

Lengthy Deployments Linked to Mental Health Problems of Children

Children with one or more parent on long-term deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan have a higher chance of mental health problems, according to a new study. Published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, the study examined the medical records of 307,520 U.S. children, aged 5 to 17, who had at least one parent on active duty in the U.S. Army. During that time period, nearly 17 percent of the children were diagnosed with a mental health disorder. The likelihood of a mental health diagnosis increased with the length of deployment, particularly among boys and girls whose parents were deployed for more than 11 months. ([Medpage Today](#), 7/7/11)