

# Prevalence of mental health disorders among children and adolescents living in southern Chile [Epidemiología de trastornos mentales infanto-juveniles en la provincia de Cautín]

Vicente B.

Saldivia S.

Rioseco P.

de la Barra F.

Valdivia M.

Melipillán R.

Zúñiga M.

Escobar B.

Pihan R.

**Background:** The knowledge about prevalence of psychiatric disorders in all age groups is fundamental to plan an adequate mental health care. **Aim:** To determine the prevalence of DSM-IV psychiatric disorders in a representative sample of children and adolescents living in the province of Cautín, Chile. **Material and Methods:** Subjects aged between 4 and 18 years were selected in an aleatory stratified multistage fashion. As part of a national sample, four counties in Cautín were selected, then blocks, homes and the child or adolescent to be interviewed. Psychology graduate students applied the Spanish computer version of DISC-IV, as well as a questionnaire on family risk factors, socioeconomic index and service use. **Results:** A sample of 272 children and adolescents was evaluated, obtaining 93,4% of participation. Using the most stringent impairment algorithm, the prevalence rate for any psychiatric disorder was 16.8%, being 16.5% in boys and 17.1% in girls and mainly explained by anxiety and affective disorders. Prevalence was practically the same in the group aged 4 to 11 years than in those aged 12 to 18 years (16.7% and 16.8% respectively). Prevalence of anxiety disorders was the highest, but less associated with impairment. On the other hand, all children and adolescents with affective disorders were impaired. **Conclusions:** The

prevalence of psychiatric disorders in Cautín is high in children and adolescents.

Adolescent

Child

Mental disorders

Mental health

Preschool

adolescent

age distribution

article

child

Chile

female

human

male

mental disease

preschool child

prevalence

questionnaire

sex ratio

socioeconomics

Adolescent

Age Distribution

Child

Child, Preschool

Chile

Female

Humans

Male

Mental Disorders

Prevalence

Questionnaires

Sex Distribution

Socioeconomic Factors