

Presentation title:

## Gender differences in the classification of risk in children at risk for criminal behavior

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Understanding the factors that are related to the development and continuation of criminal behavior is essential in preventing escalation and future crime. Early identification of risk and appropriate intervention strategies are most effective in early to middle childhood. Reliable, structured assessments of childhood risk factors exist; however, very little is known about how these risks interact and accumulate to predict the severity and types of criminal behavior later in life, especially when related to gender. This study uses exploratory Latent Class Analysis (LCA) to identify clusters of childhood risk factors that have a high probability of occurring together across genders. Twenty-one known risk factors for criminal behavior were assessed in 400 children (six to 12 years) using the validated Early Assessment Risk List Version 3 (EARL-V3). This study will present the unique risk clusters separately for boys and girls and the (dis)similarities in how risk for criminal behavior group together will be discussed for both genders. With this type of analysis, future studies will be able to, with a higher specificity than before, link specific groups of risks in childhood with specific criminal behavior seen in adolescence and adulthood. Furthermore, we will be able to have an informed discussion about the association between childhood risk factors, future crime, and gender.