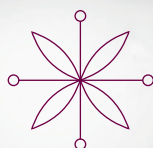


The Abstract Book of the 22nd European Conference on Developmental Psychology



August 25-29, 2025
Vilnius, Lithuania

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CONTINUOUS TRAUMATIC STRESS IN ADOLESCENCE: MEASUREMENT AND LINKS WITH VIOLENCE EXPOSURE

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Background: Adolescence is a sensitive developmental period when exposure to violence can be particularly detrimental to mental health. While acute trauma responses are quite well-studied, reactions to ongoing violence require distinct consideration.

Objective: This study aimed to validate the Lithuanian version of the Continuous Traumatic Stress Response (CTSR) scale in adolescents and examine associations between violence exposure and CTS reactions.

Method: The sample comprised 321 adolescents ($M(SD)_{age}=14.19(1.26)$; 56.4% female) from Lithuania. 54.5% of participants reported continuous violence exposure. We conducted confirmatory factor analysis with measurement invariance testing across genders and employed latent class analysis to identify CTS reaction patterns.

Results: The CTSR scale demonstrated strong structural validity and measurement invariance. Three distinct CTS reaction patterns emerged (low, moderate, high), with a suggested clinical cut-off score of ≥ 18 . The scale showed good differential validity between violence-exposed and non-exposed groups across all subscales (Exhaustion/Detachment, Rage/Betrayal, Fear/Helplessness). Different forms of violence exposure (neglect, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse) significantly predicted higher CTS reaction patterns.

Conclusions: This study establishes the CTSR as a valid measure for adolescent populations while highlighting the significant relationship between violence exposure and continuous traumatic stress reactions.