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The prevalence of posttraumatic stress in adolescents eight years after the Wenchuan earthquake

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Abstract

In 2008, an 8.0 Richter scale earthquake devastated Wenchuan in China, which resulted in heavy casualties, and had wide-reaching psychological effects on survivors. To examine its impact on the survivors, this study aims to investigate the prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and posttraumatic growth (PTG) in adolescents eight years after the earthquake. The cross-section survey was conducted in two different earthquake-affected areas, and data were collected from 4118 respondents. Instruments included the questionnaire on demographic information, the questionnaire on seismic exposure, PTSD Checklist-Civilian Version (PCL-C) questionnaire, Posttraumatic Growth Inventory (PTGI), Perceived Social Support Scale (PSSS) and Simple Coping Style Questionnaire (SCSQ). During the survey, there were 1998 valid questionnaires from the generally affected area and 2120 questionnaires from the severely affected area. The rate of PTSD is 1.9% in the generally affected area and 2.7% in the severely affected disaster area; there is no significant difference between the two differently affected areas. Occurrences of

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