Adolescents’ Experiences of Self-Report Child Abuse Measures: Results from Romania and South Africa

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Research Questions

• What are adolescents’ views of the ICAST-C (ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool)?
• What are their cognitive processes involved in answering questions on violence?
• What are their broader experiences of answering questions on violence?
  • How does this vary across contexts?

Methods

• Participants fill in the ICAST-C → cognitive interviews and drawings are used.
• N = 17 adolescents in Iași and Cluj-Napoca, Romania and N = 20 adolescents in East London and King Williams Town, South Africa.
• Fieldwork was recently concluded in Metro Manila, Philippines as well.

Results

➢ “I liked it [the ICAST-C] because it gave me information about bad things that happen to children” (16yo, Male, Research-Exposed, South Africa)
➢ Additional information needed before sexual abuse questions in Romania to create acceptable transition; this was less relevant in South Africa.

➢ Recall periods are usually lifetime, and not past year, as the ICAST-C seeks to measure
➢ Perpetrator options require significant mental effort e.g. assessing and then picking among different options