

## Mapping links between young people, neighbourhoods, schools and families with respect to mental health

1 November 2007 – 31 October 2008

**Professor Sarah Curtis, Durham University; Professor Stephen Stansfeld, Queen Mary, University of London and Yasmin Khatib, University of London**

This review aims to enhance understanding about how the mental health of adolescents relates to conditions in their neighbourhoods and schools. It will explore how 'neighbourhood effects' are associated with individual characteristics, family conditions and parenting in ways that are important for the mental health of young people.

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[www.dur.ac.uk/geography/staff/geogstaffhidden/?mode=staff&id=4163](http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/staff/geogstaffhidden/?mode=staff&id=4163)

## Review of Adolescent Stress

1 January 2008 – 31 July 2008

**Dr Seija Sandberg, University College London and Professor Robert MacDonald, University of Teesside**

There is robust evidence that psychosocial stress increases the risk of psychopathology across all ages, including adolescence. However, there is also evidence of major individual differences in young people's responses to comparable stressors, but less knowledge about the reasons for such variation. A systematic appraisal of adolescent stress and changes in its level over the past three decades is proposed.

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[www.ucl.ac.uk/mental-health-sciences/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/mental-health-sciences/)

## School experiences and mental health outcomes amongst 10–14 year olds

1 March 2008 – 30 November 2008

**Professor John Gray, Professor Maurice Galton and Colleen McLaughlin, University of Cambridge**

This review will explore the links between the school experiences of young people aged 10–14 and their mental health outcomes. A particular concern will be to establish whether significant variations in the levels of reported mental health outcomes can be related to concomitant changes in the structure, processes and experiences of schooling.

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[www.educ.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/)

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**Further information can also be found on our website at**

[www.nuffieldfoundation.org.uk/amh](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org.uk/amh)

# Adolescent Mental Health Initiative

The AMH Initiative is a three year programme of research on time trends in adolescent mental health, supported by The Nuffield Foundation. The Initiative focuses on various aspects of social change and adolescent experiences in order to reveal some of the changes in adolescents' lives today.



## Time trends in adolescent mental health: A Nuffield Foundation Initiative

Evidence suggests that adolescent mental health problems have risen significantly in recent decades. Why is this so and what are the implications? We are supporting a series of groundbreaking reviews that will critically analyse what we know and do not know and help us to take an overview of up to 30 years of research.

Topics include how adolescents use their time; patterns of drug and alcohol use; interactions with parents; experiences of stress; transitions from primary to secondary school and neighbourhood and community influences. The aim will be to contribute to policy and practice debates in ways that can improve outcomes for young people.

**The Initiative brings together the Foundation's long-standing interests in young people, mental health and educational transitions. As well as the commissioned reviews, the funded activities include seminars and workshops to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners in strategic discussions; publication of an edited volume drawing together the work; and distribution of targeted briefing papers on particular topics.**

**For more information about the Initiative, contact**

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## Funded reviews include:

**Time trends in parenting: can they help explain time trends in problem behaviour?** 1 May 2007 – 30 April 2008

**Professor Frances Gardner, University of Oxford; Professor Barbara Maughan, Institute of Psychiatry; Professor Jacqueline Scott, University of Cambridge and Dr Stephan Collishaw, Institute of Psychiatry**

The last fifty years have witnessed substantial changes in family size and structure and in the working lives of parents. Time trends in adolescent problem behaviour are likely to have coincided with changes in parenting style and parent-adolescent involvement. This review will examine evidence for changes in parenting and the relationship to adolescent outcomes.

**For further information contact: Dr Frances Gardner**

frances.gardner@applied-social-studies.oxford.ac.uk [www.apsoc.ox.ac.uk/CEBI.html](http://www.apsoc.ox.ac.uk/CEBI.html)

**Time trends in the activity patterns and time use of adolescents**

1 April 2007 – 31 December 2007

**Dr Leon Feinstein, Institute of Education; Professor Jacquelynne Eccles, University of Michigan and Dr Karen Robson, Institute of Education**

How young people spend their time and pattern their lives may have a role to play in their well-being, development and behaviour. This review will investigate how social structure influences the time use of young people and the extent to which time use may explain trends in adolescent welfare.

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[www.learningbenefits.net/](http://www.learningbenefits.net/)

**Cross national and time trends in a key mental health outcome: drug use and alcohol misuse** 1 March 2007 – 31 January 2008

**Dr Michael Donmall, National Drug Evidence Centre, University of Manchester; Dr Judith Aldridge, University of Manchester; Dr Petra Meier, University of Sheffield and Dr Tim Millar, University of Manchester**

The evidence on time trends for UK adolescent alcohol and illicit drug use will be reviewed and sociological, psychological and criminological explanations will be considered, focusing specifically on the understanding of substance use as a problem. Where trends in the UK are different to international trends, these will be highlighted as a way of shedding light on the UK patterns.

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