

Trajectories of depression among maltreated youth

Prospective associations with adult functional outcomes

Maltreated children are at increased risk for:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Academic delays
- Criminality
- Depression, anxiety, PTSD

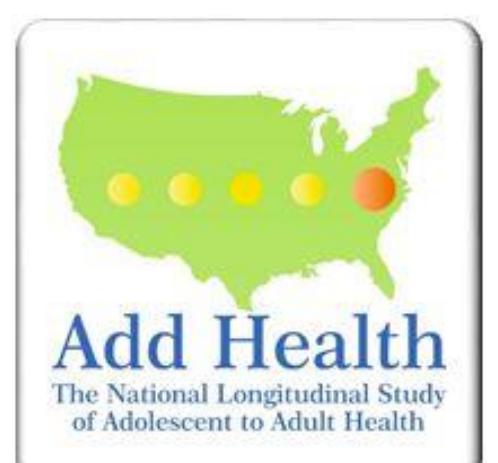
But not all children who are maltreated experience maladaptive outcomes



Are there distinct developmental trajectories of depression among maltreated (and non-maltreated) individuals?

How do the adult functional outcomes differ by maltreatment status and across trajectories?

Add Health



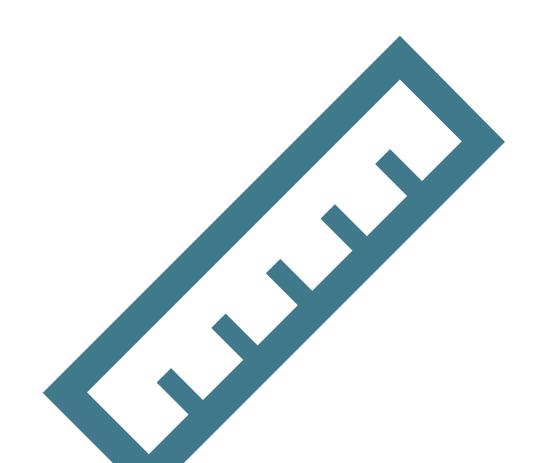
The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health

- 4 waves
- 20,000+ adolescents
- Ages: 13-32

Depression: Center for Epidemiological Studies-Depression Scale (short form)

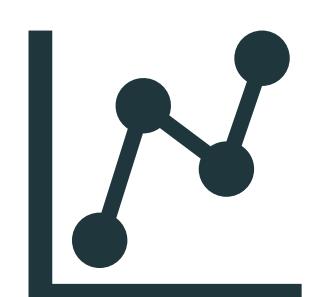
Maltreatment: Cumulative index of maltreatment experiences

- Physical/sexual/emotional abuse
- Supervisory/physical neglect
- CPS investigations



Adult functional outcomes (domains):

- Violence & victimization
- Romantic relationships
- Physical health
- Offspring maltreatment

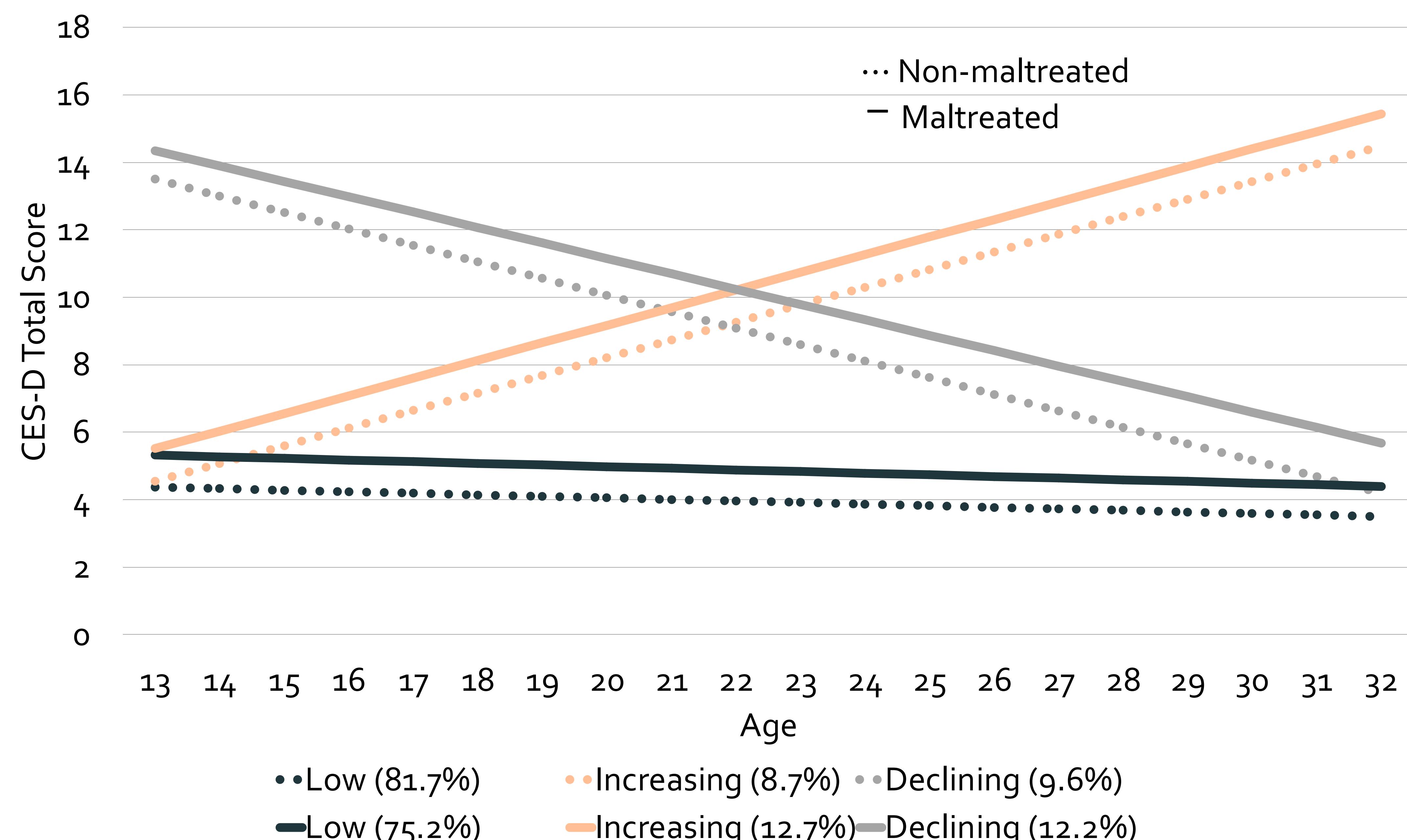


Growth mixture modeling

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Maltreated individuals in the “low” depression trajectory have **worse adult functional outcomes** compared to non-maltreated individuals in the “low” depression trajectory



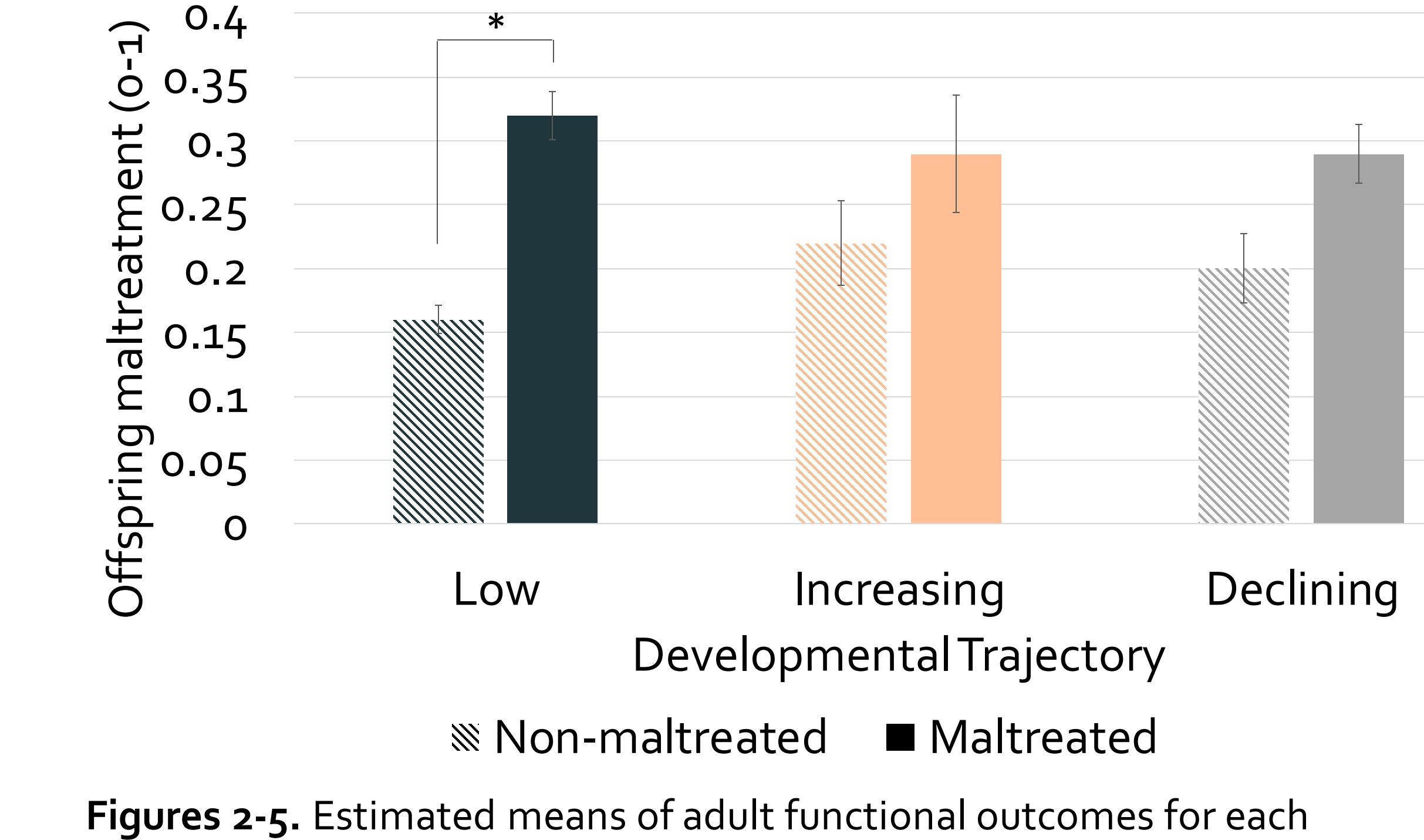
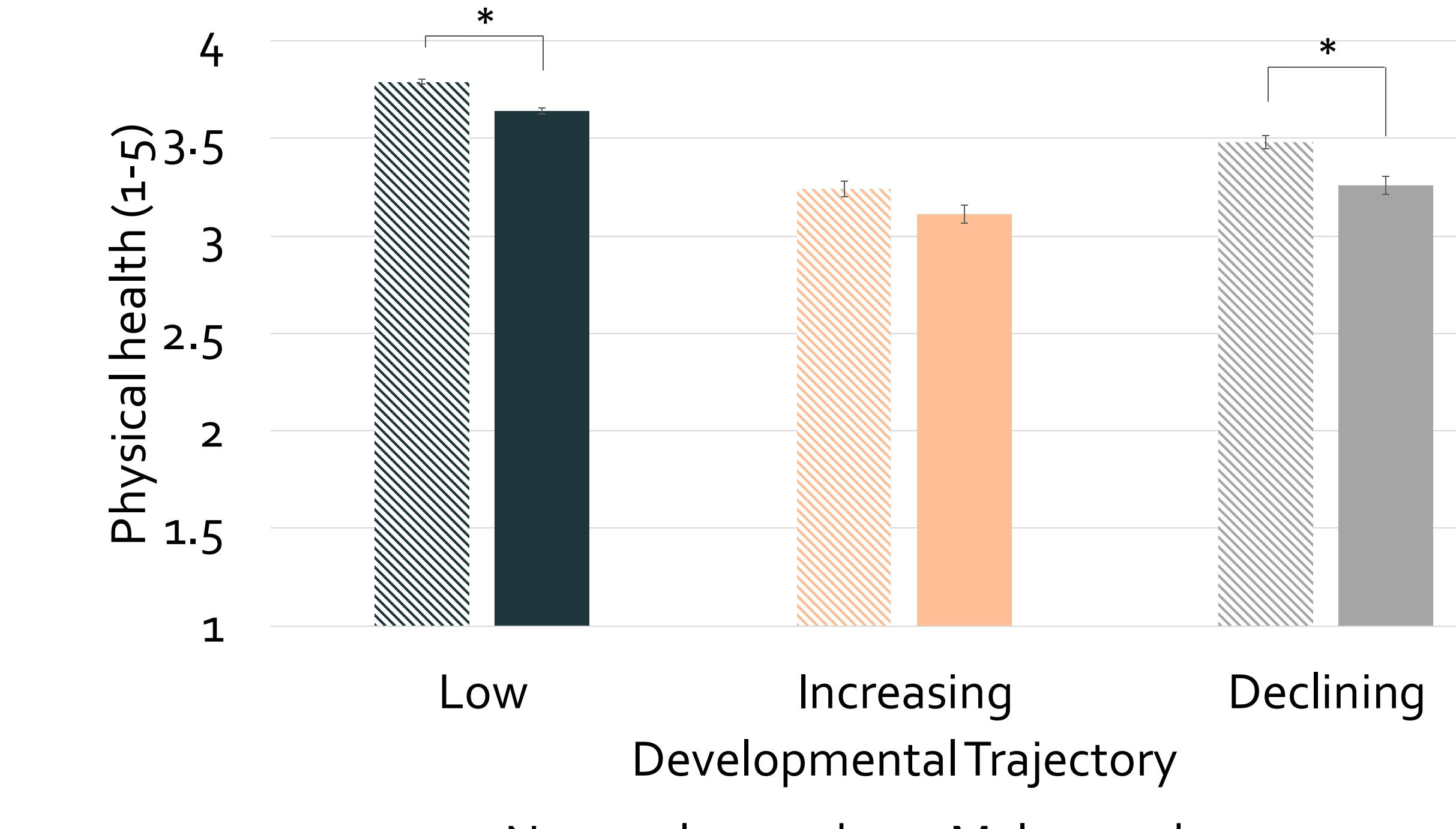
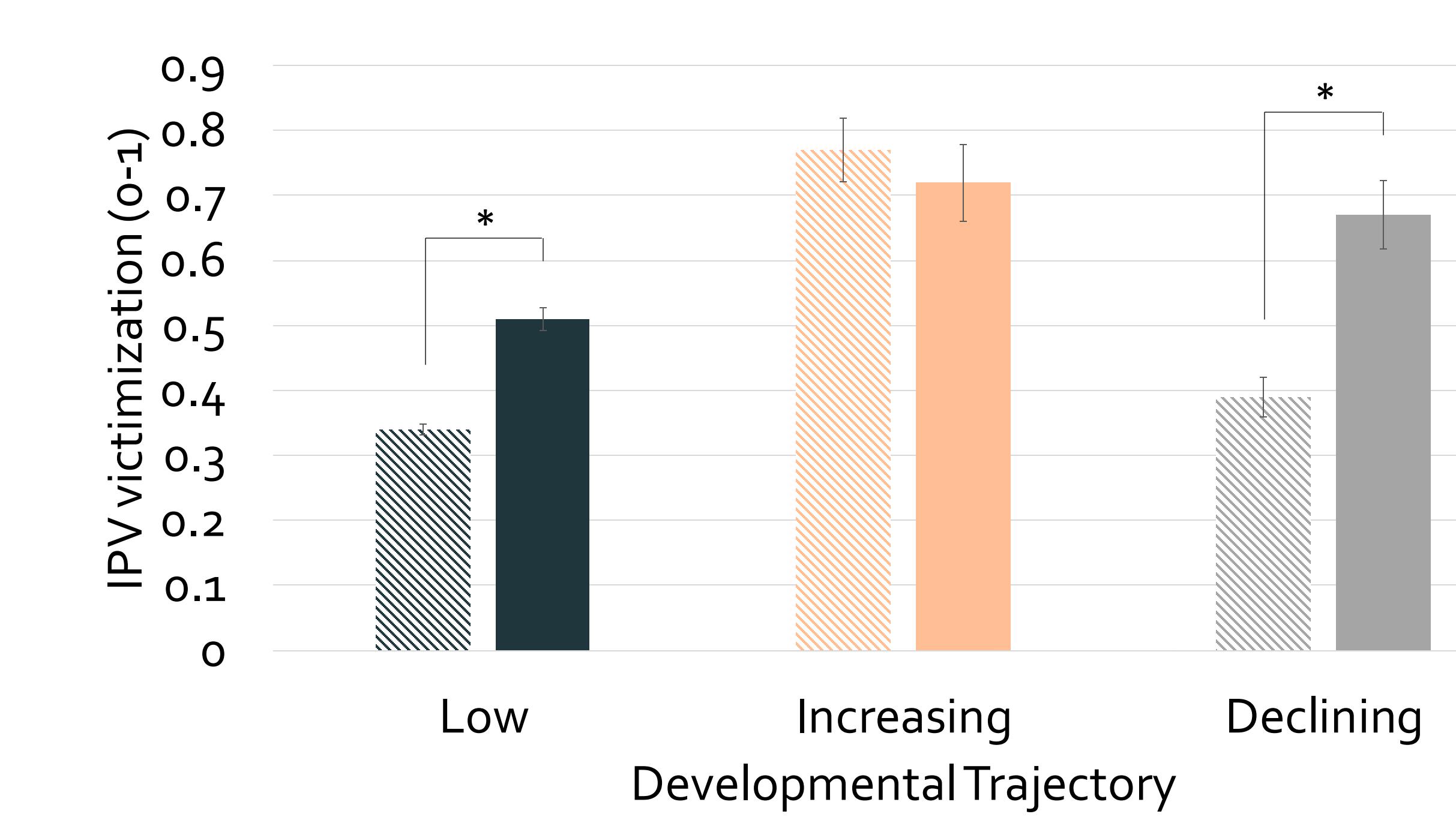
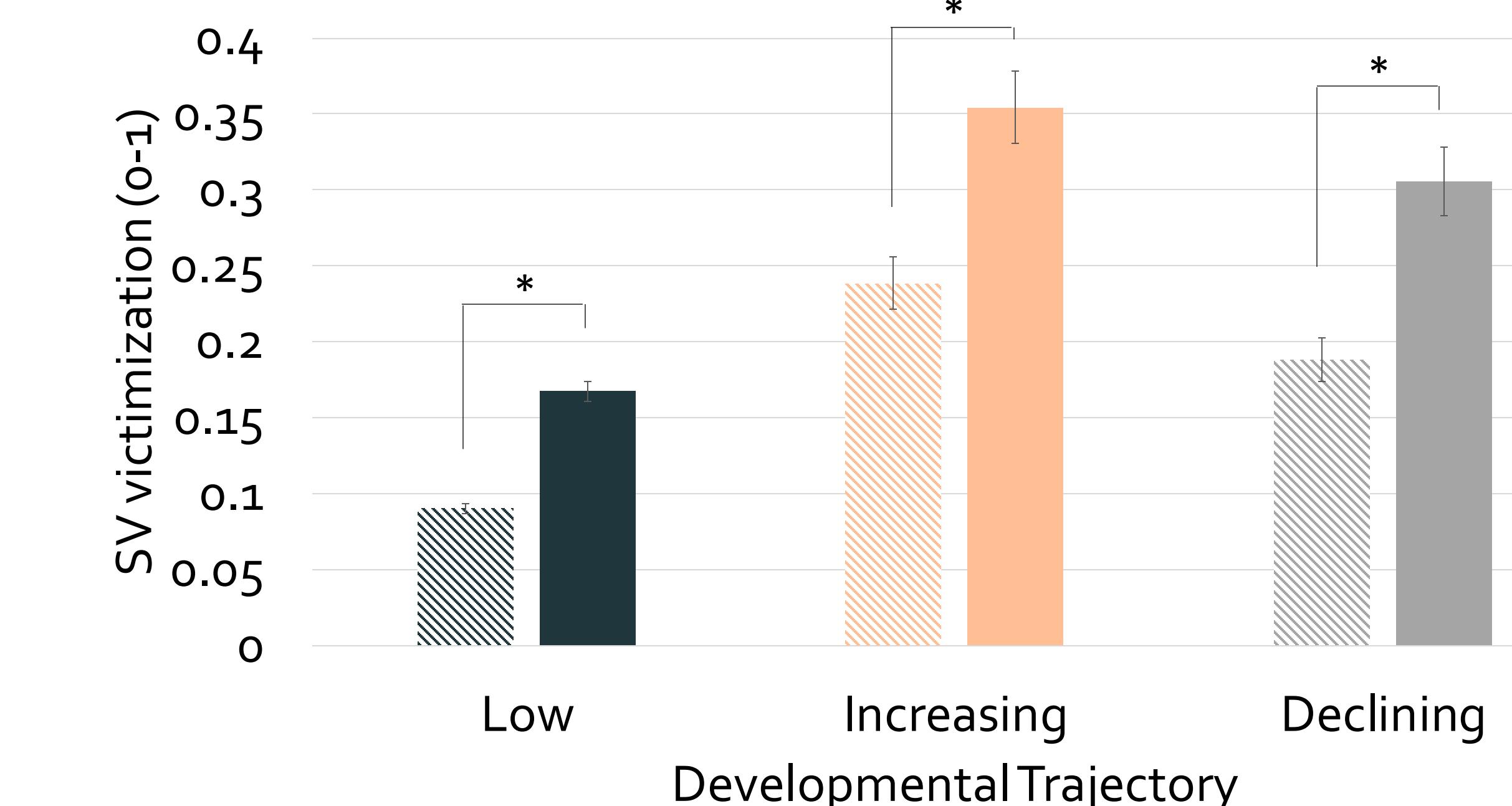
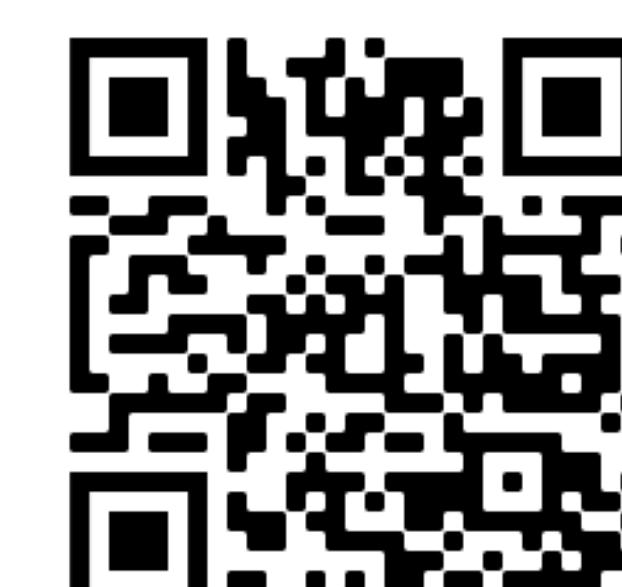
Group	N	AIC	BIC	Entropy	Lo-Mendell-Rubin p-value
Non-maltreated	8250	167389.644	167607.197	0.839	0.0012
Maltreated	3810	80845.849	81039.448	0.771	0.01

Table 1. Model fit statistics for the developmental trajectories of depressive symptoms.

Developmental trajectory	Wald value (intercept)	P-value (intercept)	Wald value (slope)	P-value (slope)
Low vs. Low	70.076	0.0000*	0.356	0.551
Increasing vs. Increasing	3.795	0.0514	0.483	0.4869
Declining vs. Declining	11.371	0.0007*	0.07	0.7913

Table 2. Wald test for group differences, $p < 0.004$.

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Figures 2-5. Estimated means of adult functional outcomes for each developmental trajectory, $p < 0.001$.