








Adolescent Victims of Interpersonal Violence and high demand of services: Design Considerations for Group Interventions

Cristóbal Guerra, Universidad Santo Tomas
Edgardo Toro, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
Emily Taylor, The University of Edinburgh
Paula Lobos, NGO Paicabi
Cristian Pinto, Universidad de Tarapacá





Design Considerations for Group Interventions for Adolescent Victims of Interpersonal Violence in Chile

Cristóbal Guerra ^a, Edgardo Toro ^b, Emily P. Taylor ^c, Paula Lobos ^d,
and Cristián Pinto-Cortez ^e

^aEscuela de Psicología, Centro Cielo, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y Comunicaciones, Universidad Santo Tomás, Viña del Mar, Chile; ^bEscuela de Trabajo Social, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile; ^cSchool of Health in Social Science, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK; ^dCentro de Estudios en Infancia, Adolescencia y Familia, ONG Paicabi, Viña del Mar, Chile; ^eEscuela de Psicología y Filosofía, Universidad de Tarapacá, Arica, Chile

ABSTRACT

Whilst individual psychotherapy is effective in treating the consequences of interpersonal violence, the demand for care usually exceeds the capacity of healthcare systems. Group interventions allow access for more children and adolescents, but evidence of their effectiveness is still scarce. Our objective was to investigate the opinions of Chilean professionals on what should be considered when designing group psychotherapeutic interventions for adolescent. Participants were 85 psychologists and social workers who work with adolescents exposed to violence. Participants completed an online survey about their opinions regarding the issues that should be addressed in group interventions. Thematic analysis uncovered broad support for this type of group intervention as part of a larger intervention process. Participants suggested that initial phases of the intervention should be carried out in a group format, address general aspects of trauma and intervention, and highlight personal resources and aspects of normal life. The individual trauma narratives should be addressed later, in individual therapy. Participants proposed a balance between psychoeducation and experiential activities. The results support group interventions to allow a better use of professional resources to face high demand for treatment, but it should be part of an intervention in phases, taking care not to retraumatize group participants.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 16 September 2021
Revised 1 April 2022
Accepted 26 May 2022

KEYWORDS

Group Interventions;
adolescents; interpersonal
violence; psychotherapy;
intervention; trauma;
healthcare professionals;
Chile

Fondecyt Initiative 2021-2023

Evaluation of the effect of two modalities of group interventions (Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy based and Interpersonal Therapy based) on stabilization of psychosocial functioning in adolescents exposed to interpersonal trauma

ANID

PI Dr. Cristóbal Guerra

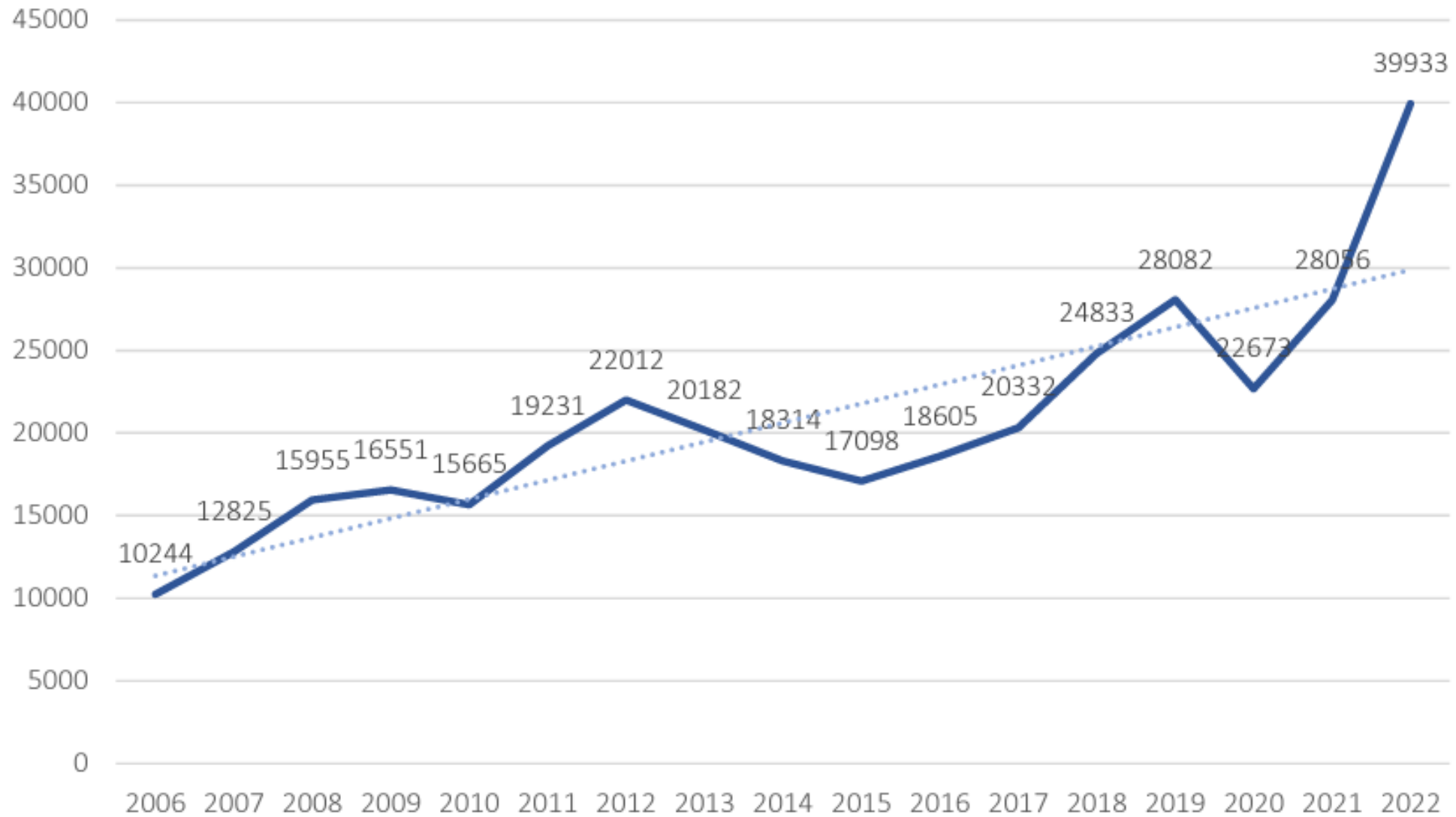


**United
Nations**

**UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence
Against Children**

- Data for 24 countries shows that sexual violence in childhood ranges from **8-31% for girls** and from **3-17% for boys**.
- Children are most likely to be **sexually abused by a person known to them**, usually an adult or older child who is a family member, relative, family friend or in a relationship of trust or authority
- Nearly **70m. images and videos of child sexual abuse** were reported to the US-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2019
- **94% of child sexual abuse material** found online by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) contains images of children aged **13 or under**
- **750,000 individuals** are estimated to be looking to connect with children across the globe for sexual purposes online at any one time

Child victims of sexual crimes and other serious crimes admitted to Public Minister between 2006 and 2022



Source: Fundación Amparo y Justicia, 2023

Effectiveness of group interventions



PROCEDURE



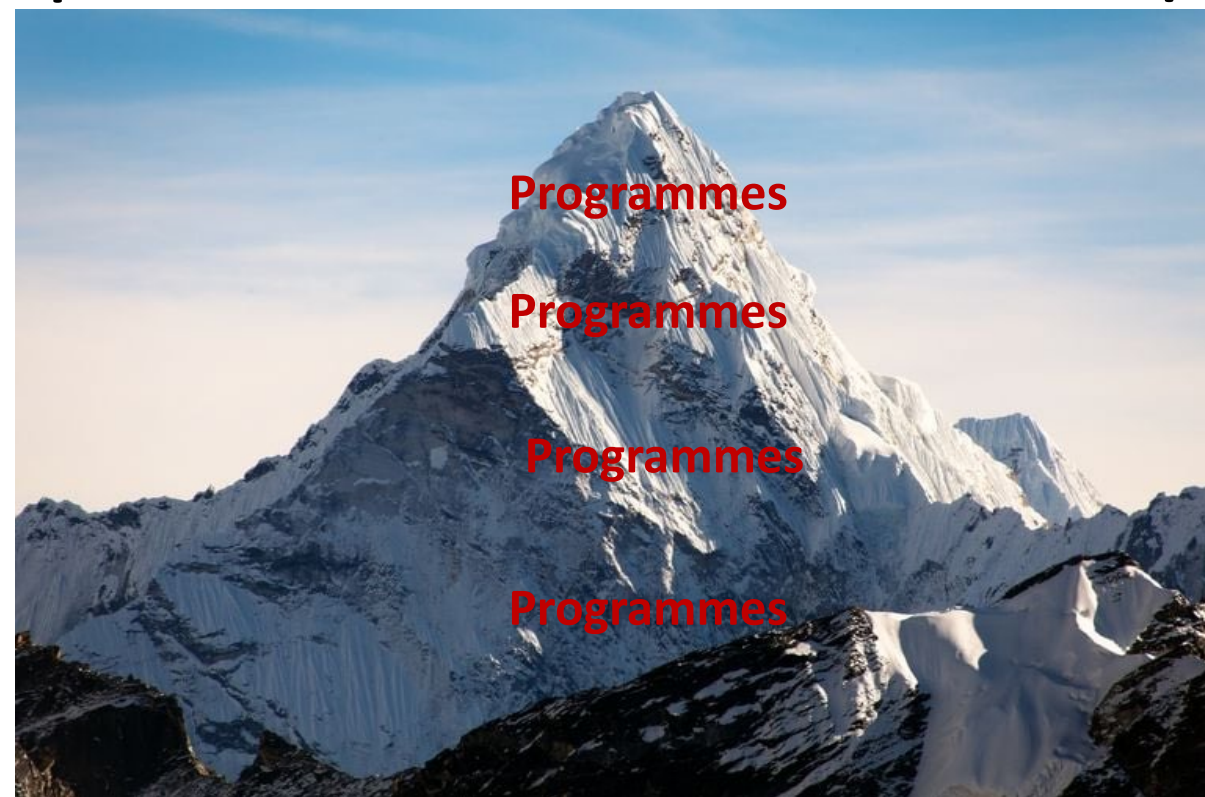
+ Complexity

Specialisation +

Source, Servicio Mejor Niñez Data 2022

Centres	Children	Waiting list
222	46.172	9.071 (20%)

Cultural relevance of interventions



- Complexity

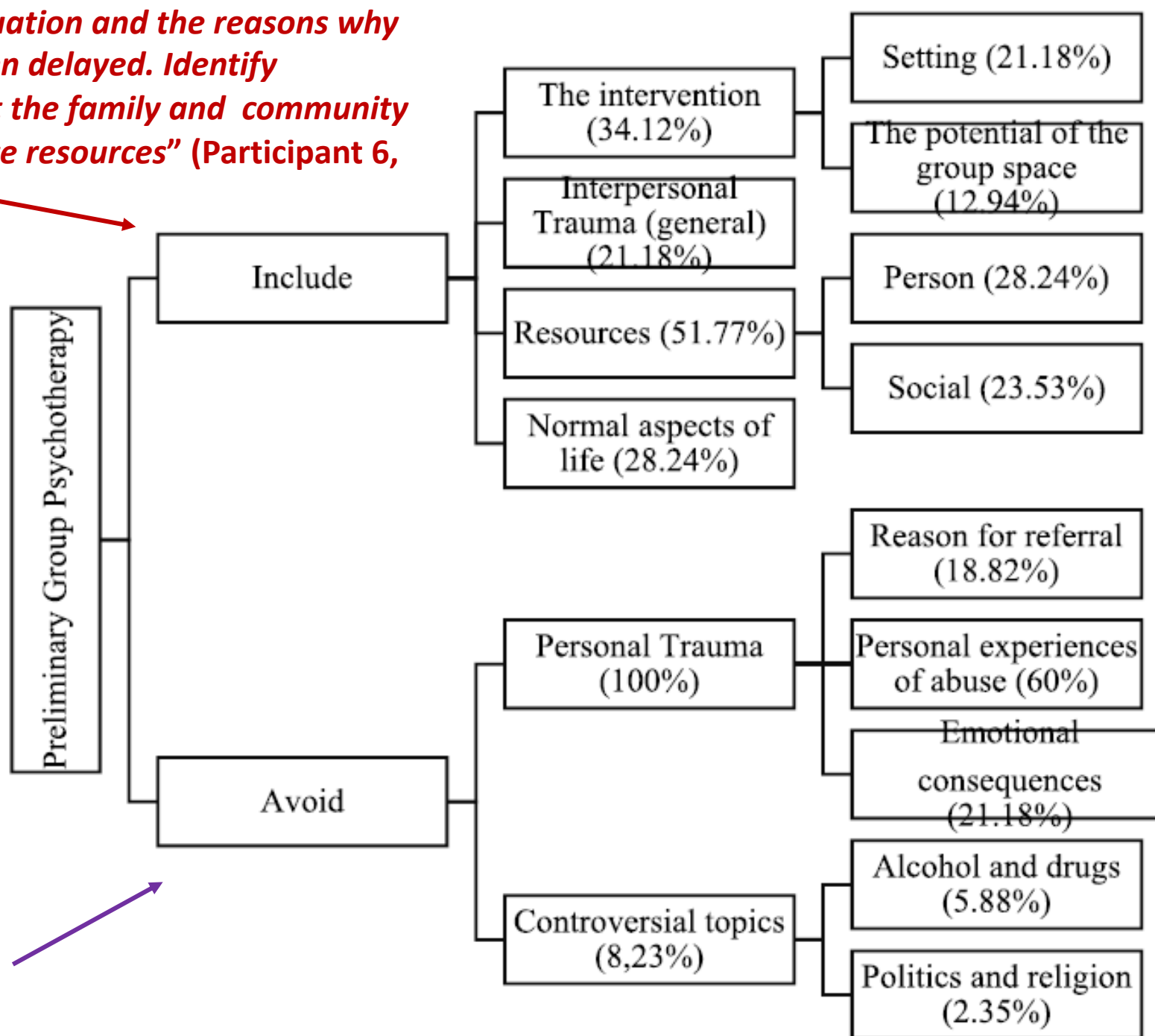
Specialisation -

Methodology

- Aim: Identify factors in designing/adapting group psychotherapeutic first phase interventions for youth exposed to IPV
- Design: online survey generating qualitative data
- Participants: N=85 Chilean professionals working in specialist centres
 - 75.3%F, 24.7%M
 - 56 psychologists (65.9%), 29 (34.1%) social workers
- Analysis: thematic analysis using Dedoose

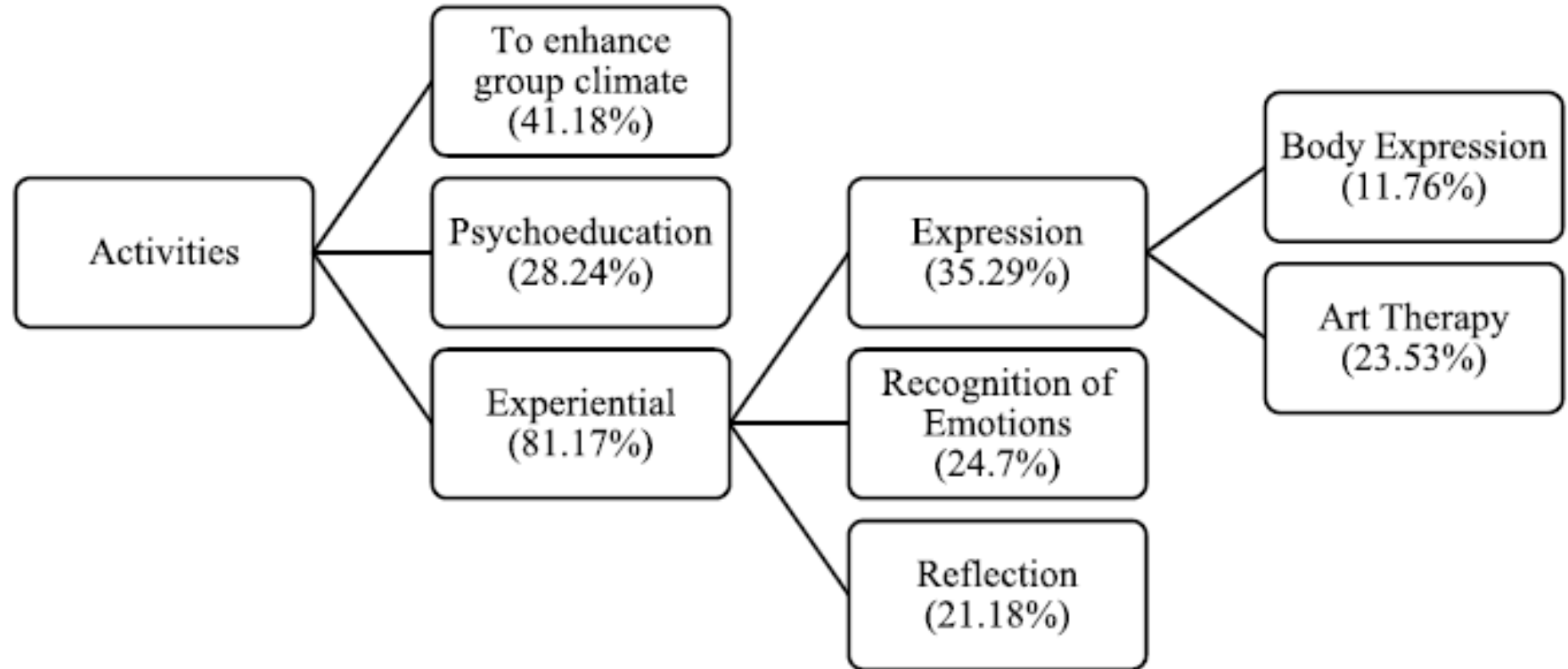
“identify the abusive situation and the reasons why abuse disclosure has been delayed. Identify safeguarding contexts at the family and community level. Recognise resilience resources” (Participant 6, Psychologist, Female).

Results



“Personal experiences of violation and trauma, focusing on topics of violation and abuse, which may cause them to feel exposed or uncomfortable, withdrawn and inhibited, even drop out of group intervention” (Participant 45, Psychologist, Female).

Results



**“Work with strategies that allow the young person to express themselves through drawing, acting, art”
(Participant 5, Social Worker, Female)**

**“ (avoid) highly structured activities that do not promote dialogue or opinion from the adolescents”
(Participant 73, Social Worker, Female).**



Discussion

- Group intervention recommendations
- Phase-based approaches
- The importance of collaboration
- Limitations

Thanks!
Any Questions?

