**Introduction**

- With the increasing number of children not meeting the daily recommended level of physical activity (Borrud et al., 2014), examining factors associated with physical activity is important.
- Social control (SC) is a regulatory type of social influence where one individual prompts or persuades another to perform a desired behavior (Lewis & Butterfield, 2005).
- Use of SC by parents has been linked to increases in physical activity (Wilson & Spink, 2011; Wilson et al., 2010).
- Both parent report (Wilson et al., 2010) and child report (Wilson & Spink, 2010) of SC have been used.
- For family support, parent and child ratings showed similarities but also some discordance (Barr-Anderson et al., 2010).
- However, similarities in the parent and child report of SC have yet to be explored.
- This has potential implications for the measurement and interpretation of SC measures.

**Methods**

**Participants:**
- Parent and child dyads (n = 28)
  - Parents: 23 Female, 5 Male
  - Children: 14 Girls, 14 Boys
  - 8 – 14 years old (M = 11.3 years, SD = 1.8 years)

**Procedures:**
- Participants were recruited from the faculty and staff from multiple universities through email and flyers.
- Interested parents received two links to an online survey (1 parent link and 1 child link).
- Both parents and children completed the online survey which measured positive, collaborative, and negative social control.

**Measures:**
- Items measured: 1 (never) – 7 (frequently)
- **Positive SC (PSC):** Encouraging strategies that may involve discussion or prompting (Wilson et al., 2010; 4-items)
- **Collaborative SC (CSC):** An influence that requires action on the part of both the parent and child (Wilson et al., 2010; 3-items)
- **Negative SC (NSC):** Pressuring strategy or use of guilt or disapproval (Wilson et al., 2010; 2-items)
- All measures have been previously used in children and parents (Wilson & Spink, 2011; Wilson et al., 2010).

**Results**

- The Cronbach alpha levels for all parent and child scales were good (0.74 ≤ α ≤ 0.89).
- A one-way random effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) assessed the consistency of ratings of SC by parents and children.
  - **Positive SC:**
    - ICC of 0.82 suggests an excellent consistency
  - **Collaborative SC:**
    - ICC of 0.66 suggests a strong consistency
  - **Negative SC:**
    - ICC of 0.22 suggests a poor consistency
  - Bland Altman Plots were created to evaluate possible bias in reporting between parent and children reports.

**Discussion**

- Parent-child dyads tended to respond similarly for positive and collaborative SC.
  - Supports findings with respect to social support that showed consistency in parent and adolescent reports of social support (Barr-Anderson et al., 2010).
  - This suggests that both parent and child reports of SC may show similar relationships with other predictors.
- Negative SC showed an inconsistency between parent and child reports with a bias towards parents reporting lower levels of use.
  - This inconsistency indicates that parents may not recognize or feel that he or she is using negative regulatory practices.
  - A trend such as this may indicate a breakdown of communication within the parent-child dyad.
  - Possible ‘face-saving’ effort (Brown, 1970) by parents due to negative connotations associated with the emotions produced by negative SC (Lewis & Butterfield, 2005).

**Strengths**

- Both reports from parents and children were collected.
- Sample included a variety of activity levels as well as both mothers and fathers.

**Limitations**

- Generalizability:
  - Only faculty and staff at colleges/universities recruited.
  - Only children between 8-14 years old.
  - Sample size is small, which may lead to large 95% CI.

**Future Directions**

- Assess a broader sample to improve the ability to generalize these findings.
- Evaluate whether parent or child reports of SC are better predictors of other factors such as physical activity and self-efficacy.

**Conclusion**

- Parent and child reports of both positive and collaborative social control were similar.
- Negative social control reports appeared to be lower by parents than children.
- These findings suggest further investigation of the differences between parent and child reports of social control, especially an emphasis on negative social control may be warranted.