
Adolescent Stress Trajectories in Arab Muslim Immigrant Families

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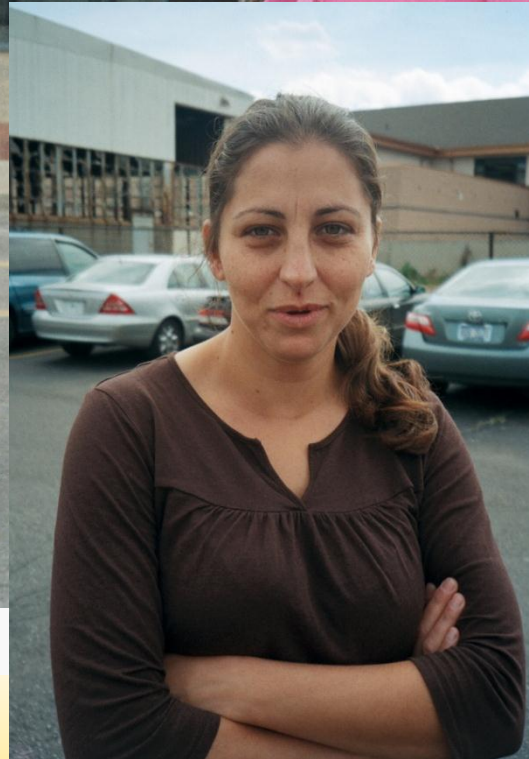
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- Team for the larger study
 - PI, Aroian
 - Statistician, Templin
 - Family expert, Hough
 - Culture expert, Kulwicki
 - 12 Arabic-speaking data collectors



Background

- Daily hassles are ubiquitous
- Relevance to adolescent mental health is through repetitive or sustained effects
- Little is known about the trajectory of daily hassles in Arab Muslim adolescents in immigrant and refugee families to the U.S.

Research Questions

- Which daily hassle domains are most “hassling” for Arab Muslim youth in immigrant families?
 - Parents
 - School
 - Neighborhood
 - Peers
 - Resources

Research Questions (cont.)

- What is the trajectory of different domains of daily hassles during early, middle, and later adolescence?
- What is the effect of child's gender and parents' immigration status (refugee, non refugee) on the trajectory of daily hassle domains?

Study Design

Three wave longitudinal study

Wave 1 (N = 633)
(baseline)

Mean Age (S.D.
pooled)

13.78 yrs. (2.24)

Wave 2 (N = 530)
(18 months)

15.33 yrs.

Wave 3 (N = 454)
(36 months)

16.62 yrs.

Study Criteria

- Family emigrated after 1989 and self-identified as Arab Muslim
- Lived in greater Detroit (Michigan, USA)
- Both mother and one child between the ages of 11 and 15 were willing to participate
- English language and reading ability were ***not*** required

Measures

- Adolescent Daily Hassles Scale (ADHS; Seidman, et al., 1995)
- Demographic and Migration Questionnaire
- Environmental risk (Hough et al., 2003)

ADHS

- 21 items on 4-point scale (1 = not at all a hassle, 4 = a very big hassle)
- Measures hassles in five domains:
 - Parents
 - Peers
 - School
 - Neighborhood
 - Resources

Demographic and Migration Questionnaire

- Child's age and age at immigration
- Family immigration status (refugee, non refugee)
- Family years in U.S.
- Child's gender
- Parents' education
- Father's employment

Environmental Risk

- Used as proxy for income
- Reported by the mother
- 14 items about the family's proximate environment:
 - Functional plumbing and heating in the home
 - Noise, pollution, abandoned homes/lots, and safe playgrounds in the neighborhood
 - Household member witnessed or victim of crime in the neighborhood

Data Analysis

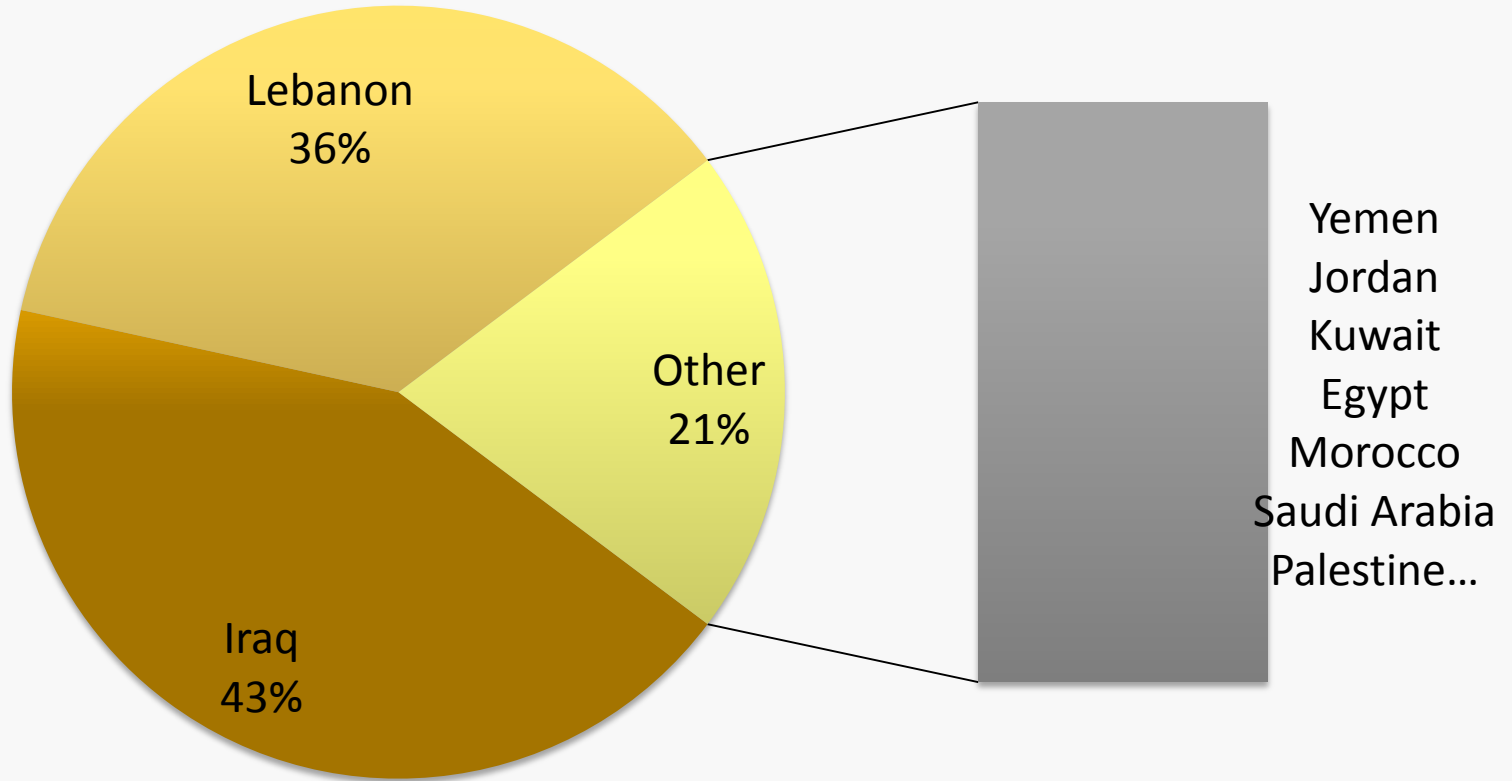
- MANCOVA - effects of immigrant status and gender on adolescent daily hassles
- Polynomial contrasts- Hassle trajectories
- Demographic characteristics potentially confounding the effects of immigration status and gender - identified/included as covariates
 - Father's occupational status
 - Mother's educational level

Sample Characteristics

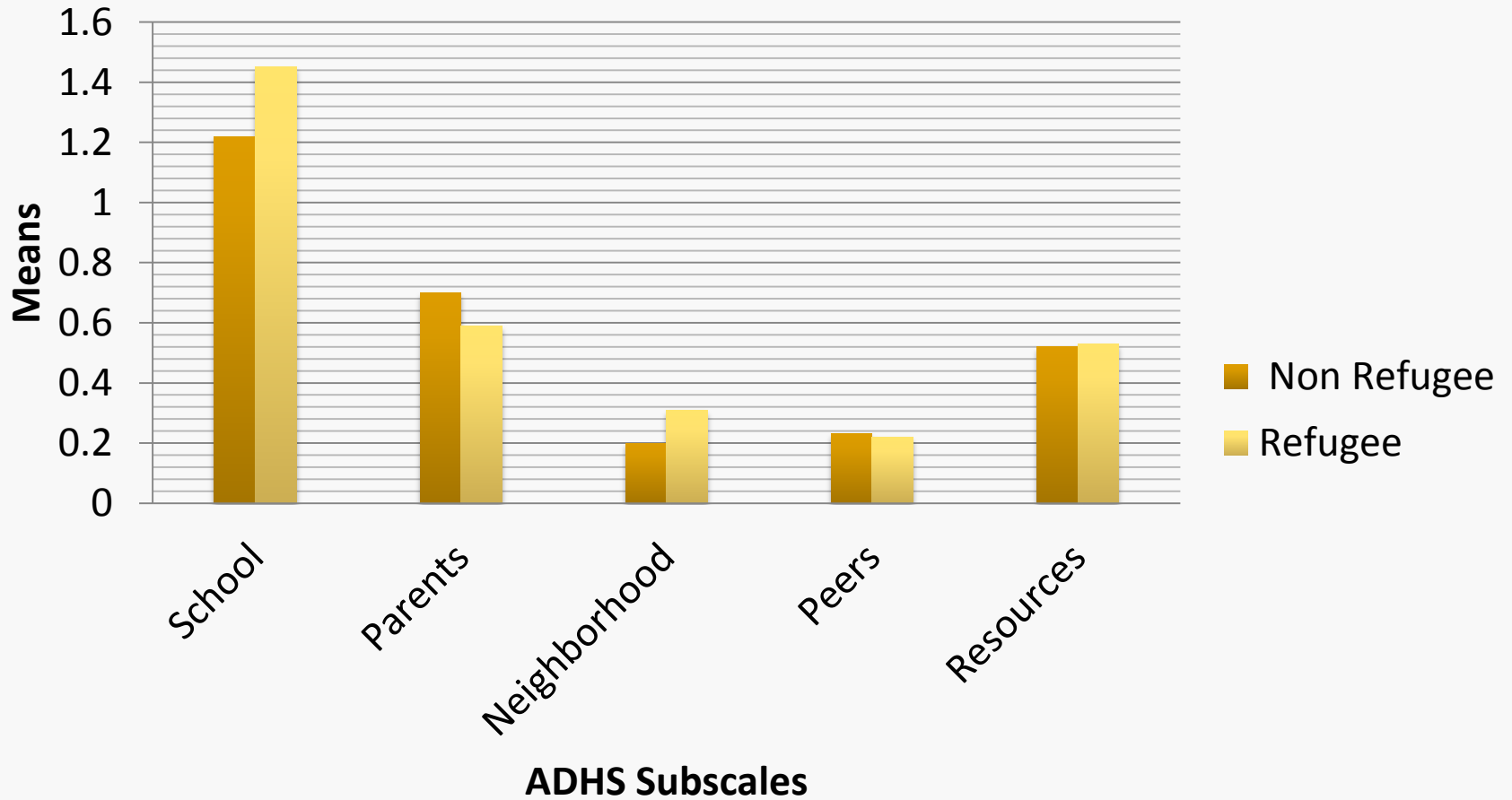
	Non Refugee (n = 225)	Refugee (n = 199)	Total (n = 454)
	M (SD)		
Child's age at immigration	6.18 (5.03)	4.97 (3.16)	5.65 (4.35) (n = 381)
Family yrs. in US*	7.65 (5.05)	8.80 (2.76)	8.16 (4.23)
Environmental Risk	.08 (.10)	.09 (.11)	.09 (.11)
	Percent		
Child's gender (% girls)	46.3	54.3	49.8
Married mothers	85.5	87.9	86.6
Fathers employed full or part time*	71.4	40.7	57.9
Mothers < high school*	61.2	69.3	64.8
Fathers < high school	54.5	54.3	54.4

*p < .05

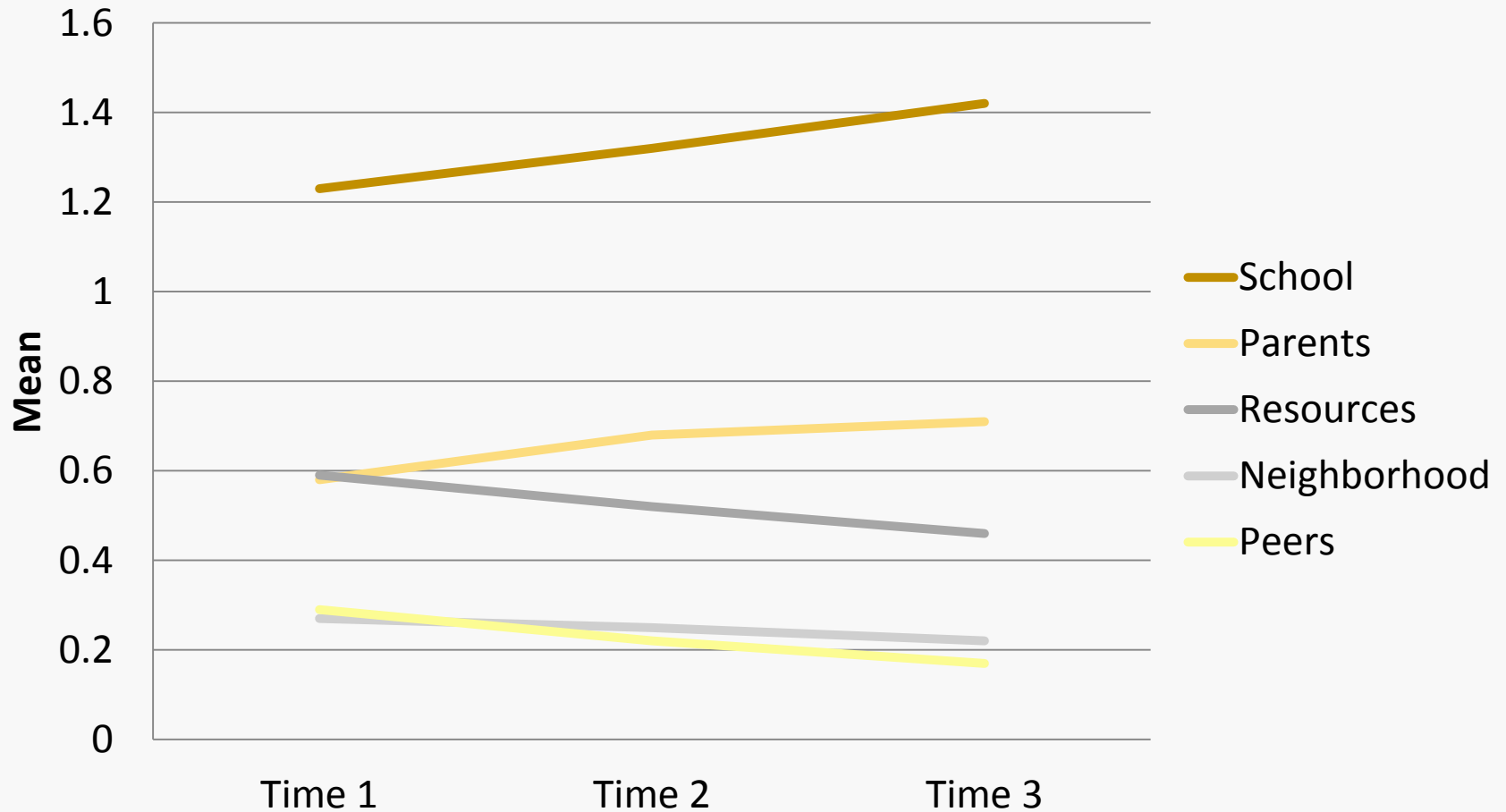
Family Country of Origin



ADHS Scores by Immigrant Status



ADHS Subscales by Time of Testing



Covariates

- Adolescents with unemployed fathers had significantly more School and Neighborhood hassles
- Adolescents with mothers with a high school education or higher had an increase in School hassles earlier in their adolescent years

Implications for Practice and Future Research

- Arab Muslim youth in immigrant families need help with school stress, particularly
 - those with refugee parents
 - who have unemployed fathers
- Early assistance may prepare youth for later academic challenges, preventing the increase in school hassles observed in this study

Implications for Practice and Future Research

- Given the higher Neighborhood hassles and lower Parent hassles observed in refugee youth in this study, vicarious trauma effects should be assessed in refugee youth