Using the 2006 data from Korean Welfare Panel Study (KOWEPS), this paper examines the impact of living with children on psychological well-being. Previous research based on the U.S. population generally suggests that living with children may entail negative psychological well-being, especially when children are young. Yet, research on later-life families tends to conclude that adult children have beneficial effects on parents' mental health (Evenson & Simon 2005; Nomaguchi & Milikie 2003). Recent review by Umberson and her colleagues (Umberson, Pudrovska, Reczek 2009) states that research on the effects of parenthood on well-being has evolved in new directions—with greater theoretical nuance, attention to diversity. While it is certain that parenthood is both positive and negative experience in terms of mental health effects of those rearing children, it is less clear how these patterns play out across societies in the same age or within a society throughout history. Therefore, it will be a needed task to extend this research by incorporating other population of the interest. This paper would contribute to the better understanding of the relationships by providing a comparative perspective.

DATA

This study uses "2006 Korean Welfare Panel Study" for its analysis. The Korean Welfare Panel Study (KOWEPS), developed by Korean Institute of Social and Health Affairs in conjunction with Social Welfare Research Institute of Seoul National University, is an annual longitudinal study of a representative sample of 7,072 households. This data, being collected on both men and women above age 19, is a comprehensive dataset that provides a variety of information on families and individuals in respect to their social service needs, utilization patterns, economic and demographic, income sources, emotional and behavioral health status, and others.

Analytic sample for this analysis is set to 9,042 respondents after drawing a couple (household head and his/her spouse) from 7,072 households. Any household which lack spousal requirement is removed from the sample.

Measures

Dependent variable. Depression is measured using the 11-item version of the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) that is available in the data. The CES-D measures a range of cognitive, affective, motivational, and somatic, self-rated symptoms and respondent were asked to indicate how frequently they experienced the symptoms within the past week on a scale, ranging from one (rarely, less than once a week) to four (most of the time, more than six days a week). Scores are summed across the number of items for which valid responses are available (alpha=.89)

Focal variables. My measure of living arrangement with children is series of dummy variables, mutually exclusive. (1=no children at home; 0=living with minor children; 0=living with adult children; 0=living with minor and adult children).[1]

Control variables: socio-demographic characteristics such as age (and age squared both centered), gender (1=female), education (1=high school degree; 0=less than high school; 0=some college or college degree; 0=more than college degree) and household income (1=1st quartile; 0=2nd quartile; 0=3rd quartile; 0=4th quartile) were included as control variables.

Possible mediators. First, social support is measured by asking questions for three domains such as " how many people from [family or relative/friends or neighbors/social work agencies,

[1] It should be noted that no children at home variable does not equate with non-parents in other studies since this category includes not only childless couples but empty nesters who had child(ren) earlier but do not live with them anymore. I am currently reviewing alternative way of using this variable since the birth history of female in each household is not available yet.

government employees, or other social organization such as church and school] helped you in the past year?". The number of supports from each domain is added and constructed each domain of social support. Second, relationships in family is a composite measure summing five items where higher score indicate better relationships in family.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Table 1 presents the weighted descriptive statistics of all variables in my study.

Table 2 present the results from OLS model predicting depressed symptoms adjusting for standard errors due to the couple composition in the sample. Starting with the Model 1, couples living with children report significantly less distress than their counterparts who do not live with children. Model 2 added age, gender, and education to the baseline model. Adding these variables to the model significantly explain associations between living with children and distress and now only living with adult children remain less distress than couples without children at home (-.047 at 0.05 level). Both linear and square terms of age variable are significant, suggesting the relationships between age and distress is non-linear. Women report more distress than men and we will seek more of this in the subsequent Model. Moreover, the effects of education are gradient where more education significantly reduced distress. Model 2 explains 6.2% of distress.

Model 3, which incorporate household income to the Model 2, not only completely explain positive effects of living with children but reversed the effects of living with minor children into negative direction. In other words, after adjusting for income as well as other socioeconomic differences, couples living with minor children are more distressed than their counterparts who do not live with children. Adding income to the model also contributes to the

more explanations of the outcome variable (R squared 8.2%). Model 4 tests mediating role of a set of social support variable. Although having more relationships in intimate and intermediate level reduce the likelihood of distress, they do not seem to relate to a set of children variables, thus fail to mediate the effects of children on distress. In Model 5, a variable tapping relationships among family members is considered. It seems to alleviate the negative effects of living with minor children by reporting reduced magnitude of coefficient as well as being stripped of statistical significance (0.378 at .1 level to 0.108 ns). Additionally, having better relationships among family member also explain the gradient effects of education and income on distress (all three coefficient of three educational variable as well as three income variables are somewhat reduced). Explained portion of variation of dependent variable are not increased to 13.7%.

It is one of the primary interests of this paper whether to see the effects of living with children depend on gender. Model 6 examines this likelihood and reports that the effects of living with minor children are differed by gender--Men are more distressed when living with minor children compared to men who do not, whereas women are less distress when living with minor children compared to women who do not. Other two interaction terms fail to reach the statistical significance.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

This work is still preliminary and in progress. Between now and next spring I will develop theoretical model to consider how living with children might have different effects for population less known so far. I will also provide more conceptual grounding for investigation how similar variables may play different roles in different social context.

Table 1: Weighted Descriptive Statistics, KOWEPS, 2006

	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Dependent Variables				
Depression	15.646	5.112	11	44
Focal Variables				
No children at home	0.288	0.453	0	1
Living with minor children	0.487	0.500	0	1
Living with adult children	0.187	0.390	0	1
Living with minor and adult children	0.038	0.190	0	1
Covariates				
Age	47.428	13.304	20	96
Female	0.505	0.500	0	1
Education				
Less than HS	0.290	0.454	0	1
High school degree	0.381	0.486	0	1
College degress	0.297	0.457	0	1
More than College degree	0.032	0.176	0	1
Household income				
1st quartile	0.083	0.276	0	1
2nd quartile	0.142	0.349	0	1
3rd quartile	0.287	0.453	0	1
4th quartile	0.487	0.500	0	1
Social support				
Family	1.949	2.143	0	20
Friend	3.285	5.198	0	80
Organization	0.747	2.820	0	100
Relationship in family	21.693	2.790	5	25

Table 2: Unstandardized coefficient and Robust Standard Errors from OLS Models Predicing Depression: KOWEPS, 2006

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		Model 5		Model 6	
	b	std.error	b	std.error	b	std.error	b	std.error	b	std.error	b	std.error
Focal Variables												
Children's living arrangement (1=no children at home)												
Living with minor children	-1.586 ***	0.171	0.030	0.223	0.384 +	0.229	0.378 +	0.229	0.108	0.223	0.500 *	0.246
Living with adult children	-0.879 ***	0.217	-0.478 *	0.225	0.321	0.242	0.236	0.242	0.131	0.234	0.318	0.263
Living with minor and adult children	-1.557 ***	0.384	-0.374	0.402	0.264	0.402	0.193	0.406	0.009	0.411	0.305	0.455
Covariates												
Age			0.036 ***	0.008	0.004	0.009	0.006	0.009	0.009	0.008	0.011	0.008
Age sq			0.003 ***	0.000	0.002 **	0.000	0.002 ***	0.000	0.002 ***	0.000	0.002 ***	0.000
Female			0.599 ***	0.097	0.541 ***	0.097	0.600 ***	0.098	0.625 ***	0.098	1.072 ***	0.185
Education (1=High school degree)												
Less than HS			1.175 ***	0.190	0.911 ***	0.190	0.883 ***	0.189	0.791 ***	0.184	0.738 ***	0.186
College degress			-0.969 ***	0.151	-0.772 ***	0.154	-0.722 ***	0.155	-0.549 ***	0.152	-0.567 ***	0.152
More than College degree			-1.520 ***	0.298	-1.203 ***	0.311	-1.101 ***	0.314	-0.750 *	0.312	-0.787 *	0.312
Household income (1=1st quartile)												
2nd quartile					-0.773 *	0.324	-0.767 *	0.322	-0.709 *	0.308	-0.676 *	0.309
3rd quartile					-2.203 ***	0.334	-2.199 ***	0.333	-2.030 ***	0.321	-1.995 ***	0.322
4th quartile					-2.945 ***	0.348	-2.900 ***	0.347	-2.589 ***	0.334	-2.551 ***	0.335
Social support												
Family							-0.146 ***	0.031	-0.130 ***	0.030	-0.130 ***	0.030
Friend							-0.036 **	0.012	-0.036 **	0.012	-0.036 *	0.012
Organization							-0.018	0.016	-0.008	0.016	-0.008	0.016
Relationship in family									-0.404 ***	0.029	-0.404 ***	0.029
Interactions terms												
Female*minor children											-0.745 **	0.226
Female*adult children											-0.316	0.267
Female*minor and adult children											-0.517	0.515
Constant	16.642		15.085		17.016		17.371		26.001		25.724	
R squared	0.018		0.062		0.082		0.089		0.137		0.138	