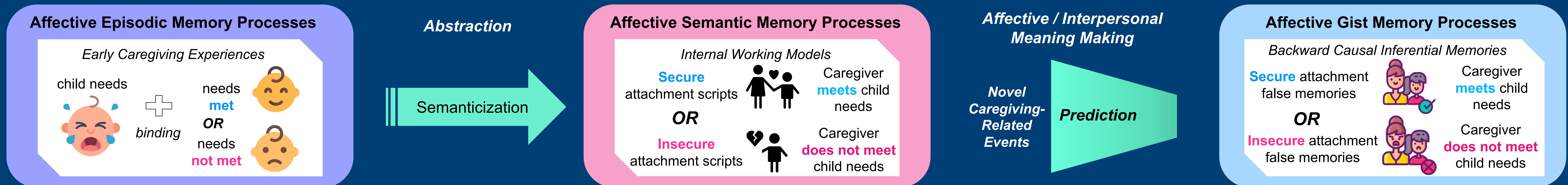


# Working Heuristic of Attachment-related Memory Processes



## How past experiences with caregivers affects your present learning & memory:

### Development of an attachment false memory task for children

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#### Objectives

Compare children (ages 8-14) with and without exposure to **caregiving-related early adversities** (crEAs) on performance in a novel **attachment false memory paradigm** involving backward causal inference of common parent-child events.

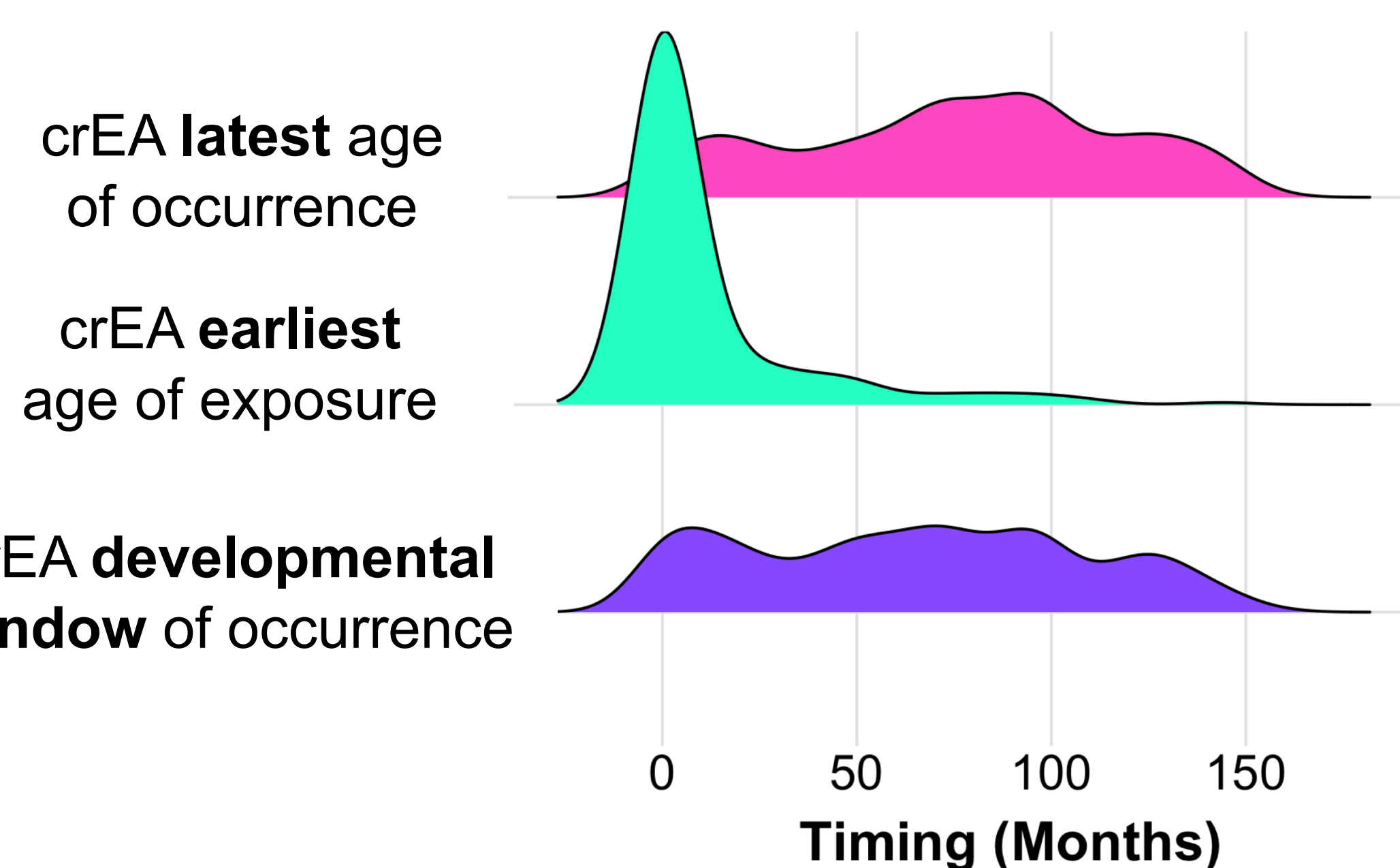
#### Hypothesis

crEA exposure will be linked to **higher false alarm rates** for lures, especially for **causal lures** depicting insecure attachment (vs. secure attachment).

#### Methods and Materials

##### Participants

- Children recruited from ongoing longitudinal study of neurobehavioral development (n = 108, goal = 275)
- **Demographics:**
  - Ages 8-14, 54% female, 46% male
  - 10% Asian, 29% Black, 18% Hispanic/Latinx, 6% Multi-Racial/Ethnic, 26% White, 1% Other
- **# crEA types experienced:** Med = 5 (range = 1 – 15)



## Attachment False Memory Task

### Encoding Phase:

#### Instructions

#### Sample Attachment Script (n = 24)

### Test Phase: surprise recall task after a neutral video

#### Instructions

#### Previously Seen Images (n = 96)

#### Causal Lure: Insecure (n = 24)

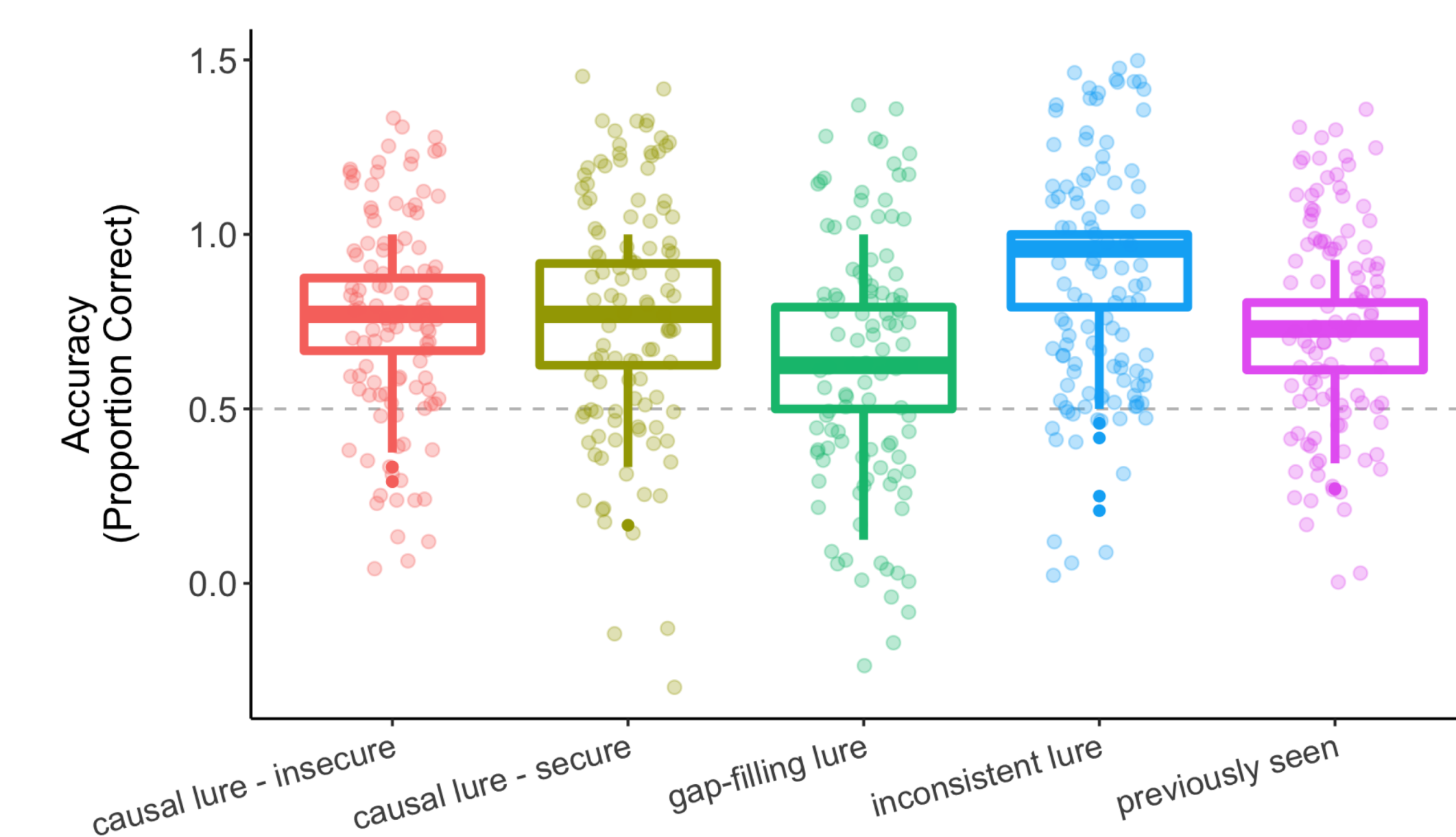
#### Gap-Filling Lure (n = 24)

#### Causal Lure: Secure (n = 24)

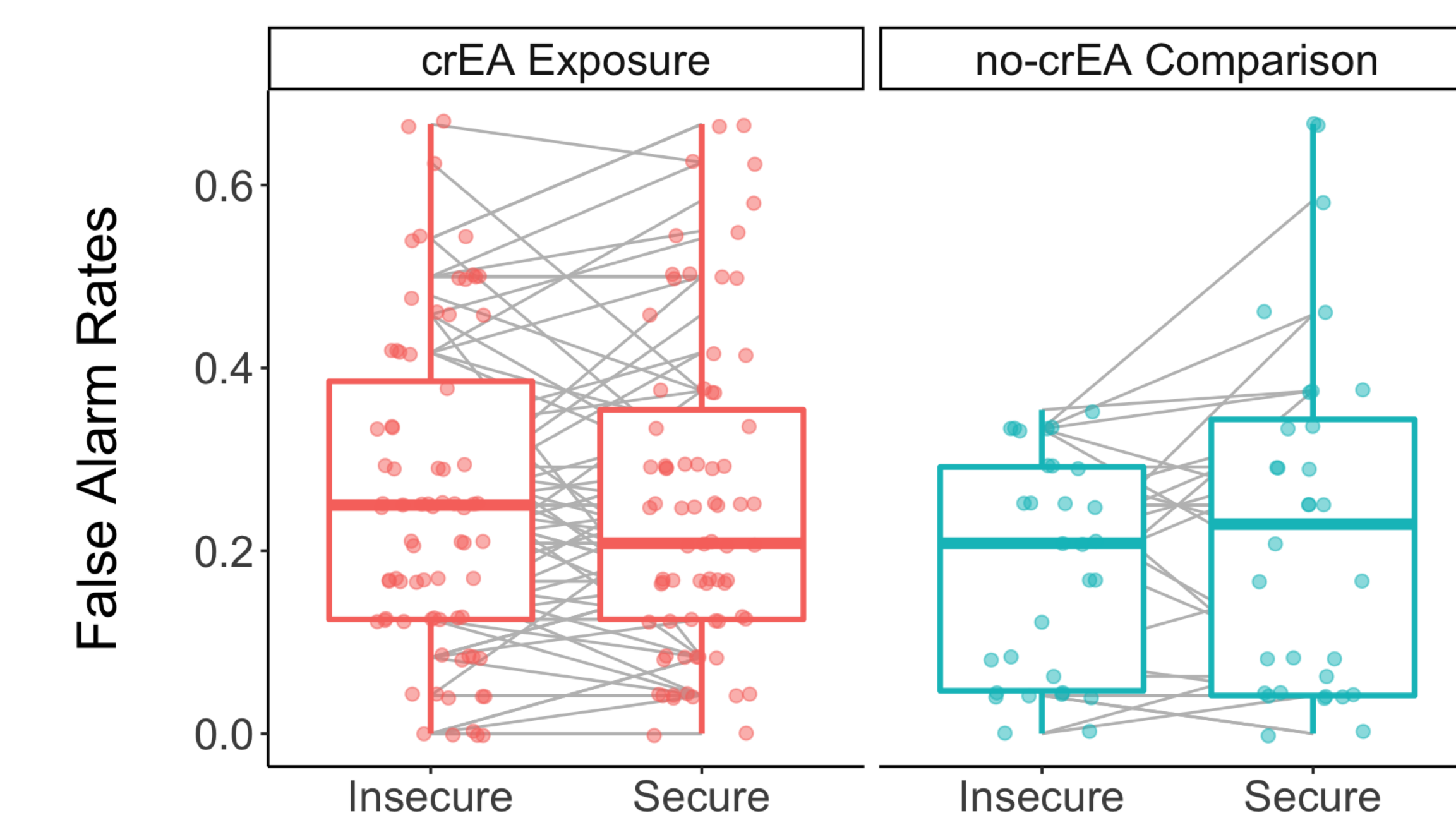
#### Inconsistent Lure (n = 24)

## Results

Children's accuracy was **highest** for **inconsistent lures** and **lowest** for **gap-filling lures**, with **no difference** between **causal lures** and **previously seen images**.



Differences between children with and without crEA in the pattern of false memory rates for secure vs insecure attachment causal lures.



Greater attachment security is associated with lower false alarm rates, especially for crEA-exposed youth in the insecure condition.

