

Does economic instability and food insecurity during COVID-19 moderate the change in emotional maltreatment among adolescents in four low-and-middle-income countries

SVRI Forum, October 22nd, 2024
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Intersection of Violence and COVID-19

What is the first word that comes to mind when you think about child household violence & COVID-19?

COVID-19 and emotional maltreatment

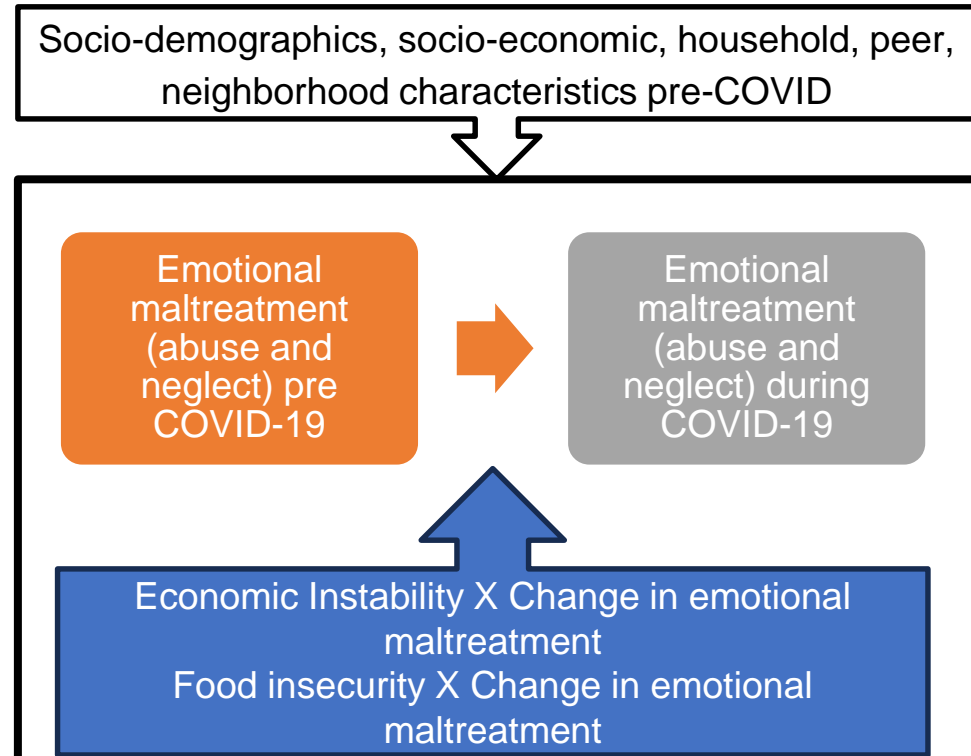
Emotional maltreatment: “repeated occurrence of damaging interactions between a child and a caregiver, which becomes part of a relationship” (Horner, 2012)

Few studies focus on emotional maltreatment because of regional and cultural variations and perceived reduced severity (Horner, 2012; Kumari, 2020).

Limited research exploring influence of COVID-19 on changes in emotional maltreatment in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Study Objectives

- Examine the relationship of experiencing emotional abuse and emotional neglect pre COVID-19 in comparison to during COVID-19;
- Understand if these relationships differ according to young people's experiences of economic instability or food insecurity during COVID-19.



Methods

Countries

Shanghai, China

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic
of Congo

Denpasar and Semarang,
Indonesia

Blantyre, Malawi

Sampling

Urban poor adolescents

Wave 1 data collection: 2017 -
2020

COVID-19 data collection: 2020

Wave 1 age: 10 - 14 years

Methods

Variables

- Dependent: Emotional abuse and neglect
- Independent: Time (pre COVID-19, COVID-19)
- Moderators: Economic instability and food insecurity
- Adjusting: individual, household, parental, peer and contextual/neighborhood

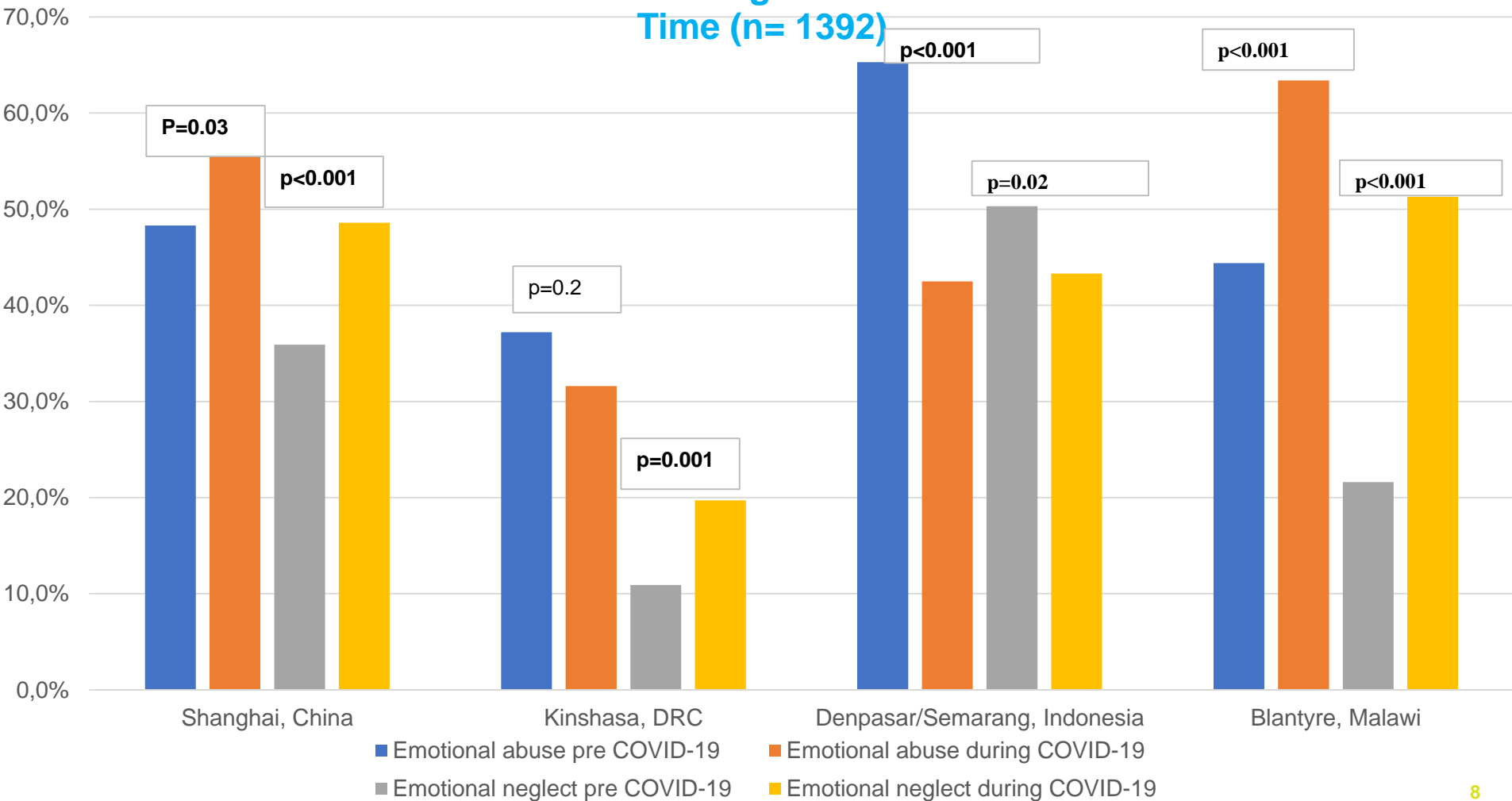
Analysis

- Generalized estimating equations (GEE).
- Standard interaction model

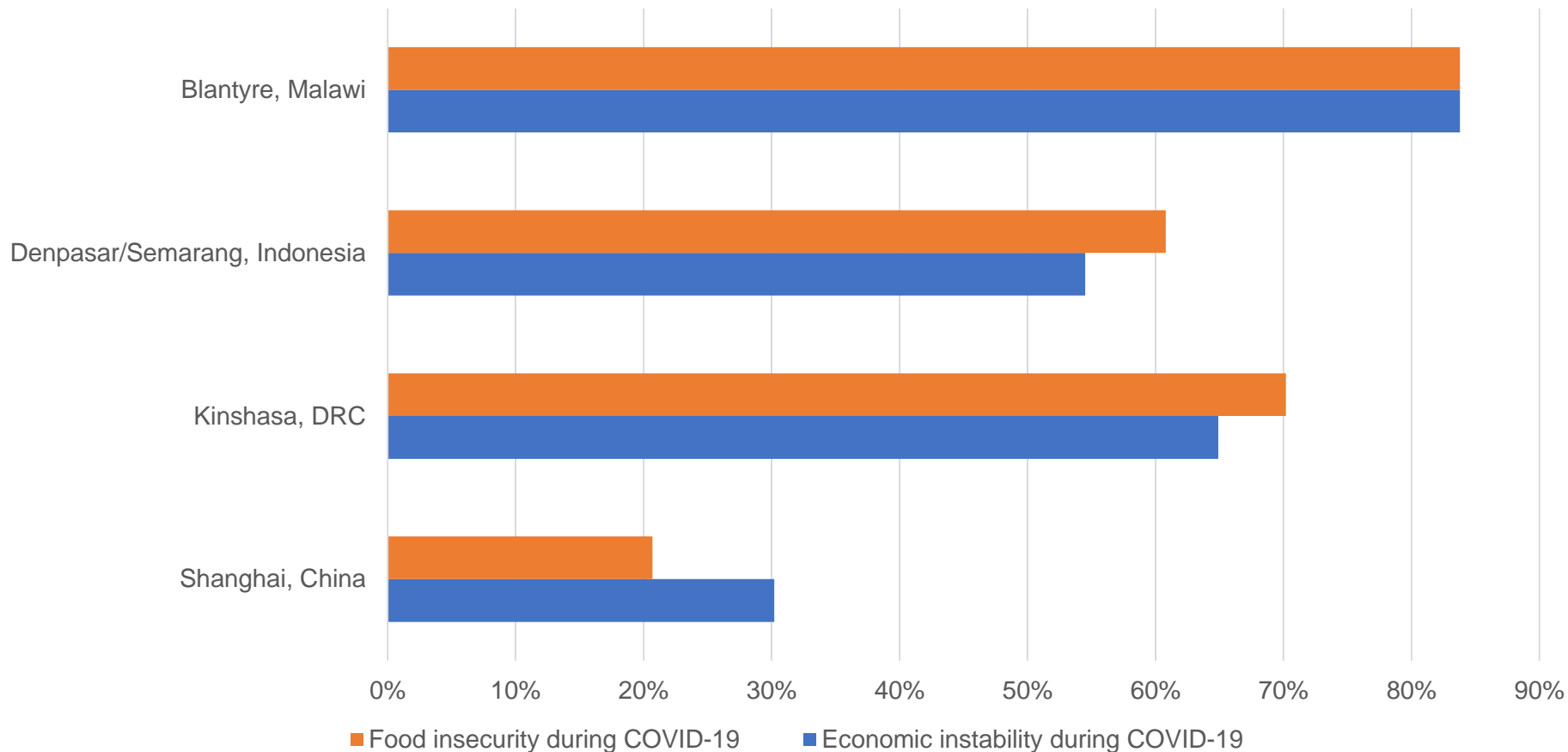
Socio-demographic characteristics

	Shanghai, China N= 387 (%)	Kinshasa, DRC N=285 (%)	Denpasar/ Semarang, Indonesia N=400 (%)	Blantyre, Malawi N=320 (%)
13 – 14 years	30.0%	29.8%	48.8%	71.9%
Girl	53.2%	51.2%	56.5%	47.8%
Dual parent household	86.1%	66.3%	89.0%	38.4%
Poorest	35.4%	40.7%	30.9%	Not collected in Malawi

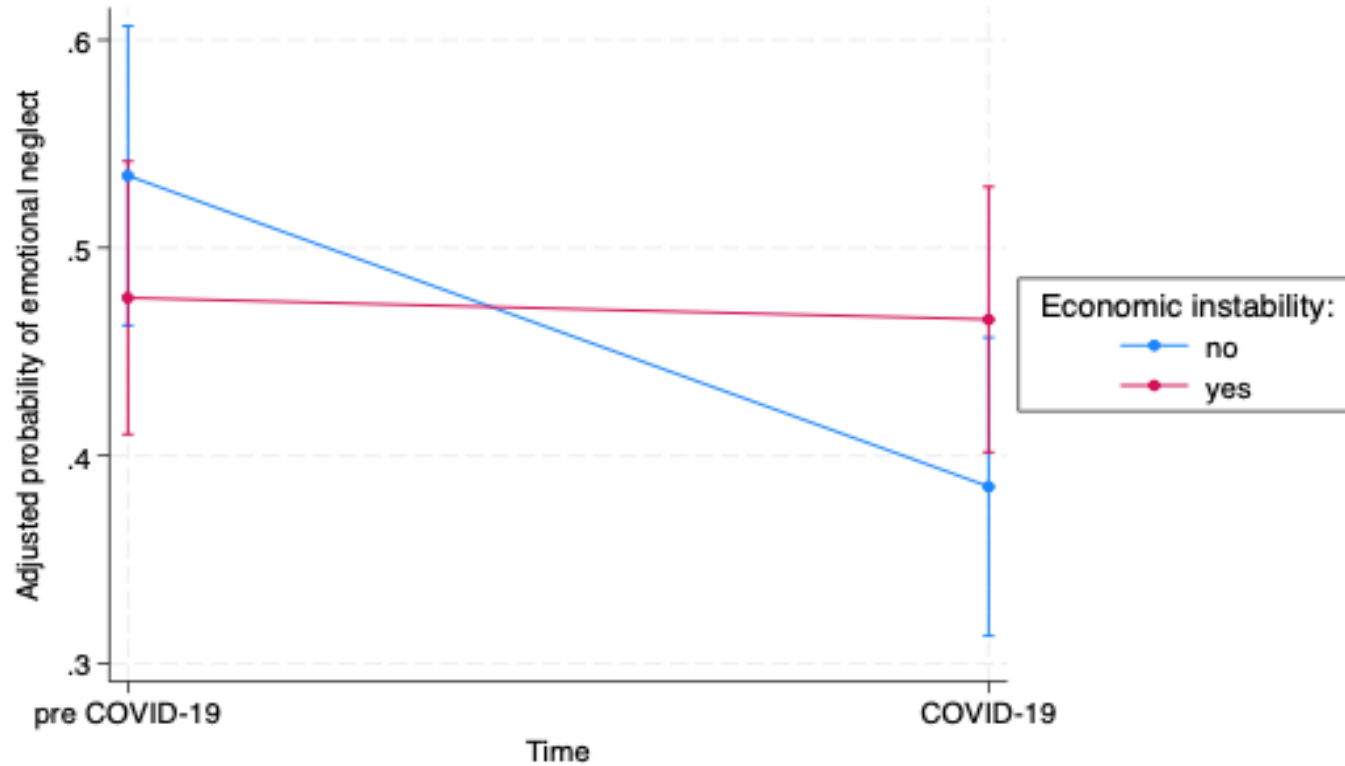
Results - Emotional Abuse and Neglect Across Different Contexts and Time (n= 1392)



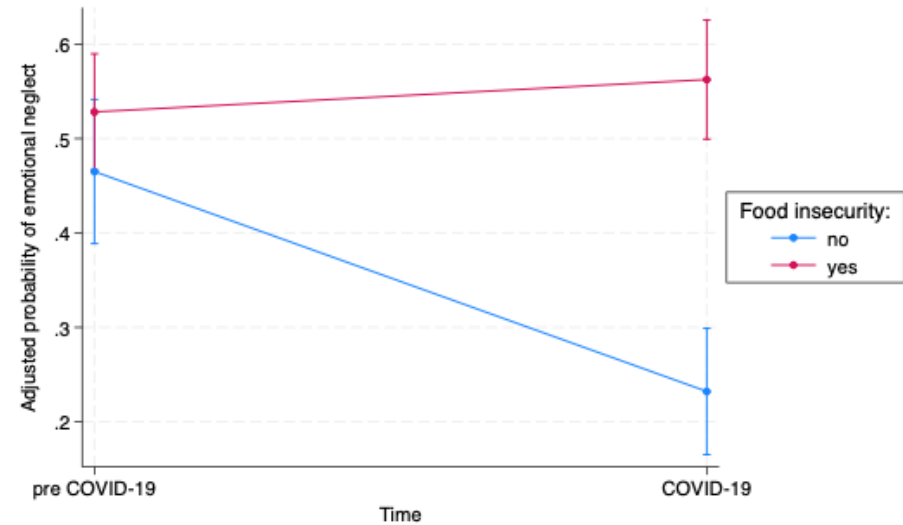
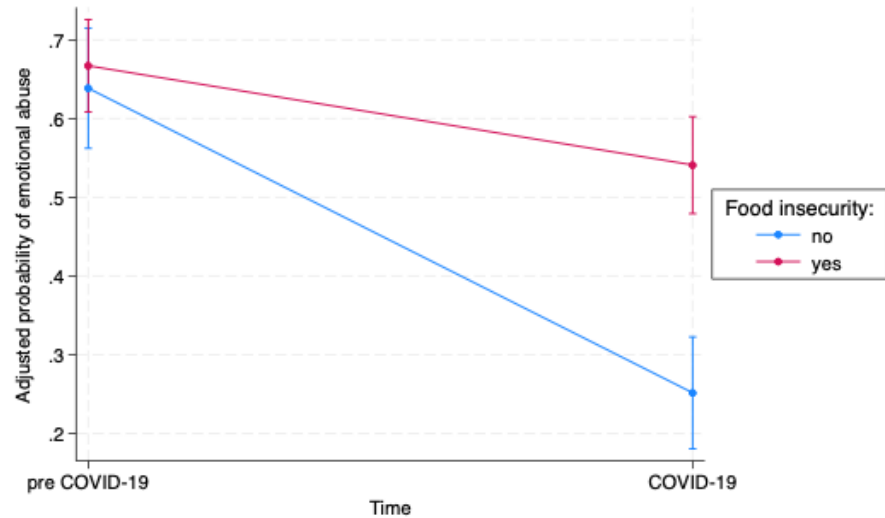
Results - Economic Instability and Food Insecurity during COVID-19 Across Contexts



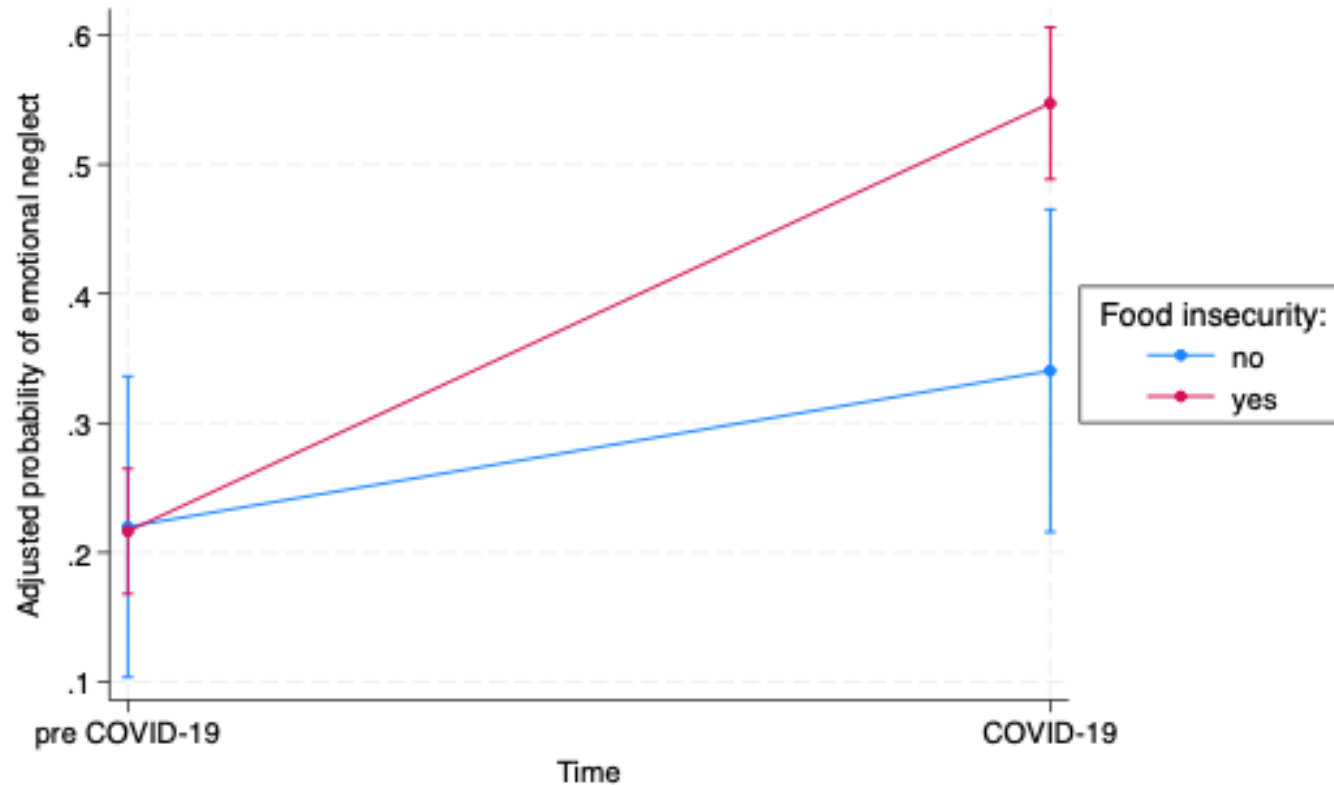
Results - Effect modification between time and economic instability on emotional neglect changes in Indonesia



Results - Effect modification between time and food insecurity on emotional abuse and neglect changes in Indonesia



Results - Effect modification between time food insecurity on emotional neglect changes in Malawi



Summary and Implications

Summary

- Emotional neglect: Higher in almost all sites
- Emotional abuse: variation
- Disparities due to economic instability and food insecurity: Indonesia, Malawi

Programmatic/policy implications:

- Integrated policies that respond to the public health emergency but also provide social protection.
- Interventions should be embedded into existing government and global pandemic preparedness.

Research implications:

- Continuing longitudinal analysis looking at trends in child abuse and maltreatment
- Understanding the relationship between different types of economic disadvantage and child abuse
- Qualitative exploration of how maltreatment experiences differ by socioeconomic status

Solutions to Address Emotional Neglect

How would **YOU** address emotional maltreatment through:

- Programming
- Research
- Policy

References

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Thank You aramaiy1@jhu.edu



<https://genderhealthdata.org/>

www.geastudy.org



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