
Trauma Exposure Among Minority Youth in a Community Mental Health System

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Overview

- Brief background
 - Specific aims
 - Results/findings
 - Summary & conclusions
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Background

- Approximately 25% of American children will experience some type of trauma before their 16th birthday (Costello, Erkanli, Fairbank, & Angold, 2002)
 - What *is* trauma?
 - Events such as: natural disasters, man-made disasters, motor vehicle accidents, medical trauma
 - Events generally referred to as *interpersonal violence*:
 - Sexual abuse/assault
 - Physical abuse/assault
 - Neglect
 - Witnessing violence in the home and/or community
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Trauma in Hawaii

Few studies exist:

- 25 women, 25 children in HNL exposed to DV
(Chemtob & Carlson, 2004)
 - 84% of children reported directly witness DV
 - 60% victim of phys abuse
 - 4% victim of sexual abuse
 - 92% mothers sought psychiatric services, 32% sought services for their children
 - Chemtob team 2003, 2002—Hurricane Iniki
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Impact of Trauma


- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Depression
- Substance abuse
- Behavioral problems
- Anxiety
- Traumatic grief
- Suicidal ideation
- Nightmares
- Academic difficulties
- Poor peer relationships



Focus of current study

- Trauma-related diagnoses:
 - Posttraumatic stress disorder
 - Acute stress disorder
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Study Aims

- **Aim 1.** Is trauma related with particular age, gender, or ethnic group in a unique, community mental health population?
 - **Aim 2.** Trauma-related Dx  Traumatic stress TT
 - **Aim 3.** What treatment strategies provided to traumatized youth? Are they evidence-based?
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Participants

- 836 CAMHD registered youth, at least one completed service episode/MTPS between January 1, 2006 and March 31, 2008
 - 321 girls (38.4%), 516 boys (61.6%)
 - 3 to 19 years old ($M = 14.6$ years)
 - Race:
 - 54.5% Multiracial
 - 12.5% Not available
 - 12.1% White
 - 10.2% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - 7% Asian
 - 2.3% Black or African-American
 - 0.8% Other
 - 0.6% American Indian/Alaska Native
 - Youth with comorbid diagnoses: 78% (655)
 - Number of diagnoses:
 - $M = 2.3$, Max = 5
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Aim 1: Trauma Diagnosis & Demographics

- Participants with trauma-related diagnosis:
 - 109 youth
 - 63 girls (57.8%), 46 boys (42.2%)
 - 3 to 19 years old ($M = 14$ years)
 - Race:
 - 64.2% Multiracial
 - 11.0% White
 - 9.2% Not available
 - 5.5% Asian
 - 4.6% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - 2.8% Other
 - 1.8% Black or African-American
 - 0.9% American Indian/Alaska Native
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