

Can community violence exposure explain children's aggressive and delinquent behaviors?: Findings from the SUCCEED Project

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Research into children's aggressive and delinquent behaviors has gathered significant attention, aiming to further explore and understand the contributing factors to their emergence and development. Previous research has highlighted the key role of adverse childhood experiences, such as exposure to violence, in explaining such behaviors alongside other individual, familial, and environmental factors. Thus, this ongoing study seeks to extend previous research by analyzing the relationship between exposure to community violence and the development of children's aggressive and delinquent behaviors. Moreover, it aims to explore the indirect effects of individual (e.g., executive functioning, gender, age, substance use, deviant peer affiliation) and contextual (e.g., perceptions of social disorder and incivilities, collective efficacy, neighborhood attachment) factors in this relationship. Using a national sample of children aged 12 to 15, attending the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades in Portuguese public schools, this study follows a quantitative methodology, employing an online self-report survey administered to the participants. This paper aims to present and discuss the main findings of this study, emphasizing the significance of exploring these connections across diverse social and cultural backgrounds to strengthen comprehensive and informed strategies for preventing juvenile delinquency.

