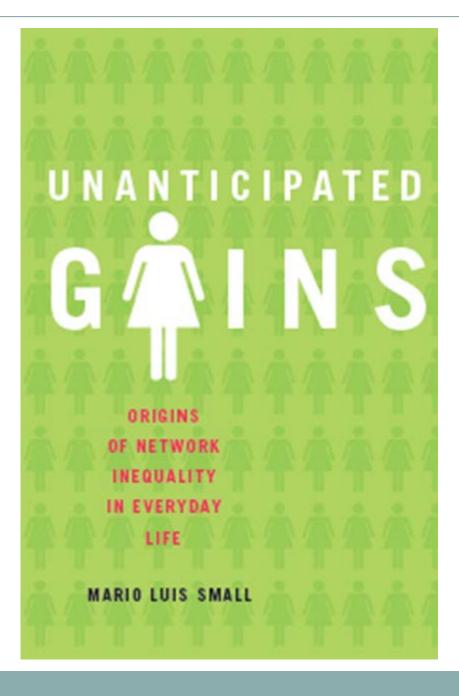
Understanding Social Capital

MARIO L. SMALL
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
SEPTEMBER 2015

Self sufficiency

"Help needy families achieve self-sufficiency"

- Obstacles?
 - Unemployment, material hardship, depression, limited education, and more
- Affected?
 - Parents and children



Social capital

- SC: Resources that people have access to by virtue of their networks
 - Greater mobility and wellbeing

- Organizations can shape social capital
 - Help counter obstacles to self-sufficiency

Three forms of social capital

Information

Support

Reinforcement of norms

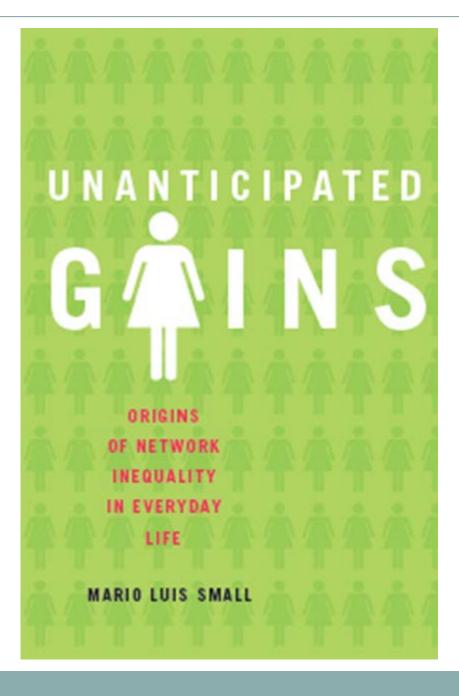
Two cases, childcare centers

Parental social capital, parents and children

Parental social capital, children

First case

 Impact on mental hardship (depression), material hardship

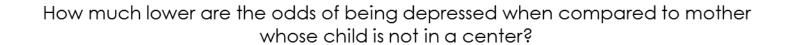


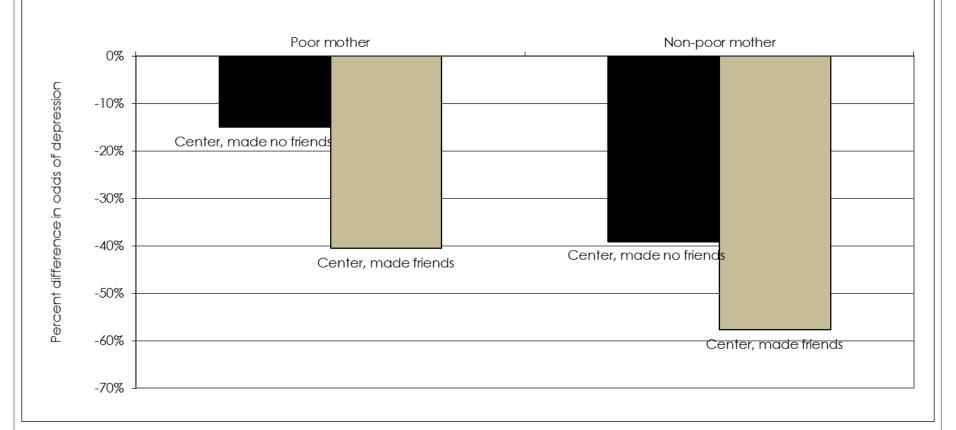
First case

~3,500 mothers, nationally representative

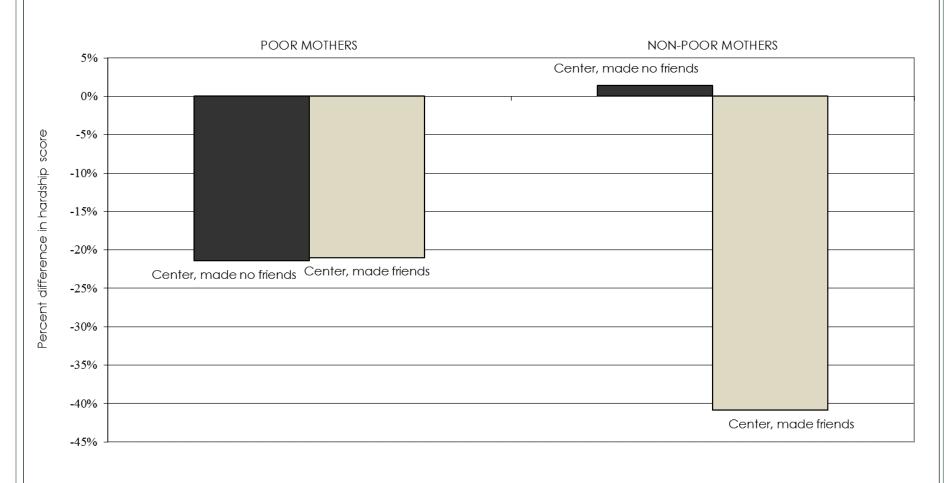
Followed from birth of focal child to age 5

 Did enrolling in center--and building social capital--have an impact?





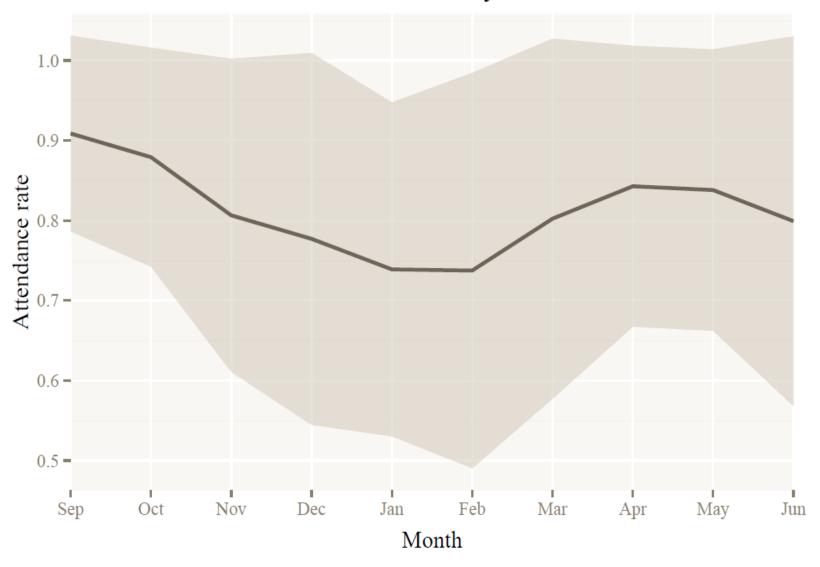
How much lower is predicted hardship score when compared to a mother whose child is not in a center?



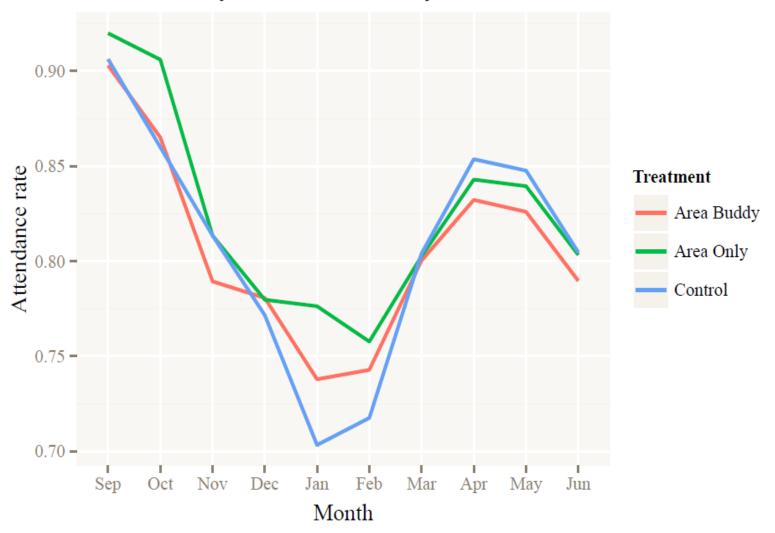
Second case

- Impact on attendance at Head Start centers
- Work with Terri Sabol, Teresa Sommer, Lindsay
 Chase Lansdale, Sean Brown, Henry Wilde, and
 Zong Yang Huang
- Does building social capital have an impact?

Attendance rate by month



Monthly attendance rate by treatment



Conclusion

 Social capital as vehicle to "help needy families achieve self-sufficiency"

 Organizational spaces as vehicles to build social capital

