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First African Caribbean
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180th
Celebratory
Session



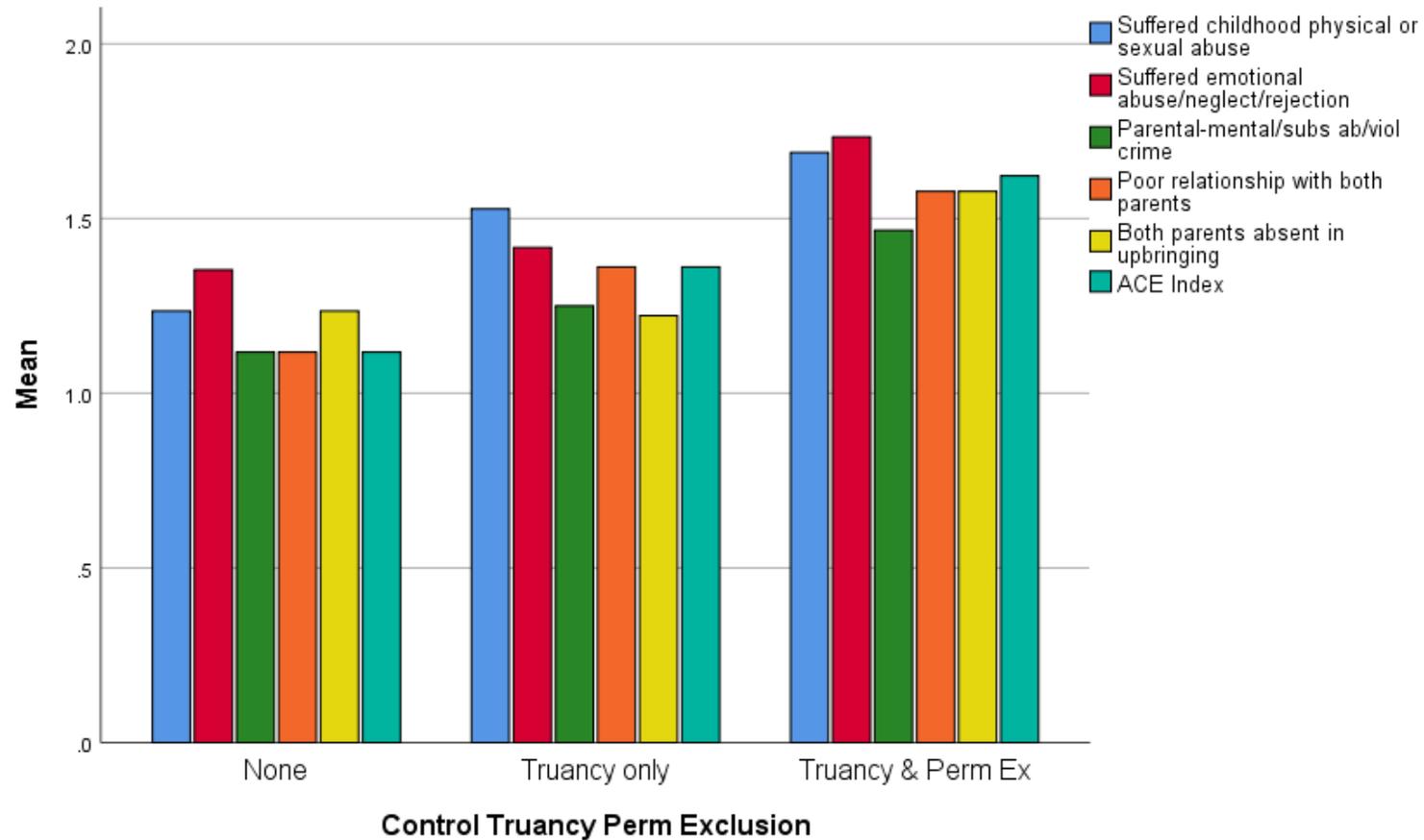
Prof Jack Tizard's contribution to how we think about mental disorder: Childhood experience and family life in personality development.

- Jack Tizard, late Professor of Child Development and Director of The Thomas Coram Research Unit, investigated obstacles to well being faced by children in foster or residential care, those with learning difficulties or disabilities and those from normal homes with loving parents.
- Today I will honour the memory of Prof Jack Tizard by sharing my findings of a court sample of British born, African & Caribbean clients assessed for reports as parents at-risk of losing a child or offenders of violent crime.

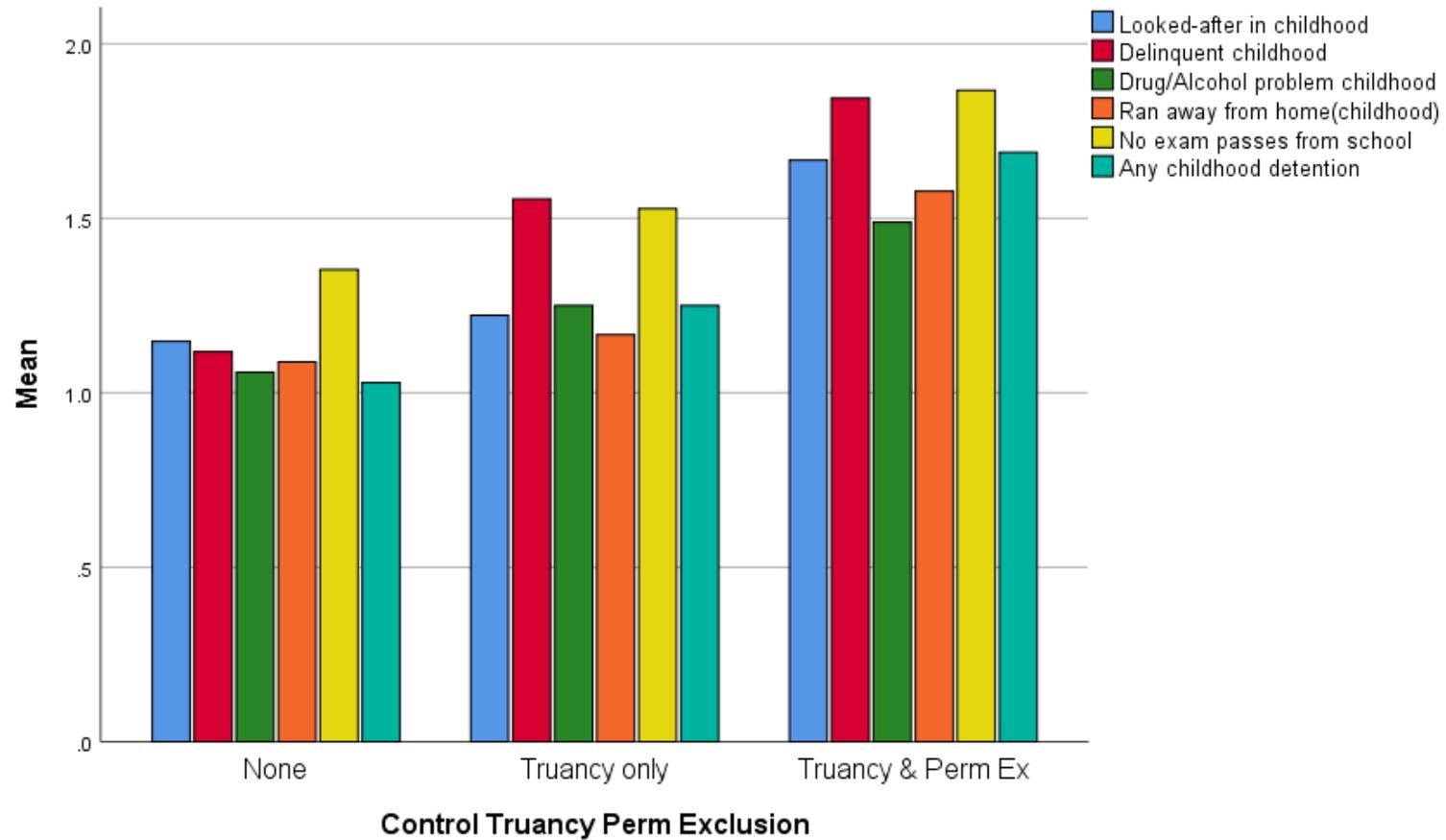
It is likely that he was sensitive to the needs of the immigrant post-slavery Caribbean population in the UK: He studied the effects of malnutrition on child development in Jamaica and might have been aware of the decline in the practicing doctors, from 200 in 1838 at emancipation to 50 in 1861(1).

Resulting deprivation and poverty was associated with cruelty and 'flight'. Landowners were compensated but former slaves received nothing.

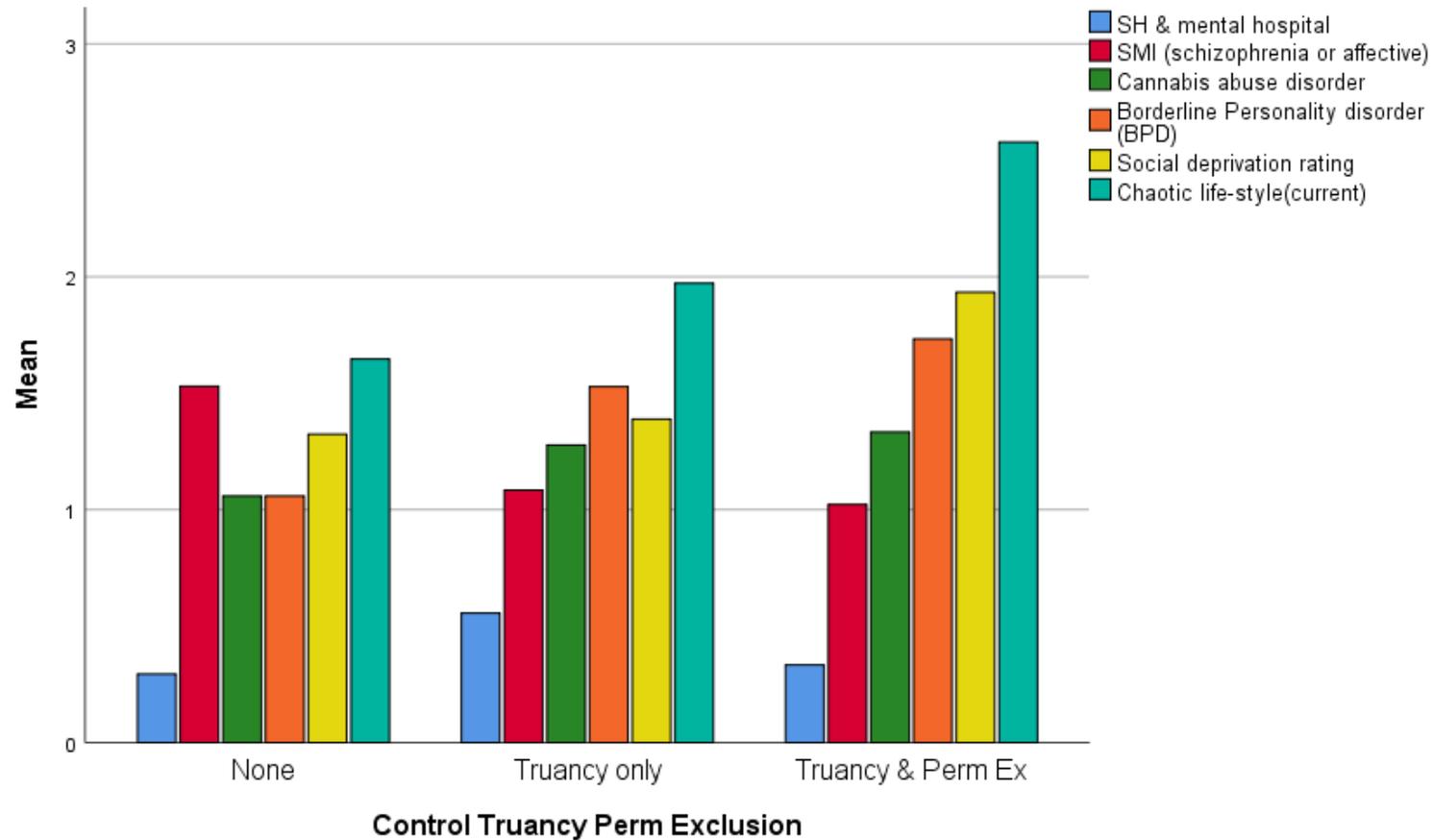
British born African or Caribbean clients – (gender & child care balanced in 3 target groups.
Findings in the home environment



Experiences in childhood



As truancy & permanent exclusion may be outcomes of a child's vulnerability it may be inappropriate to resort to punishment rather than family intervention.



The importance of vigilance in the classroom

- Parents, teachers and social workers carry a heavy responsibility in their attempt to monitor child development and behaviour.
- Among male youngsters of Caribbean background rates of permanent exclusion from school are known to be much higher than others.
- The findings of the present study suggest that a keen and sensitive approach to historical data may offer ideas for meaningful interventions.
- It is clear from these findings that Prof Jack Tizard's work with children offers possibilities for further enquiry.
- (1) Margaret Jones "The Most Cruel and Revolting Crimes: The Treatment of the Mentally Ill in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Jamaica" *J Caribb Hist.* 2008; 42(2): 290–309