

Coalition Declares ‘National Emergency’ in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

In late October 2021, three national organizations – the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), and the Children’s Hospital Association (CHA) – declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health. The organizations cited recent data in the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) that indicated “Soaring rates of mental health challenges among children, adolescents, and their families over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The recent spike in mental health problems has exacerbated the already difficult situation that existed prior to the pandemic. It adds that, children, adolescents and families “have experienced enormous adversity and disruption, with inequities resulting from structural racism further contributing to disproportionate impacts on communities of color.”

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