Introduction

• Through a risk & resilience framework, COVID-19 is conceptualized as a multisystem disaster that has the potential to increase distress due to its threats to individual and larger-scale systems (Masten & Motti-Stanfield, 2020). Economic privilege can be conceptualized as a protective factor in the risk & resilience framework

• Pre-existing family vulnerabilities, including low economic privilege, can have downstream effects on child adjustment and family well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic (Prime et al., 2020)

• Economic circumstances and privilege can also affect problematic media use (PMU), which increased for children during the COVID-19 pandemic (Domoff et al., 2019; Eales et al. 2021), especially in families who were at-risk for more stressors (Kroshus et al., 2022). PMU refers to media use that leads to dysfunction in at least one domain.

• Though income and SES are typically protective, there is a lack of literature discussing how perceived economic privilege could serve as a protective factor for families against distress and PMU during the COVID-19 pandemic. The present study aims to identify how perceived economic privilege during the COVID-19 pandemic is related to parent/child distress and PMU.

• HYP 1: Higher parent-reported perceived economic privilege in 2020 will associate with lower levels of parent/child distress

• HYP 2: Lower parent-reported perceived economic privilege will relate to higher levels of parent/child distress

• HYP 3: Parent-reported daily COVID-19 impact will moderate the relation between perceived economic privilege and distress/PMU: higher COVID-19 impact will be associated with a stronger association between privilege and distress/PMU

Methods

• Procedure: Online survey completed by MN parents in summer 2020

• Participants: 469 parents filled out the survey

• Parents = 38.21 yrs (SD = 4.45); Children = 5.44 yrs (SD = 2.40; range = 1-13 yrs)

• 238 girls, 228 boys, 1 nonbinary, 1 prefer not to answer

• 85% mono-racially White and Non-Hispanic

• Measures:

• Perceived economic privilege: A one-item measure created for this survey asking parents to report on a scale from 0 to 10, ‘Compared to other people in the U.S., I (0 ‘have far less access’ to 10 ‘have far more access’) to the resources I need during the COVID-19 Pandemic (e.g., food, toilet paper, healthcare necessities)

• Problematic Media Use – Short Form (Domoff et al., 2019)

• Child distress: Child Life Challenges scale was used to determine how the child has been feeling for the previous couple of weeks from 0 to 100 (Merrick et al., 2020)

• Parent distress: Patient Health Questionnaire-4 (Kroenke et al., 2009)

• Daily COVID-19 impact: Participants answered for themselves and then for their child how much the COVID-19 impacted their day-to-day life from “1 = not at all” to “5 = extremely” (Harkness, 2020)

• Covariates: child age and social desirability (Reynolds, 1982)

• Data Analysis: We conducted multiple hierarchical linear regressions predicting parent/child distress and PMU, with social desirability and child age as covariates entered into the first step. Daily COVID-19 impacts (‘parent’ for parent models and “child” for child models) and perceived economic privilege were then included as main effects in the model, followed by a daily COVID-19 impact X perceived economic privilege interaction term to assess the hypothesized moderation.

Analytic Results (see Table 2):

• Perceived economic privilege was not significantly related to parent/child distress or child PMU

• When replacing perceived economic privilege with income as a measure of objective/actual privilege, higher income was associated with lower parent distress (B = 14, p < .01)

• Daily COVID-19 parent and/or child impact was significantly associated with parent/child distress and PMU in all models (p < .001), but there was no significant moderation effect.

• Child age was also significantly associated with higher child distress (B = 1.20, p < .001) and PMU (B = 0.09, p < .001)

References


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Positionality Statement

The authors want to acknowledge the various identities we brought into this project. To view our entire positionality statement, please scan this QR code: