

SELF-REPORTED JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND FAMILY RELATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Muhamed BUDIMLIĆ
Haris HALILOVIĆ

Abstract

Physical punishment by parents, as indicated by a study conducted in 2015/16, is the most common form of victimisation reported by students in Bosnia and Herzegovina (29.2% N=758 RS, 31.4% N=1.326 FBiH). This paper will analyse the relationship between the variable "Did your mother or father (stepmother or stepfather) ever hit, slap or push you? (Including the times when this was punishment for something you did.)?" and variables used to measure delinquent forms of behaviour as well as those used for analysis of students' family relations.

Preliminary cross-analyses of collected data on the victimisation of students and families and manifested socially unacceptable behaviours of children indicate that this group of factors is of exceptional significance. Previously presented study results have demonstrated that in families with pronounced problems between parents (conflict, violence, divorce) or parents' abuse of alcohol and drugs they represent risk factors for socially unacceptable behaviour in children. Students who committed offences (graffiti, vandalism, shoplifting, illegal content download from the Internet, alcohol consumption) were twice as likely to indicate that their families have the problems described above.

We believe that the results of these analyses can contribute to better understanding of the factors influencing delinquent behaviours in minors and thereby to the improvement of the system for prevention of undesirable behaviours. Considering that our legislation contains provisions concerning adequate supervision of children, we believe that the situation in this area can be improved through consideration of the results of studies dealing with this important social issue.

Key words

offending behaviour, victimization, children, young people, self-reporting, prevention

1. INTRODUCTION

During the 2015-2016 school year, within the International Study on Self-Reported Juvenile Delinquency, a research was undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the total sample of 2,149 students in final grades of randomly selected primary schools. For this type of research, it must be noted that such study was also carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 2005-2006 school year, again as a part of an international research project that included representatives from more than twenty European countries. The study is focused on the collection of data which can be used to estimate a dark figure of juvenile delinquency. The results of analyses could be used not only to acquire new information on its phenomenological and etiological characteristics, but also to provide recommendations and guidelines for actions to experts on the matter of countering juvenile delinquency. Therefore, it is a scientifically relevant source which can be used by various national and expert authorities responsible for the child protection in our community.

The methodological research framework was established at the level of the international working group, which defined the basic parameters, and the participating countries were able to opt for a sampling option and data collection method. The instrument used in the research was designed in cooperation between representatives of the scientific research community from 40 countries of Europe and the world, and during the preparations it was adjusted in some segments to the needs of individual countries. In our research, we opted for a representative national sample, and the questionnaire, suitable for children of 12 to 16 years of age, was used as an on-line form.

The issue covered in this paper refers to victimisation types among the surveyed category of students, with a particular focus on physical punishment of children by their parents as one of the assumed widespread types in our society. From the identified issue, we singled out the relationship between the parents and children, types of victimisation, and self-reported forms of delinquency, in order to identify basic statistical indicators of the researched phenomena and their specific interrelationships. The expected purpose and contribution of the paper is utilisation of the obtained results, which we believe could be used to draft recommendation proposals and guidelines for the competent institutions for preventive actions against delinquent behaviour of children and youth.

2. SELF-REPORTED DELINQUENCY AS A RESEARCH CONCEPT IN CRIMINOLOGY

Studies on self-reporting, in which small samples of respondents are asked questions about committed unregistered criminal offences (and other unlawful behaviour, A/N), have been a part of criminology studies for several decades. The most frequent information collecting techniques are surveys and interviews. This way, it is possible to identify a certain number of unlawful behaviours, which remains unknown to the competent institutions, wherefore they are not registered in the official records. These findings have significant importance in the developing of specific counter-crime strategies, since they must be based on as accurate information as possible on the prevalence and distribution of crime through different segments of society (Ignjatović, 2005, pp. 125-127). Therefore, studies on self-reporting, along with studies on victimisation and fear of crime, are used for estimates of dark figures of the selected crime types. While victimisation studies deal more with victims of crime and their characteristics, studies

on “self-reported” delinquency are focused on the collection of information on forms of criminal behaviour confessed in survey questionnaires by respondents from the selected research sample. Results of analyses of collected and processed information are used as a supplement to official statistics on crime. Such research has been recently frequently carried out in Europe and USA, it has been usually referred to the population of children or adolescents, and implemented in order to project as clearly as possible characteristics of delinquent behaviour of the youngest population members in a particular community (Budimlić, 2008, p. 190).

Studies on self-reporting are often carried out in several countries at the same time, and in the past two decades three cycles of international research were completed in Europe. The importance of cross-national studies is also pointed out by Junger-Tas, et al. (2010, p. 1), cross-national research is not an easy undertaking. In order to achieve interpretable results, cross-national standardization and compatibility in the selection of samples, in the content and administration of questionnaires, and in the defining and coding of data, are vital. Only if the surveys are carried out with similar instrumentation, will they yield internationally comparable data of youth crime and victimization. In another study undertaken in 2005 and 2006, information from this type of research was collected and published for the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the research results, Budimlić et al. (2010, p. 357) in their conclusions point out that juveniles in Bosnia and Herzegovina are quite frequently involved in delinquent behaviours which include violence. They do carry weapons on various occasions; they are vandalising property, committing assaults and inflicting injuries. In doing so, they tend to associate with their peers but with adults as well. It seems that we may conclude that the dark figure of violent juvenile delinquency is the highest in the case of vandalism and the lowest in the case of group fights. Still, it should be concluded that the detection rates in any case are lower than the dark figures are. On the other hand, in the results of study undertaken in 2015 and 2016, Maljević et al. (2017., p. 11) conclude, among other things, that it is difficult to differentiate between types of delinquency, since each includes certain particularities and problems. However, they state that preventive actions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should primarily be focused on the alcohol consumption, graffiti writing, vandalism, possession of weapons, illegal internet downloads, and animal cruelty. In Republika Srpska, a more significant importance would have to be placed on alcohol consumption, graffiti writing and illegal internet downloads. In addition, and taking into account an increasing presence of girls of all ages in delinquent behaviour, equal attention must be paid to girls, when taking preventive actions, as to boys.

Surely, it should be noted that there are numerous limitations both in the implementation and in interpretation of the results of studies on self-reporting. The results of such research should be used only as a supplement to the existing official data and data from other reference research studies obtained using different methodological approaches. Differences, particularly in multinational and multicultural communities, are particularly pointed out by Battenburg-Edde et al. (2012, p. 36), who, based on the completed study, conclude that using self-report data alone is insufficient to capture the true prevalence of delinquency in an ethnically diverse population. They recommended using multiple sources to achieve a more complete picture of delinquency patterns.

3. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RESULTS

As already pointed out, the final research sample for Bosnia and Herzegovina included questionnaires completed by 2,149 students of final grades of primary schools (grades 7, 8 and 9), of whom 51.5% were girls and 48.5% were boys. The average age of respondents was 13.5% years, and the age range of the surveyed children was from 11 to 18 years. The majority, or 38% of students, was in the eighth grade, followed by 31.4% from the seventh grade, and 30.6% from the ninth grade. For the origin of birth, almost 92% of the students stated they were born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, wherefore a small number of children in the surveyed sample are immigrants in our country (Maljević, et al., 2017.). The data collected in this survey were also used for the analyses undertaken in this paper.

The answer to the question whether they liked school was by 80.3% of the students that they liked school, and out of this number 45.4% completely agreed to like school. On the other hand, almost every fifth child, or 19.7%, answered they did not like school, of whom 9.3% selected the option of completely disagreeing to like school. Taking into account the results of their school achievements, 99.6% of the students never repeated a grade, whereby we can conclude that our research included children with almost no negative experiences which would cause them to repeat a grade.

In the next part, we will focus on the presentation of processed data regarding variables used for the examination of family relationships and parental control, scope, and structure of victimisation among the population of children included in the research. In the final part of the analyses presentation, we will specify the core indicators of frequencies and forms of self-reported delinquency among the student population from this research.

2.1. Family life and parental control

The first part of the analysis of results of the collected data refers to variables examining the status, relationship and level of parental control of the students who participated in the research. Figure 1 shows answers on the quantity dimension of the children's family composition. It is clear that the majority of respondents states to live in numerically complete families (variable 1.6). Although many press reports, and often reports from the agencies of statistics, indicate a rise in the number of divorces in our country, based on the presented data it could be said that a significant number of the students live in complete families. For family relationships, although we had this type of data as well, we did not analyse income and economic status of the families. Finally, the research undertaken by Galloway and Skardhamar (2010, p. 438) suggests that this type of factor must be considered taking into account a wider family context and other factors, particularly its functionality. They noted that low income and educational attainment may be the result of other (unobserved) attributes of the parents that also lead to behavioural difficulties among their offspring. Those who have persistently low income from work tend to be from a group of people who are chronically underemployed, so the search for the specific mechanisms behind the relationship between low income and crime should be sought on a structural level as well as relative to family functioning.

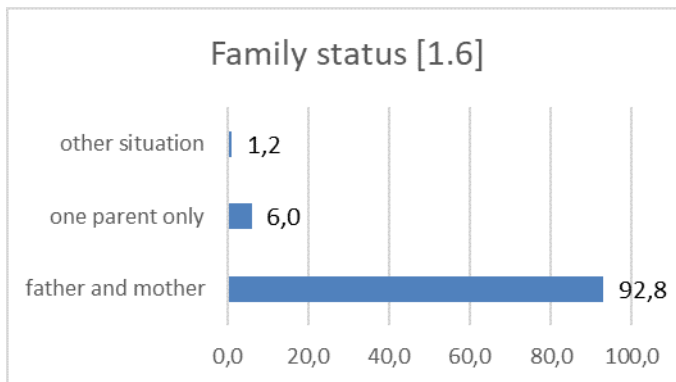


Figure 1

The next set of variables was used to examine how students evaluate quantitative and qualitative contents of relationships with their parents (variables 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). Therefore, Figure 2 shows that the majority of respondents answered they spent a lot of time with their parents, and only approximately 2% of the respondents answered they did not spend much time with their parents. We can conclude that, in addition to the majority of students confirming they live in complete families, in their answers they also note to spend a lot of time with their parents.

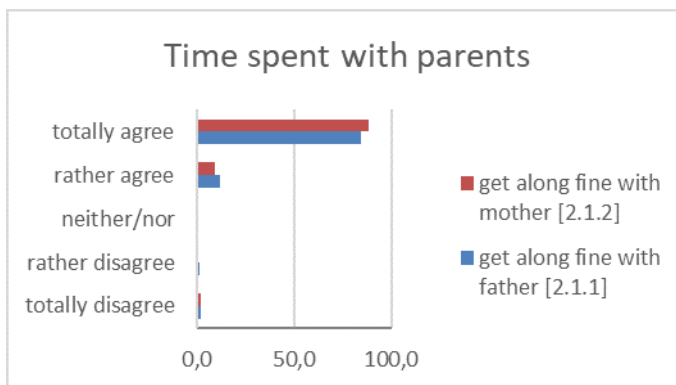


Figure 2

Figure 3 (variables 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) shows, in very similar ratios as the previous Figure, that the majority of children who answered this question confirmed the assumption that they had substantial support from their parents, both by the wish not to disappoint their parents and in the emotional support from their parents (83.3% and 84.6% completely agreed, and 11.5% and 11.4% agreed). Results of the analysis of this question also confirm that the children find substantial support in life from their parents.

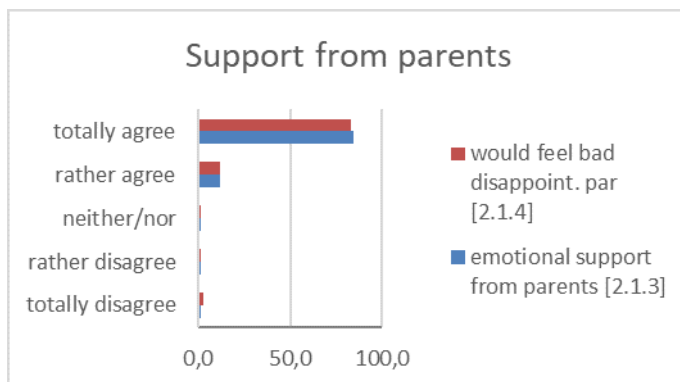


Figure 3

When it comes to habits, Figure 4 shows a distribution of answers on joint family meals (variable 2.2), and it can be concluded that, in accordance with the presented values, there is a prominent habit of joint meals, which makes an important link of family homogeneity in which the students from our sample live. However, it is not negligible that more than 11% of the children confirm that they have a joint meal three times a week or less, which might reflect a hectic pace of life in a contemporary community, and not necessarily a lack of meaningful communication within the families.

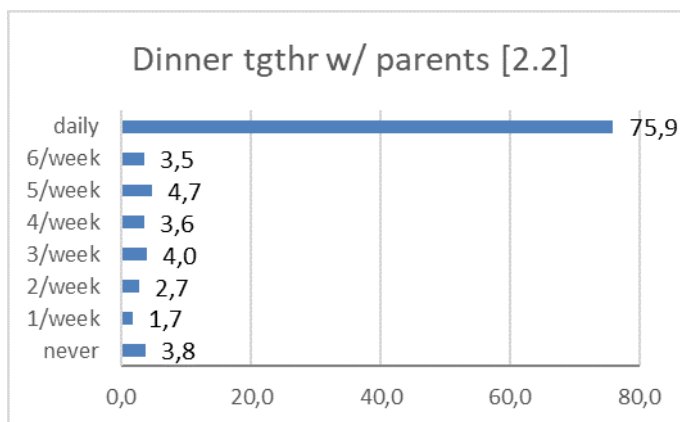


Figure 4

The following analyses covered questions which provide the estimate of a control level felt by the surveyed students from their parents (variables 2.3.01, 2.3.02, 2.3.03, and 2.3.04). Figure 5 presents answers to four variables from this group (“parents know where I am”, “parents know what I am doing”, “parents know my friends”, and “parents ask where I am, whom I am with, and what I am doing”). A graphical presentation of the analysis of these variables shows that all the questions were given a positive answer (“often” or “always”) by 80% of the students, that the answer “sometimes” refers to the variables “parents know what I am doing” (10.8%)

and “parents ask where I am, whom I am with, and what I am doing” (13.9%), and that to a somewhat higher degree these variables are selected by the students who give the answers “rarely” or “never”.

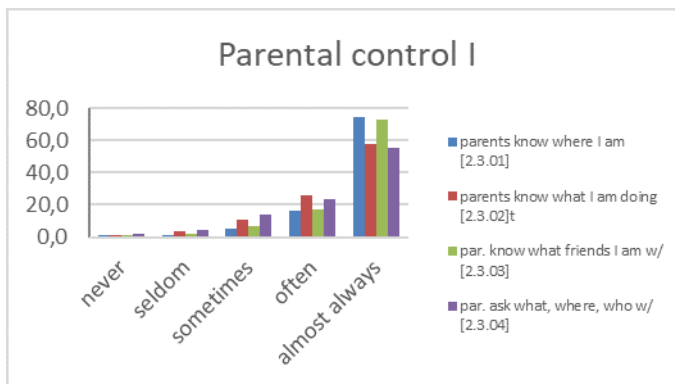


Figure 5

The next set of variables on parental control, Figure 6 (variables 2.3.05, 2.3.06, 2.3.07, and 2.3.08) show results of the analysis of answers to questions on daily communication in the family (“parents tell me when to come back home”, “I must call my parents if I am coming home late”, “parents check my homework”, and “parents check age limit for films I watch”), which are considered an important segment of parental involvement in the lives of adolescents. The data obtained show that more than 80% of the students (“often” or “almost always”) positively evaluate communication with their parents regarding going out (time for return or calling if late), and almost 50% answered “sometimes”, “rarely” or “never” to the other two analysed variables (homework checks and age limit for films).

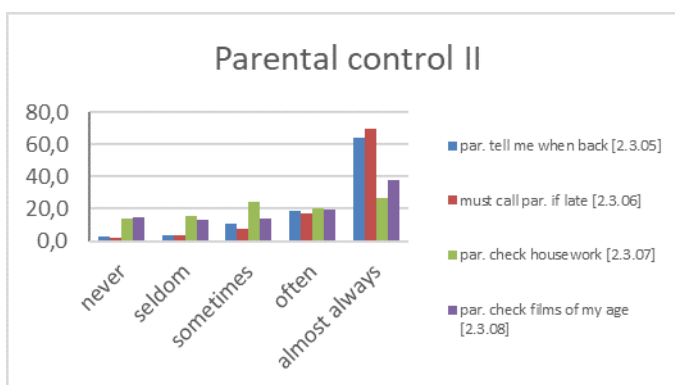


Figure 6

The last set of variables on parental involvement in Figure 7 (2.3.09, 2.3.10, 2.3.11, and 2.3.12) graphically presents results of the analysis of answers to questions on communication with the

parents on going out (“I tell my parents who I am with”, “I tell my parents how I have spent money”, “I tell my parents where I am”, and “I tell my parents what I am doing”). It is evident that almost all the questions are answered by more than 80% of the students with “often” and “almost always”, and 30% of the students answered “sometimes”, “rarely” and “never” when asked whether they tell their parents what they are doing when they go out, and around 20% gave these answers when asked on how they spent their money.

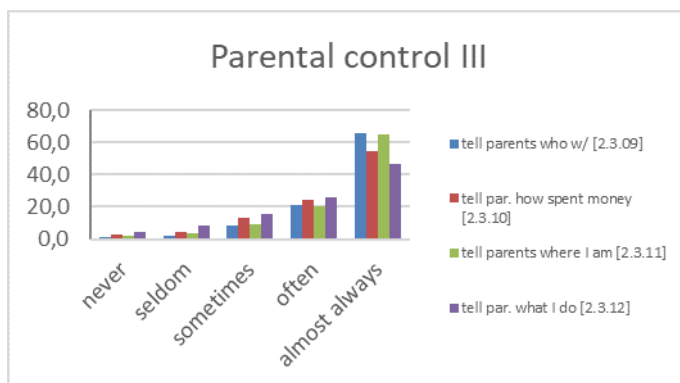


Figure 7

2.2. Victimization and self-reported delinquent behaviour

This chapter will present the main results of the analysis of collected data on self-reported forms of delinquent behaviour and victimisation of juveniles included in the research sample. Variables used to measure the scope and structure of delinquent forms of behaviour of students with the self-reporting method are the main segment of international longitudinal criminology study. In this part of the research, questions were not asked about all forms of delinquent behaviour among children and youth, but only about the forms most frequently registered by the institutions of formal social control, on the one hand, and about the forms indicated in the dark figure by criminology studies, on the other hand. Therefore, the research includes “conventional” forms against property or those with elements of violence, but also the forms of unlawful behaviour in the on-line world, and consumption of alcohol and other intoxicants rarely included in official reports of the repressive state apparatus. The research on self-reported forms of delinquent behaviour of primary school students also includes the survey on victimisation, or how many juveniles have been victims and of what type of delinquency, what type of injuries occurred, and whether an injury or threat have been reported to the institutions responsible to take actions. Finally, we will present results of a cross-reference analysis of delinquent behaviour and selected type of victimisation, to provide indicators of strength and nature of connection between delinquency and physical punishments of children by their parents, as one of the most frequent types of victimisation noted in the answers from students.

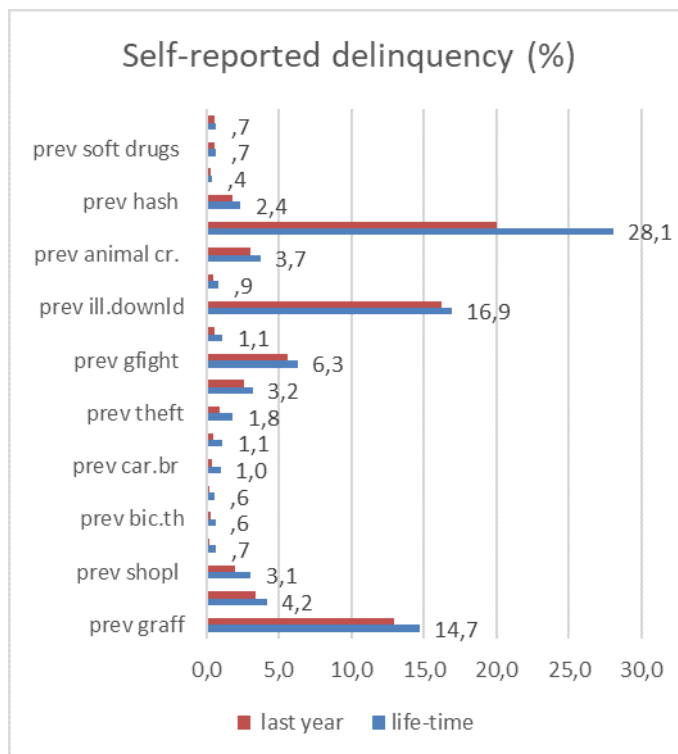


Figure 8

Delinquent forms of behaviour among the students of final grades of primary schools included in the research using the self-reporting method can be classified into four categories, offences against property, offences with elements of violence, internet offences, and alcohol consumption and drug related offences. The majority of these behaviours refers to offences against property, focused on damaging or destroying property (vandalism and graffiti writing), and offences of theft (theft and theft from a store, robbery, burglary, bicycle theft, car theft, theft from cars and extortion), followed by offences with elements of violence (possession of weapons, group fight, physical injury, and animal cruelty). The only behaviour from the on-line offences are illegal internet downloads, and unlawful alcohol and drug related forms include consumption (alcohol, marijuana, releveline, and soft and hard drugs) or drug trafficking. The indicators presented in Figure 8 show that, in terms of frequency of their occurrence (“ever in life”), the most frequent are alcohol consumption (28.1%), illegal internet downloads (16.9%), and graffiti writing on walls of public or private buildings (14.7%). The behaviours with values exceeding 10% are followed by forms of unlawful behaviour in values exceeding 3% in the total student population, including group fight (6.7%), vandalism (4.2%), animal cruelty (3.7%), possession of weapons (3.2%), and theft from stores (3.1%). Other forms of delinquent behaviour are recorded in values lower than 3%. Although some behaviours are presented in values lower than 1%, we believe it is important to note that in some cases (e.g. consumption of hard drugs, car theft or robberies) these are extremely socially dangerous behaviours with severe

and harmful effects and in no way expected among the population of children and youth of 13 to 15 years of age.

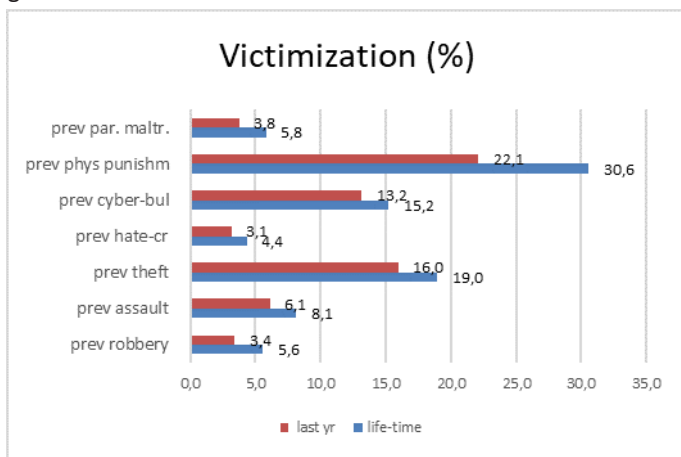


Figure 9

Juvenile delinquent behaviour most frequently results in an injury or danger to other juveniles or children, as confirmed both by the indicators from official institutions and by research in this field. However, since a significant number of cases remains in the unreported zone, it is also necessary to undertake research to collect data on the number and forms of harmful behaviours against juveniles, committed both by other juveniles and by adults. As pointed out at the beginning, the completed research also includes surveying of types and levels of victimisation among the student population included in this international study.

The research results for the victimisation part of the questionnaire are presented in Figure 9. It shows that, according to their scope, types with a frequency of up to 10% and types exceeding this scope in the total sample can be singled out. Therefore, the types of victimisation most frequently noted in the answers of students include physical punishment by parents (almost every third child or 30.6% in their life, 22.1% in the year before), theft (almost every fifth child or 19% in their life, 16% in the year before), abuse and bullying using information and communication technologies (almost every sixth child or 15.2% in their life, 13.2% in the year before). Types of victimisation including physical injuries are present to a somewhat lesser degree (8.1% in their life, 6.1% in the year before), psychological abuse by the parents (5.8% in their life, 3.8% in the year before), robbery (5.6% in their life, 3.4% in the year before), and hate attacks (4.4% in their life, 3.1% in the year before). Therefore, it can be clearly concluded that the types of victimisation selected as the most frequent in the survey student sample are within the dark figure, or that official procedures are rarely or never initiated for these types, although they have extremely harmful consequences (“physical punishment” and “cyber bullying”). In the discussion and conclusions we will mention these indicators again with appropriate recommendations.

	"Pure" offender	"Pure" victim	Both victim and offender	Neither victim nor offender	Valid	Missing	Total
life-time prev graff [7.1.01]	159 7,6%	486 23,3%	148 7,1%	1292 62,0%	2085	64	2149
life-time prev vandal [7.1.03]	39 1,9%	586 28,1%	48 2,3%	1412 67,7%	2085	64	2149
life-time prev shopl [7.1.05]	24 1,2%	594 28,5%	40 1,9%	1427 68,4%	2085	64	2149
life-time prev burgl [7.1.07]	7 0,3%	627 30,1%	7 0,3%	1443 69,2%	2084	65	2149
life-time prev bic.th [7.1.09]	4 0,2%	625 30,0%	9 0,4%	1446 69,4%	2084	65	2149
life-time prev car.th [7.1.11]	5 0,2%	627 30,1%	7 0,3%	1445 69,3%	2084	65	2149
life-time prev car.br [7.1.13]	6 0,3%	620 29,8%	14 0,7%	1444 69,3%	2084	65	2149
life-time prev extort. [7.1.15]	12 0,6%	623 29,9%	11 0,5%	1437 69,0%	2083	66	2149
life-time prev theft [7.1.17]	12 0,6%	608 29,2%	26 1,2%	1436 69,0%	2082	67	2149
life-time prev weapon [7.1.19]	28 1,3%	596 28,6%	38 1,8%	1420 68,2%	2082	67	2149
life-time prev gfight [7.1.21]	65 3,1%	568 27,3%	66 3,2%	1383 66,4%	2082	67	2149
life-time prev assault [7.1.23]	14 0,7%	625 30,0%	9 0,4%	1434 68,9%	2082	67	2149
life-time prev ill.downld [7.1.25]	182 8,7%	464 22,3%	170 8,2%	1266 60,8%	2082	67	2149
life-time prev drugd. [7.1.27]	8 0,4%	624 30,0%	10 0,5%	1439 69,1%	2081	68	2149
life-time prev animal cr. [7.1.29]	34 1,6%	590 28,4%	44 2,1%	1413 67,9%	2081	68	2149
life-time prev alcohol [8.1.1]	334 16,1%	383 18,4%	250 12,0%	1112 53,5%	2079	70	2149
life-time prev hash [8.2.1]	27 1,3%	611 29,4%	22 1,1%	1417 68,2%	2077	72	2149
life-time prev relevin [8.3.1]	4 0,2%	628 30,3%	22 1,1%	1417 68,4%	2071	78	2149
life-time prev soft drugs [8.4.1]	7 0,3%	625 30,1%	7 0,3%	1437 69,2%	2076	73	2149
life-time prev hard drugs [8.5.1]	6 0,3%	624 30,1%	8 0,4%	1438 69,3%	2076	73	2149

Table 1

In terms of mutual impact between youth victimisation and their delinquent behaviour, earlier research does not confirm any significant connection. Therefore, according to Cops and Pleysier (2014., p. 368/370), the number of adolescents who have been both a victim and an offender is for most crimes the smallest group. Overall, most adolescents have not been either an offender or a victim. Using the data presentation structure from this research, Table 1 presents analysis results of the data collected in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the "punishments by parents" type of victimisation and variables referring to delinquent forms of behaviour. The most interesting column for us is the one showing how many students noted to have at the same time been victims of a selected type of victimisation and carried out any of the prohibited behaviours themselves ("Both victim and offender" column). Therefore, it is evident that only alcohol consumption is presented at a level exceeding 10% of the total population of students who noted to have been physically punished by their parents at some point. The range of 5% to 10% of students who noted to have been victims of a selected type of victimisation includes illegal internet downloads (8.2%) and graffiti writing (7.1%), and the 2% to 5% range includes group fights (3.2%), vandalism (2.3%), and animal cruelty (2.1%). It is also shown that, com-

pared to the number of students who stated that they had committed these offences but they had not been victims of parental punishment, there are no significant differences. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no sufficient evidence to confirm the assumption that the children who have been physically punished by their parents occur more frequently as delinquents than “delinquent children” who stated they had not been subjects of this type of victimisation. Compared to the results of analyses carried out by Cops and Pleysier, we have observed that the most frequent forms of delinquent behaviour preceded by some type of victimisation include vandalism (18.6%), theft (18.5%), and physical violence (4.8%). Possession of weapons (3.3%) and harassment (3.3%) are significantly less present types of behaviour corresponding to victimisation experience according to this analysis (Cops & Pleysier, 2014., p. 370). Delinquent forms of behaviour significantly less present with reference to victimisation experience are possession of weapons, theft and theft from stores, consumption of marijuana or releveline, and other forms of delinquent behaviour included in this research are present less than 1% in correspondence with punishments by parents.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of analyses of the selected data, presented in two previous chapters, provide numerous findings which could be useful in planning and programming of measures and actions of all social actors responsible for the matters of unacceptable and eventually delinquent behaviour. The first part presents indicators with reference to the analysis of family situation of the students, with a special emphasis on elements of parental control as an important segment in correcting unwelcome behaviour of children and youth. To this extent, we have seen that, notwithstanding frequent information in mass media on the problem of a significant number of quantitatively deficient families, our research shows that a large majority (more than 92%) of the respondents answered they lived in a complete family. Also, contrary to frequent information in the media, answers of the surveyed children show that they spend a lot of time with their parents, from whom they feel they receive substantial support in daily challenges they face. This is also confirmed in answers to the question on frequency of joint family meals, in which in our country has evidently retained numerous traditional patterns of behaviour, and a joint meal is certainly one of these. Although a certain number of the surveyed students (around 11%) states to have joint meals with the family less than three times, we still believe that the answers show a significant potential of homogenous families in our community, which could have an even more important role in the prevention of unacceptable forms of behaviour with a more substantial wider social encouragement.

The next set of questions was focused on the measurement of effects of various elements of parental control and general parental involvement in daily lives of the surveyed student population. The first group of variables examined the extent to which the parents know where and with whom their children spend time outside their homes or school, and the answers show that more than three fourths of the students confirm that the parents are familiar with these circumstances completely or frequently. An indecisive answer (“sometimes”) was provided by approximately every tenth student, and negative answers were provided by less than 5% of the sample, which indicates that there is a high degree of parental control of primary behaviour patterns of the students during their free time in the community.

Answers to the next set of questions regarding more detailed elements of social control indicate that there are certain behaviours in daily life in which the parents do not have the same degree of control as in the previous series of variables. Therefore, for the variables of “parents tell me when to come back home” and “I must call my parents if I am coming home late”, it is evident that answers are very similar as to the previous group of questions. There are a lot of positive answers, which is not the case with answers to the questions on whether the parents check “homework” or “age limit for films I watch”. Namely, almost half of the students gave negative or indecisive answers to these questions, which tells us it is obvious that the parents put a lot less pressure on the children in these matters. In itself, this result does not have to indicate larger problems. However, taking into account that these are highly sensitive matters (success in school and impact of mass media), we believe they should be given more attention in educational programmes, since a lack of parental care in these spheres of life can have more damaging consequences both on behaviour and on general upbringing of children.

An attempt has been made to use the final group of questions to learn more about additional circumstances of daily lives of adolescents. Compared to the variables of “I tell my parents who I am with” and “I tell my parents where I am”, it could be said that the answers are not much different than the answers to previous questions, which had a higher percent of positive answers, but the same cannot be concluded for the answers to questions “I tell my parents how I have spent money” and “I tell my parents what I am doing”. To be more specific, a negative or indecisive answer to the question about spending was provided by every fifth respondent, and the same answers to the question on their activities outside are provided by almost every third respondent. Based on the presented results for these questions, it can be concluded that the parents should put more energy into building more trust to minimise the number of circumstances in the lives of students which remain unknown to their parents, and which are certainly regarded as having a significant importance both in upbringing and in everyday situations in which the children find themselves.

The other segment in the presentation of research results referred to the analysis of data on frequencies of self-reported forms of delinquency and types of victimisation confirmed with reference to the incidence in the past twelve months or overall prevalence in life. In terms of scope and frequency, the delinquent forms of behaviour can evidently be classified into three categories, up to 1%, up to 10%, and more than 10%. Therefore, the most frequent types of self-reported delinquency include alcohol consumption, illegal internet downloads, and graffiti writing as a form of destroying or damaging private or public property. The category of behaviour occurring within the range of up to 10% includes group fights, vandalism, animal cruelty, possession of weapons, theft from stores, consumption of marijuana, theft, extortion, physical injury, and theft from cars. The lowest frequency occurrence includes drug trafficking, consumption of hard and soft drugs, robbery, and car or bicycle theft. The most prominent findings refer to the fact that offences against property are present to a relatively low degree compared to other forms, which differs significantly from the indicators of officially registered juvenile delinquency dominated by committed offences against property. In addition, it is evident that the most frequent forms of delinquent behaviour are directed primarily against general and collective property (public property, animals, copyrights), then against general public order and peace (group fights and possession of weapons), and against personal values (physical integrity). It is well known that these forms of unlawful behaviour are very rarely or not at

all present in official statistical reports, which means they might be for the most part a segment of dark figure of crime in our community. The results on self-reported forms of delinquent behaviour unambiguously indicate that a number of these offences, although they are very serious offences both by actions and their consequences, remain unreported, which certainly has far-reaching negative consequences both on witnesses of such offences and on the offenders. We believe that more important and active steps must be taken in the domain of registration and first response, because this overall policy of response to delinquent behaviours remains unimplemented and therefore very uncertain, which significantly undermines the overall rule of law in the community.

In the category of surveyed types of victimisation, the most frequently repeated, both in the last year and in life in general, are physical punishment by parents, theft, and harassment using information and communication technologies. This finding is particularly interesting, since in the previous research segments we have obtained the data indicating rather good relationships between children and parents. We could not obtain evidence for this finding even in additional cross-reference analysis of these variables, since statistical importance is not presented with the students who expressed a negative position towards their parents and their relationship and those who stated that parents were punishing them. We can only attempt to assume and understand the presented result with reference to the fact that unfortunately physical punishment in our community is still regarded as a normal part of growing-up and upbringing, which certainly does not mean that more attention should not be paid to this matter in the future. Physical injuries, robberies, hate offences and psychological harassment by the parents are presented in the range of 3% to 8% of the total sample, which is certainly not insignificant, since these are still harmful behaviours to which more or less every tenth child is exposed, or in the context of school not less than one child from the same class. This finding is also important for taking into consideration in special programmes of prevention and suppression of unacceptable behaviours among the population of school children.

Finally, by cross-referencing the variable on physical punishment of students by their parents with delinquent forms of behaviour, we have obtained indicators showing a certain degree of mutual impact of this type of victimisation on some forms of unacceptable and prohibited behaviour. In this regard, the analysis results show that three such forms are pointed out according to the presented correspondence values, alcohol consumption, illegal internet downloads, and graffiti writing. These forms of behaviour occur within frequencies from every tenth to every twentieth child, who have confirmed to have been physically punished by their parents on one or more occasions. Approximately, every thirtieth or every fiftieth child who has had a victimisation experience is involved in group fights, vandalism and animal cruelty. With other forms of delinquent behaviour, correspondences are present to far lower degrees. Therefore, we can conclude that, besides some presented positive values in cross-referencing of data, we believe there is still not enough evidence to confirm firmly the assumption that there are more statistical differences between the children who have been physically punished by their parents, and who are delinquents, and the children who have not had such victimisation experiences and who confirmed their experiences with delinquency by "self-reporting".

REFERENCES

- Batenburg-Eddes, T. v., Butte, D., Looij-Jensen, P., Sciethart, W., Raat, H., Wart, F., & Jansen, W. (2012). Measuring juvenile delinquency: How do self-reports compare with official police statistics? *European Journal of Criminology*(9), str. 23-37.
- Budimlić, M. (2008). Prevalencija nasilničkog ponašanja među djecom i adolescentima u Bosni i Hercegovini- studija samoprijavljivanja (ISR2-BiH). *Kriminalističke teme, Časopis za kriminalistiku, kriminologiju i sigurnosne studije*(1-2), str. 189-201.
- Budimlić, M., Maljević, A., & Muratbegović, E. (2010). Bosnia and Herzegovina - Chapter 24. U *Juvenile Delinquency in Europe and Beyond* (str. 341-358). New York: Springer.
- Cops, D., & Pleysier, S. (2014.). Usual suspects, ideal victims and vice versa: The relationship between youth offending and victimization and mediating influence of risky lifestyles. *European Journal of Criminology*(3), str. 361-378.
- Galloway, T. A., & Skardhamar, T. (2010). Does parental income matter for onset offending? *European Journal of Criminology*, str. 424-441.
- Ignjatović, Đ. (2005). *Kriminologija* (šesto ed.). Beograd: Službeni glasnik.
- Junger-Tas, J., Haen Marshall, I., Enzmann, D., Killias, M., Stekete, M., & Gruszczynska, B. (2010). History and Design of the ISR2 Studies - Chapter 1. U *Juvenile Delinquency in Europe and Beyond* (str. 1-12). New York: Springer.
- Maljević, A., ŠućurJanjetović, V., Budimlić, M., Jović, N., Miodragović, B., & Vujović, S. (2017.). *Međunarodna studija o samoprijavljenom prijestupništvu djece u Bosni i Hercegovini - Izvještaj za stručne radnike u oblasti zaštite djece*. (E. Muratbegović, Ur.) Sarajevo: Centar za istraživanje politike suprotstavljanja kriminalitetu.