

How poverty is defined in research papers about neurodevelopmental disorders in childhood? Preliminary data from a systematic review

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Thematic importance: The main topic of this submission refers to poverty and child development. Some decades ago, the poverty literature established that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. This advance was essential for understanding what dimensions are required to achieve people's goals and well-being. Furthermore, multidimensional poverty allows the development of better public policies. Despite the benefits, this still seems to be not applied in some research fields. **Introduction and objectives:** Poverty is a toxic stressor for child development. The literature shows that poverty is commonly related to delays in diagnosis, barriers to access psychological and pharmacological treatments, and many other negative outcomes. Nowadays, it is well established that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. However, we hypothesize that the poverty approach most chosen by researchers is unidimensional (personal or household income) and it is measured by poverty lines. If this is the case, poverty and its effects on mental health could be underestimated. Our hypothesis is based on the poverty research field that no longer sees poverty as only low income. Furthermore, the literature says that the multidimensionality of poverty is especially true for children. This research aims to present a literature review about how poverty is defined in high-quality research papers about neurodevelopmental disorders in childhood. This work is part of an ongoing systematic literature review submitted for record publication on PROSPERO (ID: 310841). **Method:** This systematic review was conducted according to Prisma Systematic Review Protocol guidelines. Scopus and Web of Science indexers were selected to collect peer-review articles in English published between 2013 and 2021 about Poverty and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. We have extracted from the DSM-5 Classification section, in Neurodevelopmental Disorders, twenty-seven keywords to combine with the "poverty" keyword. Studies will be screened to exclude: (1) non-English full-text; (2) articles published in journals with SJR Quartile < Q1; (3) theoretical or systematic reviews. Data were independently extracted and assessed by two researchers. **Query data results and next steps:** The crude query found a total of 327 articles. One hundred sixty-one unique articles were extracted after preliminary filter criteria. Subsequently, articles in journals with SJR Quartile < Q1 were excluded (n=37). A full-text analysis of the remaining 124 articles is being performed. Studies will be coded regarding the presented poverty dimensions and participants' profiles (age, sex, and country). **Preliminary results:** So far, the initial review data indicates that, in most articles, income is a frequently used dimension to describe poverty. These early results are consistent with our initial hypothesis. **Preliminary conclusion:** The poverty literature established that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. However, this approach is still not the most frequently used. In this case, many

fundamental dimensions to understand poverty in childhood (e.g., bodily integrity and safety; care; social inclusion; freedom from economic and non-economic exploitation; shelter and environment; personal autonomy; mobility; and others) should be included. Therefore, we suggest the development of a new research agenda that includes multidimensional poverty and its effects on neurodevelopmental disorders in childhood.