

Original Research

Relationship Between Childhood Maltreatment With Levels of Depression On Street Children in Surabaya

Een Permata Sari¹, Izzatul Fithriyah² , Lilik Djuari³ , Dhira Salsabila⁴

¹Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

²Department of Psychiatric, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

³Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

⁴Faculty of Medicine, Nantong Medical University, Nantong, China

Abstract

Submitted : October 25, 2023
Revised : October 30, 2023
Accepted : December 31, 2023
Published : May 1, 2024

You are free to:

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.



Correspondence Author:

Email: izzatul-fithriyah@fk.unair.ac.id

Introductions: Childhood maltreatment is any form of violence or neglect that occurs against children under the age of 18. Street children are a group that is vulnerable to violence because their activities, for which they spend a lot of time on the streets, make it easier for them to experience violence from both adults and fellow students. One of the impacts can cause mental health disorders, one of which is depression. **Objective:** Analyze the relationship between childhood maltreatment and levels of depression in street children in Surabaya. **Methods:** A cross-sectional analytical study was conducted on 43 street children from Surabaya City, East Java, Indonesia. Subjects were selected through two stages, namely using the Children's Depression Inventory (CDI) and the International Child Abuse Screening Tool for Children (ICAST-C) to assess depression and childhood maltreatment. Data analysis using chi-square. **Results:** The results of the study showed that of the 43 respondents, 18 children experienced childhood maltreatment and 31 children experienced moderate depression. The results of the analysis of the relationship between childhood maltreatment and depression levels showed a p-value of 0.481. **Conclusion:** Childhood maltreatment is not related to the level of depression in street children in Surabaya.

Keywords: Mental health, Childhood maltreatment, Depression, Street Children

Cite this as: Sari. E. P., Fithriyah. I., et al. "Relationship Between Childhood Maltreatment With Levels of Depression On Street Children in Surabaya". *Jurnal Psikiatri Surabaya*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp.55-62, 2024. doi: [10.20473/jps.v13i1.50946](https://doi.org/10.20473/jps.v13i1.50946)

Introductions

Childhood maltreatment is any form of violence or abuse committed by adults against children under 18 years of age, including physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence, physical neglect, and emotional neglect [1, 2]. Street children are the group that most often experiences violence or abuse [3–5]. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of street children entering adolescence. This phase is a transition period involving changes in biological, psychological, and social aspects. There are three stages of adolescence, namely 10–13 years (early), 14–16 years (middle), and 17–19 years (late) [6]. According to Riau University research conducted in 2003 in the city of Pekanbaru, the age group of street children (10–11 years old) was 23.81%, 12–14 years old was 49.52%, 15–16 years old was 22.86%, and 17–18 years old was 9.52% [7]. They tend to be more vulnerable to violence or abuse because of their activities outside the home and a lack of supervision from parents or guardians.

The World Health Organization stated on June 8, 2020, that almost three out of four children aged 2–4 years often experience physical punishment and psychological violence at the hands of parents or guardians, and 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys report having experienced sexual abuse as children -child [8]. Every year, it is estimated that 40,150 cases of deaths due to homicide in children under the age of 18 are reported, some of which may be caused by child abuse [4, 9, 10]. In India, street children aged between 10 and 18 work on the streets. Of the children, 61.8% reported moderate violence, and 36% reported severe to very severe conditions. Physical and psychological abuse, whether on the street or at home, are the most common forms of abuse [11]. Throughout 2021, the SIMFONI PPA system in Indonesia committed at least 25,210 acts of violence, according to Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (KPPPA). Victims

based on the 0–5 year age group were 7.5%, 6–12 year olds were 17.5%, and those aged 13–17 years were 31.4%. The ratio of child victims of violence in East Java is 1,347 cases. The Ministry of Social Affairs recorded at least 8,937 cases involving street children throughout 2017 [12]. In a 2017 *Republika* article, the Director of Child Social Rehabilitation, Nahar, revealed cases affecting street children, including 2,117 cases of sexual abuse, 1,244 cases of theft, and 1,115 cases of abuse., rape, 1,108 cases, of child neglect, 989 cases, and severe depression, 32 cases [13].

The impact of childhood maltreatment can appear in the short and long term [14, 15]. Physically, someone can have physical disabilities, learning disabilities, substance abuse, and so on. Psychologically, those who experience childhood abuse may behave mischievously, withdraw, and experience emotional problems, resulting in difficulty developing and maintaining relationships [16]. Experiencing physical abuse as a child had a 4,813-fold relative risk of triggering Bipolar Spectrum Disorder [17]. Some of the general impacts of violence against children can result in various mental disorders, such as being susceptible to experiencing depressive disorders as adults [18]. Mental disorders in the form of mental disorders can lead to something more serious, such as suicide, if not treated properly [19]. The problems that street children often experience are physical health problems, psychological problems and social problems [20, 21]. Street children often face problems related to physical, psychological and social health [22]. They experience a variety of complex traumatic experiences, including a life full of challenges, interpersonal and non-interpersonal trauma, increasingly severe neglect, difficult living conditions, both psychological and physical abuse (repeated beatings and injuries), sexual abuse (rape and pedophilia), community and social violence, political violence, and natural disasters or trauma experienced by street chil-

dren [23]. Sexual harassment and abuse can not only be carried out by adults, but also by minors. The perpetrator could be anyone, someone the victim doesn't know or someone close to or trusted by the victim [24]. Street children who experience trauma tend to suffer from mental illnesses, including depression, despair, and even suicide. However, some street children demonstrate self-efficacy in overcoming their traumatic experiences [25]. Comprehensive reviews show that street children experience high levels of hopelessness and vulnerability to depressive symptoms. Due to their inability to find decent work, street children face depression, harassment, insecurity, and other challenges while living on the streets [26]. Because not much research has been conducted in Indonesia regarding childhood maltreatment and levels of depression in street children, researchers are interested in examining the level of childhood abuse and levels of depression in street children in Surabaya, especially among children assisted by Kampung Anak Negeri and Save Street Child Surabaya. In that area, no research has been conducted before.

Methods

This research uses an observational analytical method with a cross-sectional design to analyze the relationship between childhood maltreatment and levels of depression in street children in Surabaya. This research was conducted at Kampung Anak Negeri and Save Street Child in Surabaya. The design and protocol were approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga (Number: 243/

EC/KEPK/FKUA/2022). The population studied was 43 samples of street children from Kampung Anak Negeri and Save Street Child Surabaya aged 10–17 years.

The instrument to determine childhood maltreatment in street children in Surabaya uses the ICAST-C questionnaire regarding a person's personality experiences with daily experiences which are translated into [27]. The instrument to determine the level of depression uses the CDI questionnaire which has been developed by Kovasc regarding depression in children aged 7-17 years. The assessment used in this questionnaire was adopted from Fitria Yuristika Indra Rukmana's research entitled "Factors that influence depression in children aged 10-13 years with obesity in Depok sub-district, Sleman, Yogyakarta" [28]. The questionnaire has been tested for validity and reliability. In Cronbach Alpha reliability testing, it was obtained at 0.860 and was declared reliable. This research was carried out in Kampung Anak Negeri and Save Street Child Surabaya. The analysis technique for the relationship between childhood maltreatment and the level of depression in street children in Surabaya was the Chi-square test using the SPSS 26 application.

Results

This research was conducted in December 2022 at Save Street Child Surabaya and Kampung Anak Negeri. All respondents involved 43 street children who met the inclusion criteria, including willing to fill out a questionnaire, street children aged 10-17 years, and able to read and write.

Table 1. Characteristics of Street Children in Surabaya

Characteristics	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Respondent	43	100%
Gender		
Man	25	58.1%
Woman	18	41.9%

Characteristics	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age (years)		
10	4	9.3%
11	6	14.0%
12	8	18.6%
13	7	16.3%
14	7	16.3%
15	5	11.6%
16	5	11.6%
17	1	2.3%
Education		
Elementary school	18	41.9%
Junior high school	18	41.9%
Senior high school	7	16.3%

Table 1 above shows that the age of most respondents was 12 years old, with 8 children (18.6%). The largest gender was male, namely 25 children (58.1%). With the most education, namely elementary and middle school, 18 children (41.9%).

Table 2. Relationship Between Childhood Maltreatment and Levels of Depression in Surabaya

		Depression				Total	p Value	
		Not depressed		Moderate Depression				
		N	%	N	%	N	%	
Childhood maltreatment	No	8	32	17	68	25	100	0.481
	Yes	4	22.2	14	77.8	18	100	

Table 2 above shows that 14 (77.8%) children with depression experienced childhood maltreatment. There was no relationship between childhood maltreatment and depression levels in Surabaya ($p = 0.481$).

Discussions

Research in Vellore on 80 street children revealed that 94% of children had experienced one or more forms of violence from other children or adults [29]. The Ministry of Social Affairs recorded at least 8,937 cases of violence against street children throughout 2017. The impact of childhood abuse can appear in the short and long term.

It is possible that street children experience more than one act of violence, which can result in trauma experienced in childhood becoming psychological wounds that last into adulthood. For example, sexual harassment, bullying or violence committed by adults will leave traces of childhood trauma and can have an impact on the child's future in adulthood [30]. As of July 2020, Kemente-

rian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak KPPPA) stated that there were more than 3,200 elementary to high school children in 34 provinces in Indonesia experiencing symptoms that lead to mild to severe depressive disorders. Most of these 93% of depressive symptoms are experienced by children aged 14-18 years, while the other 7% are aged 10-13 years [12].

In testing the hypothesis of this research using the Chi-square test, the p value = 0.481, which means there is no relationship between childhood maltreatment and the level of depression of street children in Surabaya. This means that childhood maltreatment is not the only main factor that determines the incidence of depression in street children. However, the prevalence of childhood maltreatment is quite high among street children, namely 18 children, almost half of the total respondents in this study. Likewise, the level of depression in this study was also quite high, with a prevalence of moderate depression of 31 children. Even though there is no relationship between the two, most of the depression experienced by respondents in this study could also be caused by other factors, such as genetic factors, biological factors and psychosocial factors. Street children under the care of Save Street Child and Kampung Anak Negeri who do not live with their parents or may face other possibilities, such as divorced parents, parents who are victims of domestic violence, or parents who have a history of mental disorders. The psychological stress conditions experienced by the mother will affect the child's emotions and behavior [31]. Children can feel a lack of love and attention from parents or other family members. Supportive parents make teenagers see themselves as valuable and competent, this has been proven to be related to teenagers' psychological functioning [32]. A mother with a good quality of life often has good physical, mental, social and emotional health. A mother's healthy physical and psychological condition can give rise to feelings of happiness for the mother [33].

With all kinds of limitations faced by street children, including socio-economic differences compared to children in general, who can get better facilities and health. According to the American Academy of Family Physicians depression is caused by Biological and genetic factors include a family history of depression, being female, hormonal changes during puberty, a history of low birth weight, pregnancy under the age of 18, chronic medical illnesses (diabetes mellitus, asthma, migraines), obesity, and other disorders. Sleep [34]. Psychosocial factors that occur in a teenager can arise from the family, problems with peers, and someone's death [35]. Even though the results obtained state that there is no relationship between childhood maltreatment and the onset of depression in street children, this does not mean that these results are not meaningful because it does not rule out the possibility that future research with a larger number of samples and a longer period of time will obtain different results.

Conclusions

There are 18 street children in Surabaya who have experienced childhood maltreatment, most of whom have moderate levels of depression. From the chi square test, it is known that $p = 0.481$. Even though the results obtained state that there is no relationship between childhood maltreatment and the onset of depression in street children, this does not mean that these results are not meaningful because it does not rule out the possibility that future research with a larger number of samples and a longer time will obtain different results.

Conflict of interests

State the Conflict of interest

Acknowledgments

Not declared

Fundings

The authors has no funding

References

- [1] C. Bödicker, J. Reinckens, M. Höfler, and J. Hoyer, “Is Childhood Maltreatment Associated with Body Image Disturbances in Adulthood? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” *J Child Adolesc Trauma*, vol. 15, no. 3, 2022, doi: [10.1007/s40653-021-00379-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-00379-5).
- [2] C. Bureau. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, “Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect,” *Child Welfare Information Gateway*, no. April, 2019.
- [3] D. P. Bernstein et al., “Development and validation of a brief screening version of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire,” *Child Abuse Negl*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 169–190, 2003, doi: [10.1016/S0145-2134\(02\)00541-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(02)00541-0).
- [4] K. M. Anderson, I. Bergenfeld, Y. F. Cheong, T. H. Minh, and K. M. Yount, “Childhood maltreatment class and sexually violent behavior among university men in Vietnam,” *SSM Popul Health*, vol. 18, 2022, doi: [10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101103](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101103).
- [5] R. Anshori, A. D. Silalahi, T. Rachkutho, and R. I’tishom, “Pengetahuan Menghindari Kebosanan dan Stres Selama Pembelajaran Daring,” *Jurnal Kreativitas Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat (PKM)*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2022, doi: [10.33024/jkpm.v5i2.5781](https://doi.org/10.33024/jkpm.v5i2.5781).
- [6] UNICEF, “Adolescent Development: Perspectives and Frameworks,” *Adolescent Development: Perspectives and Frameworks - A Discussion Paper*.
- [7] Yoserizal, “Profil Anak Jalanan,” *Repository Unri*. Accessed: Jul. 14, 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://repository.unri.ac.id/bitstream/handle/123456789/9128/BAB%204.%20PROFIL%20ANAK%20JALANAN.78590RYGWYGH443-7.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y>
- [8] WHO, “Child maltreatment,” *World Health Organization*. Accessed: Jun. 18, 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment>
- [9] A. Wan et al., “Childhood Maltreatment and Psychiatric Comorbidity in Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Disorders,” *Psychosom Med*, vol. 84, no. 1, 2022, doi: [10.1097/PSY.0000000000001025](https://doi.org/10.1097/PSY.0000000000001025).
- [10] M. K. Shahab, J. A. de Ridder, P. Spinhoven, B. W. J. H. Penninx, D. O. Mook-Kanamori, and B. M. Elzinga, “A tangled start: The link between childhood maltreatment, psychopathology, and relationships in adulthood,” *Child Abuse Negl*, vol. 121, 2021, doi: [10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105228](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105228).
- [11] M. Mathur, P. Rathore, and M. Mathur, “Incidence, type and intensity of abuse in street children in India,” *Child Abuse Negl*, vol. 33, no. 12, pp. 907–913, 2009, doi: [10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.01.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.01.003).
- [12] KPPPA, “SIMFONI PPA (Sistem Informasi Online Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak),” *Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak Republik Indonesia*. Accessed: Jun. 18, 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://kekerasan.kemenpppa.go.id/ringkasan>
- [13] *Republika*, “Ini Kasus-Kasus yang Didalami Anak Jalanan,” *Republika Online*. Accessed: Jul. 02, 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://www.republika.co.id>
- [14] M. Miftahussurur, “Multidisciplinary Research in Medicine Science during COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Gaceta Medica de Caracas*, vol. 129. 2021.
- [15] V. Schønning, B. Sivertsen, M. Hysing, A. Dovran, and K. G. Askeland, “Childhood maltreatment and sleep in children and adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis,” *Sleep Medicine Reviews*, vol. 63. 2022. doi: [10.1016/j.smrv.2022.101617](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smrv.2022.101617).
- [16] C. Bureau. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, “Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect,” *Child Welfare Information Gateway*, no. April, 2019.
- [17] I. Shofie Marwati et al., “Gangguan Spektrum Bipolar Pada Mahasiswa di Universitas Airlangga (Studi Komparatif Pre-

velensi dan Faktor Risiko),” *Care: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Kesehatan*, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 466–479, 2021.

[18] J. M. Hussey, J. J. Chang, and J. B. Kotch, “Child maltreatment in the United States: Prevalence, risk factors, and adolescent health consequences,” *Pediatrics*, vol. 118, no. 3, pp. 933–942, 2006, doi: [10.1542/peds.2005-2452](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2005-2452).

[19] K. N. Salsabila, K. Khairina, and L. Djuari, “Profile of Chronic Mental Disorder Patients with or without Suicide Ideation in the Psychiatric Ward of Dr. Soetomo General Hospital, Surabaya,” *JUXTA: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Kedokteran Universitas Airlangga*, vol. 12, no. 2, p. 48, Aug. 2021, doi: [10.20473/juxta.v12i22021.48-53](https://doi.org/10.20473/juxta.v12i22021.48-53).

[20] L. Pulkki-Råback et al., “Parental psychological problems were associated with higher screen time and the use of mature-rated media in children,” *Acta Paediatrica, International Journal of Paediatrics*, vol. 111, no. 4, 2022, doi: [10.1111/apa.16253](https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.16253).

[21] Q. Jiang, C. Zhang, X. Duan, and S. Pei, “A Social Intervention Approach to Rehabilitate the Health Psychology of Left-behind Children with Psychological Problems in Healthcare Settings,” *International Journal of Mental Health Promotion*, vol. 24, no. 3, 2022, doi: [10.32604/ijmhp.2022.017787](https://doi.org/10.32604/ijmhp.2022.017787).

[22] M. Zarra-Nezhad, J. Viljaranta, N. Sajanemi, K. Aunola, and M. K. Lerkkanen, “The impact of children’s socioemotional development on parenting styles: the moderating effect of social withdrawal,” *Early Child Dev Care*, vol. 192, no. 7, 2022, doi: [10.1080/03004430.2020.1835879](https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2020.1835879).

[23] S. Haydar, “Literacy Drive and Rehabilitation of the street children of Kolkata: An analytical study,” 2017.

[24] V. N. Pradanita, Y. Setiawati, and S. Yuniar, “Communicating using storytelling method to children experienced sexual abuse and harassment,” *COUNS-EDU: The International Journal of Counseling and Education*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 55–62, Jan. 2022, doi: [10.23916/0020210633620](https://doi.org/10.23916/0020210633620).

[25] Dr. Zulfendri, A. Mardiana Lubis, I.

Mardhiyah Syahri, and U. Salmah, “Health Problems of Street Children in the Medan Amplas Station,” 2018, doi: [10.2991/icosop-17.2018.72](https://doi.org/10.2991/icosop-17.2018.72).

[26] A. H. Az Zam zami and E. M. Ros-sa, “Literature Review: Masalah Kesehatan Anak Jalanan,” *Jurnal Kesehatan*, vol. 12, no. 3, p. 479, 2021, doi: [10.26630/jk.v12i3.1993](https://doi.org/10.26630/jk.v12i3.1993).

[27] M. Dhamayanti, A. D. Rachmawati, N. Arisanti, E. P. Setiawati, V. K. Rusmi, and N. Sekarwana, “Validitas dan Reliabilitas Kuesioner Skrining Kekerasan terhadap Anak ‘ICAST-C’ versi Bahasa Indonesia,” *Jurnal Keperawatan Padjadjaran*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2018, doi: [10.24198/jkp.v5i3.650](https://doi.org/10.24198/jkp.v5i3.650).

[28] F. Rukmana, “Faktor-faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Depresi Pada Anak Usia 10-13 Tahun Dengan Obesitas di Kecamatan Depok, Sleman, Yogyakarta,” Universitas Islam Indonesia Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, 2018.

[29] Miles Mathew B. Huberman dan A. Michael, “Analisis Data Kualitatif: Buku Sumber Tentang Metode Baru, Terj. Tcetecep Rohendi Rohidi Mulyanto,” 2018.

[30] J. S. Kim, M. J. Jin, W. Jung, S. W. Hahn, and S. H. Lee, “Rumination as a mediator between childhood trauma and adulthood depression/anxiety in non-clinical participants,” *Front Psychol*, vol. 8, no. SEP, 2017, doi: [10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01597](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01597).

[31] M. Helaina, C. Waluyo, I. Fithriyah, Budi Utomo, and Y. Setiawati, “Journal of Medical and Health Studies The Correlation between Mother’s Psychological Stress and Emotional and Behavioral Problems of Elementary School Age Children,” 2022, doi: [10.32996/jmhs](https://doi.org/10.32996/jmhs).

[32] Y. Setiawati, “Depression in Adolescents with Graves,” *Journal of Clinical and Cultural Psychiatry*, Sep. 2023, doi: [10.36444/jccp.v4i1.41](https://doi.org/10.36444/jccp.v4i1.41).

[33] A. Syafi’urrochmah, I. Fithriyah, Dr. Atika, and Y. Setiawati, “Concerns on Maternal Quality of Life Through Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Turmoil During COVID-19 Pandemic,” *International Journal of Research Publications*,

vol. 116, no. 1, Dec. 2022, doi: [10.47119/ijrp1001161120234422](https://doi.org/10.47119/ijrp1001161120234422).

[34] American Psychiatric Association, “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder Fifth Edition (DSM-5),” American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC, 2013.

[35] P. W. D. A. Winayaka, “Prevalensi Stres Psikososial Dan Faktor - Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Pada Siswa – Siswi Kelas XII Studi Pendidikan IPA Dan IPS SMAN 6 Denpasar,” *Stres Psikososial*, vol. 3, pp. 1–12, 2014.