Exploring transdiagnostic trauma-related symptoms across the world: a latent class analysis

BACKGROUND

- Do trauma-related symptoms and risk patterns differ across the world?

METHOD

- *N* = 8675 individuals from 115 countries across 6 world regions
- Global Psychotrauma Screen
- 7 latent class analyses (LCAs)
  → 1 per region + 1 joint LCA
- Multinomial logistic regression (MLR)

RESULTS

- Similar class compositions across regions
- Full-sample LCA identified:
  - no qualitatively different classes
  - three classes based on symptom severity
- MLR revealed several risk factors for membership in the high symptom class

Estimated probabilities of endorsement for the 3-class-solution | Fig. 1

Legend: High symptom class (33%) · Moderate symptom class (42%) · Low symptom class (25%)

Demographics and risk factors | Tab. 1

Variables		*N* = 8675
Age	mean (*SD*), years	38.1 (14.1)
Gender	Men	2077 (23.9%)
	Women	6506 (75.0%)
	Nonbinary	92 (1.1%)
UN region	African States	293 (3.4%)
	Asia-Pacific States	1733 (20.0%)
	Eastern European States	1575 (18.2%)
	Latin American and Caribbean States	956 (11.0%)
	Western European and Other States	2631 (30.3%)
	North America	1487 (17.1%)
Risk factors	Other stressful events	5544 (63.9%)
	Lack of social support	3749 (43.2%)
	Childhood trauma	4728 (54.5%)
	History of mental illness	3282 (37.8%)
	Lack of resilience	1824 (21.0%)

Predictors of class membership | Tab. 2

	High vs. low (ref) OR	High vs. low (ref) p	High vs. moderate (ref) OR	High vs. moderate (ref) p	Moderate vs. low (ref) OR	Moderate vs. low (ref) p
Gender: Women[a]	**1.63**	**<0.001**	1.05	0.508	**1.55**	**<0.001**
Gender: Nonbinary[b]	**3.34**	**0.011**	**1.93**	**0.018**	1.73	0.233
Age	**0.98**	**<0.001**	**0.98**	**<0.001**	**0.99**	**0.003**
African States[c]	1.11	0.533	**1.31**	**0.025**	0.85	0.260
Asia-Pacific States[c]	**0.71**	**0.000**	**0.85**	**0.017**	**0.84**	**0.011**
Eastern European States[c]	**0.80**	**0.011**	0.89	0.069	0.91	0.166
Latin American and Caribbean States[c]	**1.23**	**0.043**	0.98	0.841	**1.25**	**0.009**
Western European and Other States[c]	0.92	0.249	0.99	0.876	0.93	0.213
North America[c]	**1.38**	**0.001**	1.03	0.616	**1.34**	**0.002**
PTSD criterion A1[d]	**1.31**	**0.002**	**1.17**	**0.020**	1.12	0.096
Multiple experiences of index event[e]	**4.89**	**<0.001**	**2.15**	**<0.001**	**2.27**	**<0.001**
Index event happened in the past year[f]	**1.85**	**<0.001**	1.05	0.471	**1.77**	**<0.001**
Other stressful events[g]	**7.52**	**<0.001**	**2.24**	**<0.001**	**3.35**	**<0.001**
Lack of social support	**6.52**	**<0.001**	**2.41**	**<0.001**	**2.71**	**<0.001**
Childhood trauma[g]	**2.27**	**<0.001**	**1.65**	**<0.001**	**1.37**	**<0.001**
History of mental illness[g]	**4.06**	**<0.001**	**2.35**	**<0.001**	**1.73**	**<0.001**
Lack of resilience[g]	**1.93**	**<0.001**	**1.73**	**<0.001**	1.11	0.192

[a]0: man, 1: woman; [b]0: man,1: nonbinary; [c]Coding for UN region: deviation from unweighted grand mean; [d]0: PTSD criterion A not fulfilled, 1: PTSD criterion A fulfilled; [e]0: index event was single event, 1: index event happened multiple times; [f]0: index event happened more than a year ago, 1: index event happened in the past year; [g]0: risk factor not present, 1: risk factor present. Bolded values indicate a p-value <.005
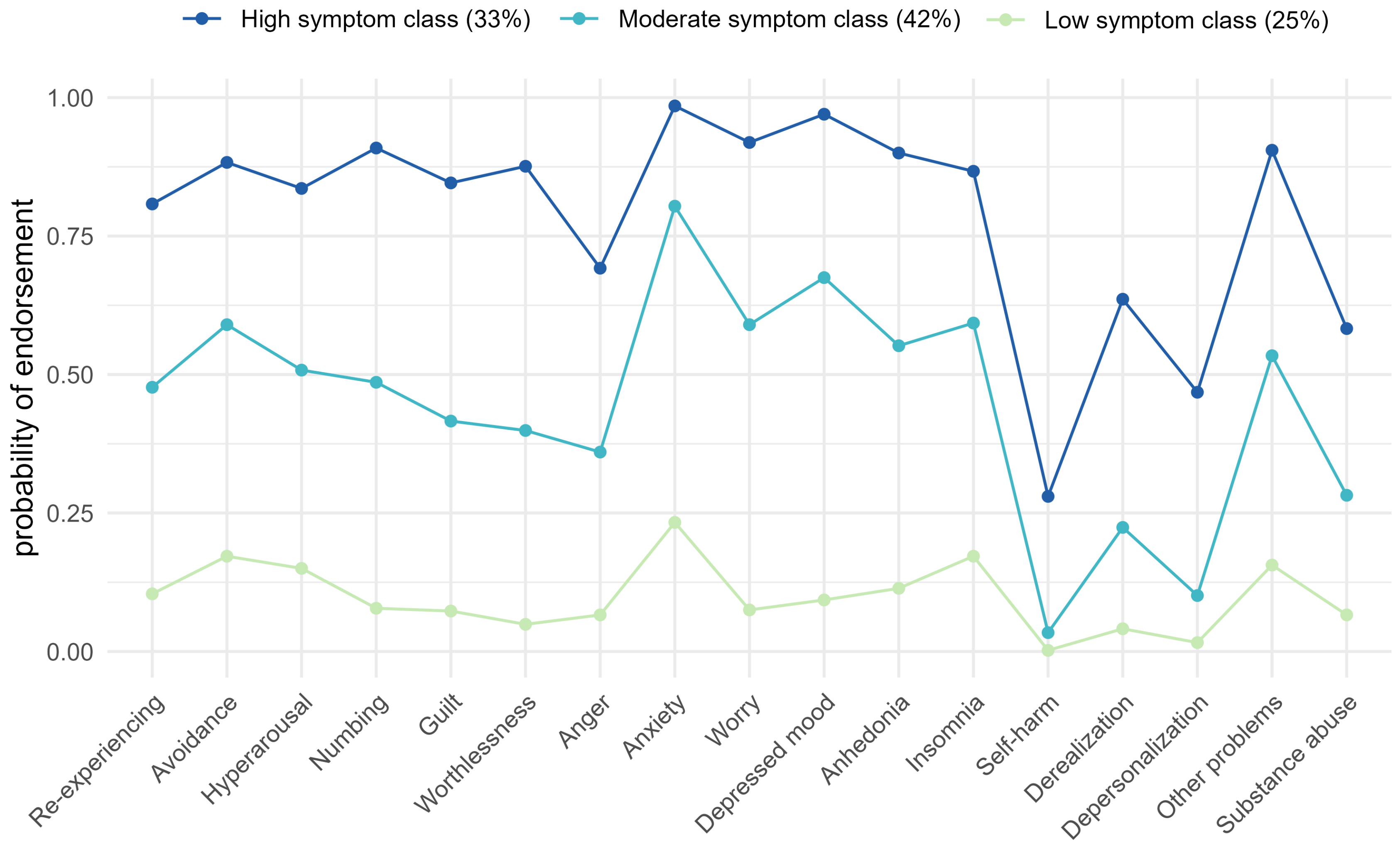
DISCUSSION

- Trauma-related responses seem to be similarly transdiagnostic across the world
- Symptom severity appears to differ
- Factor mixture models might further elucidate our understanding of patterns of transdiagnostic trauma-related symptoms
- Possible areas of intervention include ongoing stressors and lack of social support

Class membership by region | Fig. 2

Legend: High symptoms · Moderate symptoms · Low symptoms

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