

# Prevalence of mental health disorders among children and adolescents living in southern Chile Epidemiología de trastornos mentales infanto-juveniles en la provincia de Cautín

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**Background:** The knowledge about prevalence of psychiatric disorders in all age groups is fundamental to plan an adequate mental health care. **Aim:** To determine the prevalence of DSM-IV psychiatric disorders in a representative sample of children and adolescents living in the province of Cautin, Chile. **Material and Methods:** Subjects aged between 4 and 18 years were selected in an aleatory stratified multistage fashion. As part of a national sample, four counties in Cautín were selected, then blocks, homes and the child or adolescent to be interviewed. Psychology graduate students applied the Spanish computer version of DISC-IV, as well as a questionnaire on family risk factors, socioeconomic index and service use. **Results:** A sample of 272 children and adolescents was evaluated, obtaining 93,4% of participation. Using the most stringent impairment algorithm, the prevalence rate for any psychiatric disorder was 16.8%, being 16.5% in boys and 17.1% in girls and mainly explained by anxiety a