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Mental health needs of young
offenders and victims:
Assessment, intervention and legal issues

ABSTRACT BOOK

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(consensual vs nonconsensual), and severity of sexual acts (kissing, fondling and penetration).

The results showed that there is a significant difference between consensual and non-consensual conditions for the participants' perception on criminality ($t(145)=16,372, p<.000$). Although there was no effect of age manipulation on the perception of criminality for consensual conditions, the severity of sexual acts was found to have a significant effect on the perception of criminality for consensual conditions ($F(2)=48,316, p<.000$).

Evidence-based assessment of child sexual and physical abuse in custody dispute cases Laajasalo Taina

A substantial minority of child sexual and physical abuse assessments includes families with comorbid custody issues and conflict between the parents. Investigating these allegations is highly complex and challenging, yet empirical data on evidence-based assessment of these cases is scarce.

The goal of this study is to describe a hypothesis testing method of assessing allegations of child sexual or physical abuse in cases with custody conflict where the other parent is the accused offender, and to describe the outcomes of the cases.

The data consists of 287 child sexual abuse and physical abuse cases assessed in the Forensic Center for Children and Adolescents in Helsinki between 2006-2013. The cases were assessed using the hypothesis testing - framework and the children were interviewed using the NICHD interview protocol.

Cases involving a custody dispute ($n = 67, 24\%$) were compared with the rest of the sample on variables assessing the allegation, the psychosocial background and the outcome.

Custody dispute was associated with the case being non-confirmed. This association was stronger for allegations of sexual abuse than allegations of physical abuse. The majority of the non-confirmed cases showed indications of suggestive conversations between the parent and the child as well as misinterpretations of young children's benign symptoms or behavior. However, deliberate manipulation was uncommon.

The majority of the allegations in families with custody dispute issues were not confirmed in this sample. Concluded explanations for the allegations were mostly "hybrid", i.e. they included several factors contributing to the false allegation. Deliberate manipulation and alienation were rare. Support and intervention methods for these families are needed.

Intervention with children victims of domestic violence in Portugal: Legal and regulatory framework, constraints and challenges P. Martins, A.Sani, N. Fernandes, C. Tomás, M.Tavares, and M. J. Gonçalves

In the last years, the phenomenon of domestic violence in Portugal has become more and more visible. Despite its high prevalence and disruptive consequences on families, procedures established for referrals and subsequent investigation and intervention are not unified across all services in the country, nor comply with the needs of families and, especially, of children involved.

The goal of this study is to characterize the procedures of evaluation, intervention and follow-up of these cases, identifying their strengths and weaknesses, as well as assessing their suitability and effectiveness.

19 potential key informants, selected on the basis of their involvement

in relevant services in this domain, were involved in semi-structured interviews across the country.

Despite the study is still ongoing, preliminary results indicate the absence of a concerted strategy focused on children, which fit their needs, allowing for an effective and individualized intervention, with respect for the principles of proportionality and opportunity.

A coordinated and integrated approach should be put in place in order to bringing together all the agencies involved in domestic violence work (e.g. Social Welfare, Health, Education, Employment, Police and Courts). Case management and well as long term counselling can assure opportune intervention and systematic follow-up.

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The impact of intimate partner violence on children

M. J. Martins and C. Baptista

The intimate partner violence consists in behaviours within an intimate relationship that cause physical, sexual or psychological harm and often has severe negative impacts on the emotional well-being of the whole family with adverse effects on parenting skills. Some children exposed to intimate partner violence may exhibit increased rates of behavioural and emotional problems that can result in difficulties with education and employment.

The objectives of this study were: to evaluate the behavioural and emotional consequences of intimate partner violence on children, as perceived by their victimized mothers; to know their mother's beliefs about the use of physical punishment in parent education; and to assess the impact of it on emotional and behavioural problems on children.

Participants were 68 mothers attending a department in the southeast of Portugal that give support to victims of intimate partner violence. Two questionnaires were administered after informed consent: Achenbach child behaviour checklist, parents' version; the beliefs' scale on physical punishment in parent education. The results were compared with data from normative population published by other authors using the same instruments.

Results reveal that: the children of these women have more internalized and externalized behavioural problems when compared with the normative population; these mothers believe more in physical punishment than mothers from normative studies; and there is a low but positive and statistically significant correlation between the beliefs in physical punishment and behavioural problems.

The stress of being a mother victim of intimate partner violence predisposes to be harsher in parenting education than other mothers.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS "AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS II"

Chair: Inês Relva

Psychopathologic symptoms among perpetrators and victims of sibling violence

I. Relva, O. M. Fernandes, and P. Lopes

Siblings represent an important role on child development and personality (Toman, 1993; Fernandes, 2002). Several studies reports that violence among siblings may be the most common form of family violence (Steinmetz, 1977; Gelles & Straus, 1988; Relva, 2013) but it is still overlooked. Awareness of sibling abuse