



The prevalence of parent-reported conduct problems in 5 year-old children in Ireland.

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12th Annual
Research
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**An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige**
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



Childhood Conduct Problems

Include:

**Antisocial, aggressive,
dishonest, delinquent
and disruptive
behaviours**

Result in:

**Psychiatric issues,
criminal behaviour,
unemployment and
substance abuse**

**Most common reason for referral to
psychiatric/ psychological services in young
children**

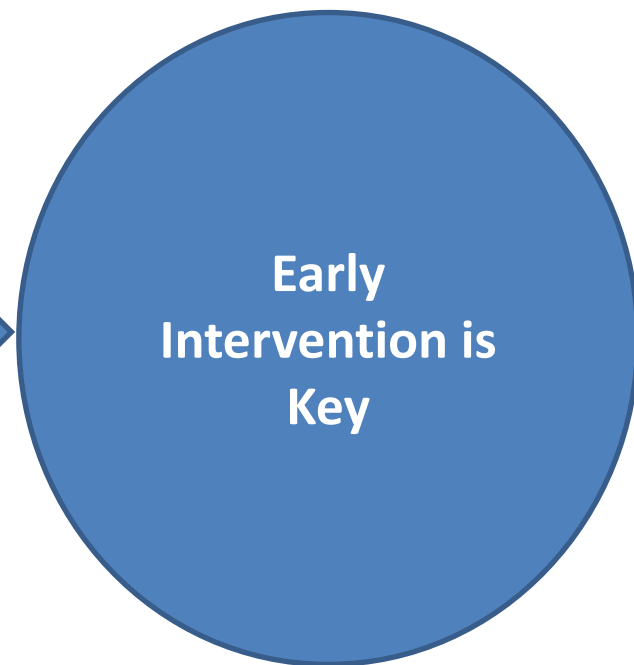
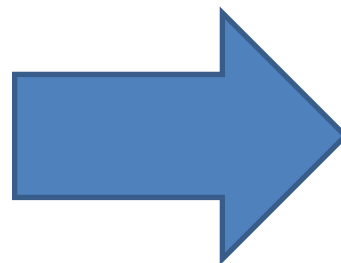
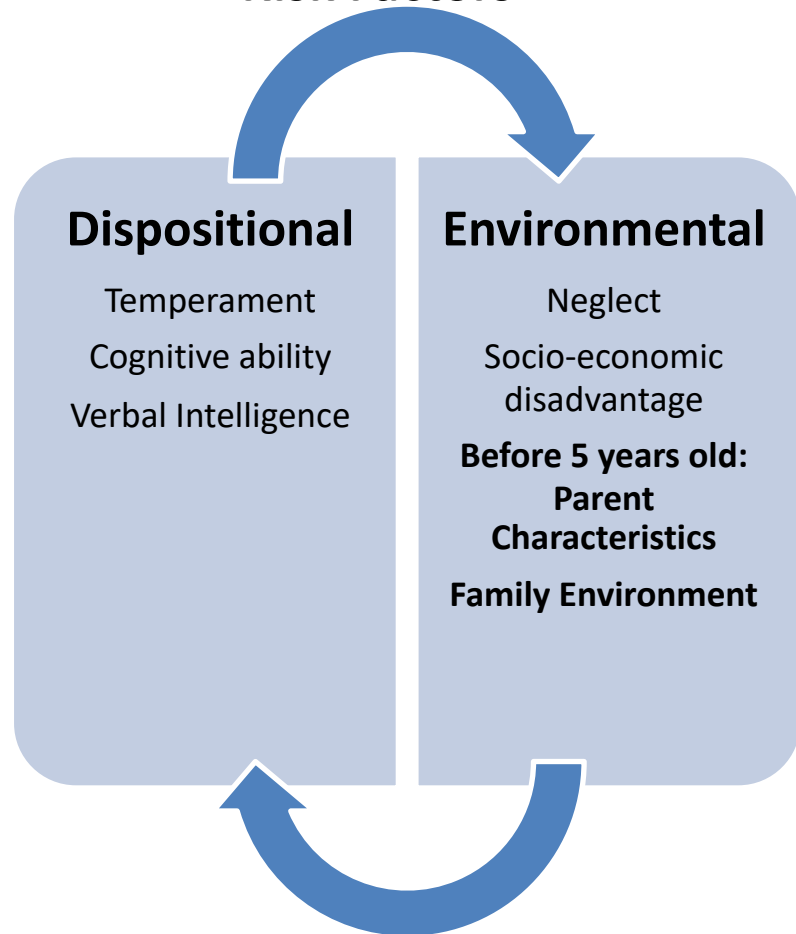


Conduct Problems

- Ranges from **6-15%** (Webster-Stratton & Reid, 2018)
- UK: **13% boys, 8% girls (10.5%)** (Millenium Cohort Study, 2018)
- Ireland: **16% of children aged 4-6** (small sample & not nationally representative) (Hyland et al., 2014)



Risk Factors



BETTER OUTCOMES BRIGHTER FUTURES

The national policy framework
for children & young people

2014 - 2020

Relevant Policy

- Intervention for Conduct Problems in early childhood is framed by key policy documents
- Lack of Irish information on the national prevalence of CP in young children which may be helpful in framing future policy (2020 onwards)
- Focus on parent intervention but lack of Irish data in this cohort to underpin approach



Aims:

- (a) Identify a nationally representative CP prevalence rate for 5-year olds**
- (b) Examine risk factors for CP in this age group**



Method

- Wave 3 Infant Cohort (9,003 parents and children)
- Anonymised dataset
- Parent-completed measures (CAPI, CASI)
- Data weighted to population

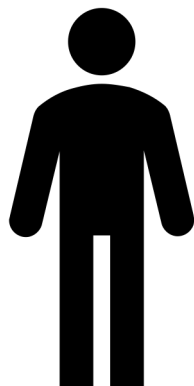
- Binomial Logistic regression conducted to examine predictors
- MANOVAs conducted post-hoc to further examine parent variables



Predictors



Child Factors



Parent Factors



Household Factors



Psychological Factors

Outcome: Conduct problems (Subscale SDQ)



Results

**10.6%
prevalence**

**57% male,
43% female**

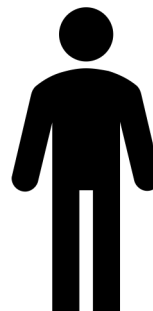
- Our findings indicated a CP prevalence rate of 10.6% in 5 year olds
- This was *similar to* UK (10.5%)
- Less than previous Irish estimates (16%)



Risk & Protective Factors

+

Normal Weight
Better Health
No chronic illness
Persistent Temp.
Normal Speech



-

Younger
No college Ed.
Unemployed
Chronic Illness

-

Lone Parent
Siblings



+



-

Consistent Parenting
Higher Closeness

Hostile Parenting
Higher conflict



**For parents of children with CP-
Are parenting characteristics
impacted by age, education and
employment?**



	Parenting Styles			Parent-Child Relationship	
	Warmth	Hostility	Consistency	Closeness	Conflict
Age					
Employment					
Education					
Age X Employment					
Age X Education					
Employment X Education					
Age X Employment X Education					

$p < .05$,
partial eta-squared $> .005$



Parent-Child Relationship

Conflict

Unemployed Older Parents > Employed
Young Parents > Unemployed Younger
Parents > Employed Older Parents

Closeness

Older Parents > Younger

Parenting Styles

Hostility

Unemployed Older Parents >
Employed Young > Employed
Older > Unemployed Young

Employed College Educated >
Employed Non-Educated >
Unemployed College >
Unemployed Non-Educated

Warmth

Younger Parents > Older

Consistency

Older Parents > Younger



Implications



Policy should plan for 1 in 10 children with CP



Risk and Protective Factors across numerous aspects of 5-year olds lives



Identified risk factors in line with international literature



Post-hoc analyses demonstrated complexity of parent factors



Parenting Styles and PC Relationship impacted by different factors- consideration for interventions





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Thank you!

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