

# 3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC POLICY SINGAPORE

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PANEL : SOCIAL COHESION, DIVERSITY AND PUBLIC POLICIES

**TITLE:**

YOUTH, SOCIAL VULNERABILITY AND VIOLENCE IN CAPE VERDE: FROM THE SOCIOECONOMIC  
CHARACTERIZATION TO THE CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC POLICIES

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## INTRODUCTION

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At the end of the yeas 1990s, capeverdeans have faced a higher level of violence and small crimes that are considered to be excessive, such evidences which indicate that those young people suffering from violence have a strong acquaintance with the social vulnerability in which they are placed in closing, by this way, to him or her some difficulty in accessing the structures of opportunities available in the fields of education, employment and health.

The present study takes as fact to characterizing the socioeconomic situations and the delinquent behaviors as evidenced by young cape Verdeans, to analyze their variability according to the sociodemographic characteristics and drawing attention to the government entities for the specific needs of young people in situations of economic precariousness and, consequently, victims of violence

## ISRD-3, IN CAP VERDE 2017



ISRD3 is a self-report instrument about juvenile delinquency and victimisation, developed to gather standardised and internationally comparable data on youth criminality, so that official data variations and subsequent gaps (resulting from different definitions of crime adopted by the judicial systems of several countries) can be filled

For this purpose, it was necessary to bring up data from the second collection phase of the international self-report delinquency study (isrd-3) by using the online questionnaire survey and the technique, in a classroom context, to which have participated a total of 2,166 students of both sexes, aged between 12 and 16, attending public secondary education in cape verde

## OBJETIVE

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Characterise anti-social behaviours and juvenile delinquencies evinced by cape Verdean adolescents and to analyse their variability according to sociodemographic characteristics end gain a more profound knowledge on cape Verdean juvenile delinquency, as well as to gather data on the quality of the instrument and the advantage of its usage as a tool to identify risk and protection factors.

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## METHODOLOGY

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**Sample.** The sample from this second *isrd-3* phase was constituted by 2.166 female and male students attending basic education (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and secondary education (7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grades), in cape verdean public schools. 1.174 (54.2%) participants were of female gender and 991 (45.8%) male. 267 (12.3%) attended 6<sup>th</sup> grade; 691 (32.3%) 7<sup>th</sup>; 543 (25.1%) 8<sup>th</sup>; 417 (19.3%) 9<sup>th</sup>; 235 (10.8%) 10<sup>th</sup> and 6 (0.3%) 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

The participants' age varies from 12 to 16 years old, with an average of 13.8 ( $dp = 1.3$ ;  $min. = 11$ ;  $max.=16$ ). out of the total of the sample, 898 (41.8%) are aged 11-13 years old and 1.268 (58.2%) 14-16 years old.

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**Table.** Psychometric indicators of *ISR*D-3 Scale Factors: results from Alfa Cronbach calculation (second *ISR*D-3 collection)

Indicators	Items	Alfa ( $\alpha$ )
(1) Socioeconomic (Poverty Awareness)	1.14	.480
(2) Parents' Binding	2.1	.585
(3) Parents' Supervision	2.3	.853
(4) Experiences related to school	3.1	.727
(5) Free time activities	5.6	.932
(6) Anti-social values	6.1	.962
(7) Social structure and cohesion of the residence neighbourhood	6.7	.942

- Comparing Alphas from this second survey with ( $\alpha$ ) from the previous conducted survey, in which the inquiry was filled in a paper format (2013-2014) and whose results identified the items corresponding to the indicators of derived factors, it is possible to verify that Alphas' values oscillate in an approximately adjacent way between the two surveys. Taking such into account, presented in table 20, the following factors are highlighted: poverty awareness (.480) and relationship with parents (.585).
- These are not associated with any of the remaining factors observed. Therefore, it is reasonable to mention that these factors seem to have no influence on any type of deviant behaviours perpetrated by the participants. On what concerns parents' supervision (.853) and experiences related to school (.727), there is a positive correlation, that is, the more parental supervision (0.288) the better experiences related to school (0.250).

## Results

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Results underline the relevance of characterising juvenile delinquency display indicators, both to understand it and to elaborate an efficient intervention plan regarding this phenomenon in Cape Verde.

Preliminary outcomes from the second collection phase seem to highlight relevant clues pointing out the need to create youth prevention programmes:

- (i) adolescents tend to get involved in disruptive free time activities, many of them possibly when getting together with other youngsters who reveal anti-social and delinquent behaviours;
  - (ii) younger teenagers disclose a higher probability of getting involved in anti-social behaviours;
  - (iii) youngsters tend to precociously consume/be addicted to alcohol, illegal drugs and other substances
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## Results

- ✓ The poorest young people are the ones who are more likely to have engaged in delinquent behaviour
- ✓ Young people who belong to more degraded residential districts (without educational resources and leisure activities) are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour



## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

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Special emphasis should be given to three guidelines that majorly contribute for warning institutions that deal with juvenile issues:

- (i) It is necessary to highlight surveys on juvenile specific needs when facing economic precariousness and, consequently, the implications and effects of public policies. In order for that to be accomplished, more research and surveys characterising socioeconomic situations and juvenile delinquent behaviours should be conducted.

It is important to draw the attention of governmental entities to the fact that adolescents facing economic precariousness reveal particular needs and are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour and to become victims of violence

- (ii) It is important to emphasise the establishment of prevention activities, essentially aimed to youngsters aged 12-13 years old, as this age is considered to promote the beginning of possible engagement in anti-social behaviours.

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- (iii) It is important to create projects and programmes that can privilege the involvement of adolescents in pro-social free time activities and potentiate their association with adjusted peers.

Such interventions will, not only, allow to decrease recidivism and delinquency rates, as well as to reduce economic and social costs related to the phenomenon of criminality.

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Thank you for your attention

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