A longitudinal study of the effects of childhood trauma on symptoms and functioning of people with severe mental health problems

Davidson G., Shannon C., Mulholland C., Campbell J.
Department of Social Work, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Antrim, Ireland; Department of Clinical Psychology, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Holywell Hospital, Antrim, Ireland; Division of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Ireland; School of Sociology, Social Policy, and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Ireland

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between childhood trauma and the psychiatric symptoms and psychosocial functioning of adults with severe mental health problems. Participants (n = 31) were recruited from the caseloads of community mental health services in Northern Ireland and assessed at baseline, 9 months, and 18 months. More than half had a history of childhood trauma (n = 17). There were no differences between the no childhood trauma (n = 14) and childhood trauma groups on psychiatric symptoms, but a significant relationship was found between trauma history and all aspects of social functioning. Those with no history of trauma showed improved psychosocial functioning over time, whereas those with a history of trauma deteriorated. These findings have implications for current service provision.

Author Keywords: Psychiatric symptoms; Psychosis; Psychosocial functioning; Trauma

Year: 2009
Source title: Journal of Trauma and Dissociation
Volume: 10
Issue: 1
Page : 57-68
Cited by: 4
Link: Scopus Link
Document Type: Article
Source: Scopus

Authors with affiliations:
1. Davidson, G., Department of Social Work, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Antrim, Ireland
2. Shannon, C., Department of Clinical Psychology, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Holywell Hospital, Antrim, Ireland
3. Mulholland, C., Division of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Ireland
4. Campbell, J., School of Sociology, Social Policy, and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Ireland

References:
Zealand Journal of Psychology, 33, pp. 137-144


34. Spence, W., Mulholland, C., Lynch, G., McHugh, S., Dempster, M., Shannon, C., Rates of childhood trauma in a sample of patients with schizophrenia as compared with a sample of patients with non-psychotic psychiatric diagnoses (2006) Journal of Trauma & Dissociation, 7 (3), pp. 7-22