



The Effects Childhood Physical Abuse Have on Externalized Problem Behavior in Hispanic Male Adolescents

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INTRODUCTION

- This research has been conducted in order to better understand the effects that childhood physical abuse has on negative externalizing behavior in adolescent Hispanic males.
- Study is significant to social welfare because by addressing the issue of child abuse in Hispanic males there is a chance to see a decrease in problem behavior.
- Study highlighted the need for change in addressing clients from a different culture and using this in treatment.
- Study addressed the cultural normalization of treating boys in a physical way and encouraging problem behaviors.
- Culture also a considerable factor due to the normalization of machismo, where Hispanic culture encourages the idea that boys must be strong instead of sensitive and are encouraged to participate in risky behaviors.

Purpose of this study

- to highlight the different ways physical abuse can contribute to bullying, substance abuse, intimate partner/family violence, among Hispanic adolescent males.

Research Question

- Does childhood physical abuse increase externalizing problem behaviors in Hispanic male adolescents?

Hypothesis

- Physical abuse will increase externalizing problem behavior in Hispanic males.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Current Trends in Abuse

- There are four kinds of child maltreatment that are commonly identified, this includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment.
- The prevalence of reported physical abuse has declined in the last 20 years, from 27% to 18%.
- Children of Hispanic decent accounted for 22.1% of the victims of child abuse.
- It has been noted that Hispanic males are more likely to experience physical abuse than females.

Externalizing Behaviors

- A study found that adverse childhood experiences, including physical abuse, result in higher rates of drug use, and other antisocial behavior, such as reduced peer socializing, among Hispanics.
- Externalized behavior that can stem from childhood maltreatment include emotional dysregulation, lack of self-regulation, and the inability to develop peer relationships due to dysregulated anger.
- Children who have been physically abused tend to show their anger and shame through observable behavioral problems as well as externalizing problems.

Cultural Impact

- Traditionally, Latino families have used corporal punishment to discipline their children and it may seem as if it could be considered child abuse.

Social Learning Theory

- This theory explains how children who are abused at home can directly and indirectly learn aggressive behavior.
- Research has shown that up to 70% of violent adults have a history of violence as direct victims or having witnessed it.

METHODS

Research Design

- This study is a secondary analysis of the original study that examined the adolescent outcome of physically abused school children.
- The study conducted was a modified quasi-experimental study that focused on the independent variable of childhood physical abuse either being present and placed in the experimental group, or not present which was categorized as the control group.
- The original study was a longitudinal survey study where information was collected through questionnaires, and no experiment was conducted.

Sample

- The sample in this study was taken from 100 preadolescent children, ages 9-12, that had confirmed cases of physical abuse which were registered in the New York City Child Welfare Administration Register.
- For the purpose of this study, the sample size was reduced and limited to 49 individuals, 17 individuals that met the criteria that was being examined and 32 control group participants.
- This specific study required the participants to be male, of Hispanic ethnicity, and with a history of physical abuse.

Measures

Dependent Variable: Externalizing Problem Behavior

- Delinquency
- Aggression
- Destructiveness
- Problems reported by teachers

Independent Variable: Physical Abuse

- Frequency
- Severity

Data Collection Procedure

- The original data was collected the initial information through surveys, self-report questionnaires, and interviews with the abused individuals, controlled individuals, their families, teachers, and friends.
- The information was gathered using various questionnaires that assessed for the type of abuse.
- Domains included data on externalizing problem behavior, internalizing problems and emotional disorder, quality of personal relationships, risk behavior, and aggression/delinquency

RESULTS

Table 2 Youth Reported Physical Abuse & Delinquency Parent 1

Rdt	Never %	Once/only a few times %	Once a month %	Once a week %	df	Chi-Square	P
0	9.1	6.7	0.0	0.0	84	136.54	0.000
5	6.1	13.3	0.0	0.0			
10	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0			
15	3.0	0.0	0.0	16.7			
23	1.5	6.7	0.0	16.7			
29	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0			
37	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7			
40	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0			

Youth self-reported physical abuse and delinquency

- A Chi-Square test was utilized to examine the relationship between the frequency of physical abuse by parent one and the externalized problem behavior of delinquency.
- As can be seen by the frequencies cross tabulated in Table 2, there was a significant relationship between the variables, X2 (84) =136.54, p=.000.
- When compared to verbal abuse, physical abuse had more significance on delinquent behaviors reported by youth.

Table 4 Youth Reported Physical Abuse & Destructive Parent 1

YSR	Never %	Once/only a few times %	Once a month %	Once a week %	df	Chi-Square	P
0	43.1	60.0	33.3	0.0	30	54.89	0.004
1	23.1	13.3	16.7	0.0			
2	9.2	6.7	0.0	0.0			
3	10.8	0.0	0.0	0.0			
4	1.5	20.0	16.7	100.0			
5	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0			
6	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0			
7	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0			
8	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0			
9	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0			
10	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0			

Youth self-reported physical abuse and destructiveness

- A Chi-Square test was utilized to examine the relationship between the frequency of physical abuse by parent two and the externalized problem behavior of destructiveness.
- As can be seen by the frequencies cross tabulated in Table 4, there was a significant relationship between the variables, X2 (30) = 54.89, p=.004.
- When compared to verbal abuse, physical abuse had more significance to destructiveness when reported by youth.

DISCUSSION

Strengths and Limitations

- This study's limitations include: a small sample size that was available using secondary data, lack of generalizability, and lack of clarity if information's was gathered confidentially, as it could be skewed if it was not.
- This study's strengths include examining variable of physical abuse within Hispanic males and the outcomes in adolescents, as it has not been studied exclusively.

Implications and Future Research

- The prevalence of negative behaviors among adolescents with backgrounds of physical abuse highlight the need for proper screening and interventions services to help these individuals cope with their experiences.
- Future research can also study interventions that can be created for children who do exhibit negative external behaviors, specifically for children who are victims of physical abuse.

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