

KiGGS – The German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents

Abstract Principal Publication

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Behavioural problems in children and adolescents. First results from the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents (KiGGS)

Abstract Mental health problems in children and adolescents constitute health impairments with major implications regarding individual wellbeing as well as daily and social functioning. In addition, these problems often burden the social partners of the individual. Within the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents (KiGGS), the parents of 14478 children and adolescents aged 3–17 answered the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) which assesses behavioral problems and strengths in the areas emotional problems, hyperactivity, behavioral problems, peer problems and prosocial behavior. According to the results of the Total Difficulties Score (SDQ) 11,5 % girls (G) and 17,8 % boys (B) are classified borderline or abnormal, respectively. 92,5 % (G) and 86,3 % (B) display an adequate pro social behavior. Most prevalent problem areas are behavioral problems (G = 11,9 %, B = 17,9 %), emotional problems (G = 9,7 %, B = 8,6 %) and hyperactivity problems (G = 4,8 %, B = 10,8 %). The test-data of approximately 8,1 % of the respondents with high socio-economic status (SES), 13,4 % of those with middle SES and 23,2 % of those with low SES hinted at mental health problems. Migrants are more frequently affected than non-migrants. Results point at the need for early detection and prevention of commencing mental health problems. Especially the noneasily accessible groups like those with low socioeconomic status or migrants have to be considered.

Keywords Health survey - Children - Adolescents - SDQ - Mental health
