

Mental health study in two cohorts of schoolchildren from west santiago. I:  
Prevalence and follow up of behavioral and cognitive problems Estudio de salud  
mental en dos cohortes de niños escolares de Santiago occidente. I:  
Prevalencia y seguimiento de pro

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Objectives . Unmet needs in child mental health assistance call for epidemiological longitudinal studies to be used for effective preventive programs. This study aimed to obtain prevalence of behavioral problems in first to sixth grade schoolchildren and to study interater agreement. Method. A sample of 1279 first graders and 535 children that remained in the same schools up to six grade and did not fail a grade, was assessed by ratings from teachers and parents' questionnaires in first and 6th grade, added to self esteem ratings by children in 6th grade. Results. Prevalence of behavioral problems by teachers was over 40%, while parents found near 10%. Low self esteem rated by children was intermediate. Agreement between parents, children's and teachers'scores was low, but produced complementary information. The follow up sample had less behavioral problems than the children not available for reassessment. Children with behavioral problems had higher retention rates. According to teache