



### BACKGROUND & GOALS

#### INTRODUCTION

Intensive crying is a frequent parental complaint in infancy and toddlerhood. The phenomenon is called excessive crying if the level of crying behavior exceeds a clinical criterion in the first three months (at least 3 hours a day, at least 3 days a week, at least 3 weeks during the first 3 months; Wessel et al. 1954). If it maintains subsequently, then it is called persistent crying.

#### AIMS

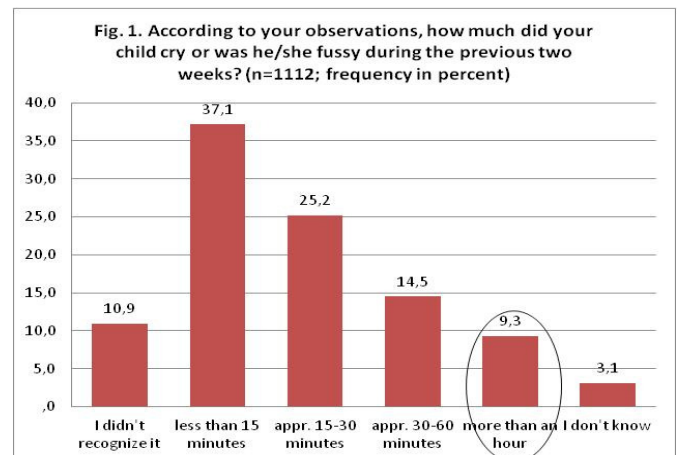
Study of crying behavior of infants and toddlers in Hungary.

### PATIENTS & METHODS

The 'FOR HEALTHY OFFSPRING' Project was the first Hungarian research examining the prevalence of early childhood behavior regulation problems (excessive crying, infant feeding and sleep difficulties) and the significance of different risk and protective factors behind them.

Data were gathered from a socio-economically diverse sample of 1164 families living with 0-3-year-old children in Budapest Heim Pál Hospital and in local areas.

In questionnaires, mothers of 0-3-year-old children (n=1133) were asked about crying behavior of their children and the success of their efforts to soothe them.



### RESULTS

- Based on estimates of the mothers, the frequency of intensive crying (more than 1 hour per day) during the two weeks before the survey was 9.3%. (Fig.1.)

- 2.5% of the children cried more than 3 hours per day. (Fig.2.)

- There was no relation to gender and the amount of crying.

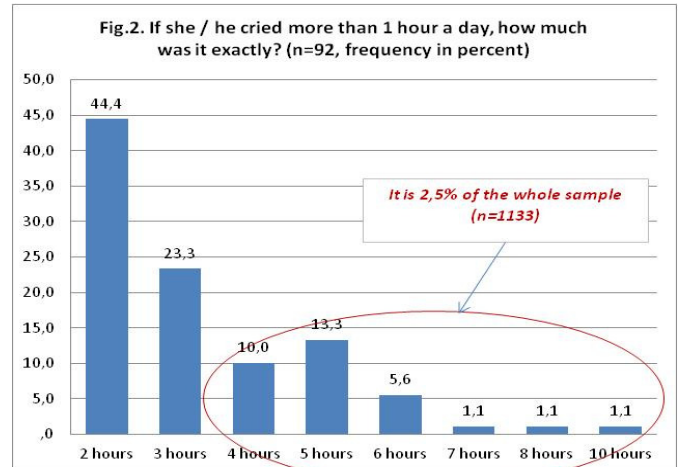
- The amount of crying decreased slightly by age. (Changes in details: Fig.3.)

- 12.5% of the mothers did not feel success in reassurance.

- Half of the mothers (54.5%) were intensively worn out due to the crying periods, regardless of their duration.

- First-born children were found to cry a little more, and their mother felt less confident in reassurance.

- Less educated mothers seemed to struggle slightly more effectively with crying.



### CONCLUSIONS

Excessive infant crying is the first emerging form of regulation disorders. According to the literature it occurs in 8-40% of young children, and predicts future behavioral problems. Coping with crying is a real challenge for parents. The topic is relevant in both research and practical fields of assistance.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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