

Obstacles in delivering a parenting intervention in highly disadvantaged families: An analysis of dropout rates



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AIMS

High attrition rates are a consistent concern of parent intervention research in risk samples. The present study used the Video Feedback Intervention to Promote Positive Parenting and Sensitive Discipline with a group of Portuguese mothers with 1 to 4 year old children from very disadvantaged backgrounds and referred by social or health professionals as being at risk for problematic parenting. This study aims to characterize this low SES sample and to examine the rates of drop out.

PARTICIPANTS (N=133)

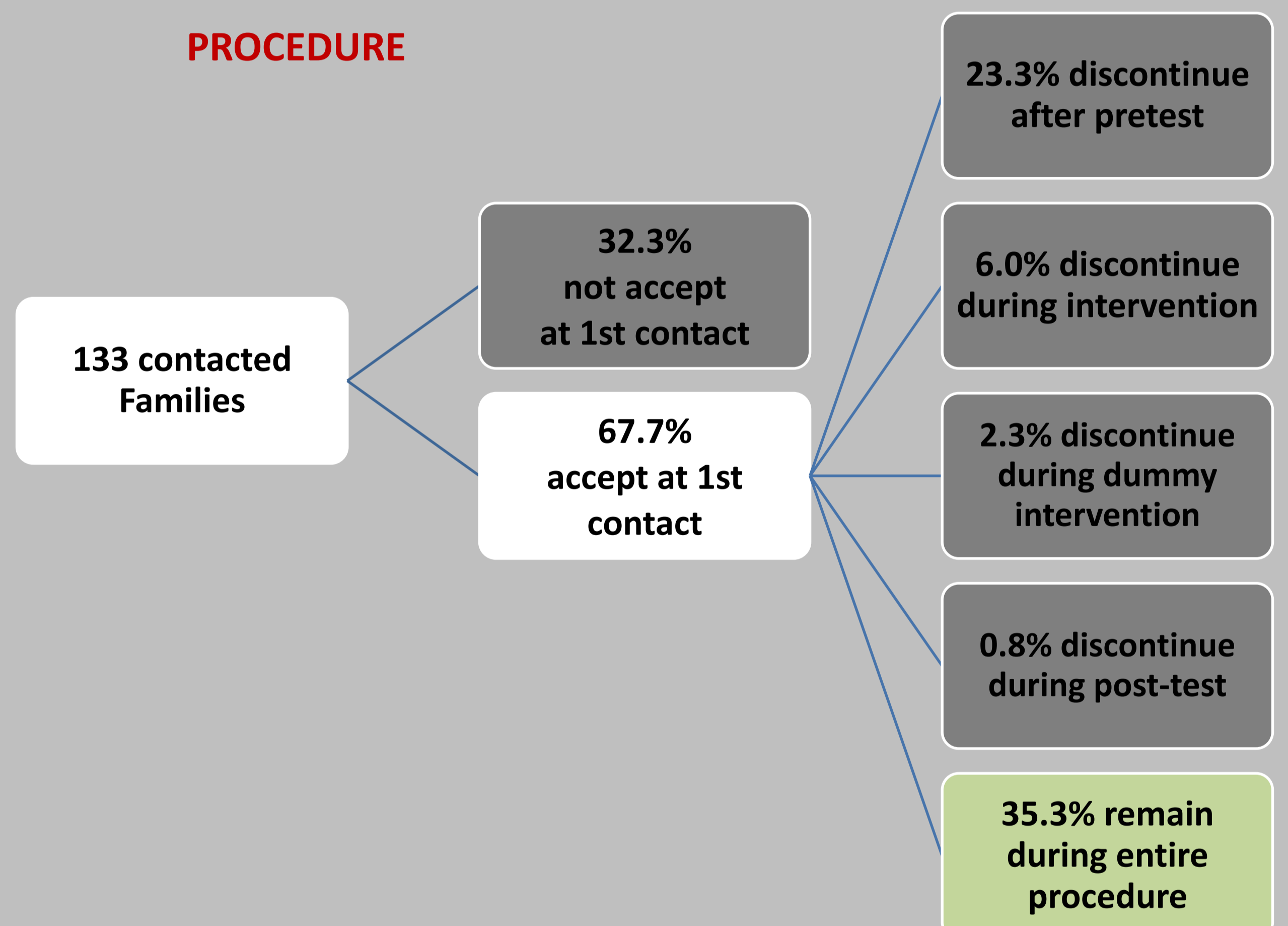
Sociodemographics

Child	Age (months) M = 27.95 (DP = 10.29)
	Gender 53.0% †
Mother	Age (years) M = 29.30 (Min = 17; Max = 54)
	Education Level 66.90% incomplete compulsory education [9,1 school years <i>portuguese national mean</i>]
	Unemployment 67.10% [11.9% <i>portuguese national mean</i>]
Father	Age (years) M = 32.94 (Min = 18; Max = 56)
	Education Level 79.40% incomplete compulsory education
	Unemployment 50.00% [9.8% <i>portuguese national mean</i>]
Family Context	Family Structure Two-Parent Families: 52.30% Single Parent Families: 34.10% Remarried: 13.60%
	Total of Children M= 2.39 (DP= 1.15) [1.37 <i>portuguese national mean</i>]
	Family Welfare Assistance 75.80%

MEASURES

Child	TEMPERAMENT Infant Characteristics Questionnaire (ICQ; Bates, Freeland & Lounsbury, 1979)
Mother	PSYCHOPATHOLOGY Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI, Derogatis, 1993)
Family Context	RISK FACTORS Family Risk Profile (FRP, Pereira, Negrão, Soares, Almeida & Machado, 2009)

PROCEDURE



RESULTS

[Only significant results are reported]

Table 1: Mean differences for child's, mother's and family variables

		Engaged		Drop-outs		T
		n	M (DP)	n	M (DP)	
Child	Negative Adaptation (ICQ)	46	2.88 (1,06)	39	3.48 (1.09)	(83) 2.20*
	Anxiety (BSI)	45	0.81 (0.54)	16	1.31 (0.96)	T(59) 2.56*
Mother	Hostility (BSI)	45	0.84 (0.53)	15	1.33 (0.93)	T(58) 2.53*
	Father Risk (FRP)	46	0.18 (0.57)	85	0.49 (0.80)	T(129) -2.41*

*p < .05