

Specific characteristics of families at risk: contribution to complex interventions planning

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Project objectives

The overall objective of the project is to identify characteristics of specific groups of families at risk, risk factors, readiness for change/intervention and life satisfaction, as a set of new, under-researched processes in context of family resilience concept that could be of importance for complex family interventions planning.

Specific objectives:

- develop specific approaches in the framework of qualitative, quantitative and "mix-method" methodology of researching families for the purpose of planning complex family interventions
- identify general and specific characteristics of families with at least one family member who is a beneficiary of interventions in the area of education, social welfare, mental health and/or judiciary due to specific risks/behavioral problems
- determine level of protective factors, readiness for change/intervention and life satisfaction of families with at least one family member who is a beneficiary of interventions in the area of education, social welfare, mental health and/or judiciary due to specific risks/behavioral problems
- examine the differences in risk and protective factors, readiness for change/ interventions and life satisfaction regarding the risk levels of families whose member is a beneficiary of interventions in the area of education, social welfare, mental health and/or judiciary due to specific risks/behavioral problems
- examine the contribution of risk and protective factors, readiness for change/ intervention in the interpretation of life satisfaction perception of different groups of families at risk
- explore the experience of the family/ the family perspective about researched concepts (risk/needs, resilience, life satisfaction, readiness for change/ intervention and the experience of intervention)
- explain how qualitative themes contribute in explaining researched concepts (family resilience, life satisfaction and readiness for change/intervention)
- define the guidelines for planning complex interventions for families at risk which are based on the beneficiary perspective and disseminate the results of the study and the guidelines

Theoretical starting points of the study

In order to meet the scientific, practical as well as the overall objective of the project, four complex, interconnected theoretical constructs will be studied with families at risk for the first time in Croatia. These are: (1) family resilience, (2) family members' readiness for intervention and change, (3) life satisfaction and (4) complex interventions.

Operationalization of concepts

Families at risk - families in which there is (at least) one member who is a beneficiary of interventions in the area of education, social welfare, mental health and/or judiciary due to specific risks/behavioral problems; family members are all individuals living in the same household that are family related.

Family resilience - effective process of negotiation, overcoming and adapting to the significant stress or trauma (risk); strengths and resources within the individual, the family and the environment (protective factors) that promote the capacity for adaptation and recovery (good outcome) in a situation of adversity; during life, family resilience will vary (Windle, 2011).

Risk - the overall level of family exposure to risk factors in different context; the level of risk may be low, medium or high.

Risk factors - biological, psychological, social, economic and other events/conditions/features that can significantly increase the likelihood of negative developmental outcomes (Roisman, 2005, according to Windle, 2011).

Protective factors - strengths and resources within and outside the family that promote the capacity to adapt and recover in a situation of adversity (adapted from Windle, 2011).

Good outcome on family level - satisfaction with the quality of life of each family member and family members satisfaction with family life

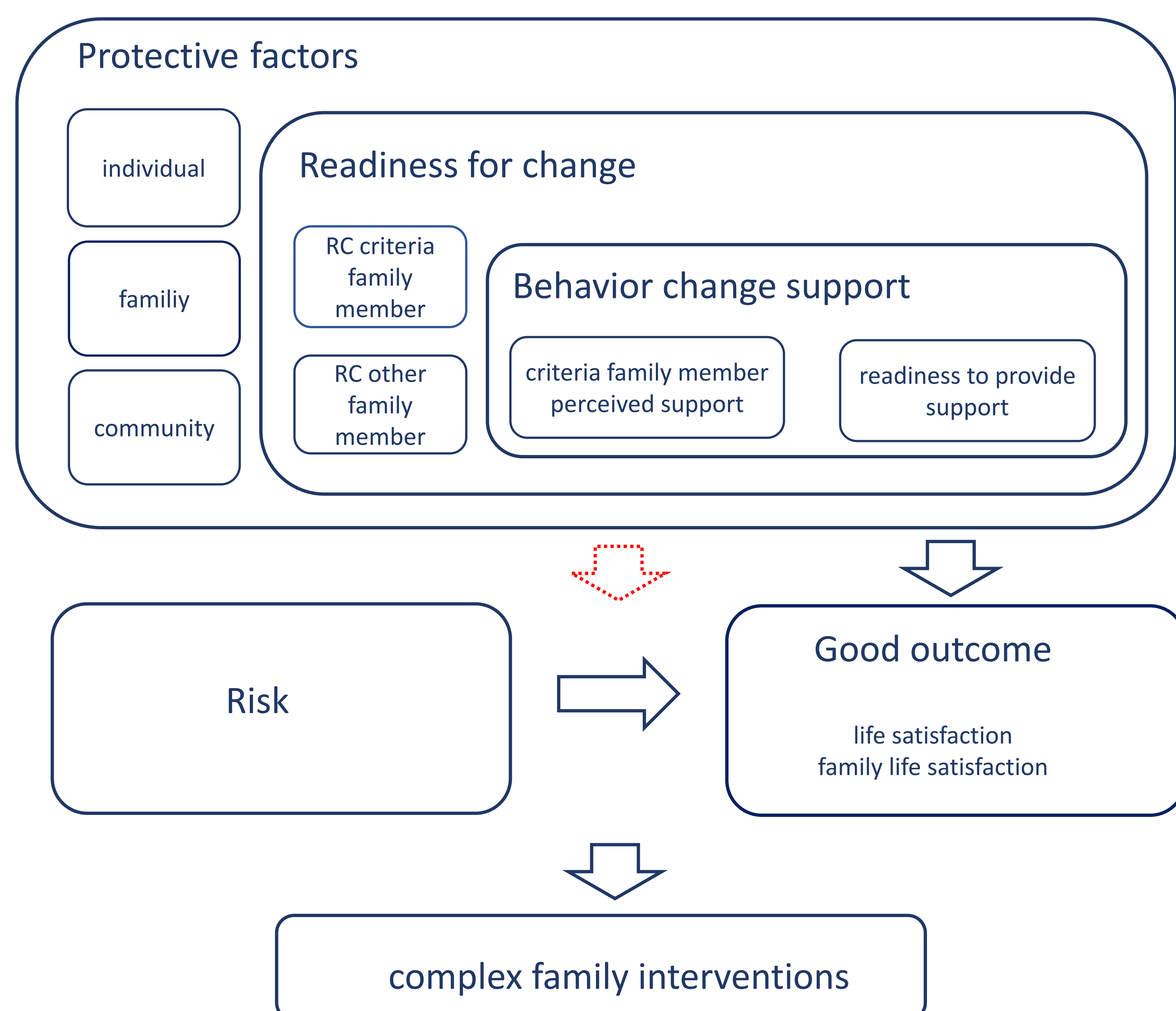
Life satisfaction - the degree to which people positively assess the overall quality of their life; one of the indicators of quality of life (adapted from Veenhoven, 1996)

Satisfaction with family life - the degree of family members satisfaction with family cohesion, adaptability and communication in the family

Readiness for change - ones' beliefs, attitudes, and intentions regarding the extent to which changes are needed and the personal capacity to make those changes (Armenakis, 1993; Miller, Rollnick, 2002).

Readiness to the intervention - focuses on ones' motivation to seek help or readiness to include in intervention activities (Ward et al., 2004).

Family readiness to change - family ability to support one or more members in the process of behavior change towards personal and socially acceptable behavior; it consists of knowledge about acceptable behaviors, the ability of the family to change behavioral patterns in order to achieve changes in family relationships and communication



Sample & instruments

The Sample

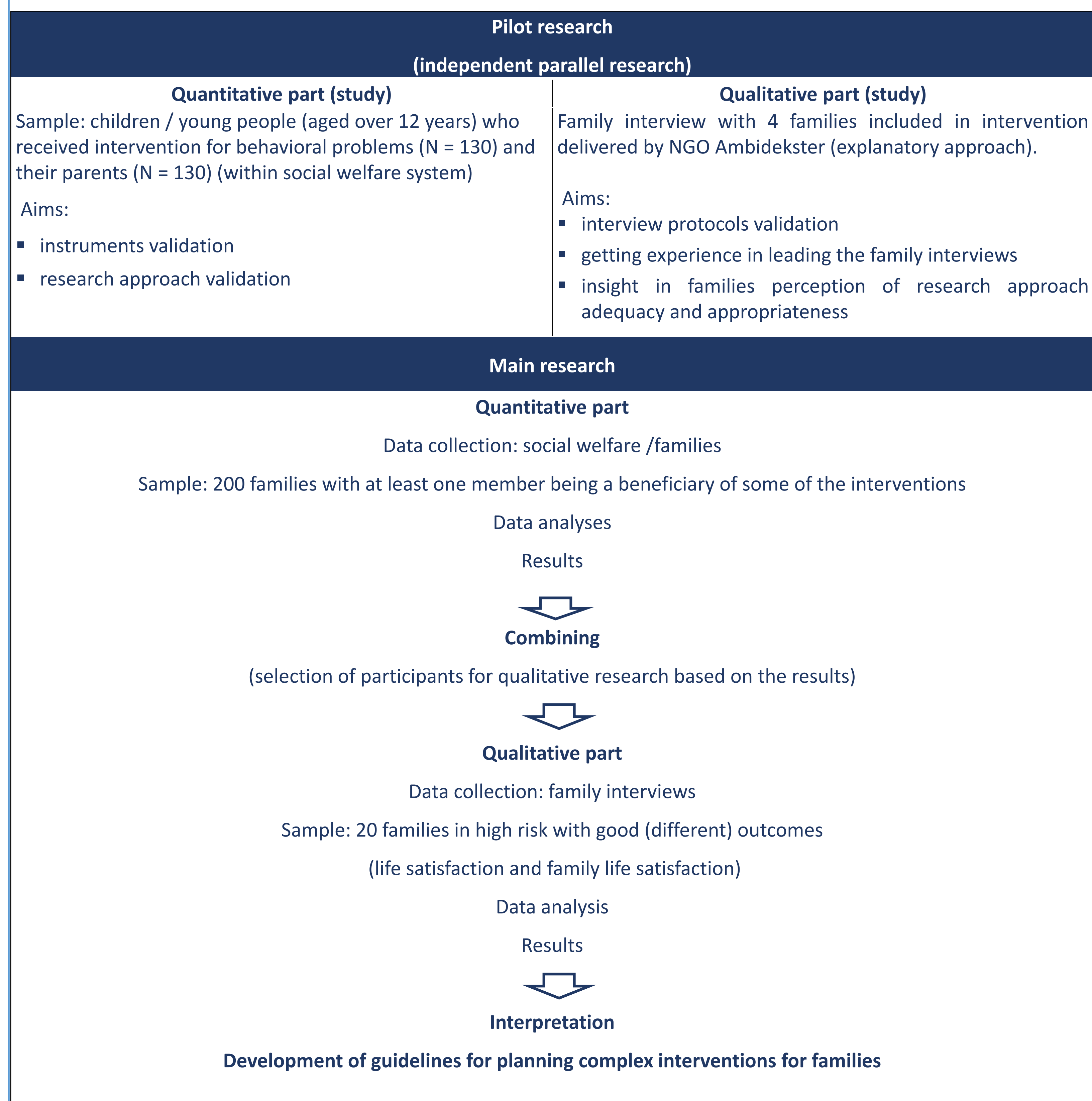
The sample will include families from the City of Zagreb and the Zagreb County area with at least one member being a beneficiary of some of the interventions in the area of education, health care, social welfare and the judiciary system Total of 200 families:

- Sub-sample #1: 100 families with a parent as the criterion member - parents being beneficiaries of some of the following intervention types: family-law, mental health interventions, interventions for drug addicts, alternative sanctions or imprisonment
- Sub-sample #2: 100 families with children as the criterion member - children (aged from 7(12) to 18) being beneficiaries of interventions such as counselling, programs for children with organic behavioral problems or residential

Planned instruments

- General data survey (socio-demographic data)
- Child Developmental Risk Assessment, LPRRD (Ajduković, Ajduković, Sladović Franz & Laklija, 2014)
- Family Resilience Assessment Scale, FRAS (Sixbey, 2005)
- Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scale, FACES IV (Olson et al, 2007)
- Stages of Change Questionnaire (McConaughy, Prochaska & Velicher, 1983)
- Readiness to provide support and perceptions of support in the family (parallel form) (Ratkajec Gašević, Dodig Hundić & Mihić, 2016)
- General Self-efficacy Form (Schwarzer & Jerusalem, 1995)
- Personal Wellbeing Index, PWI (Cummins, 2002)

Procedure



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