

# TERROR OF CRIME IN MIGRANTS CONFINED BY COVID-19

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Public health, particularly mental health, are central axes of discussion around human and local development. In this sense, crime not only compromises civil security, but also affects the development of dementia in older adults. The present study aimed to demonstrate the reliability and validity of an instrument to establish a multidimensional construct of fear of crime and to discuss the leadership of the State in matters of citizen emotional well-being. A cross-sectional and correlational study was carried out with a non-probabilistic sample of 208 older adults. The results show that the risk perception and control factors they explain 63% of the variance compared to 37% of the variance that explained the attitude towards corruption, negligence and opacity of the authorities. The perception of control (0.81) was the preponderant indicator in the model of reflex dependency relations before  $s [\chi^2 = 14.12 (15 \text{ gl}) p < 0.000; GFI = 0.975; CFI = 0.970; RMSEA = 0.001]$ .*

**Keywords:** *Attitude, Fear of Crime, Perception of Control, Perception of Risk, Public Safety.*

## INTRODUCTION

The objective of this study is to contrast a conceptual theoretical model to establish the determinants of fear of crime in a sample of older adults with Alzheimer's who were victimized by delinquency and crime at some point in their lives. In the framework of public security, understood as a context of uncertainty and risk around which fear ( Alvarado and Davis, 2001) , valuation ( Bilen, Askym, Buyuklu, Okten, and Gur, 2013) , avoidance ( Cashmore, 2014) , coping ( Fiaz, 2012) and attitude ( Gómez, Gómez and Durán, 2013) are psychosocial factors that reflect levels of vulnerability ( Hughey, 2010) , faith ( Sutton and Hudson, 2013) , victimization ( Redondo and Frerich, 2014) , crime ( San Martín, 2013) , incivility and corruption ( Lorenc, Petticrew, Whitehead, Neary, Clayton, Wright, Thompson, Cummins, Sowden and Renton, 2012) , the study of the victims is established from their psychosocial and sociopolitical.

Thus, there are five determinants of fear of crime; 1) the victimization of crime, 2) the physical vulnerability prevalent in older adults, 3) the social vulnerability indicated by levels of schooling, income or unemployment , 4) the social disorder indicated by the index of marginalization and delinquency in the neighborhood and 5) social networks regarding the opinion of the police.

Therefore, the fear of crime is determined by an increase in social vulnerability focused on the elderly, a decrease in defense networks and reduced support from the reference group or membership. That is to say, to the extent that public policies, programs and institutional strategies focus on the process of defenselessness, they guide their study of the individual and ignore the social context around which the social representation of crime is built, self- concept victim to crime (Lorenc et to the, 2013;. Radda and Nnameziri, 2013).

The multidisciplinary study of the victims assumes the dependency relationships between factors: the social representation of the crime disseminated in the media; levels of deprivation and unemployment; the degrees of prejudice, anxiety and attitude towards authority; perceptions of disorder (vandalism, graffiti, drug addiction); cohesion (efficiency, networks,); perceptions of risk (incommensurability and unpredictability ) and the experience of victimization as determinants of fear of crime .

### *Change starts with language*

The automatic acceptance of the term victim in all professional areas, mainly in the law, has a negative effect on the person who is precisely victimized. This is due to the fact that it is necessary to ensure that whoever suffers some type of crime gets out of that pigeonhole; in other words, that this term is only of a transitory nature and not permanent, because of what victimology speaks, with all precision, of the use of the term: *person in the condition of victim* .

However, another term used by various actors is that of vulnerable groups, in view of this, it should be considered that no person *per se*; It is vulnerable , what happens in reality is that there is a third party that violates that person. As a result of this, one can begin to speak of *vulnerable groups*.

Similarly, it is necessary to emphasize that the designation: "*older adults*" is given by law, biological and also social.

By Mexican law, when determining that a person is considered an older adult after reaching 70 years of age.

In the biological at the time they assume that the cognitive and motor deteriorate from that age (which is not always true). Regarding the social, when the label of "older adult" is placed on him and he first gets used to it, then institutionalizes himself and finally begins to behave as society expects him.

### *Victims*

For almost more than two centuries, legislators have focused solely on the people who commit crimes and the people who are victims have been forgotten. In this sense, victimology is a young and autonomous science, which tries to change the fallacious vision that is glimpsed in the penal system, in which the victim is seen as a neutral, passive or static person; that is, the contribution of victimology is to provide an active subject approach to the victim, capable of contributing to order and balance the social system.

The above not only occurs in the legislation, it is also observed in the day to day, in everyday life. This is the case of television series or programs where there is interest or emotion to know how criminals live, how they operate, how they murder their victims, and so on. However, they rarely ask what happened to the injured person, what physical, social and psychological consequences it had, what are the stigmas that a person suffers after having suffered a criminal act, and so on. The truth is that the person as a victim is still little or nothing important.

The same happens in literature and in the cinema where most of the time only books and movies of serial assassins permeate which became famous for their actions, without asking us at the expense of who did it.

In this way, it is appreciated that the term of victim has changed over the years. In Mexico, for example, according to the General Law of Victims (2014) they are called:

“Direct victims those individuals who have suffered any economic, physical, mental, emotional damage or impairment or in general any endangerment or injury to their legal assets or rights as a result of the commission of a crime or violations of their recognized human rights in the Constitution and in the International Treaties to which the Mexican State is a Party”.

Likewise, it is necessary to remember that the victims may well be individual or collective; as long as their rights, interests or collective legal assets have been affected, as a result of the commission of a crime or violation of their rights (Ley General de Víctimas, 2014).

Within this category are indigenous groups, the disabled, the elderly, women, boys, girls, adolescents, migrants, etc.

In general, it is observed that the group of older adults receives less attention in terms of crime victims. However, despite the fact that this group tends to be less attacked by crime, if this occurs it causes greater physical and psychological damage, which over time tends to be more damaging. The main crimes suffered by an elderly person according to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI 2012). S on the robbery to house-room with violence, fraud, extortion and the dispossession of objects in the street with violence.

Although the figures released by INEGI are alarming, it is important to recognize that according to various statistics, the highest degree of violence perceived by an older adult comes from within the family environment. Thus, it is not surprising that it is not easy for this group to make a complaint of abuse against one of their family members or caregivers. In this sense, it is interesting to observe how the roles have changed; That is, previously violence was exerted by parents towards children, now violence is exerted by children towards parents.

It is known that the majority of older adults who have suffered crimes, mainly seek recognition and emotional support (both family and institutional), information about how to access justice in a prompt, effective and expeditious manner; assistance in medical and social services, personal safety if the case is brought to trial, having a voice throughout the process and finally receiving a comprehensive reparation.

Violence, abuse and mistreatment of older adults in Mexico is a problem that has increased in recent years. Special attention should be paid to this issue, because it cannot be forgotten that according to the National Population Council (CONAPO, 2012), by the year 2050 it is estimated that Mexico will be the country with the highest proportion of older adults in all of America. Latina, that is, 33.8 million people over 60 years old.

### ***Victimization***

According to the National Survey of Victimization and Perception of Public Safety (ENVIPE, 2014), in recent years crimes have increased. For 2011 there was a percentage of 30.4, for 2012 of 32.4 and for 2013 a 33.9%, where the main crimes are the following: theft of a vehicle, theft at home, robbery or assault on the street or transport public, fraud, extortion, verbal threats, injuries, kidnappings and crimes of a sexual nature.

It is important to point out that certain crimes, such as: drug trafficking, organized crime, and the trafficking of undocumented persons, are not susceptible to be measured in a victimization survey such as the one presented.

Now, the black figure according to ENVIPE (2014) only 9.9% of crimes are reported, of which 62.7% are carried out at the beginning of a preliminary investigation before the Public Ministry. Of the total crimes, a preliminary investigation is initiated in 6.2% of the cases.

The foregoing represents 93.8% of crimes where there is no complaint, or a preliminary investigation is not initiated. Where the main reasons for not reporting crimes to the corresponding authorities, by the victims, stand out the loss of time with 31.4% and mistrust in the authority with 21%.

Many of the people who are victimized, according to various studies, indicate that they do not go to the Public Ministry to report it, due to suffering mistreatment by the justice operators in charge of providing care; In other words, he now suffers from secondary victimization.

In the specific case of older adults, violence towards this type of person is, in a certain way, high. For example, in Mexico City, an average of 160 crimes a day are reported against this vulnerable sector of the population, according to figures from the General Directorate of Criminal Policy and Statistics of the Attorney General's Office of the Federal District (PGJDF, 2014).

The main types of violence that are detected in the PGJDF: segregation of the family group, dispossession of patrimonial actions, physical intimidation, emotional violence, In addition to this, it is considered that in a good number of cases, of these groups, they do not have access to health, they suffer poverty, exploitation and discrimination. Something extremely alarming is observed in the family and social fabric where there is no support for them; socially, they are seen as a burden, they are beaten, or even left on the street, and socially discrimination permeates, since these groups are denied public services.

There are no spaces for their recreation and the programs for their retirement are not worthy. The cumulative impact of the decision not to report in the case of older adults is much more complex than is presumed, since it must be understood that it is not easy to accuse a family member or caregiver who has wronged them.

In summary, the statistics presented are alarming, they are based only on numbers, devoid of faces, suffering, and stories. The only thing they provide is a sense of remoteness, which means that society does not feel committed to this problem.

### ***People victim***

On May 3, 2013, the General Law of Victims is published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, basically with the purpose of providing a response to the innumerable victims due to the crimes that occur in Mexico. to the broad and constant social claim on the reparation of the damage, which must be in charge of the State, as it is considered co-responsible for the conditions of violence that occur in society, and by not guaranteeing minimum conditions of well-being at a time of the national life in which there is the expansion of organized crime. Likewise, it is declared that both the State and society are responsible for crime prevention. In order to carry out this law efficiently, specific protection mechanisms are established for victims of the human rights violations.

It should be recognized that this law served to provide a period of relative tranquility to the country, especially considering the moments the country is going through in terms of security. However, three years after its promulgation, it has been an overly ambitious law that has not covered all the objectives proposed in it. Similarly, the creation of a General Victims Law, beyond the legal and juridical terms that are used, should not be presumed as an unblemished advance. Indeed, the law in question, although it may seem contradictory, should also be observed with concern, because this establishes the serious problem that Mexico is currently experiencing in terms of violence.

The truth is that there are inalienable rights that must be granted and applied to people who have suffered from a crime. Especially people older adults according to Law on the Rights of Persons Adult May Res (2010) right to:

- 1) Not be discriminated against because of their age, so the observance of their rights will be done without any distinction.
- 2) Enjoy the opportunities that facilitate the exercise of their rights under conditions of equality.
- 3) Receive in support of institutions, locally creates give to your attention regarding the exercise and respect for their rights.
- 4) Be protected and defended against all forms of exploitation and physical or mental abuse; therefore, your life must be free from violence.
- 5) receive the attention and protection they're wanting by the family and sociedad.
- 6) Maintain relationships with your family, if separated from her, unless that relationship affects the health and interests of the elderly.
- 7) Living in places safe, dignified and decorum, where they can meet their necessities and requirements.
- 8) To express its opinion freely and participate in the family and society as well as in all administrative and judicial proceedings affecting their persons or their family.
- 9) Provide health services.
- 10) Have education and work.

Now, according to Irvin Waller (2013), there are six essential rights that correspond to every person who is a victim of a crime: 1) Recognition of victims as people, 2) Access to information, 3) Receive psychological and medical care and social, 4) Comprehensive reparation, 5) Participation and representation with its own voice and 6) Effective measures to reduce victimization.

The first of these is the *recognition of the victims as persons*; that is, they should not be taken into account only as part of the criminal couple, as objects, with indifference or simply as witnesses. It must be recognized as a suffering being, as a being violated ; but at the same time, it must be achieved that this person can participate actively during the entire trial process, adjusting the measures and expressing their opinions for a better attention by the justice operators.

The second right is to *have access to information*. In this sense, it is necessary that the person in the condition of victim be provided with all the necessary information within the process, beginning by reading him the rights he has, on the operation and follow-up of the procedures of the authorities in charge of providing care, information about other institutions that can provide additional support such as medical, social or legal services.

Third is the right to *receive psychological, medical and social care*, in this case it is presumed that people in the condition of victims must have access to these cares. It is necessary to note that these attentions may evolve over time, perhaps future channeling to other existing institutions may be needed.

The fourth right of persons in the condition of victims is *comprehensive reparation*. That is, not only that they receive social, medical, legal and psychological care after the crime. Here in Mexico, for example, in the General Victims Law, comprehensive reparation is conceived as measures of restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, satisfaction, and above all, non-repetition.

The fifth right is to *participation and representation with their own voice* throughout the process. In this case, the person in the condition of victim can request full reparation before the Public Ministry, as well as their participation in the moments of the process that require it and that are pertinent.

The sixth right is to have *effective measures to reduce victimization*. The person in the condition of victim has the right not to be subjected to violations of their human rights again, by the public servants who provide care. For the fulfillment of this right, the ethical conduct of the personnel of medical, social, legal, psychological services and other personnel that intervenes in the assistance to these vulnerable groups must be observed.

In addition to the rights, it is equally important that these social services granted in the different institutions are given in a private and comfortable place, so that people in the condition of victims (older adults) feel relaxed and build empathy. In the same way, another important point is that public servants address them with clear and inclusive language, with dignified treatment to avoid double victimization.

Well, with all this guise of elements, it is evident that the sociopolitical studies of crime and crime warn that victimization is the result of a negligent policy of the State, which supposes a vertical, unilateral and linear administration, centered on the criminal or delinquent, bypassing the victim (Lorenc et al., 2014). Undoubtedly, taking the roll or bringing up certain situations is illustrative. Therefore, some allusive circumstances will be reviewed below.

It is appropriate to cite how Jackson (2009) warns that it is the degrees of **vulnerability**, **marginality** and **exclusion** that, finally, will determine the emotions allusive to delinquency and crime. As these three factors intensify, the differences in victimization of women and men seem to increase. In a criminal situation, men tend to estimate a control probability calculation that will determine their preventive behavior. In contrast, women will develop a stigma towards risk groups and scenarios that will affect their prevention behaviors.

It is a sociopolitical approach that assumes the incidence of the socio-economic structure on local development, quality of life, personal well-being, social cognition and psychic structure. In this sense, Gómez, Gómez and Durán (2013) point out that sociopolitical violence generates criminal and victimization behaviors. In other words, fear of crime would be indicative of the degree of violence underlying the loss of the leadership of the State in matters of public security.

However, the dominant psychosocial perspective indicates that fear of crime is generated by a structure of cognition (Weaver, 2014). Psychosocial studies on the determinants of fear of crime indicate that **secondary deviance**, referred to as excessive concern for the consequences of crime on the well-being of the family, is indicative of fear of crime (Parra, 2000).

However, Herrero, Salas and Colom (2002), established significant differences between **sociopaths** (poor socialization due to negligent tutoring) and **psychopaths** (insensitive traits to socialization), with respect to impulsive risk actions.

In this way, secondary deviation in reference to sociopathic and psychopathic profiles, supposes the emergence of perceptions of insecurity and emotions related to crime or delinquency, which would be affecting subjective well-being, quality of life and local development.

Meanwhile, San Martín (2013) would warn that sociopath and psychopath profiles, as well as secondary deviance, emerge from social representations of delinquency and criminality. In this sense, the **central nucleus** is made up of the naturalization of those groups close to the individual, who are perceived as vulnerable to violence. In this way, the family, friends, school and municipality; they are entities that the individual perceives as victims of government action in crime prevention or crime fighting. In contrast, the **peripheral nucleus** supposes abstract processes of objectification of delinquency and criminality such as: helplessness, prevention, participation, indifference, incapacity, justice and security. Of course, both groups are being influenced by the social representation of political corruption in matters of civil security.

Therefore, fear of crime or delinquency would be defined as a degree of anxiety related to an event perceived as uncertain, insecure, immeasurable, unpredictable and uncontrollable (Bradley, Rowe and Sedgwick, 2010; Mishra and Bhai, 2013).

### ***Research Question***

What are the observable indicators of fear of crime and criminality in a group of older adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease?

### **Hypothesis**

**Null hypothesis:** From a psychosocial perspective, anxiety related to crime and delinquency events is indicated by degrees of perception of **incommensurability**, **unpredictability** and **uncontrollability** of the elderly with respect to experiences of victimization.

**Alternative hypothesis:** From a socio-political approach, anxiety related to crime and delinquency is indicated by attitudes towards **corruption**, **opacity** and **negligence**, attributed to the authorities with respect to crime prevention, crime fighting and the administration of justice.

### **Method**

#### **Design**

A cross-sectional and explanatory study was carried out.

#### **Sample**

A non-probabilistic selection of 208 older adults was carried out considering their diagnosis of Alzheimer's, at a stage indicated by the loss of procedural memory, although with the constant memory of a victimization event.

**Sex.** 45% of the sample is male and 55% is female.

**Age.** 34% are between 60 and 64 years old, 49% are between 65 and 70 years old, 17% are over 70 years old.

**Scholarship.** 58% have bachelor's degrees, 34% have undergraduate studies, and 6% have postgraduate studies.

**Income.** 34% declared having a monthly income of more than 9000 pesos (Average = 500 USD with standard deviation = 24.37 USD), 56% an income between 6000 and 900 pesos (M = 346 USD with SD = 24.1) and 10% an income of less than 6000 pesos (M = 241 USD with DE = 12.14)

**Group.** 49% declared living with their family (M = 269 USD with SD = 32.15 USD average monthly income), 26% indicated that they live with their partner (M = 378.89 USD with DE = 7 1.29 USD), 20% said they lived alone (M = 582.15 with SD = USD 39.49) and 5% did not answer (M = 691.28 with SD 49.29 USD).

#### **Instrument**

The Fear of Delinquency and Criminality Scale was constructed, which included six factors; three psychosocial [incommensurability (alpha = 0.786), unpredictability (0.841) and uncontrollability (0.716)] and three sociopolitical [corruption (0.718), negligence (0.897) and opacity (0.798)]. Each of the psychosocial subscales includes ten response options ranging from 0 = "not frequent" to 10 "very frequent". It is important to point out that each of the socio-political scales includes five response options ranging from 0 = "not at all agree" to 4 = "totally agree".

#### **Process**

The literature corresponding to the period from 2000 to 2015, relative to the measurement and prediction of fear of crime, was reviewed. The model was specified considering the findings reported in the state of knowledge. The hypotheses were established from the contrast between the psychosocial approach and the sociopolitical approach. The sample was contacted through the Alzheimer's Association. The selected sample was surveyed during their stay at the health center. The information was processed in SPSS and AMOS versions 21.0

#### **Analysis of Results**

The reliability of the scale was estimated from Cronbach's alpha parameter, considering a sub-scale item correlation greater than 0.80 while validity was established with a calculation of sphericity and adequacy with the Bartlett and Kaiser, Meyer, statistics. Olkin and a correlation factor item than 0.600 considering a higher percentage of variance explained to 40% Finally, the adjustment parameters and residuals were estimated in order to contrast the null hypothesis.

## Results

The adequacy and sphericity are prerequisites of the exploratory factor analysis of principal components with varimax rotation, their values indicate that there is a convergence of factors with respect to the construct of fear of crime and crime [ $\chi^2 = 12.35$  (24gl)  $p = 0.000$ ; KMO = 0.601] .

The validity of the construct yielded 6 factors related to incommensurability, unpredictability and uncontrollability; that when correlated with each other, they conformed a construct allusive to fear of delinquency and criminality, as experiences in which respondents perceive themselves as victims. The three factors explained 63% of the total variance; With respect to 37% of the variance, it was explained by attitudinal factors towards corruption, negligence and opacity. In other words, the construct of fear of delinquency and criminality is indicated by psychosocial factors rather than sociopolitical ones.

The biased perception of victimization is hegemonic with respect to the attitude derived from government action on security.

Regarding the reliability of the subscales, the values corresponding to the excluded item indicate that the instrument has sufficient consistency when measuring psychosocial and sociopolitical traits related to experiences of victimization in the face of crime and delinquency (general  $\alpha = 0.817$ ).

General kurtosis = 2.26; Bootstrap = 0.000; KMO = 0.601;  $\chi^2 = 12.35$  (24gl)  $p = 0.000$ ; Perception of incommensurability (22% of the explained variance), Perception of unpredictability (20% of the explained variance), Perception of uncontrollability (21% of the explained variance), Attitude towards corruption (15 % of explained variance), Attitude towards negligence (13% of explained variance), Attitude towards opacity (9% of explained variance). Finally, the null hypothesis was accepted. This is since the adjustment parameters indicate that the hypothetical relationships model fits the weighted model do.

However, the construct of fear of crime and crime is an emotional construct [ $\chi^2 = 14.12$  (15gl)  $p < 0.000$ ; GFI = 0.975, CFI = 0.970; RMSEA = 0.001]. In contrast, attitudes are a rational construct that supposes a calculation of probabilities in the face of crime prevention or the demand for justice. Both factors, emotional psychosocial and rational sociopolitical, reflect expectations and evaluations regarding delinquency and criminality, but they would be influenced by a social structure that confines the older adult to a victim role even though such an experience could have occurred in their youth.

In this way, the relationship between the rulers and the ruled appears not only to be emotional or rational, but also ambivalent.

As citizens age, they seem to rationalize experiences remembered as feelings of fear of crime and delinquency, but attributed to corruption, negligence, and opacity of authorities.

In other words, the sample of the citizens surveyed seems to be approaching an ambivalence, since on the one hand it feels fear about delinquency and criminality, but it also recognizes itself as a victim of corruption, negligence and opacity of its authorities.

## *Support and assistance*

When scrutinizing from a federal perspective, the Law on the Rights of Older Adults (Official Gazette of the Federation, June 25, 2002), the surprises turn out to be notorious. In said ordinance, principles are established for the elderly, such as the following: autonomy and self-realization, participation, equity, co-responsibility and preferential attention. As if the foregoing were not enough, in said legal precept, the following rights are contemplated for the elderly: to a life with quality; to full enjoyment; to a free life without violence; respect for physical, psycho-emotional and sexual integrity; to receive protection from the community, family and society; to live in safe, dignified and decent environments. All certainly very commendable and advanced.

To demonstrate its conception of progress, the DF Government published in the DF Official Gazette, on March 7, 2000 (two years before the Federal Government), the Law of the Rights of Older Adults in DF

In said order, assistance to the set of actions aimed at modifying and improving social circumstances that prevent the individual from achieving their integral development is considered, as well as the physical, mental and social protection of people in a state of need, lack of protection or disadvantage. physical and mental.

However, throughout this work it is shown that the service to the elderly is carried out in general institutions of attention to victims, forgetting that this group has specific needs such as using ramps, elevator service, etc. Furthermore, this group experiences stigmas stemming from the stereotypes of society, which are often reaffirmed by the authorities - lacking vocation and training - producing a new victimization. All this series of criticisms, referring to the policies towards the elderly, although it is true that they are not central to this project, cannot be ignored.

In addition to this, the importance of the assistance provided in the various institutions should be considered, prioritizing the legal, avoiding the social, in which a disadvantage may be found for the achievement of the resilience of the person victim of a crime, Well, if victimized people have a strong social bond, it is likely that in a short time they will leave that state to try to return to their usual life. Hence the importance of providing support and assistance not only to the victimized person, but also to their family members.

However, the existence of legislation in favor of this group is not enough, one must assume the commitment to comply with it from other alternatives. In this sense, social work can participate with other academic areas in the prevention of victimization. Indeed, this multidisciplinary work will begin with the coincidence of the aims to achieve a conceptual articulation, and finally to be able to apply methods and procedures in favor of the vulnerable groups (older adults), with the aim not only of intervening in comprehensive reparation. of the victims, but to try to attack the causes that trigger this worrying problem.

In the same way, it is necessary that from social work older adults be empowered; that is, to give them the tools so that they can get out of that typecasting of victims and that they occupy a place of a person with a voice, that appeals to their rights, that they participate and generate social changes with their experience, in order to achieve not only an individual healing, but a collective one. This empowerment can be given through various mechanisms that ensure that the person as a victim transcends according to their specific needs and tastes; for example, with the use of theater, writing, painting, performance.

As pending points, they remain in the public agenda; firstly, to direct attention to other factors that harm older adults such as: social abandonment, the lack of public shelters, as well as the situation of older adults living on the streets.

Second, to produce statistics that are able to measure the perception of the beneficiaries of each of the programs, as well as the service provided by public servants in charge of caring for victims of crime and human rights violations.

### **Discussion**

The present study has established the reliability and validity of an instrument that measures six different factors indicative of perceived victimization and attitude towards crime and criminality.

In reference to the study by Garcia, Carreon, Hernandez and Mendez (2013), in which they found favorable attitudes to the propaganda of the State in matters of civil security, this as an individual responsibility and complementary to the prevention of crime, the fight against crime or the administration of justice, this work has shown that there is an ambivalence, since the perception of risk / control and the attitude towards government action are indicators of victimized fear of crime and criminality. In this sense, the perception of control, the explanatory variable of trust in private security, in the sample of older adults, seems to indicate a negative emotion towards public action with respect to delinquency and criminality. In this way, the perception of risk and the perception of control are indicative factors of a generalized fear of the sample towards crime, but the unfavorable attitude towards the authorities does not seem to show an anxiety of demand for public care, but rather it would be a derivative related anxiety senectud regarding youth.

Consequently, García (2009; 2012) warns that distrust of the local police is encouraged by the media more than by experiences of victimization, but points out that in scenarios of vulnerability , marginalization and

exclusion; the influence of the media is reduced to its minimum expression while the perceptions of control and effectiveness in terms of prevention are intensified.

In the present study, it was found that old age seems to contradict the hypothesis according to which the State seeks justice from prevention, which, ultimately, is the responsibility of the citizen, but in the case of older adults it is not only necessary protect their integrity, but also correct their experiences that would be encouraging a fear of crime.

In terms of public health, the State must not only prevent crime, but also in specific mental health matters, address the negative emotions that older adults associate with corruption, negligence and the opacity of the authorities. In this sense, a study of the effects of crime and delinquency levels on the mental health of older adults is recommended, since they not only have to deal with their physical limits, but also with their emotions and perceptions of risk, uncertainty and insecurity.

### Conclusion

The main contribution of this work is, without a doubt, towards the state of knowledge; which is based on the reliability and validity of an instrument that measures the fear of the elderly towards crime and delinquency. The relationship between the aforementioned construct and fear of crime, with respect to mental illnesses such as: Parkinson's or Alzheimer's , could serve to discuss the role of the State in crime prevention, crime fighting or the administration of justice; since the effects of these governmental instruments could determine the mental health or the development of a dementia .

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