

Implications of Poverty for Prevention

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Outline

- 1. Poverty as a Factor in Developmental and Behavioral Outcomes.**
- 2. Interventions Designed to Address Poverty: Impacts and Cost Effectiveness.**
- 3. Gaps in the Existing Research.**
- 4. Potential Policy and Other Recommendations
...based on evidence.**

1. Poverty as a Factor in Developmental and Behavioral Outcomes.

- (a)** What is poverty? (Aber, Jones & Raver 2007; Gershoff, Aber & Raver, 2003)
- (b)** Is it poverty or its poverty-related correlates? (Gershoff, Aber & Raver, 2007; Mayer, 1997)
- (c)** Is the influence truly “causal”? (Morris and Gennetian, 2003; Costello et al., 2003)

Dimensions of Poverty

§ Absolute Income Poverty

§ Relative Income Poverty

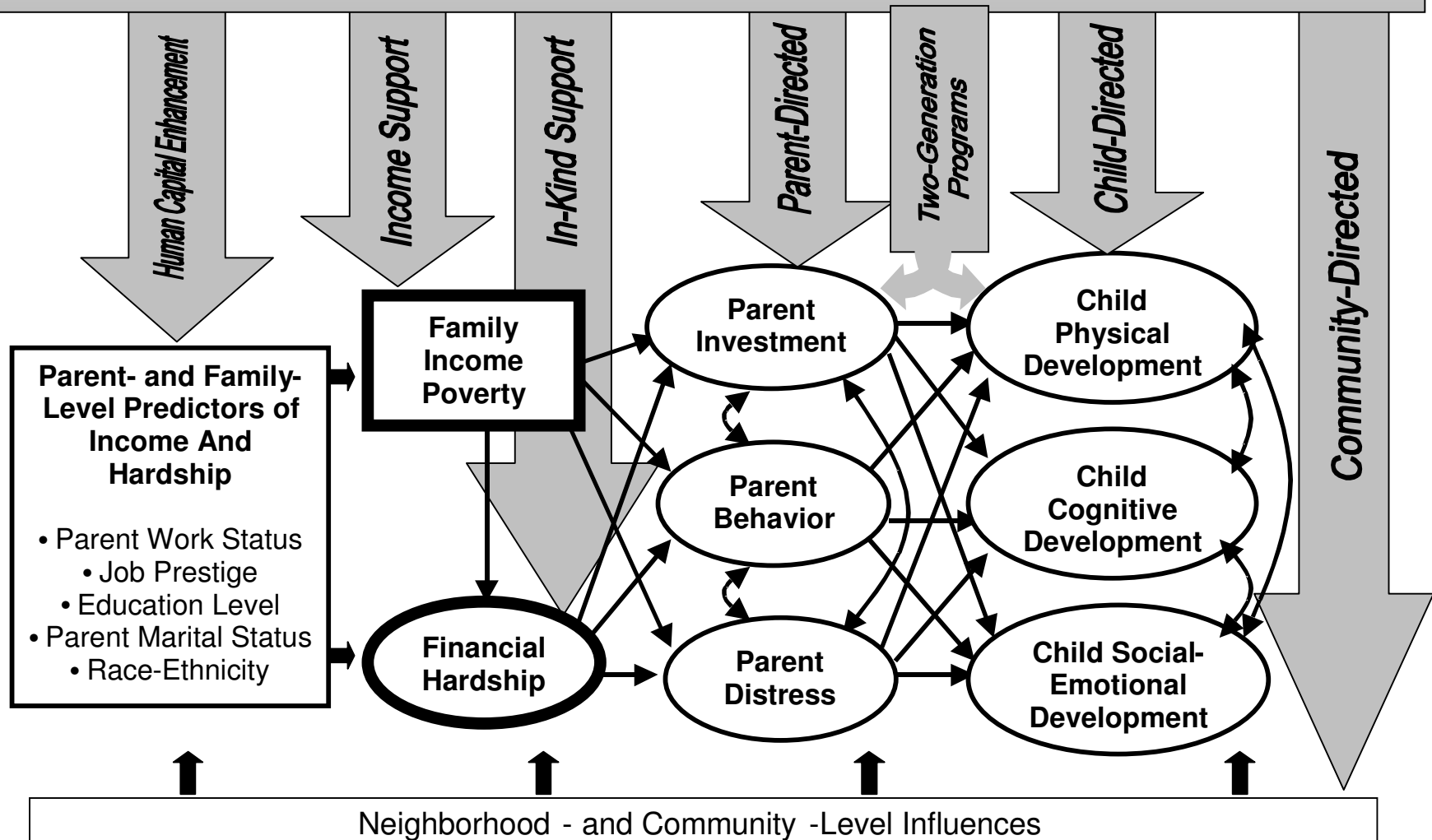
§ Subjective Income Poverty

§ Material Deprivation

§ $\text{Assets} - \text{debts} = \text{wealth}$

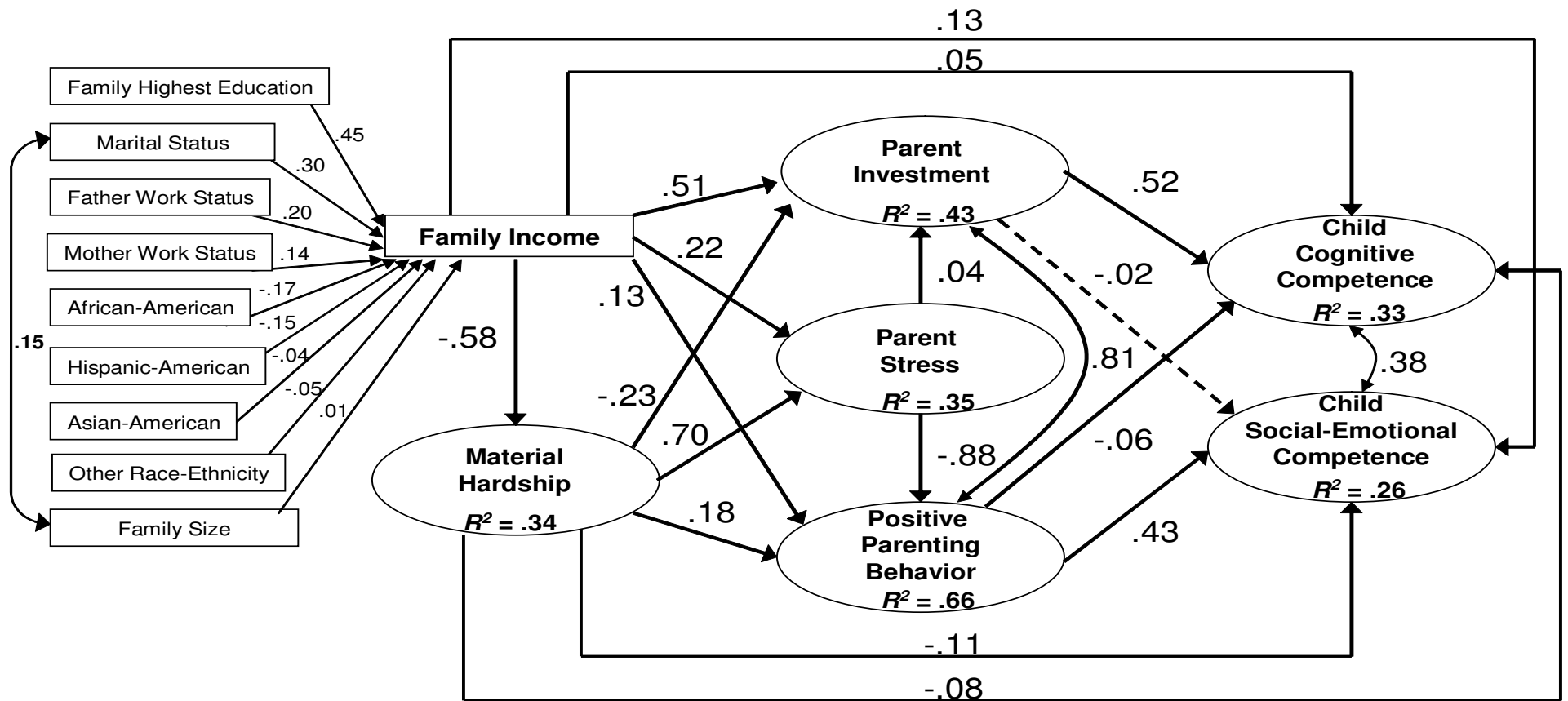
Heuristic Model

Federal-, State-, and Community -Level Policy and Program Interventions



From: Gershoff, E.T., Aber, J.L., Raver, C.C. (2003). Child poverty in the United States: An evidence-based conceptual framework for programs and policies. In F. Jacobs, D. Wertlieb, & R.M. Lerner (Eds.), *Handbook of Applied Developmental Science: Promoting positive child, adolescent, and family development through research, policies, and programs. Vol. 2* (pp.81-136). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Figure 2.



CFI = .972, RMSEA = .066, AIC = 41,714.76, $\chi^2(445) = 41,484.76$

Note. Standardized paths are shown; all paths are significant at at least $p < .05$ except for the dashed path which was not significant.

2. Interventions Designed to Address Poverty.

- (a) Cross-national comparative studies.**
- (b) Cross-state comparative studies.**
- (c) Experimental studies.**
- (d) Studies currently in the field.**

2a. Cross-national Comparative Studies

- § Whiteford and Adema, 2007.
- § Garfinkel, Rainwater & Smeeding, 2005.
- § Bradshaw and Finch, 2002

2b. Cross-state Comparative Studies

- § Meyers, Gornick & Peck, 2001
- § Lu, Aratani & Aber, under review

2c. Experimental Studies

- § Welfare Reform and the Next Generation Project (U.S.)
- § Employment, Retention and Advancement (U.K)
- § Conditional Cash Transfers (World Bank and 20+ countries)

2d. Studies Currently in the Field

- § Holistic CCT (NYC)
- § Housing-based CCT (NYC)
- § Cash incentives in education, health, etc.

3. Gaps in Existing Research

- (a) Improving external validity/
generalizability of true experiments.**
- (b) Improve internal validity/causal
inferences of non-experiments.**
- (c) Shedding light on treatment effect
variability.**
- (d) Specifying and designing tests of
causal mechanisms.**

4. Potential Policy Implications

- (a)** Toward Evidence-based policy.
- (b)** Looking beyond our national borders.
- (c)** How to increase the use of research by policymakers?
- (d)** Promising directions.

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