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Factor Structure of the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS-21) Among Primary Caregivers in Southeastern Europe

Tuesday, 6 September 2022 13:00 (1 hour)

Objective: To evaluate the factor structure of the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS-21) among caregivers of young children in Southeastern Europe. *Background:* The DASS-21 is a widely used measure in prevention and intervention research. However, studies regarding the scale's psychometric properties among caregivers from non-Western countries are limited, and additional research is required. *Method:* The DASS-21 was administered to $N = 835$ primary caregivers from North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, and Romania. Competing models were tested with Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA). Measurement invariance was assessed using Multi-Group CFA (MGCFA). *Results:* A tripartite model represented the data well with two specific (depression and anxiety) and one general (negative affectivity) factor. However, reliability and dimensionality indices indicated a primarily unidimensional structure. This model demonstrated cross-country configural and partial metric invariance. *Conclusion:* The DASS-21, in this sample, is best utilised as a unidimensional measure of negative affectivity. Further research is needed to clarify whether these findings are replicable across samples.

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