

The intergenerational impact of war: longitudinal relationships between caregiver and child mental health in postconflict Sierra Leone

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Measures

Internalizing symptoms.

The internalizing symptoms were measured using the Internalizing Symptom Scale (ISS) (Briere & Runtz, 2004). The ISS is a 4-item self-report scale that assesses internalizing symptoms (e.g., anxiety, depression, and stress) on a 4-point Likert scale (1 = "not at all", 2 = "a little", 3 = "moderately", 4 = "very much"). The ISS has a Cronbach's alpha of .91. The ISS score ranges from 4 to 16, with higher scores indicating higher levels of internalizing symptoms.

War exposures.

War exposures were measured using the War Experiences of Vietnam Veterans Survey (WEVVS) (Briere & Runtz, 2012). The WEVVS is a self-report scale that assesses war exposures on a 4-point Likert scale (1 = "not at all", 2 = "a little", 3 = "moderately", 4 = "very much"). The WEVVS has a Cronbach's alpha of .91. The WEVVS score ranges from 4 to 16, with higher scores indicating higher levels of war exposures.

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Key points

- Although it is well established that caregiver mental health plays a role in child mental health in Western settings, there is a dearth of longitudinal studies in postconflict environments investigating this relationship following war exposure.
- A two-wave prospective study of mental health among former child soldiers and their caregivers was

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