Assessing Trauma in Adolescents in Mozambique

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Introduction
• As is often the case with lower – and middle-income countries, Mozambique has a shortage of mental health care professionals
• Task-sharing allows for redistribution of mental health care responsibilities
• Redistribution of responsibilities requires understanding of how to identify and treat pathology

Objective of the Study
Investigate how best to integrate mental health services for Mozambican adolescents with depression into primary care

Results
• The most frequently endorsed traumatic experience was “seeing somebody in the community being slapped, punished, or beaten

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Discussion
• One of few studies to focus on trauma symptoms in non-war affected adolescent population in lower- and middle-income country
• Better understanding of trauma symptom causes will yield more effective identification and treatment of mental disorders in this population

Questions
• How will polyvictimization affect treatment of trauma symptoms in this population?

Conclusion
• Sizeable portion of Mozambican adolescents in this study were polyvictims, which may affect scalable interventions implemented in this population going forward

Acknowledgements
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• Collected data from two schools in Maputo City, Mozambique
• Used Child PTSD Symptom Scale as main trauma assessment tool
• Analyzed trauma experiences grouped by number, type, and polyvictimization

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• 36.5% of respondents endorsed more than one type of trauma (polyvictimization)