





# The understanding and action of the speech therapist in the face of family violence against children and adolescents



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The close relationship established with the patient and the permanence in a private space, without the presence of the responsible people, makes the phonoaudiologist's follow-up be propitious to identify possible victims of violence.

#### **2 OBJECTIVE**

Analyze the knowledge and action of the speech therapist in the face of family violence against children and adolescents.

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

Cross-sectional study, carried out by sending questionnaires to 4,297 speech therapists registered in the Regional Council of Speech Therapy, 3rd region, Paraná and Santa Catarina. CREFONO 3 itself sent the questionnaire, by email to the professionals, on March 12, 2021, which remained open for responses for two months. The instrument was structured on the google forms platform, accompanied by a summary explanation and the TCLE. The data collected were and reviewed using Bardin's Content Analysis. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee with document no. 34894720.6.0000.8040.

## **4 RESULTS**

75 speech therapists participated in the research, of these, 39 (52%) attended children and/or adolescents with suspected or confirmed situations of violence. Children between 2 and 12 years old were the most affected by violence. Psychological (41.3%) and physical (38.7%) violence were the most cited.





Delayed language development, reported by 44.6% of the speech therapists, was the most commonly found speech alteration in the victims. The crossings with statistical significance showed that the presence of speech symptoms occurred in 79% of the victims of psychological violence, 74% of the victims of physical violence, 68% of the victims of sexual violence, and 49% of the victims of neglect or abandonment. Regarding the aggressor, there was a prevalence of speech therapy symptoms in 74% of the victims abused by the father, 56% abused by the mother.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The speech therapist's knowledge about family violence against children and adolescents is focused on the typology of violence, ways of identifying situations of violence, as well as procedures for welcoming and referring the victim. About the action of the speech therapist in cases of violence against children and adolescents, it was verified that it occurs through notification, conversation with family members, referrals and/or contact with other professionals.