The effect of social & economic transitions on children & young people

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Developmental influences

• Children and young people are in constant change
• All aspects of the environment are potential determinants of how children develop
• Family environment, and affluence are two key candidate factors that determine development
• The experience of change itself may affect development
NILS Beta test

- Do changes in household affluence affect children living in the household in terms of:
  - Mental health
  - Physical health
  - Academic achievement
Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study Cohort

• Health card registration data
  – NILS members selected based on 104 dates of birth
  – Identifies individuals
  – Identifies home address
  – Change of address at 21 time points from Apr 2001 to Apr 2011

• NILS cohort comprises c.28% of NI population

• Cohort lives in c.50% of residential households in NI
  – Non cohort member Census returns provide household characteristics, and characteristics of family members
Data linkage

• Land and property services
  – The reasonable open market sale price of every property in Northern Ireland (as of 2005)

• Census 2001
  – Social/private rented vs. owner occupier

• Census 2011
  – Social/private rented vs. owner occupier
  – Mental & physical health
  – Educational qualifications

• Relationships within Census household
Study cohort

• 182,545 individuals
• Enumerated in both 2001 and 2011 Censuses
• Under the age of 18 in 2001
### Study cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental health condition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>176,680 (98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3,349 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical health condition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>169,049 (94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,980 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No qualifications</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>69,994 (87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,887 (13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage in poor mental health by economic transitions

- Renting
- <75k
- 75k-<95k
- 95k +

House value in 2001

- <75k
- 75k-<95k
- 95k +

House value in 2011

- Renting
- <75k
- 75k-<95k
- 95k +

2.1 1.8 1.2 1.1
2 2.2 1.3 3.3
2.5 1.7 3.2 4.4
5.5 6.5 5.6 4.8
Percentage in poor mental health by family transitions

- Not with parents: 6.3
- Other: 2.2
- Step family: 3.5
- Single parent: 1.7
- 2 parent: 1.6

Living arrangements in 2001
Next steps

• Direction of effect
  – Does child health affect economic position or vice versa?

• Reason for transition
  – Parental separation, parent death, job loss

• Timing of transition
  – Critical developmental periods, economic downturn

• Reason for effect
  – Parental mental health, family conflict, financial resource

• Questions for SDAI Phase 2:
  – Families, Adolescents and Children in Transition
Thank you

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