

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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INTRODUCTION

Child sexual abuse is a complex and multicausal social problem, resulting from an interaction of individual, family, social and cultural factors (Echeburúa and Guerricaechevarría, 1998).

Goals

Identify the most relevant characteristics presented by a sample of minors victims of sexual abuse, such as: the child's own characteristics, the type of abuse, the discovery of the abuse, the perpetrator, the child's social and family environment.

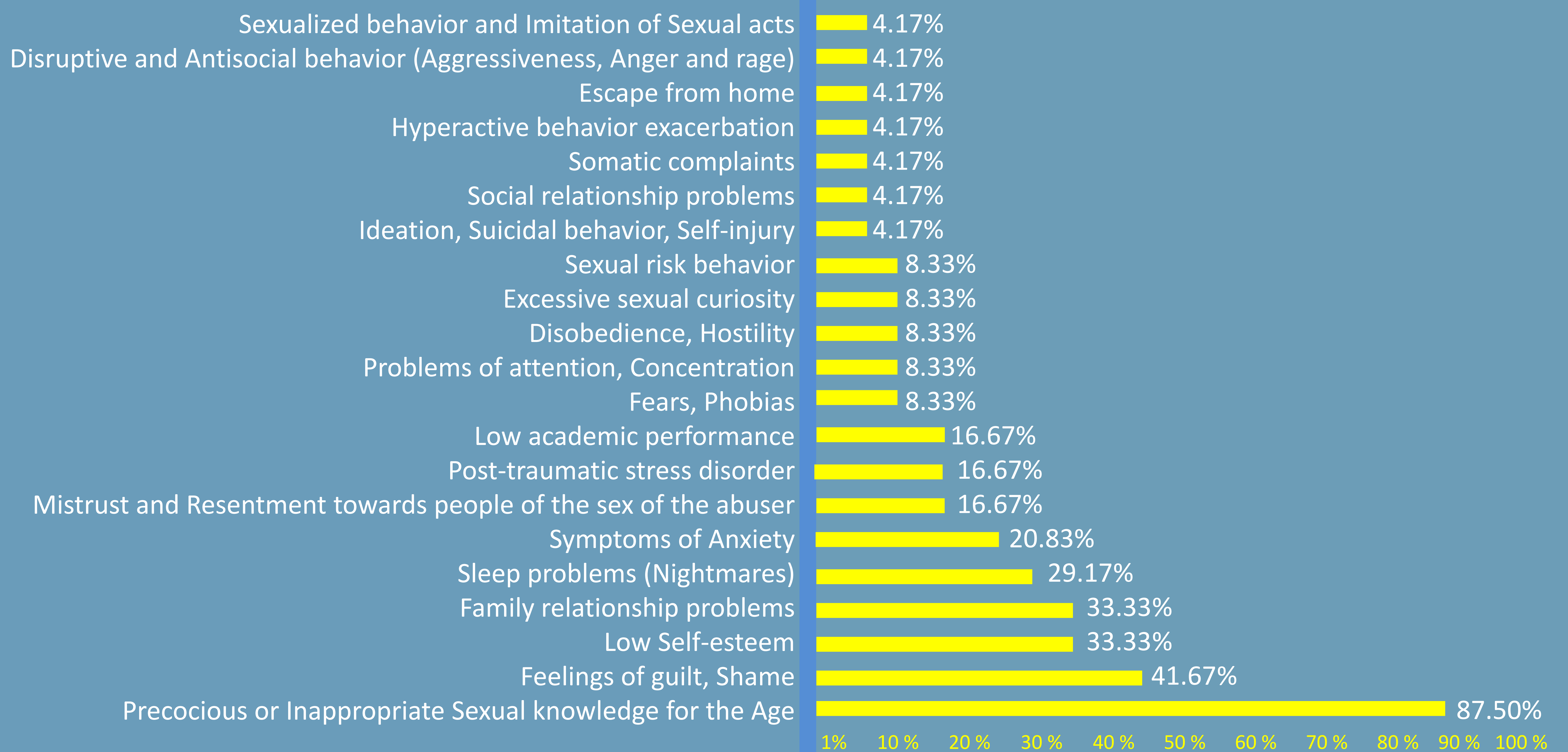
Identify the prevalence of short-term psychological consequences presented by minors victims of sexual abuse

Identify the variables that may be associated with the presence or absence of psychological consequences in victims of child sexual abuse

METHOD

A descriptive investigation was carried out, where in the first place the questionnaire "Variables related to Child Sexual Abuse" was designed, which was completed by two psychologists from the abused child care service. The sample consisted of 24 children and girl victims of sexual abuse (17 women and 7 men), aged between 6 and 17 years and whose first episode of abuse had occurred in a period of no more than 2 years.

Figure 1: Most frequent psychological consequences



RESULTS

Among the results is that children have varied consequences that do not respond to a pattern or single picture "post-abuse", including early sexual knowledge or inappropriate for their age as the most frequent, evidencing an interference in psychosexual development. Figure 1 shows the results obtained for all the variables considered. The female sex, the age range of 12-17 years, abuse with penetration, fellation or cunilingus behaviors, perpetrator adult, are the possible variables related to the presence of consequences are found, however, the child's cognitive variables are highlighted as a determining factor.

DISCUSSION

Our results coincide with the findings of other studies suggesting that men who have suffered child sexual abuse suffer from anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder than women (Gault-Sherman, Silver and Sigfúsdóttir, 2009, Luster and Small, 1997), however, indicate that men are more or more likely to have behavioral problems. Regarding age, Echeburúa and Guarricaechevarría, (2005) indicate that very young children, because they have a limited repertoire of psychological resources, can show strategies of denial and dissociation, while slightly older children are more frequent. feelings of guilt and shame before the event. In relation to the age of perpetrator Sperry and Gilbert (2005) confirm that sexual abuse committed by adolescents are less traumatic to victims than those made by adults found that the subjects reported feeling less traumatized. Just as Kogan (2005) indicates that early revelation dampens the effects of abuse. One aspect to consider is that in all cases these variables did not correspond to the presence of psychological consequences and their prevalence. That is, some children with similar abusive experiences may suffer different psychological consequences. So in recent years, research has focused on the variable of cognitive type and the ability to cope with each better (psychological adjustment), since the effects may depend on how they perceive, evaluate and process abusive events (Canton- Cortés y Cantón, 2011, 2015; Feiring, Simon and Cleland, 2009; Wright, Crawford and Sebastian, 2007). So this research recommends further study on the subject.

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