

# Assessment of psychopathology in Portuguese referred children: preliminary psychometric data with the ASEBA battery

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## Introduction

The validation of instruments to specific populations is relevant to health psychology, since a well-structured assessment allows the design of enhanced interventions (Ivanova, 2007). In mental health services, children and adolescents should be understood as being involved in many contexts, dealing with different people, so it's necessary to know how do they develop in many dimensions (Zeanah, 2000). It is estimated that 10 to 20% of children in school age have some emotional or behavioral problem, (Mash, & Dozier, 2002), therefore an assessment that is based in the report of multiple informants will provide more information about the problem (Achenbach, Krukowski, & Ivanova, 2005).

## Goals

The present study aims to validate the Portuguese version of the ASEBA battery (Achenbach, 2001). In this poster, preliminary results on the CBCL 6-18, TRF, and YSR, in referred population, are presented.

## Method

### Sample

314 clinically referred children/adolescents, aged between 6 and 18 years old (M=11; DP=3,05). 57,7% are male, 44,6% are the eldest child and only 29,4% never received any kind of intervention from mental health services. 56,3% of the fathers and 52,8% of the mothers belong to a low SES group.

### Instruments

- Sociodemographic questionnaire;
- Diagnostic questionnaire;
- *Child Behavior Checklist* (CBCL; Achenbach, 2001; Portuguese version: Gonçalves, Dias, & Machado, 2007);
- *Teacher Report Form* (TRF; Achenbach, 2001; Portuguese version: Gonçalves, Dias, & Machado, 2007);
- *Youth Self Report* (YSR; Achenbach, 2001; Portuguese version: Gonçalves, Dias, & Machado, 2007).

## Results

### Internal consistency

	Cronbach's $\alpha$				
	Mother	Father	Teacher	Adolescent	
CBCL	Internalizing	.846	.863	-	-
	Externalizing	.910	.887	-	-
	Total Score	.933	.933	-	-
TRF	Internalizing	-	-	.869	-
	Externalizing	-	-	.913	-
	Total Score	-	-	.961	-
YSR	Internalizing	-	-	-	.875
	Externalizing	-	-	-	.888
	Total Score	-	-	-	.939

### Gender differences

	N	Mean	S.D.	t	p	
Internalizing – CBCL mother	Male	139	15,97	8,46	-2,26	.025
	Female	84	18,80	9,96		
Externalizing – CBCL mother	Male	139	17,59	10,19	2,70	.008
	Female	84	13,68	10,99		
Total score – CBCL mother	Male	139	59,34	26,05	1,17	0,24
	Female	84	54,85	30,23		
Internalizing – cbcl father	Male	97	13,31	7,74	-0,65	0,520
	Female	64	14,16	8,73		
Externalizing – CBCL father	Male	97	13,84	9,18	2,69	.008
	Female	64	9,90	8,88		
Total score – CBCL father	Male	97	49,72	23,48	1,93	0,056
	Female	64	42,05	26,56		
Internalizing – TRF	Male	61	10,84	7,33	-0,22	0,830
	Female	33	11,18	7,58		
Externalizing – TRF	Male	60	14,93	13,43	5,64	.000
	Female	33	3,97	5,05		
Total score – TRF	Male	61	54,43	31,43	5,02	.000
	Female	33	28,24	19,09		
Internalizing – YSR	Male	54	14,80	8,66	-3,29	.001
	Female	39	20,82	8,81		
Externalizing – YSR	Male	54	15,54	9,33	1,11	0,271
	Female	39	13,46	8,32		
Total score – YSR	Male	54	74,41	26,01	-0,78	0,438
	Female	39	78,56	24,50		

## Discussion

- In line with previous studies, all the scales are psychometrically robust, regarding internal consistency (Rescorla, Achenbach, Ivanova, Dumenci, Almqvist, Bilenberg, Bird, *et al.* 2007).

- Higher scores of externalizing problems in males and internalizing problems in females were also reported in different studies (Achenbach, & Rescorla, 2001; Gresham & Kern, 2004).