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Psychological screening of children and adolescents aged 8–18 fifteen months after the Omagh bomb.

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Psychological screening of children and adolescents aged 8–18 fifteen months after the Omagh Bomb identified substantial numbers of children and adolescents reporting significant levels of psychological fifteen months after the omagh bomb.

Purpose: In August 1998, the largest single atrocity of the NI troubles occurred in Omagh. 29 people were killed, 382 injured and 135 hospitalised. The aim of the study was to screen primary and secondary school students aged 8–18 years for psychological disturbance fifteen months after the bomb.

Method: All schools participated. In addition to demographic information and measures of exposure, primary school children completed the Horowitz Impact of Events Scale, the Birelson Depression Scale and the Spence Children's Anxiety Scale. Secondary school children completed the General Health Questionnaire (Greenberg) and the Post Traumatic Distress Scale, (Foa)

Results: 2196 children (aged 8–13) and 2355 adolescents (aged 13 to 20) participated. 1018 screened positive for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), 128 for depression and 437 for anxiety. 527 adolescents

scored positive for probable clinical disorder and 113 for PTSD. There were higher rates of disturbance in females than in males and in younger than in older. 16 % of adolescents and 50 % of children reported PTSD; 20 % of children reported anxiety and 5 % depression. Highest rates of disturbance were reported in those who had greatest exposure to the bomb.

Conclusion: Screening indicated substantial numbers of children and adolescents reporting significant levels of psychological fifteen months after the Omagh bomb.

PTSD assessment of children and adolescents 2 years after the Omagh bomb. Dr. Maura Mc Dermott, Child & Adolescent Service, Omagh, NI, Dr. D. McGuinness, Trauma and Recovery Service, Omagh and Professor Michael Fitzgerald, Trinity College, Dublin, Eire

Individual PTSD assessment of children and adolescents 2 years after the Omagh Bomb identified significant levels (23 %) of PTSD compared to 46 % of children and 16 % of adolescents screened positive for PTSD at 15 months. A higher rate of adolescents 86 % was identified and there was also a preponderance of females. Small numbers possibly related to inverse relationship between PTSD and time; avoidance; survival guilt; parents not able to identify child's distress; parental traumatic stress and the communities need to "move on".

Purpose: Fifteen months after the Omagh bomb (August 1998), 4,551 primary and secondary school students aged 8–18 years were screened for psychological disturbance using the following screening questionnaires – Birelson, Spence, Harrowitz, General Health

Questionnaire, Posttraumatic stress diagnostic scale. 267 children and 96 adolescents were identified as requiring individual assessments for possible PTSD/depression/anxiety. The purpose of this study was to offer individual assessments to these children and to evaluate the different treatments offered.

Method: Parents were contacted and offered appointments for their children. 44 responded and 30 attended for assessment. Parents and children were seen together and separately. Parents completed The Childhood PTSD Interview- Parent Form (Fletcher) and children The Childhood PTSD Interview- Children Form (Fletcher). A standard child psychiatric assessment was also carried out.

Results: 8 children had PTSD and are currently in treatment.

Conclusion: PTSD (23 %) still significant 2 years after the trauma, compared to 46 % of children and 16 % of adolescents screening positive for PTSD at 15 months. A higher rate of adolescents 86.5 % was identified and there was also a preponderance of females. Small numbers possibly related to inverse relationship between PTSD and time; avoidance; survival guilt; parents not able to identify child's distress; pa