

be discussed. Results suggest that generalized anxiety symptoms are most associated with other nodes, alongside items from the interpersonal domain. It seems that symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder also form bridges between disorders, possibly due to the universal nature, where from these reactions, activation can spread to different problems depending, possibly, on individual characteristics. Future studies should include personality traits and risk factors to check their influence on activation trajectories.

Keywords: comorbidity, network analysis, bridge symptoms

CHILDREN'S REACTIONS TO THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN SERBIA: PARENTS' REPORTS⁷

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Aim of our study was to explore the experiences of children during COVID-19 lockdown, from a parental point of view. In order to slow down the spreading of coronavirus, preschools and schools were closed, with frequent curfews and other measures being introduced in Serbia. Therefore, children spent days mainly at home with their families, with less opportunities to play and socialize. Previous findings show that COVID-19 quarantine might have had a significant impact on children's emotions and behavior. Risk factors were generally associated with duration of quarantine measures, fear of being infected, frustration, and boredom. In our study, 89 parents of children 3 to 11 years old ($M = 6.8$; $SD = 2.5$; 58% girls), answered two open-ended questions about changes in children's behavior related to the fear of COVID-19, and disease containment measures such as stay at home orders and social distancing. The survey was conducted

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online during the national state of emergency in Serbia in 2020. Thematic analysis was applied by two independent coders. Analysis of the answers to the first question showed that around 45% of parents confirmed they have noticed some changes in their children's behavior that they perceived to be related to the fear of COVID-19. Three overarching themes emerged: fear of going outside and possibly getting infected, frequently asking questions about the virus and measures, and expressing new behavioral patterns such as tics. Furthermore, when it comes to the answers about children's reactions to prescribed measures, 68% of parents have noticed behavioral changes that group around the following themes: increased irritability (e.g., crying, intense night fears); verbally expressing missing physical contact; deepening contact with their significant others and neighbors (those who they are physically close with). The findings of the study show that the COVID-19 lockdown has affected children's emotions and behavior in many ways. We consider implications for what caregivers may do to protect their children's mental health during similar crises.

Keywords: fear, COVID-19, pandemic distress, children, parents