

How does gender influence behavioural traits in children with Conduct Disorder?

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Introduction

- Conduct Disorder (CD) is a persistent pattern of antisocial behaviour, which violates the rights of others and basic age-appropriate social norms (1)
- In 2015, CD had a prevalence of 5.6% amongst 5-16 year olds in England and was more common in boys (2)
- Our study aimed to identify the differences in behavioural traits in boys and girls diagnosed with CD
- This could help tailor more specific psychosocial interventions in the management of young people with CD

Method

Data collection

- Data was taken from the 2004 British Child and Adolescent Mental Health Survey (BCAMHS) (3)
- The Development and Wellbeing Assessment (DAWBA) was used to assess presence of CD according to DSM-V and ICD-10 criteria (4)
- A population sample of 5-16 year olds was utilised
- Children who met diagnostic criteria for CD (N=420) were included- 140 females, 280 males

Statistical analysis

- We compared the prevalence of eight parent-reported variables for girls and boys with CD
- Chi-squared test was used for analysis of categorical variables
- Continuous samples T Test was used for analysis of continuous variables
- Multivariable logistic regression was adjusted for confounding factors

Results

Graph 1

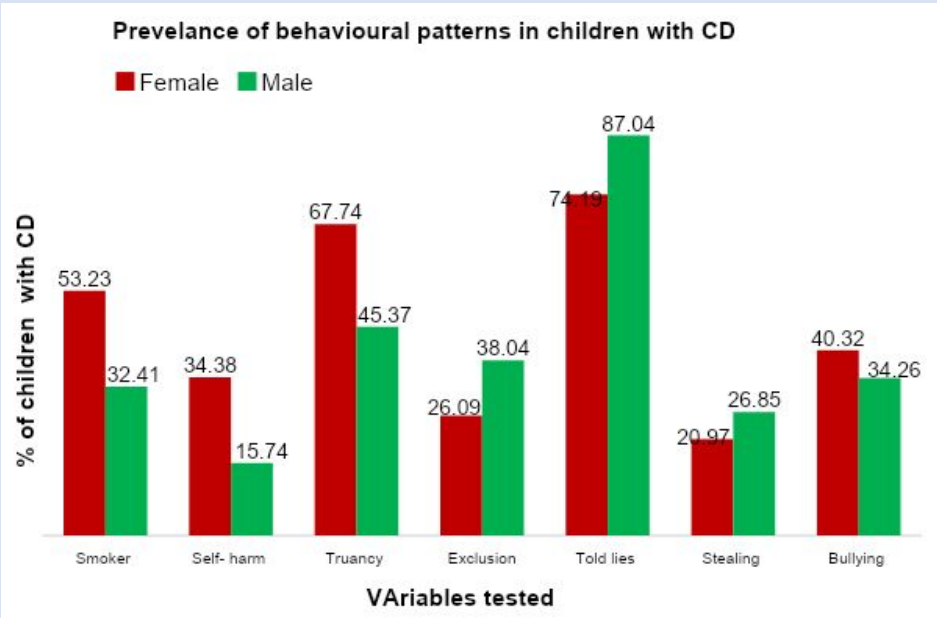


Table 1- Regression model data

Variables	Adjusted OR	95% CI	Sig. (p-value)
Smoker	2.79	1.20-6.47	<0.05
Self-harm	2.61	1.10-6.15	<0.05
Truant from school	2.29	1.12-4.66	<0.05
Exclusion from school	0.49	0.25-0.98	<0.05
Told lies in past year	0.42	0.18-0.98	<0.05
Stolen valuables	0.67	0.30-1.52	>0.05
Bullied people	1.17	0.58-2.36	>0.05
Average age	1.14	0.90-1.44	>0.05

Adjusted odds ratios, 95% confidence intervals and significance (p-value) data from regression models are presented in Table 1. The significant results are highlighted in bold and red.

Discussion

- Smoking, self-harm and truancy from school is more common in females, compared to males, with CD
- Exclusion from school and told lies in the past year is less common in females, compared to males, with CD
- There is no significant difference between genders in the rates of stealing, bullying people and age ($p>0.05$)
- This study was retrospective, therefore we faced challenges with incomplete data
- Analysis included parent-reported variables, as most of the data for teacher-reported variables was missing
- In the future, the analysis of the recorded teacher-reported variables to answer the hypothesis can be completed and compared to parent-reported variables

References: 1. ICD-10. Conduct Disorders. 2016. [Available from <https://icd.who.int/browse10/2016/en#/F91>]. (Accessed 14/04/19)

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