

# VIOLENCIA FAMILIAR Y SU VINCULACIÓN EN EL COMPORTAMIENTO DE LOS ADOLESCENTES: UNA REVISIÓN SISTEMÁTICA FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ITS CONNECTION IN THE TEENAGE BEHAVIOR: A SYSTEMIC REVIEW

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## Abstract

Violence is a highly significant phenomenon for different societies because it is one of the main causes of death and disability; likewise, evidence has been consolidated on the impact of violence suffered by children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean over the last five years, based on four main areas: (1) mental and physical health, (2) conduct and behavior, (3) education and (4) social aspects. Similarly, there is a higher prevalence in the family, school and community settings; therefore, this research aimed to analyze whether Latin American teenagers, exposed to family violence, are at risk of developing maladaptive behavioral patterns, through the perspective of socioecological framework. Additionally, this study was configured in a systematic review of the literature in the following databases: Scopus and Web of Science, following the PRISMA guideline. In this regard, the results show that research on family violence and its connection to teenage behavior has focused on the adoption of risky behaviors, defiance of authority figures and the reproduction of learned behaviors; it has also examined factors such as the link to education, health sector, heteronormativity and the normalization of violence. In conclusion, persistent and prolonged family violence is associated with an increase in risk behaviors for the health and integrity of teenagers.

**Keywords:** Family Violence, Domestic Violence, Teenagers, Behavior, Ecological Systems.

## INTRODUCTION

Violence is a highly significant phenomenon for different societies because it is one of the main causes of death and disability (Hernández et al., 2019); in this sense, the literature indicates that the different types of violence (sexual, physical, armed violence, emotional abuse, etc.) are more prevalent in childhood and adolescence and are developed more frequently in the family, school and community settings (FRY et al., 2021). Family violence can cause not only problems in teenagers with other people, but they can also develop suicide ideas that may eventually materialize (Garza Sánchez; Castro Saucedo; Calderón García, 2020). Therefore, it is important to know how domestic violence takes place, how it arises and becomes "normalized". However, not only domestic violence affects children and teenagers, but gender-based violence within the family is also damaging to this population. Therefore, it is important to differentiate between domestic violence and gender-based violence. Domestic violence is between descendants or ascendants, siblings or people living within the family environment, while gender-based violence is between spouses. Gender-based violence is also harmful to children and teenagers, because they are not only

spectators of violence, but are affected psychically and emotionally (FERNÁNDEZ, 2022).

Violence against children and teenagers happens in contexts of extreme vulnerability, in which dependent relationships with their aggressors give rise to a sense of insecurity and anxiety within their own home. Dependence on their aggressors causes children to fear reprisals, which, added to the limited capacity of children and teenagers to access specialized help outside their home, makes them even more vulnerable (NAZAR et al., 2018).

In this regard, a distinction is made between two types of family violence: one in which one or both parents are the aggressor against children and other which takes place against children and the mother. In the first case, violence against children happens in a context in which discipline through violence is seen by parents as something natural and within their functions. This is often supported by society, mainly in authoritarian societies. The second type of violence is called gender-based violence, in which the authority, mainly the father, is felt in physical, psychological and sexual abuse against the spouse. According to Nazar et al, both types of violence have different family structures explaining these cases. It is important for the aforementioned author to differentiate between violence that happens indistinctly between children, and that between spouses (NAZAR et al., 2018).

Therefore, it is relevant to indicate that the consolidation and legitimization of violent practices is mainly based on (1) the expansive ability of violence and its consequences, and (2) the reproductive nature of violent behaviors in the family, when constituting the first scenario of socialization (WALTON; PÉREZ, 2019).

In this regard, different terms are used to refer to the violence developed within families in the research field, among which *domestic violence and family or intrafamily violence* highlight. It should be noted that the use of a term or other is not only casual, but rather, on the contrary, there are different theoretical and epistemological conceptions of the family, violence and the association between them behind each of these denominations (WALTON; PÉREZ, 2019).

In this sense, *intrafamily or family violence* refers to permanent and systematic actions or omissions committed within the family nucleus by one or more members to other member of the family, which generate physical, psychological or sexual injuries or an aggravation to the integrity (HERNÁNDEZ et al., 2019).

While, *domestic violence* is consolidated as a broader construct including sexual, physical and psychological abuse happened in the interaction between parents, children and siblings; therefore, although both concepts are focused on the interrelationship of members, they differ in the family functioning attached (WALTON; PÉREZ, 2019).

In this regard, evidence has been consolidated over the last five years on the impact of violence suffered by children and teenagers in Latin America and the Caribbean, based on four main areas: (1) mental and physical health, (2) conduct and behavior, (3) education and (4) social aspects (Fry et al., 2021). However, despite the above, this phenomenon is scarcely reported and denounced, which could be attributed to (1) the normalization of violence in these societies, (2) the youth and vulnerability of

victims, and (3) the seriousness and strength of the social and justice systems (UNICEF, 2014).

Consequently, it is evident that sociocultural context in which children and teenagers manage and develop, maintains a significant connection with the perspective that people consolidate on *violence* (Hernández et al., 2019). For this reason, the literature highlights the idea that any single level of socioecological model or single factor can determine and/or explain violence against children and teenagers and, in this sense, it is necessary to consider the structural determinants in order to map and characterize violence in everyday life (FRY et al., 2021).

Thus, this article aimed to analyze whether Latin American teenagers, exposed to family violence, are at risk of developing maladaptive behavior patterns, through the perspective of socioecological framework, in order to contribute to the literature from the approach of a broader approach integrating contexts such as community and culture.

It should be noted that the theory of ecological systems constitutes a useful framework to understand the contexts, from multiple levels, that can promote and inhibit a phenomenon, because this is determined due to the interrelation of formal and informal environments (BRONFENBRENNER, 1977).

## METHODOLOGY

In relation to the research nature and in order to answer the stated objective, this document used a systematic review, in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) (PAGE et al... 2021) in order to provide consistency, accuracy and clarity; in this sense, the following research question was used as a starting point to determine the goals of the review: Are Latin American teenagers exposed to family violence at risk of developing maladaptive behavioral patterns? Which was constructed from the PEO model (population, exposure and outcome) (MOOLA et al., 2015).

### Search Strategy and Selection Criteria

A literature search was made in the databases Scopus and Web of Science using the following keywords “violence”, “domestic”, “family”, “adolescents” and “teenagers”; in this sense, the search algorithms were established from the combination of these terms through the use of Boolean connectors, detailed in the table 1.

**Table 1: Sequence of search algorithms for literature search in the databases Scopus and Web of Science**

Database	Search algorithm
Scopus	Scopus [1]: (TITLE ("family violence") AND TITLE (teenagers))
	Scopus [2]: (TITLE ("family violence") AND TITLE (adolescents))
	Scopus [3]: (TITLE ("domestic violence") AND TITLE (adolescents))
	Scopus [4]: (TITLE ("domestic violence") AND TITLE (teenagers))
Web of Science	WoS [1]: "domestic violence" (Title) AND adolescents (Title)
	WoS [2]: "domestic violence" (Title) AND teenagers (Title)
	WoS [3]: "family violence" (Title) AND adolescents (Title)
	WoS [4]: "family violence" (Title) AND teenagers (Title)

After identifying the articles, these were evaluated in relation to eligibility criteria (inclusion and exclusion criteria).

### **Eligibility Criteria**

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

The studies included were: (a) studies published between 2017-2022; (b) articles with at least two keywords in the title or abstract and (c) documents dealing with the subject of family violence in teenagers in the Latin American context.

#### **Exclusion Criteria**

The following exclusion criteria were used: (a) duplicate documents; (b) studies as chapters of book, books and/or degree researches; (c) articles not related to the subject considered.

#### **Data Extraction**

The documents identified after searching in the databases, were managed through the online application Rayyan QCRI (Ouzzani et al., 2016); additionally, an Excel template was used for the full text review and data extraction.

In addition, the following information was collected from the studies included: authors, year of publication, main objective, main results and the full text of articles for qualitative analysis.

#### **Quality Evaluation**

The *Crowe Critical Appraisal Tool (CCAT)* was used to recognize the quality of studies (Crowe, 2013), which is a valid and reliable tool that can be used for a wide range of research designs and facilitates the comparison of scores between the different studies selected (CROWE; SHEPPARD, 2011; CROWE et al., 2012).

#### **Data Analysis and Synthesis**

This study systematically reviewed whether exposure to family violence in Latin American teenagers shapes the risk of developing maladaptive behavior patterns through the perspective of the socioecological framework. In addition, the results were extracted through the reading of articles included when presenting data to determine their contribution to solve the research questions and thus, compare them qualitatively (Okoli & Schabram, 2010).

## **RESULTS**

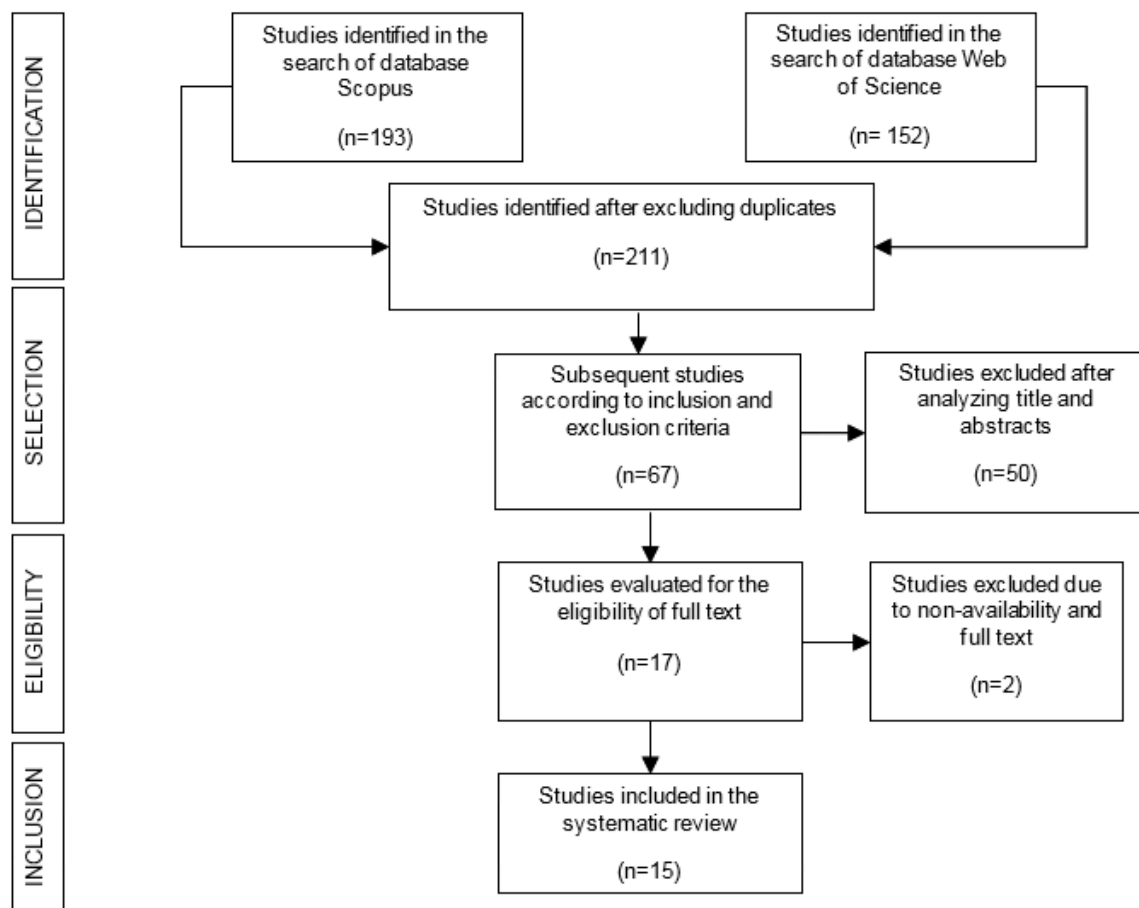
The research results are shown below, first quantitative and then qualitative, which are consolidated around the answers to the questions considered above. In addition, 15 articles were selected in relation to the considered methodology, and the information extracted from them is detailed as follows.

### **Systematic Review**

#### **Studies Included**

Thus, the initial search through the selected databases (Scopus and Web of Science) generated a total of 345 studies. 134 documents were excluded due to duplication criteria; therefore, 211 were included in the selection stage, followed by the evaluation

of inclusion and exclusion criteria, where 144 were eliminated, 67 researches were considered for the analysis of titles and abstracts, where 50 were eliminated, leaving 17 for the eligibility process and, 2 studies were excluded in this stage due to lack of availability of the study and analysis of full text. Finally, 15 articles were considered in the inclusion process for this systematic review, and the process described is shown in *Figure 1*.



**Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart**

**Additionally, the table 1 was developed in order to identify the research perspectives of studies selected, allowing to visualize the main contributions.**

**Table 2: Analysis matrix of the articles reviewed about family violence and its connection with the teenage behavior**

No	Authors	Year	Country	Objective	Main results	Results of the quality evaluation
1	Carlos et al.	2017	Brazil	To identify and analyze the social support network of families involved in the violence against children and teenagers, from the perspective of health professionals and families in a state municipality of São Paulo, Brazil.	The creation and implementation of public policies to address the needs of this population is urgent, through the empowerment of families and communities and the development of researches that respects the multidimensional nature of the phenomenon.	Moderate quality
2	Schek et al.	2018	Brazil	To identify the practices that silence domestic violence from the speech of professionals working in protection services of children and teenagers.	Three categories were identified: (1) reductionist action in relation to domestic violence against children and teenagers; (2) referral as a transfer of the responsibility to protect; and, (3) exclusion of the aggressor from the intervention process.	High quality
	Tenenbaum	2018	Mexico	To analyze the impact of precarious labor markets and domestic violence on material and non-material care provided by the mentors of teenagers in conflict with the law.	It is concluded that the families of teenagers in conflict with the law are heirs to the material and immaterial neglect of the family generations from which they descend; additionally, the families accumulate historical disadvantages that are difficult to break in a context marked by job insecurity, gender and generational violence.	Moderate quality
4	Braga et al.	2018	Brazil	To analyze the experiences of teenagers and gay young populations and lesbians in the sexual orientation revelation process to their families.	The family is an essential component of the support network, but also a space that can generate and reproduce forms of violence in the name of heteronormativity. Health services must develop care and attention practices to the family and teenager and young homosexual victims of violence.	Moderate quality
5	Cordeiro et al.	2019	Brazil	To know the perception of educational women about the domestic violence against teenagers.	Teachers recognize intrafamily violence as an intergenerational phenomenon expressed in different forms and affects the physical and mental health of teenagers, with repercussions on school performance and	Moderate quality



					interpersonal relationships, including with peers and teachers.	
6	da Silva & Hasselmann	2019	Brazil	To research the relationship between the physical and psychological family violence against teenagers and the dissatisfaction with body image.	Psychological violence was associated with body image dissatisfaction only in the case of girls, these results suggest that it is important to implement educational and health policies to inform the public about the harmful effects of psychological violence during adolescence.	Moderate quality
7	Silva et al.	2019	Brazil	To analyze the temporary trend of verbal harassment, domestic violence and participation in fights with weapons between teenagers, in the Brazilian capitals between 2009 and 2015.	An increase in intrafamily violence was recorded in all the capitals, highlighting the need to implement public policies that contribute to minimize this problem among teenagers.	Low quality
8	Fernández et al.	2020	Brazil	To research the perception of social and affective support network (characterized by the links between family and school contexts) of teenagers that are victims of domestic violence and involved in bullying.	After analyzing the network structure and teenagers' perception about significant people, the results indicated a higher number of positive contacts in the Family, Friend and School fields; additionally, teenagers indicated their perpetrators of domestic violence as positive contacts.	Moderate quality
9	Antunes et al.	2020	Brazil	To describe the factors associated to domestic violence against Brazilian teenagers. To describe the factors associated to domestic violence against Brazilian teenagers.	Intrafamily violence against teenagers is related to family interactions, use of psychoactive substances and violence in the school environment. In addition, it is revealed the importance of the participation of parents and guardians in the prevention of violence and risky behaviors in the lives of Brazilian teenagers.	Moderate quality
0	Vilela et al.	2020	Brazil	To research the association between exposure to domestic violence and increased risk of internalizing and externalizing problems and use of substance among	Teenagers living directly with relatives with SUD are at risk of developing emotional/behavioral problems. The findings reinforce the need for public policies that include protective programs for teenagers living in families	Moderate quality

				teenagers living in families with substance use disorder (SUD) in a low-income community in São Paulo, Brazil.	with substance use disorders.	
11	Fernandes et al.	2020	Brazil	To know the repercussions of experience in family violence from the oral history of teenagers.	Family violence involves physical diseases associated with the damage caused by physical aggression and somatization of violent events, in addition to compromising mental health, causing feelings of deep sadness, self-injurious behavior and suicide idea. In this sense, all these factors are detrimental to interpersonal relationships and school performance, in addition to making teenagers more vulnerable to alcohol consumption.	Low quality
12	Velarde et al.	2021	Peru	To determine the influence of family violence in interpersonal values of students aged from 12 to 16 years old.	The results affirm that 21% of students show a level of family violence; additionally, it is evident that family violence tends to originate risk behaviors and depressive symptoms.	Low quality
13	Marques et al.	2021	Brazil	To research the co-occurrence of health risk behaviors in teenagers that are victims of family violence.	An excess of risk behaviors was found among victims of family violence in both sexes; additionally, the co-occurrence of the four risk behaviors analyzed was higher among teenage male and female victims of family violence than in non-victims.	Moderate quality
14	Morillo et al.	2021	Ecuador	To critically analyze the incidence of intrafamily violence and its impact on the school performance of teenagers of the Educational Unit Vicente Fierro in Tulcán city.	The results obtained showed that intrafamily violence has a more significant influence on 8th and 10th grade students; additionally, it should be noted that intrafamily violence significantly affects the academic performance of teenagers in any social context.	Moderate quality
15	Lazo-Legrand et al.	2022	Peru	To evaluate the association between exposure to domestic violence and school bullying victimization in Peruvian teenagers	Peruvian teenagers aged from 12 to 17 years old, who are exposed to domestic violence, are more likely to be victims of school bullying, especially both types of bullying (psychological and	Moderate quality



				aged from 12 to 17 years old, during 2019.	physical), with the probability of increasing more than four times as much as the levels of exposure to violence also increase.	
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### Socio- Ecological Framework

The ecological theory was firstly proposed by Urie Bronfenbrenner, a Russian psychologist that migrated to the United States when he was young, he became naturalized American and studied at Cornell University. He is known for confronting evolutionary psychology, which privileged quantitative researches over qualitative ones, by proposing ecological theory. One of his most important works is entitled *Two Worlds of childhoods: US and USSR* (1970). In this work, he studies the differences between American and Soviet childhood, where he argues that the cultural, social and political context has a strong influence on how childhood is lived and developed in these countries and cultures (CORTÉS, 2004).

For Bronfenbrenner, context explains differences in cognitive and psychic development between people. This is because the context and different environments produce different responses in people. It is the environment perception, and not the environment in an objective way, which conditions the responses of individuals, which finally generates a specific behavior between the environment and median behavior, the psyche. Therefore, it is important to consider contexts to explain much of how the psyche works. Bronfenbrenner divides the different contexts into 4: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem and macrosystem. These contexts also have a temporal dimension: microtime refers to the continuity or discontinuity of processes over time. The mesosystem is the temporality that can be divided into days and weeks, and the macrotime is the changes that affect society over long periods of time, from generation to generation (GIFRE MONREAL; ESTEBAN GUITART, 2012).

Thus, the ecological environment is composed of a set of schemes organized in different levels that are superimposed one on the other; these levels are called (1) microsystem, (2) mesosystem, (3) exosystem and (4) macrosystem. In this regard, the microsystem comprises the level where the individual develops, mesosystem constitutes the interrelation between two scenarios in which the individual develops, exosystem covers the broad contexts that do not include the human being as protagonist, while macrosystem is configured by the culture and subcultures in which the individuals of their society develop (BRONFENBRENNER, 1987).

In relation to this, the socio-ecological framework, inspired by Bronfenbrenner, provides an integral perspective of social phenomena and, in this case, its use is essential for understanding family violence and its link with teenage behavior; additionally, it can be stated that it is the interrelations between different contexts determining the development and project the future of this social problem (BRONFENBRENNER, 1977).

The following sections detail the microsystem, exosystem and macrosystem factors that influence on the maintenance or contribute to the mitigation of family violence to which teenagers are exposed.

However, although the socio-ecological model shows that the mesosystem levels can influence on family violence and the adoption of maladaptive behavior patterns of Latin American teenagers, it is also significant to highlight that there is a scarcity of researches about the relationship between them at this level, which is why it was decided to exclude it from this review. Likewise, the need to work at the mesosystem level in order to consolidate the relationship between the microsystems is also highlighted.

In this sense, the intricate interconnection established between the proximate and distal incidences of family violence and the adoption of maladaptive behavioral patterns of Latin American teenagers is approached under a socio-ecological framework, where the risk and protection factors and the possible behavioral configurations generated in the *microsystem*, *exosystem* and *macrosystem* are examined.

### **Microsystem**

According to Bronfenbrenner's (1977, 1987) socio-ecological framework, the microsystem integrates a pattern of actions and interpersonal relationships experienced by the subject or a group of subjects, in a specific environment where this is immersed.

In addition to the explicit forms of family violence already mentioned, there are also other forms of violence that may implicitly obstruct the care of teenagers or affect them, such as (1) family arrangement after parental separation, (2) the separation itself, and (3) addiction of one or both parents (TENENBAUM, 2018).

Family violence affects the interpersonal values of teenagers, leading them to (1) adopt risky behaviors, (2) challenge authority figures, and (3) reproduce behaviors learned in the family environment in other means of interaction (VELARDE et al., 2021).

Regarding risk behaviors, adopting them is based on factors configured from the experiences of violence, such as recurrent stress, depression, low self-esteem (DA SILVA; HASSELMANN, 2019; CORDEIRO et al., 2019; ANTUNES et al., 2020), anxiety, anguish, apathy, disinterest in life, and suicide idea (CORDEIRO et al., 2019; FERNANDES et al., 2020; FERNÁNDEZ et al., 2020).

Consequently, the main risk behaviors that are usually adopted are alcoholic beverage intake (ANTUNES et al., 2020; VELARDE et al., 2021; MARQUES et al., 2021), smoking (VELARDE et al., 2021; MARQUES et al., 2021), consumption of hallucinogenic substance (VILELA et al., 2020; FERNÁNDEZ et al., 2020; MARQUES et al., 2021), delinquent behaviors (VILELA et al., 2020), inappropriate eating behavior (DA SILVA ; HASSELMANN, 2019; MARQUES et al., 2021), social distancing, *cutting* (FERNANDES et al., 2020) and sexual risk-taking (VELARDE et al., 2021) (MARQUES et al., 2021).

Additionally, regarding the challenge of authority figures, the violence exercised on teenagers generates, in some cases, the search for autonomy through the reconfiguration of perception on their authority figures (Tenenbaum, 2018); the aforementioned, may result in serious physical aggression to themselves, when they try to set limits to negative behaviors of teenagers (VELARDE et al., 2021).

On the other hand, the reproduction of learned behaviors is based on the normalization of violence as an educational measure, together with the perception of aggressors as positive contacts, which consequently affects the imaginary and moral system of teenagers, thus configuring the use of violence as a coping strategy (SILVA et al., 2019; FERNÁNDEZ et al., 2020; Marques et al., 2021).

### **Exosystem**

Under the perspective of Bronfenbrenner's (1977, 1987) social-ecological framework, the exosystem includes the link between two or more environments, where only one of them indirectly affects the individual; at this level, literature highlights the association of violence with the health sector and educational field.

Regarding the health sector, three highly significant attitudes are established, such as: (1) *reductionist action before family violence*, this is supported by the fact that professionals limit themselves to heal injuries, overlooking the formalization of records about violence, (2) *referral as a transfer of responsibility*, in that sense, the staff opts to derive teenagers and their families to other professionals in order to not being obliged to notify suspicious and/or confirmed cases of violence, and (3) *exclusion of the aggressor from the intervention process*, because the practices adopted to deal with situations of family violence do not contemplate, mostly, assistance and/or follow-up of the aggressor (SCHEK et al., 2018).

In view of the above, Carlos et al. (2017) indicate that health sector must be consolidated as an agent that contributes to the debate about family violence through the configuration of participatory, interdisciplinary and intersectoral pathways for primary, secondary and tertiary care of families immersed in violent dynamics.

On the other hand, regarding the educational environment, violence can significantly affect academic performance; however, experiencing this adversity can also strengthen the interest in studying in order to use this tool to escape from the context of violence (CORDEIRO et al., 2019; MORILLO et al., 2021). In addition, it should be noted that the imitative behavior indicated in the microsystem is often generalized to the school, where the victims of family violence become aggressors, victims or assume both roles (LAZO-LEGRAND et al., 2022).

### **Macrosystem**

From Bronfenbrenner's (1977, 1987) social-ecological model, the macrosystem conceptualizes the most distant influences from the individual's experiences, such as culture and subcultures. Thus, for Bronfenbrenne "*In operational terms, the macrosystem is manifested in the continuities of form and content revealing the analysis of a culture or subculture with respect to the three preceding levels of the ecological environment, incorporated in our conceptual framework.*" (URIE BRONFENBRENNER, 1987, pp.281). Thus, the macrosystem is characterized by maintaining a thread of coherence with the other ecological environments, in fact, it is what gives coherence and sustenance. The microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem happen within a macrosystem that integrates them and gives them meaning. The macrosystem is sustained in the history of a community, but also in the ideals, and mainly in the values of the society forming part of its identity.

Likewise, there are heteronormativity and normalization of violence within the main social constructs that sustain and perpetuate family violence against teenagers. The

causes of violence are many times in the macrosystem, because this can reproduce aggressive and violent social relations among its members in specific cultural and social circumstances. This happens mainly in societies where gender roles are marked, where women are diminished and removed from political and work spaces, because it is culturally sanctioned in societies where the gender role encourages men to be violent to show their "virility", finally, in totalitarian societies or totalitarian and non-democratic tendencies. In these cases, violence is expected to be based on the macrosystem, and that this explains the violence experienced in other ecological environments. In this sense, it is supposed that the more democratic a society is, the less violent it will be. In this sense, it is the task of all of us to make our culture a democratic culture, with gender equality, and where the most vulnerable have a voice and channels to express their problems, denounce what they are experiencing and provide their points of view (TOMMASOLI, 2013).

Regarding heteronormativity, this acquires broad relevance because teenagers usually go through a consolidation process of sexual identity; in that sense, during this transit heteronormativity usually acts as a regulating device of sexuality establishing naturalness and interaction patterns (BRAGA et al., 2018). From this perspective, the family may manifest attitudes of (1) homophobia, (2) control and surveillance, (3) persecution and (4) segregation when this regulator is transgressed, in some cases (Braga et al., 2018).

On the other hand, in relation to the normalization of violence, this obstructs (1) the recognition of abuse and (2) mitigation of disrespectful relationships, through the legitimization of violent practices as corrective measures and coping strategies (CORDEIRO et al., 2019); additionally, it is worth highlighting that such social acceptance is linked with a greater preponderance to males (Marques et al., 2021).

The acceptance and normalization of violence in the culture and society as a whole is one of the obstacles found in the fight against violence. In some societies, violence is even seen as something normal, with the understanding that violence is part of being human. This mistaken view is due to confusing violence with aggressiveness. While aggressiveness could be defined as a natural disposition to be aggressive at times when the own integrity or ours is in danger, this being part of the human evolutionary load, violence is the cultural manifestation of aggressiveness, and is characterized by the gratuitousness of its manifestation: it is not protected in the protection and care of the own integrity or theirs. In this sense, aggressiveness, which is natural in man, is molded by culture channeling it to harmful manifestations generating great social and individual damage (ALONSO VAREA; CASTELLANOS DELGADO, 2006). This differentiation between aggressiveness (natural) and violence (cultural) is important because through education, deep cultural changes can be caused in order to regulate aggressiveness of people to not manifest themselves in violence both inside and outside families. This in order that cultures of different societies do not normalize violence in society.

## DISCUSSION

However, although families are often unaware of the impact of their internal relationships on the lives of teenagers, it is undeniable that their social and affective dynamics echo in other ecological spaces; in this case, due to the reproductive nature of violent behavior in the family, when constituting as the first stage of socialization (WALTON; PÉREZ, 2019). In this sense, this research shows that experiences of family violence can lead to adopt maladaptive behavioral patterns of Latin American teenagers; likewise, these patterns are formed from the mental and physical affectation together with the social aspects that legitimize such practices (FRY et al., 2021). In this regard, the maladaptive behavior patterns adopted by Latin American teenagers are focused on personal affectation at first, and then move on to social affectation, based on the normalization of violent practices. In addition, it should be noted that the perpetuation of family violence is not only due to cultural aspects, but also to the role played and seriousness shown by social institutions (UNICEF, 2014). From this perspective, the role played by health institutions in Latin America has been highly significant in terms of reporting and addressing cases of domestic violence.

## CONCLUSIONS

Structural factors, such as the perpetuation and normalization of violent practices, increase the risk of victimization, while support networks and social cohesion are mediating and protective factors to mitigate risks. Likewise, persistent and prolonged family violence is associated with an increase in risk behaviors for the health and integrity of teenagers; in this sense, it is important to develop programs focused on: (1) raising awareness on the maladaptive patterns that teenagers who experience family violence may adopt, and (2) creating a reliable family environment. In this sense, the results obtained in this study have limitations such as: (1) the small number of studies included and available on the mesosystem, (2) number of databases analyzed, (3) low demographic diversity, and (4) absence of researches about rural and indigenous populations. Finally, future research areas should be focused on evaluating the decision-making process to understand how teenagers evaluate situations of family violence, i.e., (1) when they determine that it is appropriate to reveal experiences of violence to an adult or regulatory body, (2) how they conceptualize support networks, and (3) characterization provided to the social environment.

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