

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

How are the families of parents with narcissistic personality disorder impacted?

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What is Narcissistic Personality Disorder?



- Inflated sense of their own importance
- Deep need for admiration
- Lack of empathy
- Fragile self-esteem
- Little emotional control
- Driven to dominate
- Demonstrate sadistic nature
- Often overstep boundaries
- (Brown, 2008)

Relevance

In the United States, **7.7%** of men and **4.8%** of women have narcissistic personality disorder (Berg-Nielsen & Wichström, 2012).

Within the mental health medical population, **2-16%** have narcissistic personality disorder (Horsley, 2012).

Findings

- Parents with narcissistic personality disorder have adverse impacts on both children and spouses



Impacts on the Children

Non-Optimal
Parenting
Skills

Increased emotional
and behavioral issues
(Berg-Nielsen &
Wichström, 2012)

Emotional
Instability

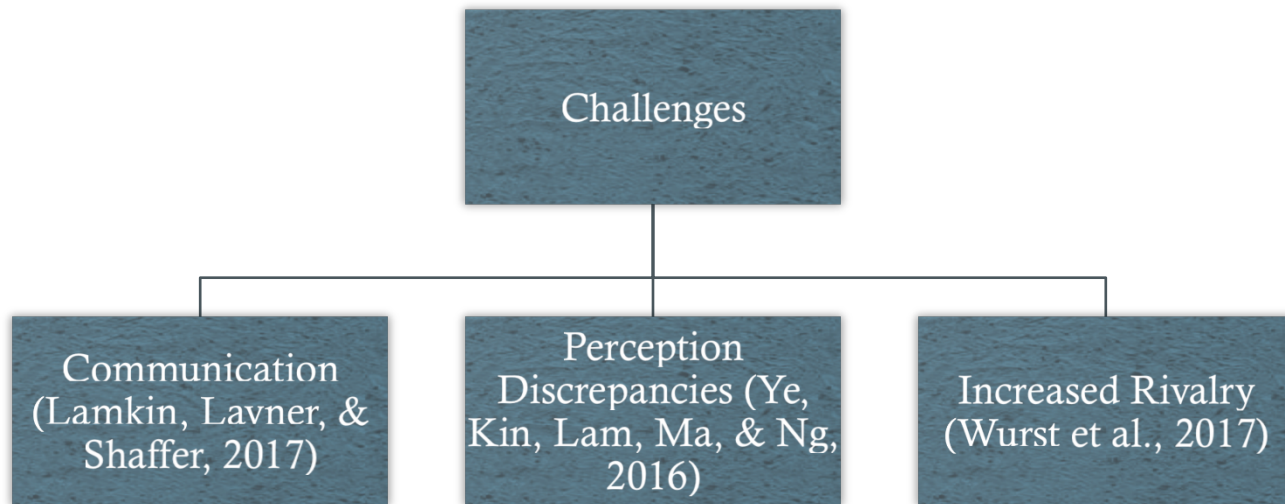
Increases the likelihood
of depression, substance
abuse, and different
disorders (Horsley,
2012).

Inappropriate
Views

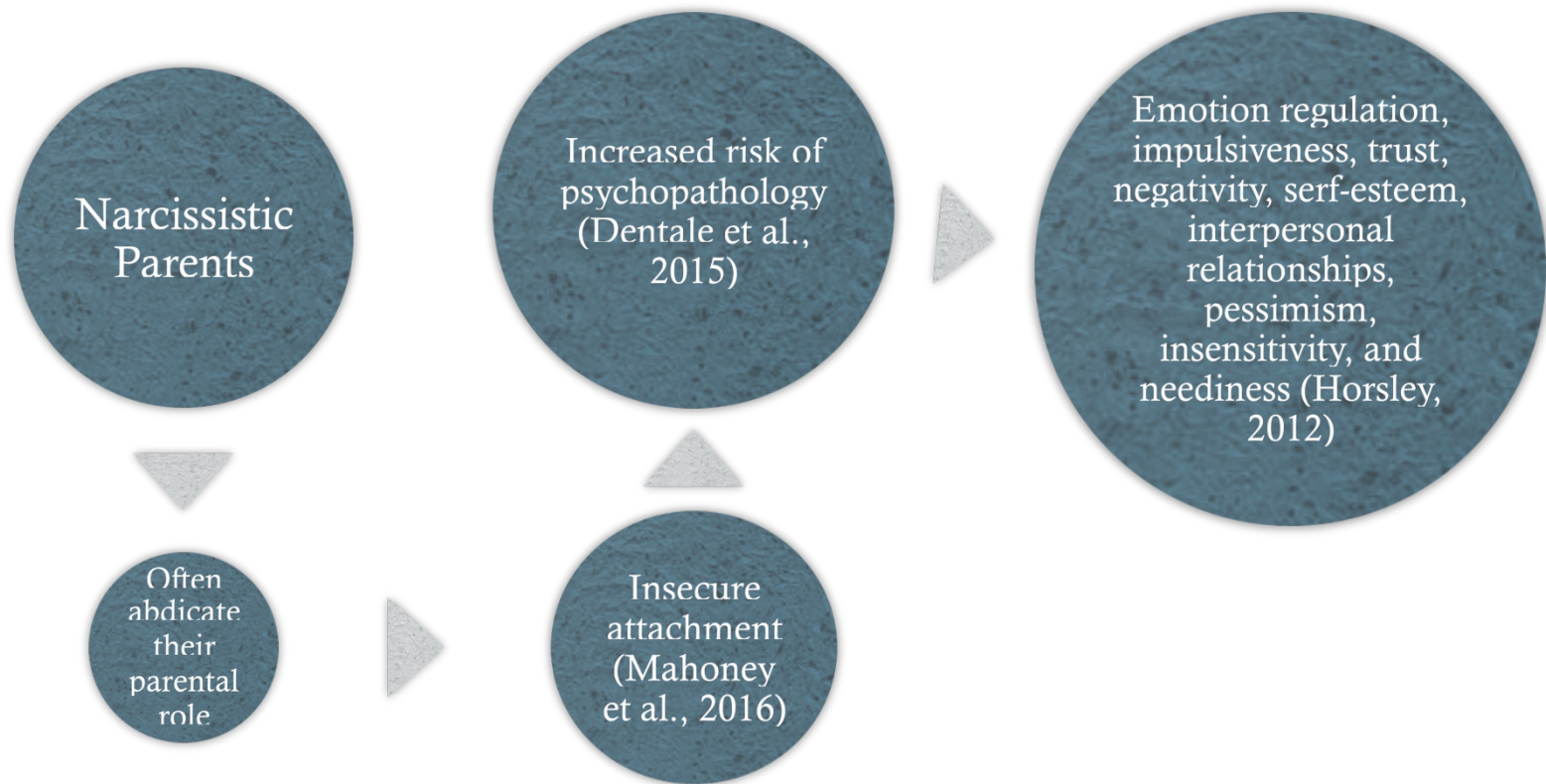
Increased risk of
physical abuse (Crouch
et al., 2015)

Impacts on Spouses

- Relationships with narcissists deteriorate overtime due to the way narcissists function in a relationship (Wurst, Dufner, Rauthmann, Grosz, & Küfner, 2017).



Attachment Theory



Conclusion

Parents with narcissistic personality disorder

Increase behavioral and emotional issues in their children (Berg-Nielsen & Wichström, 2012; Dentale et al., 2015)

Spouses with narcissistic personality disorder

Decrease in relationship satisfaction (Ye, Kin, Lam, Ma, & Ng, 2016)

Relationships overall

Significantly less positive (Byrne & O'Brien, 2014)

Application

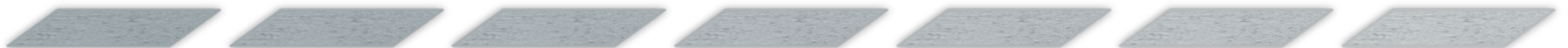
Child service providers should be able to recognize the personality traits in parents that lead to injuring children's mental health (Berg-Nielsen & Wichström, 2012)



Children should receive therapy (Horsley, 2012)



Intervention with spouses should be directed at learning to effectively communicate (Lamkin, Lavner, & Shaffer, 2017)



Recommendations



Micro

- Practitioners need to become competent in helping family members of narcissists (Berg-Nielsen & Wichström, 2012)



Mezzo

- Group therapy should be made available to children and spouses of narcissists



Macro

- Awareness should be raised regarding the challenges that mental illness can impose on families
- Perform more research (Lamkin, Lavner, & Shaffer, 2017)

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Questions?