

THE VICTIMS OF  
YOUNG OFFENDERS

## NEWSLETTER DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH

## INVEsbREU

**Introduction**

This *Invesbreu* is a summary of two investigations dealing with the subject of the violence perpetrated by young people, focusing the main object of study on their victims.

The first one assesses the *Pilot care programme for victims of crimes committed by minors*, from the task carried out by the professionals of the SMAT (Mediation and Technical Advice Service) in the framework of the programme, which was launched in November 2014. The results provide a good deal of information collected *ad hoc* for this investigation concerning the victims of young offenders, the effects on them and the interventions that are of help to them. The main purpose of the study is to assess the goals of the programme and find out to what extent they are accomplished, as well as to propose any changes and proposals for improvement that emerge from the conclusions and a reading of the results.

The second investigation deals with the field of child on parent violence (CPV), i.e. the violence perpetrated by children on their parents, focusing on the *mother* as main victim. The investigation compares two groups of mothers, those who have reported their children for violence against them and those who have not. The study sets out to examine the factors that make them more vulnerable to this kind of violence. Other elements appraised are *the level of responsibility* recognised by the mothers and *their intention to change* with regard to the problem in order to prepare and improve possible treatments with the two parties to the conflict.

A reading of both these summaries and the complete investigations published on the CEJFE<sup>1</sup> website will provide the reader with new elements for finding out about initiatives launched by the administration to improve care for the victims of crimes, which respond to recent national and international regulations, and the social need to protect and support those persons, involuntary and often forgotten protagonists of the penal process.

---

1. The complete investigations can be consulted in the CEJFE Research Catalogue: [http://justicia.gencat.cat/ca/ambits/formacio\\_recerca\\_documentacio/recerca/catalog\\_d\\_investigacions/](http://justicia.gencat.cat/ca/ambits/formacio_recerca_documentacio/recerca/catalog_d_investigacions/)



## Assessment of the pilot programme of care for victims of minors

**Authors:** CEJFE: Capdevila Capdevila, Manel (coord.); Ferrer Puig, Marta; Framis Ferrer, Berta; Batlle Manonelles, Ares; López Izquierdo, Berta; Blanch Serentill, Marta; Escarré Borràs, Aida.  
SMAT: Ayora Mascarell, Lúdia (coord.); Cima Mollet, Montse; Díaz Alonso, Mònica.

### Introduction

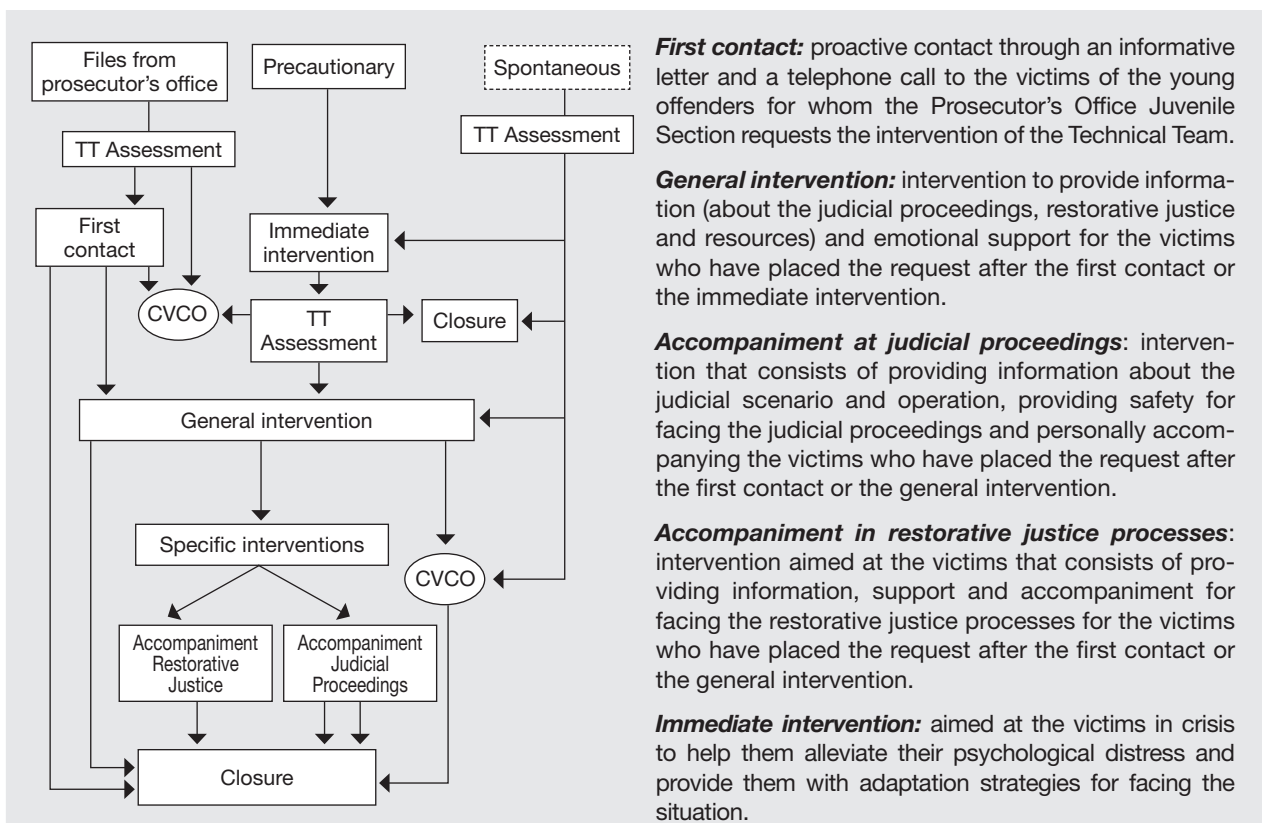
In November 2014, the Department of Community Sanctions and Measures and Juvenile Justice (DGEP-CJJ) set up a pilot project of Care for Victims of Young Offenders. It is being implemented by professionals of the Mediation and Technical Advice Service (SMAT), in coordination with the Care for the Victims of Crime Offices (CVCO), which depend on the Department. The programme starts from an integral view of the juvenile justice system, which takes balanced account of both offenders and victims. In the case of the victims, any crime is observed proactively, personally and individually to help reduce the effects of their victimization, promote their rights and repair the harm done.

This first systematic assessment of the programme, which is presented below, provides a profile of the victims of young offenders, describes the interventions carried out with them and the opinion and perception of them of both the victims themselves and the professionals who care for them. The work processes have also been reviewed to assess the results of the interventions done with the victims, both in terms of their efficacy (level of accomplishment of the goals) and efficiency (relation between the results obtained and the resources assigned). The conclusions obtained will enable us to introduce better techniques, optimize the resources and adjust the professional actions.

The pilot assessment programme was designed by the SMAT with the support of the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialised Training (CEJFE) in the *Open Debate* work format, which consists of cooperative learning sessions carried out by professionals who have learned about the subject from an expert in order to come up with a specific product which will improve or innovate everyday praxis.

The pilot programme defined a care circuit for the victims of young offenders, which is reproduced in diagram 1.

**Diagram 1. Care circuit for the victims**



## Methodology

The population that is the object of study has been taken from the group of all the known victims of under-age offenders over the first six months of the year 2016 in Catalonia. In all, there were 1,347 victims. Of those, the SMAT was eventually able to get in touch with 935, which is the population about whom the study has been done.

Information was collected from different instruments created *ad hoc* for the investigation which were used according to the type of intervention carried out with the victims. Dossier 1 included *general data*. Dossier 2 *data of the first contact*. Dossier 3 *data of the immediate intervention*. Dossier 4 *data of the general intervention*; dossier 5 *data of the accompaniment at judicial proceedings*. And lastly dossier 6 *data of the accompaniment in restorative justice*.

Three types of questionnaire were also expressly designed to be given to the victims by telephone fifteen days after the end of the action of the SMAT. The questionnaires were drafted jointly by the SMAT, the CEJFE (which carried them out) and the CEO (Centre of Studies and Opinion, which supervised the whole process).

The questionnaires had to do with the victims' appraisal of the type of intervention they had received, according to whether they had been attended at a *general face-to-face intervention*, or at an *accompaniment at judicial proceedings* or an *Accompaniment in restorative justice*.

All in all, we have made a quantitative and qualitative exploitation of the data and had a discussion of the results by teams with a pooling of the main conclusions and proposals. The goals of the programme have been assessed with all the teams responsible.

## Results

In the complete study, the reader will find the results presented in three blocks:

The first presents descriptive results of the programme (population attended, frequencies and percentages of the interventions collected).

The second specifically assesses the programme, from the working hypotheses established at the outset to the accomplishment of the goals of intervention and the procedures followed.

The third supplies the conclusions and proposals.

In the different appendices we can consult both the instruments used and the detailed data of the assessment done.

Some of the most notable results are:

### *1. Concerning the profile of the victim*

Two out of three victims are men. Four out of five are Spanish. Almost half the victims are minors and the same proportion know their aggressor. The average age of the victim is 27.33. Half the victims have suffered a crime against their person and the other half against their property. 4.1% (49 persons) had been victims previously.

Type of main crime committed against the victim	Gender of the Victim		Nationality of the Victim	
		Man	66.0%	Spanish
	Woman	34.0%	Foreign	19.3%
Type of main crime committed against the victim	Age of the Victim		Relation with the aggressor	
		Minor	43.6%	Family
	Of age	56.4%	Acquaintance	40.2%
			No relation	56.8%
			Others	1.1%
The category "Others" includes educators, directors of centres				

## 2. Concerning the interventions carried out

### Relation between intervention carried out and age

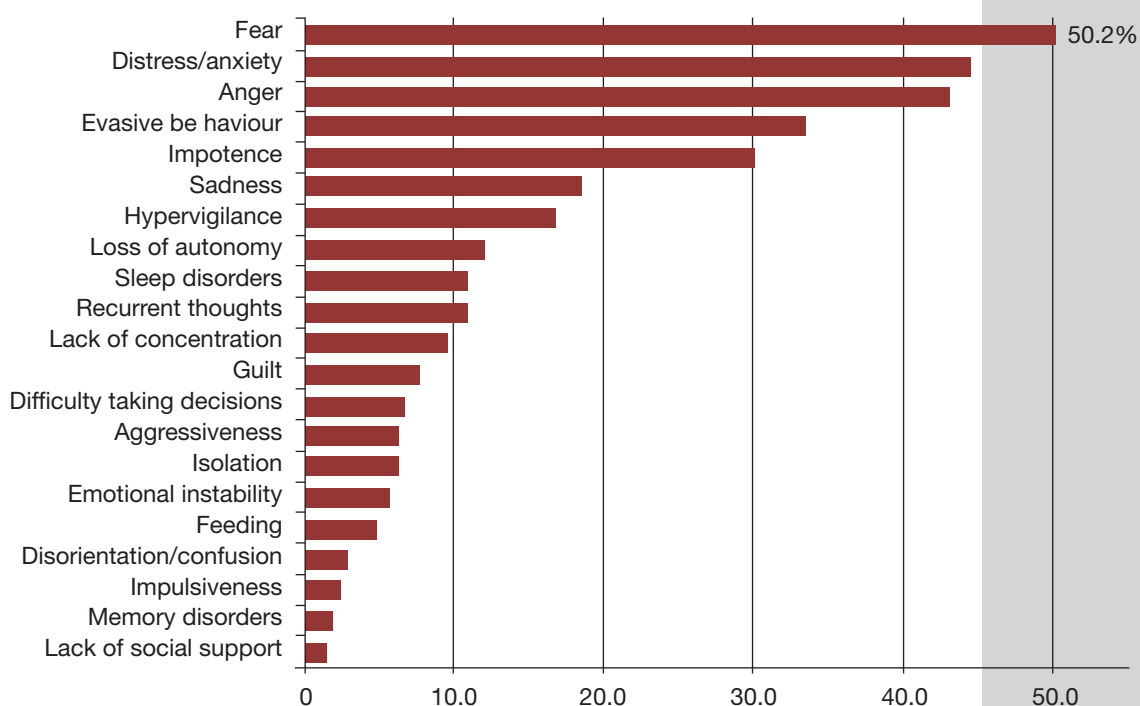
Interventions carried out with the victims	Age by intervals							
	Up to 17		18 to 22		23 to 64		Over 65	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
First contact	430	46.40	144	15.60	303	32.70	49	5.30
General intervention	161	49.4	83	25.5	47	14.4	35	10.7
Immediate intervention	3	50.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	0	0.0
Acc. judicial proceedings	57	46.7	34	27.9	15	12.3	16	13.1
Acc. restorative justice	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0

At the *first contact* most of the actions have been informative. Four out of every ten victims have made some type of demand and in very few cases (6.4%) has it been necessary, in the technician's opinion, to provide emotional support. Three out of every ten victims show signs of being affected by the events they have undergone. 17.5% have been attended by some service for this reason prior to this intervention. The one most used has been psychological support (49.2%). A huge majority of the victims (87.6%) have shown gratitude for the action of support provided.

The number of *immediate interventions* over the whole year 2016 has been too small to draw conclusions (5 in Barcelona and 2 in Girona).

In the majority of the *general interventions* (94.1%) the intervention has been final, that is neither the technician nor the victim nor their families have considered a more specialised referral necessary. Half of the victims say that the victimization produced by the crime has interfered in their everyday life. In two out of every three cases some type of symptomatology has been detected and the ones related to emotional problems are the most frequent in percentage terms.

## Classification of symptomatology present in the effect on the victims



In *accompaniment at judicial proceedings* in half of the cases physical protection measures have been taken, spatial separation from the aggressor being the one most used. Also in half of the cases the victims' self-protection has been reinforced by means of different techniques which the full report of the investigation sets out in more detail.

Concerning *accompaniment in restorative justice processes*, there are only three cases in the whole of 2016, which makes it impossible to draw important conclusions or data of any kind.

### 3. Concerning the telephone questionnaires for the victims and their perception

In general, the victim has valued all the interventions positively or very positively. The last question, *whether you would recommend the service to other people*, obtained 96.7% agreement in the case of the *general interventions* and 93.8% in the case of the *accompaniment at judicial proceedings*.

The results collected allow us to conclude that the intervention of the *pilot care programme for victims of minors* makes it advisable to significantly reduce, for the majority of the crimes, the level of the final effect of victimization perceived by the persons questioned.

The reader will find in the content of the investigation many primary data of great added value which we did not have until now.

## Factors of vulnerability in mothers who are victims of child-parent violence. For a future of treatment with the families

**Authors:** Herrador Carabante, Arantzazu; Cano Martín, Antonio; Rey Lede, Maria del Mar.

### Introduction

With the content of the present study we aim to open another window onto the field of child on parent violence (from now CPV), a subject that until quite recently has been of little interest to investigators. The information presented tries to give a clear view of the current state of affairs. Today we have still

to find a clear and universal definition of this type of violence and that is the reason why many authors contradict one another when it comes to identifying the possible variables that may be generated by this type of aggression.

After collecting information on the subject we realise that there are few studies that speak only of the factors that may make some mothers more vulnerable to the aggressions of their children than others. It has aroused our interest because we understand that many factors that spark this type of violence are related to the family structure, the family hierarchy, the roles taken by each member of the nucleus and the upbringing styles passed on in it. And so we understand that the family is a crucial point in this type of violence owing to the relation generated between parents and children, bearing in mind the variables that generate toxic links that lead to a relation increasingly marred by violence.

### **General goal**

To make an assessment of the personal, mental, family and social situation and perception of the problem in a sample of mothers who have suffered CPV and have reported their children for that reason in order to compare it with a group of mothers who have never reported their children for CPV.

### **Specific goals**

1. To analyse the mothers' mental state through the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) to discover their personality profile and to discard or retain any possible mental pathologies and thus be able to compare groups.
2. To detect possible histories of violence experienced in the mothers' childhood and youth in order to appraise whether or not the fact that they had previously been victims is a factor which may make them vulnerable to becoming victims again.
3. To appraise their view of the problem to discover what position they adopt within the conflict and to be able to act in consequence in any possible future treatment.
4. To make a sketch of the sociodemographic characteristics of both groups to make sure that there are no significant differences in terms of the families' lifestyle and upbringing.

### **Method**

We located a sample of *victim* mothers (N=35), detecting the specific cases of CPV reported which had reached the archives of the different juvenile justice teams. At the same time, we selected a *control* group of mothers (N=35) with the same characteristics as the victim mothers, with the sole difference that they had never reported their children aged 14-18 for CPV. To extract the sample we turned to schools in the same geographical zones.

The instruments used were a protocol for the collection of data: personal, family and perception of the problem; the PAI and the Adult Retrospective Questionnaire.

To make the comparison of the two groups we applied the T-tests for comparison of averages and the Mann-Whitney U-test, as well as the Z-test for comparison of proportions. Lastly, to find out whether the fact of having been victimized in the past is a predictive risk factor for suffering future child on parent violence we carried out a binary logistic regression analysis.

### **Results**

We should mention that this study is exploratory in character and so the number of tests analysed is very high. Following the idea of Bender and Lange (1998) and Martinez-Cambor (2012), given the exploratory nature of the investigation, the numerous comparisons made and the fact that no prior hypotheses had been defined, the P significance value has not been adjusted by any correction method (for example, Bonferroni).

## Description of the sample

Almost all the mothers taking part in the study are Spanish (97.1% of the mothers belonging to the control group and 94.3% of the ones belonging to the study group).

It was more usual to find nuclear families formed by both parents in the control group than in the study group. In the study group the majority of them are mother and son living together.

Concerning the families' economic situation the most usual was "adequate". The percentage of "unskilled" type jobs in the study group stands out in contrast with the control group. In the families of the study group, 34.3% of the cases had recently moved house, as opposed to 8.6% of the cases of the control group. Generally, the main reason for moving was "separation or divorce". Appraising the recent changes in the family, we can observe that they were more frequent in the families belonging to the study group than in the control group, "separation or divorce", "death" and "new partner" being the most frequently mentioned.

Concerning the person chiefly responsible for bringing up the children, the mother accounted for 62.9% of the cases in study group, as opposed to 28.6% for the families of the control group. In this group, 71.4%, responsibility for upbringing was mainly shared by both parents, as opposed to the study group, with 18.6%.

## Type of upbringing received and given

The results obtained show that there are significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in each of the following areas:

- *Concerning the upbringing given to their children:*
  - The mothers of the study group show a more *authoritarian* and more *permissive* upbringing style in comparison with control group, in both childhood and adolescence.
  - The mothers of the study group show a less *democratic* upbringing style in comparison with the control group, in both childhood and adolescence.
- *Concerning the upbringing received by the mothers:*
  - The mothers of the study group were brought up with a more *permissive* style by their parents in comparison with the control group,.
  - The mothers of the control group received a more *democratic* upbringing style in their adolescence in comparison with the study group.

## Relations and family situation

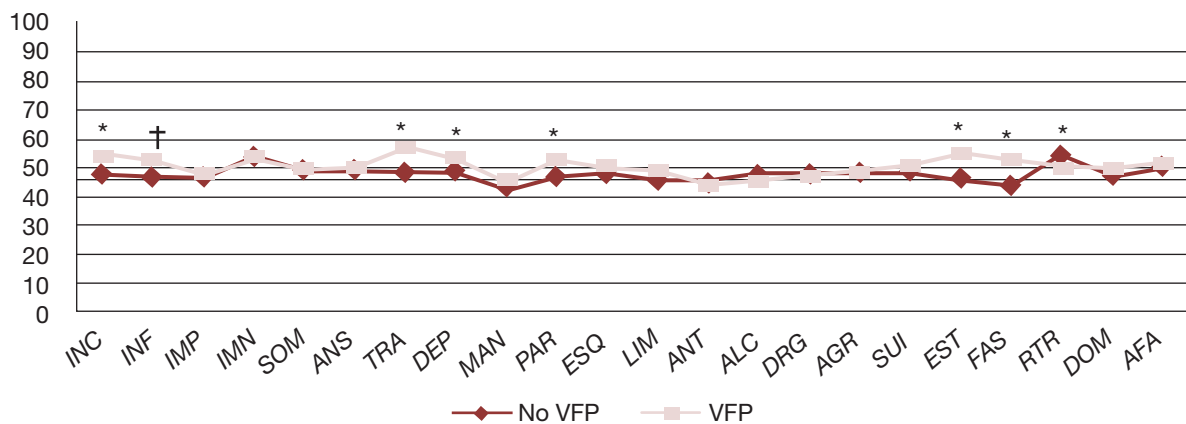
Significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) we found in relation to the following areas:

- Leisure activities with the children: the CPV victim mothers engage in fewer leisure activities with their children in comparison with the control group.
- Communication: the CPV victim mothers consider that they have worse communication with their children in comparison with the control group.
- Affection: the study group feel that they received less affection in adolescence from their parents in comparison with the control group.
- Breach of rules by the child: the mothers of the control group apply punishment and dialogue in a higher proportion in the face of any breach of rules by the child in comparison with study group.

- Problems with some member of the family: the fathers of the families who suffer CPV have more problems (physical, mental or criminal) than the control group.
- Leisure: the mothers of the study group engage in fewer leisure activities outside the family circle in comparison with the mothers of the control group.
- Coordination between the parents: the CPV victim mothers consider that there is less coordination between the parents when it comes to their children's upbringing in comparison with the control group.

### Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

**Diagram 1. Averages of the transformed scores of the CPV groups and the No CPV group on the PAI scales**



Note: ICN=Inconsistency, INF=Infrequency, IMP=Positive impression, IMN=Negative impression, SOM=Somatic concerns, ANS=Anxiety, TRA=Anxiety-related disorders, DEP=Depression, MAN=Mania, PAR=Paranoia, ESQ=Schizophrenia, LIM=Borderline features, ANT= Antisocial features, ALC=Problems with alcohol, DRG=Problems with drugs, AGR=Aggression, SUI=Suicidal ideation, EST=Stress, FAS=non-support, RTR=Rejection of treatment, DOM=Dominance, AFA=Warmth

\* Significance of the T-Student test at  $p < 0.5$  level

† Significance of the Mann-Whitney U test at  $p < 0.5$  level

Diagram 1 represents the averages obtained on the different scales of the PAI. As we can observe, both the results of the analysis of the T test and the Mann-Whitney U test show significant differences between the two groups on the following scales of the PAI:

1. *Inconsistency* ( $t(60) = 3.547$ ;  $p = 0.001$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to the low consistency of the answers given to the questionnaire.
2. *Infrequency* ( $U = 252$ ,  $Z = -3.165$ ;  $p = 0.002$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to the lack of attention paid to the content of the items
3. *Anxiety-related disorders* ( $t(60) = 4.211$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to the clinical and behavioural symptomatology in the anxiety disorders.
4. *Depression* ( $t(60) = 2.119$ ;  $p = 0.041$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to the depressive symptomatology.
5. *Paranoia* ( $t(60) = 3.939$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to excessive supervision and control.



6. *Stress* ( $t(60)=4.692$ ;  $p<0.001$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to the degree of stress experienced at present.

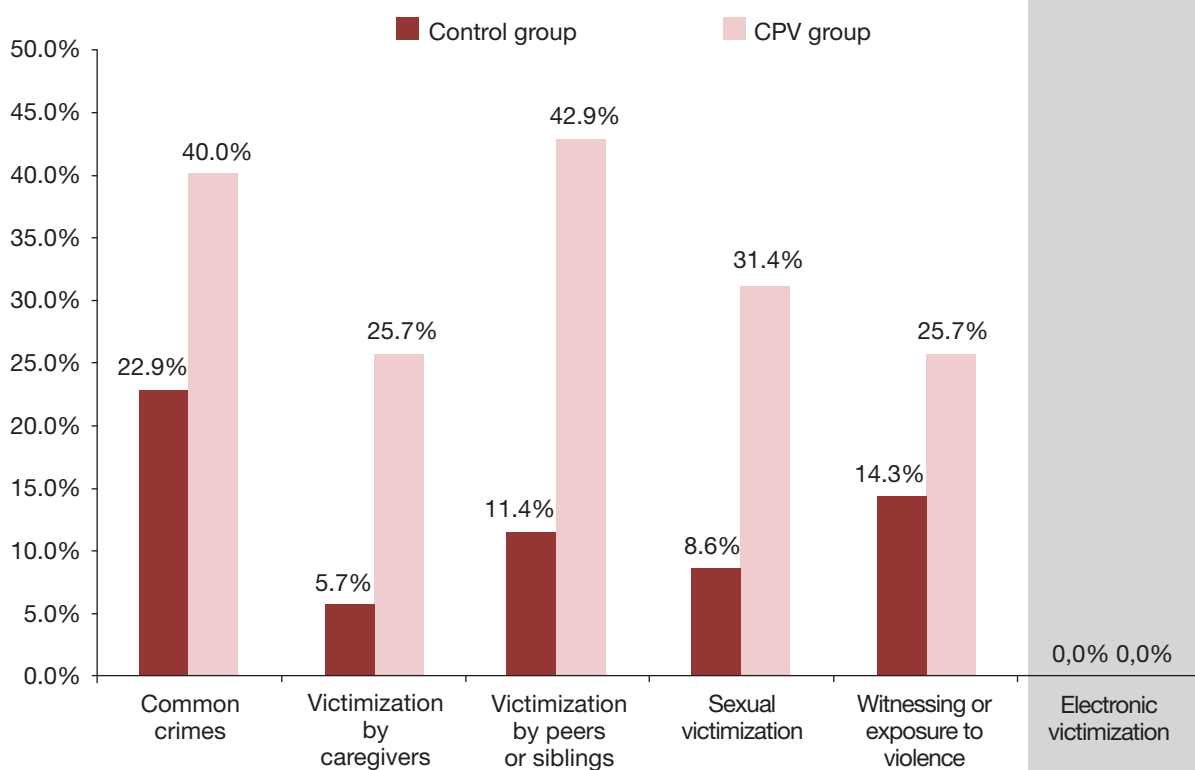
7. *Non-support* ( $t(60)=3.511$ ;  $p=0.001$ ): the mothers of the study group have higher average scores in relation to the subjective perception of the social support received.

8. *Rejection of treatment* ( $t(60)=-2.633$ ;  $p=0.011$ ): the mothers of the study group have slightly lower scores in relation to low motivation to change and resistance to having treatment.

### Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ)

We found statistically significant differences ( $p\leq 0.05$ ) in three of the typologies of victimization. Specifically the results show that the mothers who suffer CPV have a higher rate of victimization by caregivers, victimization by peers or siblings and sexual victimization in childhood and adolescence in comparison with the control group.

**Diagram 2. Rate of victimization**



### Perception of the problem

How is CPV perceived by the mothers who suffer it?

More than half (62.9%) of the women feel responsible for the violent situation they have experienced or are experiencing with the family circle. More than one third of the sample interviewed think that more prevention strategies should be put into practice during the minor's childhood (37.1%) and more limits imposed (17.1%). It is striking that almost 30% of the mothers say that they would not change anything.

The majority of the mothers feel that they are victims of the situation (82.9%), and that feeling begins in more than half of them when they see that they have lost control of the situation (60%). 51.4% of the women decided to ask for help when they realised that the risk of possible physical harm could

increase, 25.7% after feeling that they had lost control of the situation, 17.1% when they suffered a physical aggression and, lastly, 5.7% when they felt humiliated.

### **Proposals**

After talking to mothers who had reported their children for child on parent violence we detect a general need within the study group to focus on a more suitable and specialised treatment for this conflictiveness. Many of the mothers find that there is a lack of professional support and counselling for this type of violence. Their perception is that they themselves have tried to impose measures but have not found a suitable solution. And when they finally report they are already very tired of passing through assistance services which have not worked.

In other autonomous communities we find centres that focus on a more personal and more joint treatment, committed to working with the family. In this case, we suggest as a temporary measure the introduction of therapeutic apartments for cases of this kind. We also find it essential that when extreme points of violence are reached the minors can be separated from the nuclear family to reduce the levels of anxiety and irritation of the direct participants in the violence.

- 1 Inmigrantes y criminalidad en Europa. Los ejemplos de Alemania y España. Enero 1995.
- 2 La cárcel pública de Barcelona durante la etapa isabelina / La casa de corrección de Barcelona (1836-1856). Enero 1998.
- 3 El coste de la justicia penal. Privación de libertad y alternativas. Febrero 1998.
- 4 El niño abusado sexualmente como testigo / Los delitos contra la libertad sexual relacionados con menores. Marzo 1998.
- 5 Inteligencia y personalidad en el proceso rehabilitador del delincuente. Mayo 1998.
- 6 Salud y prisión. Octubre 1998.
- 7 La prensa frente a la violencia juvenil y la cárcel. Noviembre 1998.
- 8 El tratamiento de los agresores sexuales. Febrero 1999.
- 9 La victimización en Cataluña en el año 1996. Abril 1999.
- 10 Programas aplicados de psicología comunitaria con personal penitenciario. Junio 1999.
- 11 Justicia juvenil: inserción laboral y medidas en medio abierto. Octubre 1999.
- 12 Reincidencia y delincuencia juvenil. Noviembre 1999.
- 13 Violencia doméstica. Diciembre 1999.
- 14 El estado de la adopción en Cataluña (1998-1999).
- 15 Maltratos infantiles en Cataluña. Junio 2000.
- 16 Prisión y mujeres. La incidencia de los programas motivacionales en la conducta social. Un estudio evolutivo (1988-2000) en la prisión de mujeres de Barcelona. Septiembre 2000.
- 17 Evaluación de un programa de tratamiento para jóvenes violentos. Noviembre 2000.
- 18 Evaluación de la efectividad de los programas de tratamiento con delincuentes en Europa. Enero 2001.
- 19 La victimización en Cataluña en el año 1999. Mayo 2001.
- 20 El arresto de fin de semana en Cataluña (1996-2000).
- 21 Adictos a las drogas y reincidencia en el delito.
- 22 Maltratos físicos graves a bebés y menores de cuatro años ingresados en centros de acogida.
- 23 Intervención institucional. Elementos para el análisis en menores infractores o en riesgo.
- 24 Los menores extranjeros indocumentados no acompañados ( MEINA ).
- 25 La mediación penal
- 26 La reincidencia.
- 27 Familia y conducta antisocial.
- 28 Presentación de dos investigaciones del ámbito penitenciario.
- 29 Intervención en centros de justicia juvenil.
- 30 La clasificación inicial en régimen abierto de los condenados a prisión.
- 31 La reincidencia en las penas alternativas a la prisión en Cataluña.
- 32 La asistencia religiosa y la libertad de culto en las prisiones de Cataluña.
- 33 Bullying - Violencia de género. Elementos para el análisis.
- 34 Violencia de los jóvenes en la familia.
- 35 Infractores y conducta violenta.
- 36 Drogas y tratamiento penitenciario.
- 37 Perfil profesional del juez de primera instancia e instrucción de Cataluña.
- 38 Violencia de género y justicia.
- 39 Delitos sexuales y reincidencia.
- 40 Intervención con infractores juveniles.
- 41 Mediación y resolución de conflictos en entornos penitenciarios.
- 42 Perfil profesional del Secretario Judicial de Cataluña.
- 43 Predicción del riesgo de violencia en contextos institucionales. Los sistemas de control monitorizado aplicado a penados adultos.
- 44 Drogas y prisión . Medidas de seguridad y salud mental.
- 45 Modelos de política criminal y penitenciaria internacional.
- 46 Mujer y violencia de género.
- 47 La formación de los funcionarios de seguridad de los centros penitenciarios en Cataluña y Francia.
- 48 Perfil de los penados por delitos contra la seguridad del tráfico.
- 49 Intervención con agresores de violencia de género.
- 50 Intervención con infractores condenados por delitos de tráfico a programas formativos.
- 51 Abuso sexual infantil: valoración psicosocial desde el ámbito de la justicia.
- 52 Agresores en violencia de pareja.
- 53 Inserción después de la cárcel.
- 54 Extranjeros en centros penitenciarios.
- 55 Victimología y ciberdelito en menores.
- 56 La reincidencia en el programa de mediación y reparación de menores.
- 57 Intervención penal con infractores de tráfico.
- 58 Evaluación de menores infractores: factores protectores y de riesgo..
- 59 El tiempo en la justicia de menores.
- 60 Intervention in the framework of penal measures in the community.
- 61 Community service orders and tasks to educate for life in society in juvenile justice.
- 62 Victimisation of children and adolescents in care and in juvenile justice.
- 63 Conditional release in Catalonia.
- 64 Case management in Catalan prisons.
- 65 Penal measures and drug addictions.
- 66 Assessment of the Limits parenting skills training programme.
- 67 The rate of penitentiary recidivism 2014.
- 68 Comparative study of the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in prisons in Catalonia
- 69 New intervention programmes for offenders in the community
- 70 Managing emotions in penitentiary centres
- 71 Penal execution in the provinces
- 72 Violent criminals and reoffending

Edición y producción: **Centre d'Estudis Jurídics i Formació Especialitzada**  
**Ausiàs Marc, 40**  
**Tel. 93 207 31 14**  
**Fax 93 207 67 47**  
**www.cejfe.cat**

ISSN: 2339-5613  
Dip. legal: B-1482-1998

