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Priority Health Challenge: Closing the gap on mental health disparities in Haiti

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The essential foci in global mental health are to reduce the overall burden of illness and to reduce -- ultimately eliminate mental health inequities within and between countries. Haiti remains one of the poorest countries in the world per the 2017 World Bank data for Haiti. There is research evidence suggesting that poverty is associated with the prevalence of mental illness, especially when low level of education, poor housing and low income levels are combined (Lund, et al., 2010; Paten, 2007). Haiti is also a nation with a chronic history of trauma,

political unrest, community violence, abuse, countless natural disasters and other man-made tragedies and suffering. The 2010 Earthquake had brought some of Haiti's mental health issues to the forefront; however, the debate has since taken the backseat that it once occupied. Recent research suggests that poverty is a form of trauma itself. This presentation aims to discuss the mental health diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) associated with the poverty and trauma in Haiti.

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