
Clinical Perspectives

AACAP NY 10/25/23

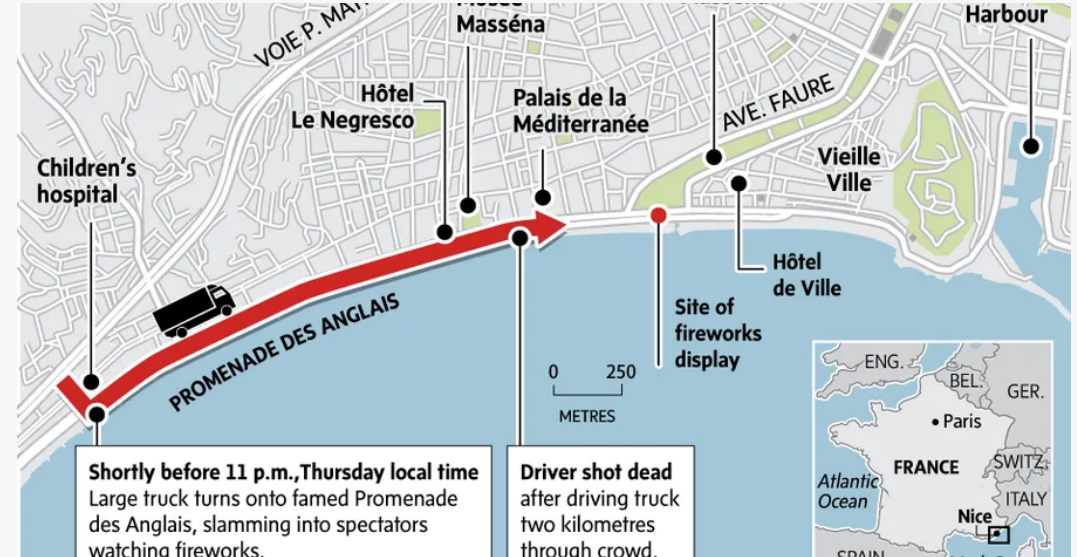
Chair Florence L Askenazy. France
Discussant Philippe Auby. France
CoBTek Lab



Mental Health Impact of Mass Violence and Terrorism on Children and Adolescents: Insights From the United States, United Kingdom, Norway, and France



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Nice Pediatric Psychotrauma Center (NPPC)
Experience Assessing and Managing Pediatric
Victims of the 14th of July 2016 Terrorist
Attack in Nice, France

Disclosure

- ▶ No financial relationships with ineligible companies.

Global Rise in Terrorist Attacks

- Mass terrorist attacks have increased worldwide over the last twenty years
- In France, the notable attacks in Paris in 2015 and Nice (southern France) in 2016 killed 216 people, including 15 children
- High risk for children, three terrorist attacks in schools (2012, 2020, 2023)
- Need for a specific program to train teachers, parents and youth



2016 Nice Terrorist Attack - Specificities

Extreme violence

- A 2-tonne truck crashed deliberately into a crowd of 30,000 people

Large number of children affected

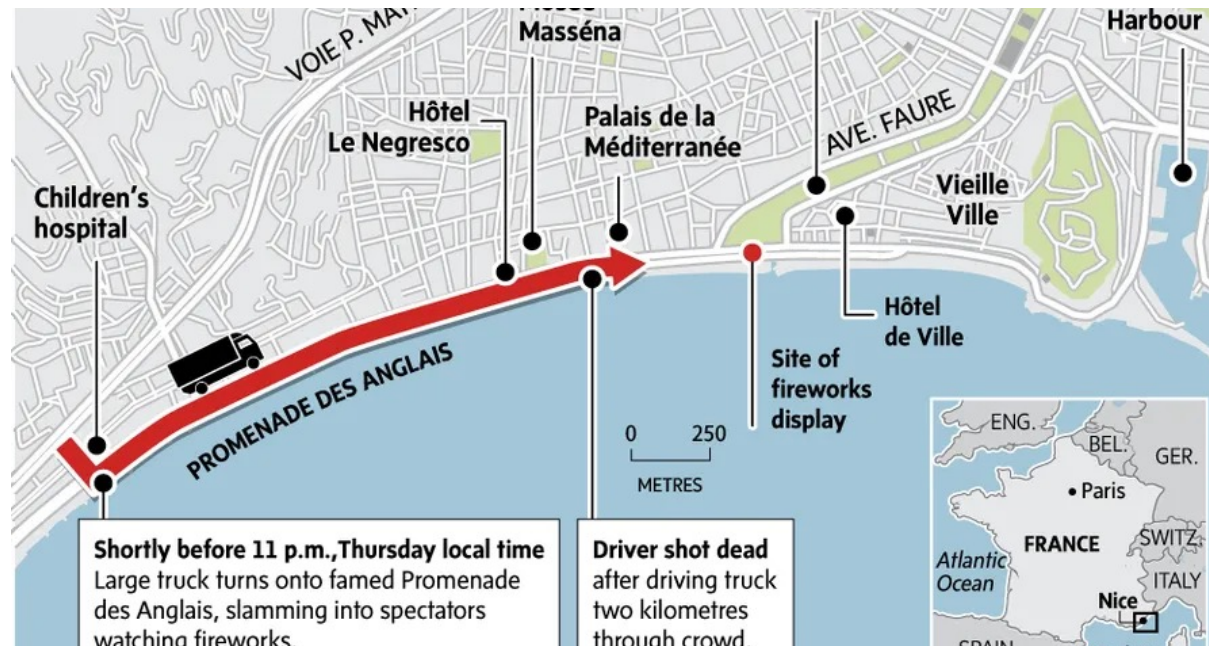
- Many children and their families from 36 nationalities were on the scene
- 15 children died
- 32 were transferred to hospital within the first 2 hours, 8 to intensive care
- 55 were bereaved

Haas H, Fernandez A, et al. *Lancet*. 2017

Solla F, ... & Fernandez A. *Academic pediatrics*. 2018

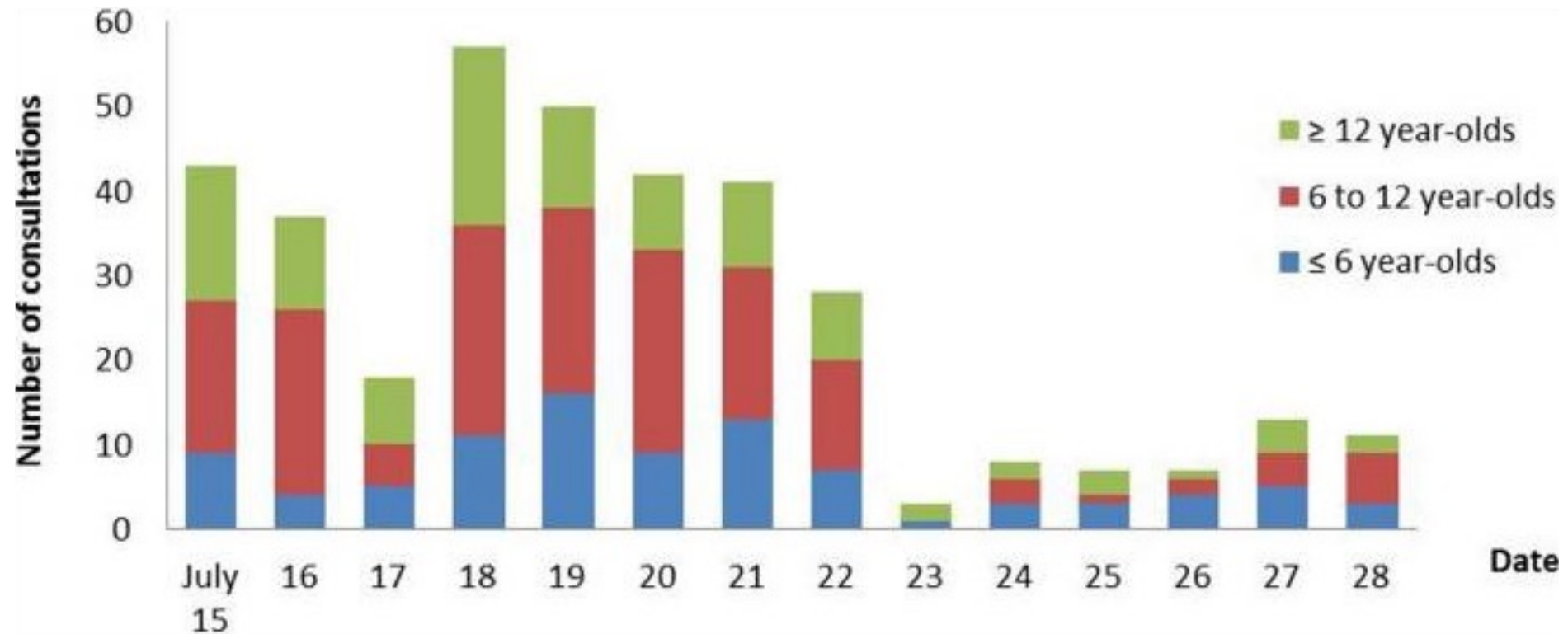
Immediate Healthcare Challenges

Local medical-psychological emergency units untrained and unprepared to receive a massive influx of pediatric patients without pre-hospital triage



Immediate Healthcare Challenges

July 15 → July 28: 668 people were registered at the pediatric medical-psychological emergency unit, including 365 youth



Inception of a Specialized Consultation Center

Nice Pediatric Psychotrauma Center (NPPC)

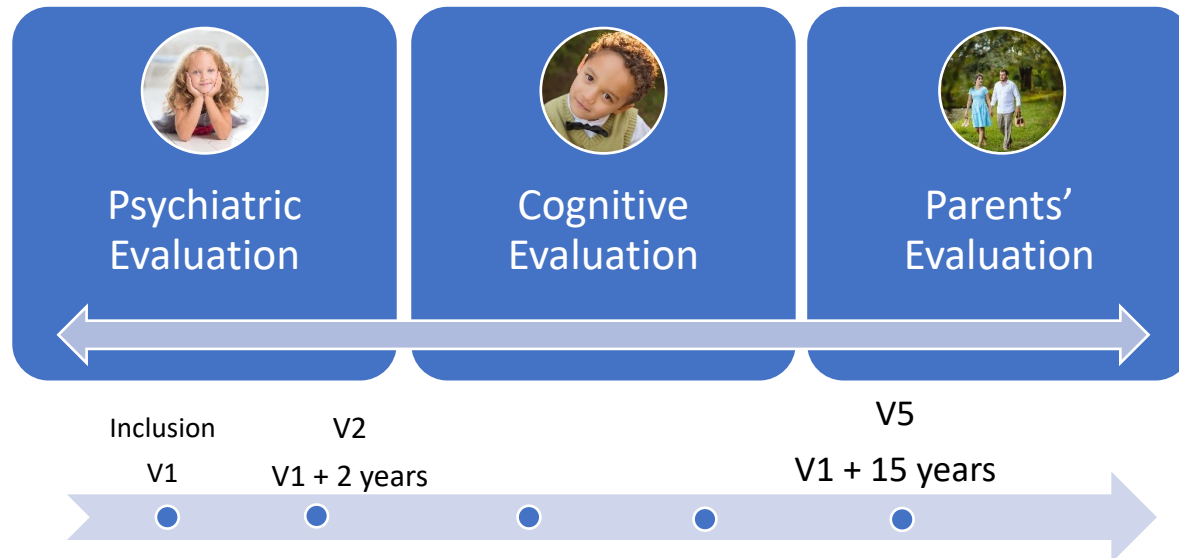
- A consultation center, a pioneering project in France
- Created in January 2017
- Children from 0 to 18 years of age and their families affected by a traumatic event
- From initial evaluation to long-term care
- 866 pediatric outpatients between Jan. 2017 and Dec. 2019 *
- More than 1,500 outpatients at present



* Gindt M, Fernandez A, ... & Askenazy F, *Front Psychiatry*, 2022

« 14-7 » Research Program

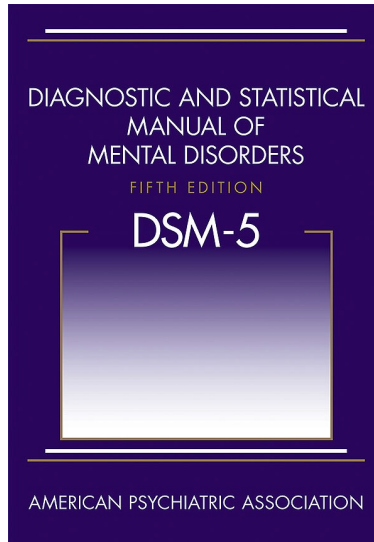
- A clinical research initiative NPPC / CobTek laboratory
- A prospective observational longitudinal epidemiological cohort study
- To understand the long-term impact on pediatric patients in parallel to treating them and their families



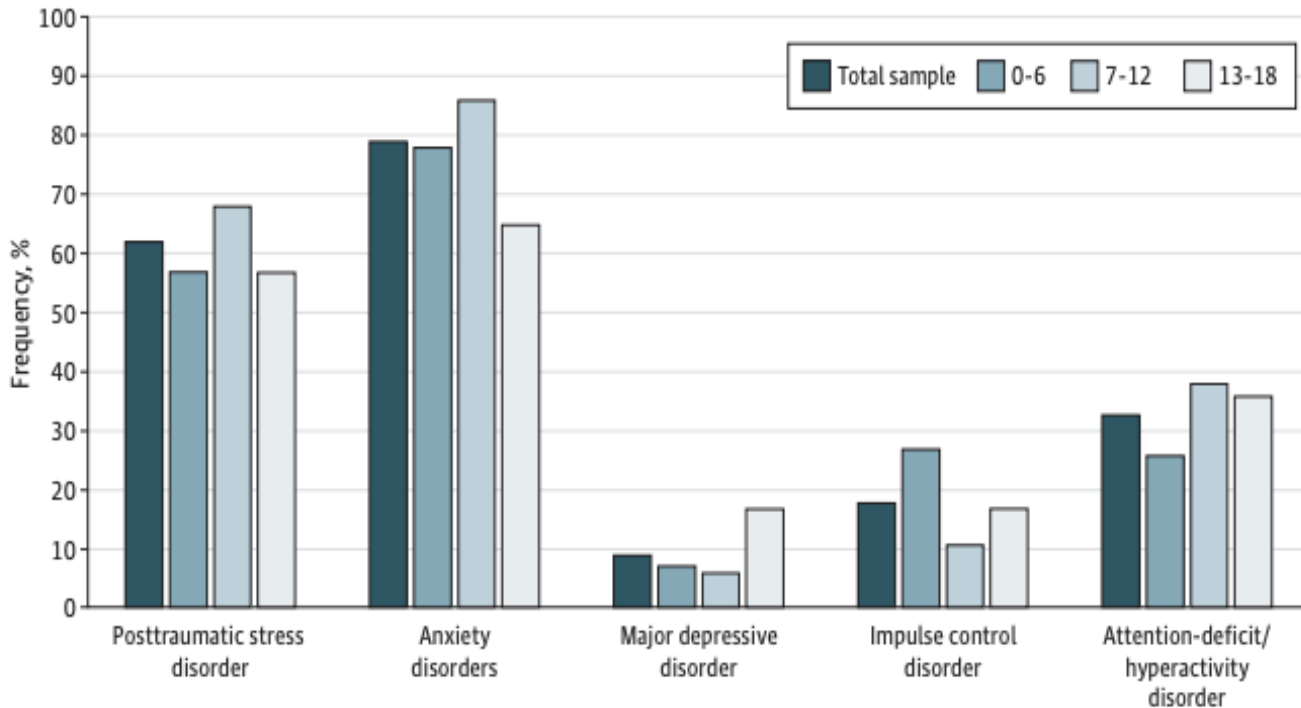
N=732 including 428 youth
-109 under 7
-204 children aged 7-12
-95 children aged 13-17
-20 adults
-304 parents

« 14-7 » Research Program

- Degree of subjective fear - injury - number of traumas - somatic symptoms - emergency and follow-up care
- Psychiatric evaluation:
 - Interviews (DSM 5 diagnoses by age)
 - DIPA (0-6 years) or K-SADS (7-18 years): French traductions by our team
 - Questionnaires (intensity of Post-traumatic Stress Symptoms)
 - YCPC (0-6 years) or CPC (7-18 years): French validation by our team
- Cognitive evaluation:
 - WPPSI: 3-6 years, WISC: 6-16 or WAIS: > 17
- Parents' evaluation:
 - PCL-5; STAI; HDRS



PTSD affects 62% of young patients



- Intermediate and cross-sectional (2 years) results for 217 patients (out of 1217 consecutive consultations)
- Average age: 9 years 51% boys
- **PTSD affects 62% of individuals, regardless of age or gender**
- Anxiety disorders are frequent: 79% of children/adolescents present at least one anxiety disorder

Risk factors of Pediatric PTSD

- In a population of children exposed to the July 14 attack
- N=268 (PTSD 166 / no-PTSD 102)
- **Cumulative traumatic event, comorbidity, subjective fear, somatic symptoms and maternal symptoms**
- The regression model performed predicted 84% of the variance (comorbidity, the degree of subjective fear during the attack and the maternal symptoms)

Emerging Issues

- International Data Hub on the Long-Term Consequences of Terrorist Attacks on Children
- Particular interest in pregnant women at the time of the attack is needed
- Impact of cumulative traumas in our population (Alex Storm 2 Oct 2020, COVID-19 pandemic, terrorist attack in Nice 29 Oct 2020...)
- Impact of medias
- Impact of the ongoing court trial (> 6 years later)
- How to assess and manage patients consulting for the 1st time more than 7 years after the attack?

Conclusion and Call to Action

Our experience after a mass terrorist attack involving numerous children and adolescents highlights the importance:

- To promote permanent reference centers for psychotrauma providing:
 - Preparedness of child and adolescent mental health professionals before the event
 - Care from the early phase after the event with an unrestricted follow-up time
 - Standardized and regular evaluations to assess pediatric PTSD (and comorbidities and associated pathologies)
 - Further clinical research into pediatric PTSD by validating age-specific psychotherapies as part of international and translational collaborative networks
- To involve public health policies to increase funding, establish national recommendations focusing on early and large detection and community actions



Thank you for your attention





Société Française de Psychiatrie
de l'Enfant et de l'Adolescent
et Disciplines Associées



PROMENADE
DES ANGES
14 juillet 2016



MINISTÈRE
DES SOLIDARITÉS
ET DE LA SANTÉ

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Gueules Cassées
Sourire Quand Même

Union des Blessés de la Face et de la Tête
Fondation des «Gueules Cassées»



mémoire et solidarité



Fondation Lenval

pour les enfants, depuis 1888

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 DÉPARTEMENT
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