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Online supplement

British Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) prevalence estimators for the parent, teacher and youth SDQ

Proportion of individuals with a disorder: for percent, multiply by 100

Parent 1/(1+exp (−[(0.303 × TDS) + (0.539 × p(Old)) − 5.102]))
Teacher 1/(1+exp (−[(0.394 × TDS) + (0.450 × p(Old)) + (0.411 × p(Fem)) − 5.313]))
Youth 1/(1+exp (−[(0.524 × TDS) − (0.220 × p(Fem)) − 7.419]))

Exp, exponential; TDS, total difficulty score; p(Old), proportion of sample aged 11–16 (*v.* 5–10); p(Fem), proportion of sample female. (Derived and validated in Goodman & Goodman,[7] see also www.sdqinfo.org/prevalence_estimators for look-up tables.)

Table DS1 Using mean parent Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) scores to predict the prevalence of child mental health disorder among looked after children: performance at the population level

Sample and subpopulation	*n*	Parent SDQ total difficulty score, mean (95% CI)	Estimated prevalence of disorder from parent SDQ, % (95% CI)	Measured prevalence of disorder from DAWBA, % (95% CI)[a]	Discrepancy in estimated minus measured prevalence, %
Looked after[b]					
Foster care	781	15.3 (14.7–15.8)	46.3 (42.2–50.5)	40.5 (37.0–44.0)	5.8
Living with natural parents	190	16.2 (15.0– 17.3)	52.1 (43.5–60.5)	48.9 (41.6–56.3)	3.2
Kinship care	165	12.2 (11.0– 13.4)	24.3 (18.3–31.5)	30.9 (24.0–38.6)	−6.6
Residential care	255	20.0 (19.1– 20.8)	80.4 (76.0–84.1)	73.3 (67.5–78.7)	7.1
General population, deprivation fifth[c]					
1	3634	6.9 (6.7–7.1)	5.9 (5.6–6.3)	6.3 (5.6–7.2)	−0.4
2	3636	7.5 (7.3–7.7)	7.1 (6.8–7.5)	7.2 (6.4–8.1)	0.1
3	3642	7.9 (7.7–8.1)	7.8 (7.4–8.3)	8.9 (8.0–9.8)	1.1
4	3637	9.1 (8.8–9.3)	10.9 (10.2–11.6)	11.9 (10.7–13.1)	1.0
5	3641	9.7 (9.5–9.9)	12.8 (12.1– 13.6)	12.9 (11.7–14.2)	0.1

DAWBA, Development and Well-being Assessment.
a. We defined attachment disorders using standard criteria; high comorbidity meant that the overall prevalence of disorder was almost unchanged when using broader definitions (see Appendix C of Meltzer H, Gatwood R, Corbin T, Goodman R. *The Mental Health of Young People Looked After by Local Authorities in England*. TSO (The Stationery Office), 2003.
b. We excluded 20 looked after children aged under 17 but living independently.
c. For deprivation fifth: 1 is low and 5 is high.