

Effect of annual family income on perceived quality of life of parents of children with autism spectrum disorder in Quebec

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Introduction

In the scientific literature, several factors related to parent and child characteristics, or contextual factors are recognized as influencing the quality of life of parents of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Among others, annual family income is one of the important co-variables to consider in the relationship between perceived social support and quality of life of these parents. Cappe and colleagues (2012) report that the higher the family income, the less parents are burdened that their child's ASD interferes with their daily life and the more they have a better overall quality of life.



Objectives

The purpose of the study is to determine which income brackets influence three areas of parental quality of life, including their daily activities, social relationships, and overall quality of life.

Methods

The sample included 161 Quebec parents of children with ASD. Parents completed three questionnaires, including a family sociodemographic questionnaire, the perceived social support questionnaire, and the quality of life scale for parents of a child with ASD. Univariate analyses of variance (ANOVA) and post hoc analyses (Fisher LSD) were completed.

Results

The results show that an income greater than 38 664 EUR (50 000 CAN) decreases the impact of the ASD diagnosis on parents' activities of daily living. Furthermore, the higher the family income, the more the parents' social relationships are improved. Finally, as family income increases up to 77 329 EUR (100 000 CAN) mark is reached, the overall quality of life of the parents is improved.

References

Cappe, E., Wolff, M., Bobet, R. et Adrien, J.-L. (2012). Étude de la qualité de vie et des processus d'ajustement des parents d'un enfant ayant un trouble autistique ou un syndrome d'Asperger : effet de plusieurs variables socio-biographiques parentales et caractéristiques liées à l'enfant. *L'Évolution psychiatrique*, 77(2), 181-199.
Lampron, A., Poirier, N., et Cappe, E. (2022). Prédicteurs de la qualité de vie des parents d'enfants ayant un trouble du spectre de l'autisme. *Revue Science et comportement*, 32(3).

Conclusion

The results of the present study support those obtained by Cappe (2012). In summary, a general trend is observed whereas family income increases, the impact of the child's ASD diagnosis has less impact on the parents' quality of life. Further research is needed to determine the different sources of financial support that can be provided to these parents.

