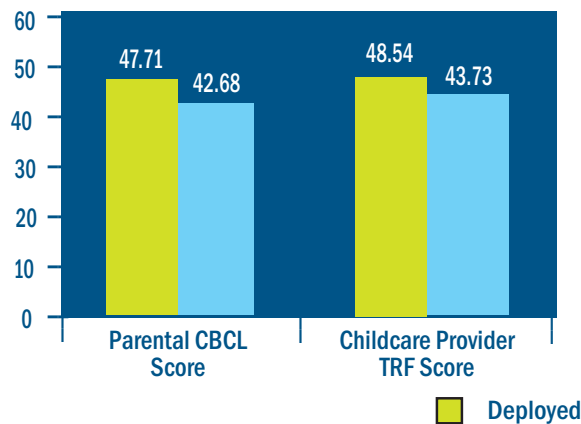




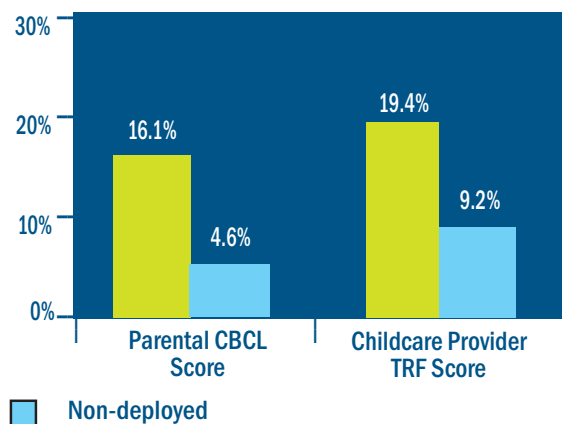
Young Children of Parents Deployed to War Zones More Likely to Have Behavioral Problems

New study findings published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Pediatric Medicine* indicate that children aged 3-5 with a parent deployed to an active war zone are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems than those in the same age range with active-duty non-deployed parents.¹ Researchers used widely accepted behavioral assessment tools that collect information reported by parents and caregivers – the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) and the Teacher Report Form (TRF). Higher assessment scores indicate increased behavioral problems, and a score of greater than 60 is considered “clinically elevated.” Children of deployed parents had, on average, higher scores than children of non-deployed parents as reported by parents (47.71 vs. 42.68) and childcare providers (48.54 vs. 43.73). Children of deployed parents also had higher rates of clinically significant behavioral problems as reported by parents (16.1% vs. 4.6%) and childcare providers (19.4% vs. 9.2%).

CBCL and TRF Measures of Behavioral Problems in Children Aged 3-5, by Parental Deployment Status²



Percentage of Children Aged 3-5 with Clinically Elevated Behavioral Problem Scores, by Parental Deployment Status



Source: Chartrand, M. M., Frank, D. A., White, L. F., and Shope, T. R. (2008). Effect of Parents’ Wartime Deployment on the Behavior of Young Children in Military Families. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*, Vol. 162, No. 11, pp. 1009-1014.

Notes:

- ¹ Previous research has resulted in similar findings in children older than age 5. This is the first known study to examine the behavioral effect of current war zone deployment on children aged 5 and under.
- ² Adjusted for parental depression and stress, respondent age, deployed service member’s rank, and number of children in the home.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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