The prevalence of parent-reported conduct problems in 5 year-old children in Ireland.

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Childhood Conduct Problems

Include:
Antisocial, aggressive, dishonest, delinquent and disruptive behaviours

Result in:
Psychiatric issues, criminal behaviour, unemployment and substance abuse

Most common reason for referral to psychiatric/ psychological services in young children
Prevalence

Conduct Problems

- Ranges from 6-15% (Webster-Stratton & Reid, 2018)
- UK: 13% boys, 8% girls (10.5%) (Millenium Cohort Study, 2018)
- Ireland: 16% of children aged 4-6 (small sample & not nationally representative) (Hyland et al., 2014)
Risk Factors

Dispositional
- Temperament
- Cognitive ability
- Verbal Intelligence

Environmental
- Neglect
- Socio-economic disadvantage
- Before 5 years old: Parent Characteristics
- Family Environment

Early Intervention is Key
Relevant Policy

- Intervention for Conduct Problems in early childhood is framed by key policy documents.
- Lack of Irish information on the national prevalence of CP in young children which may be helpful in framing future policy (2020 onwards).
- Focus on parent intervention but lack of Irish data in this cohort to underpin approach.
Aims:

(a) Identify a nationally representative CP prevalence rate for 5-year olds

(b) Examine risk factors for CP in this age group
Method

- Wave 3 Infant Cohort (9,003 parents and children)
- Anonymised dataset
- Parent-completed measures (CAPI, CASI)
- Data weighted to population

- Binomial Logistic regression conducted to examine predictors
- MANOVAs conducted post-hoc to further examine parent variables
Predictors

Child Factors

Parent Factors

Household Factors

Psychological Factors

Outcome: Conduct problems (Subscale SDQ)
Results

- Our findings indicated a CP prevalence rate of 10.6% in 5 year olds.
- This was similar to UK (10.5%)
- Less than previous Irish estimates (16%)
Risk & Protective Factors

+ Normal Weight
  Better Health
  No chronic illness
  Persistent Temp.
  Normal Speech

- Younger
  No college Ed.
  Unemployed
  Chronic Illness

- Lone Parent
  Siblings

+ Consistent Parenting
  Higher Closeness

- Hostile Parenting
  Higher conflict
For parents of children with CP - Are parenting characteristics impacted by age, education and employment?
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p < .05, partial eta-squared > .005
**Parent-Child Relationship**

**Conflict**
- Unemployed Older Parents > Employed Younger Parents > Unemployed Younger Parents > Employed Older Parents

**Closeness**
- Older Parents > Younger

**Parenting Styles**

**Hostility**
- Unemployed Older Parents > Employed Young > Employed Older > Unemployed Young

**Warmth**
- Younger Parents > Older

**Consistency**
- Older Parents > Younger
Policy should plan for 1 in 10 children with CP

Risk and Protective Factors across numerous aspects of 5-year olds lives

Identified risk factors in line with international literature

Post-hoc analyses demonstrated complexity of parent factors

Parenting Styles and PC Relationship impacted by different factors- consideration for interventions
Thank you!

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