

The gap between mother & child  
perceptions of their relationships and it's  
influence on Juvenile delinquency  
**among neglecting families**

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# Parental neglect and Juvenile delinquency

Numerous factors influence the child's development and behavior  
(Farrington, 1989).

Neglect is a persistent failure of a parent to provide the child's basic physical, intellectual or emotional needs (Dubowitz, Black, Starr, & Zuravin, 1993).

## Neglect

does not involve an assault!

results in current or future harm

associated with juvenile delinquency

# Types of Parental neglect and delinquency

## Physical neglect

***Chaotic and dirty home environment*** (unclean homes, not well organized, clothing, hygiene, food etc) contribute to a ***lack of friends*** and **Difficulties in pro-social peer networks which increase the risk of *later delinquency*** (Bloger, Patterson, and Kupershmidt, 1998).

## Parental supervision

**Lack in Parental supervision indirectly promotes delinquency** (Maughan and Moore, 2010)

## Educational neglect

## Emotional neglect

# Child-parent Relationships and Juvenile delinquency

## Social control theory (Hirschi, 1969)

**Social bonds and attachments** act as a stronger **protection** against **delinquency** than other personality characteristics.

*Social bond includes: **attachment to pro-social others**, **commitment** (conformity), **involvement** in conventional activities, **belief** in the morality of law (Hirschi, 1969).*

# **Child-parent Relationships and Juvenile delinquency**

**Strong bonds of Attachment or caring are associated with lower odds of juvenile delinquency** (Demuth & Brown, 2004)

Positive parent child attachments: **fewer delinquency** due to the child fear of jeopardizing the relationship with his parents.

**Strong parent-child bonds are critical for less delinquency** (Bell, 2009).

# **Conflicts between Child and parent and Juvenile delinquency**

**Conflicts are very common in parent-adolescent relationships,  
particularly in early adolescence (Galambos & Almeida, 1992; Laursen, Coy & Collins).**

**High levels of conflict or coercive parenting are associated with  
elevated risk for antisocial behavior.**

**Conflicts characterized by attack, anger and impulsiveness were  
positively related to adolescent delinquency.**

**Adolescent who respond to parent-adolescent conflict with attack  
And are at risk to delinquency.**

**High levels of aversive verbal content during conflict were related  
to conduct disorder (Sanders, Dadds, Jhonston & Cash, 1992).**

# Child-parent Relationships and Juvenile delinquency

Data regarding relationships are usually collected while focusing on a certain point of view; the child's or the parent's

Examining relationships through the eyes of both parent and child might allow a wider understanding of those relations and a better understanding of the specific characteristics of relations that are created by the gap and it allows a special analyze of the way it influences involvement in juvenile delinquency

# Adolescent-Mother Relationships

Mothers have more experience in interacting or taking care of their children (fathers interaction focuses on instrumental goals, sport activities, future plans (Shearer et al, 2005).

The interaction with mothers characterized by more connection, understanding, closeness, and involvement (Laursen, Wilder, 2000).



# The Research goal

Testing the effect of the gap between the mother's and the adolescent's perceptions relationships of parent-child on Juvenile delinquency among neglecting families

# Method

## Participants

86 cases, each case includes an adolescent and his mother

All defined as neglected children in various aspects of neglect (more than two aspects)

Adolescent's age (11-17)

All participants are characterized by low **SES and treated by the welfair office.**

All Living in difficult neighborhoods

# Method

## **Tools and Procedure**

Delinquency questionnaire (14 items, different types of offences)

Parent – child relations questionnaire that contains items concerning different aspects of the parent-child relations (in the child's perception)

# Negative relations factor

variable	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
I am being deceptive with my parents	.793
My feelings towards my parents are inconsistent and disrespectful	.799
I feel un comfortable When my parents express their affection to me	.800
Me and my parents are fighting with each other all the time	.809
I easily get upset with my parents	.815
I keep being angry for a long time after being punished	.818
coping with me is a very difficult task to my parents	.824
When I am in a bed mood my parents know they will be facing a long difficult day	.831

# positive relations factor

variable	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
my relations with my parents are warm and are with great affection	.800
When I'm upset I find some comfort at my parents company	.829
I value my relationship with my parents	.784
when my parents praise me I am very proud of my self	.822
I feel free to share information with my parents	.781
I feel completely free to share my emotions and experiences with my parents	.772

# results

## The factors

- Direction of the Gap between perceptions
- Supervision (parent)
- Physical neglect (parent)
- Permissive parents (the teenager perception)
- Permissive parents (the parent's perception)
- Addressing community for help (parent)
- Sense of Coping ability (parent)
- School (teenager)

regressed onto the involvement in juvenile delinquency variable (dichotomic) yielded **as significant** predictors of the probability of adolescents from neglecting families to be involved in juvenile delinquency.

## Logistic regression

dependent variable: involvement in delinquency variables in the equation

variable	B	SE	df	Exp B
Family status	<b>-1.211</b>	.925	1	3.35
Gap between perceptions-direction	<b>-3.218**</b>	1.273	1	2.5
Negative relations (in the child's view)	<b>.254</b>	.736	1	1.289
Negative relations (in the mother's view)	<b>.636</b>	.743	1	1.890
Supervision neglect	<b>2.543**</b>	.877	1	12.718
Physical neglect	<b>1.841**</b>	.821	1	6.303
Permissive parents	<b>1.248**</b>	.636	1	3.483
Permissive parents (parent)	<b>-1.882**</b>	.784	1	6.57
Help by community	<b>-1.272*</b>	.696	1	3.57
Help by family	<b>-1.980**</b>	.993	1	7.24
school	<b>-1.716**</b>	.571	1	5.55
Constant	<b>3.829*</b>	1.128	1	46.001

# Profile of delinquency gap in perceptions of negative relationships

Gap	Teenager's perception	Mother's perception	delinquency probability
Negative gap	easy	harsh	Highest
Positive gap	harsh	easy	Lowest
Easy (light gap)	easy	easy	High
Harsh (light gap)	harsh	harsh	low



Thank you for listening