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Child abuse in a psychosocial approach: A study in southern Brazil

Fabiane Machado Pavani, Luciane Prado Kantorski and Aline Neutzling Brum
Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil

This study aimed to investigate the prevalence of violence in users of a Child and Adolescent Psychosocial Care Center (CAPSi) in southern Brazil, and the perceptions of how it occurs. It was used a mixed methodology. For the quantitative approach, it was used the data of the 110 CAPSi user records, which was exposed to child violence. The database and analysis were performed by SPSS 24. The qualitative approach was performed through interviews with five CAPSi professionals and data was submitted to contain analysis, which divided them into two thematic units, each one with a guiding axis about the professionals' perceptions regarding to child violence. The quantitative data identified that 31.4% of CAPSi users have a history of child violence. There is a prevalence of males between 12 to 16 years old. The conduct disorder was the most commonly diagnosed 38.5%. The most common violence was the neglect and abandonment, the main aggressors were the parents, with father's prevalence. In the qualitative approach, it was identified that physical and sexual abuse are the ones that most impact professional practice. The aggressor is related to the closest male person to the victim. Based on behavioral and emotional problems observed in the child and teens, professionals were able to establish a connexion between exposure to child abuse and mental health of children and adolescents status, who were child abuse victim. It appears a necessity and importance of the professional practice to be in consonance with the scientific knowledge; the need for centered care to these users and the achievement of prevention in children's mental health, as well as the change of perceptions, about the CAPSi, in order to expand their activities beyond their walls, and to qualify their attributions and functions to achieve what is desired in the psychosocial care.

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