



Wales COVID-19
Evidence Centre
Canolfan Dystiolaeth
COVID-19 Cymru



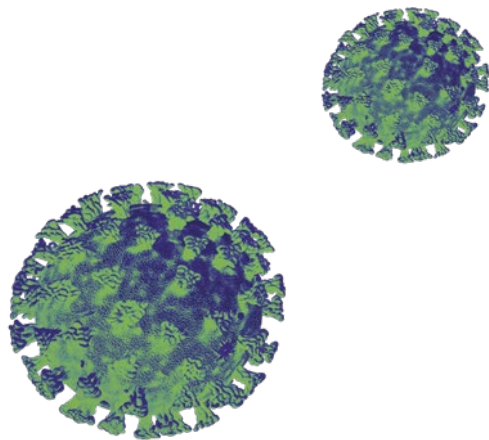
Ymchwil Iechyd
a Gofal Cymru
Health and Care
Research Wales

Impact of educational and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic on children aged 3-13 years: a rapid review

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Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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Background

Rapid Evidence Summary - Impact of educational and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic on children aged 3-13 years

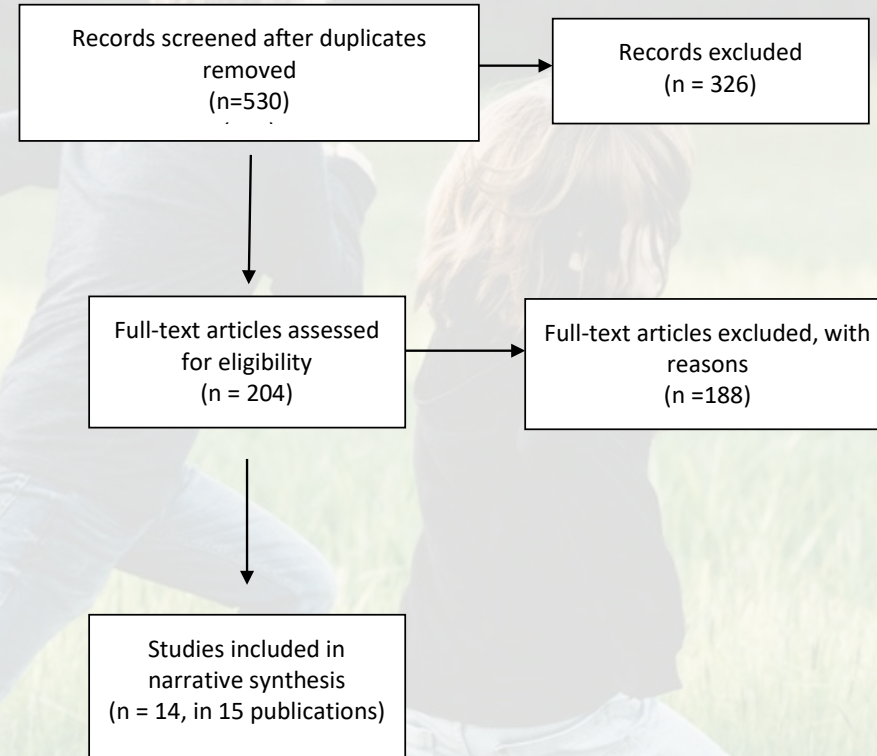
Findings

- 6/10 systematic reviews exclusive to COVID-19 pandemic
- None were exclusively of UK populations
- None exactly matched the RES question age group: 3 – 13 years
- Lack of recency in data collection
- Range of aspects and outcomes
- Methodological flaws

Rapid Review

Aim: To understand the impact of educational and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic on children aged 3-13 years and to identify any mitigating factors

- Focus on restrictions and educational changes: lockdown, stay-at-home, remote learning etc
- Database searching: Medline, PsycINFO, Scopus (n=536)
- Supplementary searching: reference list checking, via WC19EC (n=38)
- Inclusion criteria: child outcomes, anything except clinical implications as a direct result of COVID-19



Key Findings

13 observational studies

- 1/13 primary studies - evaluated an intervention
- 7/13 primary studies - mental health and wellbeing outcomes
- Other outcomes: nutrition (n=2), trauma injuries (n=1), mortality (n=1), social communication in children with autism (n=1)

Mental Health

- 4 to 11 years
- SDQ tool (emotional sub-scale), 5 studies – evidence of MH harm, 1 study – no significant difference
- Parent reported outcomes

Key Findings

Rapid review - Moss G, Bradbury A, Harmey S, Mansfield R, Candy B, France R, Vigurs C (2021) *Mitigating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on primary and lower secondary children during school closures: a rapid evidence review*. London: EPPI Centre, UCL Social Research Institute, UCL.

- 4 to 16 years
- Searches April & May 2021
- Lack of robust quality assessment
- Range of included publication types

Key Findings

Rapid review – Moss et al. (2021)

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

Mixed – particularly affected: girls and those experiencing anxiety before lockdown

Learning and Attainment:

Some - particularly affected: younger children & disadvantaged communities

Physical Health and Nutrition:

PH mixed – parents of children with disabilities reported less activity

Nutrition - robust evidence for reliance on foodbanks and support from schools

Exposure to Risk Factors:

Increase - increased risk of sexual abuse and criminal exploitation

Mitigations - no evidence of mitigation strategies for the above harms

Further resources

Mental Health of Children and Young People (MHCYP) survey

The 2021 survey is a follow up of parents, children and young people living in private households in England who gave their consent in the 2017 survey to be re-contacted.

Data from 3,667 children and young people now aged 6 to 23 years.

Findings:

- Rates of probable mental disorders in 6 to 16 year olds increased since 2017; from 1/9 (11.6%) to 1/6 (17.4%)
- Possible eating problems in 11 to 16 year olds increased since 2017; from 6.7% to 13.0%

Policy Implications

- Rapid review
- Data from cross-sectional study designs
- Lack of recency in data collection
- Age range – overlaps primary and secondary
- Generalisability
- Likely that too soon to understand long term harms
- No evidence identified of mitigations to offset the impact of the pandemic on the harms identified