Callous-unemotional traits predict fewer social motivations for prosocial behavior in children.

Background
- Callous-unemotional (CU) traits (i.e., low empathy, guilt, & prosociality) predict severe conduct problems (CP)
- Prosocial behavior includes different subtypes (instrumental helping, comforting)
- Prosocial motivations can be self-oriented (social or non-social) or other-oriented
- Not known whether CU traits are related to different prosocial subtypes or motivations

Study Aims
1. Validate a task assessing children’s prosocial behavior and motivations
2. Assess prosocial behavior and motivations in association with CU traits

Methods
Newly-developed ECHO task:
1. What is happening in the picture?
2. What would you do if you were with them?
3. What would happen after that?

- ECHO responses coded for recognition of need, helping offers, subtype, and motivation
- CU traits, CP, prosocial behavior, and empathy assessed via parent report
- N=58 (M_age= 71.95 months, SD_age= 6.08; 67.2 % female)

Table 1: Correlations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
<th>Help Offers</th>
<th>Prosociality</th>
<th>Empathy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CU Traits</td>
<td>.046</td>
<td>-.317*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>.038</td>
<td>.056</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>-.807</td>
<td>.056</td>
<td>-.348**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>.062</td>
<td>.343*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. R^2 = .308; Gender (.5 = female, .5 = male)
* indicates p < .05.

Table 2: Linear Regression for Social Self-Oriented Motivations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>SE B</th>
<th>f</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CU Traits</td>
<td>-.046</td>
<td>.020</td>
<td>-317*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>.038</td>
<td>.090</td>
<td>.056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>-.807</td>
<td>.300</td>
<td>-348**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>.062</td>
<td>.023</td>
<td>.343*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aim 1:
- Validated task: ECHO scores correlate with parent-report prosocial behavior & empathy

Aim 2:
- CU traits unrelated to number of instrumental or comforting offers of help
- Higher levels of CU traits uniquely predicted fewer social self-oriented motivations

Results

Conclusion
- Diminished prosocial behavior in children with CU traits may be a result of reduced social affiliation, providing a key target for future research and intervention development

Acknowledgements
This research was funded by the Millstein Family Undergraduate Research Grant from the College Alumni Society and The University of Pennsylvania’s Social and Behavioral Science Initiative, a subsidiary of mindCORE. Thank you to my P.I., Dr. Rebecca Waller, and the team at the EDEN lab.