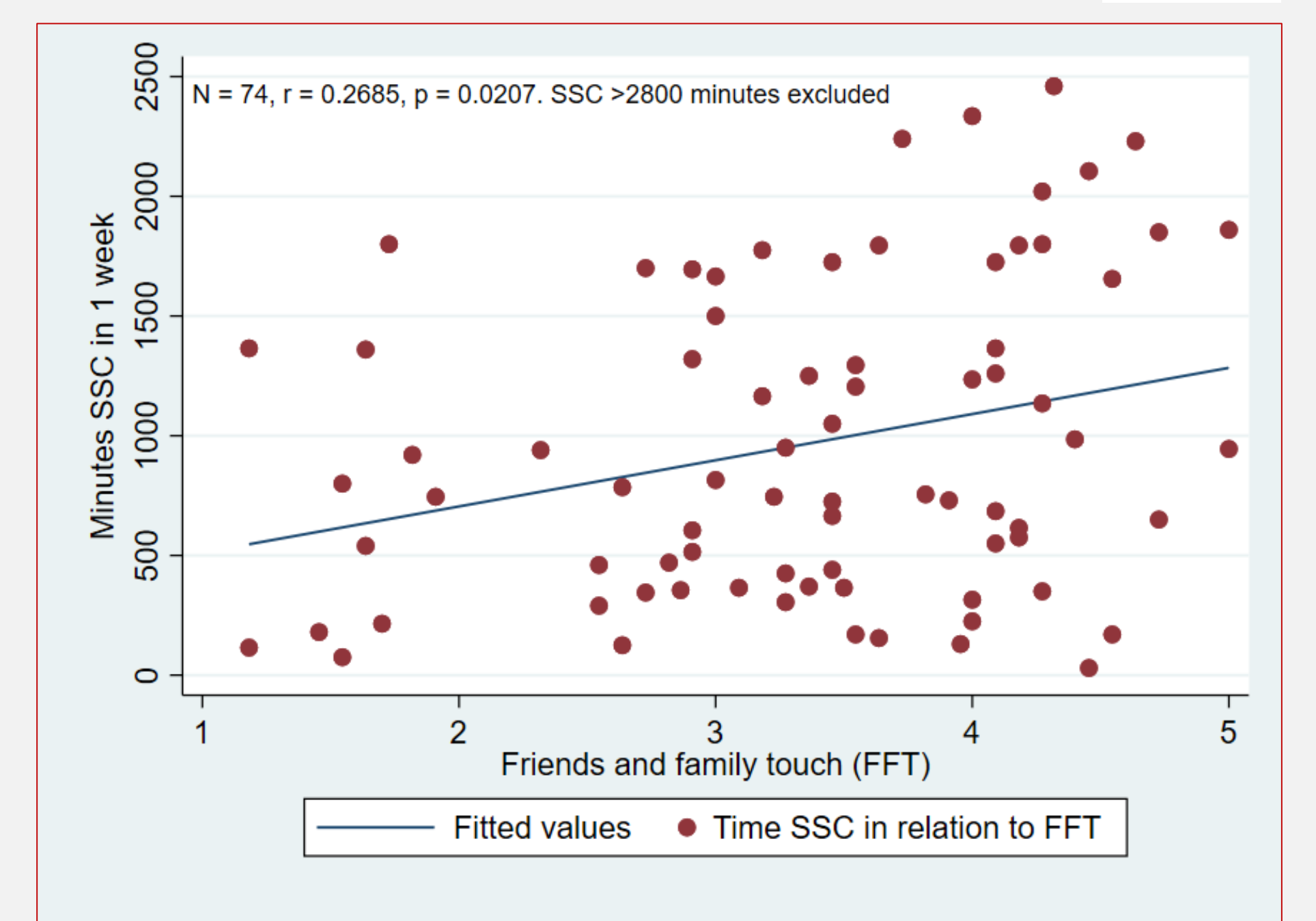
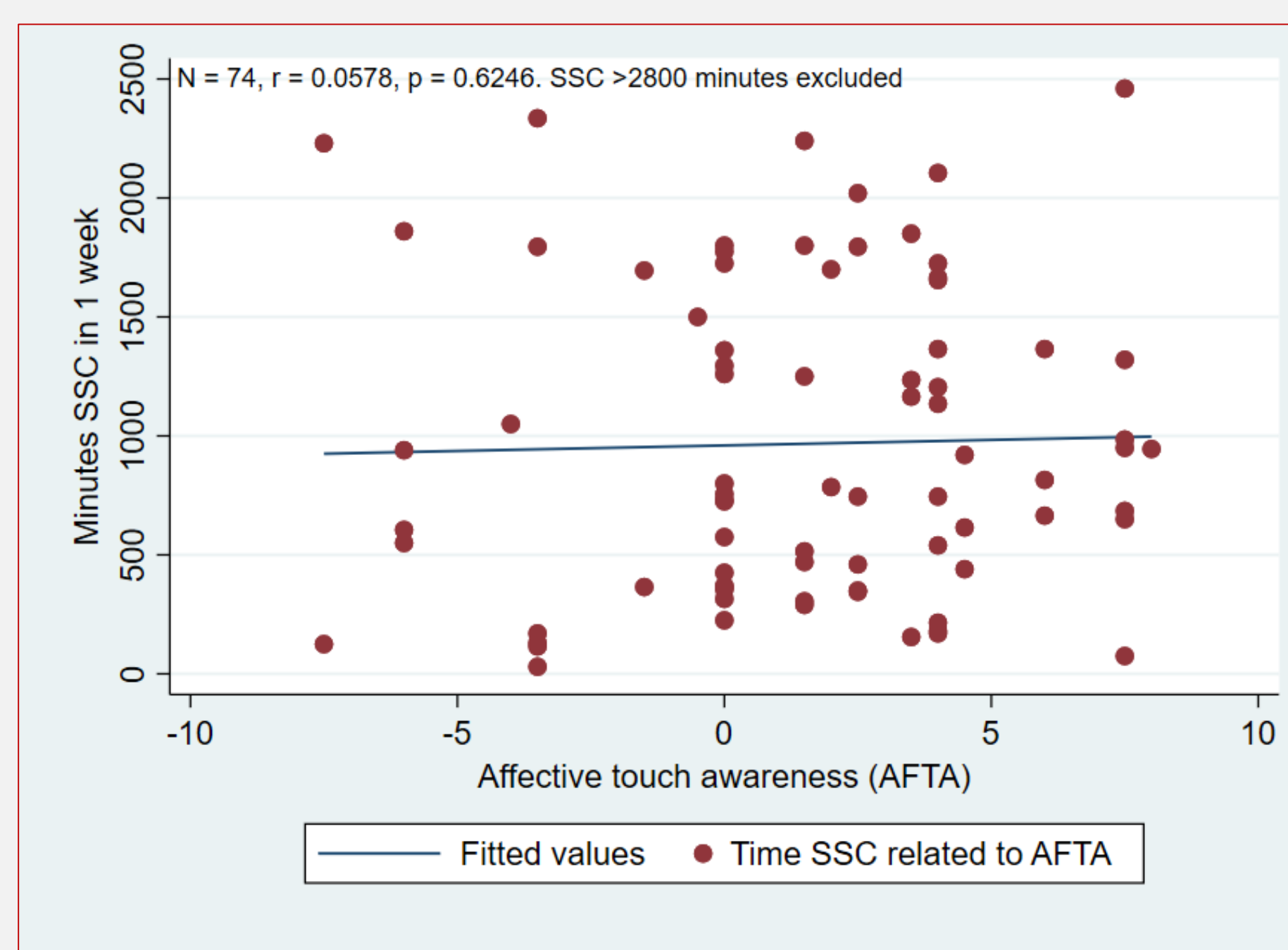
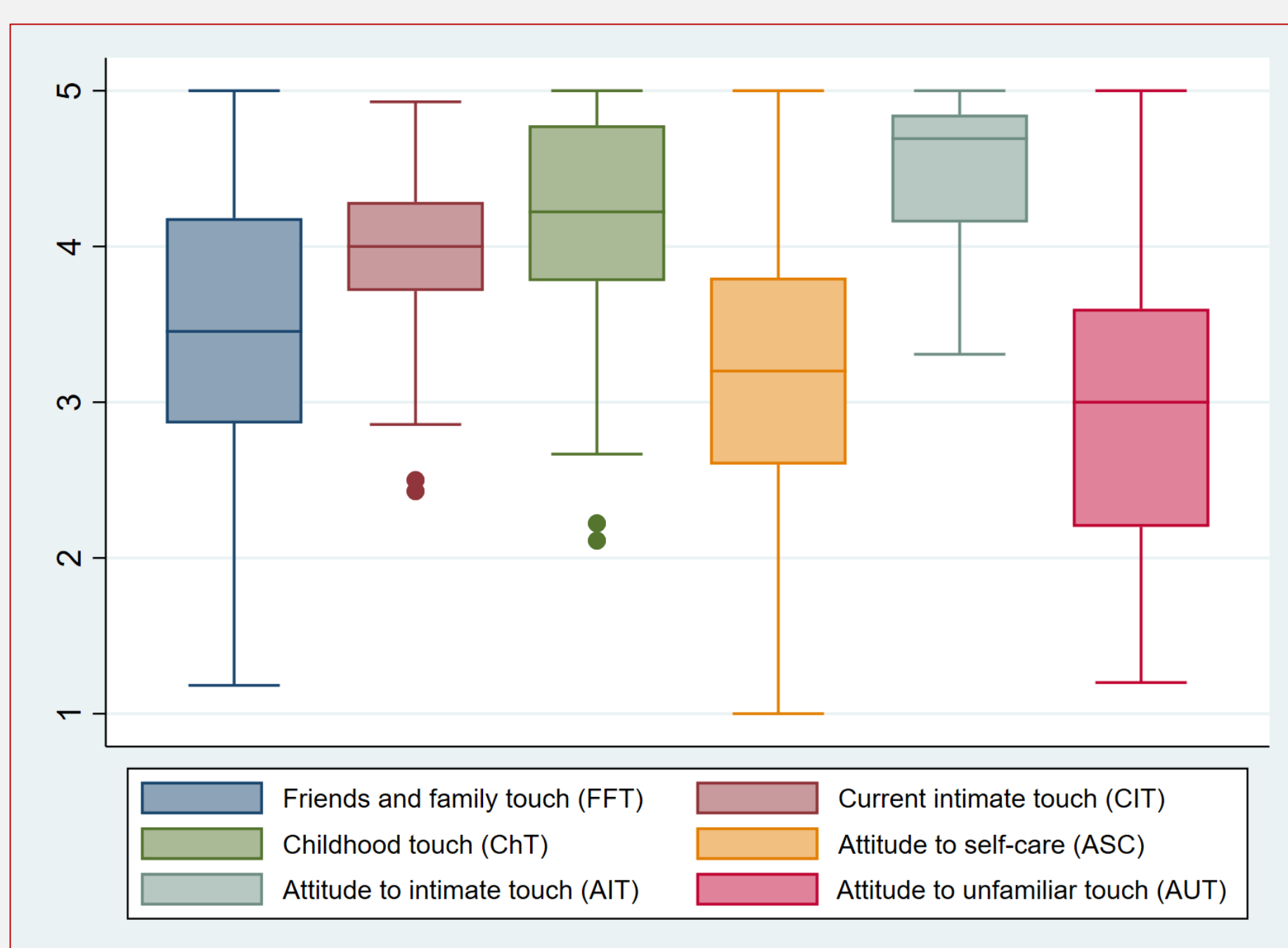




Education and attitudes towards touch, not CT perception, play a role in skin-to-skin contact of parents with their preterm infant.

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Background:

Skin-to-skin contact (SSC) is beneficial for preterm infants' health and development. Nevertheless, some parents spend limited time in SSC. To understand why, we investigated whether parents' own attitudes to and experience of touch are related to the time spent in SSC.

Method:

- Time holding and SSC recorded daily for one week (N=110)
- Touch Experience and Attitude Questionnaire (TEAQ) (Trotter et al. 2018) (N=81)
- Pleasantness-assessment of CT-targeted and faster stroking shown on video (N=86)

Results:

- SSC time varied from 4 minutes to 8,5 hours per day
- Higher education and more positive experiences and attitudes towards touch with friends and family were associated with more time in SSC
- More positive experiences and attitudes towards self-care were associated with more time holding
- None of the other scales or affective touch awareness (Croy et al. 2016) were related to SSC or holding

Conclusion:

The amount of time parents spend in SSC appears to be influenced by factors other than attitudes to touch, including education. We need to know what education-related factors influence parental skin-to-skin contact so that all infants get as much of it as possible

