Profiles of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Related to Home Violence: Distinguishing Between Adversity and Trauma Using Latent Class Analysis

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HIGHLIGHTS

• Multiple types and experiences of home violence can have traumatic effects
• Victimization was associated with clinically elevated PTSD, particularly dysphoric arousal
• Many (High) exposures were associated with increased PTSD severity and anxious arousal
• Vicarious exposures alone (i.e., without victimization or witnessing) were not associated with elevated PTSD

Method
• 988 participants
• Median age = 19 years
• 74.1% female
• 43.7% Latinx, 19.8% Black, 16.4% White

Measures:
• Screen for Adolescent Violence Exposure (SAVE)
• Collapsed 13-item self-report of lifetime home violence exposure

Data analyses:
• Latent class analysis (LCA) in Mplus 8.3
• Step 1: LCA of home violence experiences
• Step 2: LCA of reported PTSD
• Step 3: Predict classifications of PTSD from classifications of home violence experiences

Table 1. Comparisons of Home Violence Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Vicarious</th>
<th>Victimized</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Pf2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. HV Events</td>
<td>M = 7.96</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>8.34</td>
<td>8.56</td>
<td>8.22</td>
<td>F = 1317.43***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Criterion A</td>
<td>M = 0.61</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>F = 157.20***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD Score Sum</td>
<td>M = 17.22</td>
<td>15.86</td>
<td>16.92</td>
<td>17.64</td>
<td>16.26</td>
<td>F = 30.80 ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD Diagnosis</td>
<td>82 (8.8%)</td>
<td>18 (5.3%)</td>
<td>17 (6.6%)</td>
<td>15 (14.3%)</td>
<td>32 (14.0%)</td>
<td>$\chi^2 = 18.33^{**}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Binomial logistic regression predicting the likelihood of a probable PTSD diagnosis *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>HV Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicarious</td>
<td>0.227</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>.516</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimized</td>
<td>1.023</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>.006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>1.071</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Adjusted for race/ethnicity

Figure 1. Home violence (HV) items and latent classifications predicting profiles of posttraumatic stress symptoms (PTSS)

Conclusions

High exposures predicted increased PTSD severity and Dysphoric Arousal (i.e., hypervigilance, psychological reactivity)

Vicimization predicted increased PTSD severity and Dysphoric Arousal (e.g., avoidance, emotional numbing, hypervigilance)

Vicarious exposures alone did not significantly predict PTSD outcomes

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