



Interpersonal reactivity: the impact of infant-juvenile positive experiences

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($n=10$, 10.1%), homicide ($n=9$, 9.1%), robbery ($n=7$, 7.1%), theft ($n=5$, 5.1%), and other types of crimes (e.g. kidnapping, attempted murder). Participants answered face-to-face to a sociodemographic questionnaire, to the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) [3] and the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) [4].

Results: All the participants experienced all types of victimisation in their childhood: emotional abuse, physical abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, and sexual abuse. The experience of emotional neglect ($M=9.56$; $SD=5.19$) showed the highest incidence of child victimisation, and the other types of victimisation showed moderate rates. The analysis of the IRI confirmed high values of perspective taking ($M=16.70$; $SD=4.00$), empathic concern ($M=17.83$; $SD=3.69$), personal distress ($M=9.84$; $SD=4.88$), and fantasy ($M=13.09$; $SD=4.39$) among the participants. We found a positive and significant correlation between childhood trauma and interpersonal reactivity, specifically concerning the physical abuse ($r=0.22$; $p=.03$) and the physical neglect ($r=0.24$; $p=.02$) on childhood with the presence of personal distress on adulthood.

Discussion and conclusions: This study pointed out the emotional neglect as the most frequent victimisation in childhood, and this result is similar to previous studies [4,5]. Contrarily to some researches [6], our sample showed high general rates of empathy on inmates. It was also possible to verify that physical abuse and physical neglect during childhood, can influence the experience of distress in those incarcerated adults. Therefore, we conclude that the traumatic events of victimisation bring negative repercussions to adult life [2].

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Interpersonal reactivity: the impact of infant-juvenile positive experiences

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Children's exposure to negative and positive experiences has consequences throughout their lifetime [1]. Positive experiences are associated with how the child sees and interacts with their world [2], and it helps to develop mitigating factors for the adverse effects of adverse experiences and promoters of resilience [3]. The objectives of this research are to study the relationship between interpersonal reactivity (empathy) and positive experiences in childhood and to compare victims and non-victims of traumatic events.

Materials and methods: The study design is descriptive, observational, and cross-sectional. The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki [4]. Participants responded to the protocol in the google form, having consented to their participation in order to advance in the protocol. This study comprised 147 Portuguese adults aged between 18 and 67 ($M=30.8$, $SD=11.6$). The link to the study was disclosed by e-mail and in social networks. Samples were divided into two groups: G1 – non-victims of traumatic events ($n=84$) and G2 – victims of trauma in the last three years ($n=63$). Participants responded online to a sociodemographic questionnaire, the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) [5], and the Benevolent Childhood Experiences (BCEs) scale [6].

Results: Data showed statistically significant correlations between: Interpersonal Support and the Perspective Taking ($V=0.402$, $p=.035$); Interpersonal Support and Empathic Concern ($V=0.371$, $p=.038$); the Perceived Relational and Internal Safety and Security, and Fantasy ($V=0.438$, $p=.035$); the total score of the BCEs and the subscale Fantasy in the IRI ($V=0.421$, $p=.036$). Concerning the experience of traumatic events in adulthood, the results revealed statistically significant differences. Compared to G2, the G1, highlighted higher levels of total score of the BCEs [$F=(1,145)=5.07$, $p=.026$], Positive Experiences of Support [$F=(1,145)=6.02$, $p=.015$], and Positive Experiences of Security [$F=(1,145)=4.30$, $p=.040$] in infant-juvenile stage.

Discussion and conclusions: This research points to an association between the existence of positive experiences in the infant-juvenile phase and the development of empathy in adulthood. Some studies corroborate our results, demonstrating that the experiences in the first stages of life will have long-term repercussions on their social-emotional development [3]. Since empathy and positive experiences interfere in child development, that's important to promote, reinforce and safeguard these experiences throughout the stages of the life cycle.

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Intimate partner homicide: victims and the dynamics of victim – perpetrator relationship

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Intimate partner homicide is considered one of the most extreme forms of interpersonal violence, where one in seven homicides is perpetrated by an actual or former intimate partner. The aim of this study is to analyse the characteristics of the intimate partner homicide (IPH) victims as well as the dynamics of victim - perpetrator relationship.

Materials and methods: The data used in this study were obtained through the analysis of IPH criminal cases on Portuguese courts, that were finalised and handed down and/or sentenced between 2010 and 2015. The relevant authorizations were obtained from several courts, after the approval of this project by the Ethics Committee of Minho University —Subcommittee on Ethics for Social and Human Sciences (SECSH 060/2016). The criminal cases were consulted in several courts at national level – Lisboa and Vale do Tejo ($n = 53$), Vila Real ($n = 5$), Braga ($n = 4$), Vila do Conde ($n = 3$), Aveiro ($n = 3$), Ponta Delgada ($n = 3$), Póvoa do Varzim ($n = 2$), Viana do Castelo ($n = 1$) and Maia ($n = 1$). Our sample was composed by 75 cases, in which 63 (84%) IPH were perpetrated by men and 12 (16%) by women. From those, 19 were homicides-suicides (25%) and 5 homicides-suicide attempts (7%).

Results: IPH victims were aged between 30 and 50 years, mostly were professionally active ($n = 40$; 63%) and from undifferentiated professions ($n = 43$; 74%). Most of them did not present substance abuse ($n = 61$; 81%) or psychiatric history ($n = 60$; 80%). Only in 31% ($n = 23$) there was records danger perception. Regarding the relationship between the IPH perpetrator and the victims, it had an average duration of 13.4 years, with a difference of ages of 6.7 months. There were in total 66 children involved in these cases. The relationships were mostly current ($n = 52$; 69%) and formal ($n = 68$; 91%). Of all the analysed cases, although the majority (72%) presented previous history of intimate partner violence (IPV), there was a relevant proportion of cases (28%) without any reported or registered IPV. In 79% ($n = 59$) of cases, the men were the primary aggressors (five women and one man perpetrated IPH in sequence of an history of previous victimization). In 21% ($n = 16$) of cases the reported IPV was bidirectional. Regarding the types of IPV, in 91% ($n = 68$) of the cases registered the presence of previous psychological violence, 61% ($n = 46$) physical violence, 46% ($n = 35$) stalking and 44% ($n = 33$) control behaviours. In 83% ($n = 62$) there were co-occurrence of different types of violence. In 39% ($n = 29$) of the cases with IPV records there were only registers of psychological violence and/or stalking and/or control behaviours.

Discussion and conclusions: These results obtained allowed to conclude that intimate homicide victims don't have a stereotyped profile. Also, these data demonstrate that the victims do not have characteristics that allow them to anticipate their vulnerability. Although most cases of IPH occurred mainly as the culmination of a repeatedly history of prior