

# Posttraumatic Stress Disorders among Adolescent Post the (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham) (ISIS) War in Kirkuk City

Iman Hussein Alwan<sup>1</sup>, Abid Salih Kumait<sup>2</sup>, Hassan A. Hussein<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer, Ph.D. Psychiatric, University of Baghdad, College of Nursing, <sup>2</sup>Ph.D. Adult nursing, Lecture, University of Kirkuk, College of Nursing, <sup>3</sup>Assist. Professor, Department of Psych. Nursing, Collage of Nursing, University of Baghdad, Baghdad City, Iraq

## Abstract

**Background:** The gathering of Islamic assembling in Iraq and the Levant was known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, known as the ISIS, a furnished affiliation that follows the way of thinking of jihadi Salafi social occasions, and whose people point - according to their conviction - to restore “the Islamic caliphate and the utilization of Sharia”, and its people exist and spread Its effect is generally in Iraq and Syria with refreshes on its embodiment in the zones various countries are southern Yemen, Libya, Sinai, Azawad, Somalia, northeastern Nigeria and Pakistan. Additionally, the pioneer of this affiliation is Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi

**Objective(s):** To assess post-traumatic stress disorders among adolescents after (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant War) (ISIS) in the city of Kirkuk.

**Methodology:** A non experimental approach using descriptive design was applied in the present study from 1<sup>st</sup> october 2019 to the 20th of February 2020. The study was conducted at rural area which was under ISIS at Alhawija district in Kirkuk Gvernorate. the study involve many villige at alhawija district includes (Musaanaa village, Shamlan village Aleaoa village, Alhalawa village, Alkhan village). A Purposive sample consisted of (100) from both (male and female) the sample was collected from five village at alhiwija district, these village was occupied by ISIS groups approximately for 3 years from june, 2014 untill october 2018. In order to gather the study data, a questionnaire was building depending on the criteria of WHO scale (formate and modify by researcher) and related literature according to their study Data were analyzed by Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version (24) is used for data analysis at.

**Results:** The study revealed the sample size was consist of (57.0%) male and (43.0%) female also the result shows the participants are suffering from moderate to severe level of psychological distress which indicates having low level of psychological wellbeing and general health.

**Recommendation:** National and international interventions are required for them especially for the victims of sexual violence, physical, social and psychological supports are needed. Further studies and researches also required to assess their suffering and other possible psychological disorders.

**Keywords:** *Post-traumatic stress disorder; adolescent, Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).*

**Keywords:** *Adolescent, Posttraumatic Stress, Disorders, War.*

## Introduction

Life for many kids and youths in Iraq was flipped around in 2014 as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) started a fast development that saw rushes of viciousness heighten across a significant part of the

nation. In the assault that followed, more than 5 million individuals – half of them kids – were displaced. Psychiatric side effects and mental issue among evacuees are perceived as a pressing issue, particularly in the Yazidi populace, after the extreme assaults by the

alleged “Islamic State of Iraq and Syria” (ISIS) in July 2014<sup>(1)</sup>. Through the long stretches of cruel ISIS rule, Iraqi youngsters and teenagers were exposed to probably the most awful infringement of their privileges possible. For some residents the later battle to another control bring all the more torment. Homes and entire networks were decimated or proceed onward in the battling and innumerable kids and their families were harmed. A two year after inviting; ISIS was removed from Nenwa and Kirkuk, the injury of war lives on. Youngsters are ceaselessly helped to remember the past revulsions they encountered and still face unending threat from mines and unexploded arms, which keep on slaughtering, mangle and psychological warfare all the time. Many are battling to come back to class after years without instruction.<sup>(2)</sup>

A large extent of ladies than male experienced Post Traumatic SD and MD, and ladies with PTSD or gloom were more probable than their man partners to record having encountered or seen the demise of a mate or youngster. Ladies with PTSD announced the center indications of PTSD (flashbacks, hypervigilance, and exceptional mental misery because of tokens of injury) more much of the time than their male partners, and ladies would in general show undermodulation of feelings and low confidence in light of horrendous pressure. Discouraged ladies were almost certain than their male partners to report sentiments of blame or uselessness. Seriousness of posttraumatic side effects is by all accounts the most grounded indicator of disabled wellbeing related personal satisfaction in PTSD outpatients<sup>(3)</sup> Iraq’s populace is contained generally of kids and youngsters, with about 60 percent under the period of 25.2 And it is this gathering who are regularly the most noticeably terrible influenced mentally by the battling. Just by supporting their versatility and defending their psychological well-being and psychosocial prosperity can networks genuinely push ahead, making sure about an increasingly positive future for their nation. Life for many youngsters in Iraq was flipped around in 2014 as the (ISIS) started a quick development that floods of brutality heighten through a great part of the nation. In the assault that resulted, more than 5 million individuals half of them youngsters – were dislodged. During the long stretches of fierce ISIS rule, Iraqi youngsters were exposure to the absolute most appalling infringement of privileges possible<sup>(4)</sup>. Iraq’s populace is involved generally of kids and youngsters, with almost 60 percent under the time of

25.2 And it is this gathering who are frequently the most exceedingly awful influenced mentally by the battling. Just by supporting their strength and defending their psychological wellness and psychosocial prosperity can networks really push ahead, making sure about an increasingly positive future for their nation<sup>(5)</sup>.

Aims of the study :- to assess post-traumatic stress disorders among adolescents after (ISIS) in the city of Kirkuk

**Recommendations:** national and international interventions are required for them especially for the victims of sexual violence, physical, social and psychological supports are needed. Further studies and researches also required to assess their suffering and other possible psychological disorders.

## Methodology

A non experimental approach using the type of design is a descriptive from 1<sup>st</sup> october 2019 to the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The study was conducted at rural area which was under ISIS at Alhawija district in Kirkuk Governorate. the study involve many villige at alhawija district includes (Musaanaa village, Shamlan village Aleaoa village, Alhalawa village, Alkhan village). A Purposive sample consisted of (100) from both gender, the sample was collected from five village at alhiwija district, these village was occupied by ISIS groups approximately for 3 years from june, 2014 untill october 2018, the sample chosen according to the following criteria: Males and females from five fillage at ahiwija district. Ranges of age was between (10 -19 years for children). Agreed to attendance in the study. The inform consent obtained from all victimes befor starting in take information. In order to gather information, a questionnaire was constructed depending on the criteria of WHO scale (formate and modify by researcher) and related literature according to their study. It is composed of many parts parts:

Part I: Demographic characteristic of sample includes (age, marital status and types of event)

Part II: Scale of post trauma stress which consist of 22 questions, two liker scale 2 for Yes and 1 for No

Part III: Physical and psychological health assessment consist of from 28 question, four liker scale

Part IV: Psychometric distress measure which consist of from 10 questions, three liker scale

Part V: Psychological reactions which consist of from 20 questions, five liker scale. Data collected by questionnaire via interview technique throughout as a means of such collection, The data was collected between 10 th october 2019 to the 10th of January 2020. Analyz data in several steps. First, descriptive statistics, which include frequency and percentages. The second step, which includes inferential statistics (Chi-Square test and ANOAV), the statistical done by SPSS version (24) is at (P.value ≤ 0.05).

**Results**

**Table (1): Range, Mean, Standards of participants age**

Cases number =100		
Age range (years)	Mean ±SD	SE
1-18	12.54±0.471	0.05

SD= Standard Deviation, SE= Standard Error

Table (1) describe that 100% of participant of the study sample at age of 10-18 years old.

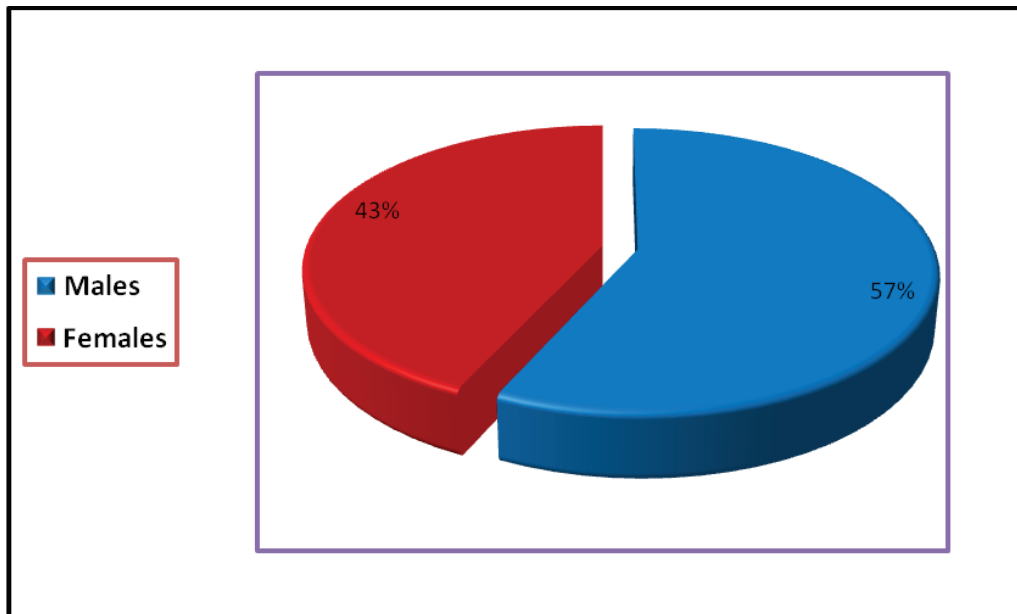
**Table 2: Distribution of study sample by their post-traumatic stress disorder with significant**

Questions about Post-traumatic stress disorder	Answer		OR	p- value
	Yes	No		
	N (%)	N (%)		
Q1	28(28)	72(72)	8.55	0.0003*
Q2	33(33)	67 (67)	7.04	0.0019*
Q3	43(43)	57(57)	2.96	0.049*
Q4	39(39)	61(61)	9.42	0.009*
Q5	43(43)	57(57)	2.96	0.049*
Q6	38(38)	62(62)	10.82	0.0111*
Q7	40(40)	60(60)	6.37	0.0126*
Q8	24(24)	76(76)	12.73	0.0002*
Q9	45(45)	55(55)	1.94	0.0488*
Q10	51(51)	49(49)	0.332	0.444
Q11	29(29)	71(71)	9.33	0.004*
Q12	33(33)	67(67)	7.04	0.0019*
Q13	43(43)	57(57)	2.96	0.049*
Q14	39(39)	61(61)	9.42	0.009*
Q15	42(42)	58(58)	4.722	0.0310*
Q16	63(63)	37(37)	8.66	0.0025*
Q17	77(77)	33(33)	7.04	0.0019*
Q18	46(46)	64(64)	5.311	0.017*
Q19	39(39)	61(61)	9.42	0.009*
Q20	40(40)	60(60)	4.884	0.033*
Q21	42(42)	58(58)	4.722	0.0310*
Q22	59(59)	41(41)	4.892	0.0340*

\*=Statically Significant (P<0.05), OR=odd ratio

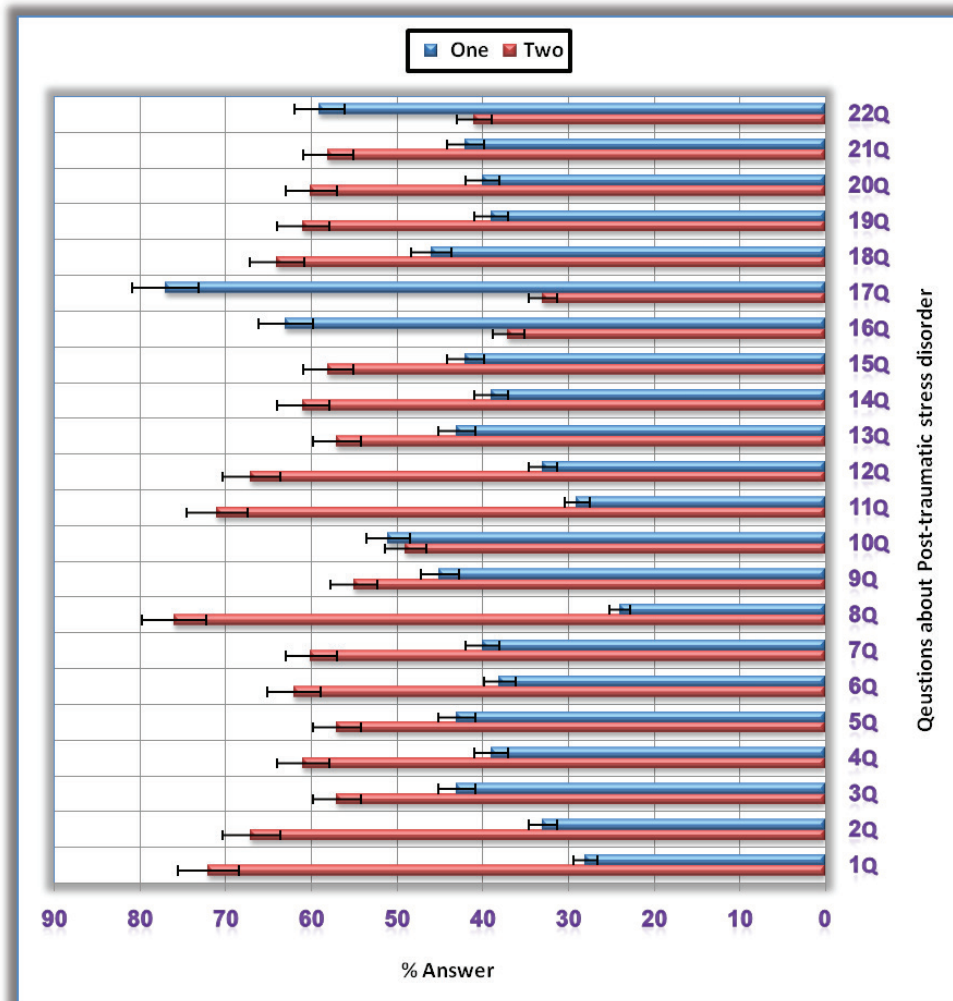
Table 2 included survey about post-traumatic stress disorder. Participants answers significantly different (p<0.05)on survey options except on Q10(P<0.444). However, most participant not exposure to condition of

present survey when most of them answer by no on all question except options on this survey where x2 is 30.08 and p value equal to 0.001



**Figure 3: Distribution of participant According To Their gender**

The figure shows that the majority of Participants with PTSD were (57%) were male



**Fig 2: Included describe post-traumatic stress disorder.**

The study result indicate that there is a high significant differences between the overall sample at (p<0.05). except Q10 represent (P<0.444).

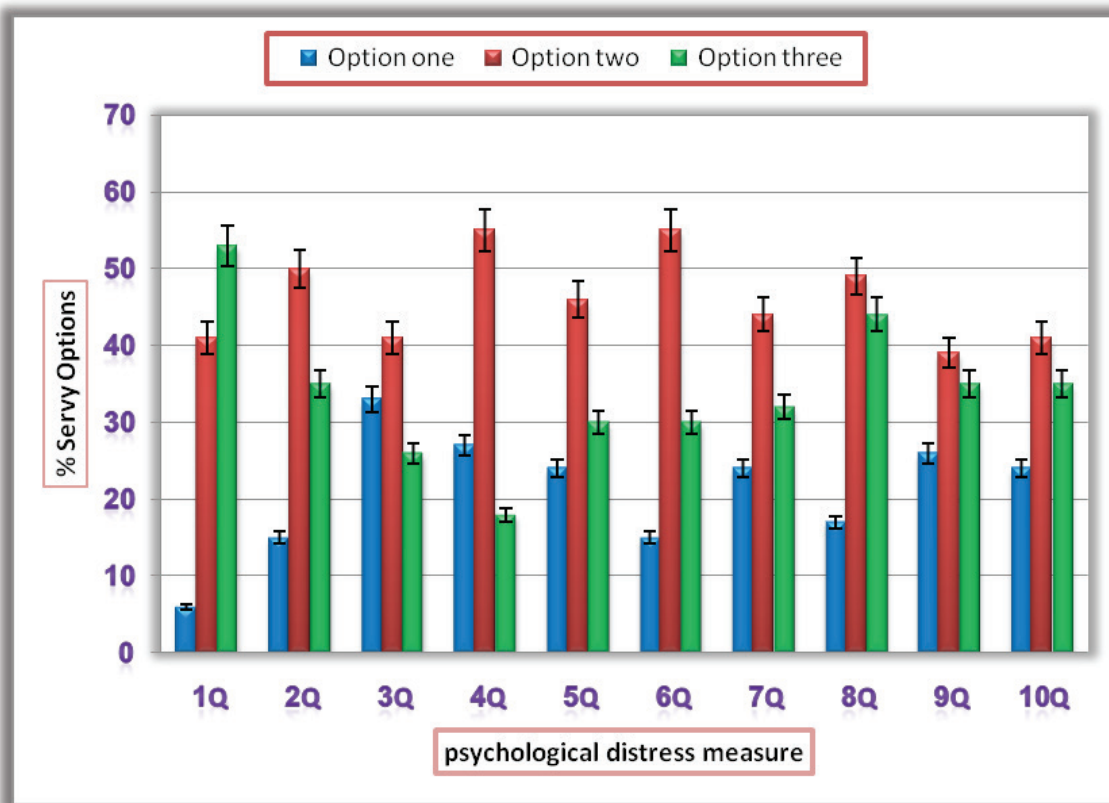
**Table 3: Distribution of participant by their psychological distress**

Psychological distress measure	Survey options			OR	P value
	Never	Sometimes	Always		
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)		
Q1	6 (6)	41 (41)	53(53)	3.91	0.038*
Q2	15 (15)	50 (50)	35 (35)	8.252	0.010*
Q3	33 (33)	41 (41)	26 (26)	4.75	0.0366*
Q4	27 (27)	55 (55)	18 (18)	6.92	0.0088*
Q5	24 (24)	46 (46)	30 (30)	2.77	0.030*
Q6	15 (15)	55 (55)	30 (30)	3	0.0299*
Q7	24 (24)	44 (44)	32 (32)	2.05	0.040*
Q8	17 (17)	49 (49)	44 (44)	2.87	0.022*
Q9	26 (26)	39 (39)	35 (35)	1.09	0.043*
Q10	24 (24)	41 (41)	35 (35)	1.10	0.041*

\*=Statically Significant (P<0.05), OR=odd ratio

Table (3) shows a significant differences between participants at (P<0.05).

The findings presented in table 3 indicate that the participants are suffering from moderate to severe level of psychological distress which indicates having low level of psychological wellbeing and general health.



**Figure (4): Psychological distress measure(Chi Square ( $X^2$ ) = 30.93, Degree of Freedom (DF)=27, P=0.0022\*)**

## Discussion of the Results

**Part I:** The present results revealed that 100% of participant of the study sample at age of 10-18 years old. Explanation of this result refers to all study sample from same age and sample region also the research focus on this sample at study findings of the present study supportive evidence is available in the study that showed (the high percentage of their sample were adolescent and shows 65%) from total sample.

Table 2 included survey about post-traumatic stress disorder. Participants answers significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) on survey options except on Q10 ( $P < 0.444$ ). However, most participant not exposure to condition of present survey when most of them answer by no on all question except options on this survey where  $\chi^2$  is 30.08 and  $p$  value equal to 0.001. Explanation of this result refers to most of victim was under ISIS suffering from traumatic disorder.

Our results is agreement with other study conduct by McCarthy and Semmache (2018) and report that numerous young ladies and young men keep on feeling is probably going to be fuelling their powerlessness to recuperate and is a key main impetus for their concerns. More than 80 percent of young people matured 13 to 17 said that they didn't have a mood of security strolling alone and right around 50 percent didn't have a sense of security away from their folks. Almost 33% of teenagers detailed failing to feel safe site at school, and just one-quarter think about school as a protected space<sup>(6)</sup>.

Also the result shows the majority of Participants with PTSD were (57%) were male, the study conducted by Alison (2017) reported that in her study we are concentrated on male child soldiers that constituted the largest group of children within the ISIS fighting-related structures and have lacked institutionalized support. It is, of course, important to systematically take into account female child soldiers as well that are certainly in equal need of attention, protection, and support<sup>(7)</sup>.

Also the result shows in Figure (2) included describe post-traumatic stress disorder, the result of study indicate that there is a high significant differences between the overall sample at ( $p < 0.05$ ). except Q10 represent ( $P < 0.444$ ).

Bogic and others (2015) Studies assessing mental clutters in war exiles show heterogeneity in commonness paces of sadness (run 2.3%–80%), PTSD (4.4%–86%),

and undefined uneasiness issue (20.3%–88%), for the most part because of clinical and methodological variables.<sup>(8)</sup>

With regard to psychological problems the findings presented in table 3 indicate that the participants are suffering from moderate to severe level of psychological distress which indicates having low level of psychological wellbeing and general health. This result is agreement with study conduct by Ceri and others (2018).<sup>(9)</sup>

Figure (4): Psychological distress measure (Chi Square ( $\chi^2$ ) = 30.93, Degree Of Freedom (DF) = 27,  $P = 0.0022^*$ )

This figure shows most of respondents suffer from mild and severe psychological problems. The most generally detailed mental outcome of horrible accidents and war clashes specifically is the post-horrendous pressure issue (PTSD). Then again, examines have increase the issue of substance use issue (SUD) among evacuees and populaces presented to war clashes. Be that as it may, enslavement in dislodged populaces is as yet an understudied point<sup>(10)</sup>

**Recommendations:** National and international interventions are required for them especially for the victims of sexual violence, physical, social and psychological supports are needed. Further studies and researches also required to assess their suffering and other possible psychological disorders.

**Financial Disclosure:** There is no financial disclosure.

**Conflict of Interest:** None to declare.

**Ethical Clearance:** All experimental protocols were approved and all experiments were carried out in accordance with approved guidelines.

## References

1. Abbott A. The mental-health crisis among migrants. *Nature* (2016) 538(7624):158–60. doi:10.1038/538158a
2. Tekin A, Karadag H, Suleymanoglu M, Tekin M, Kayran Y, Alpak G, et al. Prevalence and gender differences in symptomatology of posttraumatic stress disorder and depression among Iraqi Yazidis displaced into Turkey. *Eur J Psychotraumatol* (2016) 7:28556. doi:10.3402/ejpt.v7.28556
3. Pagotto LF, Mendlowicz MV, Coutinho ES,



- Figueira I, Luz MP, Araujo AX, et al. The impact of posttraumatic symptoms and comorbid mental disorders on the health-related quality of life in treatment-seeking PTSD patients. *Compr Psychiatry* (2015) 58:68–73. doi:10.1016/j.comppsy.2015.01.002
4. Index Mundi, Iraq Demographic Profile (2018) available at [https://www.indexmundi.com/iraq/demographics\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/iraq/demographics_profile.html)
  5. protect the pediatric. An Unbearable Reality: The effect of War and Displacement on Children's Mental Health in Iraq. (2017) <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/unbearable-reality-impact-war-and-displacement-childrens-mental-health-iraq>
  6. McCarthy, E and Semmache, U,. Rebuilding the lives of Mosul's children after years of conflict and violence, (2018), PP:3-6
  7. Allison C. *The Yazidis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2017
  8. Bogic M, Njoku A, Priebe S. Long-term mental health of war-refugees: a systematic literature review. *BMC Int Health Hum Rights* 2015;15: 29.
  9. Ceri V, Ozlu-Erkilic Z, Ozer U, Yalcin M, Popow C, Akkaya-Kalayci T. Psychiatric symptoms and disorders among Yazidi children and adolescents immediately after forced migration following ISIS attacks. *Neuropsychiatr*, 2108. pp:205
  10. Ezard N. Substance use among populations displaced by conflict: a literature review. *Disasters* 2012;36(3):533-57.