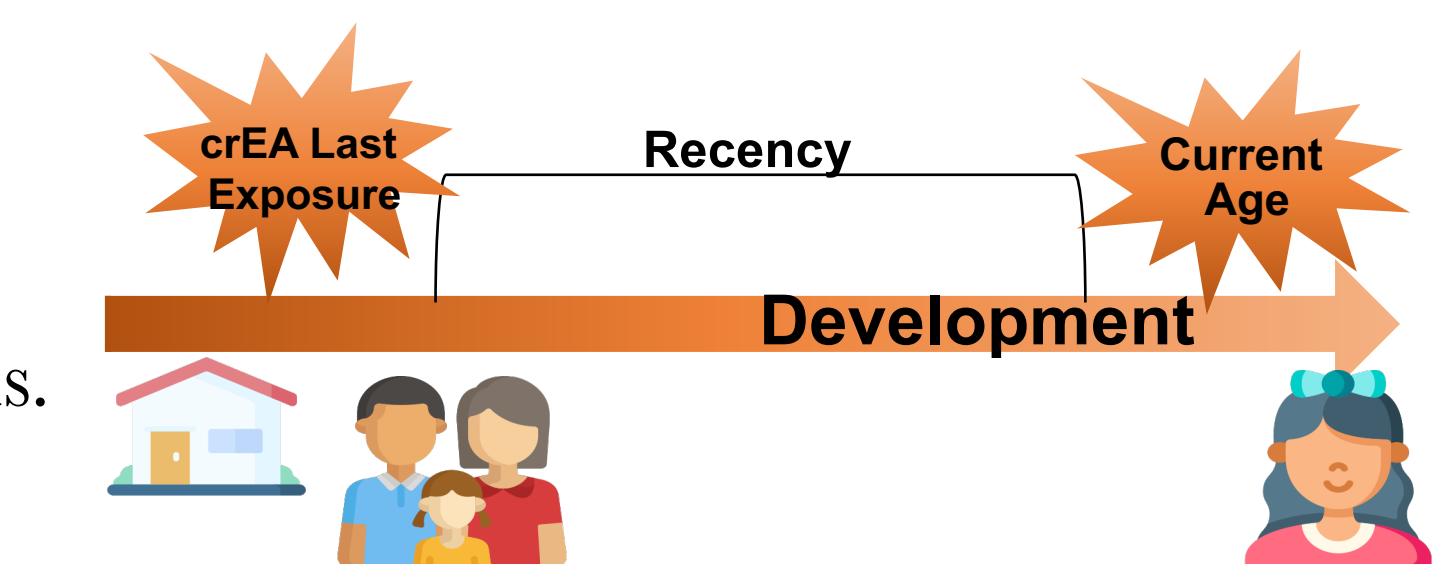
Discussion

- This study indicates that the developmental window of occurrence and recency of caregiving related early adversity (crEA) predict anxiety symptoms in later childhood.

- Longer developmental windows of occurrence of crEAs are associated with higher anxiety symptoms later in childhood.



- Children with **more recent** crEA experiences have an increased risk for higher anxiety symptoms.



- Future research should study the moderating effects of specific types of caregiving related early adversity, such as abuse, neglect, disrupted caregiving, and institutionalization, on later life anxiety.

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- Harpur, L., Polek, E., & Van Harmelen, A. (2015). The role of timing of maltreatment and child intelligence in pathways to low symptoms of depression and anxiety in adolescence. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 47, 24-37. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.05.019