

Abstract

Mental Health problems in Women with Childhood Domestic Violence

This study was conducted to explore the relationship between women's history of experiencing different types of abuse during childhood and development of mental health problems in adulthood. A convenience sample of 409 women recruited from health care centers in Jordan provided data for the study. One-way between-groups multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was implemented. Results indicated absence of statistically significant differences between physically abused and sexually abused women and their counterparts. Further, a statistically significant difference in mental health between women who experienced emotional abuse and childhood neglect and their counterparts was found (Wilks' Lambda for emotional abuse = 0.914, $p < .0001$; Wilks' Lambda for childhood neglect = 0.83, $p < .0001$). Between-groups comparisons using Bonferroni adjustment indicated that all dependent variables (depression, anxiety, stress, and self-esteem) differed significantly between emotionally and non-emotionally abused women and between neglected and non-neglected women. It was concluded that not all childhood abuse experiences lead to long term impacts on women's mental health. However, mental health consequences of childhood abuse may alter women's obligations towards family, children, and society. Therefore, efforts directing assessing women's history of childhood abuse are very important especially for those who are starting a marital relationship.