

Abstract

Title: Parent Depressive Symptoms in Combination With Secondary Family Stress Variables: Effects on Child Disruptive Behaviors.

Authors: Chelsea Krisanda, Justin Parent, Anna W. Wright, & Rex Forehand

There is a large body of research regarding the relation of parent depressive symptoms and other family stress variables (i.e., single parent status, coparent conflict, parent education and socioeconomic status, lax or overreactive parenting) with child behavior outcomes. The present study extends this research by investigating the additive contribution of each family stress variable to parental depressive symptoms in the prediction of child disruptive behavior. Participants were 91 parents who had been enrolled in one of two studies regarding learning parental techniques to improve their child's disruptive behaviors (Forehand et al. 2010; Forehand et al. 2011). Parent depression and all secondary family stress variables were assessed with parental self-report measures. The outcome variable, intensity of child disruptive behavior, was determined by parent report on the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI) intensity scale. Hierarchical linear regression analyses were performed where parent depressive symptoms were entered in the first block followed by one of the other family stress variables in the second block. The results indicated that the combination of coparent conflict and parent depressive symptoms accounted for the largest portion of the variance in the intensity of child disruptive behaviors. One implication of the current study is that it may be important to assess for both parent depressive symptoms and secondary family stress variables (e.g., coparent conflict) when conducting interventions for parents of young disruptive children. Further implications and future directions will be presented.