



Understanding the mental health needs of children known to child protections services using linked administrative and self-report data

Melissa Green, PhD.

Professor, Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health,
UNSW Sydney

Email: melissa.green@unsw.edu.au

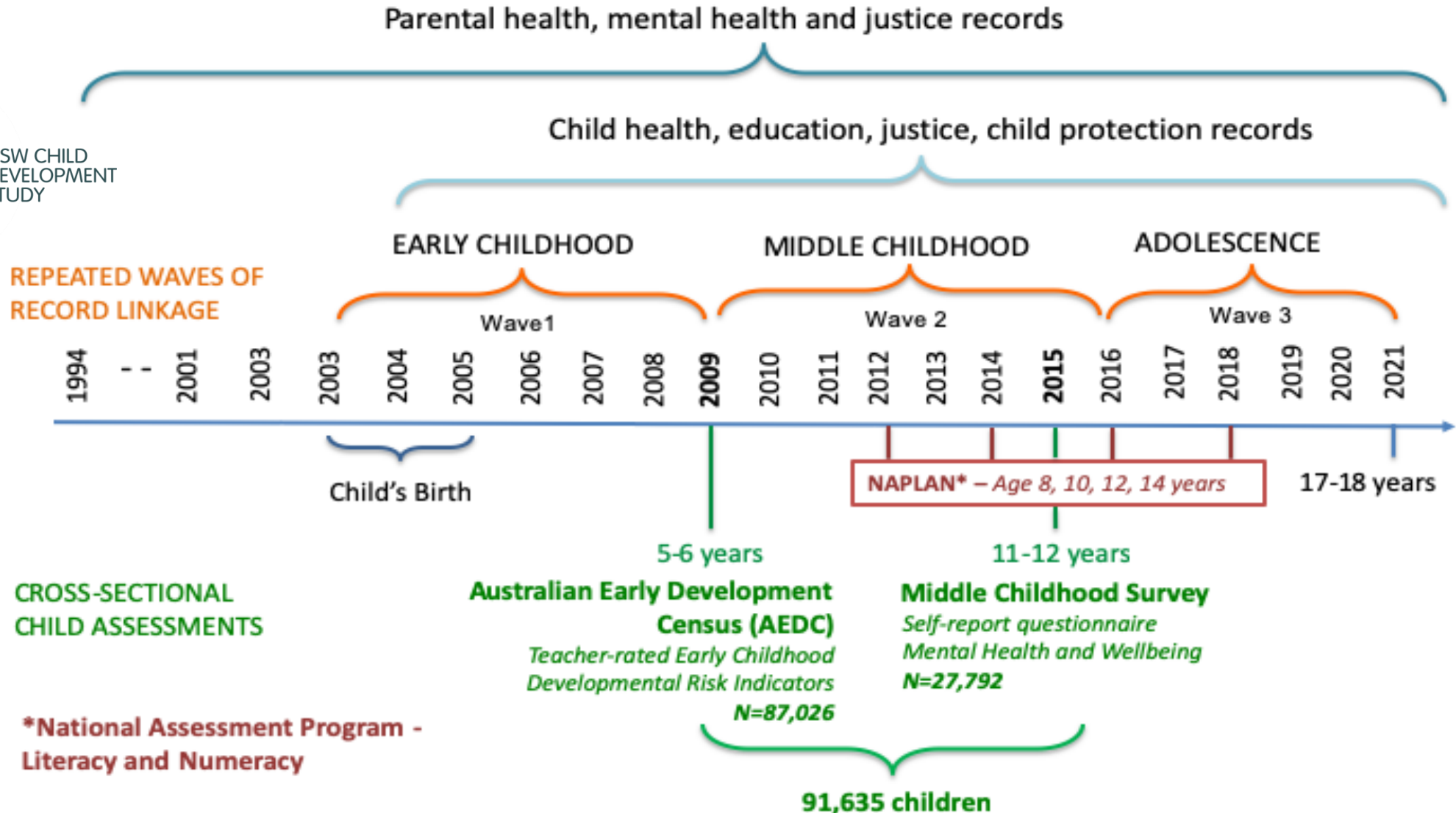


The NSW Child Development Study

A population-based longitudinal study conducted via waves of record linkage



NSW CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY

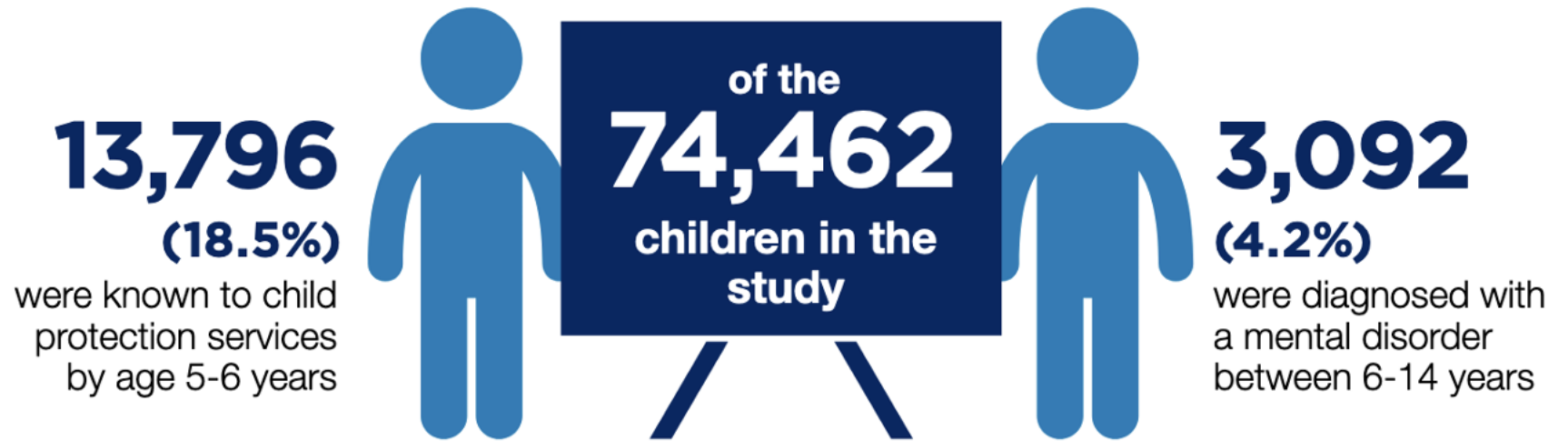


Research |  Free Access

Mental disorders in children known to child protection services during early childhood

Melissa J. Green , Gabrielle Hindmarsh, Maina Kariuki, Kristin R. Laurens, Amanda L Neil, Ilan Katz, Marilyn Chilvers, Felicity Harris, Vaughan J Carr

First published: 03 November 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.50392> | Citations: 13



Of the children in the study:



9.8%

of the children **known to child protection services** before the age of 5 years had a record of **at least one mental disorder diagnosis** in middle childhood



2.9%

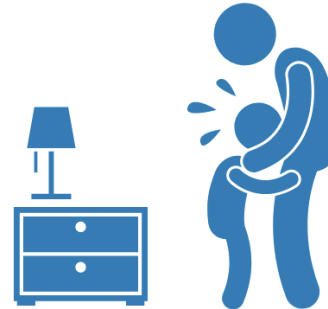
of children with **no child protection contact** had a record of **mental disorder diagnosis** in the same time period

Children known to child protection services by the time of school entry were:



more than **4x**

as likely to engage in self-harm, or be diagnosed with a hyperkinetic or conduct disorder



more than **3x**

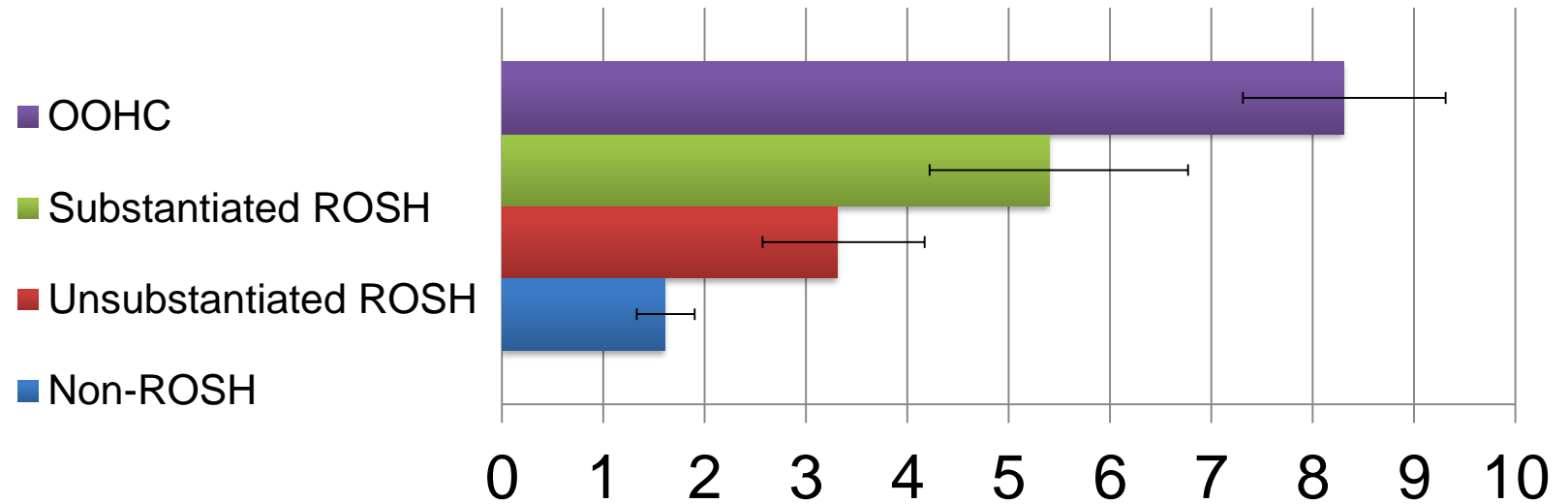
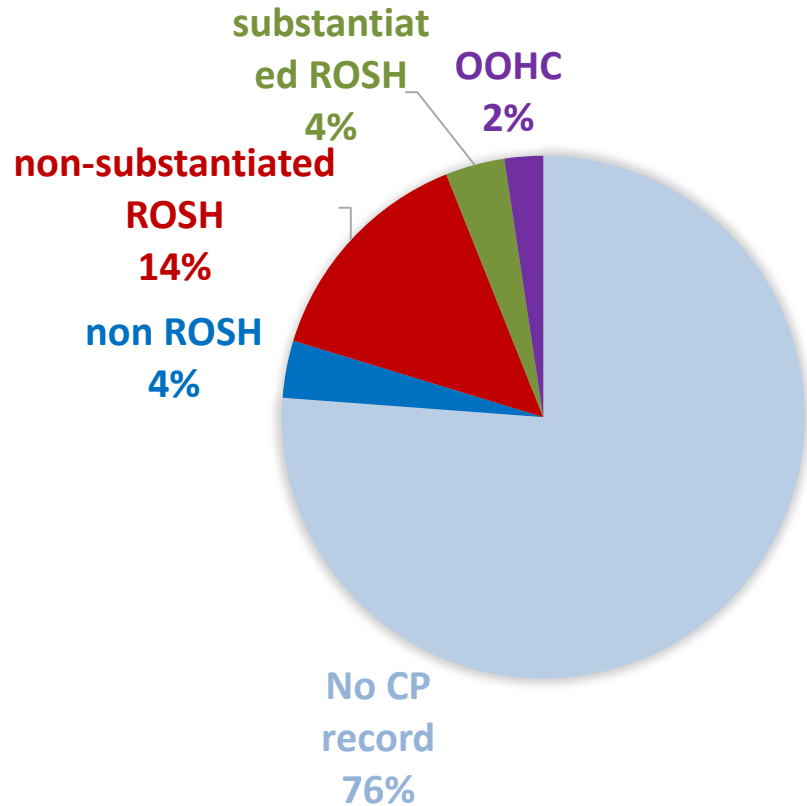
as likely to be diagnosed with an emotional disorder or stress reactions



more than **2x**

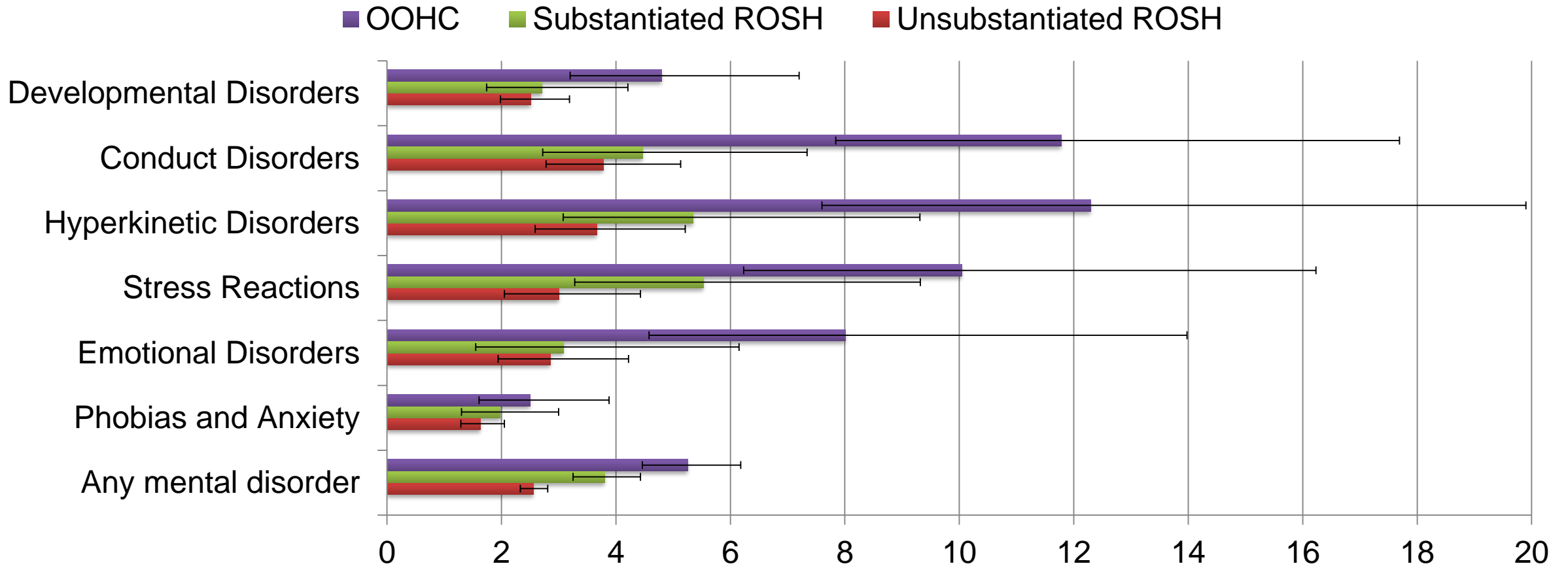
as likely to be diagnosed with a developmental disorder

Any mental illness recorded in health records up to age 13 years



Odds of any mental disorder according to the highest level of child protection service received, relative to non-maltreated peers (Unadjusted model)

Specific diagnoses recorded in health records up to age 13 years



Odds of particular mental illness diagnoses among children known to child protection services, relative to non-maltreated peers
(* Adjusted models)



Self-reported mental health of children known to child protection services: an Australian population-based record linkage study

Kirstie O'Hare¹ · Aniq Hussain¹ · Kristin R. Laurens^{1,4} · Gabrielle Hindmarsh¹ · Vaughan J. Carr^{1,2,3} · Stacy Tzoumakis⁵ · Felicity Harris¹ · Melissa J. Green^{1,2} 

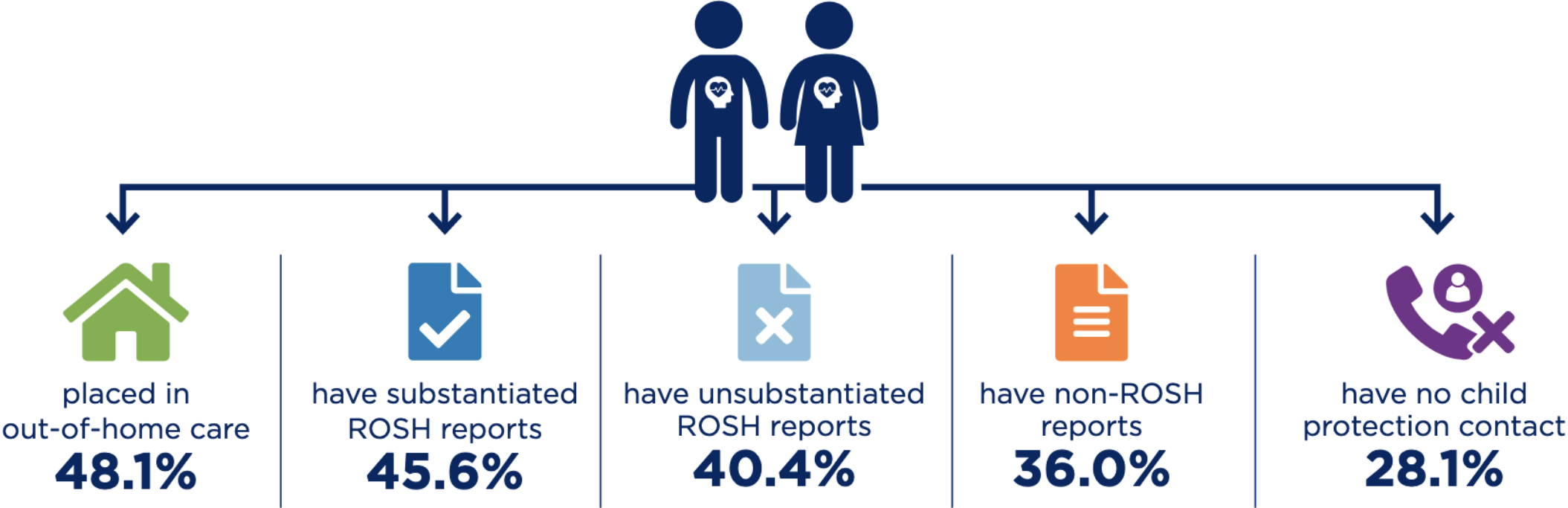
Received: 1 February 2021 / Accepted: 28 June 2021
© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2021

This study included 26,960 children who completed the Middle Childhood Survey in 2015 (in Grade 6 primary school, age 11 years)

Of these 26,960 children, 5,754 (21.3%) had at least one instance of contact with child protection services

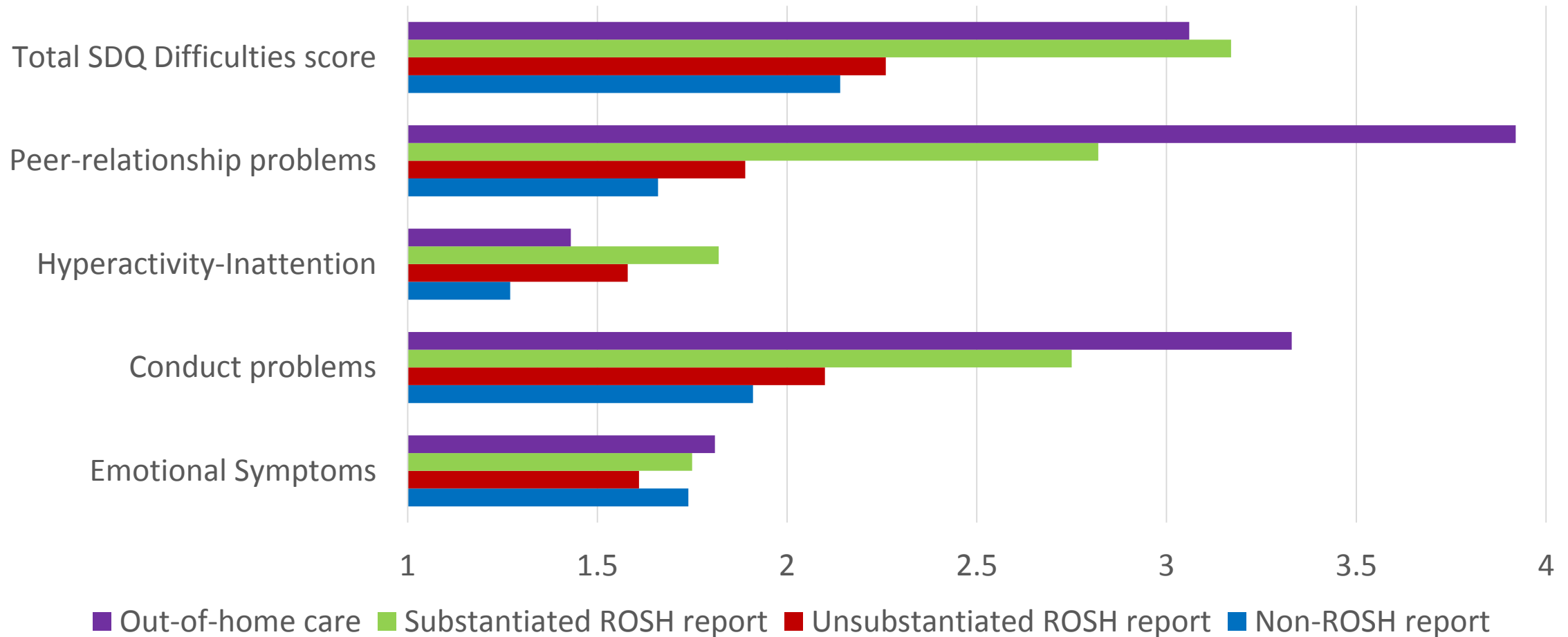
Mental health difficulties were assessed with Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire as part of the Middle Childhood Survey

The proportion of children that have abnormal levels (top 10%) of difficulties in at least one of the mental health domains:



Adjusted* Odds of scoring in the Abnormal range of each SDQ 'psychopathology' domain according to the highest level of child protection contact

*Adjusted for Socio-economic disadvantage, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, and male sex





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Child Abuse & Neglect

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/chiabuneg



Research article

Costs for physical and mental health hospitalizations in the first 13 years of life among children engaged with Child Protection Services

Amanda L. Neil^{a,*}, Fakhru Islam^b, Maina Kariuki^b, Kristin R. Laurens^{b,c}, Ilan Katz^d, Felicity Harris^b, Vaughan J. Carr^{b,e,f}, Melissa J. Green^{b,f}

^a Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

^b School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

^c School of Psychology and Counselling, and Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

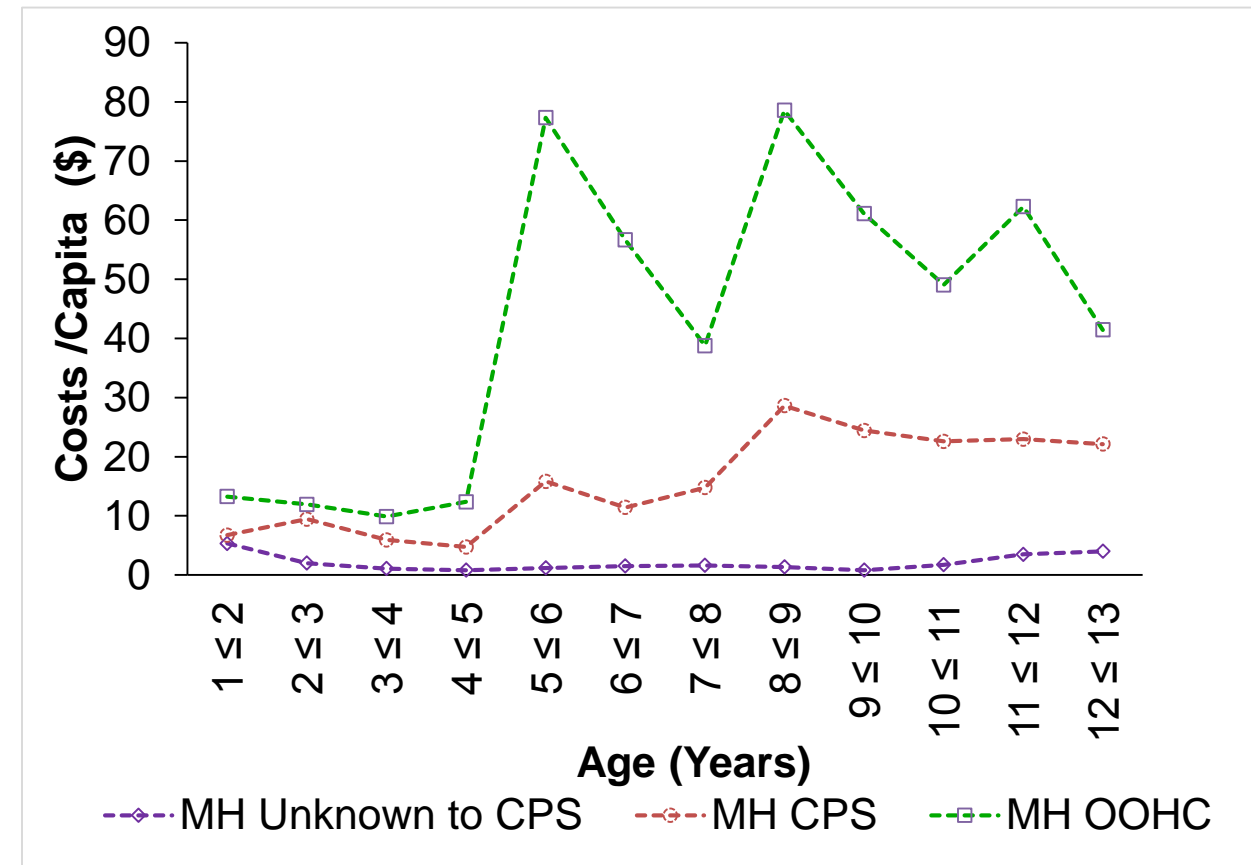
^d Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

^e Department of Psychiatry, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

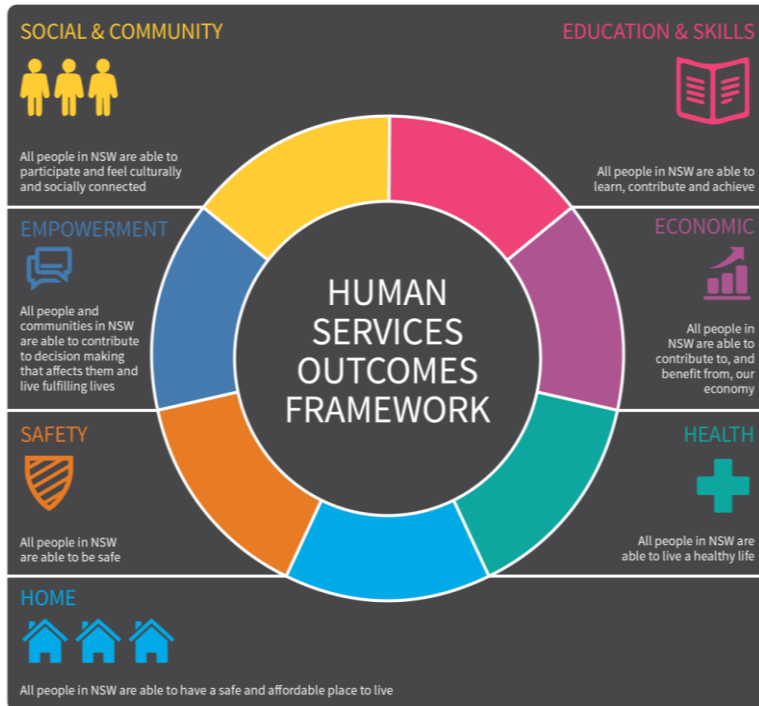
^f Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, Australia



Per capita costs of admitted patients for mental health care according to child protection status



Policy Implications



Children who are known to child protection services in early life (<age 5 years) are at higher risk of being diagnosed with a mental illness by early adolescence, or self-reporting mental health difficulties in the final year of primary school, than their peers

The increased mental health costs associated with child maltreatment are evident at an early age of development

School-based mental health programs may be beneficial for these children

<http://nsw-cds.com.au/>



UNSW
SYDNEY

NSW Child Development Study

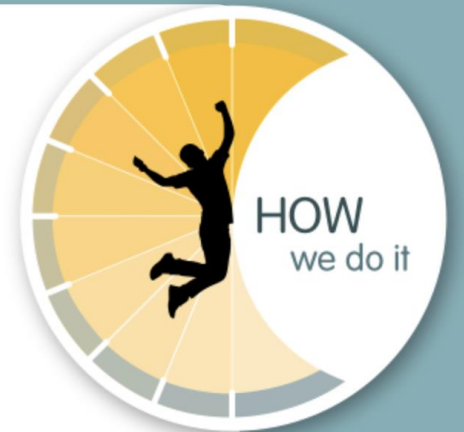
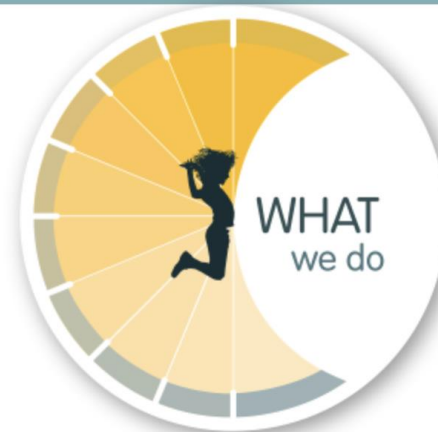
Search

This website UNSW Websites

Links to all our publications and policy-related documents can be found on this website.

Please let us know of any journal access issues.

You can also contact us via this website.



"It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men."

Frederick Douglass



About the NSW Child Development Study

The NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS) is important Australian



Acknowledgements

Data custodians

This research used population data owned by the NSW Department of Education; NSW Education Standards Authority; NSW Department of Community and Justice; NSW Ministry of Health; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages; the Australian Coordinating Registry (on behalf of Australian Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, Australian Coroners & the National Coronial Information System); the Australian Bureau of Statistics; the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, and; NSW Police. This research used data from the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC); the AEDC is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The findings and views reported are those of the authors and should not be attributed to these Departments or the NSW or Australian Government. The record linkage was conducted by the Centre for Health and Record Linkage. **Information and views reported using data from this study do not necessarily reflect the views held by these Departments.**

We pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands we meet on today. We pay respects to elders past, present & emerging.

