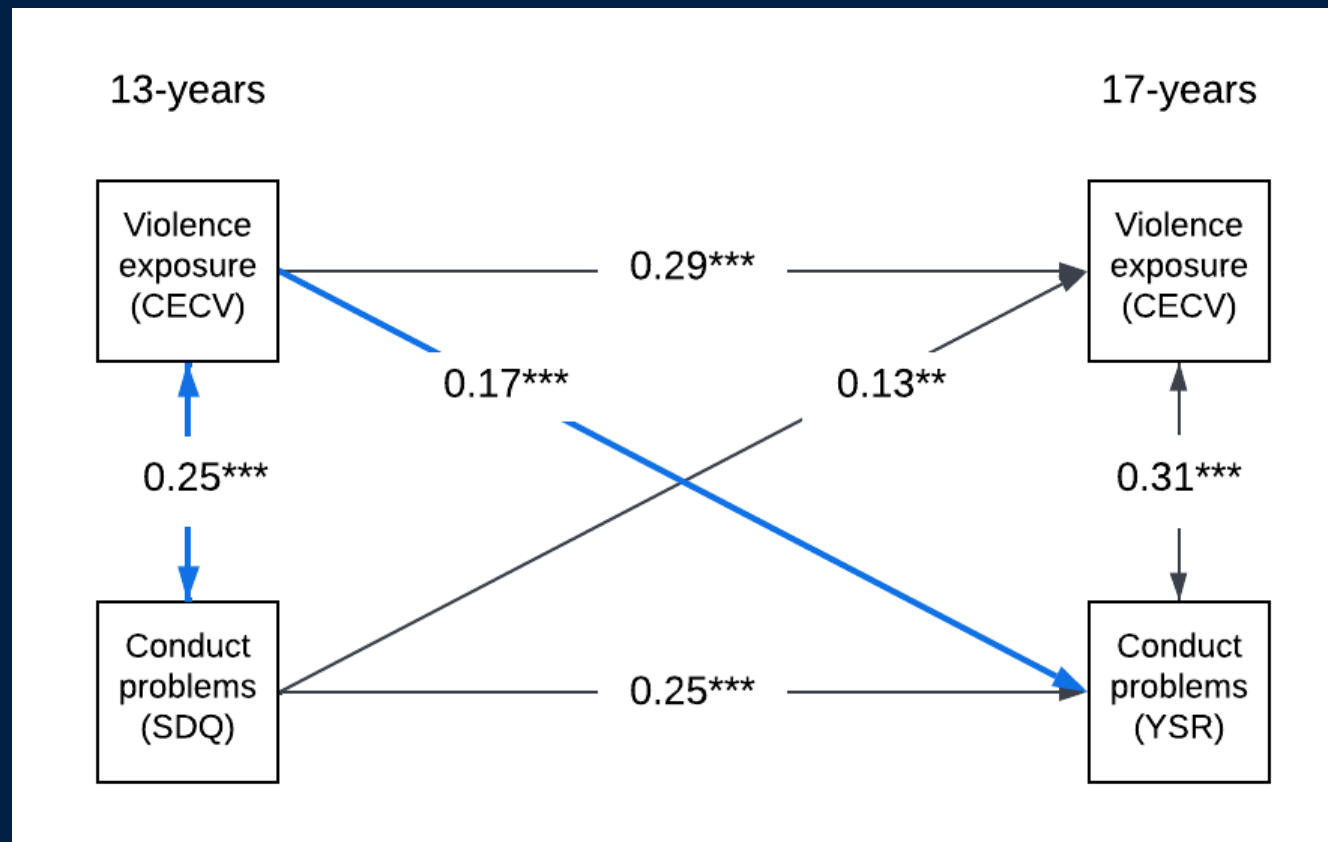


# Violence exposure, cortisol stress response, and adolescent conduct problems in adolescents from Khayelitsha

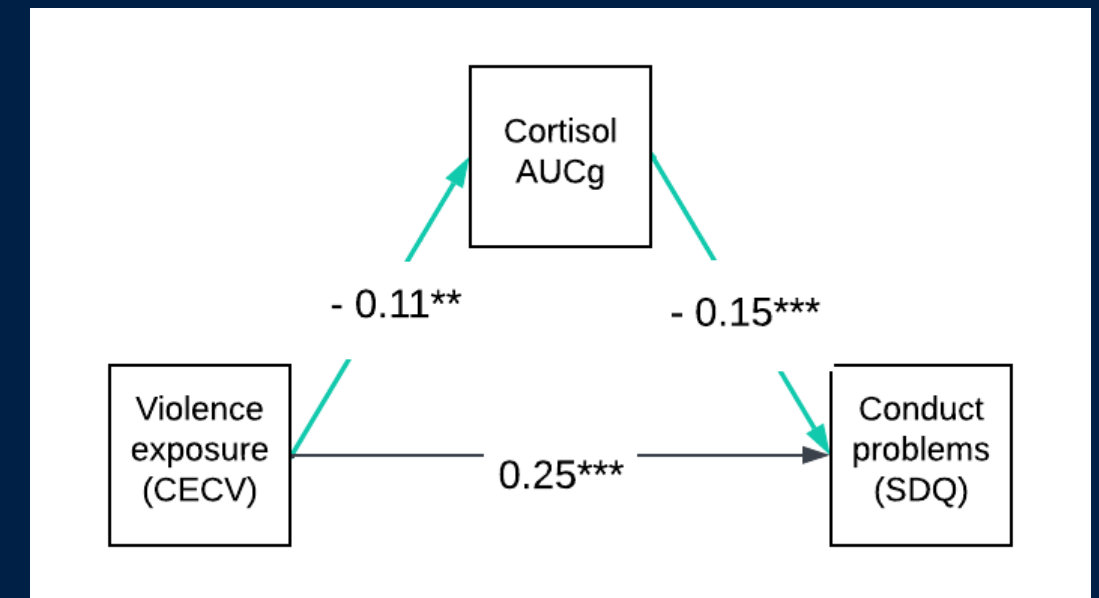
Susan Swingler, Doctoral Researcher

Thula Sana birth cohort study (n = 357)



**Hypothesis 1: Violence exposure at 13-years-old is positively associated with concurrent and longer-term conduct problems at 17-years-old**

**Support:** Those with more frequent domestic and community violence exposure have increased risk-taking and aggressive behaviours – a mutually reinforcing association



Models adjusted for covariates. \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.01

**Hypothesis 2: Violence exposure indirectly affects conduct problems through lower cortisol output during a stress task.**

**Partial support:** Those with higher violence exposure and/or conduct problems have lower cortisol, which explains 7% of the total effect of violence on conduct problems at 13-years-old (p = 0.10).