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Citation for final published version:

Stamoulis, Catherine, Vanderwert, Ross , Zeanah, Charles H., Fox, Nathan A. and Nelson, Charles A. 2017. Neuronal networks in the developing brain are adversely modulated by early psychosocial neglect. Journal of Neurophysiology , jn.00014.2017. 10.1152/jn.00014.2017

Publishers page: http://dx.doi.org/10.1152/jn.00014.2017

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Articles in PresS. J Neurophysiol (July 5, 2017). doi:10.1152/jn.00014.2017 Neuronal networks in the developing brain are adversely modulated by early psychosocial neglect Catherine Stamoulis^{1,2,3*}, Ross E. Vanderwert⁸, Charles H. Zeanah⁵, Nathan A. Fox⁶, Charles, A. Nelson^{1,4,7}

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- 20 Running title: Effects of early psychosocial neglect on brain networks
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25 Abstract

| 27 | The brain's neural circuitry plays a ubiquitous role across domains in cognitive processing and undergoes |
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| 28 | extensive re-organization during the course of development in part as a result of experience. In this paper we |
| 29 | investigated the effects of profound early psychosocial neglect associated with institutional rearing on the |
| 30 | development of task-independent brain networks, estimated from longitudinally acquired |
| 31 | electroencephalographic (EEG) data from <30 to 96 months, in three cohorts of children from the Bucharest |
| 32 | Early Intervention Project (BEIP), including abandoned children reared in institutions who were randomly |
| 33 | assigned either to a foster care intervention or to remain in care as usual and never institutionalized children. |
| 34 | |
| 35 | Two aberrantly connected brain networks were identified in children that had been reared in institutions: 1) a |
| 36 | hyper-connected parieto-occipital network, which included cortical hubs and connections that may partially |
| 37 | overlap with default-mode network and 2) a hypo-connected network between left temporal and distributed |
| 38 | bilateral regions, both of which were aberrantly connected across neural oscillations. This study provides the |
| 39 | first evidence of the adverse effects of early psychosocial neglect on the wiring of the developing brain. Given |
| 40 | these networks' potentially significant role in various cognitive processes, including memory, learning, social |
| 41 | communication and language, these findings suggest that institutionalization in early life may profoundly |
| 42 | impact the neural correlates underlying multiple cognitive domains, in ways that may not be fully reversible in |
| 43 | the short term. |
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49 <u>New and noteworthy</u>

| 50 | This paper provides first evidence that early psychosocial neglect associated with institutional rearing |
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| 51 | profoundly affects the development of the brain's neural circuitry. Using longitudinally-acquired |
| 52 | electrophysiological data from the Bucharest Early Intervention Project (BEIP), the paper identifies multiple |
| 53 | task-independent networks that are abnormally connected (hyper- or hypo-connected) in children reared in |
| 54 | institutions compared to never-institutionalized children. These networks involve spatially distributed brain |
| 55 | areas and their abnormal connections may adversely impact neural information processing across cognitive |
| 56 | domains. |
| 57 | |

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59 Keywords: Brain networks, EEG, early development, psychosocial neglect

60 Introduction

From the microscale of individual neurons to the macroscale of cortical regions, the brain's neuroarchitecture 61 is characterized by networks organized into topologies that ensure flexible, rapid and efficient neural 62 63 information processing (Bullmore & Sporns, 2009). These networks may be divided into two broad categories: 64 task-related networks that are activated and coordinated in response to cognitive demands and external stimuli. and task-independent (resting-state or stimulus-independent) networks that are spontaneously active and 65 coordinated when the brain is not actively engaged in specific cognitive tasks. In some cases, task-dependent 66 67 networks increase their activity and coordination at the same time as specific task-independent networks 68 decrease theirs (Fox et al., 2005). Thus, in part due to these inverse correlations, task-independent networks 69 may play a critical role in cognitive function and neural information processing (Raichle et al., 2001, 2007; 70 Dosenbach et al., 2008; Kelly et al., 2008). Predominantly fMRI studies in adults have identified several 71 distinct, and in some cases inter-connected task-independent networks, including the default-mode network 72 (DMN) (Greicius et al., 2003; Vincent et al., 2006; Mantini et al., 2007; Ward et al., 2014). The topologies of these networks, estimated from fMRI data with excellent spatial resolution, may be directly correlated with 73 74 those of structural networks (Greicius et al., 2009; Barttfelt et al., 2015). Previous studies have associated disrupted task-independent networks, with neuropsychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia and autism 75 76 (Kennedy et al., 2006, Bluhm et al., 2007).

77

The dynamic evolution of task-independent networks in the developing brain is poorly understood and our current knowledge is primarily based on fMRI studies. Elements of these networks come on line early in infancy (Fransson et al., 2007), but at least the DMN, which includes the ventral medial prefrontal cortex, anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), posterior cingulate cortex (PCC), lateral temporal cortex, precuneus and lateral parietal inferior gyri and the hippocampal formation (Greicius et al., 2003; Buckner et al., 2008), may be incompletely connected even at ages 7-9 years (Fair et al., 2008). Negative early experiences and stressors,

84 including poverty, abuse and psychosocial neglect, may have profound effects on neural maturation and 85 consequently brain structure and function. In fact, social and emotional deprivation associated with 86 institutional rearing has been shown to adversely affect brain's structure (Eluvathingal et al., 2006; Bauer et 87 al., 2009; Sheridan et al., 2012; Bick et al., 2015), metabolism (Chugani et al., 2001; Tottenham et al., 2011) 88 and electrical activity (Marshall et al., 2004, 2008; Vanderwert et al., 2010; McLaughlin et al., 2010, 2011; 89 Stamoulis et al, 2015). Earlier work on the Bucharest Early Intervention Project (BEIP), a longitudinal study 90 of children with a history of severe early deprivation (see Zeanah et al., 2003; Nelson et al., 2014), has shown 91 that early psychosocial deprivation significantly impacts age-related dynamics in the developing brain's 92 rhythms (Stamoulis et al., 2015). In the same sample, Marshall et al. (2008) showed that removal from an institution and placement in a foster care home prior to 24 months of age resulted in higher local network 93 94 synchrony and statistically higher power in the alpha band (8-12 Hz) in the first 4 years of life in comparison to children who remained in institutions. A positive modulatory effect of foster care placement was also 95 reported in other oscillations (Stamoulis et al., 2015), although changes in these oscillations from 42 to 96 96 97 months were found to be distinct in children removed from institutions and placed in foster care compared to 98 those who had never been institutionalized. These results highlight the profound adverse effects of early 99 institutionalization on the developing brain.

100

There are very few studies that have investigated task-independent networks in the developing brain and no previous work on the effects of neglect on these networks. This study investigated the topologies of taskindependent networks and their developmental trajectories in children participating in the BEIP. Longitudinal electrophysiological (EEG) data from 3 cohorts were analyzed, including a group of institutionalized children who were randomized to a high-quality foster care placement (the foster care group), a group randomized to remain in institutional care (care as usual group) and a group of children who had never been institutionalized and lived with their families in the Bucharest community (never institutionalized group). Although EEG has 108 excellent temporal resolution, it lacks the high spatial resolution of fMRI and cannot resolve network topologies with the same spatial specificity as fMRI. Consequently, brain network topologies estimated from 109 110 fMRI (which measures hemodynamic responses) and EEG (which measures neural activity) are not directly comparable. Nevertheless, EEG may still provide spatially sparse connectivity information on task-111 independent networks that may overlap with those identified by fMRI. Here we hypothesized that the spatial 112 113 organization, properties and age-related dynamics of these networks are significantly impacted by early neglect in a frequency-specific manner, resulting in aberrant topologies that impair the efficiency of neural 114 information processing and consequently cognitive function. 115

116

117 Materials and Methods

118 **<u>1. Bucharest Early Intervention Project (BEIP)</u>**

119 The BEIP is an ongoing longitudinal study that started in 2001 as a randomized controlled trial with foster care as an intervention for young children who had been abandoned at birth and placed in institutions. Using multi-120 121 modal data, the study aims to investigate the effects of early psychosocial deprivation on the structure and 122 function of the developing brain and potentially beneficial effects of removal from an institution and foster care placement (Zeanah et al, 2003, Nelson et al, 2014). One hundred thirty-six children who had been reared 123 in institutions entered the trial at ages 6-30 months, and were randomized to two arms, care as usual (CAUG; 124 125 n = 68), i.e., more prolonged institutional rearing and foster care (FCG; n = 68), i.e., placement in high-quality 126 foster care specifically created for the project. A comparison group of 72 Romanian children who had never been institutionalized and lived with their families in Bucharest communities were also recruited (NIG). 127

128

129 2. Participants

130 The present study sought to quantify the age-related changes in task-independent networks using

131 longitudinally acquired EEG signals from the BEIP cohorts, with an emphasis on 42 and 96 months (although

data at all ages were analyzed). Thus, only subgroups of the BEIP cohorts with measurements at a minimum of
2 time points were included. Also, 4 children in the CAUG with diagnosed Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
were excluded. The characteristics of these groups are described in more detail in (Stamoulis et al., 2015).
Sixty-two children in the CAUG (median age at study entry = 23.0 months, inter-quartile range (IQR) = 9
months), 61 children in the FCG (median age at study entry = 23.0 months, IQR = 11 months), and 44 children
in the NIG (median age at study entry = 21.5 months, IQR = 12 months) were studied.

138

139 **<u>3. Demographic data</u>**

140 Age, which varied between participants both at study entry and the second assessment (30-33 months) but not 141 at 42 or 96 months, gender, age at foster care placement for children in the FCG, percent time spent in institutions for children in the FGC and CAUG, birth weight and head circumference were included in the 142 143 analysis as potential covariates. All missing data were assumed to be missing at random, mainly as a result of 144 longitudinal attrition. Eighty-four females and 83 males were studied. Birth weight varied in the range 0.9 -4.5 kg (median = 3.0 kg, IQR = 0.8 kg). These data were missing in 15 children. There were no statistically 145 significant differences in birth weight between the CAUG and FCG (median of CAUG = 2.8 kg, median of 146 FCG = 2.6 kg, p = 0.14) but both groups had statistically lower birth weights than the NIG (median of NIG = 147 148 3.3 kg, p<0.001). Head circumference was measured at all 4 time points. These data were missing for 17 149 children at baseline, 16 at 30 months, 25 at 42 months and 32 at 96 months. Median circumference at baseline was 46.8 cm, IOR = 2.5 cm, 48.0 cm at 30 months IOR = 2.0 cm, 48.6 cm at 42 months, IOR = 1.6 cm, and 150 51.0 cm at 96 months, IOR = 2 cm. There were no significant differences in head circumference between the 151 152 CAUG and FCG at any age (p = 0.18 at baseline, p = 0.07 at 30 months, p = 0.09 at 42 months, p = 0.38 at 96 months). In the FCG, age at foster care placement was in the range 6.8 - 33 months, median = 24.8 months, 153 154 IQR = 10.1 months. Time spent at institutions at baseline, 42 and 96 months is summarized in Table S1.

155

156 **<u>4. EEG data characteristics and pre-processing</u>**

157 EEGs were collected at study entry (baseline) as well as at 30-33, 42 and 96 months, using an Electro-Cap 158 (Electro-Cap International Inc) system (12 scalp electrodes: F3, F4, Fz, C3, C4, P3, P4, Pz, T7, T8, O1, O2). 159 The characteristics of these data are described in detail in (Marshall et al, 2008, Vanderwert et al, 2010, 160 Stamoulis et al, 2015). At baseline, 30-33 months and 42 month assessments, task-independent EEG signals 161 were recorded while lights were turned off for ~1-3 min. At 96 months, task-independent EEG signals were 162 recorded during 1-min intervals of eyes-closed (EC) and eyes-open (EO). Only signals recorded under the EC 163 condition were included in the analysis. Data were sampled at 512 samples/s and bandpass filtered during acquisition in the range 0.1-100 Hz. Prior to analysis all signals were referenced to an average reference. 164 165 Previous work has shown that in the absence of appropriate source modeling, which is difficult with a small 166 number of electrodes, an average reference results in substantially lower connectivity errors than a mastoid or Cz reference (Chella et al, 2016). However, similar to all referencing approaches, an average reference has 167 shortcomings, too, particularly for localizing specific EEG waveforms such as event-related potentials (ERP). 168 169 Here, the issue of localization is of less concern. Also, several studies have shown that for connectivity 170 analyses, even with a low number of EEG electrodes average referencing is preferable to the use of a common reference (Dien, 1998). A stopband filterbank of 3rd order elliptical filters with a 1-Hz bandwidth, 0.5 dB 171 ripple in the passband and 20 dB in the stopband was used to suppress the power line noise at 50 Hz and its 172 173 100-Hz harmonic. Artifacts associated with eye blinking were locally suppressed using a matched-filtering approach, where signal templates for eye blinks were used to detect intervals containing these artifacts 174 (Stamoulis et al., 2009). Individual EEG signals were further denoised via signal decomposition and 175 176 elimination of random components identified based on their autocorrelation function (Stamoulis et al., 2014). Finally, signals containing extreme amplitude outliers, i.e., above a threshold equal to the median plus 3 times 177 the inter-quartile difference (Tukey, 1977) were also eliminated. These outliers are likely to be associated with 178 179 broadband muscle and/or other non-neural activity. Consequently, 1-s intervals containing outliers were

180 excluded from the signal decomposition and mutual information estimations.

181

182 **<u>5. Signal analysis</u>**

183 5a. Estimation of narrowband EEG signal components (individual oscillations): Neural oscillations in the 184 developing brain may have characteristic frequencies that do not fall within the limits of traditional biological 185 bands (delta to ripple), established based on adult brain signals. Thus, frequency domain analysis of bandpass 186 filtered signals in these bands may not be appropriate. Instead, a fully unsupervised, time-domain approach 187 based on the Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition method (EEMD, Wu et al, 2005) was used to estimate neural oscillations and their dominant frequencies. The EEMD is a modification of the classical EMD method 188 189 (Huang et al, 1998) and accounts of the problem of mode (component) mixing. The estimation process has been descried in detail in previous work (Stamoulis et al., 2015). Task-independent network connectivity was 190 191 estimated for individual oscillations of the EEG to construct frequency-specific networks. Briefly, each EEG signal was decomposed into a small set of narrowband components that significantly contributed to the 192 193 broadband signal amplitude. The cost function proposed in (Stamoulis et al, 2011) was also used to select nonrandom components and eliminate noise-related signal contributions with substantial amplitude. A sliding 1-s 194 window was used in all estimations. In exploratory analyses of the data, the window length was varied 195 between 1 and 4 s, yielding similar estimates in oscillation amplitude, frequency and connectivity. 196

197

198 <u>Glossary of terms:</u> The following network parameters were estimated for each identified oscillation in the 199 EEG: a) <u>spatially averaged connectivity</u> (over the entire brain and over individual networks identified in 200 models to be statistically distinct between groups), b) non-directional <u>edge-specific connectivity</u> for each edge 201 connecting pair of network nodes and c) <u>node centrality</u>, a measure of the importance of each node in the 202 network. Each electrode was treated as a network node. Spatially-averaged and edge-specific connectivities 203 were quantified using <u>mutual information</u>, an information theoretic measure (see 5b). Two types of

connectivity matrices were estimated for each child at each time point and each oscillation, a *weighted* 204

connectivity matrix containing the actual mutual information values and thus the actual connection strengths 205 206 between pairs of nodes and the *adjacency matrix*, a binary matrix of edge connection/non-connection obtained by appropriately thresholding the weighted connectivity matrix. Based on connectivity thresholds two sets of 207 networks were identified, hvper- and hvpo-connected networks (see 5c and 5d). Node centrality was quantified 208

209 using *node strength*, a measure of the sum of its connections based the adjacency matrix (see 5e).

210

5b. Estimation of oscillation-specific connectivity: In the case of a large number of electrodes, connectivity 211 analysis may be best conducted at the source level, to appropriately address issues of volume conduction 212 which may impact various connectivity measures. The adequacy and accuracy of source connectivity analysis 213 214 in the case of 12 electrodes are questionable, independently of the source separation or localization methods used. Information-based connectivity measures have been shown to be relatively robust to volume conduction 215 (Vicente et al, 2011) and were used in this electrode-level analysis. Mutual information was used to quantify 216 217 undirected pairwise network connectivity. Together with other information theoretic measures, it has been previously used in a number of studies to quantify correlation between electrophysiological signals and may 218 219 be more robust to the inherent noise of these signals than other measures such as coherence (Vejmelka et al, 2008; Schreiber, 2000; Palus et al, 2001; Stamoulis et al, 2013). Mutual information $I(X,Y) = \sum_{x,y} p(x,y)$ 220

 $\frac{p(x, y)}{p(x) p(y)} \ge 0$, between random variables X and Y measures their mutual dependence (Cover & Thomas, 221 2004). It is a function of their joint and marginal probability density functions p(x, y), p(x) and p(y), which 222 were estimated using a kernel-based method (assuming a Gaussian kernel) following segmentation of EEG 223 signals in 1-s windows. Across ages and participants, a kernel bandwdith of 0.8 was used in the estimation and 224 225 the probability density functions were evaluated at 200 points.

226

5c. Connectivity threshold estimation: Edge-specific mutual information thresholds were estimated as 227

follows: for each oscillation and network edge, the median (across subjects) mutual information for the NIG
(and thus each age-matched oscillation and edges in the control group) was calculated as well as
corresponding 95% confidence intervals (CI), using bootstrapping with replacement (2000 draws and an
accelerated, bias-corrected percentile method (Efron, 1993)). The edge-specific upper CI for the NIG median
mutual information was selected as an edge's threshold for edge hyper-connectivity, and the corresponding
lower CI was selected as the threshold for edge hypo-connectivity.

234

235 <u>5d. Adjacency matrix estimation for relative hyper- and hypo-connectivity:</u> Based on the above
236 thresholds, two sets of adjacency matrices - with elements (*i*, *j*) for edges connecting nodes *i* and *j*, for each
237 oscillation-specific undirected graph were estimated for the CAUG and FCG, 1) the *hyper-connectivity*238 *adjacency matrices*, with elements that were equal to 1 for edges that exceeded the upper CI for median
239 connectivity of the NIG and zeros elsewhere, 2) the *hypo-connectivity adjacency matrices*, with elements that
240 were equal to 1 for edges that were below the lower CI for median connectivity of the NIG and 0 elsewhere.
241

242 <u>5e. Estimation of node centrality:</u> The maximum number of possible connections of each node in the 243 estimated networks is 12 (a self-connection and 11 connections to all other nodes). There are several ways to 244 define *node centrality*, i.e., the importance of a node in a network. Here it is defined in two ways: 1) in terms 245 of *node strength*, i.e. the ratio of the sum of all edge weights for a node over the maximum possible sum of

246 weights, so for node $c_i = \frac{\sum_{j} I_{ij}}{max \sum_{j} I_{ij}}$; 2) in terms of <u>node connectedness</u>, i.e., the ratio of the sum of all

247 binary edge values for a node over the maximum possible sum of weights i.e.,
$$c_i = \frac{\sum_{j} A_{ij}}{max \sum_{j} A_{ij}}$$
. Based on

248 these topological measures it is possible to identify potential *hubs*, i.e., highly connected nodes that are critical

249 for information processing through the network. Note that the adjacency matrices for the CAUG and FCG

were estimated as described in sub-section 5d. The adjacency matrices for subjects in the NIG were estimated assuming the median (across subjects and electrodes) MI as the corresponding connectivity threshold.

252

253 <u>6. Statistical analysis</u>

254 Differences in network characteristics at individual ages were assessed using ordinary linear regression 255 models, with edge connectivity or node centrality as the dependent variable, and group (using criterion coding 256 to avoid including several group variables given the relatively small sample), time spent in institutions, birth 257 weight, head circumference, age at foster care placement and gender (categorized as female = 0, male = 1) as independent variables. In these models (as well as in mixed effects models used to assess age-related 258 259 parameter changes), each edge or node parameter were assessed independently, i.e., nodes/edges were not 260 compared to each other. Instead, their individual (independent) correlation with the predictors and confounders were assessed. Therefore, corrections for multiple comparisons were not necessary, particularly in mixed 261 effects models (Gelman et al, 2012). Combinations of independent variables were included in separate models. 262 Logistic regression models with group as the dependent variable (assuming the NIG as the reference category) 263 and network measures as independent variables were also developed. Finally, in cases where network 264 parameters were found to be statistically distinct among the 3 groups, their relationship was also investigated 265 through logistic regression models that included only the CAUG (= 0) and FCG (= 1), i.e., the groups in the 266 267 two arms of the randomized trial. All modeling approaches yielded consistent results. Note that at baseline (prior to the randomization) there were only two groups, institutionalized and never-institutionalized. 268

269

Linear mixed effects models were developed to investigate temporal trajectories of network characteristics.
For all children randomized to the intervention arm, foster care placement occurred before 42 months of age.
Therefore, to assess intervention-related effects we focused on changes in network parameters between 42 and
96 months. Thus, the models included a subject-specific intercept and a subject-specific age slope, to account

274 for potential subject-specific variabilities. Independent variables included gender, birth weight, head

275 circumference, group, age at foster care placement and percent time spent at institutions. Given the sample

size, only relatively small models were developed with combinations of 1-3 independent variables. All

analyses were done using the software Matlab (Mathworks, Inc, Natick MA, USA).

278

279 **<u>Results</u>**

We investigated oscillation-specific network properties at all 4 age assessments, and their developmental 280 changes from 42 to 96 months. We first examined spatially-averaged (global) connectivity followed by edge-281 282 specific connectivity and node centrality. We conducted two complementary analyses: 1) Using connectivity thresholds derived from the NIG, we compared the FCG and the CAUG relative to NIG. We thus present 283 284 results on abnormal networks in the FCG and CAUG that were found to be hyper-connected or hypo-285 connected relative to the NIG; 2) We compared all 3 groups to each other via statistical models that included adjustments for birth weight or head circumference. We report network measures only for subnetworks that 286 were found to be statistically distinct in the 3 groups. As previously noted, regression models were also 287 288 developed to compare only the CAUG and FCG, separately from the NIG. Statistically significant group differences in network parameters identified in these models were consistent with those identified using 289 models that included the NIG. 290

291

292 <u>1. Brain-wide (spatially-averaged) connectivity</u>

First, median (over electrodes) mutual information (MI) that had been averaged in time was compared between groups for each estimated oscillation at each assessment age, to assess potential differences in brain/hemisphere-wide connectivity. Corresponding frequency-connectivity relationships at these ages (unadjusted for confounders or other covariates) are shown in Figure 1. Inter-quartile ranges (vertical bars for MI and horizontal bars for frequency) are shown. In these unadjusted connectivity data, no significant

differences were found between groups except for the gamma oscillation at 96 months (p = 0.012), and the 298 alpha and theta oscillations at baseline (study entry) (p = 0.002 and p = 0.016 for alpha and theta connectivity 299 300 respectively). When adjusted for birth weight or head circumference, significant differences in whole brain and hemisphere-specific connectivity were estimated between institutionalized and never institutionalized 301 302 children in the theta band at baseline (p = 0.006 for the entire brain, p = 0.002 for the left-hemisphere and p =303 0.034 for the right hemisphere). When adjusted for age at foster care placement, significant group differences in left-hemisphere theta connectivity were estimated at 96 months (p = 0.035). When adjusted for head 304 circumference, significant group differences in beta connectivity were also estimated in the left hemisphere at 305 96 months (p = 0.044). The statistics of oscillation frequencies at each assessment age are summarized in 306 307 Table S1.

308

309 2. Network topologies at 4 assessment ages

All reported connectivity parameters in the CAUG and FCG are relative to the corresponding NIG parameters. 310 311 For each assessment age and oscillation, network topologies for the two groups are shown in Figure 2. Note that these connectivities are unadjusted for potential confounders and are solely based on thresholding of the 312 313 MI matrices. Appropriate adjustments were included in the analysis and are described in the next section. For 314 each oscillation, topologically distinct hyper- and hypo-connected subnetworks were identified in the CAUG 315 and FCG with some overlap of their elements across oscillations. At baseline, both groups had a large number of hyper-connected edges (up to ~85% of all possible edges) and a small number of hypo-connected edges. 316 This number decreased significantly from baseline to the second assessment (from more than 75% to ~25% of 317 all possible connections), potentially due to neural maturation and elimination of redundant connections. No 318 319 substantial topological differences were estimated between the two groups at those ages. At 42 months, an even lower number of hyper-connected edges were identified in both groups, asymmetrically clustered in the 320 321 left hemisphere and primarily in temporo-parietal and parieto-occipital regions in the gamma and beta

networks, but less consistently (in space) in other networks. For some oscillations, a small number of hypoconnected edges were also identified. Finally, at 96 months, more consistent topologies were identified in both groups: a) a hyper-connected gamma network with aberrant connections between bilateral parietal and occipital regions; b) relatively larger hypo-connected beta and alpha networks with aberrant connections primarily between left and right temporal regions, left temporal and bilateral frontal and occipital regions.

328 **<u>3. Network topologies and parameters at 42 and 96 months</u>**

329 To validate the findings of the above threshold-based analysis and include appropriate adjustments for

potential confounders, all 3 groups were explicitly compared at 42 and 96 months using statistical models.

331 Statistically distinct networks based on the models are shown in Figure 3. No significant gender effects were 332 found in any parameter at any age ($p \ge 0.40$).

333

334 **<u>3a. Network connectivity</u>**

335 i) Forty-two months: Although the above threshold-based analysis identified statistically distinct edges between the NIG and both the CAUG and FCG, when adjusted for birth weight or head circumference at that 336 age in the models, no statistically distinct edges were identified between the 3 groups. The effect of age at 337 foster care placement was found to be significant for right fronto-central (F4, C4) and centro-parietal (C4, P4) 338 regions in the gamma networks, with statistically higher connections in the CAUG followed by the FCG and 339 the NIG (p = 0.007, Wald statistic = 7.74 for group, p = 0.006, Wald statistic = 7.63 for age at foster care 340 placement). Connectivity between occipital regions was also statistically higher in the CAUG followed by the 341 FCG and the NIG and in the alpha and theta networks (p = 0.013, Wald statistic = 6.39 for group, p = 0.027, 342 343 Wald statistic = 5.04 for age at foster care placement in the alpha network, and p = 0.030, Wald statistic = 4.87 for group, p = 0.047, Wald statistic = 4.07 for foster care placement in the theta network). 344

| 346 | ii) <u>Ninety-six months</u> : The majority of aberrantly connected edges identified by the threshold-based analysis |
|-----|---|
| 347 | were also found to be distinct in the 3 groups through the statistical models. For oscillations in the gamma to |
| 348 | theta ranges, statistically distinct sub-networks/edges and corresponding brain regions are summarized in |
| 349 | Table 1. Related model statistics for these edges and sub-networks are summarized in Table S3. Adjustments |
| 350 | for birth weight and age at foster care placement were non-significant in all models (p>0.17 for birth weight |
| 351 | and p>0.06 for age at placement). Similarly, the adjustment for head circumference was non-significant for all |
| 352 | models for gamma connectivity (p>0.2), all models for beta connectivity with the exception of the (F3, T7) |
| 353 | connectivity (p=0.047) and marginally for the (F4, T7) connectivity (p = 0.056), all models for alpha |
| 354 | connectivity with the exception of the (P3, Pz), (P4, Pz) and (T7, 02) connectivities ($p = 0.028$, $p = 0.019$ and |
| 355 | p = 0.030 respectively), and all models for theta with the exception of the (P3, P4) connectivity ($p = 0.020$ for |
| 356 | theta). Median mutual information for each group is shown in column 2. |
| 357 | |
| 358 | Within the gamma network, the parieto-occipital sub-network (P3, Pz, P4, O1, O2 and averaged connectivity |
| 359 | in this subnetwork) was found to be statistically distinct in the 3 groups with highest connectivity in the |
| 360 | CAUG followed by FCG. Elements of this subnetwork were also hyper-connected across frequency ranges. |
| 361 | In the <i>beta network</i> , the left temporal region (T7) in the CAUG and FCG was statistically hypo-connected to |
| 362 | several other brain regions, including bilateral frontal (F3, Fz, F4), right temporal (T8), bilateral parietal (P3, |
| 363 | Pz, P4), bilateral occipital (O1, O2) and right central (C4). These connectivities, as well as averaged |
| 364 | connectivity in the corresponding subnetwork were distinct in the 3 groups, with statistically lowest values in |
| 365 | the CAUG. We examined the raw signal from electrode T7 across subjects to ensure that the observed |
| 366 | laterality of these aberrant connectivities was not associated with artifacts or noise. No significant signal |
| 367 | variance differences were found between groups or subjects. All hypo-connections from the beta network were |
| 368 | also found to be distinct between groups in the <u>alpha network</u> , with the exception of bilateral frontal, bilateral |
| 369 | temporal and the right central – left temporal connections. Averaged connectivity in this subnetwork was also |
| | |

found to be statistically lowest in the CAUG. In the *theta network*, fronto-parietal (Fz, Pz), bilateral centroparietal (C3, P3) and (C4, P4), and most edges of the aberrant gamma subnetwork were statistically distinct between groups, with highest connectivities in the CAUG followed by the FCG. Also, elements of the hypoconnected beta subnetwork were distinct in the 3 groups, with lowest connectivities in the CAUG. Finally, centro-parietal connections in the theta network were also found to be statistically distinct between groups in the *delta network*, with highest connectivities in the CAUG.

376

377 **<u>3b. Node centrality</u>**

A few nodes with statistically distinct *connectedness* across the 3 groups were found both at 42 and 96 months 378 and are summarized in Tables 1 (96 months) and S4 (both ages). At 42 months, these included T7 in the 379 380 gamma network; Fz, T7 and T8 in the beta network; Pz in the alpha network; and Fz and Pz in the theta 381 network. At 96 months, Pz had the highest connectedness in all networks except delta, similarly for C3, C4 and P4 but only in the beta and alpha networks and Fz in the theta network. T7 had the lowest connectedness 382 383 in the beta and alpha networks. We examined the raw signals in electrode Pz across subjects to ensure that increased connectedness was not due to spurious correlations between signals. No significant signal 384 385 differences were found between this and other electrodes. Birth weight, head circumference and age at foster 386 care placement all had a non-significant effects (p > 0.08 for birth weight, p > 0.13 for head circumference and p > 0.05 for age at foster care placement). 387

388

A subset of nodes with distinct connectedness among groups also had distinct <u>node strengths</u> but only at 96 months. The statistics of corresponding models are summarized in Table S5. Similarly to connectedness, node Pz had statistically higher strength in the CAUG in the gamma, beta and alpha networks and node T7 the lowest strength in the beta to delta networks. Nodes F3, F4, Fz, and T7 all had the lowest strengths in the CAUG followed by the FCG in the beta network. Finally, P4 was also found to have statistically distinct

strength in the 3 groups both in the alpha and theta networks, with highest strength in the CAUG. Birth weight 394 and age at foster care placement had non-significant effects in all networks and nodes (p > 0.09 for both), and 395 396 head circumference also had a non-significant effect ($p \ge 0.08$) except for node P4 in the alpha network (p =0.016). The spatial distribution of all nodes with distinct strengths in gamma, beta, alpha and theta networks is 397 398 shown in Figure 4. In addition to edges that were distinct between groups (those of Figure 3), edges that 399 exceeded the median (over subjects) NIG connectivity but were not significantly different between groups are also superimposed (dashed lines). Independently of significance, a higher number of connections were 400 estimated in the CAUG followed by FCG across oscillations. In summary, a few nodes in previously identified 401 distinct subnetworks among groups were found to be either aberrant hubs or to have abnormally low centrality 402 403 in the CAUG and FCG, suggesting additional topological differences between these groups.

404

405 <u>4. Network parameter trajectories from 42 to 96 months</u>

All previous analyses investigated network properties at individual assessment ages. To assess the impact of early neglect on the development of these networks, we also investigated the age-related changes in estimated parameters from 42 to 96 months using appropriate statistical models for repeated measures.

409

410 **<u>4a. Connectivity trajectories</u>**

411 For each oscillation, the changes in all network edges were estimated and compared between groups, using

412 mixed effects regression models that included time (age), group and birth weight or head circumference

413 (and/or age at foster care placement) as independent variables and pairwise MI as the dependent connectivity

414 variable. The statistics of these models for edges that were distinct between groups are summarized in Table

- 415 S6a. The effect of time (age) was significant in all these models ($p \le 0.01$). Birth weight, and head
- 416 circumference had non-significant effects in all models (p > 0.17 for birth weight, p > 0.26 for circumference).
- 417 A small number of network connections had distinct age-related changes across groups, including (P3, Pz) and

- (P4, O2) across oscillations except delta, and (C3, P3), (P3, O2), (P4, O1) and (Pz, O2) in the gamma network.
 Note that with the exception of (C3, P3) these edges were also found to be distinct at 96 months and were part
 of the parieto-occipital hyper-connected subnetwork in the CAUG and FCG compared to NIG.
- 421

422 **4b. Node centrality**

423 With the exception of node P3 in the gamma network with marginally significant age-related changes across groups (p = 0.053, Wald statistic = 3.77) no other node strength changed significantly from 42 to 96 months. 424 However, connectedness in nodes P4 and Pz in the alpha and theta networks changed in a statistically distinct 425 way across groups. Both nodes belong to the subset of nodes with distinct connectedness at 96 months in the 3 426 groups (Pz also had statistically distinct connectedness at 42 months; see Table S6b). Birth weight and head 427 428 circumference had non-significant effects (p >0.21 for birth weight, p> 0.05 for head circumference). These results suggest that at least elements (nodes and edges) of task-independent networks develop abnormally as a 429 function of age in children reared in institutions, resulting in significant differences at 96 months. 430

431 Discussion

In this paper we report the impact of early psychosocial deprivation associated with institutionalization on the topologies and age-related dynamics of frequency (oscillation)-specific, task-independent brain networks in three groups of children from the BEIP. To investigate these topologies, we have used multiple statistical modeling approaches and network measures. Our present findings extend previous work (Stamoulis et al, 2015), which has shown that early institutionalization has profound and widespread effects on broadband neural activity.

438

439 In children reared in institutions and thus subjected to early neglect, this study has identified two aberrantly 440 connected networks, particularly at 96 months: 1) the *aberrantly hyper-connected parieto-occipital gamma* network in the CAUG and FCG, both with statistically higher connectivity than the NIG, but also with 441 distinctly different connectivity from each other. Elements of this subnetwork were also aberrantly hyper-442 443 connected at lower frequencies (beta, alpha and theta networks); 2) the hypo-connected fronto-temporal network at frequencies below the gamma range (beta to delta) in the CAUG and FCG compared to NIG at 96 444 months, but also distinctly different from each other. Although the adverse effects of early stressors on neural 445 maturation and the development of human brain networks remain elusive, there is substantial evidence that 446 brain development is significantly impacted by early experiences (Nelson et al, 2006). Therefore, negative 447 448 experiences may significantly and differentially affect the maturation of the brain's neural circuitry, impairing both selective connection strengthening (leading to hypo-connected networks), and/or connection pruning 449 (leading to networks that appear aberrantly hyper-connected at the macroscale). Both types of aberrant 450 451 networks may prevent efficient neural information processing.

452

It is important to note the statistically lower connectivity in the FCG (although still statistically higher than
NIG) compared to CAUG in the parieto-occipital network, suggesting a positive effect of the foster care

intervention in lowering aberrant hyper-connectivity. Previous work has shown that this network is 455 synchronized in the gamma band during visual processing (Helfrich et al. 2014). Abnormally high 456 457 connectivity may imply reduced flexibility of this network to modulate its activity during visual task performance. In fMRI studies, elements of this network have been previously identified as major cortical hubs 458 459 (Tomasi et al., 2011). Here, parietal nodes, which may overlap with this network, were found to be aberrant 460 hubs at multiple frequencies, with abnormally high connectivities in the CAUG and FCG compared to the NIG. These regions are involved in a wide range of cognitive processes. For example, parietal regions are 461 often activated during episodic memory retrieval (Cabeza, et al 2008) and are involved in self-projection 462 (Buckner et al., 2007) as well as visuo-spatial processing (Tosoni et al, 2014). Furthermore, spatial attention 463 has been shown to modulate the coordination between parietal and occipital regions during top-down 464 465 processing of spatial attention information (Lauritzen et al., 2009). Thus, abnormally high task-independent 466 connectivity between these areas may adversely impact these cognitive processes.

467

468 Although elements of the hyper-connected parieto-occipital network had distinct connectivities in the 3 groups across frequencies, the largest number of aberrant edges in this subnetwork was estimated in the gamma 469 470 frequency range. Gamma synchrony in parietal regions has been associated with visuo-motor learning and 471 object representation (e.g., Bertrand et al., 2000; Perfetti et al., 2001; Galletti et al., 2003; Tallon-Baudry, 2009). Previous studies have shown that children reared in institutions have decreased performance on tests of 472 visual memory and attention (Bos et al., 2009; Pollack et al, 2010; Bick et al., in press), which may be 473 explained by decreased flexibility in the underlying neural circuitry. At lower frequencies, particularly the 474 theta and delta ranges, fronto-parietal regions, which appeared to be aberrantly hyper-connected in the CAUG 475 476 and FCG, have been shown to be part of a network that is characterized by spontaneous low-frequency activity and is anti-correlated with the DMN (Fox et al., 2005; Konrad et al., 2010), which implies that it should be 477 weakly correlated at rest, in contrast to the DMN. Although neuronal networks identified in this study with 478

low spatial resolution-EEG are not directly comparable with high-resolution fMRI networks, similar anticorrelations between task-dependent and task-independent networks may be measurable by both modalities.
Therefore, aberrantly high task-independent connectivity in the identified parieto-occipital network may
prevent suppression of its resting activity and inhibit its functional activation.

483

484 The second major finding of this study is the hypo-connected fronto-temporal network at frequencies below the gamma range (beta to delta) in the CAUG and FCG compared to NIG at 96 months. Several elements of 485 this network may overlap with previously identified task-independent networks, e.g., the resting-state 486 auditory-phonological and visual networks reported by Mantini et al. (2007). Left middle and transverse 487 temporal regions, covered by electrode T7, were found to be significantly hypo-connected with bilateral 488 489 frontal (F3, Fz, F4), bilateral occipital (O1, O2) and right temporal (T8) regions. This node was also found to have statistically lower important (centrality) in the network in the CAUG and FCG. Left temporal regions are 490 associated with hearing, language processing and memory. The parietal-temporal-occipital association area is 491 492 responsible for integrating visual and auditory information and is involved in language comprehension. Left fronto-temporal connectivity has also been shown to be an essential network involved in syntactic processing 493 494 (Tyler et al, 2011; Papoutsi et al, 2011). Note that spatially-averaged connectivity in the left hemisphere was 495 also found to be distinct in the 3 groups at 96 months, in the beta and theta networks. Again, our findings may tap an underlying aberrant network associated with the behavioral evidence of impaired language development 496 as a result of early institutionalization. It is important to note the distinct connectivity in this subnetwork in the 497 CAUG and FCG, suggesting a positive effect of the foster care intervention in increasing connectivity in this 498 499 subnetwork. Thus, this change could be associated with the observed improvements in language learning as a 500 result of the foster care intervention and age of that intervention (Croft et al., 2007; Windsor et al, 2011, 2013). A previous study of structural brain connectivity in the BEIP cohort (Bick et al, 2015) has shown impaired 501 integrity of the corpus callosum in children reared in institutions, which would in part explain lower inter-502

- 503 hemispheric connectivity between temporal regions in the CAUG and FCG.

| 505 | Although all network analyses in this study have consistently identified both the hyper-connected parieto- |
|-----|--|
| 506 | occipital network and the hypo-connected primarily left temporal network across several frequency bands at |
| 507 | 96 months, corresponding findings at 42 months were less clear. A few elements of the parieto-occipital |
| 508 | subnetwork with aberrant characteristics at 42 months remained atypically connected at 96 months, with |
| 509 | distinct properties in the 3 groups. The dynamic trajectories of part of this subnetwork were also distinct |
| 510 | among groups, potentially due to differential neural maturation rates. It is possible that additional network |
| 511 | differences were difficult to detect at 42 months due to incomplete and heterogeneous maturation of task- |
| 512 | independent networks at this age, which could make it more difficult to detect connectivity group differences. |
| 513 | |
| 514 | Finally, the frequency specificity of our findings varied between networks (e.g., a larger hyper-connected |
| 515 | network in the gamma range compared to lower frequencies). Although higher-frequency networks imply |
| 516 | spatially localized processing, lower-frequency oscillations facilitate the communication (or binding) between |
| 517 | these networks. The presence of smaller numbers of aberrant connections at lower frequencies could in part be |
| 518 | due to impaired binding between high- and lower-frequency oscillations within corresponding networks. Our |
| 519 | previous work has shown decreased coupling between task-independent gamma and lower-frequency |
| 520 | oscillations, which could in part explain these findings (Stamoulis et al., 2015). Furthermore, substantial |
| 521 | topological overlap between aberrantly hypo-connected edges were observed in the alpha and beta networks. |
| 522 | Significant correlations between alpha and beta oscillations have been reported in task-independent EEGs, |
| 523 | which may explain the topological similarities between the two networks (Carlqvist et al., 2005). |
| 524 | |
| 525 | Despite its many methodological strengths (including its randomized control trial design), this study is not |
| 526 | without limitations, including its relatively small sample size. Nevertheless, data from multiple time points |

were included in parts of the statistical analysis, and multiple statistical models were developed to compare the 527 cohorts, all yielding consistent results, which supports the robustness of the findings. It is, however, possible 528 529 that smaller network-level differences between groups were not detectable in this sample. Second, a small number of electrodes was used to record brain activity, which prevented appropriate source-level analyses to 530 explicitly address the issue of volume conduction. However, information-based measures of connectivity were 531 532 used in this study, which have been previously been shown to be relatively robust to volume conduction. Also, the low spatial resolution of the EEG limits the estimation of detailed network topologies possible by other 533 modalities, particularly fMRI. Despite these limitations, to the best of our knowledge, this study provides the 534 first evidence of multiple, significantly impacted and aberrantly connected task-independent brain networks in 535 children who have experienced severe psychosocial deprivation. Considering these networks' potential 536 537 involvement in cognitive processing, including memory, visuo-motor learning, visual processing, social communication and language, these findings suggest that early psychosocial neglect associated with 538 institutionalization may have profound adverse effects on the brain's wiring and communication, which may 539 540 not be fully reversible, at least not within a few years from the intervention. Nevertheless, statistical differences between the CAUG and FCG also suggest significant positive effects of foster care on improving 541 542 neural information processing facilitated by these networks.

543

544 <u>Funding</u>

This study was supported in part by NIH Grant R01MH091363 (Nelson) and NSF BRAIN EAGER Grant
1451480 (Stamoulis).

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| 809 | |
| 810 811 | |
| 812 | |

Tables

| | Edge Co | Node Centrality | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Oscillation/Network | Hyper-connected | Hypo-connected | Highest | Lowest | |
| Gamma-range (52.0-57.0 Hz) | <u>Regions:</u> Parietal; Parieto-occipital | _ | Pz | | |
| | <u>Edges:</u> P3-Pz; P4-O1, O2; Pz-O1,O2 | | | | |
| Beta-range (20.0-23.0 Hz) | Regions:ParietalRegions:Left temporal; Bilateralfrontal;Parietal; Occipital | | Pz, C3, C4, P4 | T7, F3, F4, Fz | |
| | Edges: P3-Pz | <u>Edges:</u> T7-F3, Fz, F4, C4, P3, Pz,P4, O1, O2; F3-F4; T7-T8 | | | |
| Alpha-range (8.0-10.0 Hz) | <u>Regions:</u> Parietal; Parieto-occipital | <u>Regions:</u> Left temporal; Bilateral frontal; Parietal; Occipital | Pz, C3, C4, P4 | Τ7 | |
| | <u>Edges:</u> P3-Pz, P4-Pz, P4-O2 | <u>Edges:</u> T7-F3, Fz,F4, C4, P3, Pz,P4, O1, O2 | | | |
| Theta-range (3.6-4.3 Hz) | <u>Regions:</u> Midline; Centro-parietal; Parietal; Parieto-occipital | <u>Regions:</u> Left, bilateral temporal; Bilateral Centro-parietal; Parietal; Occipital | Pz, Fz, C3, C4, P4 | Τ7 | |
| | <u>Edges:</u> Fz-Pz, C3-P3, C3-P4, O1-O2, P3-P4, P4-O1, P4-O2, P3-Pz | Edges: Fz-T7, Pz; C3-P3, C4-P4, P3-Pz, P4; P4-O1,O2; T7-T8; O1-O2 | | | |

Table 1: Summary of aberrantly connected and statistically distinct network elements (edges and nodes) in the

819 three groups. For each oscillation frequency range, hyper- and hypo-connected brain regions and sets of

820 network edges as well as aberrantly connected nodes (based on their centrality estimated either as node

- 821 strength or connectedness) are listed.

| 828 | <u>Figures Legends</u> | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| | | |

| 829 | Figure 1: Frequency-connectivity (measured by mutual information) plots for all estimated oscillations at |
|-----|--|
| 830 | baseline (top left panel), and clockwise at ~30-33, 42, and 96 months respectively. At the first 3 time points |
| 831 | connectivity was estimated from task-independent EEGs under the lights off recording condition and at 96 |
| 832 | months under the eyes-closed condition. The 3 groups are superimposed: Care as Usual group (CAUG, red), |
| 833 | Foster Care group (FCG, blue) and Never Institutionalized group (NIG, black). At baseline, and thus prior to |
| 834 | randomization, children in the CAUG and FCG were part of the 'Institutionalized' group. |
| 835 | |
| 836 | Figure 2: Hyper- and hypo-connected network edges and subnetworks in the CAUG and FCG relative to the |
| 837 | NIG, for each estimated oscillation and at each assessment age (baseline to 96 months from left to right). |
| 838 | Edges with mutual information (MI) values higher than the upper MI threshold are marked in red, and edges |
| 839 | with MI values below the lower MI threshold are marked in green. |
| 840 | |
| 841 | Figure 3: Oscillation-specific network edges for which connectivity was statistically distinct in the 3 groups, |
| 842 | adjusted for birth weight and head circumference at each age. Left panel plots correspond to the CAUG (red), |
| 843 | middle panels to the FCG (blue) and right panels to the NIG (black). Distinct line widths represent differential |
| 844 | median (across the group) mutual information values, with thickest lines representing the highest median |
| 845 | connectivity among groups and the thinnest lines representing the lowest connectivity. |
| 846 | |
| 847 | Figure 4: Network nodes with aberrant strength (centrality) across groups, in the gamma, beta, alpha and theta |
| 848 | networks. Larger circles and thicker lines reflect aberrantly and significantly higher node strength and |
| 849 | connectivity (edge weight). Dashed lines correspond to edges above the NIG median connectivity threshold, |
| 850 | which were not, however, statistically distinct between groups. Colors correspond to individual groups |

851 (CAUG - red, FCG - blue and NIG - black).

852 Supplemental Material

| Assessment | Baseline | | 42 months | | 96 months | |
|------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Group | Median % time; Actual time (months) | (25 th , 75 th) quartiles | Median time; Actual time (months) | (25 th , 75 th) quartiles | Median time; Actual time (months) | (25 th , 75 th) quartiles |
| CAUG | 98.6% 19 mo | (81.6, 100.0)% (16.9, 25.0) mo | 85.0% 35.7 mo | (64.4, 97.1)% (27.0, 40.8) mo | 53.0% 50.9 mo | (36.2, 79.8)% (31.2, 67.6) mo |
| FCG | 95.9% 18.3 mo | (69.4, 100.0)% (16.3, 23.0) mo | 48.9% 20.5 mo | (35.0, 61.8) % (14.7, 26.0) mo | 23.40% 22.5 mo | (18.3, 28.6)% (15.0, 26.5) mo |
| NIG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table S1: Summary statistics of percent time since birth spent in institutions and corresponding time in

- 857 months, for each group at baseline, 42 and 96 months.

| | | Care as | Jsual Group Foster Care Group | | Never-Institutionalized Group | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Age (months) | Band range | Median (Hz) | (25 th , 75 th) quartiles | Median (Hz) | (25 th , 75 th) quartiles | Median (Hz) | (25 th , 75 th) quartiles |
| | Gamma | 51.82 | (49.93, 53.65) | 50.89 | (49.71, 51.82) | 49.12 | (48.21, 50.35) |
| | Beta | 20.57 | (19.27, 21.30) | 20.18 | (19.58, 20.89) | 19.82 | (18.87, 20.21) |
| Baseline (< 30) | Alpha | 8.24 | (7.85, 8.58) | 8.23 | (7.96, 8.56) | 8.14 | (7.87, 8.45) |
| (150) | Theta | 3.55 | (3.42, 3.69) | 3.61 | (3.43, 3.70) | 3.61 | (3.46, 3.72) |
| | Delta | 1.54 | (1.46, 1.59) | 1.56 | (1.47, 1.61) | 1.56 | (1.50, 1.61) |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Gamma | 50.14 | (48.41, 52.47) | 51.34 | (48.84, 53.69) | 50.01 | (48.44, 53.24) |
| | Beta | 19.94 | (18.79, 21.11) | 20.47 | (19.39, 21.70) | 19.78 | (18.55, 21.47) |
| 30-33 | Alpha | 8.20 | (7.73, 8.64) | 8.43 | (7.92, 8.88) | 8.28 | (7.86, 8.82) |
| | Theta | 3.60 | (3.40, 3.79) | 3.66 | (3.42, 3.95) | 3.64 | (3.47, 3.85) |
| | Delta | 1.54 | (1.45, 1.63) | 1.58 | (1.49, 1.72) | 1.60 | (1.51, 1.64) |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Gamma | 52.96 | (50.16, 55.25) | 53.55 | (50.59, 56.54) | 53.14 | (48.20, 56.59 |
| | Beta | 20.58 | (19.46, 22.01) | 21.47 | (19.70, 22.62) | 21.34 | (18.56, 22.88) |
| 42 | Alpha | 8.54 | (8.13, 9.04) | 8.69 | (8.30, 9.32) | 8.81 | (8.17, 9.58) |
| | Theta | 3.71 | (3.56, 3.96) | 3.82 | (3.58, 4.14) | 3.90 | (3.62, 4.25) |
| | Delta | 1.60 | (1.52, 1.70) | 1.65 | (1.51, 1.80) | 1.69 | (1.56, 1.83) |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Gamma | 55.54 | (53.19, 57.20) | 54.34 | (52.25, 55.83) | 55.10 | (53.26, 56.37) |
| | Beta | 20.25 | (19.43, 21.16) | 20.13 | (19.31, 20.86) | 19.81 | (18.93, 21.08) |
| 96 | Alpha | 8.43 | (8.15, 8.76) | 8.28 | (8.06, 8.63) | 8.45 | (8.05, 8.82) |
| | Theta | 3.67 | (3.56, 3.81) | 3.66 | (3.53, 3.83) | 3.74 | (3.60, 3.90) |
| | Delta | 1.61 | (1.53, 1.66) | 1.58 | (1.53, 1.65) | 1.61 | (1.55, 1.69) |

Table S2: Characteristic oscillation frequency summary statistics (medians and (25th, 75th) quartiles) for each
 group at each assessment age.

| 8 | Q | 5 |
|---|---|---|
| o | / | J |

| Node | Median Mutual Information | Regression | Confidence | Standard | p- | Wald | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| pair | (CAUG, FCG, NIG) | Coefficient | Interval (CI) | Error (SE) | value | statistic | | | | |
| Gamma Oscillation Connectivity | | | | | | | | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | 0.096, 0.084, 0.073 | -0.009 | [-0.017, -5E-04] | 0.004 | 0.037 | 4.44 | | | | |
| (P4, O1) | 0.024, 0.018, 0.014 | -0.005 | [-0.009, -3E-04] | 0.002 | 0.038 | 4.40 | | | | |
| (P4, O2) | 0.059, 0.048, 0.040 | -0.009 | [-0.014, -0.003] | 0.003 | 0.002 | 9.66 | | | | |
| (Pz, O1) | 0.051, 0.042, 0.036 | -0.006 | [-0.012, -0.002] | 0.003 | 0.008 | 7.27 | | | | |
| (Pz, O2) | 0.053, 0.044, 0.037 | -0.007 | [-0.012, -0.002] | 0.003 | 0.007 | 7.58 | | | | |
| Network | 0.054, 0.048, 0.041 | -0.007 | [-0.011, -0.003] | 0.001 | 0.002 | 9.76 | | | | |
| | | Beta Oscillat | tion Connectivity | | | | | | | |
| (F3, F4) | 0.028, 0.034, 0.047 | 0.005 | [2.00E-04, 0.009] | 0.002 | 0.042 | 4.25 | | | | |
| (F3, T7) | 0.016, 0.021, 0.031 | 0.005 | [0.002, 0.009] | 0.002 | 0.005 | 8.32 | | | | |
| (F4, T7) | 0.005, 0.009, 0.013 | 0.003 | [0.001, 0.005] | 0.001 | 0.002 | 9.83 | | | | |
| (Fz, T7) | 0.006, 0.010, 0.015 | 0.003 | [0.001, 0.005] | 9.20E-004 | 0.002 | 10.02 | | | | |
| (C4, T7) | 0.003, 0.005, 0.010 | 0.001 | [1.00E-04, 0.003] | 6.30E-004 | 0.030 | 4.82 | | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | 0.115, 0.096, 0.080 | -0.008 | [-0.014, -0.002] | 0.003 | 0.016 | 5.98 | | | | |
| (P3, T7) | 0.018, 0.027, 0.035 | 0.004 | [4.00E-04, 0.007] | 0.002 | 0.030 | 4.86 | | | | |
| (T7, T8) | 0.008, 0.012, 0.019 | 0.004 | [0.001, 0.007] | 0.001 | 0.004 | 8.60 | | | | |
| (T7, O1) | 0.010, 0.017, 0.029 | 0.005 | [0.001, 0.009] | 0.002 | 0.008 | 7.23 | | | | |

| (T7, O2) | 0.008, 0.012, 0.022 | 0.004 | [5.00E-04, 0.007] | 0.002 | 0.023 | 5.36 | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|-------|------|--|--|--|--|
| Network | 0.012, 0.016, 0.021 | 0.003 | [5.00E-04, 0.006] | 0.001 | 0.021 | 5.44 | | | | |
| | Alpha Oscillation Connectivity | | | | | | | | | |
| (F3, T7) | 0.038, 0.047, 0.059 | 0.005 | [3.00E-04, 0.009] | 0.002 | 0.036 | 4.50 | | | | |
| (F4, T7) | 0.022, 0.028, 0.036 | 0.004 | [3.00E-04, 0.007] | 0.002 | 0.031 | 4.78 | | | | |
| (Fz, T7) | 0.021, 0.028, 0.035 | 0.004 | [4.00E-04, 0.007] | 0.002 | 0.029 | 4.89 | | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | 0.087, 0.073, 0.063 | -0.007 | [-0.011, -0.002] | 0.002 | 0.009 | 6.99 | | | | |
| (P4, Pz) | 0.076, 0.067, 0.057 | -0.005 | [-0.010, -3.0E-04] | 0.002 | 0.036 | 4.52 | | | | |
| (P4, O2) | 0.070, 0.062, 0.053 | -0.005 | [-0.009, -0.001] | 0.002 | 0.012 | 6.56 | | | | |
| (T7, O1) | 0.026, 0.040, 0.051 | 0.005 | [9.00E-04, 0.009] | 0.002 | 0.018 | 5.76 | | | | |
| (T7, O2) | 0.021, 0.027, 0.037 | 0.005 | [0.001, 0.009] | 0.002 | 0.013 | 6.37 | | | | |
| Network | 0.022, 0.029, 0.038 | 0.004 | [7.00E-04, 0.007] | 0.001 | 0.017 | 5.9 | | | | |
| | | Theta Oscill | ation Connectivity | | | | | | | |
| (Fz, Pz) | 0.011, 0.010, 0.008 | -0.001 | [-0.0025,-2.0E-04] | 5.70E-04 | 0.024 | 5.21 | | | | |
| (Fz, T7) | 0.019, 0.022, 0.027 | 0.002 | [2.0E-04, 0.005] | 0.001 | 0.031 | 4.80 | | | | |
| (C3, P3) | 0.047, 0.041, 0.035 | -0.004 | [-0.008, -3.0E-04] | 0.002 | 0.032 | 4.71 | | | | |
| (C4, P4) | 0.046, 0.040, 0.035 | -0.003 | [-0.006, -2.0E-04] | 0.001 | 0.036 | 4.53 | | | | |
| (P3, P4) | 0.059, 0.053, 0.047 | -0.003 | [-0.006, -3.0E-04] | 0.001 | 0.030 | 4.80 | | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | 0.088, 0.081, 0.073 | -0.005 | [-0.009, -4.0E-04] | 0.002 | 0.032 | 4.73 | | | | |
| (P4, O1) | 0.051, 0.043, 0.037 | -0.004 | [-0.007, -7.0E-04] | 0.002 | 0.016 | 5.94 | | | | |

| (P4, O2) | 0.073, 0.063, 0.056 | -0.007 | [-0.011, -0.002] | 0.002 | 0.003 | 9.28 |
|----------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|-------|------|
| (T7, T8) | 0.035, 0.041, 0.050 | 0.004 | [4.0E-04, 0.008] | 0.002 | 0.027 | 4.98 |
| (01, 02) | 0.118, 0.104, 0.097 | -0.006 | [-0.012, -6.0E-04] | 0.003 | 0.031 | 4.78 |
| Network | 0.048, 0.043, 0.040 | -0.002 | [0.013, -7.0E-04] | 9.0E-04 | 0.043 | 4.20 |

| 898 | Table S3: Summary of statistics for linear regression models for pairwise connectivities at 96 months as a |
|-----|--|
| 899 | function of group with an adjustment for birth weight or head circumference at that age. Only the statistics for |
| 900 | pairs of nodes with statistically distinct connectivity (edge) among 3 groups are shown, as well as averaged |
| 901 | connectivity over the subnetwork defined by these nodes/edge pairs. Median MI values for each group are |
| 902 | provided in column 2. |
| 903 | |
| 904 | |
| 905 | |
| 906 | |
| 907 | |
| 908 | |
| 909 | |
| 910 | |
| 911 | |
| 912 | |
| 913 | |
| 914 | |
| | |

| Node | Median Node Centrality | Regression | Confidence | Standard | p-value | Wald | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|---------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | (CAUG, FCG, NIG) | Coefficient | Interval (CI) | Error (SE) | | statistic | | | |
| 42 MONTHS | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Gamma Os | cillation Node Conn | ectedness | | | | | |
| Τ7 | 0.50, 0.42, 0.17 | -0.117 | [-0.187, -0.047] | 0.035 | 0.001 | 10.89 | | | |
| | | Beta Oscill | ation Node Connect | edness | | | | | |
| Fz | 0.50, 0.42, 0.33 | -0.086 | [-0.153, -0.019] | 0.034 | 0.012 | 6.41 | | | |
| Τ7 | 0.67, 0.50, 0.33 | -0.115 | [-0.192, -0.039] | 0.039 | 0.003 | 9.00 | | | |
| Τ8 | 0.67, 0.42, 0.17 | -0.078 | [-0.152, -0.004] | 0.038 | 0.040 | 4.28 | | | |
| Alpha Oscillation Node Connectedness | | | | | | | | | |
| Pz | 0.67, 0.50, 0.42 | -0.078 | [-0.143, -0.014] | 0.033 | 0.018 | 5.75 | | | |
| | | Theta Osci | illation Node Connec | ctedness | | | | | |
| Fz | 0.50, 0.33, 0.25 | -0.092 | [-0.152, -0.033] | 0.030 | 0.002 | 9.56 | | | |
| Pz | 0.58, 0.50, 0.42 | -0.101 | [-0.165, -0.037] | 0.032 | 0.002 | 9.77 | | | |
| 96 MONTHS | | | | | | | | | |
| Gamma Oscillation Node Connectedness | | | | | | | | | |
| Pz | 0.50, 0.42, 0.33 | -0.080 | [-0.149, -0.011] | 0.035 | 0.024 | 5.23 | | | |
| | | Beta Oscill | ation Node Connect | edness | | | | | |
| Pz | 0.58, 0.5, 0.42 | -0.094 | [-0.156, -0.033] | 0.031 | 0.003 | 9.22 | | | |
| Τ7 | 0.08, 0.17, 0.25 | 0.079 | [0.016, 0.142] | 0.032 | 0.015 | 6.09 | | | |

| C3 | 0.50, 0.33, 0.25 | -0.089 | [-0.162, -0.016] | 0.037 | 0.017 | 5.87 |
|----|------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|-------|------|
| C4 | 0.42, 0.33, 0.17 | -0.082 | [-0.152, -0.013] | 0.035 | 0.021 | 5.48 |
| P4 | 0.50, 0.42, 0.33 | -0.068 | [-0.134, -0.001] | 0.034 | 0.047 | 4.00 |
| Pz | 0.58, 0.42, 0.33 | -0.083 | [-0.147, -0.020] | 0.032 | 0.011 | 6.68 |
| Τ7 | 0.17, 0.42, 0.50 | 0.070 | [0.001, 0.140] | 0.035 | 0.048 | 3.98 |
| | | Theta Osci | llation Node Connec | ctedness | | |
| Fz | 0.42, 0.33, 0.25 | -0.077 | [-0.135, -0.018] | 0.030 | 0.011 | 6.58 |
| C3 | 0.50, 0.42, 0.33 | -0.085 | [-0.158, -0.012] | 0.037 | 0.022 | 5.32 |
| C4 | 0.42, 0.33, 0.25 | -0.070 | [-0.140, -0.001] | 0.035 | 0.047 | 4.00 |
| P4 | 0.50, 0.42, 0.33 | -0.067 | [-0.130, -0.005] | 0.032 | 0.035 | 4.51 |
| Pz | 0.58, 0.50, 0.33 | -0.094 | [-0.160, -0.030] | 0.033 | 0.005 | 8.28 |

Alpha Oscillation Node Connectedness

916 <u>Table S4:</u> Summary of statistics for linear regression models node connectedness (centrality based on the total 917 number of connections), for each oscillation network at 42 and 96 months. Only the statistics for the 'group' 918 parameter are shown, for nodes that were statistically distinct in the 3 groups when adjusted for birth weight or 919 head circumference. Median connectedness values for each group are provided in column 2. 920

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| Node | Median Node Centrality | Regression | Confidence | Standard | p-value | Wald | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|---------|-----------|--|
| | (CAUG, FCG, NIG) | Coefficient | Interval (CI) | Error (SE) | | statistic | |
| Gamma Oscillation Node Strength | | | | | | | |
| Pz | 0.1165, 0.1091, 0.1032 | -0.004 | [-0.008, -7E-04] | 0.002 | 0.048 | 3.99 | |
| Beta Oscillation Node Strength | | | | | | | |
| F3 | 0.1019, 0.1037, 0.1056 | 0.002 | [1E-04, 0.004] | 0.001 | 0.034 | 4.63 | |

| F4 | 0.1005, 0.1024, 0.1047 | 0.002 | [3E-04, 0.004] | 0.001 | 0.019 | 5.69 | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| Fz | 0.1007, 0.1021, 0.1038 | 0.001 | [1E-04, 0.003] | 0.001 | 0.036 | 4.51 | | |
| Pz | 0.1122, 0.1106, 0.1084 | -0.002 | [-0.004, -1E-04] | 0.001 | 0.048 | 3.99 | | |
| Τ7 | 0.0943, 0.0974, 0.1011 | 0.003 | [0.001, 0.005] | 0.001 | 0.002 | 10.55 | | |
| | Alpha Oscillation Node Strength | | | | | | | |
| P4 | 0.1146, 0.1100, 0.1061 | -0.002 | [-0.003, -1E-04] | 0.001 | 0.041 | 4.28 | | |
| Pz | 0.1125, 0.1084, 0.1050 | -0.002 | [-0.003, -9E-05] | 0.001 | 0.050 | 3.84 | | |
| Τ7 | 0.1095, 0.1123, 0.1146 | 0.003 | [2E-04, 0.005] | 0.001 | 0.038 | 4.40 | | |
| Theta Oscillation Node Strength | | | | | | | | |
| P4 | 0.1173, 0.1151, 0.1139 | -0.002 | [-0.003, -4E-04] | 0.001 | 0.012 | 6.49 | | |
| Τ7 | 0.1067, 0.1104, 0.1143 | 0.002 | [1E-04, 0.004] | 0.001 | 0.040 | 4.33 | | |

<u>Table S5:</u> Summary of statistics for linear regression models node strength (centrality based on the sum of
node weights), for each gamma, beta, alpha and theta networks at 96 months. Only the statistics for nodes that
were statistically distinct in the 3 groups when adjusted for birth weight or head circumference are shown.
Median node strength values for each group are provided in column 2.

| Node pair | Regression | Confidence | Standard Error | p-value | Wald statistic |
|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|---------|----------------|
|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|---------|----------------|

| | Coefficient | Interval (CI) | (SE) | | | | |
|----------|--|---------------------|------------------|------------|------|--|--|
| | Gamma Oscill | ation Connectivity | (Network Edge) | Trajectory | | | |
| (C3, P3) | -0.016 | [-0.030, -0.002] | 0.007 | 0.024 | 5.13 | | |
| (P3, Pz) | -0.019 | [-0.033, -0.005] | 0.007 | 0.007 | 7.29 | | |
| (P3, O2) | -0.012 | [-0.023, -0.001] | 0.006 | 0.029 | 4.80 | | |
| (P4, O1) | -0.011 | [-0.022, -0.001] | 0.005 | 0.032 | 4.65 | | |
| (P4, O2) | -0.014 | [-0.025, -0.003] | 0.006 | 0.014 | 6.10 | | |
| (Pz, O2) | -0.011 | [-0.022, -0.001] | 0.005 | 0.031 | 4.69 | | |
| | Beta Oscillatio | on Connectivity (N | etwork Edge) Tra | jectory | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | -0.005 | [-0.011, -1E-04] | 0.003 | 0.050 | 3.80 | | |
| | Alpha Oscillat | ion Connectivity (l | Network Edge) Ti | rajectory | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | -0.006 | [-0.011, -0.001] | 0.003 | 0.049 | 3.90 | | |
| (P4, O2) | -0.006 | [-0.011, -0.001] | 0.003 | 0.05 | 3.89 | | |
| | Theta Oscillation Connectivity (Network Edge) Trajectory | | | | | | |
| (P3, Pz) | -0.008 | [-0.012, -0.002] | 0.002 | 0.015 | 6.03 | | |
| (P4, O2) | -0.007 | [-0.012, -0.002] | 0.002 | 0.010 | 6.82 | | |

Table S6a: Summary of linear mixed effects regression models statistics for pairwise connectivity trajectories
from 42 to 96 months, as a function of time and group, adjusted for birth weight and/or head circumference.
Only the statistics for the 'group' parameter are shown, for pairs of nodes for which their connectivity (edge)
was statistically distinct in the 3 groups.

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| Node | Regression | Confidence | Standard Error | p-value | Wald statistic | | | |
|------|---|------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|--|--|--|
| | Coefficient | Interval (CI) | (SE) | | | | | |
| | Alpha Oscillation Node Connectedness Trajectory | | | | | | | |
| P4 | -0.053 | [-0.088, -0.017] | 0.018 | 0.004 | 8.60 | | | |
| Pz | -0.035 | [-0.066, -0.003] | 0.016 | 0.030 | 4.77 | | | |
| | Theta Oscillation Node Connectedness Trajectory | | | | | | | |
| P4 | -0.045 | [-0.087, -0.003] | 0.021 | 0.036 | 4.44 | | | |
| Pz | -0.040 | [-0.073, -0.007] | 0.017 | 0.018 | 5.71 | | | |

- **<u>Table S6b:</u>** Summary of linear mixed effects regression models statistics for the trajectories of node

965 connectedness from 42 to 96 months, as a function of time and group, adjusted for birth weight and/or head

966 circumference. Only the statistics for the 'group' parameter are shown, for pairs of nodes that were statistically

967 distinct in the 3 groups.









