

# Burdens of childhood mental health conditions have changed over time, study reveals

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Surveys conducted in England in 1999, 2004, and 2017 have revealed that children with a psychiatric disorder in 2017 experienced more

severe difficulties and greater impacts on functioning at school, home, and in their daily lives, compared with children with a disorder in earlier decades. The findings come from a study [published](#) in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

The study used data from interviews and questionnaires completed by parents, children (if they were aged  $\geq 11$  years), and teachers across all three [surveys](#).

The increased difficulties found in the study were specific to self- and parent-reports and were not found when assessing teacher reports.

Ethnic minority status, living in rented accommodations, and being in the lowest income quintile had weaker associations with [psychiatric disorders](#) in 2017 compared with 1999.

"Our study reveals a really concerning trend: [children](#) of today are experiencing a much greater burden of problems compared with previous generations," said corresponding author Jessica Armitage, Ph.D., of Cardiff University, in the UK.

"It is crucial that research investigates why this might be, so that we can understand the type and levels of support needed to prevent further negative trends."

**More information:** Characteristics of children with a psychiatric disorder in 1999, 2004 and 2017: An analysis of the national child mental health surveys of England, *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* (2024). [DOI: 10.1111/jcpp.14040](https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.14040)

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