

Abstract

Whereas some adolescents with early life trauma develop behavioral addictions, others manage to avoid such outcomes by leveraging protective parental factors such as communication, warmth, and monitoring to shield themselves from these behaviors. In the current study, which comprised 828 Israeli-Arab adolescents (36% boys, 64% girls; ages 14-18), we examined the association between early life trauma (i.e., abuse/neglect), parent-adolescent communication, parental warmth, and parental monitoring among Israeli-Arab adolescents, both with and without behavioral addictions, using a network analysis approach. First, we calculated the differences between participants with a behavioral addiction ($n = 515$) and those without an addiction ($n = 313$) in the research measures. Second, by using network analysis we detected two sub-networks: (i) abuse and (ii) parenting-related. The findings highlighted that emotional abuse and parental warmth had been significant factors influencing the structure and dynamics of the network among adolescents with behavioral addictions.. This research enhances our understanding of these dynamics by offering a nuanced perspective on the interplay between early life trauma and parental influences among Israeli-Arab adolescents.

Keywords: behavioral addictions; early life trauma; parent-adolescent communication; parental warmth; network analysis