

# **Child Maltreatment in Terms of Parent-Adolescent Relationships: A Control Theory Approach<sup>1</sup>**

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## **Riassunto**

Lo scopo della ricerca è quello di analizzare, sulla base della teoria del controllo, gli abusi fisici, psicologici e le situazioni di incuria in termini di relazione tra genitori e figli adolescenti. Il gruppo di ricerca era composto di 251 adolescenti, dei quali 130 femmine e 121 maschi. Allo scopo di determinare le modalità di controllo dei genitori tramite tecniche dirette e indirette, sono state utilizzate le “Parental Control Scales” (Scale del Controllo Genitoriale) (Kaner, 2000). L’indagine è stata effettuata dai ricercatori con lo scopo di ottenere informazioni sugli abusi, sulle esperienze di incuria e su alcune caratteristiche demografiche. I risultati hanno dimostrato che esistono dei legami tra abusi fisici, psicologici e situazioni di incuria, da una parte e controllo da parte dei genitori, dall’altra; gli adolescenti che hanno subito abusi e trascuratezze sono meno controllati e hanno maggiori problemi relazionali con i genitori rispetto a quelli che non hanno subito tali situazioni.

## **Résumé**

Le but de la recherche est d’analyser, sur la base de la Théorie du contrôle, les abus physiques, emotifs et les états de négligence en ce qui concerne les rapports entre fils adolescents et leur parents. Le groupe de recherche était composé par 251 adolescents, dont 130 filles et 121 garçons. Pour déterminer le monitorage parentale à travers le contrôle direct et indirect des parents les “Parental Control Scales” (Kaner, 2000) ont été utilisé. La recherche a été effectuée dans le but d’obtenir des informations sur les abus, sur les expériences de négligence et sur les caractéristiques démographiques. Les résultats ont démontré qu’il y a des relations entre, d’une part, les abus physiques, émotifs et les états de négligence et situations de manque de contrôle de la part des parents, d’autre part; les adolescents qui ont subi des abus et ont été négligés sont moins contrôlés et ont plus de problèmes relationnels avec leur parents par rapport aux adolescents qui n’ont pas subi de telles situations.

## **Abstract**

The aim of this research is to investigate emotional, physical abuse and neglect in terms of parent-adolescent relationships which are based upon Control Theory. The research group consisted of 251 adolescents, 130 were girls and 121 were boys. In order to determine parental monitoring by direct and indirect parental control “Parental Control Scales” were used. A survey which is developed by researcher to have information abuse, neglect experiences and some demographical characteristics was administrated. The findings showed that there are associations between emotional, physical abuse and neglect experiences and parental control; abused and neglected adolescents to be less controlled and to have more negative relationships with their parents than non-abused and non-neglected adolescents.

<sup>1</sup> Some of these findings have been initially presented as an oral presentation in the 10<sup>ème</sup> Colloque de l’AICLF-Criminologie comparée: Aspects théoriques et empiriques/ La question des violences domestiques, Université de Galatasaray, Istanbul, 22-23 mai, 2006.

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