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## Travmanın İzleri: Çocukluk Deneyimlerinin Suç ve Dayanıklılık Üzerindeki Rolü<sup>\*</sup>

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Öz: Suça yatkınlık bireylerin yasa dışı davranışlarda bulunma olasılıklarını artıran çeşitli biyolojik, psikolojik ve sosyal faktörlerin etkileşimi sonucunda ortaya çıkmaktadır. Bu konunun derinlemesine incelenmesi, suça yönelik önleme stratejilerinin geliştirilmesi ve toplumsal düzenin korunması açısından kritik öneme sahiptir. Bu bağlamda yapılan araştırmalar sonucu çalışmanın temel problemi, bireyleri suça yatkın olmaya iten faktörlerin psikolojik sağlamlık ve çocukluk çağı travmaları çerçevesinde araştırılmasıdır. Araştırmanın amacı da çocukluk çağı travmalarının ve psikolojik dayanıklılığın suça yatkın olmayı yordama gücünü incelemektir. Araştırmanın calısma grubunu 18-35 yaşlarındaki toplam 360 kişi oluşturmaktadır. Araştırma kapsamında katılımcılara, Aydınlatılmış Onam Formu, Demografik Bilgi Formu, Çocukluk Çağı Travmaları Ölçeği, Yetişkinler için Psikolojik Dayanıklılık Ölçeği ve Suça Yönelik Tutumlar ve İlişkiler Ölçeği uygulanmıştır. Katılımcılara Google Forms aracılığıyla ulaşılmıştır. Verilerin analizinde SPSS 25.0 istatistik paket programı kullanılmıştır. Pearson korelasyon katsayıları hesaplanmıştır, T-testi ve ANOVA analizleri uygulanmıştır. Değişkenler arasındaki ilişki incelendiğinde çocukluk çağı travmalarına göre psikolojik dayanıklılığın suça yönelik tutumlar ve ilişkiler üzerinde daha fazla anlamlı yordayıcısı olduğu bulunmustur. Psikolojik dayanıklılık arttıkça suça yönelik tutumlar ve ilişkiler azalmaktadır. Araştırma bulguları ilgili alanyazın çerçevesinde tartışılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Çocukluk çağı travmaları, psikolojik dayanıklılık, suça yönelik tutumlar ve ilişkiler

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## Traces of Trauma: The Role of Childhood Experiences in Crime and Resilience

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**Abstract:** The predisposition to crime emerges as a result of the interaction between various biological, psychological, and social factors that increase the likelihood of individuals engaging in illegal behaviors. A thorough examination of this topic is crucial for the development of crime prevention strategies and the preservation of social order. In this context, the core issue of the study is to investigate the factors that lead individuals to be predisposed to crime within the framework of psychological resilience and childhood trauma. The aim of the research is to examine the predictive power of childhood traumas and psychological resilience in determining predisposition to crime. The study sample consists of a total of 360 individuals aged 18-35. The participants were administered the Informed Consent Form, Demographic Information Form, Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, Psychological Resilience Scale for Adults, and the Attitudes and Relationships Toward Crime Scale. The participants were reached via Google Forms. SPSS 25.0 statistical software was used for data analysis. Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated, and t-tests and ANOVA analyses were conducted. When examining the relationship between variables, it was found that psychological resilience was a more significant predictor of attitudes and relationships toward crime than childhood trauma. As psychological resilience increases, attitudes and relationships toward crime decrease. The research findings were discussed within the framework of the relevant literature.

Anahtar kelimeler: Childhood traumas, psychological resilience, attitudes towards crime and relationships

#### Introduction

In contemporary society, issues related to crime such as neglect and abuse have garnered increasing attention, resulting in a surge of academic research focused on combating these types of offenses. A critical area of inquiry has emerged around understanding the factors that predispose individuals to criminal behavior. This quest to comprehend the underlying causes of criminal activity is driven by the societal imperative to mitigate such behaviors. To effectively reduce criminal behavior, it is essential to identify the potential antecedents.

Each individual reacts differently to these negative situations, some are constructive and some are destructive. Psychological resilience is that the reactions of individuals to these adverse conditions are constructive (Tümlü&Recepoğlu, 2013). The field defines the three psychological resilience features. The first basic feature of psychological resilience is the perception that individuals who are able to overcome difficulties despite adverse circumstances and develop better than expected have a personal ability. The second feature of psychological resilience is the ability of individuals to adapt quickly to stressful and difficult life experiences. The third feature involves being able to cope with traumatic situations such as experiencing natural disasters, losing a loved one, or having an accident (Tümlü&Recepoğlu, 2013). Within the framework of these basic characteristics, studies have been carried out on resilience, defined as resistance by adaptation of individuals when exposed to adverse experiences, and three components of psychological resilience have been identified. The first component of control is the belief that an individual can change the events they will encounter in his life and thus the result they want (Azeem, 2010). The second component of bonding is that individuals stick to life while they are exposed to all the disadvantages (Durak, 2002). People with high levels of attachment can have a positive view of negative situations. The third component of the challenge is that people struggle knowing that they will be challenged by the negative life experiences they encounter. It has been noted that challenging helps people not personalize their defects, but only internalize them as defects (Gökçe, 1993). There must be these three components to speak of psychological resilience (Maddi, 2006).

Individuals experience many events throughout their lives that affect them negatively, cause them to feel sad and anxious. But we don't call all of these situations trauma. Trauma means that the incident poses a threat to a person's life and the person feels inadequate to cope with the situation (Şar, 2017). If we come to the definition of childhood trauma, childhood traumatism can be defined as physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect, as well as loss of parents, separation from parents, divorce, migration, witnessing violence, being a witness to an accident, natural disasters living (Çelik&Hocaoğlu, 2018). These experiences are often referred to as serious negative experiences. Childhood traumatic

experiences are common throughout the world (Saveanu&Nemeroff, 2012). Childhood trauma is the most difficult form of trauma to be diagnosed and treated because it is recurrent, generally exposed to by those closest to the child, and may have a significant impact on the child's future life (Çelik&Hocaoğlu, 2018). This trauma can be seen in every cultural class, social community, ethnic group and socio-economic level (Bostancı et al., 2006). The definition of abuse that causes childhood trauma is physically abused, emotional abuse, sexual abuse; neglect is also studied under the heading physical neglect and emotional neglect (World Health Organization, 2002). The frequent occurrence of childhood trauma causes some adaptation problems (Skowron&Reinemann, 2005).

Individuals face difficulties in many areas, such as loss of loved ones, natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires, floods, disease processes, poverty, and terrorist catastrophes. (Bonanno&Mancini, 2008). We often assume that people who experience these kinds of life events are experiencing emotional disturbances (Fletcher&Sarkar, 2013). The concept of psychological resilience, a different concept of injury, has begun to emerge. Psychological resilience is that individuals are transformed against the increasing problems and challenges they encounter throughout their lives and the reactions they give to these problems (Cevizci&-Müezzin, 2019). Another definition of psychological resilience is that people who are at risk behave better than expected, adapt positively in spite of stressful situations, and have a positive recovery process after the trauma. (Masten et al., 1990). People with high levels of psychological resilience have been found to have a greater capacity to influence people around them and to gain from negative and sad situations (Soysal, 2016). In addition, individuals with high levels of psychological resilience are less anxious and have higher levels of self-confidence (Yalcin, 2013). Individuals with low levels of psychological resilience have weakened self-control, resistance to distance and adaptation to changes (Soysal, 2016). The characteristics of individuals with high and low psychological resilience have been mentioned. The question arises as to what characteristics individuals need to have in order for their psychological resilience to be high. These are characteristics of a person such as family compatibility and family support, individual characteristics and structural characteristics, external support (social environment, colleagues), physical strength, sociality, intelligence, good communication skills, self-sufficiency (Olsson et al., 2003).

The study of criminal behavior, its inclination to crime and, on the basis of this, its prevention, is a very necessary work from a social point of view. Crime is a deviation from social and cultural values and a violation of rules of social conduct in a society (Altunpul, 2022) and also is a concept that has existed since the earliest ages, and as people move into public life, the rates and types of crime have increased (Sulan, 2013). Crime, which is considered to arise with humanity, is a sociological, psychological, biological, socio-economic, and socio-cultural, multidimensional concept (Adams&Gullotta, 1989). The concept of crime has

therefore been investigated in a number of ways, drawing attention from areas such as biology, psychiatry, psychology, religion, law, and sociology (Yılmaz, 2009). As a result of this research, the concept of crime has been investigated in a variety of ways. Crime theories are examined under three main headings: biological, psychological and sociological (Yılmaz, 2009). One of the theories psychologically explaining crime is based on psychopathology. According to this view, crime is linked to criminal behavior with psychopathic individuals who, with their antisocial personality disorder and unsocialized behavior, are in constant conflict with society (Erkan&Erdoğdu, 2006, as cited in Yılmaz, 2009). It was found that, where it was associated with many concepts of psychology, such as the relationship of crime with psychopathology. From the theories of social control and social learning that first explained criminal behavior to the current general theory of crime and the life cycle theory, almost all theories reveal the dynamics of the relationship between the criminal behavior in the individual/child of the interaction and the family experience (Demirel, 2017). Considering the relationship between childhood abuse and neglect towards crime, the higher the level of neglect and abuse, the greater the number of friends of college students who have committed criminal behavior, the positive level of attitude towards crime and attitudes towards violence (Altunpul, 2022).

#### The Importance and Objective of Research

The primary objective of this study is to explore the factors contributing to criminal susceptibility, with a particular emphasis on psychological resilience and childhood trauma. Childhood trauma has long been a subject of study in psychology. Childhood experiences are known to have an impact on many aspects of an individual's life (Sevük, 2017). It is imperative to examine the impact of childhood experiences when considering criminal behavior. This investigation seeks to elucidate the complex interplay between these variables in shaping criminal propensity. The study will explore the concepts of psychological resilience, childhood trauma and predisposition to crime.

This study deals with psychological resilience and childhood trauma, which is thought to be linked to criminal predisposition in individuals. It's intended to contribute to the well-being of individuals that we often start to recall after shocking events such as psychological resilience, pandemics, earthquakes. In fact, from the past to the present, childhood trauma has also been associated with counseling and therapy. The study of the concept of psychological resilience, on the other hand, especially when it comes to childhood trauma, has been studied. It has been found to be an important concept: the psychological resilience of individuals who have suffered childhood trauma. He was involved in a study on childhood trauma (Çorbacı, 2017).The study found that there was a meaningful relationship

between them (Altunpul, 2022). Based on this study, children with childhood trauma and low levels of psychological resilience were identified in the study. The aim of the study is to investigate the causes of individuals being susceptible to crime in the context of psychological resilience and childhood trauma and to find a relationship between them. The objective of these two concepts is to investigate and develop ideas to prevent predisposition to crime.

In this research, it is hypothesized that individuals with high levels of childhood trauma also have high levels of susceptibility to crime ( $H_1$ ), individuals with low psychological resilience levels have high crime proneness levels ( $H_2$ ), individuals with high levels of childhood trauma have low levels of psychological resilience.

#### Method

This section will include participants, data collection tools, data collection process and data analysis.

### **Participants**

The sample (participants) of the research consists of individuals between the ages of 18-35. In this context, 361 people were reached. The sample was reached using the convenience sampling method. Participants were reached via Google Forms. The distribution of the study group according to demographic characteristics is given in Table 3.1.

		n	%
	Literate	12	3.3
	Primary school graduate 2		0.6
Educational background	Secondary school graduate		2.2
Educational background	High school graduate	107	29.7
	Graduated from a University		53.3
	Master's-Ph.D.	39	10.8
	Low Low-medium		4.7
			13.3
Socio-economic level	Middle		53.9
	Medium-high	88	24.4
	High	13	3.6

Table 3.1 Distribution of Participants by Demographic Characteristics

In Table 3.1, large proportion of the participants (53.3%) are university graduates. 53.9% of the participants stated that they were at a medium socio-economic level. The rate of participants stating that their parents are alive is 90.6%. A large proportion of the participants' parents live together (90.3%) and their parents are identical (98.6%). The ages of the participants ranged between 18 and 35, and the average age was calculated as 25.74 (Sd = 4.95).

## **Data Collection Tools**

In the research, 'Informed Consent Form' was used to obtain the consent of the participants, 'Demographic Information Form' was used to learn their demographic information, 'Childhood Trauma Scale' was used to learn about childhood traumas, 'Psychological Resilience Scale for Adults' was used to learn the level of psychological resilience, and 'Psychological Resilience Scale for Adults' was used to measure their attitudes towards crime. 'Attitudes and Relationships Towards Crime Scale' was used.

### **Demographic information form**

Prepared by the researcher. It includes information such as participants' gender, age, educational status, socio-economic level, parental health status, parental cohabitation status, and parental marital status.

## Childhood trauma scale

The original form of the Childhood Trauma Scale was developed by Bernstein et al. (1994) in order to retrospectively and quantitatively evaluate abuse and neglect experiences before the age of 20, according to the person's answers (Bernstein et al. 1998, cited in Altunpul, 2022). Validity and reliability studies of the Turkish form of the scale, consisting of 28 items, were conducted by Şar et al. (2012). This scale consists of six subscales. These; physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect and overprotection. The scale is in 5-point Likert format (Altunpul, 2022). Internal consistency coefficients of the subscales of the scale; The dissociative experiences scale was found to be 0.95, the Beck depression inventory was 0.94, and the relationship scales survey was 0.61 (Şar et al., 2012). In this study, the internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.84.

### Psychological resilience scale for adults

The Psychological Resilience Scale for Adults was developed by Friborg et al. (2005). This scale includes the dimensions of personal power, structural style, social competence, family harmony and social resources (Basim&Çetin, 2011). A

later study (Friborg et al., 2005) showed that the scale better explains the psychological resilience model with its six-dimensional form. In this new study, personal power dimension; It is divided into two: self-perception and future perception, and a six-dimensional structure is formed. The validity and reliability study of the scale was conducted by Basım and Çetin (2011). The internal consistency coefficients of the subscales of the scale were found to vary between 0.66 and 0.81 (Basım&Çetin, 2011). In this study, the internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.89.

### Attitudes and relationships towards crime scale

It was developed by Mills, Kroner and Forth (2002) to measure people's antisocial orientation and relationships. The scale consists of 2 parts and a total of 6 sub-dimensions (Mills et al., 2002, cited in Nergiz&Işıklı, 2019). The first part of the scale (part A) is the number and coefficient of friends who have shown criminal behavior; The second part consists of sub-dimensions of attitudes towards violence (12 items), thoughts of justification (12 items), antisocial intention (12 items) and relationships (10 items) (Altunpul, 2022). It was adapted into Turkish by Nergiz and Işıklı (2019). There are 64 items in the Turkish form of the scale. The overall internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.86 (Nergiz&Işıklı, 2021). In this study, the internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.77.

## **Data Collection Process**

After obtaining the necessary permission from Istanbul Topkapi University Graduate Education Ethics Committee, the data collection process started. Research data was collected online via 'Google Forms'. Data was collected from a population of adults aged 18-35. Participants were first given an 'Informed Consent Form' via the link created, explaining the purpose of the research and that participation was voluntary. Afterwards, 'Demographic Information Form', 'Childhood Trauma Scale', 'Psychological Resilience Scale for Adults', 'Attitudes Towards Crime and Relationships Scale' were given respectively. In order to ensure that participants answered all questions in the scale, moving to another question without answering was restricted. Since there was no age range in the study that did not meet the participation criteria, no participants were excluded from the analysis.

## **Analysis of Data**

Skewness and kurtosis coefficients were calculated to examine the distribution of the scores of participants aged 18-35 from the childhood trauma, psychological resilience and crime attitudes and relationships scale. The fact that the skewness

coefficient is less than  $\pm 3$  and the kurtosis coefficient is less than  $\pm 10$  is sufficient to meet the normal distribution assumption (Kline, 2011). The calculated coefficients were within the specified range and it was observed that the scores obtained from the scales had a normal distribution.

Variables	Min. Max. Me		Maan	Mean Sd	Skev	wness	Kurtosis		
Variables	win.	WIdX.	Mean	50	z	Sh	Z	Sh	
Emotional abuse	5	22	7.58	3.27	1.67	0.13	2.03	0.26	
Physical abuse	5	18	5.74	1.73	2.27	0.13	2.60	0.26	
Physical neglect	5	19	7.14	2.59	1.55	0.13	2.67	0.26	
Emotional neglect	5	23	10.64	4.22	0.69	0.13	-0.09	0.26	
Sexual harassment	5	21	5.94	2.50	2.47	0.13	2.36	0.26	
Overprotection-control	2	10	3.64	1.83	1.32	0.13	1.37	0.26	
CTS Total	27	90	40.68	11.69	1.46	0.13	2.70	0.26	
Psychological resilience	63	165	121.77	19.01	-0.24	0.13	-0.15	0.26	
NFCB	0	0.56	0.02	0.08	2.55	0.13	2.87	0.26	
CFCB	0	22	0.76	2.72	2.81	0.13	2.71	0.26	
AR	0	9	1.35	1.61	1.48	0.13	2.10	0.26	
AV	0	9	3.77	2.01	0.55	0.13	-0.45	0.26	
AI	0	12	2.34	2.40	1.41	0.13	1.87	0.26	
TR	0	10	3.57	2.20	0.25	0.13	-0.64	0.26	

**Table 3.4** Descriptive Values of the Scores Obtained from the Childhood Trauma,

 Psychological Resilience and Attitudes and Relationships Towards Crime Scale

Number of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (NFCB), Coefficient of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (CFCB), Attitudes towards relationships (AR), Attitudes towards violence (AV), Antisocial intent (AI), Thoughts of Righteousness (TR)

Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to examine the relationships between childhood trauma, resilience, and criminal attitudes and relationships scale scores. Multiple linear regression analysis was applied to determine the effect of childhood trauma and psychological resilience on attitudes and relationships towards crime. Independent groups t test and ANOVA were applied to compare the scores of childhood trauma, psychological resilience and attitudes and relationships towards crime according to the demographic characteristics of the participants. Before the comparison, some groups with a small number of participants were combined with a higher or lower group and included in the analysis. For example, groups with a small number of participants, formed according to the health status of the mother and father, were grouped under the other category and included in the analysis. Data were analyzed using the SPSS 25.0 statistical package program.

#### Results

The research was examined within the scope of the hypothesis that individuals with high levels of childhood trauma also have high levels of susceptibility to crime  $(H_1)$  and the results are presented in Table 4.3.

 
 Table 4.3. Pearson Correlation Coefficients for the Relationships Between Childhood Trauma and Crime Attitudes and Relationships Scale Scores

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.NFCB	1													
2.CFCB	.973**	1												
3.AR	.307**	.299**	1											
4.AV	.129*	.132*	.267**	1										
5.AI	.254**	.254**	.498**	.462**	1									
6.TR	-0.01	01	0.05	.221**	.206**	1								
7.ARTC	.593**	.602**	.624**	.643**	.772**	.465**	1							
8.Emotional abuse	.142**	.104*	.180**	.135*	.256**	.00	.215**	1						
9.Physical abuse	.171**	.145**	.105*	0.08	.128*	.06	.171**	.546**	1					
10.Physical neglect	0.08	0.06	.178**	0.06	.122*	.03	.137**	.355**	.315**	1				
11.Emotional neglect	0.07	0.04	.171**	.141**	.138**	.05	.162**	.665**	.439**	.610**	1			
12.Sexual harassment	.148**	0.10	.146**	0.04	.162**	.03	.152**	.308**	.285**	.106*	.237**	1		
13.Overprote- ction- control	0.07	0.03	0.08	.137**	.176**	.03	.142**	.612**	.429**	.199**	.492**	.266**	1	
14.CTS total	.151**	0.10	.211**	.144**	.229**	.04	.229**	.841**	.657**	.641**	.875**	.493**	.670**	1

\*\*p<0.01; \*p<0.05: Number of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (NFCB), Coefficient of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (CFCB), Attitudes towards relationships (AR), Attitudes towards violence (AV), Antisocial intent (AI), Thoughts of Righteousness (TR), Attitudes towards relationships and crime (ARTC)

In Table 4.3 are examined, there are low-level positive significant relationships between the number of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior and emotional abuse (r = 0.142; p<0.01), physical abuse (r = 0.171; p<0.01), sexual harassment (r = 0.148; p<0.01) and CTS total (r = 0.151; p<0.01). There are low-level positive significant relationship between coefficient scores of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior, emotional abuse (r = 0.104; p<0.05) and physical abuse (r = 0.145; p<0.01). There are low-level positive significant relationships between attitudes towards relationships scores and various forms of abuse and neglect: emotional abuse (r = 0.18, p < 0.01), physical abuse (r = 0.105, p < 0.05), physical neglect (r = 0.178, p < 0.01), emotional neglect (r = 0.171, p < 0.01), sexual harassment (r = 0.146, p < 0.01), and CTS Total (r = 0.211, p < 0.01) scores. There was a low but statistically significant correlation between attitudes towards violence scores and emotional abuse (r = 0.135, p < 0.05), emotional neglect (r = 0.141, p < 0.01), and CTS Total scores (r = 0.144, p < 0.01). These findings indicate the presence of positive significant relationships at a low level.

There are low-level positive significant relationships between antisocial intention scores and various forms of abuse and neglect: emotional abuse (r = 0.256, p < 0.01), physical abuse (r = 0.128, p < 0.05), physical neglect (r = 0.122, p < 0.05), emotional neglect (r = 0.138, p < 0.01), sexual harassment (r = 0.162, p < 0.01), overprotection-control (r = 0.176, p < 0.01), and CTS Total scores (r = 0.229, p < 0.01). Additionally, there are low-level positive significant relationships between ARTC total scores and various forms of abuse and neglect: emotional abuse (r = 0.215, p < 0.01), physical abuse (r = 0.171, p < 0.01), physical neglect (r = 0.137, p < 0.01), emotional neglect (r = 0.162, p < 0.01), sexual harassment (r = 0.152, p < 0.01), overprotection-control (r = 0.142, p < 0.01), and CTS Total scores (r = 0.229, p < 0.229, p < 0.01).

The research was examined within the scope of the hypothesis that individuals with low psychological resilience levels have high crime proneness levels ( $H_2$ ) and the results are presented in Table 4.4.

Variables	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Resilience	1							
NFCB	153**	1						
CFCB	121*	.973**	1					
AR	199**	.307**	.299**	1				
AR	185**	.129*	.132*	.267**	1			
AI	196**	.254**	.254**	.498**	.462**	1		
TR	02	01	01	.05	.221**	.206**	1	
ARTC	228**	.593**	.602**	.624**	.643**	.772**	.465**	1

 
 Table 4.4 Pearson Correlation Coefficients of the Relationships Between Psychological Resilience and Criminal Attitudes and Relationships Scale Scores

\*\*p<0.01; \*p<0.05: N=360, Number of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (NFCB), Coefficient of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (CFCB), Attitudes towards relationships (AR), Attitudes towards violence (AV), Antisocial intent (AI), Thoughts of Righteousness (TR), Attitudes towards relationships and crime (ARTC)

When examining the statistically significant relationships in Table 4.4, we find that psychological resilience scores are negatively correlated with the number of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (r = -0.153, p < 0.01), the proportion of friends who have engaged in criminal behavior (r = -0.121, p < 0.05), attitudes towards relationships (r = -0.199, p < 0.01), attitudes towards violence (r = -0.185, p < 0.01), antisocial intention (r = -0.196, p < 0.01), and ARTCS Total scores (r = -0.228, p < 0.01). These findings indicate that as psychological resilience increases, the number of friends involved in criminal behavior, the proportion of such friends, and scores on attitudes towards relationships, attitudes towards violence, and antisocial intention all decrease.

The research was examined within the scope of the hypothesis that individuals with high levels of childhood trauma have low levels of psychological resilience  $(H_3)$  and the results are presented in Table 4.5.

Değişken	В	SH	β	t	р
(Contsant)	154.92	3.47		44.70	0.00
Emotional Abuse	-0.60	0.40	-0.10	-1.51	0.13
Physical Abuse	0.04	0.59	0.00	0.06	0.95
Physical Neglect	-0.81	0.41	-0.11	-1.97	0.05
Emotional Neglect	-1.65	0.32	-0.37	-5.22	0.00*
Sexual Harassment	-0.34	0.35	-0.04	-0.95	0.34
Overprotection-Control	-0.95	0.59	-0.09	-1.61	0.11
Denial	-3.24	5.96	-0.02	-0.55	0.59
R=0,579	R <sup>2</sup> =0.335		F(7;359)=25.36		<i>p</i> <0.01

 Table 4.5 Results of Regression Analysis Performed to Determine the Predictive Effect of

 Childhood Traumas on Psychological Resilience

\*p<0.05; Dependent Variable = Psychological resilience

When examined, emotional abuse, physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, sexual abuse and excessive protection-control together have a significant relationship with psychological resilience (R = 0.579; F (7;359) =25.36; p<0.001). Emotional abuse, physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, sexual abuse and overprotection-control variables explain 34% of the change in attitudes and relationships towards crime. When the significance values of the standardized beta coefficients are examined, it is understood that only emotional neglect ( $\beta$  = -0.37; p<0.05) among the predictive variables is a significant predictor of psychological resilience. Emotional neglect negatively predicts psychological resilience.

As emotional neglect increases, psychological resilience decreases (Table 4.5).

# Results of Regression Analysis Performed to Determine the Predictive Effect of Childhood Trauma and Psychological Resilience on Attitudes and Relationships Towards Crime

Within the scope of the main problem of the research, the predictive effect of childhood trauma and psychological resilience on attitudes and relationships towards crime was examined and the results are given in Table 4.6.

 Table 4.6 Results of Regression Analysis Performed to Determine the Predictive Effect of Childhood Trauma and Psychological Resilience on Attitudes and Relationships Towards Crime

Değişkenler	В	SD	β	t	р
(Consant)	15.29	3.79		4.03	0.00
Psychological resilience	-0.06	0.02	-0.17	-2.70	0.01*
Emotional abuse	0.28	0.17	0.13	1.64	0.10
Physical abuse	0.20	0.25	0.05	0.82	0.42
Physical neglect	0.15	0.18	0.06	0.87	0.39
Emotional neglect	-0.15	0.14	-0.09	-1.07	0.29
Sexual harassment	0.23	0.15	0.08	1.50	0.13
Overprotection-control	-0.04	0.25	-0.01	-0.16	0.87
R=0.282	R <sup>2</sup> =0.080		F(7;359)=4.3	6	p<0.001

\*p<0.05; Dependent Variable = Attitudes and relationships towards crime

When examined, psychological resilience, emotional abuse, physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, sexual abuse and overprotection-control have a significant relationship with attitudes and relationships towards crime (R = 0.282; F (7;359) = 4.36; p<0.001). Psychological resilience, emotional abuse, physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, sexual abuse and overprotection-control variables explain 8% of the change in attitudes and relationships towards crime. When the significance values of the standardized beta coefficients are examined, it is understood that only psychological resilience ( $\beta$  = -0.17; p<0.05) among the predictive variables is a significant predictor of attitudes and relationships towards crime. This result showed that psychological resilience has a greater impact on attitudes and relationships towards crime than childhood tra-

umas. As psychological resilience increases, attitudes and relationships towards crime decrease (Table 4.6).

#### Conclusion

While going through the body of research, we discovered a lot of studies that forecasted the connection between psychological resilience and early trauma. Furthermore, studies have been done to forecast the connection between criminal propensity and early trauma. Nonetheless, there is a clear lack of research on the topic of examining psychological resilience and crime propensity together. In light of this gap, the current study set out to investigate the connection between psychological resilience, criminal propensity, and early trauma.

We examined the association between childhood trauma and the crime-oriented attitudes and relationships scale in light of the research's hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>) that people who had high levels of trauma as children are also more likely to commit crimes. The results showed that there was a low-level positive significant link between the childhood trauma scale and the criminal attitudes and relationships scale. The results show that there is a little rise in both susceptibility to criminality and childhood trauma. The study hypothesis has been validated in this instance. In a study, a positive significant relationship was found between the level of childhood abuse and neglect of university students and their attitudes towards crime (Altunpul, 2022). In another study, the reasons that push children to crime were investigated. Among the reasons that push crime, negative socio-economic status and environment, negative familial factors, impact of individual-psychological factors, impact of environmental factors and impact of familial factors have been found (Öngören&Katılmış, 2021). Negative familial, environmental and psychological factors make individuals prone to crime. In a study on how parental attitudes affect criminal behavior, it was found that if the parental attitude is protective-demanding, less criminal behavior is shown (Yılmaz, 2009). Research have demonstrated that a person's propensity to commit crimes is significantly influenced by their parents' behavior, which is included in the category of childhood traumas. Economic theory was found to be explanatory of property criminal conduct in a study looking into the socio-economic elements that lead to adult criminality (Demirel, 2017). The economic situation and the family's tendency towards violence were found to be significant factors in high school students' tendency towards violence, according to a study aimed at explaining the factors influencing the students' perception of violence and their level of tendency towards it (Özgür et al., 2011). It is seen that the research is also supported in the literature. Because individuals with high levels of childhood trauma are exposed to negative living conditions, they continue to have negative living conditions in their future lives and sometimes may expose others to them. Childhood traumas

include witnessing violence, accidents, and natural catastrophes; they also include losing a parent, being separated from parents, getting divorced, migrating, and experiencing sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and neglect before the age of 18 (Celik&Hocaoğlu, 2018). Any behavior that endangers social interactions and has an impact on an individual's social, psychological, or physical well-being can be classified as a crime (Yılmaz, 2009). Based on two definitions, the fact that individuals have experienced trauma in childhood causes them to be prone to crime by exposing other people to trauma. Individuals who have experienced trauma have a high probability of exposing the people around them to trauma (Yılmaz, 2009). As a person grows up, he goes through various developmental periods. It is exposed to conflicts and abnormalities during developmental periods. These tensions generally coincide with the individual's childhood and developmental periods. It is difficult to fight the problems experienced in childhood, and the person grows up without solving these problems. Unresolved and covered-up problems lead to psychological problems in adulthood. Individuals with psychological problems show behaviors that deviate from society, and these deviant behaviors push people to criminal behavior (Dolu, 2012). The relationship between childhood trauma and crime proneness variables has been supported by research and definitions of concepts. The H<sub>1</sub> hypothesis of the research was found to be significant.

Within the scope of the research's hypothesis that individuals with low psychological resilience levels have high crime proneness levels (H<sub>2</sub>), the relationship between psychological resilience and crime-oriented attitudes and relationships scale was examined. Findings show that as psychological resilience increases, the number of friends with criminal behavior, the coefficient of friends with criminal behavior, attitudes towards relationships, attitudes towards violence, and anti-social intention scores each decrease. Based on this finding, as psychological resilience increases, the individual's attitudes towards crime decrease. Increasing a person's psychological resilience means improving his perspective on events and being able to overcome difficulties strongly. People who commit crimes are individuals with psychological problems. Therefore, high psychological resilience keeps the person away from committing crimes. Psychologically resilient individuals are people who can stay calmer and think logically compared to other people when they are under difficult conditions (Çaykuş&Çaykuş, 2020). In a study, the relationship between individuals' empathy levels and crime was examined. It has been determined that the empathy levels of individuals who tend to commit crime are lower than those who do not tend to commit crime (Yılmaz, 2009). Empathy is one's ability to see from another person's perspective. A person whose perspective can be diverse indicates that he or she is a psychologically healthy individual (Yılmaz, 2009). Psychologically healthy individuals are more likely to have high resilience because being psychologically healthy is one of the protective factors for resilience. A study was conducted on the psychological resilience levels of children in institutional care. In this study, a positive significant relationship was found between the social emotional learning abilities and self-efficacy of children in institutional care and their psychological resilience (Toraman et al., 2022). The importance of being psychologically healthy was also emphasized in order to increase psychological resilience. In a study investigating the reasons that push adults to crime, it was found that individual characteristics are effective in explaining criminal behavior (Demirel, 2017). In this study, the individual characteristic of the person in the behavior of harming someone's life is emphasized. Psychological resilience and being psychologically healthy are the individual characteristics of the person. A study found that as a person's self-esteem increases, their level of psychological resilience also increases (Sarıkaya, 2015). Theories that deal with crime from a psychological perspective draw attention to individual dynamics and the dynamics that lead the individual to behavior (Altunpul, 2022). A person's self-esteem also provides an example of the individual dynamics that lead to crime. In order to increase psychological resilience, it is necessary to carry out studies on emotions and the regulation of emotions (Çınar&Eminoğlu, 2022). Emotions operate through cognitive interpretations of real situations rather than the actual situations themselves. Our emotions form the basis of our motivation and behavior (Soloshenko, 2017). Since our emotions form the basis of our behaviors, working with emotions and increasing resilience will reduce impulsivity behaviors and indirectly reduce the tendency to crime. Protective factors related to crime are personal orientation and competencies, family environment and relationships, and external support systems (Altunpul, 2022). When we examine the protective factors for crime, they overlap with the protective factors of being psychologically resilient. The results of the research show that as psychological resilience increases, attitudes towards crime decrease. No direct study has been found in the literature on psychological resilience and susceptibility to crime. As supported by the aforementioned studies, there are indirect studies on psychological resilience and susceptibility to crime. When starting the research, it was seen as very valuable to explore such a gap in the field. The relationship between these two variables has been tried to be indirectly supported in the literature. The main thing is that this hypothesis is confirmed as a result of the research. Many studies in the literature that indirectly address these variables suggest that these two variables are related. Regarding an individual's psychological resilience, the literature emphasizes being psychologically healthy, working on emotions, and gaining perspective. These emphasized points are concepts that affect susceptibility to crime in the opposite direction.

Under the umbrella of the research hypothesis that people with high levels of childhood trauma have low levels of psychological resilience ( $H_3$ ), the relationship between childhood trauma and psychological resilience was investigated. The results showed that psychological resilience was significantly predicted by emotional neglect. Psychological resilience is inversely correlated with emotional neglect. It was determined that psychological resilience declines with increasing

emotional neglect. The study's hypothesis was validated. Childhood trauma was discovered to be a topic that has been extensively researched both historically and currently in the literature study that was done before to the research. The relationship between these two variables is also often studied, as has been discovered recently with the rise in research on the idea of psychological resilience. Childhood traumas strongly predict psychological resilience, according to a study looking at the relationship between psychological resilience and childhood traumas (Toksöz, 2022). In a study conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic period, it was found that the psychological resilience of children decreased due to the pandemic (Çaykuş&Çaykuş, 2020). Although the pandemic period has affected every individual, it has affected children's resilience more because they cannot meet all their needs on their own, they have not completed their development, and they are more vulnerable to psychological health problems. Events experienced in childhood affect the resilience of both that period and adulthood. In a study, the relationship between people's self-esteem and psychological resilience was examined. The findings of the research show that as a person's self-esteem increases, the level of psychological resilience also increases. A significant prediction was found between self-esteem and parents' relationship status (Sarıkaya, 2015). Since the foundation of self-esteem is laid in childhood, it has been determined that childhood experience affects resilience. Emotional neglect is an important and common type of childhood trauma that involves multiple attitudes and behaviors in childhood (Dinleyici&Dağlı, 2016). Since emotional neglect and abuse are not easy to detect, the child may be exposed for a long time. The psychological and behavioral effects of this trauma on the person can last a lifetime (Dinleyici &Dağlı, 2016). Since these effects, which can last a lifetime, can deteriorate people's psychological health, the person will not be psychologically healthy. In a study, variables such as the number of siblings, the order in which they were born in the family, the number of people at home, the place of residence, socio-economic level, whether the parents are alive/together, substance use status, emotional sharing with the environment, and parental attitudes affect psychological resilience scores. was found (Bahadır, 2009). In a study conducted with high school students, the resilience levels of students whose parents were together were found to be higher than those of students whose parents were divorced (Özcan, 2005). In another study, it was found that perceived emotional abuse and neglect from parents served as a partial mediator in self-efficacy and psychological resilience (Arslan&Balkıs, 2016). In a study, it was determined that emotional neglect and abuse perceived from teacher and mother behavior significantly predicted behavioral problems (Simsek&Önder, 2011). Psychological resilience is defined as the individual's ability to adapt to the difficulties brought by traumatic life events (Toksöz, 2022). There are some risk factors related to psychological resilience. One of these is the neglect of the child by his parents. Therefore, it can be said that neglect negatively affects people's psychological resilience by creating a risk factor (Toksöz, 2022). Another risk factor for psychological resilience is familial risk factors. Familial risk factors include many items such as domestic neglect and abuse, parents not being alive, parents being divorced, and the presence of a family member who has committed a crime (Gizir, 2007). These risk factors prevent individuals from feeling psychologically well. However, the person cannot find the strength to be psychologically resilient. Experiencing trauma in childhood causes negative life experiences such as psychological disorders and distrust of life in adulthood (Yargıç et al., 2012). The concept of psychological resilience is, in short, the ability to adapt to the negativities of life. Risk factors of psychological resilience are discussed under three headings: personal, familial and environmental (Gizir, 2007). Individuals who experienced trauma in childhood have risk factors for resilience. Therefore, it follows that individuals who have experienced trauma in childhood are in a psychologically weaker position. As supported by literature research, experiencing trauma in childhood affects an individual's psychological resilience.

Within the scope of the main problem of the research, the predictive effect of childhood trauma and psychological resilience on attitudes and relationships towards crime was examined. The findings showed that psychological resilience has a greater impact on attitudes and relationships towards crime than childhood traumas. Additionally, as psychological resilience increases, attitudes and relationships towards crime decrease. They define psychological resilience as an individual's general success and adaptation process against important stress sources such as trauma, threat, family and relational difficulties, important health problems, work environment and economic problems (Basım&Çetin, 2011). Childhood traumas are defined as sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect that people are exposed to before the age of 18, as well as losing a parent, separation from parents, divorce, migration, witnessing violence, accidents and natural disasters (Çelik&Hocaoğlu, 2018). Crime can be defined as all actions that pose a threat and danger to social life and affect individuals socially, psychologically and physiologically (Yılmaz, 2009). Based on the definitions of all variables found in the research, it can be said that situations that affect individuals psychologically, physiologically and sociologically or that create behaviors as a result of being affected. The definitions of variables share a lot of similarities. Their connection grew intriguing when they realized how similar they were. Research on the connection between childhood trauma and psychological resilience as well as the association between childhood trauma and crime have been published in the literature. The connection between psychological resilience and criminality has not been studied. The association between the factors discovered in this research has not been studied. However, when examined indirectly, the interconnections of the variables are explained. Based on this indirect connection, it was stated in the hypotheses of the research that there would be a connection between the three variables. While a closer relationship was expected between childhood trauma and crime, a more significant relationship was found between psychological resilience

and crime susceptibility. In summary, a connection was found between the variables of childhood trauma, psychological resilience and susceptibility to crime, which is the main problem of the research.

#### Limitations

The majority of the participants in the study are university graduates. University graduates constitute a good group in terms of education level. The fact that there are individuals with a good level of education creates a limitation in terms of diversity of education levels. Capturing diversity in terms of education level in future research is valuable in terms of examining the subject in a wide area.

There are many studies in the literature on psychological resilience. However, the lack of direct research between the psychological resilience variable and the crime susceptibility variable is a limitation. There are studies in the literature related to the concepts found in the research, childhood trauma and psychological resilience. There are also studies on childhood trauma and susceptibility to crime. There are studies showing an indirect relationship between the concepts of childhood trauma and susceptibility to crime, but there is no research on the direct relationship between the two concepts. In order to explain the relationship between these two concepts, indirectly explained studies are included. In this study, the relationship between psychological resilience and crime proneness variables was demonstrated. Findings show that as psychological resilience increases, the environment and attitudes towards crime decrease. It is important for the field to conduct research on psychological resilience and susceptibility to crime in future studies.

This study shed light on the relationship between a person's propensity for crime and their history of childhood trauma and low psychological resilience. These days, fear and social insecurity are felt due to a rise in criminal activity. Since the ideas of childhood trauma, psychological resilience, and susceptibility to crime have not before been researched combined, it is believed that it will advance the area.

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