Pediatric Experiences of PTSD Related to Natural Disasters

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PATIENT CARE ISSUE

Background & Significance
- Children and adolescents all over the world experience natural disasters
- 218 million people affected by natural disasters per year between 1994-2013
- Experiences of PTSD are often overlooked or misunderstood
- As nurses, recognition of PTSD is key to understanding patient experiences

REGISTERED NURSE INTERVIEW

- A registered nurse at a local emergency department was interviewed:
  - Had experience with children in Guatemala after a mudslide
  - A Child Life Specialist provides therapeutic play and education to reduce fear,
  - Children involved were sleep deprived and emotionally disconnected
  - Hospital protocol: “First line are our Child Life Specialists.” (Anonymous)

METHODS

- Databases: CINAHL plus full text, Academic Search Complete, Cochrane
  Central Register of Controlled Trials, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews,
  MEDLINE with Full Text, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection,
  PsycINFO, and SociINDEX with full text.
- Search Terms: “Natural disasters” “PTSD” “Somatic Symptoms”
- Limiters: Full text, Scholarly (peer reviewed) journals; Publication Date:
  2007-2017; Age: childhood (birth-12 yrs), Adolescence (13-17 yrs); Methodology:
  Interview; Classification: psychological disorders; English.

- Number of Articles Found: 122
- Number of Articles Selected: 10

RESULTS

- Ten Articles chosen:
  - 40% Descriptive
  - 60% Correlational, all LOE 6
  - ALL critiqued with Joanna Briggs Institute Critical Appraisal Tools

- Natural Disasters:
  - 60% Hurricanes
  - 20% Earthquakes
  - 10% Ts
  - 10% All of The Above

SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE

- Specific Findings Noted in Articles

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The IOWA Model of Evidence Based Practice to Promote Quality of Care was the
  framework used to guide this project
- Nurses & healthcare professionals need to be aware of the short-term & long-term
  multifaceted experiences of PTSD in children following natural disasters
- Research is needed regarding how children experience PTSD post-natural disaster

LIMITATIONS

1. Lack of Comparison Groups
2. Exclusively Level of Evidence 6
3. Varied Locations and Type of Event
4. Self-Report of Children and Adolescents
5. Lack of Pre-Disaster Baseline Measurements
6. Not all articles reported the same experiences to PTSD

REFERENCES