

Developmental Transitions in Physical Family Aggression

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Background

- Physical family aggression is a **major public health issue** (i.e., corporal punishment)

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- Family aggression **not always parent initiated**
- **Youth-to-parent aggression** well-recognized in clinical, child welfare, and juvenile justice settings

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- Corporal punishment and youth-to-parent aggression often **co-occur**

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- Corporal punishment and youth-to-parent aggression often **co-occur**
- Youth-to-parent aggression could **elicit corporal punishment**
- **Spiral** of family aggression

Aims

- What is the **prevalence** of corporal punishment, youth-to-parent aggression and their co-occurrence?

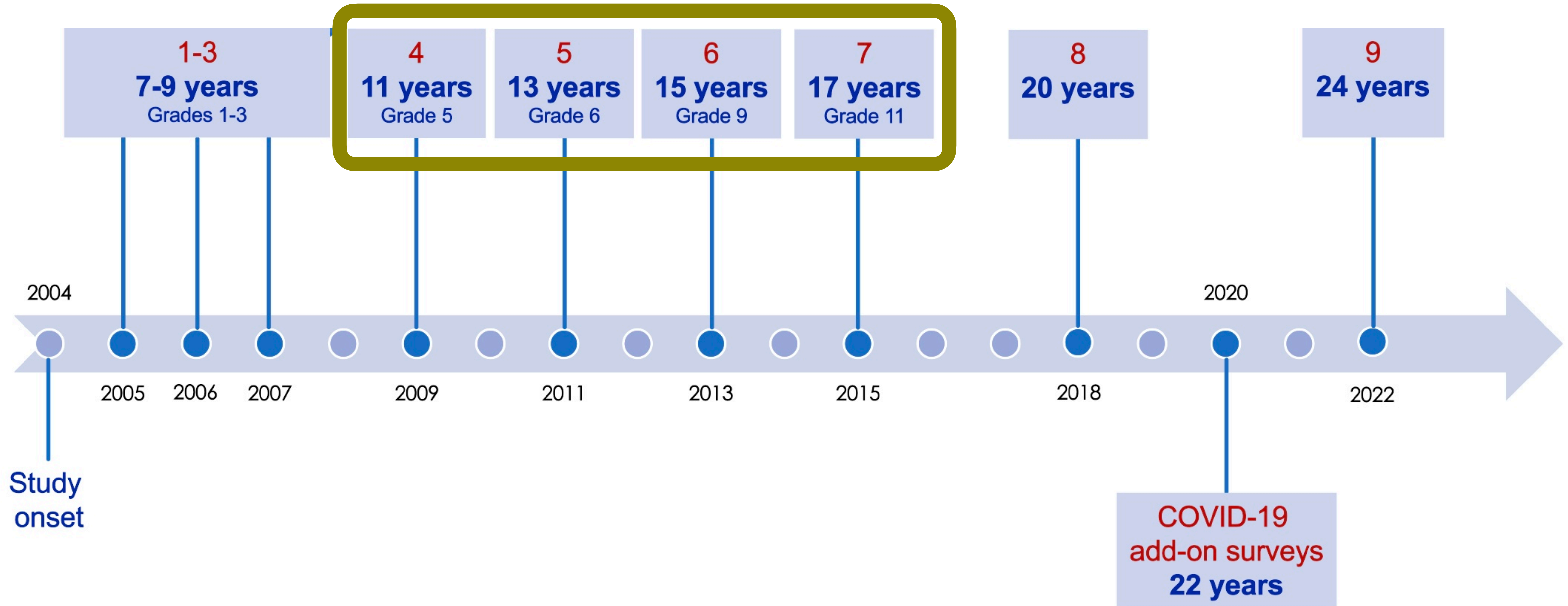
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- What is the **prevalence** of corporal punishment, youth-to-parent aggression and their co-occurrence?
- How do people **shift** between different states of family aggression and does that change across time?

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- What is the **prevalence** of corporal punishment, youth-to-parent aggression and their co-occurrence?
- How do people **shift** between different states of family aggression and does that change across time?
- Which **factors are associated** with shifting between different states of family aggression?

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Principal investigators: Prof. Manuel Eisner, Dr. Denis Ribeaud, Prof. Lilly Shanahan



Measures

Youth-to-parent aggression

- Participant-reported at ages 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, and 24
- 2 items of the SBQ (*oppositional aggression*)

“ Please indicate how often you did the following things in the past 12month“

- **You hit or kicked your parents in anger.**
- **You threw an object at your parents in anger.**

Answer scale: never, rarely, sometimes, often, very often

--> Dichotomized across the two items: 0=never, 1= at least rarely

Measures

Corporal punishment

- Participant-reported at ages 11, 13, 15, and 17
- 3-4 items on the APQ

„When you misbehave or are disobedient, what do your parents do?“

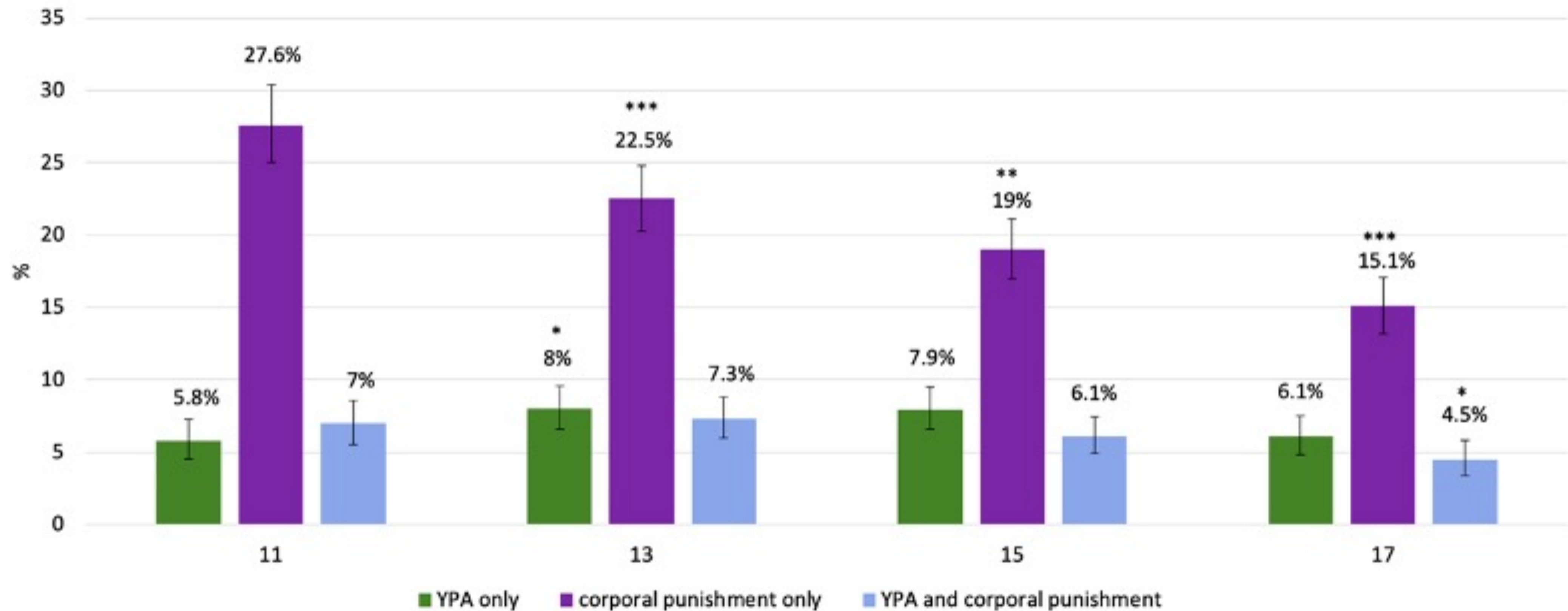
- **Your parents slap you**
- **Your parents spank you with their hand** (ages 11-15)
- **Your parents hit you with a belt, staff, or other object** (ages 13-17)
- **Your parents pull your hair or ears**

Answer scale: never, rarely, sometimes, often

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Prevalence of family aggression

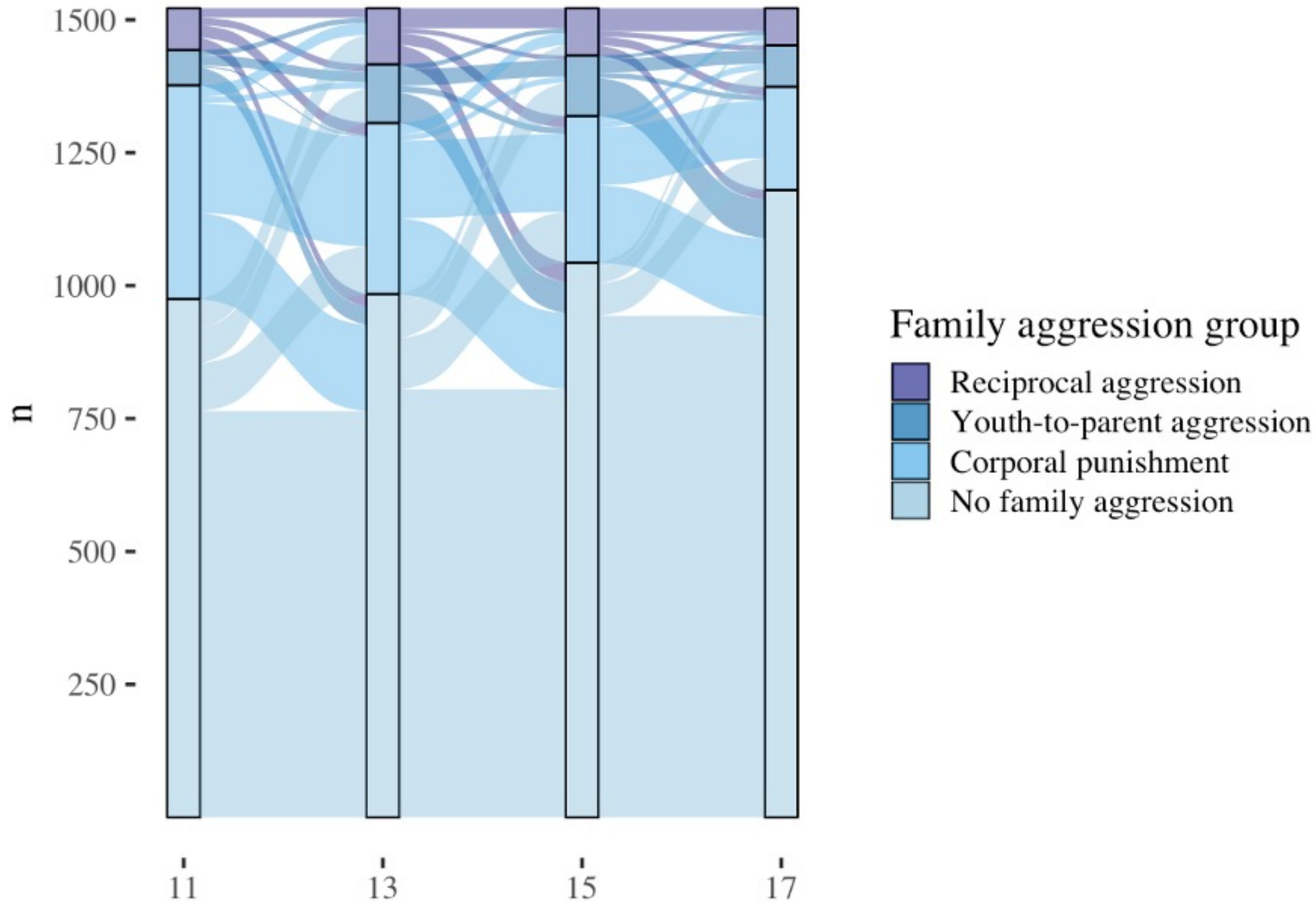
Aim 1: What is the prevalence of corporal punishment, youth-to-parent aggression and their co-occurrence?



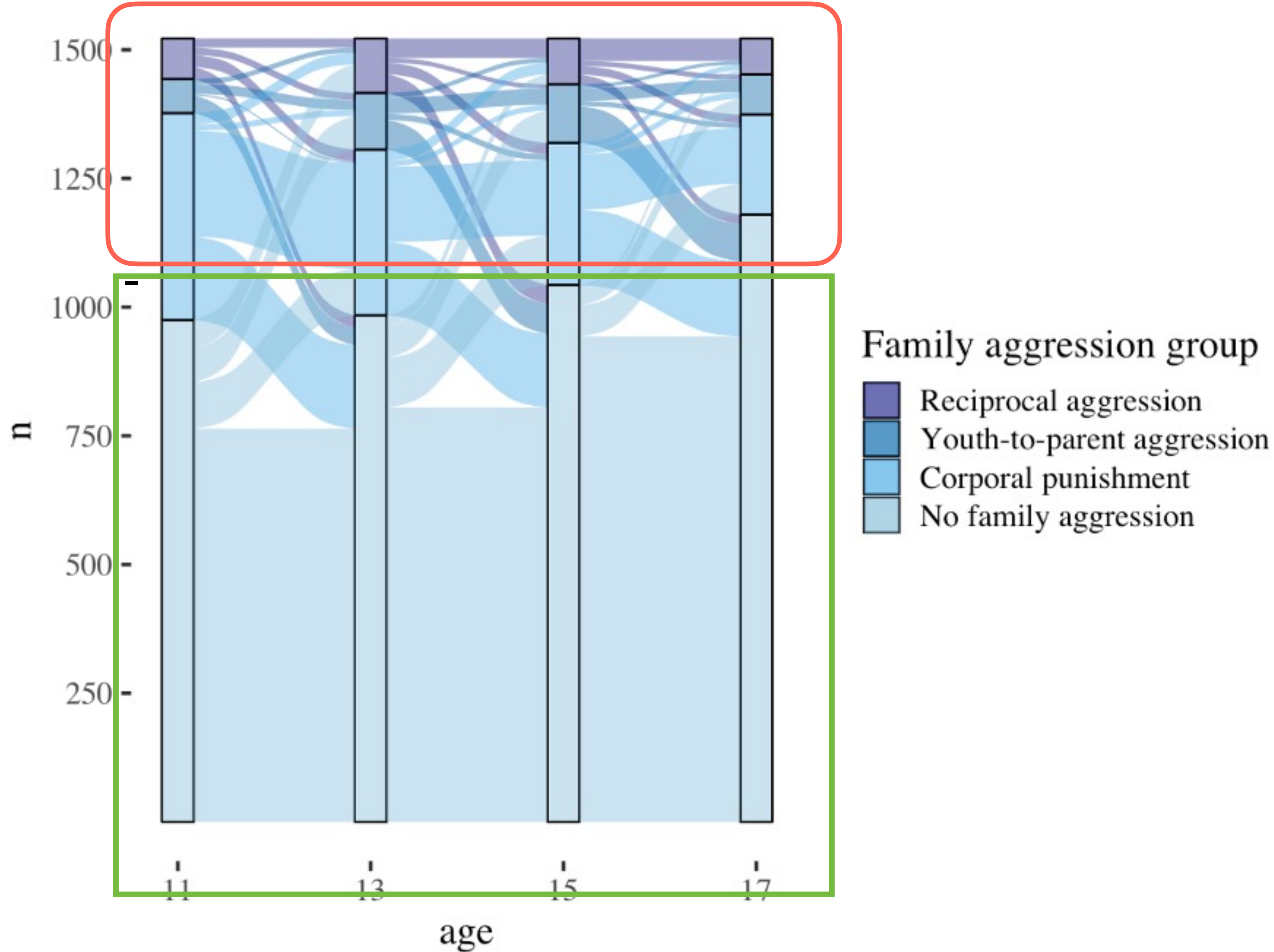
Data analysis I

- **Longitudinal Markov Modelling:**
- A way to quantify shifts between different states
- \neq latent transition analysis

Aim 2: How do people shift between different states of family aggression?



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... and does that change across time?

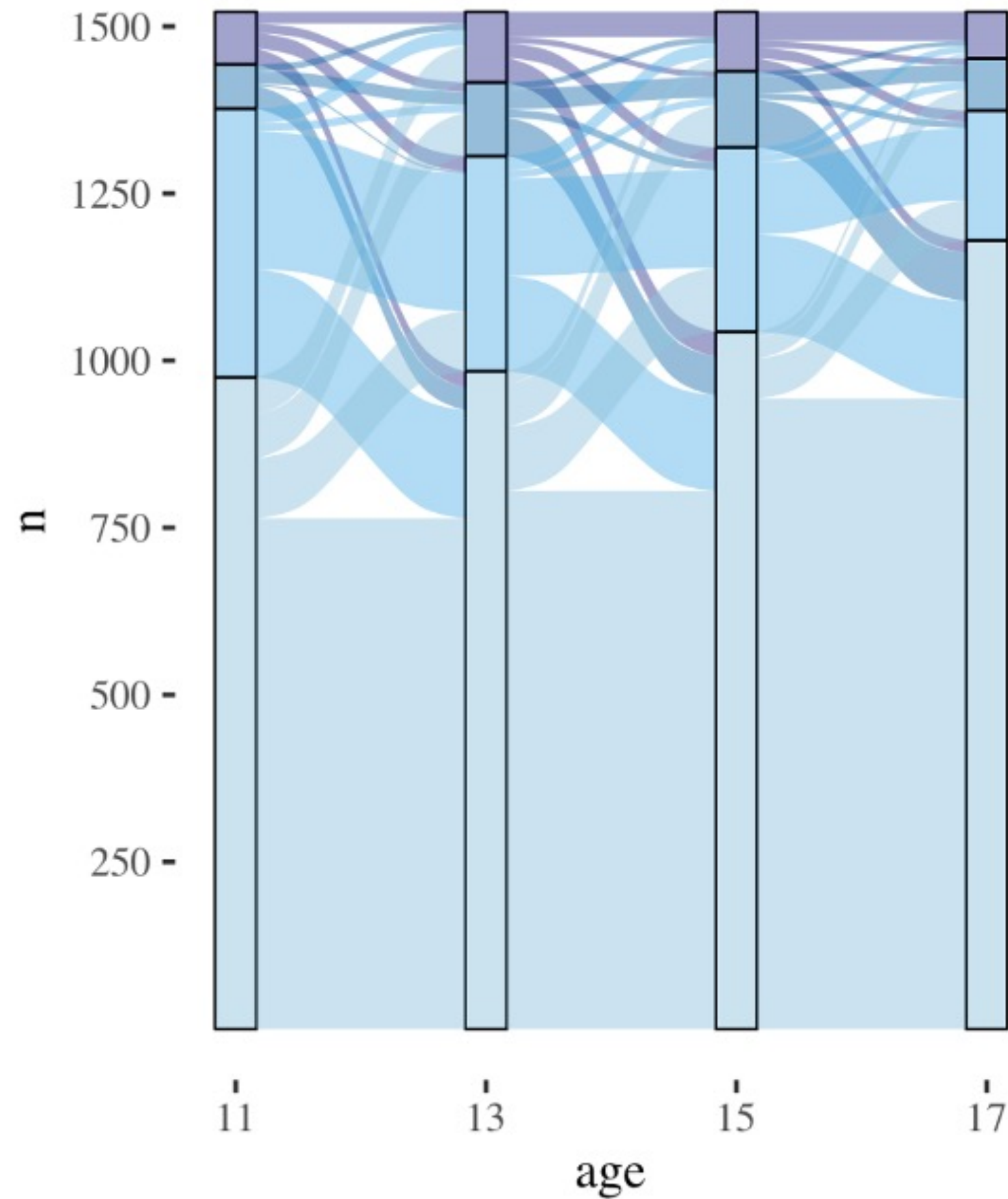


Table 2. Estimated transition probabilities.

Class	Reciprocal family aggression	PYPA	Corporal punishment	No family aggression
Age 11		Age 13		
Reciprocal family aggression	24%	18%	29%	29%
PYPA	17%	30%	5%*	48%
Corporal punishment	8%*	4%*	41%	47%
No family aggression	4%*	7%*	14%*	75%
Age 13		Age 15		
Reciprocal family aggression	33%	10%*	23%	34%
PYPA	9%*	29%	11%*	51%*
Corporal punishment	7%*	4%*	43%	46%
No family aggression	2%*	6%*	11%*	81%
Age 15		Age 17		
Reciprocal family aggression	41%	13%*	22%*	25%
PYPA	7%*	25%	10%*	57%*
Corporal punishment	4%*	5%*	43%	48%
No family aggression	1%*	4%*	7%*	89%

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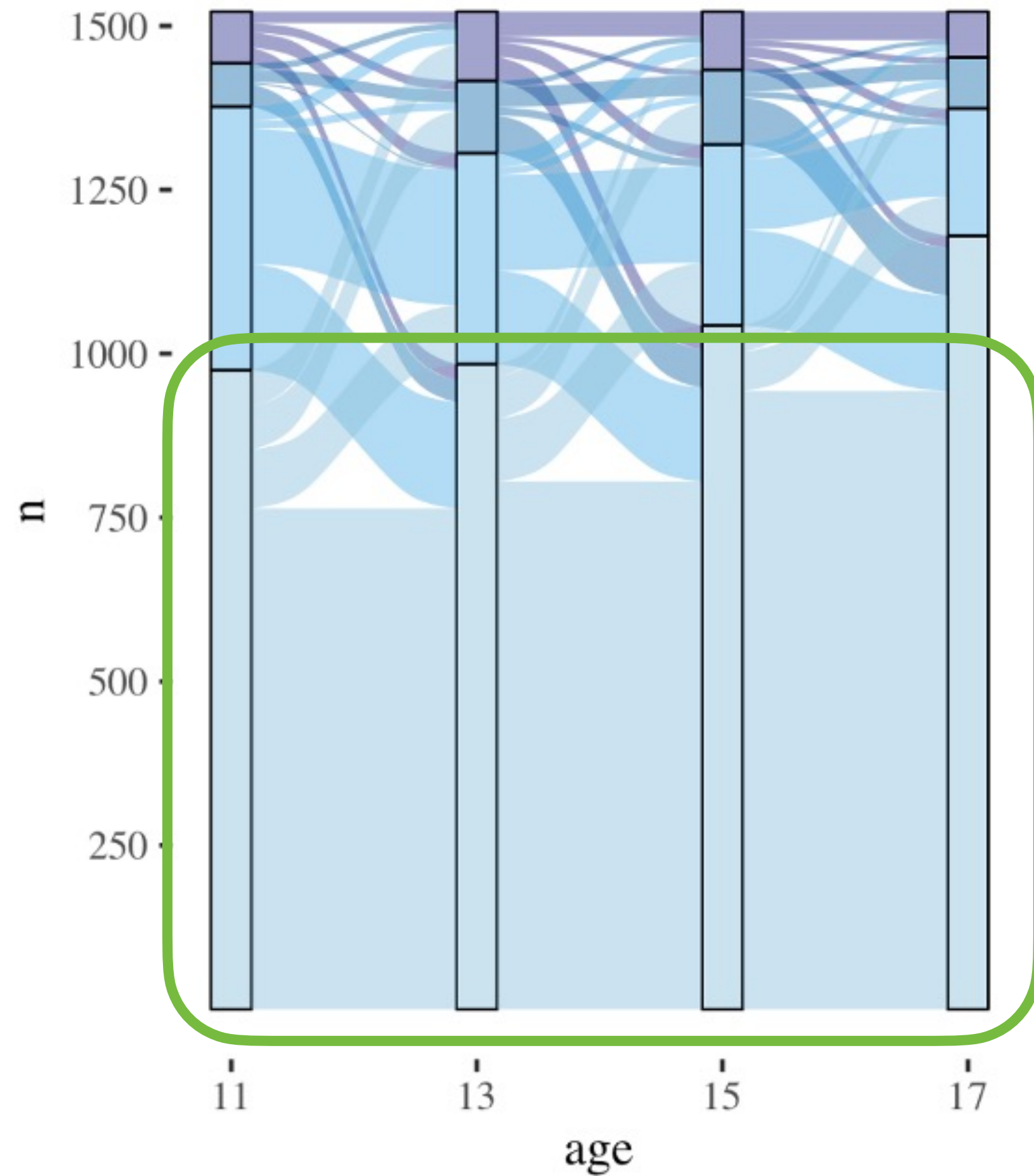


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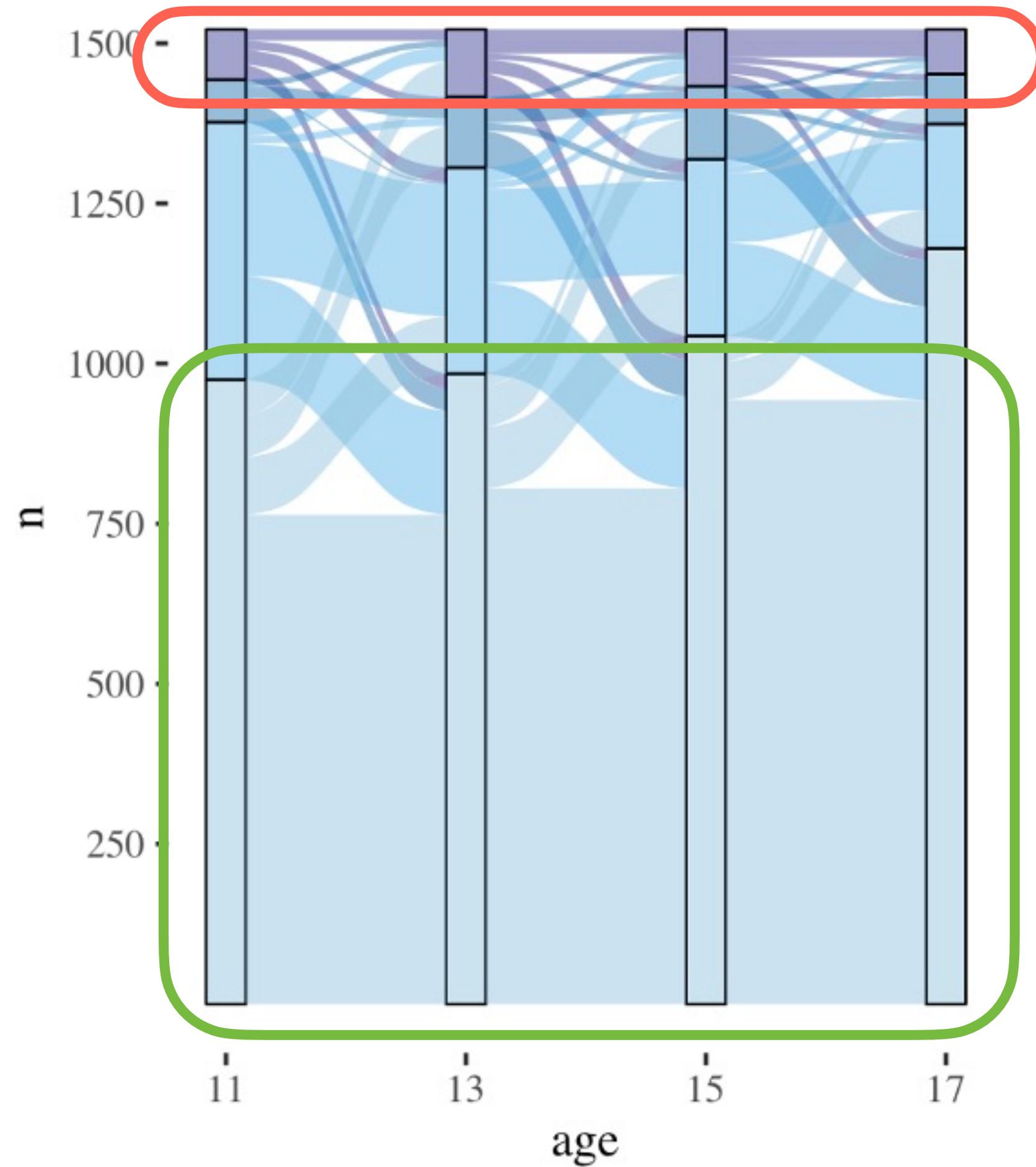


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Data Analysis II

Aim 3: Which factors are associated with shifting between different states

- Saved **most likely class membership**
- Stacked data set with **one entry per transition** per participant
- Coded **transition type**

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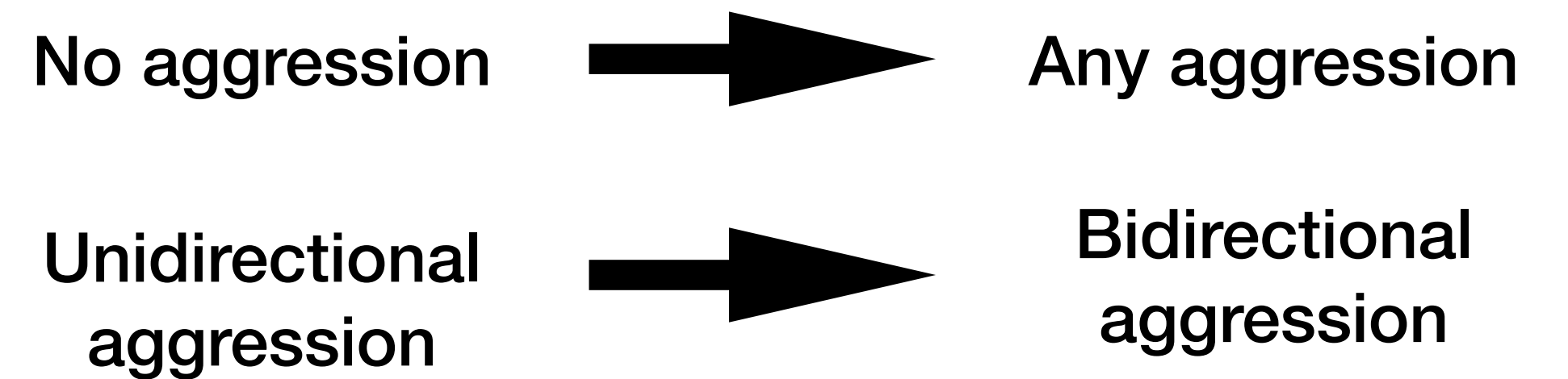
Intensification

Reduction

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Intensification

No aggression

Entering

Any aggression

Unidirectional aggression

Escalating

Bidirectional aggression

Reduction

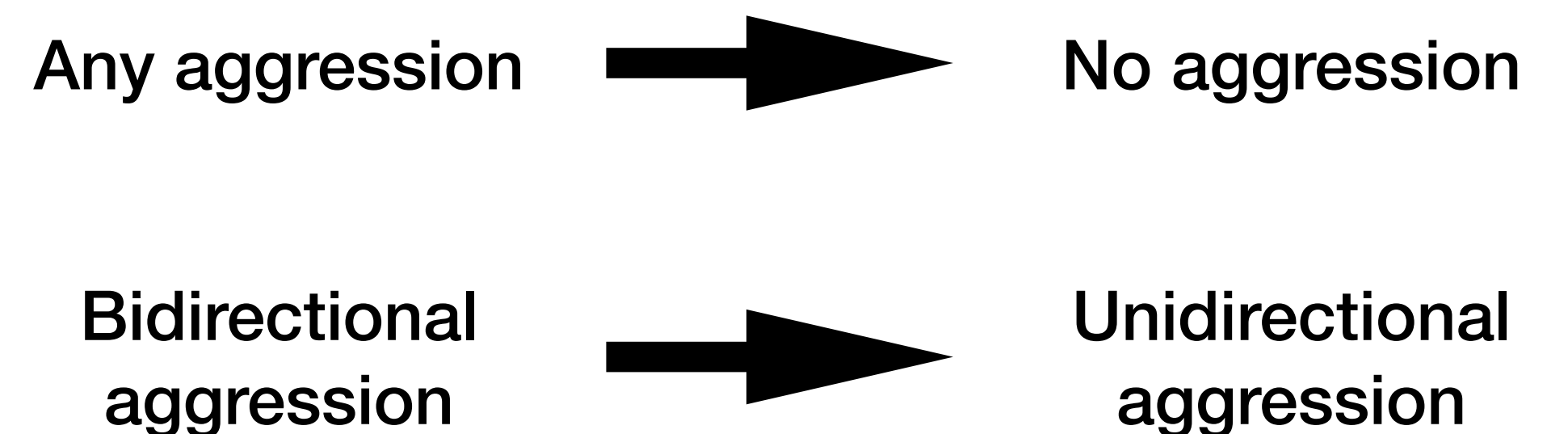
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Desistance

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Bidirectional aggression

Deescalating

Unidirectional aggression

Data Analysis II

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- Coded **transition type**
- **Logistic regressions** to predict transition type

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Aim 3: Which factors are associated with shifting between different states?

Predictor

Biological

BMI*

Cognitive

Low self-control

Moral neutralization

Emotional

Aggressive conflict coping

Poor competent conflict coping

ADHD symptoms

Low parental involvement

Social

Low child disclosure

Bullying victimization

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Intensification

Predictor	Entering	Escalation
Biological		
BMI*		
Cognitive		
Low self-control	+	+
Moral neutralization	+	+
Emotional		
Aggressive conflict coping	+	+
Poor competent conflict coping	+	+
ADHD symptoms	+	+
Low parental involvement	+	+
Social		
Low child disclosure	+	+
Bullying victimization	+	+

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Intensification

Reduction

Predictor	Entering	Escalation	De-escalation	Desistance
Biological				
BMI*				
Cognitive				
Low self-control	+	+	+	-
Moral neutralization	+	+		-
Emotional				
Aggressive conflict coping	+	+		-
Poor competent conflict coping	+	+		
ADHD symptoms	+	+		
Low parental involvement	+	+	+	-
Social				
Low child disclosure	+	+		-
Bullying victimization	+	+		-

Aim 3: Which factors are associated with shifting between different states?

		Intensification		Reduction	
Predictor		ORs between 1.18-1.89 and 0.77-0.90			
Biological	BMI*				
Cognitive	Low self-control	+	+	+	-
	Moral neutralization	+	+		-
Emotional	Aggressive conflict coping	+	+		-
	Poor competent conflict coping	+	+		
	ADHD symptoms	+	+		
Social	Low parental involvement	+	+	+	-
	Low child disclosure	+	+		-
	Bullying victimization	+	+		-

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		Intensification		Reduction	
Predictor		Entering	Escalation	De-escalation	Desistance
Biological	BMI*	Results not influenced by: Age at transition Type of family aggression			
Cognitive	Low self-control				
	Moral neutralization				
	Aggressive conflict coping				
Emotional	Poor competent conflict coping	+	+		
	ADHD symptoms	+	+		
	Low parental involvement	+	+	+	-
Social	Low child disclosure	+	+		-
	Bullying victimization	+	+		-

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- **Decreases in family aggression** across adolescence driven by decreases of corporal punishment

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- Family aggression is **common**
- **Decreases in family aggression** across adolescence driven by decreases of corporal punishment
- Shifting between family aggression states is common but **increasing stability**
- **Intensification** of family aggression associated with **increases in cognitive, emotional, and social risk**
- **Desistance** is associated with **decreases in cognitive and social risk**

Conclusions

- Consistent with **overlap of victimization and perpetration** in other contexts

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- Physical aggression as **established conflict patterns** vs. **similarity in aggressive tendencies** among parents and children
- Importance of **early intervention and prevention**
- **Preventing intensification and promoting desistance** could go hand in hand

Questions? Comments?