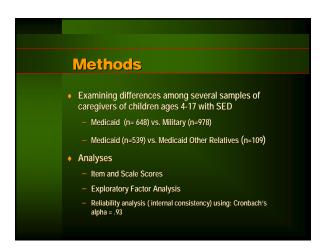


Families and Caregiver Strain Normative response to added stress of caring for a child with emotional and behavioral problems Can create negative psychological consequences for caregiver Types of Strain: financial family conflict effect on family life caregiver physical and mental health personal time, freedom, and privacy

Assessing Caregiver Strain: Caregiver Strain Questionnaire • 3 subscales: 21-item self-report Objective Strain (negative, Impact of caring for a child w/ emotional & behavioral observable occurrences problems (past 6 mo) resulting from caring for the Burden felt by caregiver Internalized Subjective Strain regarding child (feelings internalized by the 5 point Likert scale caregiver) — 1 = "not at all" Externalized Subjective Strain - 5 = to "very much" (negative feelings directed at the child) Brannan, A.M., Heflinger, C.A. & Bickman, L.B. (1997). The Caregiver S Measuring the impact on the family of living with a child with serious emo disturbance. Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, 5, 212-222.

Caregivers in Study Parents Biological Step Adoptive Other Relatives Grandparents Aunts/uncles Siblings

Research Objectives Assess whether parents of poor children diagnosed with an SED experience strain differently from other relative caregivers. Assess whether caregivers of Medicaid enrollees have different levels of strain from those in the military. Assess whether CGSQ adequately measures strain in different groups.



Characteristics of Sample						
	Medicaid		Total Samples			
	Living with Parents N=539	Living with Relatives N=109	Medicaid	FBEP		
Children						
Mean Age (years)	11.6	11.5	11.6	11.2		
% African American	44.3%	51.4%	45.8%	20.6%*		
% Female	30.1%	30.3%	30.1%	36.8%*		
Mean CBCL Score	69.1	70.1	69.3	65.2*		

Ch	aracte	ristics	of Sam	ple
	Medicaid		Total Samples	
	Living w/ Parents	Living w/ Relatives	Medicaid	FBEP
Caregiver				
Bio Parents	93.9%	-	78.1%	91.1%
Step/adoptive	6.1%	-	5.1%	7.3%
Relatives		100%	16.8%	1.6%
Mean Age	35.9	52.6*	38.7	35.4*
% Female	96.1%	95.4%	96.0%	85.6%
# in Household	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.0*
Annual Income			10K-15K	20K-291

Principle Findings CGSQ adequately measured strain in all groups All caregivers reported high levels of strain Total Medicaid Parents vs. Military Sample Item and Scale Scores: Objective Strain MCD>>Military Subjective-Internalizing and Externalizing MCD<<Military Similar factor structure Medicaid Parents vs. Medicaid Other Relatives Scale Scores: No significant differences Factor Analysis: Other relatives did not endorse many of the emotionally based items (Other relatives reported two types of Objective Strain) Emergence of a second Objective Strain Scale Overall strain experienced relatively similarly



CGSQ can be useful for detecting caregiver strain and identifying family support needs for Medicaid and military caregivers. Medicaid sample and military caregivers experience strain similarly despite race and SES differences in samples.

