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To What Extent is Child-to-Parent Violence Known in Latin America? A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Luis Burgos-Benavides¹ , María del Carmen Cano-Lozano² , Andrés Ramírez³ , Lourdes Contreras² 
& Francisco J. Rodríguez-Díaz¹ 

¹Department of Psychology, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain

²Department of Psychology, Universidad de Jaén, Spain

³Universidad Salesiana Ecuador, Ecuador

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ABSTRACT

Background/Aim: Child-to-parent violence is an increasingly frequent problem in which children assume the role of aggressors, causing serious consequences for family dynamics. The objectives of this study were to systematise studies of child-parent violence in Latin America and to analyse their frequency by means of a meta-analysis of proportions. **Methods:** This study followed The PRISMA 2020 criteria for systematic review and meta-analysis. A meta-analysis of proportions was performed according to the criteria of reiterated violence and zero-tolerance, and publication bias and heterogeneity were analysed. **Results:** Sixteen primary studies were included. Most of the studies have been conducted in México and Chile. Psychological violence showed a greater magnitude toward the mother, whereas physical violence showed very similar magnitudes for both parents. **Discussion:** The findings confirm the scarce evidence on child-parent violence in Latin American countries, but this does not mean that it is a non-existent problem. In fact, reiterated psychological violence could be exercised between 23% and 25%, and reiterated physical violence between 6% and 5% towards the father and mother, respectively.

¿Hasta qué Punto se Conoce la Violencia Filio-Parental en América Latina? Una Revisión Sistemática y Meta-análisis

RESUMEN

Antecedentes/Objetivo: La violencia filio-parental es una problemática cada vez más frecuente en la que los hijos asumen el rol de agresores, causando graves consecuencias en la dinámica familiar. Los objetivos de este estudio fueron sistematizar los estudios de violencia filio-parental realizados en América Latina y analizar su frecuencia mediante un meta-análisis de proporciones. **Método:** Se siguieron los criterios PRISMA 2020 para revisiones sistemáticas y meta-análisis. Se realizó un meta-análisis de proporciones según los criterios de violencia repetida y tolerancia cero. Se analizó el sesgo de publicación y la heterogeneidad. **Resultados:** Se incluyeron dieciséis estudios primarios. La mayoría se realizaron en México y Chile. La violencia psicológica mostró una magnitud mayor hacia la madre, y la violencia física mostró magnitudes muy similares hacia ambos progenitores. **Discusión:** Los hallazgos confirman la escasa evidencia sobre violencia filio-parental en los países de América Latina, pero esto no quiere decir que sea un problema inexistente. De hecho, la violencia psicológica reiterada podría haber sido ejercida entre el 23% y el 25% y la violencia física reiterada entre el 6% y el 5% hacia el padre y madre, respectivamente.

Palabras clave:

Tolerancia cero
Violencia reiterada
Violencia de los hijos hacia la madre
Violencia de los hijos hacia el padre
Padres maltratados
Abuso parental

Introduction

In recent times, there has been an exponential increase in the number of investigations of youth violence (Sheed et al., 2023). Child-to-parent violence (CPV) is one of the most controversial issues in which children assume the role of perpetrator (Gabriel et al., 2018). This problem is becoming increasingly frequent in interactions with the family nucleus, which has historically offered different scenarios of violence, particularly during adolescence (Noble-Carr et al., 2020; Simmons et al., 2018).

Despite relevant contributions to understanding this complex problem, CPV is still considered the least studied form of violence (Harries et al., 2023; Jiménez-Granado et al., 2023) compared to other types of domestic violence such as intimate partner violence, child abuse, and gender-based violence (Gallego et al., 2019; López-Barranco et al., 2022). This does not detract from the fact that like other types of domestic violence, CPV is a legal, social and public health problem (Cano-Lozano et al., 2023; Loinaz & Sousa, 2019; Warren et al., 2023). Most studies have used original empirical samples from a quantitative perspective (Arias-Rivera et al., 2022; Burgos-Benavides et al., 2023; Ibabe, 2020).

CPV is the expression of family violence in which children's behaviours cause some form of physical, psychological, or financial harm to gain power and control over a parent (Cottrell, 2001). Recently, the following has been added: the reference to parents or those persons who take their place, and the behaviours must be reiterated, excluding punctual aggressions, those that take place in a state of diminished consciousness of the aggressor caused by psychological alterations, and patricide without a history of aggression (Pereira et al., 2017).

Most of the studies have been carried out in Spain, the United States and the United Kingdom (Rogers & Ashworth, 2024). However, in recent years it has become an internationally recognized type of violence (Cano-Lozano et al., 2023). Some of the risk factors associated with this problem are previous family violence, parenting practices, educational styles, neglect, corporal punishment, physical abuse, alcohol or substance abuse, stress, communication, sexual abuse, criminal acts, emotional problems, exposure to violence, impulsive behavior, peer violence, problematic use of social media. Likewise, the consequences of CPV can cause harm to the parents, ranging from physical injury to emotional damage such as stress, anxiety, depression, fear, isolation (Holt, 2021; Rogers & Ashworth, 2024). Therefore, there is a need to identify contexts in which it is urgent to implement a line of research to explore the consequences and implement prevention and intervention plans.

This phenomenon has been studied mainly in Western and Anglo-Saxon countries (Junco-Guerrero et al., 2023; Warren et al., 2023). However, several outstanding issues remain to be addressed. For example, there is no indexed term for CPV and the evaluation criteria and instruments respond to different criteria. On one hand, there are rates with lax criteria, such as the zero-tolerance criterion (at least one occasion), and on the other hand, the strict criterion of reiterated violence (has occurred two or more times). This global situation makes it difficult to estimate the prevalence of CPV (Burgos-Benavides et al., 2023; Rogers & Ashworth, 2024). Some authors have also found discrepancies with respect to the association of patterns according to the sex of

the parent (Harries et al., 2023). When a zero-tolerance criterion is used, physical violence is usually represented by 14% and 94% for psychological violence, whereas if strict criteria for reiterated violence are used, physical violence is between 5% and psychological violence is close to 70% (Ibabe, 2020).

Furthermore, the prevalence rates may vary according to the cultural characteristics of the context. For example, in the United States, it is estimated that 3% and 21% of children aged 3 -17 years have exerted violence against their parents (Agnew & Huguley, 1989; Brezina, 1999; Cornell & Gelles, 1982; Elliott et al., 2011; Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988; Kratcoski, 1985; Margolin & Baucom, 2014; McCloskey & Lichter, 2003; Peek et al., 1985; Straus, 1979; Ulman & Straus, 2003) and 10% of young people between 18-25 years of age (Snyder & McCurley, 2008). In Canada, physical violence was exercised between 9.5% and 13%, while verbal violence was exercised between 50% and 64% by children aged 15-16 in the last six months (Pagani et al., 2003, 2009, 2004). It has been reported that 5.6% of children between the ages of 18-24-year experience physical violence on at least one occasion in the same country (Lyons et al., 2015). In Australia, 7% of children between 14-25 years exercise CPV (Simmons et al., 2019). In Germany, 6% of children aged 13-19 years have exerted some type of violence and 45% exercised verbal violence in the last 12 months (Beckmann, 2020; Beckmann et al., 2021). In Spain, children aged 12-18 years exercise between 4% and 7.8% of physical violence, 13.8% and 93% of psychological violence, and 19% of financial violence (Calvete et al., 2013, 2014; Calvete et al., 2015a; Calvete et al., 2015b; Ibabe, 2014, 2015). In the same country, children between 18 and 25 years of age would have showed 2% and 3.3% of physical violence, and between 40.1% and 61% psychological violence at least once in the last year (Cano-Lozano et al., 2021).

Despite the unknown nature of CPV in most Latin American and Caribbean countries, it remains a problem that has not been extensively researched. Consequently, there is a perception that the issue does not exist. Considering the hypothesis that Latin America faces a scarcity of specialised research on CPV, and taking as a reference the systematic review of Peck et al. (2023), specifically focusing on the Australian and New Zealand contexts, our study aimed to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis to identify existing scientific evidence on CPV in the Latin American context. It also seeks to demonstrate the need to promote a specific line of research on this problem in the region and discuss these findings at the international level. The specific objectives were (a) to review the CPV studies conducted in Latin America, (b) to describe their methodological characteristics, and (c) to analyse the frequency of CPV by means of a meta-analysis of proportions according to the evaluation criteria, psychometric instruments of each study, and sample.

Method

Eligibly Criterion

The inclusion and exclusion criteria were established according to the PICOS format (P = participants, I = interventions, C = comparisons, O = outcomes, S = study design; Perestelo-Pérez, 2013).

1. **Participants:** We included studies in which participants were adolescents, young adults, and parents of any nationality from Latin America or residents of the region. The studies could be both from the victims and from the perpetrators' perspectives.
2. **Types of Studies:** Quantitative and mixed primary research that evaluates certain aspects of child-to-parent violence according to an established definition. Studies published in all languages were included.
3. **Outcome Measures:** In the first phase, all studies were included if the title, keywords, or abstract alluded to child-to-parent violence. In the second phase, child-to-parent violence studies not conducted in Latin America were excluded.
4. **Description of Results:** Studies presenting descriptive results, frequency/prevalence estimates, results of univariate/multivariate analyses, and factor analyses were included.
5. **Type of Design:** We included quantitative and mixed studies that used a psychometric assessment tool in their methodology and reported quantitative child-to-parent violence data.

The exclusion criteria were parricide studies, family violence studies not specific to CPV, theoretical or conceptual studies, conference proceedings, conferences or symposia, full-length books, book chapters, doctoral theses, systematic reviews or meta-analyses, and letters to the editor.

This study assumes the concepts of Cottrel (2001) and Pereira (2017) to refer to CPV and follows the PRISMA 2020 Reporting Elements for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (Page et al., 2022).

Sources of Information and Search Strategy

Primary studies on CPV in Latin America included adolescents, young adults, and parents. We searched the following databases: Web of Science (WOS), Scopus, PsycInfo, and PsycArticles. A citation search was performed to minimise publication bias. The bibliography reviewed the articles identified in the databases and contacted researchers in the region to determine whether they were aware of the research that might have altered the findings of this systematic review.

The search strategy began with a review of the terms used to refer to CPV. A search phrase was constructed (see Appendix 1) comprised of 59 terms collected from other systematic reviews, meta-analyses and articles ("*child-to-parent violence*", "*child to parent violence*", "*child-to-parent aggression*", "*child-to-parent abuse*", "*adolescent-to-parent violence*", "*violent child-to-parent*", "*adolescent violence towards parents*", "*parent abuse*", "*children violence towards parents*", "*adolescent to-parent abuse*", "*violence against parents*", "*children violence against parents*", "*adolescent violence against parents*", "*parent abuse offense*", "*child-parent violence*", "*child/parent violence*", "*child-parent aggression*", "*youth-to-parent aggression*", "*youth-to-parent violence*", "*youth-to-parent abuse*", "*youth aggression toward parents*", "*youth violence toward parents*", "*child-to-mother aggression*", "*child-to-father aggression*", "*teenage violence toward parents*", "*adolescent-to-parent aggression*", "*adolescent-parent abuse*", "*adolescent aggression toward parents*", "*adolescent violence*

toward parents", "*adolescent abuse toward parents*", "*child-to-father violence*", "*child-to-mother violence*", "*child initiated family violence*", "*adolescent-initiated parent abuse*", "*battered parent, juvenile domestic violence*", "*adolescent family violence*", "*youth violence in the home*", "*teen violence toward mothers*", "*parents abused by children*", "*adolescent violence in the home*", "*parent-directed aggression*", "*children violence against mothers*", "*aggression toward mothers*", "*aggression toward fathers*", "*mother abuse*", "*abuse toward mothers*", "*filio-parental violence*", "*violence by children toward parents*", "*violence by adolescents toward parents*", "*parents abused by their children*", "*abuse of parents by their adolescent*", "*violence by children against parents*", "*violence by child to parent*", "*violence by adolescent to parent*", "*aggression by child to parent*", "*parents victimized by their children*", "*parental abuse*", "*child-to-parent violence*"). Boolean operators were used ("OR" and "AND") and truncations ("*" and "quotes") and added terms that correspond to the name of Latin America countries (Argentina, Brasil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Republica Dominicana/Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México/México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru/Perú, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela, Latin America).

Study Selection Process and Data Extraction

This systematic review was conducted in three phases, as illustrated in Figure 1. The initial search yielded a total of 168 eligible studies. After eliminating duplicates and applying exclusion criteria, 18 studies were retained. Of these, 17 were retrieved in their entirety and independently evaluated using blinded-pair modality. After resolving the discrepancies by consensus, 10 studies were included.

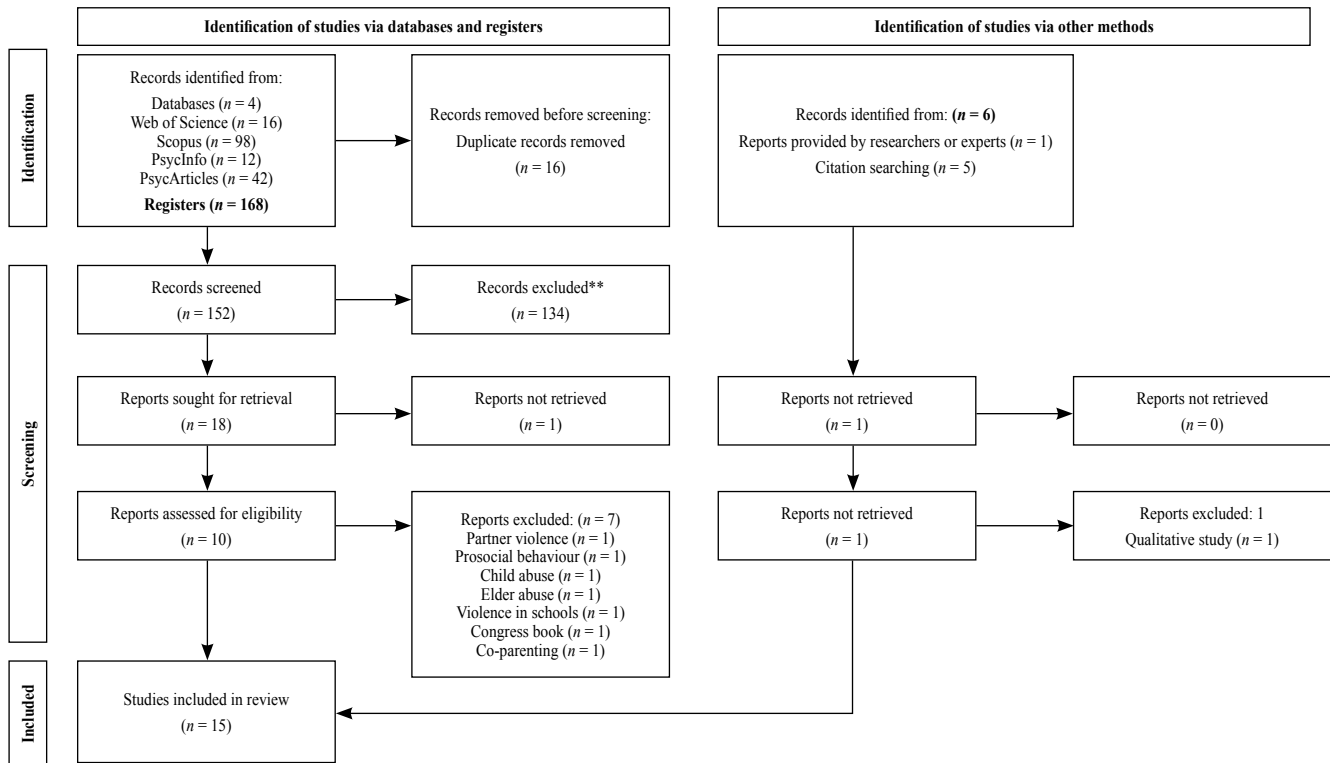
The possible existence of non-indexed grey literature in the databases was considered. To mitigate the potential exclusion biases, identification was performed using other information channels. Researchers and experts from Latin American countries with experience in this area were contacted to enquire about the existence of CPV articles, and the citations and bibliographies of the included studies were reviewed manually. This procedure made it possible to identify six additional studies: five through citation and literature review, and one by regional investigators. After applying the eligibility criteria, five studies were included. Finally, 15 studies were included in the final analysis.

The search was conducted on 25 January 2024. The results were exported to the Rayyan web application (Ouzzani Mourad & Hammady, 2016) in the RIS format, including metadata such as authors, journal of publication, DOI, funding sources, and abstract. Before starting the review procedure, the transfer between the databases and the Rayyan application was verified.

List of Data

A registration matrix was prepared for each study with the following descriptive characteristics: 1) country where the research was conducted; 2) journal of publication; 3) objective of the study; 4) sample size; 5) age and type of sample (community, clinical, or forensic); 6) psychometric instrument used to assess CPV; and 7) reported frequency or prevalence of psychological, physical, and, in some cases, financial CPV.

Figure 1
Flow Diagram of The Meta-Analysis



Data Analysis

Data analysis was performed using Jamovi software (version 2.4) and the metafor package in R. Proportion meta-analyses were conducted to estimate the prevalence of physical and psychological violence toward fathers and mothers reported in the studies. We first analysed research that used a zero-tolerance criterion, and then those that reported reiterated violence. A DerSimonian-Laird random-effects model was used to combine the proportions of different studies.

Evaluation of disparate results is crucial for any meta-analysis. The variability within each study due to sampling error, as well as systematic differences between studies in aspects such as sample size or assessment instruments, can contribute to identifying the causes of disparate results. Following conventions in the meta-analysis, we used Cochran's Q statistic and index to assess the statistical significance and magnitude of between-study heterogeneity (Fischer et al., 2023).

Mild heterogeneity falls within 0-40%, moderate heterogeneity within 40-60%, greater heterogeneity within 50-90%, and significant heterogeneity within 75-100% based on the I² statistic. Publication bias was determined using a funnel plot. The plot suggests publication bias if there is relative symmetry around the vertical line of the combined effect size, and a non-significant *p*-value (> .05) indicates insufficient evidence of publication bias (Higgins & Thompson, 2002).

Finally, sensitivity analysis was performed, excluding studies that obtained a level below 60% ($k_{<60\%}$). The proportions were

estimated based on relative sample weights and age groups (Patsopoulos et al., 2008).

Results

Geographical Region

Fifteen studies were identified, of which 46% ($n = 7$) were conducted in México (Calvete & Veytia, 2018; Cancino-Padilla et al., 2020; Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2020; Suárez-Relinque et al., 2020; Romero-Méndez et al., 2020, 2021; Vázquez-Sánchez et al., 2019), 33% ($n = 5$) in Chile (Álvarez et al., 2016; Espinoza et al., 2018; Ilabaca & Gaete, 2021; Jiménez-García et al., 2020, 2022), and 7% ($n = 1$) in Argentina (Gelman de Veinsten, 2004), Colombia (Ávila-Navarrete & Correa-López, 2021), and Perú (Villareal-Zegarra et al., 2023), respectively. Most of the research (73%, $n = 11$) was published in the last five years. Two research cores were found: one in México, which includes the works by Cancino-Padilla et al. (2020) and Romero-Méndez et al. (2020, 2021); Vázquez-Sánchez et al. (2019); and another in Chile (Jiménez-García et al., 2020, 2022), with two studies. The criterion was that at least one author participated in at least two publications.

Characteristics of the Studies

Table 1 describes the main characteristics of the studies in this systematic review. A total of 67% ($n = 10$) of the studies aimed to explore the prevalence of CPV (Álvarez et al., 2016; Calvete &

Table 1
General Data From Latin America Studies on Child-to-Parent Violence

	Citation, Journal, Country	Objective	Method		Results						
			Number of participants/ Population/Age	Name of the questionnaire a/o	Criteria	Father			Mother		
						PSY %	PHY %	FIN %	PSY %	PHY %	FIN %
1.	Álvarez et al. (2016) <i>Interdisciplinary Thinking and Action</i> Chile	To demonstrate the prevalence of CPV in adolescents between 14 and 18 years of age in the city of Osorno.	182 adolescents 14-18 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire .89, .90, .93, .92	Zero-tolerance	92.5	3.8	61.5	95.9	2.4	63.8
2.	Ávila-Navarrete & Correa-López (2021) <i>Juridicas CUC</i> Colombia	To show the relationship between parental functioning and the risk of perpetration of aggression by adolescent sons and daughters linked to the system of criminal responsibility towards one or both parents.	200 Padres \bar{X} = 43.02 years judicial	Parental Functioning Scale (EFP) -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Calvete & Veytia (2018) <i>Revista Latinoamericana de Psicología</i> México	To explore the prevalence of CPV in Mexican adolescents and to evaluate the psychometric properties of a questionnaire.	1417 adolescents 14–19 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire -	Zero-tolerance and reiterated violence	72	6.1	-	87.2	6.4	-
4.	Cancino-Padilla et al. (2020) <i>Journal of Advances in Psychology</i> México	To analyse CPV, intimate partner violence and violence observed between parents in order to identify their frequency and possible correlations between them.	256 young 18-30 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire -	Zero-tolerance	76	11	-	85	15	-
5.	Espinoza et al. (2018) <i>Espacios Magazine</i> Chile	To analyse the prevalence of violence exercised by adolescent sons and daughters towards parents at the psychological, physical and financial levels.	182 adolescents 14-18 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire -	Reiterated violence	2.02	8.84	2.72	4.5	6.12	.68
6.	Gelvan de Veinsten (2004) <i>Interdisciplinary journal</i> Argentina	To study the problem of parents abused by their children.	240 Families No age information Clinic	Medical history -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Ilabaca & Gaete (2021) <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i> Chile	1) To analyse the prevalence of CPV in Chile, in the metropolitan region; 2) to analyse the gender differences between victims and perpetrators; 3) to analyse the relationship between CPV and family structure; 4) to analyse the directionality of violence perpetrated by adolescents towards their parents; 5) to analyse the relationship between violence and family structure; and 6) to analyse the relationship between violence and family structure.	1861 adolescents 13-20 years community	Ad-Hoc Questionnaire .73, .72, .81, .80	Under	24	5.8	12.4	41.7	11.9	18.4
8.	Jiménez-García et al. (2020) <i>Iberoamerican Journal of Psychological Diagnosis and Evaluation</i> Chile	To adapt and analyse the psychometric properties of the Child-to-parent violence Questionnaire for young people (CPV-Q).	823 young 18-25 years community	Child-to-parent Violence Questionnaire, youth version (CVP-Q) .80	Reiterated violence	61	4.9	32	66.3	4.5	35.7
9.	Jiménez-García et al. (2022) <i>Current Psychology: A Journal for Diverse Perspectives on Diverse Psychological</i> Chile	To adapt a specific instrument to assess Child-to-parent violence for adolescents and to analyse its psychometric properties, prevalence and reasons for violence.	905 adolescents 12 – 18 years community	Child-to-parent Violence Questionnaire, adolescent version (CVP-Q) -	Reiterated violence	26.6	4.9	11.2	26.8	3	12.9
10.	Martínez-Ferrer et al. (2020) <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> México	To examine the relationships between CPV and psychological distress, suicidal ideation, and family and social self-concept.	8115 adolescents 12-16 years community	Conflicts Tactics Scale .75, .85, .70, .71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1
General Data From Latin America Studies on Child-to-Parent Violence (Continuación)

Citation, Journal, Country	Objective	Method		Results						
		Number of participants/ Population/Age	Name of the questionnaire a/o	Father				Mother		
				Criteria	PSY %	PHY %	FIN %	PSY %	PHY %	FIN %
11. Romero-Méndez et al. (2020) <i>Psicospaces Magazine</i> México	To analyse the frequency of CPV in a sample of Mexican adolescents.	407 adolescents 12-18 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Romero-Méndez et al. (2021) <i>Journal of Research Social Pedagogy</i> México	To analyse the prevalence, frequency and relationship between exposure to peer and inter-parental violence and dating and CPV in a sample of Mexican adolescents.	450 adolescents 13-19 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire -	Zero- tolerance	73.8	11.3	-	86.9	9.3	-
13. Suárez-Relinque et al. (2020) <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> México	To analyse the psychosocial variables of CPV in a sample of adolescents.	3731 adolescents 14-16 years community	Conflicts Tactics Scale .92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Vázquez-Sánchez et al. (2019) <i>Electronic Journal of Psychology Iztacala</i> México	To describe the presence of CPV behaviour in emerging adulthood, as well as to explore the presence of CPV in different types of cohabitation between parents and young people.	561 young 18-27 years community	Child-to-parent aggression Questionnaire .68, .82, .54, .71	Zero- tolerance	69	6.4	-	82	5.5	-
15. Villarreal-Zegarra et al. (2023) <i>Violence and Victims</i> Perú	To adapt and evaluate the psychometric properties such as internal validity, convergent validity, construct validity and internal consistence	570 adolescents 11-17 years comunitary	The Scale of CPV and Intrafamily Violence .84, .91, .82, .89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note. V.PSY, Psychological violence; P.PHY, Physical violence; V. Fin, financial violence; Reiterated violence, 2 or 3 three times

Veytia, 2018; Cancino-Padilla et al., 2020; Espinoza et al., 2018; Ilabaca & Gaete, 2021; Jiménez-García et al., 2020, 2022; Romero-Méndez et al., 2020, 2021; Vázquez-Sánchez et al., 2019), 27% ($n = 4$) focused on the adaptation of psychometric instruments to assess this type of violence. (Calvete & Veytia, 2018; Jiménez-García et al., 2020, 2022; Villarreal-Zegarra et al., 2023). Finally, 20% ($n = 3$) analysed the relationship between CPV and other variables (Ávila-Navarrete & Correa-López, 2021; Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2020; Suárez-Relinque et al., 2020).

A minimum of 66% ($n = 10$) of adolescents aged 12-20 years (Álvarez et al., 2016; Calvete & Veytia, 2018; Espinoza et al., 2018; Ilabaca & Gaete, 2021; Jiménez-García et al., 2022; Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2020; Romero-Méndez et al., 2020, 2021; Suárez-Relinque et al., 2020; Villarreal-Zegarra et al., 2023), 20% ($n = 3$) of young adults aged 18-30 years (Cancino-Padilla et al., 2020; Jiménez-García et al., 2020; Vázquez-Sánchez et al., 2019), and 7% ($n = 1$) of parents (Ávila-Navarrete & Correa-López, 2021). The remaining 7% ($n = 1$) had family members (Gelvan de Veinsten, 2004). The majority (86%, $n = 13$) of participants used community samples, 7% ($n = 1$) worked with clinical samples, and 7% ($n = 1$) used legal samples. Regarding the approach, 93% ($n = 14$) used a quantitative approach and 7% ($n = 1$) used a mixed approach.

The most commonly used instrument was the *Child-to-Parent Aggression Questionnaire*, which was used in 47% ($n = 7$) of studies (Álvarez et al., 2016; Calvete & Veytia, 2018; Cancino-Padilla et al., 2020; Espinoza et al., 2018; Romero-Méndez et al., 2020, 2021; Vázquez-Sánchez et al., 2019). This was followed by the *Conflict Tactics Scale*, used in 20% ($n = 3$)

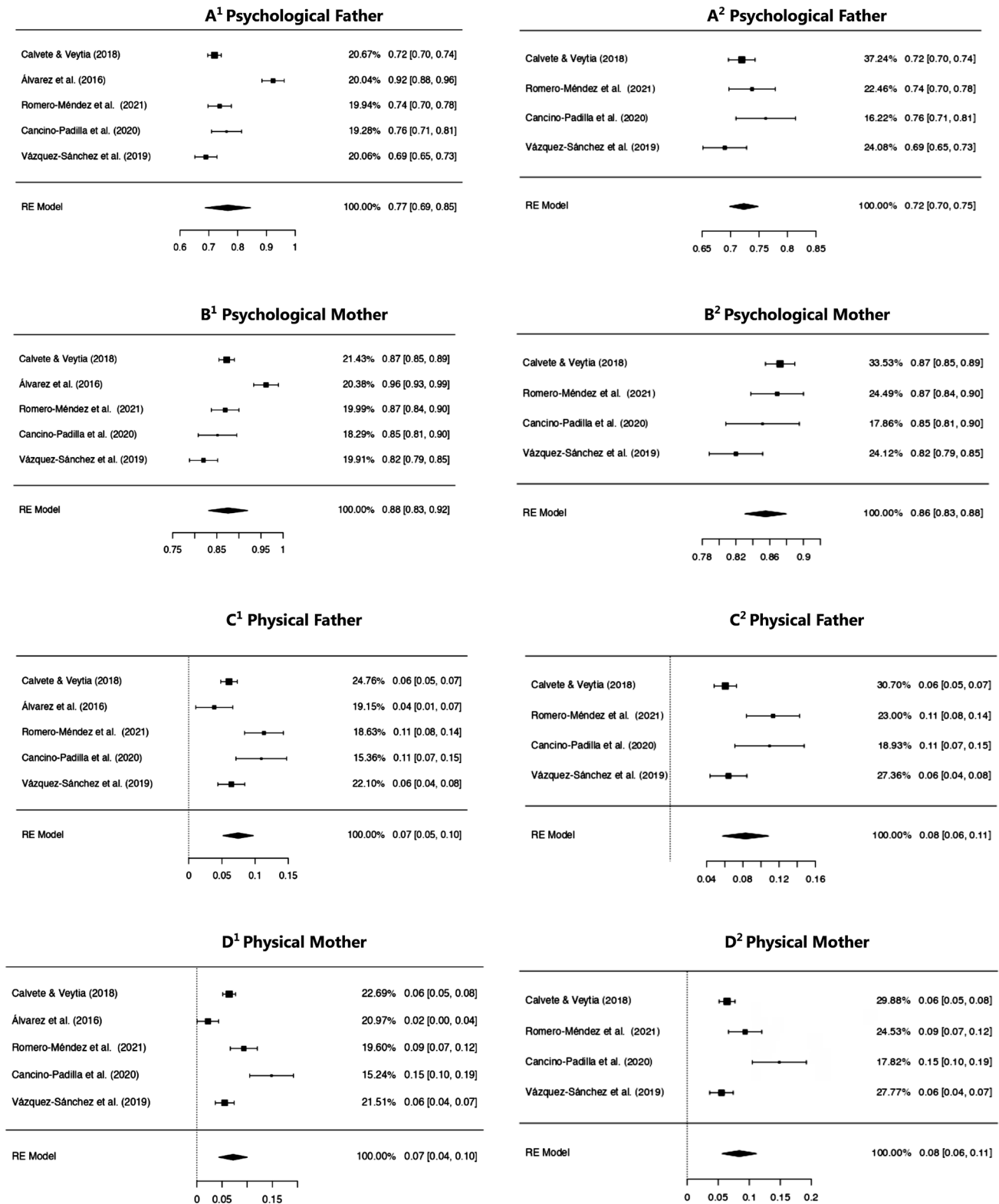
of the investigations (Cancino-Padilla et al., 2020; Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2020; Suárez-Relinque et al., 2020). Third, 13% ($n = 2$) of the studies used the *Child-to-Parent Violence Questionnaire* (Jiménez-García et al., 2020, 2022). Finally, the CPV and intrafamily violence scales (Villarreal-Zegarra et al., 2023) and the Parental Functioning Scale (Ávila-Navarrete & Correa-López, 2021) were used only on one occasion, representing 7% ($n = 1$).

Measure Instruments

México: Calvete & Veytia (2018), using the *Child-to-parent Aggression Questionnaire*, refer coefficients for the psychological violence factor ($\alpha = .89$ mother and $\alpha = .90$ father) and for the physical violence factor ($\alpha = .93$ mother and $\alpha = .92$ father), referring to other psychometric properties [CFI = .987, RMSEA = .07 (.069 - .071)]. Suárez-Relinque et al. (2020) used the *Conflict Tactics Scale* and indicated McDonald's coefficient (.92), in addition to reporting factor loadings (between .65 and .77) and other psychometric properties [CFI = .979, RMSEA = .049 (.044-.055)]. Using the *Conflict Tactics Scale* (Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2020), the reported alpha coefficients for the verbal violence factor ($\alpha = .75$ mother and $\alpha = .85$ father) and physical violence ($\alpha = .70$ mother and $\alpha = .71$ father) were calculated, in addition to other psychometric properties (CFI = .975, RMSEA = .014 95% CI [.010, .019]). Vázquez-Sánchez et al. (2019), using the *Child-to-parent Aggression Questionnaire Scale*, find Alpha coefficients for the psychological CPV scale ($\alpha = .68$ females and $\alpha = .82$ males) towards the mother and father and on the physical CPV scale ($\alpha = .54$ females and

Figure 2

Forest Plot Including Proportions of Psychological and Physical Violence Towards the Father and Mother With Zero-Tolerance Criteria and a Sensitivity Algorithm



Note. Total sample¹: 2866, total sample²: 2684. The meta-analysis dataset (Figure 2) contained the number of studies reporting the prevalence of psychological and physical violence towards fathers and mothers with a zero-tolerance criterion. Columns A¹, B¹, C¹, and D¹ correspond to the meta-analyses of the proportions of all studies. Columns A², B², C², and D² correspond to meta-analyses of proportions, excluding one study.

$\alpha = .71$ males) towards the mother and ($\alpha = .82$ females and $\alpha = .82$ males) towards the father. Other Brazilian studies (Cancino-Padilla et al., 2020; Romero-Méndez et al., 2020, 2021) did not report any evidence of psychometric validity.

Chile: Ilabaca & Gaete (2021), using an ad hoc questionnaire composed of 30 items, found alpha coefficients for the psychological CPV scale ($\alpha = .73$ mother and $\alpha = .72$ father) and physical CPV ($\alpha = .81$ mother and $\alpha = .80$ father). Jiménez-García et al. (2022), using the *Child-to-Parent Violence Questionnaire-Adolescent Version*, reported support for the construct validity for father (CFI = .951, TLI = .938, RMSEA = .043, 95% CI [.035, .058]) and for the mother [CFI = .978, TLI = .97, RMSEA = .031, 95% CI [.022, .039]] violence. Jiménez-García et al. (2020), using the same *Child-to-Parent Violence Questionnaire-Youth Version*, found alpha coefficients for (.80) towards father and mother and reported construct validity for father (CFI = .938, TLI = .928, RMSEA = .039, 95% CI [.033, .045]) and mother (CFI = .955, TLI = .946, RMSEA = .022 95% CI [.015, .029]). Studies by Espinoza et al. (2018) and Álvarez et al. (2016) did not informed about the psychometric properties of the measures.

Perú: Villareal-Zegarra et al. (2023), using The Scale of CPV and Intrafamily Violence, found adequate internal consistency coefficients for the CPV dimension ($\omega = .84$), psychological CPV ($\omega = .91$), Physical CPV ($\omega = .82$), and emotional CPV ($\omega = .89$). The scale consisted of six items, two items for each factor, factor loadings above .80 in all cases, and goodness-of-fit indices that

were optimal for the model of adolescents living with both parents (CFI = .995, TLI = .988, RMSEA = .074 [.045–.105]).

Colombia: Ávila-Navarrete & Correa-López (2021) used *The Parental Functioning Scale* (EFP) to assess CPV and reported an alpha coefficient of .763; Gelvan de Veinsten (2004).

Argentina: Data on the instruments used to assess CPV were not provided.

Prevalence Estimation

The random effects model of the meta-analyses can be found in Appendix 2. In the dataset analysed according to the zero-tolerance criterion (See figure 2). The results on the physical and psychological prevalence of both parents were highly disparate. Table 2 presents the results of the sequential algorithm to enhance the proportional model. Therefore, we tested an algorithm to improve the threshold of I^2 (below 50%). This analysis consisted of eliminating the study by Álvarez et al. (2016), which had a sample size lower than the recommended size (minimum 10:1 cases-to-item) but only managed to improve this disparity in psychological violence towards the father. In other cases, although we observed a decrease, I^2 it was not sufficient to achieve the expected threshold (< 50%).

With respect to psychological violence towards the father, based on the tolerance criterion and the algorithm used to minimise disparity, the results suggest that this type of violence was perpetrated

Table 2
Model of Studies Using a Zero-Tolerance Violence Criterion and the Sequential Algorithm Model

Model	τ	τ^2	SE	I^2	H^2	df	Q	p
A ¹	.088	.0077	.0062	95.7%	23.241	4.000	92.966	<.001
A ²	.017	3e-04	5e-04	45.9%	1.849	3.000	5.546	.136
B ¹	.023	5e-04	6e-04	79.39%	4.851	4.000	19.404	<.001
B ²	.022	5E-04	6e-04	79.93%	4.984	3.000	14.951	.002
C ¹	.048	.0023	.002	91.88%	12.319	4.000	49.277	<.001
C ²	.020	4e-04	.5e-04	64.45%	2.813	3.000	8.439	.038
D ¹	.030	9e-04	8e-04	88.41%	8.628%	4.000	34.513	<.001
D ²	.025	6e-04	7e-04	83.76%	6.158%	3.000	18.475	<.001

Note. The A¹, B¹, C¹, and D¹ models corresponded to meta-analyses of the proportions of all studies. Models A², B², C², and D² correspond to the sequential algorithm model, τ = tau, τ^2 = tau squared, SE = standard error, I^2 = I-squared statistic indicator of heterogeneity between studies, H^2 = H-squared magnitude of heterogeneity, df = degrees of freedom, Q = Cochran, p = p-value.

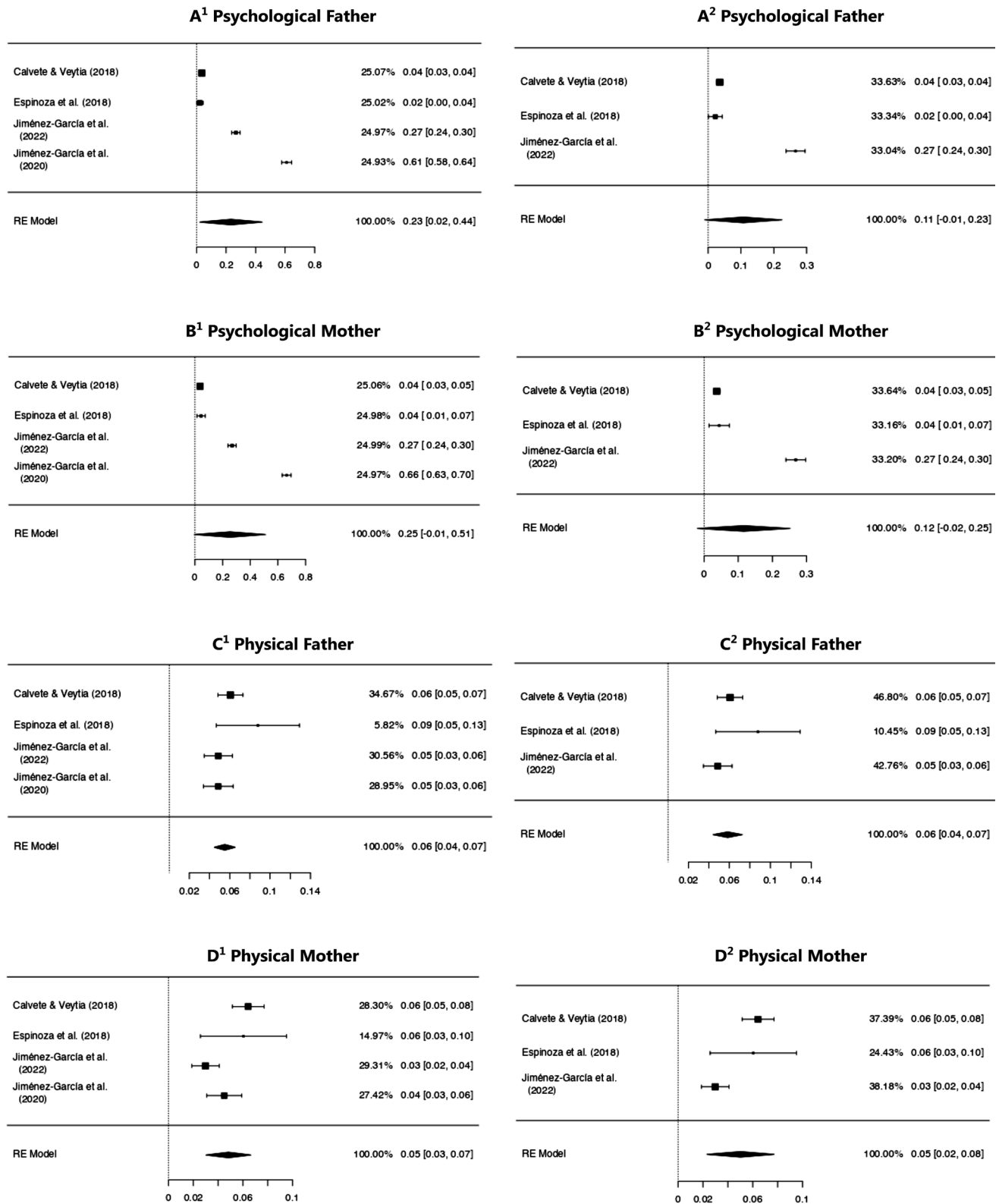
Table 3
Model Studies Using a Reiterated Violence Criterion and the Sequential Algorithm Model

Model	τ	τ^2	SE	I^2	H^2	df	Q	p
A ¹	.216	.0466	.0451	99.76%	414.017	3.000	1242.051	<.001
A ²	.104	.0108	.012	99.14%	115.971	2.000	231.942	<.001
B ¹	.006	0	1e-04	37.25%	1.594	3.000	4.7851	0.189
B ²	.009	1e-04	2e-04	48.48%	1.941	2.000	3.882	0.144
C ¹	.264	.0694	.0656	99.8%	491.669	3.000	1475.007	<.001
C ²	.120	.0143	.0157	99.1%	111.583	2.000	223.166	<.001
D ¹	.016	3e-04	3e-04	81.99%	5.552%	3.000	16.656	<.001
D ²	.022	5e-04	6e-04	87.99%	8.326%	2.000	16.652	<.001

Note. The A¹, B¹, C¹, and D¹ models correspond to meta-analyses of the proportions of all studies. Models A², B², C², and D² correspond to the sequential algorithm model, τ = tau, τ^2 = tau squared, SE = standard error, I^2 = I-squared statistic indicator of heterogeneity between studies, H^2 = H-squared magnitude of heterogeneity, df = degrees of freedom, Q = Cochran, p = p-value.

Figure 3

Forest Plot Including Proportions of Psychological and Physical Violence Towards the Father and Mother With Reiterated Violence Criteria and a Sensitivity Algorithm



Note. Total sample¹: 3327, total sample²: 2504. The meta-analysis dataset (Figure 3) contained the number of studies reporting the prevalence of psychological and physical violence towards fathers and mothers with a criterion of reiterated violence. Columns A¹, B¹, C¹, and D¹ correspond to the meta-analyses of the proportions of all studies. Columns A², B², C², and D² correspond to meta-analyses of proportions, excluding one study.

by 72%. Psychological violence towards the mother was reportedly perpetrated by 88%; in this case, the proportions were stable with respect to the disparate data analysis. Physical violence towards the father was reported in 8% and towards the mother in 6% in both cases, using the disparate data algorithm and the zero-tolerance criterion.

The random effects model of the meta-analyses can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

In the dataset analysed according to the criteria of reiterated violence, we found that the proportions of physical and psychological violence towards both parents were highly disparate (See in [figure 3](#)). [Table 3](#) presents the results of the sequential algorithm to enhance the proportions model with the reiterated violence criterion. This alternative algorithm to reach a threshold below 50%. Consisted of eliminating the study by [Jiménez-García et al. \(2022\)](#), which was conducted using a sample of young people aged 18-24 years. However, it was I^2 decreased by irrelevant values in cases of psychological and physical violence against the fathers. In all other cases, the value of I^2 increased, so the present algorithm would not be an alternative setting threshold to identify disparate results. Thus, reiterated psychological violence towards the father was perpetrated in 23% of the cases and towards the mother in 25%. Reiterated physical violence was reported to be perpetrated by 6% towards the father and 5% towards the mother.

Discussion

This study examines the current state of CPV research in Latin American countries. Our findings show the scarcity of studies in this region in comparison with other realities, such as Western or Anglo-Saxon studies ([Junco-Guerrero et al., 2023](#); [Warren et al., 2023](#)). This statement should be interpreted with caution until a study is available to compare CPV literature worldwide. This limited evidence could mask the problem of family violence that is difficult to detect and recognise within families, society, and the justice system, which could have a negative impact on public health and social welfare ([Gabriel et al., 2018](#); [Jiménez-Granado et al., 2023](#)).

Furthermore, scarce evidence on CPV represents a challenge for practitioners, researchers, and officials working in the field of family violence, as they may face a hidden problem that overlaps with the known situations of domestic violence ([Simmons et al., 2019](#)). These circumstances raise an alarm regarding the urgent need for regional research groups to undertake systematic lines of work to adequately measure this phenomenon, its magnitude, and its implications for prevention and intervention policies ([Noble-Carr et al., 2020](#); [Toole-Anstey et al., 2023](#)).

The second objective was to describe the methodological characteristics of these studies. The sample size of most studies was less than 1000 participants, mainly adolescents from the community population, with non-probability sampling. Therefore, the current findings cannot be generalized to the general population. Although a high percentage was aimed at exploring the prevalence of CPV, a significant proportion of the research did not follow the criteria of the contemporary definition, an aspect that has not yet been incorporated into research practice in the region. In addition, many studies used psychometric instruments that were not adapted to the study population, while others did not report psychometric or reliability evidence ([Arias-Rivera et al., 2022](#); [Burgos-Benavides et al., 2023](#); [Ibabe, 2020](#); [Sheed et al., 2023](#)).

Although studies that proposed adapting psychometric CPV instruments did not follow rigorous criteria or updated psychometric adaptation procedures, the three scales stood out positively. The Child-to-Parent Aggression Questionnaire (CPA-Q) is the most widely used psychometric scale in Latin America for the assessment of CPV; however, not all studies present evidence of validity. The Child-to-Parent Violence Questionnaire adolescent version and youth version ([Jiménez-García et al., 2020, 2022](#)) present evidence of validity in both cases. These two instruments were positively evaluated in a systematic review conducted by [Ibabe \(2020\)](#). The Scale of CPV and Intrafamily Violence stands out for its evidence of validity and reliability; however, it has two limitations: it does not allow differentiating the assessment of CPV according to the gender of the parents (victims) and it does not incorporate a factor to explore financial CPV.

The Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) was used in two studies ([Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2020](#); [Suárez-Relinque et al., 2020](#)). These studies reported some evidence of validity; however, they did not detail the procedures carried out for their adaptation and psychometric validation in their respective populations. It should be noted that although the CTS is the most widely used instrument worldwide, this scale was not created specifically to assess CPV.

The samples were mostly focused on community populations of adolescents; therefore, there is currently no legal knowledge of the incidence of this phenomenon. Some authors ([Cano-Lozano et al., 2023](#); [Loinaz & Sousa, 2019](#)) have investigated legal and clinical populations and found these problems in the aforementioned populations.

The third objective was to analyse the frequency of CPV as a function of the assessment criteria used, psychometric instruments used, and sample. Our meta-analysis revealed that studies using reiterated violence criteria had lower proportions. One possible explanation is that the lax criteria overestimated the scores ([Ibabe, 2020](#)). Psychological CPV reiterated was 23% towards the father and 25% towards the mother. While the psychological CPV with a zero-tolerance criterion was 72% towards the father and 88% towards the mother. These slightly higher ratios to the mother are consistent with the literature ([Cano-Lozano et al., 2021](#)).

The magnitudes of physical CPV reiterated were 6% towards the father and 5% towards the mother. While the physical CPV with a zero-tolerance criterion was 8% for the father and 6% for the mother. However, these findings should be interpreted with caution, as other authors have reported discrepancies ([Harries et al., 2023](#)). In contrast, physical CPV showed similar magnitudes, independent of the affected parent. In the sensitivity analysis, a sequential study exclusion algorithm was implemented for both the cases.

The resulting subset of zero-tolerance violence cases showed the least disparate results. In addition, a statistical significance test for the absence of bias was performed. By contrast, in cases of reiterated violence, the implementation of the algorithm did not produce better results; therefore, these results should not be considered conclusive ([Patsopoulos et al., 2008](#)).

Strengths, Limitations and Future Considerations

This study has the strength of identifying an emerging reality in Latin American countries, and proposing a line of research on family problems. This study has several limitations. Although it was referred

to studies conducted in Latin America, the exclusion of studies conducted worldwide may have limited these findings. Second, we did not analyse the effect sizes between CPV and other variables, including parental sex, because most studies did not present these analyses (correlations between variables). Therefore, the reported prevalence corresponds to a meta-analysis of the proportions. The limitation of this meta-analysis is that it does not present an overall prevalence of CPV and does not assess the influence of moderating factors, such as reliability coefficients. This is because most studies do not present an overall prevalence of CPV and the reliability coefficients are completely disparate, which makes difficult this analysis.

Third, the quality of included studies was not assessed. Most studies used instruments that have not been adapted to the population, and there is no evidence of content validity. In other cases of construct validity, there was no evidence of psychometric validity or reliability by factor. These studies appear to respond to punctual contributions and foresee an important gap in knowledge of CPV. Therefore, frequency data, psychometric evidence, and other findings should be interpreted with caution, at least until more evidence is available.

Consequently, it would be convenient to carry out a line of research on CPV that involves the validation of psychometric tests according to international standards, such as the International Commission or COSMIN (Prinsen et al., 2018) standards, thus generating evidence of relevant psychometric validity. It is also important to report on reliability based on McDonald's Omega test, Cronbach's alpha, and any other reliability tests that may be included. In addition, it is important to present complementary analyses, such as the Average Variance Extracted, to evaluate convergent validity and the Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio of Correlations, which is a measure used to assess discriminant validity. Tests of invariance will provide the property that measurement instruments must function in the same way and be comparable between different groups and ideally between different cultures, age, gender, and other individual characteristics (López-Barranco et al., 2022).

One final aspect is that most studies have been developed from the perspective of children; therefore, one more challenge is to study this phenomenon from the caregivers' perspective (Nunes et al., 2023). Additionally, this will lead to the generation of a research network specialized in CPV to make this complex phenomenon visible in the Latin American context.

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Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

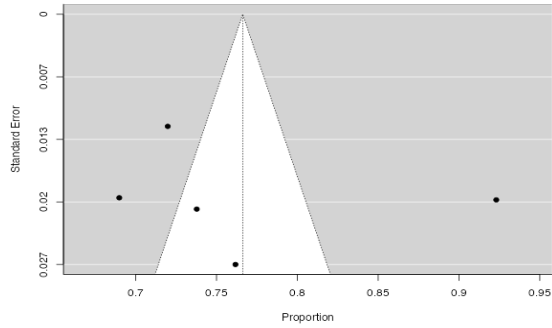
Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Availability of Data, Codes and Other Materials: Virtual library and databases of the University of Oviedo.

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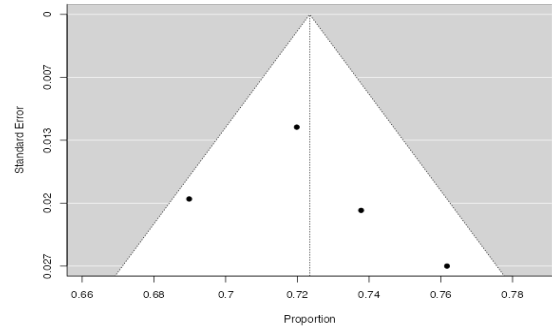
Appendix 2

Model of the Effect and Evaluation of Publication Bias in Cases of Violence With Zero-Tolerance Criteria



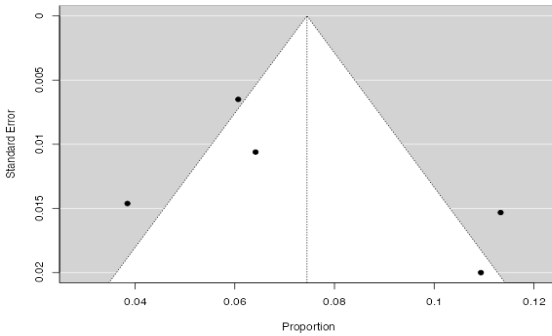
Psychology Father¹

Estimate = .766; SE = .0403; Z = 19; $p < .001$;
CI = (.687 - .845); Kendall's Tau = .600; $p = .233$



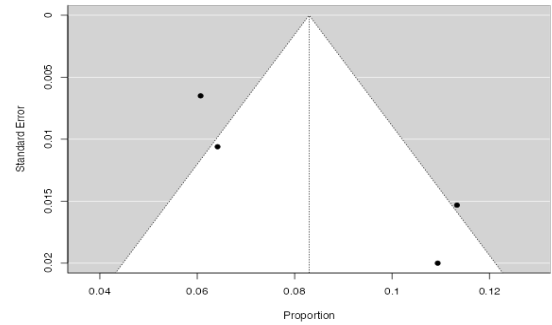
Psychology Father²

Estimate = .723; SE = .0128; Z = 56.7; $p < .001$;
CI = (.698 - .748); Kendall's Tau = .667; $p = .333$



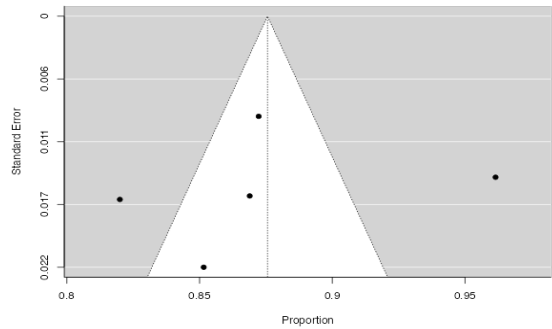
Physical Father¹

Estimate = .745; SE = .0117; Z = 6.35; $p < .001$;
CI = (.051 - .097); Kendall's Tau = .400; $p = .483$



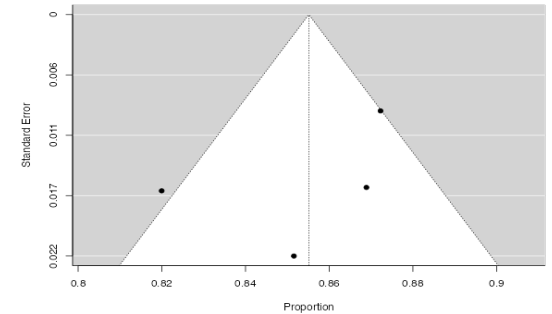
Physical Father²

Estimate = .830; SE = .0130; Z = 6.40; $p < .001$;
CI = (.058 - .108); Kendall's Tau = .667; $p = .333$



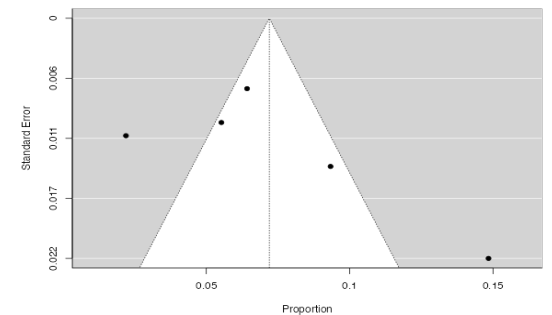
Psychology Mother¹

Estimate = .876; SE = .0227; Z = 38.5; $p < .001$;
CI = (.831 - .920); Kendall's Tau = .400; $p = .483$



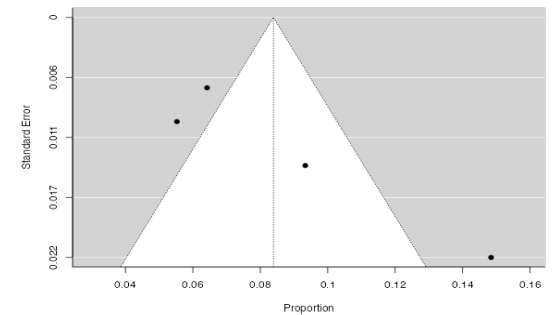
Psychology Mother²

Estimate = .855; SE = .0126; Z = 67.9; $p < .001$;
CI = (.830 - .880); Kendall's Tau = .667; $p = .333$



Physical Mother¹

Estimate = .720; SE = .0145; Z = 4.97; $p < .001$;
CI = (.044 - .100); Kendall's Tau = .400; $p = .483$

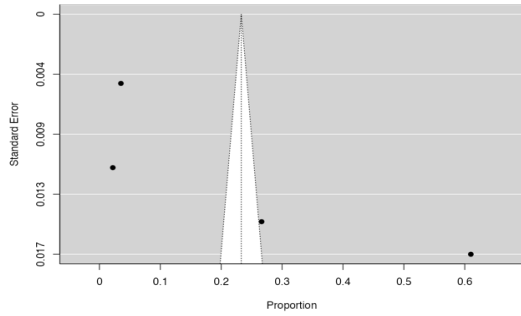


Physical Mother²

Estimate = .839; SE = .0141; Z = 5.94; $p < .001$;
CI = (.056 - .112); Kendall's Tau = .667; $p = .333$

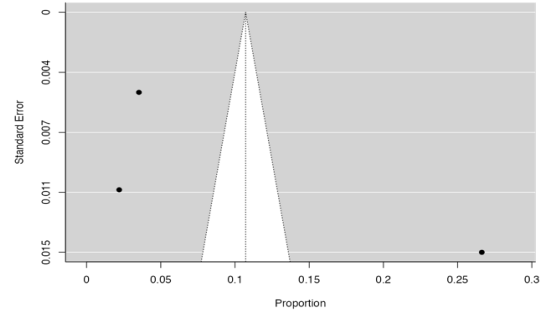
Appendix 3

Model of the Effect and Evaluation of Publication Bias in Cases of Reiterated Violence



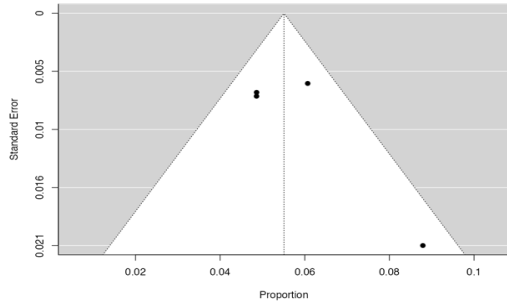
Psychology Father¹

Estimate = .233; SE = .108; Z = 2.15; $p = .031$;
CI = (.021 - .445); Kendall's Tau = 1.00; $p = .083$



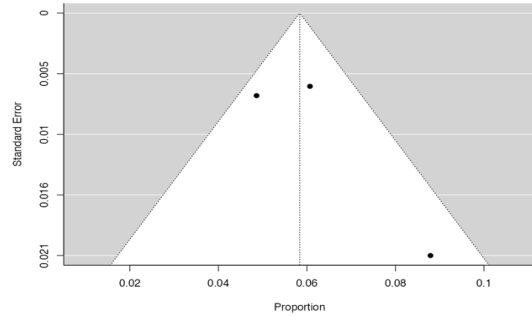
Psychology Father²

Estimate = .107; SE = .0602; Z = 1.78; $p = .075$;
CI = (-.011 - .225); Kendall's Tau = 1.00; $p = .333$



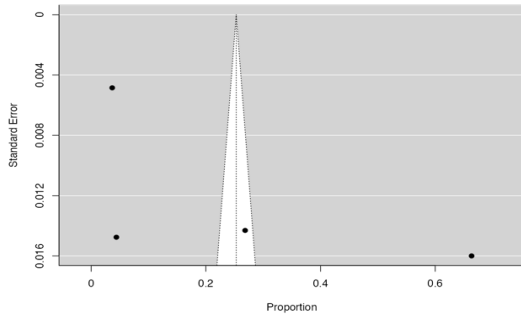
Physical Father¹

Estimate = .0551; SE = .00529; Z = 10.4; $p < .001$;
CI = (.045 - .065); Kendall's Tau = .333; $p = .750$



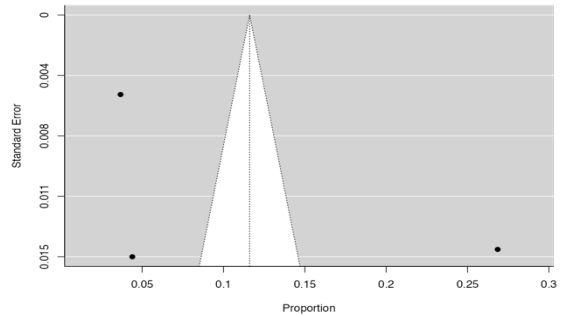
Physical Father²

Estimate = .0584; SE = .00734; Z = 7.96; $p < .001$;
CI = (.044 - .073); Kendall's Tau = .333; $p = 1.000$



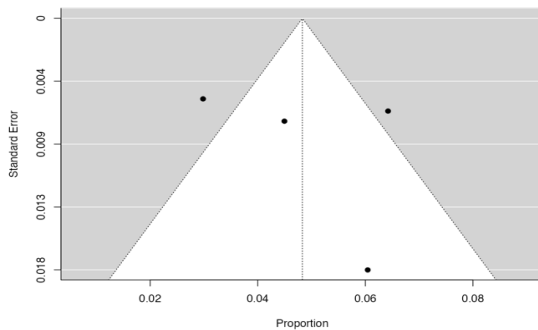
Psychology Mother¹

Estimate = .253; SE = .132; Z = 1.92; $p = .055$;
CI = (-.006 - .511); Kendall's Tau = .667; $p = .333$



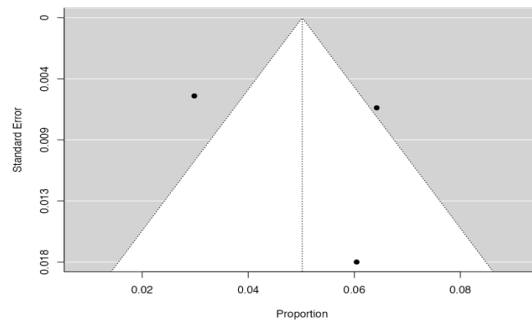
Psychology Mother²

Estimate = .116; SE = .0695; Z = 1.67; $p = .095$;
CI = (-.020 - .252); Kendall's Tau = .333; $p = 1.000$



Physical Mother¹

Estimate = .0483; SE = 5.22; Z = 5.22; $p < .001$;
CI = (.030 - .066); Kendall's Tau = .333; $p = .750$



Physical Mother²

Estimate = .0502; SE = .0138; Z = 3.64; $p < .001$;
CI = (.023 - .077); Kendall's Tau = .333; $p = 1.000$