Data Article

Dataset on childhood exposure to parenting by lying and its associations with adulthood psychosocial outcomes in a Singapore sample

Peipei Setoh a,*, Siqi Zhao a, Rachel Santos b, Gail D. Heyman c, d, Kang Lee b, d, **

a Psychology Program, School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
b Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, University of Toronto, ON, Canada
c Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego, USA
d Department of Psychology, Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua, China

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 7 August 2019
Accepted 26 August 2019
Available online 3 September 2019

Keywords:
Lying
Parenting
Dishonesty
Externalizing problems
Internalizing problems
Psychopathy

ABSTRACT

The present data are reported in the article “Parenting by Lying in Childhood is Associated with Negative Developmental Outcomes in Adulthood” (Setoh et al., in press). Data were collected using online survey. In this dataset, there are 377 responses from young adults from Singapore who reported on their childhood exposure to parenting by lying, their current deceptive behaviors toward parents, and their psychosocial adjustment. Path analysis was performed to better understand parenting by lying - a prevalent, but under-studied parenting practice.

© 2019 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

DOI of original article: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2019.104680.
* Corresponding author.
** Corresponding author. Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, University of Toronto, ON, Canada.
E-mail addresses: psetoh@ntu.edu.sg (P. Setoh), kang.lee@utoronto.ca (K. Lee).

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2019.104472
2352-3409/© 2019 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).
1. Data

The dataset contains 377 self-report survey responses from a Singapore sample. We measured exposure to parenting by lying in childhood (Table 1), lying behavior toward parents (Table 2) and psychosocial maladjustment amongst young adults [1]. Correlations between the study variables are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Hierarchical linear regression (Table 5) and path analyses (Figs. 1–3) were carried out to understand the factors that associate with parenting by lying.

2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

All the data were collected online using Qualtrics. The data consist of demographic information, responses from parenting by lying questionnaire [2], lying to parents questionnaire [3], Adult Self-Report questionnaire [4,5], as well as the Levenson self-report psychopathy scale [6].

The parenting by lying questionnaire is a 16-item questionnaire developed by Heyman and colleagues [2]. Four categories of parental lies were surveyed: (1) lies that involved eating; (2) lies that involved leaving and/or staying; (3) lies related to children’s misbehavior; and (4) lies that involved spending money. For each target item, participants were asked to recall if their parents told them the target lie by indicating “yes”, “no”, or “don’t remember”. A “yes” response was coded as 1 while “no” and “don’t remember were coded as 0. Total parenting by lying score was created by summing the lies recalled with a “yes” response. The items are listed in Table 1.
The lying to parents questionnaire is a 12-item survey assessed the current frequency of participants’ lying to their parents [3]. It consisted of three aspects of lying to parents: (1) explicit lies about activities and actions; (2) prosocial lies and (3) exaggerations about circumstances and events. Participants indicated how frequently they lied to their parents in adulthood on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 = never to 5 = very often. The items are listed in Table 2.
The Adult Self-Report questionnaire included 126 items assessing adults’ general adaptive functioning, as well as specific psychosocial dysfunctions [4,5]. We used age- and gender-normed scores generated by the ASR to measure two types of psychosocial maladjustment: externalizing problems (e.g., aggression, rule-breaking and intrusive behaviors) and internalizing problems (e.g., anxious, depressed and withdrawn behaviors).
The Levenson self-report psychopathy scale consisted of 26 items which assessed psychopathic attributes among the noninstitutionalized population [6]. This instrument evaluated both primary (16 items) and secondary (10 items) psychopathic attributes. Participants indicated their endorsement for each item on a 4-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 = disagree strongly to 4 = agree strongly. Six items were reverse coded.

---

**Fig. 1.** Path analysis with Parenting by Lying as X, action lies told to parents as M, three maladjustment variables as Ys. Gender, age, household income and recruitment mode were included as covariates but are not depicted. Model fit: $\chi^2 = 21.099, df = 4, p = .003$; RMSEA = 0.106, 90% CI [0.065, 0.153]; CFI = 0.968; SRMR = 0.035. The coefficients are unstandardized coefficients. SEs are in the parentheses. **p < .01; ***p < .001.

**Fig. 2.** Path analysis with Parenting by Lying as X, prosocial lies told to parents as M, three maladjustment variables as Ys. Gender, age, household income and recruitment mode were included as covariates but are not depicted. Model fit: $\chi^2 = 9.467, df = 4, p = .050$; RMSEA = 0.060, 90% CI [0.000, 0.111]; CFI = 0.989; SRMR = 0.019. The coefficients are unstandardized coefficients. SEs are in the parentheses. *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001.
Acknowledgments

This research was supported by Nanyang Technological University Start-up Grant (M4081490) and Singapore Ministry of Education Social Science Research Thematic Grant (MOE2016-SSRTG-017) to Peipei Setoh.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

References

[1] P. Setoh, S. Zhao, R. Santos, G. D. Heyman, K. Lee, Parenting by lying in childhood is associated with negative developmental outcomes in adulthood, J. Exp. Child Psychol. (in press).
[2] G.D. Heyman, A.S. Hsu, G. Fu, K. Lee, Instrumental lying by parents in the US and China, Int. J. Psychol. 48 (2013) 1176–1184, https://doi.org/10.1080/00207594.2012.746463.
[3] R.C.M.E. Engels, C. Finkenauer, D.C. Van Kooten, Lying behavior, family functioning and adjustment in early adolescence, J. Youth Adolesc. 35 (2006) 949–958, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-006-9082-1.
[4] T.M. Achenbach, Manual for the ASEBA Adult Forms & Profiles, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 2003.
[5] T.M. Achenbach, DSM-oriented Guide for the Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA), University of Vermont Research Center for Children, Youth, and Families, Burlington, VT, 2013.
[6] M.R. Levenson, K.A. Kiehl, C.M. Fitzpatrick, Assessing psychopathic attributes in a noninstitutionalized population, J. Pers. Soc. Psychol. 68 (1995) 151–158, https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.68.1.151.