



ORAL PRESENTATION

Parental unemployment and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms: a study through the fog of Greek financial crisis

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Abstract

Introduction: The aim of the present study was to explore the impact of parental unemployment on the development in students of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms that are related to exposure to school bullying.

Methods: Participants were 2377 primary school students from Athens. The questionnaires were group-administered in each classroom by trained research staff.

Results: The findings showed that children that reside in families that both parents are unemployed have on average significantly higher PTSD scores related to exposure to school bullying. However, the greater PTSD scores in this group of students cannot be explained by the presence of a greater victimization rate, since the chi-square test for independence did not reveal a significant association between paternal em-

ployment status and bullying/victimization engagement. The greater PTSD scores in the group of students that experience paternal unemployment can be an outcome of severe economic stress in family life that influences their psychosocial development and reduces their capacity to overcome successfully adverse events, such as school bullying. The presence of various emotional problems that are more common in this group of students according to previous findings, maybe played a role in reducing the threshold for the development of PTSD symptoms.

Discussion and Conclusions: Properly designed interventions should provide support to students that experience economically stressful conditions, such as paternal unemployment.

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