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**Experiences of Victimization and Psychoactive Substance Use among Offenders: A
Systematic Review**

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Abstract

The victimization of offenders who use psychoactive substances is an increasingly present phenomenon in today's societies. As such, there is a great need for studies at both the preventive and intervention levels. The aim of this systematic review is to gather existing information in the area of victimization of offenders, namely of psychoactive substance users. Studies published in all languages were searched on three databases: PubMed, Web of Science, and EBSCO. This search yielded a total of 342 articles, of which ten were included, after a reading and selection process. In addition, one more study was included through a manual search. Overall, it was found that victimization is significantly associated with substance abuse. Specifically, the greater and more frequently the consumption occurs, the greater the probability of individuals being victims, whether or not in a violent manner.

Keywords: victimization, offenders, drug addiction, substance abuse, deviant behavior

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Experiences of Victimization and Psychoactive Substance Use among Offenders: A Systematic Review

The victimization of offenders who use psychoactive substances is a phenomenon that is increasingly present in today's societies and which requires further study at both the preventive and intervention levels. Unlike alcohol, which has been extensively studied in the context of victimization, illicit drugs have been underrepresented in empirical studies. Thus, there is a great need to investigate substance use by both the offender and the victim, with the purpose of developing measures capable of reducing the number of victims in these contexts (Nunes & Sani, 2015).

Indeed, substance addiction is linked to other problems, such as deviant behavior and victimization. The latter has not been explored as expected, since the existing victimization surveys do not determine the role that substances play in these occurrences (Nunes & Sani, 2014). The study of victimization is not very common, and there is an evident exploration of the phenomena in separate and distinct ways, although it is known that the investigation of criminal phenomena is inseparable from the study of victims (Almeida, 2011). On the one hand, psychoactive substance users emerge as individuals who victimize others, and, on the other hand, they are often victims of crimes themselves. First, because of the relationship between substance use and violence, which in itself contributes to a greater stigmatization of this population. Second, because the individual is in a weakened state after substance use, maximizing their exposure to victimization. Therefore, substance abusers are in a position of great vulnerability, both because of their lifestyle and what it entails (Nunes & Sani, 2015).

The literature has shown that substance addicted individuals have a risky lifestyle and exhibit certain behaviors that contribute to their victimization. It was found that, due to their

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behavior, mental state and interpersonal style, these individuals can put themselves in vulnerable positions that potentiate the occurrence of crime (Nunes & Sani, 2015).

There are several risk factors associated with deviant behavior and psychoactive substance use. For example, certain personality traits or other individual aspects can potentiate a set of provocative manifestations that facilitate their own victimization, perpetrated by others who have the opportunity provided by the environment in which victims and offenders are inserted (Nunes et al., 2017). Other risk factors, such as the family environment, must also be taken into account and pertain to factors related to a family history of psychoactive substance use, delinquency, exposure to inappropriate educational practices, poor supervision, and neglect (Loeber & Farrington, 2000).

However, the factors above can also increase the individual's victimization, because they do not have the proper supervision, or because they are exposed to inappropriate family behavior (Nunes et al., 2017). Furthermore, peer groups and social contexts can also moderate the relationship between victimization and aggression, increasing the risk of each other (Almeida, 2011). In addition, past experiences or influences and individual personality characteristics must also be considered (Nunes & Sani, 2013).

Victimization experiences have an impact on several levels, particularly on the individual's self-efficacy, trust, and social relationships, and may generate feelings of anxiety, depression, and anger. Thus, attention cannot only be given to how integration into subcultures contributes to increased victimization, since there are other factors to consider (Nunes et al., 2017). For example, the experience of victimization has a destructuring nature, not only for those who experience it directly, but also for those who are indirectly in contact with it. These experiences are difficult to prevent and not at all enriching. Rather, they are a debilitating,

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destabilizing, and demoralizing phenomenon, with effects that can be manifested in the short or long term (Almeida, 2011). Overall, victims may feel confused, threatened, intimidated, frustrated, outraged and angry, and these states are driven by a sense of insecurity (Aucoin & Beauchamp, 2004).

Psychoactive substance users tends to have a lifestyle marked by exposure to risk, and interact in contexts of high conflict, antisocial behavior, and crime (Nunes & Sani, 2015). Individuals who commit delinquent acts and who are simultaneously psychoactive substance users can end up becoming victims for various reasons, such as those related to their physical appearance, behaviors that are often confrontational and offensive, or weaknesses that arise as a result of states of intoxication and certain lifestyles. In addition, even after overcoming the state of intoxication, they rarely remember the details of the occurrence (Nunes & Sani, 2015). According to some authors (e.g., Begle et al., 2011; Chang et al., 2003), the behaviors that occur in this type of environment provide greater risk of victimization, especially engaging in conflicts, participation in gangs, possession of drugs and weapons, and committing certain acts. The very manifestation of the withdrawal syndrome can put the individual in a situation of greater exposure to victimization (Nunes & Sani, 2015) and even a rupture with social norms.

In the study of this phenomenon, it is necessary to take into account certain approaches, some of which are classic and refer to the victim-offender relationship, revealing the complexity of this phenomenon, where the same individual can alternately play the role of victim and offender, a phenomenon of bidirectionality, in which both parties are simultaneously victims and offenders, and the behavior of one influences the behavior of the other, which can cause the violence to escalate (Slootmaeckers & Migerode, 2018). Within this context, one of the deviant figures this can apply to is the drug-crime specialist who, observed through the eyes of the

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criminal, becomes an easier target to be a potential victim (Nunes et al., 2017).

Over the last few years, explanatory theories for this phenomenon have emerged. Some of the theories focus on self-control, postulating that all behaviors are motivated by the cost-benefit relationship, since deviant behavior is closely linked to the absence of self-control, and refers to a type of behavior that seeks to obtain maximum benefits in a short period of time. Thus, self-control is associated with future-oriented global functioning, which includes empathic ability, tolerance to frustration, a tendency toward intellectual pursuits, and a clear risk-avoidance attitude. Therefore, the less these characteristics are present, the less self-control the individual will exhibit (Nunes et al., 2017).

The drug-crime relationship has helped to find different models that seek to explain the deviant behavior associated with substance use. Among these models, we highlight the economic-compulsive model, the systemic model, and the deterministic models (Nunes & Sani, 2014). The first pertains to the crime committed by substance-addicted individuals, with the goal of obtaining financial means to acquire substances, and end up getting involved in criminal practices (MacCoun et al., 2003).

On the other hand, we can also interpret that the economic situation of psychoactive substance users can lead them to submit to realities that put them in a vulnerable position, and may be victimized. The second refers to the violence existing in illegal markets, as it is an aspect that enhances violent practices by users, who, when frequenting these contexts, are exposed to the forms of conflict resolution present in illegal markets. However, since the last century, it has been found that psychoactive substance users are not necessarily violent, even when involved in an environment where violence exists (Goldstein, 1985). Still regarding this model, among the factors that pertain to these violent markets are the young ages of participants who engage in

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transactions, mostly between the ages of 18 and 22, the high cost of substances and the consequences of consumption.

Lastly, according to deterministic perspectives, we highlight the psychopharmacological model that emphasizes the pharmacological effects of substances (Kuhns & Clodfelter, 2009; Nunes & Sani, 2014; White & Gorman, 2000). Among these studies on the phenomenon of victimization, there are still authors who have related it to the developmental state of substance use (Nunes & Sani, 2014).

It is clear that the various problems associated with substance use add complexity to the phenomenon of victimization and require that studies focus on the substance-addicted individual, either as an offender or as a victim. It is very important to start evaluating the victimization of these populations, always taking into account the role of substances and developing the victimization component in programs to assist substance-addicted individuals (Nunes & Silva, 2014).

Given the evidence that has been presented, it is urgent to start dealing with the experience of victimization of substance users, who can be offenders, but sometimes may also be victims of violence and crime. It is also important to consider the role of substances in the occurrence of crime, examining their influence on the behavior of the offender and possible victim (Nunes & Sani, 2014).

In conclusion, victimization is part of the lives of many individuals who are in constant contact with deviance, namely substance addiction (Nunes & Sani, 2014). However, this proves to be a difficult phenomenon to study, since the victim has no interest in seeking help, either because they are intoxicated, or because they know their status as a “victim” is confusing, since they are a victim, but often also an aggressor. Most victimization surveys do not emphasize the

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role of substances and do not specify the aspects in which substances may have been important for that occurrence (Nunes & Sani, 2014). Substance use is harmful to the physical and psychological health of the individual, making it difficult to achieve personal goals and the common good in society. Furthermore, crime can emerge as a propeller for substance use and exposure to possible victimization.

Method

This review included studies on the prevalence of victimization in offenders, namely psychoactive substance users, but including the general population, that is, people with some type of mental disorder were also included in the study. The victim-offender relationship refers to the alternative role between the victim and offender roles in the same individual.

Search Information

We searched for studies published in all languages, on three databases: PubMed, Web of Science, and EBSCO. This systematic review was developed according to the guidelines of the PRISMA protocol for this type of studies (Page et al., 2021).

Search Strategy

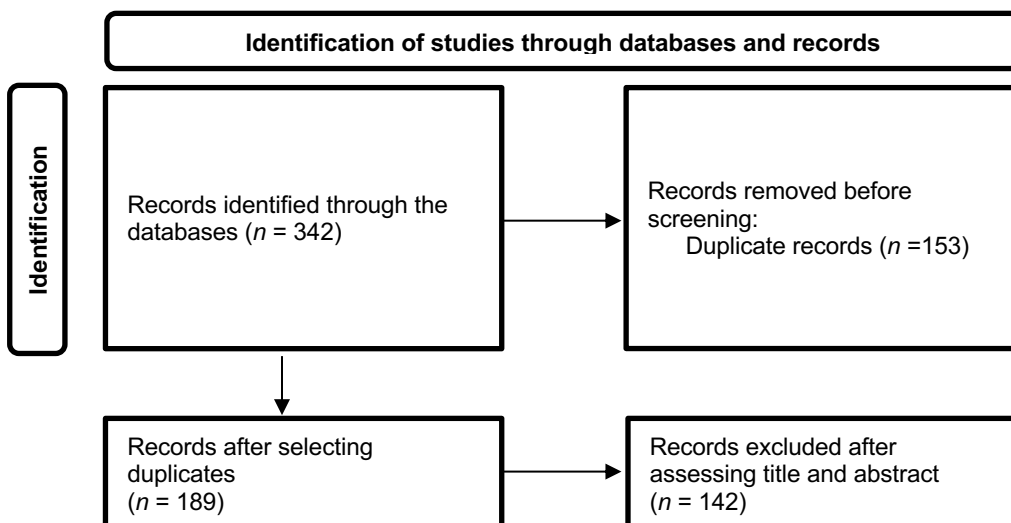
The search was conducted on three databases using the respective search terms indicated for each of the databases. On PubMed, the search term used was: ((offend*[Title/Abstract] OR crim*[Title/Abstract]) AND (“victimization”[Title/Abstract] OR “victimization”[Title/Abstract] OR bullying[Title/Abstract] OR harrassment[Title/Abstract])) AND (“drug abuse”[Title/Abstract] OR “substance abuse”[Title/Abstract] OR “drug addiction”[Title/Abstract] OR “substance addiction”[Title/Abstract]); na Web of Science: AB=(offend* OR crim*) AND AB=(“victimization” OR “victimization” OR bullying OR harrassment) AND AB=(“drug abuse” OR “substance abuse” OR “drug addiction” OR

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“substance addiction”); on EBSCO: AB (offend* OR crim*) AND AB (“victimization” OR “victimization” OR bullying OR harrassment) AND AB (“drug abuse” OR “substance abuse” OR “drug addiction” OR “substance addiction”).

Study Selection Criteria

The articles were assessed and selected according to established inclusion and exclusion criteria, always taking into consideration the objective of the study, which relates to verifying the prevalence of victimization in individuals who commit delinquent acts or offenders with problems of addiction to psychoactive substances. The inclusion criteria were: (a) empirical studies; (b) adults and young adults; (c) substance use and abuse; (d) deviant behavior; (e) involvement in criminal activities. To define the ages, we took into account the theory by Jeffrey Arnett, which has been useful for the understanding and conceptualization of developmental periods, defining young adults as between 18 and 25 years of age, and adults from the age of 25 onward (Monteiro et al., 2009). Exclusion criteria were: (a) theoretical studies and (b) systematic reviews and meta-analyses; and (c) book chapters.



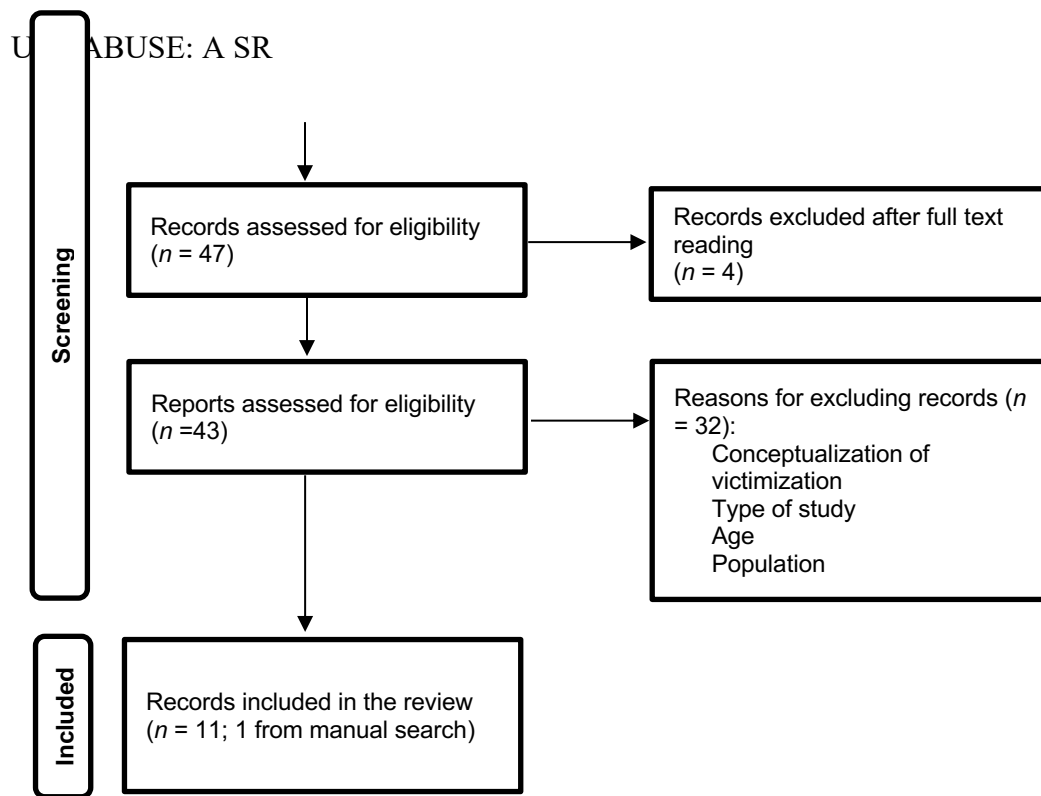


Figure 1. *Flowchart of the Systematic Review Process*

Figure 1 describes the selection process of the studies included in this review. In total, 342 articles were identified through the databases, which, after the screening process by reading the title, abstract and full text, lead to the inclusion of ten articles and one more through manual search. Literature reviews and theoretical studies were not included and most of the articles were excluded for reasons such as the lack of conceptualization of victimization, and because they did not fit the type of studies, age groups, or the type of population that were intended.

For the study, we selected samples of adults who have suffered some type of victimization, involving substance abuse, whether or not they have comorbidities with other diseases.

Results

Overall, it was found that victimization has a significant association with substance

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abuse, that is, the greater and more frequent the substance use, the greater the likelihood of individuals being victims, whether violently or not. Thus, the likelihood of being victims increases, especially when they are part of gangs. In addition, the same happens in individuals with comorbidity.

Among the selected studies, seven focused on victimization, relating it to the trajectory of deviant behavior, the relationship with the justice system, involvement in gangs, the type of work performed, such as sex workers, as well as with homicide (Crandall et al., 2004; Finn et al., 2015; Gueta & Chen, 2016; Katz et al., 2011; Nunes & Sani, 2014; Smith, 2017; Turanovic et al., 2015). Two other studies linked victimization to illnesses such as schizophrenia and psychosis (Chapple et al., 2004; Dolan et al., 2012). Other studies focused on negative childhood experiences and adult victimization (Doherty et al., 2018; Esévez & Emler, 2011). It is important to mention that all these studies associated victimization with the abuse of psychoactive substances.

One of the studies evaluating the Incidence Rate Ratio (IRR) showed a strong correlation between victimization, substance use and self-control by a factor of 1.06. This study showed that an increase in the low self-control scale increases the rate of violent victimization, and even when self-control is more modest (IRR= 1.05), it influences the probability of suffering victimization. This factor is completely in line with theoretical expectations, further conveying that other variables such as substance abuse (IRR = 1.18) and violent offense (IRR = 1.72) are significant predictors of violence (Turanovic et al., 2015).

Membership in gangs alone has also been shown to increase the likelihood of violent victimization, due to the lifestyle, routine activities and collective responsibilities. Thus, these findings support previous research, demonstrating a clear overlap between victim-offender,

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increasing the risk of victimization, especially when there is substance use within these groups (Katz et al., 2011).

A study that linked victimization and hospital visits with homicide showed that offenders tend to be male and younger, compared to victims (i.e., victims, 73.4%; offenders, 86.2%). However, this study proved that victims and offenders resorted to health care with the same frequency, either for problems associated with substance abuse (victims, 3.2%; offenders, 10.1%), or for the use of firearms (2.4%, victims; 8.7%, offenders). Similarly, a strong association was observed between previous firearm injuries or substance abuse and involvement in homicides (Crandall et al., 2004).

In other studies, on the same variables under analysis, the authors placed greater emphasis on women, their drug-crime relationship, and the victim-offender overlap (Gueta & Chen, 2016; Finn et al., 2015; Smith, 2017).

In one of these studies, 48.2% of women chose drug-crime trajectories, because they were abused during childhood, on average, at 9 years of age ($SD = 5.10$), some of whom suffered abuse more than once (82.6%). Overall, at age 14 ($SD = 5.30$) they had used drugs for the first time, and at age 23 ($SD = 8.10$) they were involved in crimes or even serving time in prison for drug-related crimes. In these cases, crack was mentioned as the main precursor of problems with justice and heroin as the drug they used the most (Smith, 2017).

In another study with female offenders, the participants chose the drug path due to the difficult lives they had and the “narrow options” they had throughout their lives. In this study, it was argued that, in order to analyze possible situations of victimization by substance use, life history and life situations should be taken into account, thus concluding that substance addiction is a factor that makes individuals vulnerable, putting them at risk of being victims of violence

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and crime (Gueta & Chen, 2016).

Another study with women linked victimization to their work in the sex industry. Thus, women who presented themselves as both victims and offenders and with substance abuse problems were more likely to be victims of crime. About 63% ($n = 24$) of them had already been arrested for crimes not exclusive to prostitution and, among these, 17 were arrested more than once, with drug-related crime being the most frequent motive. Furthermore, the same women who were arrested reported having been victims of blackmail by law enforcement officers, admitting that these officers demanded sex in exchange for tolerant treatment (20.8%; $n = 5$). Regarding the victim-offender overlap, most participants ($n = 22$; 59.9%) belonged to this group (Finn et al., 2015).

Of a total of 962 individuals with psychotic symptoms or disorders, 172 were victims of violence in the last 12 months (17.9%). In the data analysis, a significant association was found between victimization in the previous year and the predictor variables. For example, those who had been arrested in the last 12 months were 2.7 times more likely to be victimized, and people with lifetime substance abuse problems were 1.5 times more likely to be victimized, corroborating theoretical perspectives (Chapple et al., 2004).

Another study that focused on substance abuse and victimization in individuals with schizophrenia concluded that substance abuse was a major factor. Moderate and high values were found, which suggest substance use problems in the sample. In addition, these individuals showed scores suggestive of violent crime victimization, that is, substance users had already been victims of violent crimes and were more likely to be victims of violent crimes again. Regarding the presence of positive and negative symptoms of the disease, no high values were found, thus it did not emerge as an important factor in predicting victimization by violent crimes

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or offenses, compared to substance abuse (Dolan et al., 2012).

Finally, a study by Doherty et al. (2018) revealed that individuals with lower levels of childhood adversity are more likely to experience negative consequences of violent victimization than those with greater childhood adversity. About 41% of men and 30% of women used a substance between the ages of 32 and 42, including marijuana, cocaine and heroin. Close to 50% of men and 41.6% of women experienced victimization in adulthood. It was found that men who were victimized at least once, between the ages of 17 and 32, were 60% more likely to use illegal substances in middle age than non-victimized men, with women being twice as likely if they were victims. The final models reveal a statistically significant interaction between adversity and violent victimization. In addition, it was concluded that, if there is substance use after the victimization experience, there is a high probability of new victimization (Doherty et al., 2018).

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Table 1*Characteristics of the Studies*

| Study ID | Objectives | Sample | Country of origin | Language | Instruments | Results and main conclusions |
|------------------------|---|--|-------------------|----------|---|---|
| Crandall et al. (2004) | Identify factors that may precociously signal individuals at greater risk of future violence. | Mean ages 27.7; (80% men and 20% women); Homicide victims ($n=124$); Offenders ($n=138$). | USA | English | Number and type of visits to the Emergency Department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The offenders tended to be male and younger compared to the victims. - Victims and offenders were similarly reliant on health care for situations such as substance abuse or problems with firearms. - Likelihood of suffering homicide varied by sex, number of hospital visits, mental illness, and alcohol or drug abuse. |
| Chapple et al. (2004) | Examine victimization among people with psychosis and describe the clinical and demographic correlates of this victimization. | Ages between 18 and 64; $n=962$ individuals with psychosis, of which 172 were victims (17.9%). | Australia | English | Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) Psychosis Screening Test. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The rate of victimization in individuals with psychotic disorders is higher than that reported for the general population. - Associated with this risk factor are others such as being homeless, incarceration, and mainly problems related to substance abuse. |
| Doherty et al. (2018) | To analyze the interaction between early childhood adversities and violent victimization of young adults in substance use/abuse and violent offenses. | Collection in three different moments (ages 16, 32 and 42). Initial sample of 1242 individuals, then reduced to 700. | USA | English | Interviews and self-report measures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals with lower levels of childhood adversity are more likely to experience negative consequences of violent victimization than those with greater childhood adversity (“steel” effect). - Men victimized at least once were 60% more likely to use substances in middle age than non-victimized men, with women being twice more likely if they had been victims. - If there is substance use after the victimization experience, there is a high probability of new victimization. |
| Dolan et al. (2012) | Examine the nature of the relationship between | Between 18 and 65 years of age; $n=23$ | Australia | English | Interviews. Very Brief Psychosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drug abuse is an important factor in distinguishing between groups. |

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| | symptoms, substance abuse, and violent victimization. | victims of violent offense with schizophrenia, schizophreniform or schizoaffective disorder. | | | Treatment Scale (symptom subscales) Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST). | - Scores on substance abuse measures were predictors of victimization risk, but with a low level of correlation. |
|------------------------|--|---|--------|---------|---|---|
| Estévez & Emler (2011) | To analyze three risk factors for juvenile crime: engaging in antisocial behavior; having been a victim of crime and substance abuse. | N=4980 of the British 2005 Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS); Age group between 10 and 25, divided into two groups (10-16 and 17-25). | Spain | English | British 2005 Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) used to assess offending, antisocial behavior, victimization, alcohol and drug use. | - The substance abuse factor was the only one that presented a bidirectional and statistically significant relationship with the criminal act. - The highest coefficients were found between ages 17 and 25, where drug use was shown to have a direct influence on crime among men. |
| Finn et al. (2015) | Identify, from victimization reports, the demographic and behavioral overlap between female sex workers who present themselves in the justice system as simultaneously victims and offenders. | 38 Women between 22 and 50 years of age (Mean of 34.4 years). | USA | English | Semi-structured interviews with women who work or have worked in the sex industry, focusing on personal backgrounds such as experiences with others in the same industry. | - Existence of significant experiences of offense and victimization among female sex workers. - When they present themselves simultaneously as victims and offenders, they reveal serious problems with alcohol and other drugs. |
| Gueta & Chen (2016) | Examine women's accounts of their paths to substance abuse and crime to create a holistic understanding that links victimization and gender. | 11 Israeli inmates from the Neve-Tirza prison. | Israel | English | Semi-structured individual interview, to understand the individual's path to substance abuse and place in the criminal world. | - Women reported having their lives affected by freedom of choice, revealing they were not always able to choose the circumstances of their lives. |
| Katz et al. (2011) | Explore the factors that precipitate gang violence. Three hypotheses: (1) relationship between lifestyles and type of victimization; (2) violent crime and victimization and (3) the presence of | 990 Detainees who were interviewed for part of the Arizona Detention and Drug Abuse program (ADAM). | USA | English | Monitoring of drugs and drug use, treatment needs and risk behaviors among detainees at 35 sites across the USA. | - The results question the conclusion that gang membership alone increases the likelihood of violent victimization due to lifestyle, routine activities and collective responsibilities. |

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|-------------------------|--|--|----------|------------|--|---|
| | rival gangs and likelihood of victimization. | | | | | |
| Nunes & Sani (2014) | Propose an integrative approach to understanding the victimization of drug addicts by proposing the use of a victimization survey adjusted to the specific population. | Theoretical Models | Portugal | Portuguese | Questionnaire about Drug Addict Victimization. | - The assessment of victimization in specific populations such as this one must take into account the role of drugs, integrating them in the victimization component, and in the intervention or care programs for drug addicts. |
| Smith (2015) | Test whether female drug-abusing offenders have child victimization as a significant precursor to substance abuse and re-victimization. | 1209 Offending women who use substances. | USA | English | Interviews for information about drug use. | - Approximately 48.2% of women were abused during childhood, on average at age 9, and more than once. Consequently, they used substances for the first time at age 14. - By the age of 23, they had already been arrested, for the first time, due to substance use and involvement. |
| Turanovic et al. (2014) | Understand the general and specific processes that lead to victimization | <i>N</i> =90.000 students/ <i>n</i> =20.745 adolescents. Mean age at first data collection =15 years (11 to 19) second data collection = 22 years (18 to 26). | USA | English | NLSAH | - Negative correlation between violent victimization and levels of self-control. - Self-control as a significant mediator in the predisposition for victimization; - Association with other risk behaviors, such as offense, trafficking and drug use. |

Note. NLSAH: National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health Questionnaire.

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Discussion

The present systematic literature review aimed to understand the prevalence of victimization in individuals who commit delinquent acts, or offenders, and who were simultaneously psychoactive substances users. We reviewed studies published on three databases, EBSCO, PubMed, and Web of Science, by applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and a total of 11 studies were included.

In the association between substance addiction and victimization, it is worth highlighting the study of the potential risk that childhood victimization can cause for future involvement in substance use behaviors, often in early stages of life (Nunes & Sani, 2014). In fact, among the studies analyzed, it is evident that substance addiction is often preceded by victimization experiences that contribute and place individuals in vulnerable positions, putting them at risk of being victims of violence and crimes. In addition, both situations can mutually contribute to the persistence of substance addiction and victimization problems (Nunes & Sani, 2014).

Moreover, the overlap between victim-offender also contributes to victimization. For example, in the study by Crandall et al. (2004), the pattern of hospital visits helped to identify the risk of future violence. This pattern was consistent with most empirical studies, which suggest that individuals at higher risk of violent crime have a lifestyle that exposes them to violence, namely substance use. Furthermore, similar patterns in health care visits among individuals with overlapping victim-offender status revealed equal exposure to violence in this population (Crandall et al., 2004).

On the other hand, it is evident that substance abuse with comorbidity further increased the likelihood of victimization. It was found that the victimization rate in individuals with

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psychotic disorders is higher than in the general population, with associated substance abuse exponentially increasing this probability (Chapple et al., 2004).

Self-control was also associated with the risk of victimization, since it is related to different lifestyles, predicting violent victimization. In other words, when there are low levels of self-control, victimization is more likely to occur, especially when substance abuse is present (Turanovic et al., 2015). Therefore, involvement and belonging to gangs further increases the probability of victimization, as it is associated with high-risk lifestyles and routine activities (Katz et al., 2011).

Finally, there was evidence that victims and offenders are more likely to share demographics and behaviors, as shown by the overlapping victim-offender status (Finn et al., 2015).

This systematic review has some limitations. As with most systematic reviews, there is a risk of publication bias, since only studies published in identifiable sources were included, although no restrictions were made regarding time criteria. However, although victimization is concentrated in the beginning of life (childhood or adolescence), these studies fill in a gap on the impact of victimization throughout life. Specifically, when a violent victimization experience occurs, the likelihood of involvement in drugs increases, also increasing the likelihood of repeated adult victimization experiences (Doherty et al., 2018).

There is a need to develop victimization surveys designed especially for this type of population. Moreover, there is a need to assess substance-addicted individuals, including an analysis of possible victimization situations they may have experienced, with the aim of developing specific interventions to deal with previous victimization experiences. Lastly, there is

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an urgent need to address the role of drugs in the occurrence of crime, as well as address the role of previous victimization experiences, often in early stages, for future involvement in drugs.

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