

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) (Fergusson & Horwood, 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 = "quite a bit", 4 = "very much"). The ISS has a Cronbach's alpha of .71 (Fergusson & Horwood, 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 = "quite a bit", 4 = "very much"). The ISS has a Cronbach's alpha of .71 (Fergusson & Horwood, 2004).

War exposures.

War exposures were measured using the War Experiences of British Troops Scale (WEBS) (Fergusson & Horwood, 2012). The WEBS is a 10-item self-report scale that assesses war exposures (e.g., combat, injury, and loss) on a 4-point Likert scale (1 = "not at all", 2 = "a little", 3 = "quite a bit", 4 = "very much"). The WEBS has a Cronbach's alpha of .88 (Fergusson & Horwood, 2012).

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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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