

Objective of the study:

The Child-to-Parent Aggression (CPA) has long been neglected in the scientific literature. However, in recent years it has become an area of growing interest. The objective of this study was to assess the prevalence of aggressions of adolescents toward their parents and identify some family risk factors. .

Method:

A total of 2719 adolescents (51.4% girls, 46.9% boys), aged between 12 and 17 years, answered CPA measures (Child-to-Parent Aggression Questionnaire; CPAQ; Calvete, Gamez-Guadix et al., 2012), exposure to violence (Exposure to Violence Scale; Orue & Calvete, 2010, emotional deprivation, parental abandonment (Young Parenting Inventory; YPI, Young, 2003), and permissive parenting style (Parenting Style Scale; Oliva, Parra, Sánchez-Queija, & López, 2007).

Results

Aggressions were more frequently directed toward the mother than the father. However, there were no differences with regard to severe forms of aggression. The girls scored higher on all indicators of psychological aggression. Except for the prevalence of physical aggression directed toward mothers, which was higher in girls, there were no significant differences in physical aggression toward parents between girls and boys. Results of logistic regression analysis showed that low levels of affection and communication were associated with all forms of severe CPA. Witnessing family violence was associated with the physical AHP against fathers whereas direct victimization in family was associated with physical CPA against mothers, and psychological CPA against both parents. The permissive style was associated with the severe psychological CPA but not with the physical CPA.

Table 1. Prevalence rates of physical and psychological child-to-parent aggression in the last year.

	Total				Severe			
	Girls and boys	Girls	Boys	Chi ²	Girls and boys	Girls	Boys	Chi ²
	N = 2672	n=1397	n=1275		N = 2672	n=1397	n=1275	
Psychological against mother	91.2%	94.5%	87.6%	38**	12.1%	14.8 %	9%	21**
Psychological against father	85%	88.9%	80.5%	34**	10.8%	12.8%	8.5%	12**
Psychological against mother and father	92.7%	95.5%	89.6%	34**	14.2%	17.3%	10.7%	23**
Physical against mother	8.3%	9.8%	6.7%	8*	2.2%	2.3%	2.2 %	0,01
Physical against father	6.7%	6.9%	6.5%	0.61	2.2%	2,3%	2.1%	0.7
Physical against mother and father	10.7%	11.7%	9.5%	3.2	3.2%	3,4%	3.1%	0.2

*p < .01; **p < .001

Table 2. Logistic regression to predict physical aggressions against parents

	Physical aggressions against fathers				Physical aggressions against mothers			
	B	Wald	Odd Ratio	CI	B	Wald	Odd Ratio	CI
Family violence witnessing	.95	8.24	2.58**	1.35 – 4.92	.10	.10	1.10	.59 – 2.05
Direct victimization	.10	.19	1.11	.69 – 1.77	.65	10.54	1.97**	1.29 – 2.84
Positive affect in parenting	-.40	6.73	0.67**	.50 – 0.91	-.52	12.24	0.59**	.44 – 0.79
Abandonment by parents	.61	8.90	1.85**	1.23 – 2.76	.54	7.51	1.71**	1.16 – 2.51
Permissiveness	.11	6.31	1.12*	1.02 – 1.22	.06	1.81	1.06	.97 – 1.59

* p < .05, ** p < .001

Conclusions:

The findings of this study show that CPA is a common problem that requires greater attention at the social and research levels. Overall, the results contribute to understand the family profiles associated with CPA and show that variables such as exposure to family violence and neglect are relevant risk factors for this phenomenon.