

PREVALENCE OF POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN IRAQ

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Iraq had been under severe stressful conditions for the last 4 decades. No previous national figures for the prevalence of whole mental disorders.

Objectives: Estimate the prevalence of PTSD & its sequel among the whole country.

Method: A national-wide survey with a sample size of 4500 had been done from Aug.2006 to March 2007. An International diagnostic instrument (CIDI) had been used to household persons & 4332 completed the questionnaire.

Results: Prevalence of PTSD for life time was 3.59% & prevalence for 12 months was 1.63 % .Elderly people were more prone to PTSD. The prevalence was much less than other countries with similar conflict situations.

Conclusions: PTSD might be not the only sequel of the major traumas. People in different parts of the world might show different responses to traumatic events.