

Data supplement

Appendix DS1		
Childhood family adversity predictors	Questions	Notes
Physical abuse	When you were growing up, how often did someone in your household do any of the things on this list (the list included being pushed, grabbed or shoved, slapped, hit or punched, or the target of something thrown) to you – often, sometimes, rarely, or never?	Respondents were classified as having experienced this if they indicated that, when they were growing up, their father or mother (including biological, adoptive or step-parent) slapped, hit, pushed, grabbed, shoved or threw something at them, or whether they were beaten up as a child by the persons who raised them.
Sexual abuse	The next two questions are about sexual assault. The first is about rape. We define this as someone either having sexual intercourse with you or penetrating your body with a finger or object when you did not want them to, either by threatening you or using force, or when you were so young that you didn't know what was happening. Did this ever happen to you? <i>or</i> Other than rape, were you ever sexually assaulted or molested?	Sexual abuse was the only adversity where information was not collected that would distinguish whether the perpetrator was a family member or someone else. However, previous research using a similar measure but which did allow such a distinction showed that a good indirect way to distinguish family v. non-family sexual abuse is to ask about number of instances of victimisation, with cases involving one or two instances typically perpetrated by a stranger, and those involving three or more instances typically perpetrated by a family member. ¹ In the World Mental Health surveys therefore, respondents who reported that any of these experiences occurred to them three times or more were coded as having experienced sexual abuse (within the family context).
Neglect	How often were you made to do chores that were too difficult or dangerous for someone your age? How often were you left alone or unsupervised when you were too young to be alone? How often did you go without things you needed like clothes, shoes, or school supplies because your parents or caregivers spent the money on themselves? How often did your parents or caregivers make you go hungry or not prepare regular meals? How often did your parents or caregivers ignore you or fail to get you medical treatment when you were sick or hurt?	The serious neglect scale was the sum of the number of neglect items where the respondent replied 'often' or 'sometimes', plus 1 if the respondent rated either of his/her parents as having spent little or no effort in watching over them to ensure they had a good upbringing. The severe neglect scale is the sum of the number of neglect items where respondents replied 'often', plus 1 if the respondent rated either of his/her parents as having spent no effort in watching over them to ensure they had a good upbringing. Both the serious and severe neglect scales ranged from 0 to 6. For the final definition of neglect, the respondent had to have a score of at least 1 on the severe neglect scale and at least 2 on the serious neglect scale. (Note that the coding of the neglect domain was determined empirically on the basis of frequency distributions, to derive estimates in keeping with existing literature on the prevalence of these experiences in the general population).
Parental death, divorce or other loss	<i>Respondents were first asked whether they lived with both of their parents when they were brought up. If they replied in the negative, they were asked: 'Did your biological mother or father die, were they separated or divorced, or was there some other reason?'</i>	According to their answers to these questions, respondents were classified as having experienced parental death (i.e. when they indicated that one or both parents had died), parental divorce (i.e. when they indicated that their parents had divorced), and other parental loss (i.e. when respondents replied that they were either adopted, went to boarding school, were in foster care, or that they left home before the age of 16 years).
Parental mental illness	<i>Parental depression</i> During the years you were growing up, did (the woman/man who raised the respondent) ever have periods lasting 2 weeks or more where they were sad or depressed most of the time? <i>and</i> During the time when (his/her) depression was at its worst, did (he/she) also have other symptoms like low energy, changes in sleep or appetite, and problems with concentration? <i>Parental generalised anxiety disorder</i> During the time you were growing up, did (the woman/man who raised the respondent) ever have periods of a month or more when they were constantly nervous, edgy, or anxious? <i>and</i> During the time their nervousness was at its worst, did they also have other symptoms like being restless, irritable, easily tired, and having difficulty falling asleep? <i>Parental panic disorder</i> Did (the woman/man who raised the respondent) ever complain about anxiety attacks where all of a sudden they felt frightened, anxious, or panicky?	Respondents who replied positively on the diagnostic items for any of these mental disorders were then asked whether these symptoms: (a) occurred during all, most, some or only a little of their childhood; (b) interfered a lot with the life or activities of the parent or the person who raised the respondent; (c) whether their parents sought professional help for this problem. If respondents replied affirmatively on (a) 'all or most of the time', and either on (b) or (c), they were coded as respondents with parental depression, generalised anxiety disorder, or panic disorder respectively.

(continued)

Appendix DS1 (continued)		
Childhood family adversity predictors	Questions	Notes
Parental substance use disorder	(a) Did (the woman/man who raised the respondent) ever have a problem with alcohol or drugs? (b) Did (he/she) have this problem during all, most, some, or only a little of your childhood?	Respondents who replied positively on the first and 'all' and 'most' on the second item were then asked whether the problem interfered a lot with life or activities of the man or woman who raised the respondent (criterion c), and whether they had sought professional help for this problem (criterion d). Those respondents who replied affirmatively on criteria (a) and (b), and on either (c) or (d) were coded as having had parents with a substance use disorder.
Parental criminal behaviour	Was (the woman/man who raised the respondent) ever involved in criminal activities like burglary or selling stolen property? Was (the woman/man who raised the respondent) ever arrested or sent to prison?	Respondents who replied positively on either question were classified as having experienced criminal behaviour in the family.
Family violence	Were you often hit, shoved, pushed, grabbed or slapped while growing up or did you often witness physical fights at home, like when your father beat up your mother?	
Family economic adversity	During your childhood and adolescence, was there ever a period of 6 months or more when your family received money from a government assistance programme like Welfare, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Assistance, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families? or <i>If there was no male head of the family and the female head did NOT work all or most of the time during respondent's childhood; or if there was no female head of the family and the male head did NOT work all or most of respondent's childhood, or if there was no female head and no male head of the family.</i>	This item was modified to be relevant to the welfare programmes in each country where the survey was administered

Reference

- 1 Molnar BE, Buka SL, Kessler RC. Child sexual abuse and subsequent psychopathology. Results from the National Comorbidity Survey. *Am J Public Health* 2001; **91**: 753–60.