UCLA life interview

The initial assessment included the UCLA Life Stress Interview (Hammen,1991 Hammen et al.,1987) for chronic and episodic life stress.Chronic stress was assessed over the past year in 10 different domains. Each domain was rated in half-point intervals by the interviewer on a 5-point scale that indicated the severity of chronic stress in that domain, with 1 indicating optimal functioning or minimal stress in the domain and 5 indicating very stressful circumstances with specific behavioral anchors for each point on the scale. To determine chronic life stress scores, the interviewer used general probes to elicit relevant objective information. For the present study, we used the four chronic interpersonal stress domains, which were romantic relationships, close friendships, social group relations, and relationships with family members.

Episodic life stress was also assessed during the interview.

Youths were asked to report if there were particular stressful events that happened in the last year that were out of the ordinary. Interviewers obtained detailed information regarding the nature and circumstances of the event, including the duration of the event, consequences of the event, and whether the event was expected or not. These events were then presented to a blind team of reviewers who assessed the severity of impact on the participant that ranged from 1 (little to no impact) to 5 (extremely severe impact), as well as the independence of the event, ranging from 1 completely independent of the actions of the participant) to 5(completely dependent on the participant).