

Article: 0745

Topic: EPW28 - e-Poster Walk Session 28: Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry

The Impact of Childhood Residential Mobility On Mental Health Outcomes in Adolescence and Early Adulthood: a Record Linkage Study

F. Tseliou¹, D. O' Reilly¹, A. Maguire¹, M. Donnelly¹

¹Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom

Introduction: Understanding the causes of poor mental health in early childhood and adolescence is important and one potential and relatively unexplored factor is residential mobility in formative years. Previous studies in this area have been relatively small, and potentially limited due to methodological issues.

Objectives: To investigate relationship between early residential instability and poor mental health among adolescents and young adults in Northern Ireland.

Methods: A census-based record linkage study of 28% of the NI population was used. Our sample was children aged 0-8 years at 2001 (n=49,762) with self-reported chronic mental ill-health in the 2011 census as outcome and address changes assessed six-monthly. Logistic regression was used with adjustment for socio-economic status (SES) and household composition and marital dissolution. The relationship between address-change and non-mental health outcomes was also tested.

Results: Overall, 54% had moved house at least once, and 0.5% of the cohort aged 10-18 at 2011 reported chronic mental ill-health. There was a graded relationship between address-change and mental ill-health (OR_{adj} 3.67, 95% CIs 2.11, 6.39 for 5 or more moves). This relationship was not modified by SES or household composition. Marital dissolution was associated with poor mental health but did not modify the relationship between address-change and mental health.

Conclusions: This large study clearly confirms the close relationship between address change in early years and later poor mental health. Life events, including mobility, should be distinguished based on the overall impact which a transition can have over the individual's life.