The prevalence of DSM-IV disorders in a community sample of 3-year-old Spanish children

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Introduction

Over the last years there has been a relevant growth of the study of psychopathology in preschool children. There are, however, few prevalence studies in preschoolers and mostly they have been carried out in American samples. Available studies differ in age range, disorders studied, origin of the samples and instruments used.

Method

Double phase design

Census: 3 year-old school children Barcelona (2008); N=13,578 children

Random sample
N = 2,283

Excluded 12 (0.5%)

Refuse 930 (41.0%)

Agree N=1,341 (58.7%)

SDQ ** Screen DSM-IV ODD

N= 1,278 (55.8%)

Excluded 63 (4.6%)

Screening (−)
N = 756

Random sample n = 228

Screening (+) Conduct problems
N = 522 (42.9%)

Refuse 30 (12.8%)

nP3
nP4
nP5

Follow Up

Participants

Age: mean=3.8, SD=0.33
Sex: 311 (50%) boys
SES; High 33%; Mean: 45%; Low: 22%

Measures

Strengths and Difficulties Questionn. (SDQ, Goodman, 2001)
Diagnostic Interview for Children & Adolescents for Parents of Preschool Children. (DICA; Reich & Ezpeleta, 2009)
Global Children’s Assessment Scale (CGAS; Shaffer et al., 1993)

Statistical analysis

SPSS 19 for windows.
Analyses weighted.
95% CI (Wilson’s-method)

Conclusions

This study was carried out with a wide sample of 3-year-old children from general population.
DSM-IV disorders are very prevalent in 3-year-old Spanish children.
There were no sex or race differences.
There is a considerable percent of unmet needs.
ODD was the most prevalent disorder.

Implications

The prevalence of DSM-IV diagnoses in Spain is comparable to American children.
This study adds cross-cultural validity to the DSM-IV criteria to 3-year-old children.
Early detection/treatment are relevant given the long-term continuity of psychological problems.
The results can help to become aware of the mental health needs these children have and to develop intervention programs.

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