

## Meta-Analysis of Child Abuse during Covid

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### Abstract

The objective of this work was to establish the homogeneous random effects of child abuse based on formative and reflective review criteria. A retrospective and systematic documentary research was carried out, alluding to a sample of studies published from 2020 to 2023 on the pandemic and its effects on the abuse of minors. Block random effect sizes were found in confidence intervals and low percentages of random attribution, as well as the testing of the null hypothesis regarding significant differences between the individual values with respect to a block. The findings allow the study to be extended to other publication thresholds with other cases derived from violence in confinement and social distancing.

**Keywords:** Domestic attacks; infantile treatment; psychology treatment

### Introduction

National demographic change by states in 2003 made by the CONAPO and population growth indicate: According to current population projections CONAPO mid 20 October the inhabitants of the country amounted to 104.2 million. It is estimated that just over two million New Mexicans were born during the year, but about 465,000 died, leaving a net increase of 1.55 million people. In this way, the annual growth rate of 1.49 percent derived from the excess of births over deaths was reduced to 1.11 percent as a result of migration abroad (Unicef, 2020). The global fertility rate, today 2.21 children per woman, is gradually approaching the replacement level (2.11 children) expected to be reached in 2005. Life expectancy, for its part, continues to rise and is estimated at 74.9 years in currently (72.4 years for men and 77.4 for women), which implies an average decrease of six percent with respect to the level of mortality registered at the beginning of the current administration. Even more significant has been the decrease of twelve percent in the infant mortality rate, since it fell from 233 deaths of children under one year of age for every 10,000 live births in 2000 to 205 in 2010.

The households in the Metropolitan Area of Mexico City suffers some type of intrafamily violence; Likewise, it revealed a greater presence of acts of violence in the home is headed by men, of these homes reported some type of violence from those headed by women. On the other hand, the most frequent aggressors are the head of the household and the spouse, while the most affected victims are daughters, sons and spouses (Inegi, 2020). The different types of violence in families. The most frequent expressions of emotional abuse are screaming and major anger; of the households with the presence of emotional aggressions suffered greater yelling and anger. It is

important to take into account that there are various factors that influence psychological and physical abuse in children, since it is a social problem, aspects such as demographic growth, economic level, population dynamics, the situation of poverty, all these factors directly influence the abuse of minors since in our country the population is growing, which causes greater overcrowding in extreme poverty homes, which causes a very deplorable quality of life for the family, our country It has more than 50% of the population in extreme poverty and lower middle class wants to say that at these levels given the mistreatment but are more susceptible to it.

Studies of psychological abuse derive from a matrix known as self-control. In other words, human violence, as it is reflected in psychological abuse, reveals a structure of individual self-control that undermines the cycle of frustration and aggression (Driscoll et al., 2020). In this way, the perpetrators of abuse are those with low levels of self-control, although very low degrees of self-esteem have also been observed. These are asymmetric relationships in which the perpetrator represents a potential threat to the victim by matching the aggressor's profile.

In the case of the differences between men and women, gender studies show that it is men who reproduce the cycle of violence that goes from frustration to aggression (Hoseinnezhad et al., 2020). Meanwhile, in the case of women, they attend to profiles and patterns of vicarious behavior. The learning of abuse is disseminated by the reproduction of violence when living with a real or latent potential aggressor.

Following these same reports, the differences between ages are also due to the context of asymmetric relationships between the aggressors and the

victims (Humphreys et al., 2020). It is a scenario in which the social structure favors the perpetrator by being legitimized by imitators with respect to the victim to whom they attribute a state of passivity. This is the case of bullying in which the actors coexist in a structure that establishes hierarchies in order of achievement and school performance without considering the situations in which these differences arise or at least the emergence of violence.

However, the variables situations have not been included in models when explaining the emergence of psychological abuse (Orte et al., 2020). It is known that the scarcity of resources is a conditioner of power relations and these can lead to abuse, but they are also generators of conventional relationships where the actors learn to establish alliances and compete for resources.

If psychological abuse or mistreatment is an instrument of power, then leadership studies would reveal significant advances in the differences between talents and managers (Rafferty et al., 2020). This is the case of organizational violence in which the manager is the main orchestrator of violence towards potential victims. These are interdependent profiles in which leaders need the legitimacy of their decisions in followers who expect solutions from their representatives.

The objective of the present work was to establish the homogeneous random effects of psychological abuse on school performance, considering a systematic review of the studies published in journals indexed to international repositories.

Are there significant differences between the individual homogeneous random effects with respect to the block homogeneous random effects, considering a review of the literature moderated by factors of updating, specialization and international prestige?

The premise that guides this research suggests that studies related to psychological abuse reveal a direct, negative and significant effect on school performance, considering the moderation of specialization, updating and prestige indexes. In other words, studies related to psychological abuse seem to affect school performance in a systematic, random and homogeneous way, although the subdiscipline that studies the issue warns that these variables coexist with others related to personality or violence (Araujo et al., 2020). This is so because the structure of psychological abuse is shaped by formative criteria when establishing determining relationships and reflective when establishing indicative relationships (Cohen et al., 2020).

## Method:

**Design.** By a systematic search and review of the literature was proposed, a documentary, retrospective and meta-analytic investigation was established. **Sample.** Studies published in international repositories, considering the search for keywords: "mistreatment", "abuse". "aggression" and "violence". as well as the impact factor when published in journals indexed to international repositories such as Academia,

**Instrument.** Inventory of Systematic Reviews of Carreon (2018). It includes a self-report about the findings related to psychological abuse in infants, considering the variables that are formatively and reflectively related.

**Process.** Expert judges about child abuse and psychological abuse rated the selected summaries, considering: -1 for negative and significant relationships of psychological abuse with other variables and +1 for positive and significant relationships (Kalia et al., 2020).

**Analysis.** The data was processed in the comprehensive meta-analysis package version 3.0. Confidence intervals block homogeneous random effect sizes, and percentage of random effects attribution were estimated (Tikka et al., 2020).

**Interpretation.** Values of sizes of block homogeneous random effects that were located at the threshold of the confidence interval were assumed as evidence of systematic relationships between the variables, although the high

percentages of attribution of random effects were assumed as an occurrence of a random relationship (Hernandez et al., 2020).

## RESULTS:

The descriptions of the meta-analysis. Random effect sizes values are appreciated in the confidence intervals, as well as percentages of random effects attributable to chance, evidencing a systematic review that can test the hypothesis of individual effects with respect to block effects.

The Q values for the contrast of the hypothesis of significant differences between the individual effects with respect to the block effects suggest the non-rejection of the homogeneous and random effects. In other words, research on psychological abuse in infants seems to consistently show that it is a formative rather than a reflective phenomenon. This is so because child maltreatment and abuse are classified as a problem inherent to other factors such as the health and economic crises caused by the SARS CoV-2 coronavirus and the Covid-19 disease.

## Discussion

The contribution of the present work to the state of the question lies in the systematic and meta-analytic review of studies on psychological abuse and mistreatment in infants during the pandemic. This is a retrospective investigation of homogeneous random effects, considering criteria of formative and reflective relationships between the variables. Thresholds for the size of the effects were established, as well as the percentages of attribution of chance, although such findings can only be observed in the analysis sample, future lines of review are suggested by expanding the threshold of publications to prestigious repositories such as the Journal Citation Report.

Regarding the theory of psychological abuse, which explains the phenomenon based on self-control, the present work has shown that the consulted literature has systematically reported a formative relationship that includes homogeneous random effects of block very similar to the individual ones because these values are located within of the confidence intervals.

In relation to psychological studies which warn that child abuse has two aspects, one formative and the other reflective, predominantly research that reveals determining relationships between situations and group dynamics with respect to self-control and this with psychological abuse, the present work has shown that such relationships persist if the review period is considered.

Future lines of research leading to the review of the determining models of psychological child abuse will allow anticipating scenarios of violence within groups.

## Conclusion

The objective of the present work was to establish the systematic and meta-analytic review of the homogeneous random effects of variables around child psychological abuse. Thresholds of random effects and percentages were found that show their relationships attributable to chance in a minimal proportion, suggesting the extension of the study by not rejecting the hypothesis of comparison between block and individual effects. The development of intervention strategies based on the systematic and meta-analytic review of the models of psychological abuse will prevent the spiral of violence, as well as the anticipation of inter-personal and group conflicts.

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