

DOES MOVING MATTER? MEASURING RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

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OUTLINE

- Literature and Theoretical Background
- Objective and Research Question
- Data and Methods
- Results
- Limitations and and Future Steps

LITERATURE OVERVIEW

- Residential mobility: change of residence, either in the same city or town, communities or between provinces/territories
- Residential mobility may be necessary for upward mobility. However, frequent residential mobility has been shown to have a negative impact, particularly for low income families and children (Murphy et al, 2012; Rumbold et al, 2012).
- High rate of residential moves predicts social-emotional, behavioral, and educational problems (Pribesh & Downey, 1999; Wood et al. 1993)
- Mediators → loss of familiar physical environments, activities, and routines; loss of social support networks; and decreases in parent well-being and in the quality of parent– child relationships (Cohen et al. 1989; Hagan, MacMillan, & Wheaton, 1996; Hendershott, 1989; Pittman & Bowen, 1994)

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

- long arm of childhood health → adult health and physical functioning is linked to early life exposure (Hayward and Gorman 2004)
- cumulative advantage/disadvantage → mechanisms within poor neighborhoods are influential to adult health outcomes (Singh, Siahpush, and Kogan, 2010; Yen and Kaplan 1998)
- Residential mobility is linked with school mobility:
 - The disruption of schooling and the changing of neighbourhoods impacts household routines and creates unstable social support networks (Brown et al, 2016; Mok et al, 2016)
 - Children that experience frequent long-distance moves are at greater risk for experiencing social isolation, depression, and psychological distress (Brown et al, 2012)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

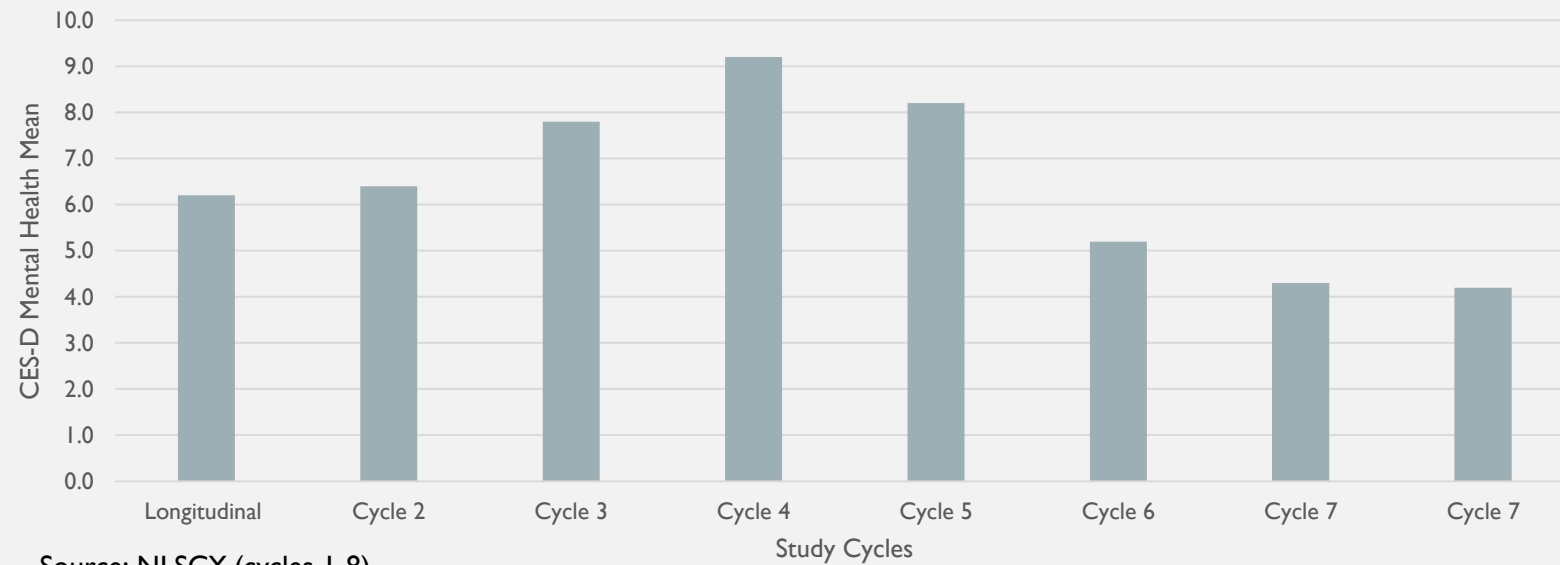
1. What is the role of residential and school mobility on the mental well-being of children?
2. What are the socioeconomic and demographic factors that impact the mental health outcomes of children that experience residential mobility? ^[1]_[SEP]

DATA AND METHODS

- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (8 cycles)
 - DV: CES-D depression scale
 - IV: Residential Mobility :indicator for each cycle was created that indicates whether someone moved residences since the previous cycle
 - Covariates: parental SES, immigration status, parental marital status, age, sex, ethnicity, number of sibling, school (private vs. public)
- Methods: Random-effects model using robust standard errors

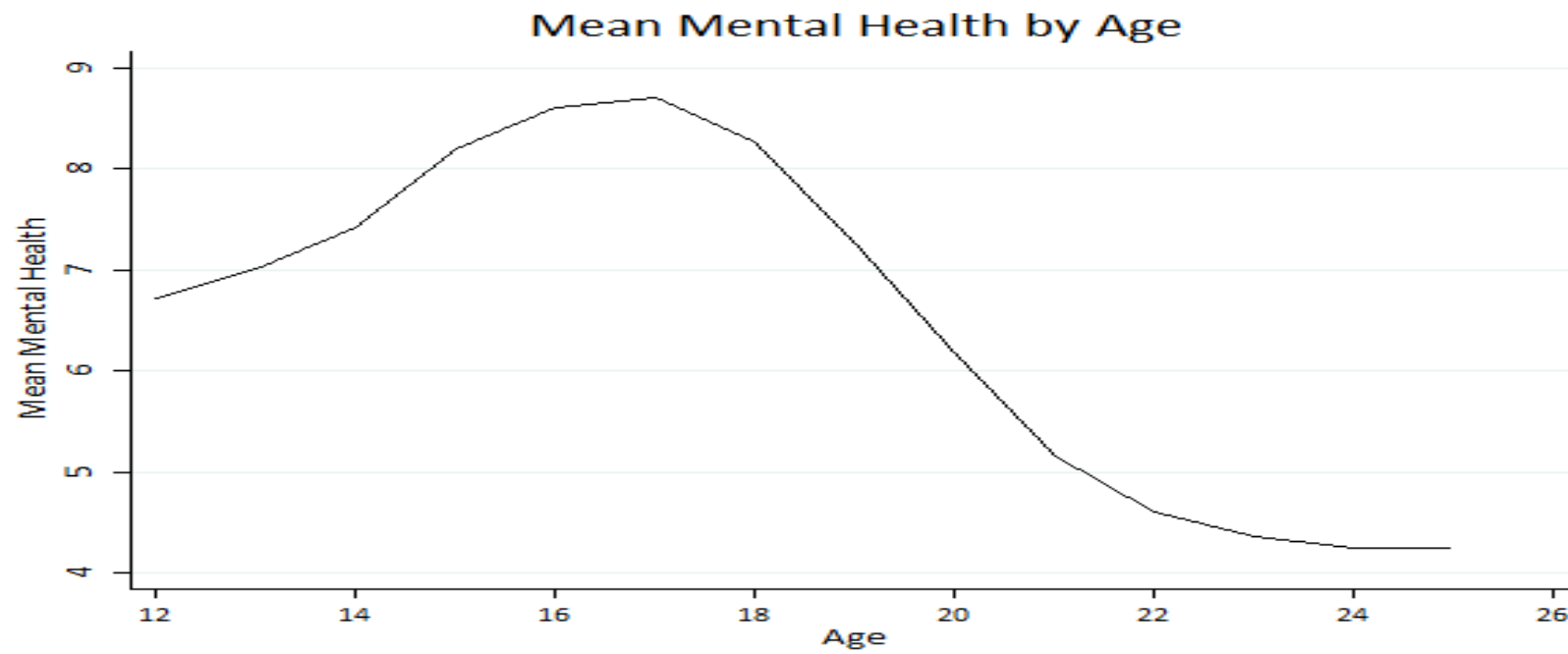
RESULTS

Mean Mental Health by Cycle



Source: NLSCY (cycles 1-8)

RESULTS



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, all cycles

RESULTS

Table 1 Regression of Residential Mobility of CES-D

Variable	Depression Scale	
	<i>b</i>	Robust SE
Number of moves	0.191 **	(-0.068)
Long move	-0.376 *	(0.188)
Short move	-0.068	(0.156)
Moved out of LIN	-0.821 **	(0.308)
Moved into LIN	0.307	(0.319)
<i>Focal Controls</i>		
Age	0.610 ***	(0.066)
Age ²	-0.056 ***	(0.004)
Gender (male)	-0.815 ***	(0.232)
SES Quintiles	-0.275 **	(0.107)
Immigrant	0.741 *	(0.381)
Aboriginal	1.395 **	(0.634)

Data: NLSCY (all cycles)

Note: **p* < .05. ***p* < .01. ****p* < .001

Note: includes controls for education of PMK, number of school moves, number of siblings, number of people in the household, marital status of the PMK, mental health of the PMK, age of PMK, and province of residence

LIMITATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- Reasons for migration
- Social capital
- NLSCY (sort of)

- Next steps: explore the impact of low income neighbourhoods; future life outcomes after leaving the family home

Thank you!

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