

# Adolescent Disclosure of Information Across Domains: A Person Centered Analysis of Chilean Youth



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# Legitimacy of Parental Authority: Research from Social Domain Theory

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- Legitimacy of parental control varies according to the domain in which an issue is categorized:
    - Moral
    - Conventional
    - Psychological
      - Prudential
      - Personal
      - Psychological (revealing self to others)
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# Legitimacy of Parental Authority: Research from Social Domain Theory

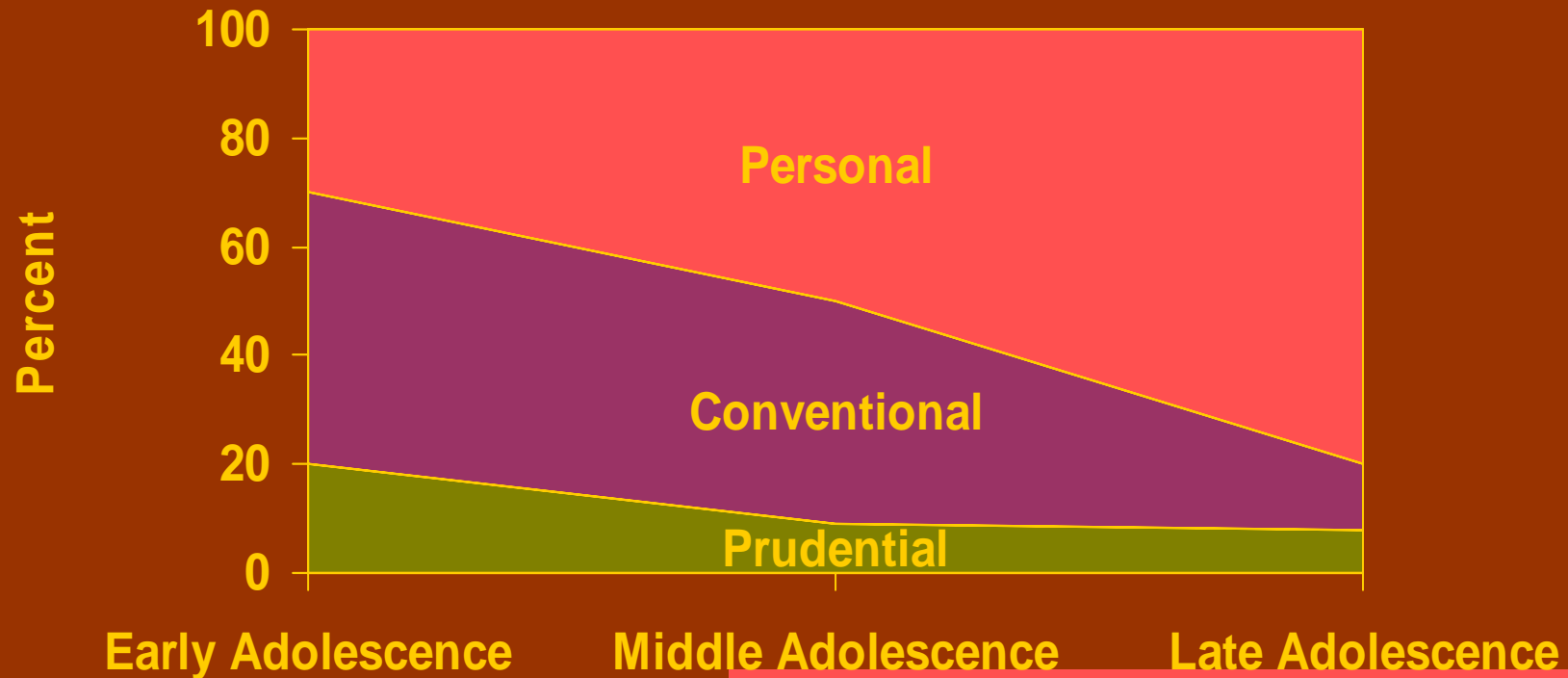
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- Parents and adolescents agree that prudential issues are legitimately subject to parental authority, but that personal issues are not
  - Normative Differences:
    - Parents believe more issues fall in the conventional or prudential category than do adolescents
    - Both parents and adolescents define more issues as personal with age
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# Legitimacy of Parental Authority: Research from Social Domain Theory

## Hypothetical Data





# Is it okay for parents to set rules about seeing problematic friends?

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- Is there evidence for heterogeneity in the population?
- Do we see normative, age-related change?
- Do older adolescents move towards a pattern of rejection of parental authority?





# Focus:

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- Heterogeneity of the population
- Within-person patterning of beliefs about parental legitimacy





# Sample and protocol

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- **3425 adolescents and parents from 7 schools in the Santiago metropolitan area**
    - Age 11-19 ( $M = 15.0$ )
    - 62% female
    - 10% mothers and 8% fathers <8<sup>th</sup> grade education
  - **Questionnaire data collected in classrooms**
    - **Strategic Disclosure questionnaire**
      - 17 issues
      - Adolescents 6 questions about each
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# Legitimacy Beliefs by Domain

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- **Six issues representing different domains:**
    - **Personal:**
      - how you use your free time
      - the type of TV programs, movies, or videos you watch
    - **Multifaceted:**
      - hanging around with people your parents think are problematic
    - **Prudential**
      - smoking cigarettes
      - drinking alcohol
      - using drugs
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# Analytic Strategy

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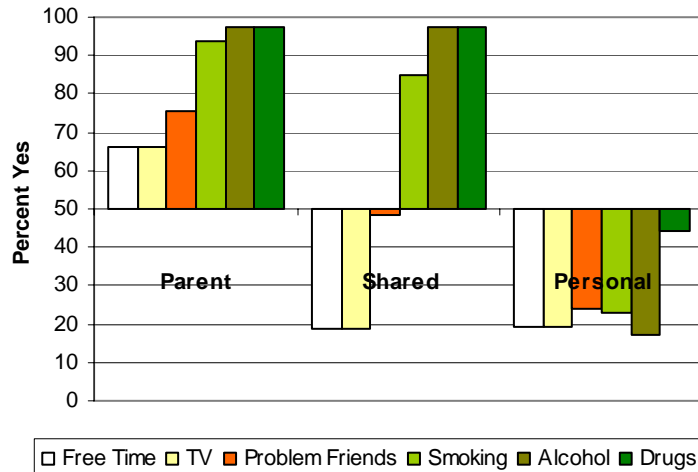
- Latent Class Analysis (LCA) by Age
    - Primary school
    - Secondary school minors
    - Legal adults
  - LCA creates latent class variables that capture the patterning of individuals' responses
    - Latent classes differentiated by their likelihood of giving a particular answer to a particular question
    - The likelihood of each individual belonging to each latent class, given their patterning of responses can be assessed
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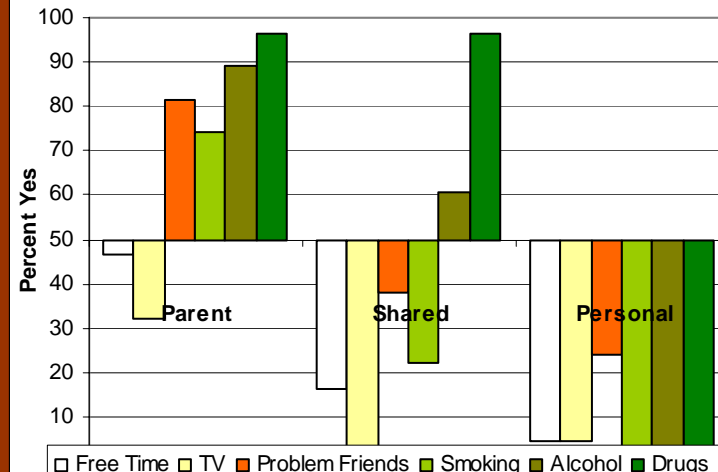
# Results: Heterogeneous populations



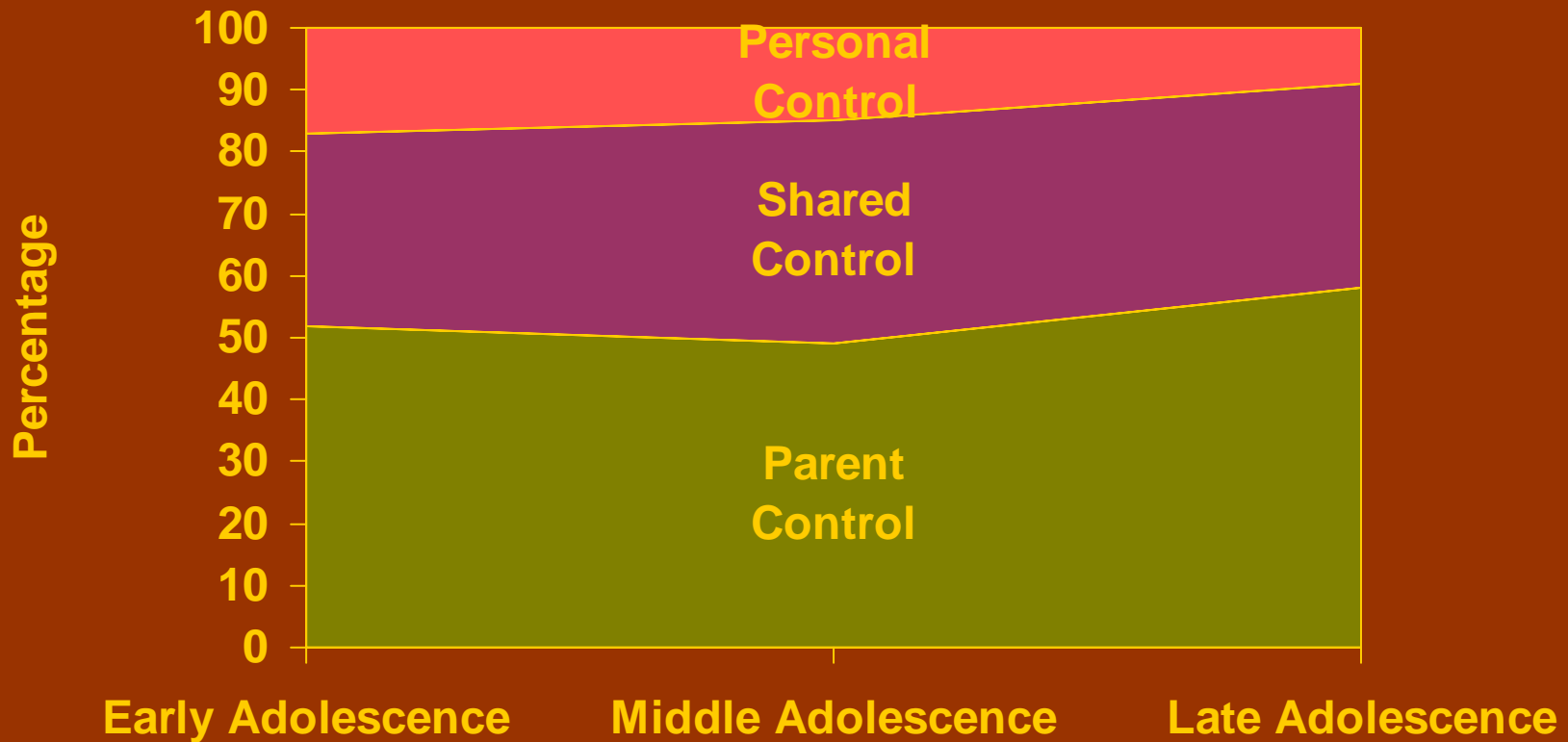
Graph A: Early Adolescents



Graph C: Late Adolescents



# Results: No evidence of a normative shift to the personal control class






# Conclusion

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- If these cross-sectional results were interpreted as if they were longitudinal, it supports the normative shift previously reported in the literature
  - There are heterogeneous patterns of beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority within adolescents of a given age
    - At each age, most adolescents report believing parents have legitimate authority over all issues, including problematic friends
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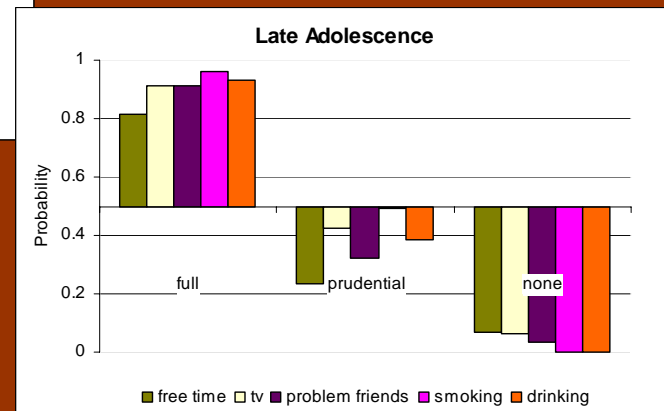
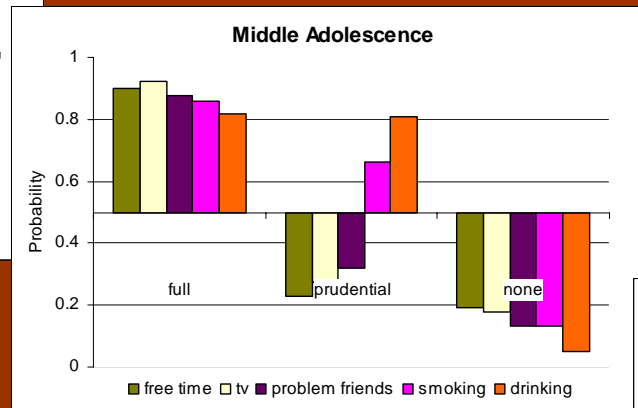
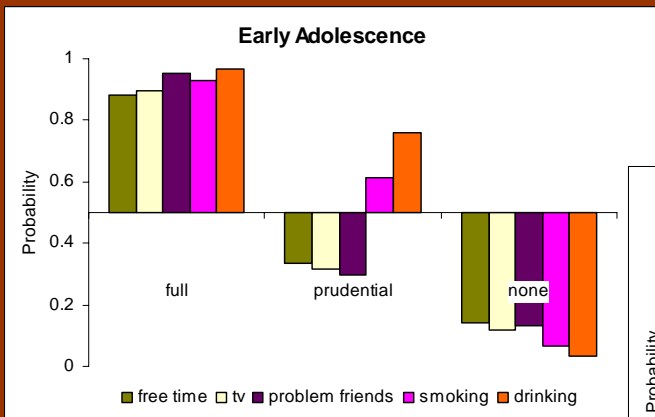
# Do you fully disclose to parents about your problematic friends?

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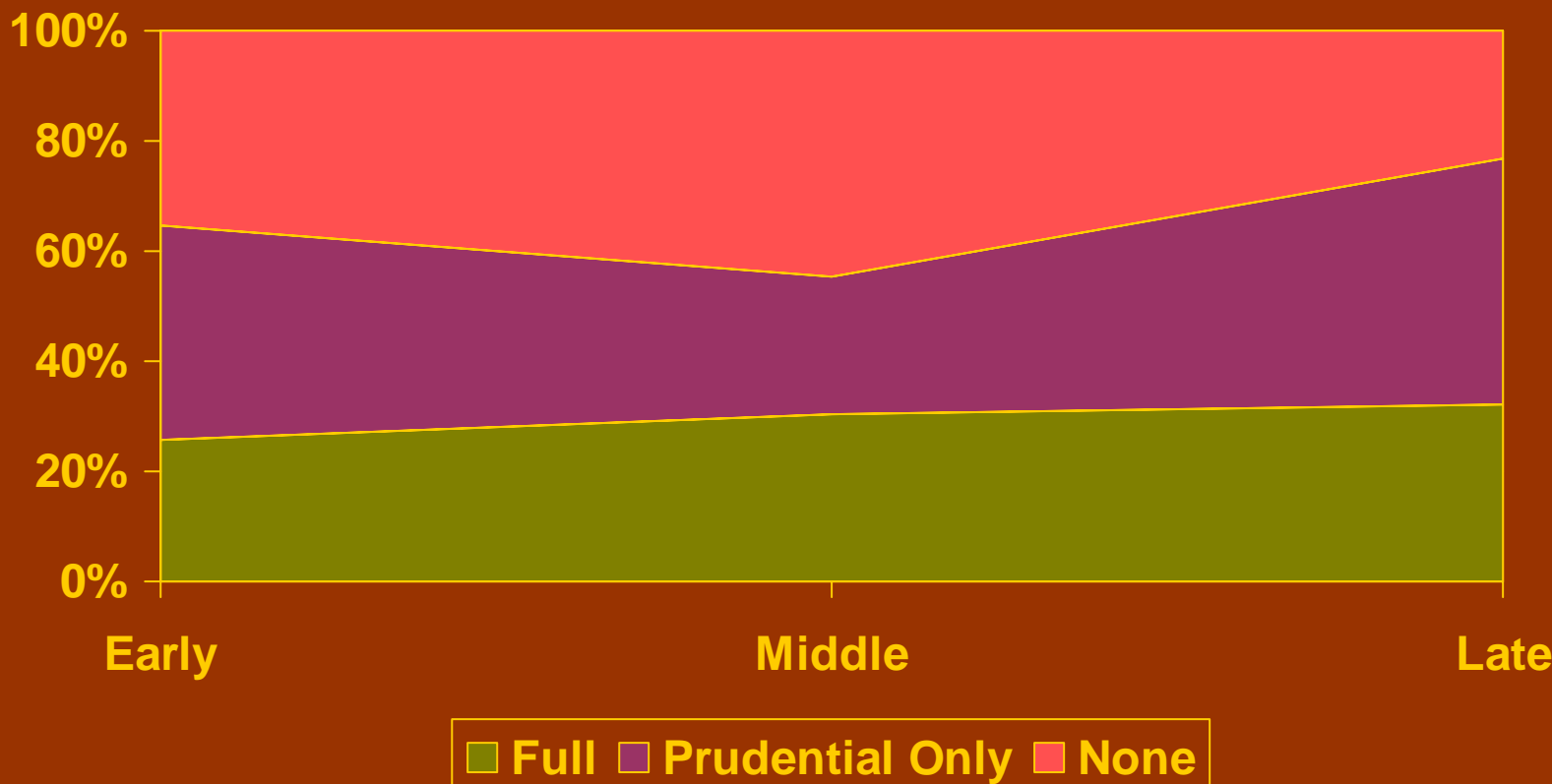
- Is there evidence for heterogeneity in the population?
  - Do we see normative, age-related change with older adolescents move towards a pattern of non-disclosure?
  - Does disclosure about problematic peers function as a personal or a prudential issue?
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# Results: Heterogeneous populations



# Results: No evidence of a normative shift to non-disclosure





# Conclusions: Full Disclosure

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- There is no evidence for a homogeneous, normative shift towards either non-disclosure or disclosure
- Disclosure about problematic friends appears to be treated as a personal issue, not as a prudential issue








# Where do we go from here?

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- Focusing on the within-person patterning of responses focuses us our attention on heterogeneity within the population
  - In both legitimacy beliefs and disclosure, we see three different patterns that appear similar at each age:
    - Parent control/shared control/adolescent control
    - Full disclosure/Disclosure of prudential/Nondisclosure
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# What is the underlying dynamic that leads to these patterns?

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- It's the adolescents: Temperamentally difficult adolescents are attracted to deviance, reject parental control and hide their deviance from their parents
  - It's the parents: Intrusive parents drive their adolescents away
  - It's the dyad: Adolescents should recognize reasonable limits placed on them by parents and parents should recognize the autonomy of their adolescents
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