

BASPCAN Congress 2015

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Title: Intervening with vulnerable families to protect vulnerable children – The Portuguese case

Abstract No. 0397

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Objectives

The consequences of financial crisis in Portugal are severe. Family poverty increased, undermining family functioning and parental competence, potentiating child maltreatment. Despite considerable resources expended by Portuguese Welfare System, outcomes don't match expectations.

To verify the appropriateness of psychosocial intervention to families' needs, this research aimed to:

- a) identify the range of adversities experienced by these families;
- b) describe how they perceive resources, demands and the options available;
- c) assess their children's quality of life and behavior;
- d) discuss the range of services developed by the Welfare System to address the problems of these families, their impact and effectiveness.

Methods

Participants:

100 families, welfare beneficiaries, living in the second largest district of Portugal, with children over 8-years-old, half of them involved with child protection services for child maltreatment.

Families were selected by the district office division of welfare and supportive services, because of their accessibility and proximity to the researchers (convenience sample).

Parents (usually mothers) and children were interviewed over 6 months.

Instruments:

Assessment Protocol

- a) structured interview for multiproblematic families;
- b) personal social relationships interview;
- c) Parenting Stress Index (PSI);
- d) Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI-2);
- e) Kidscreen-52;
- f) Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL).

Results

Data collecting finished last month and data analysis is ongoing. Final results will be presented in the conference.

Conclusions

Conclusions will be presented to the professionals involved and to representatives of the Portuguese Welfare and Child Protection System.

Approval

Confirm

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Categories Working with individuals and groups who present a risk to children

Professional Group Psychology/psychiatry

Presentation Free paper/oral presentation

AV requirements Powerpoint

Registration Confirm

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