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**Cross-cultural perspectives on young people's
decision-making, adversity, and mental health**

Study Documentation

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Metadata Production

Metadata Producer(s)	Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI)
Identification	AHRI.AEDS01-01.AdverseEvents.Dataset

Table of Contents

Overview	4
Scope & Coverage	4
Producers & Sponsors	5
Sampling	5
Data Collection	5
Accessibility	5
Files Description	7
AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1	7
Variables List	8
AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1	8
Variables Description	10
AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1	11

Cross-cultural perspectives on young people's decision-making, adversity, and mental health

Overview

Identification	AHRI.AEDS01-01.AdverseEvents.Dataset
Version	v1.0.0

Abstract

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are known to be a key determinant of psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, depression and substance use disorders. While the impact of childhood adversity on mental health has been studied extensively over the past decades, its impact on decision-making is much less researched. Our hypothesis is that sub-clinical mental health disorders linked to childhood adversity experiences are associated with decision-making variations that can be detected using ecological computational tasks.

The field of computational psychiatry has achieved a previously unattainable insight into atypical decision computations in individuals suffering from various mental health conditions, such as anxiety and depression. This work has shown sub-clinical symptoms are associated with altered instrumental and contingency learning, as well as altered coupling within key decision networks. A growing body of evidence also indicates structural changes and dysfunctionality of key decision-making nodes in populations in adults with a history of childhood maltreatment and late childhood ACEs.

Given this anatomical overlap, there is a strong argument that decision-making mechanisms may be atypical in individuals with disorders such as depression and anxiety, particularly those with ACEs.

This gap in our knowledge emphasizes the need for translational research to expose the underlying mechanistic changes that ensue from these adverse experiences and their role in the development of psychopathologies in adulthood.

This research project aims to characterise the development of fundamental learning and decision-making mechanisms across young adults that have been previously shown to explain significant variance in mental health conditions. I will translate tasks that promote these mechanisms in ecologically relevant environments to test hypotheses within two different populations in UK and South Africa. With the use of computational models, I will then identify divergences in the trajectory between typical and atypical mental health development as it relates to adversity exposure. This world health perspective would offer a unique opportunity to examine the impact of ACE on computationally precise behavioural mechanisms in two culturally different environments.

Aim: To investigate how the learning and decision-making strategies of young people (aged 18-24 years) in KwaZulu-Natal are influenced by experiences of adversity and their mental health.

Objectives:

- 1) To examine alterations in decision-making and learning strategies using an ecologically valid task
- 2) To investigate the relationship between decision-making alterations and childhood adversity experiences
- 3) To determine the relationship between decision-making alterations and symptoms of poor mental health (depression, anxiety and anhedonia)

Kind of Data	Quantitative, Observational, Cross-sectional study
Unit of Analysis	N/A

Scope & Coverage

Keywords	Decision-making, adverse childhood events, young people
Topics	MeSH subject headings
Time Period(s)	2005-2025

Countries	South Africa
Geographic Coverage Demographic surveillance areas surrounding the Africa Health Research Institute; KwaZulu-Natal	
Universe Testing occurred over 8 weeks within a community setting -- North and South Somkhele -- utilising a convenience population sampling strategy. Recruitment involved 339 healthy volunteers aged 18-24 years. Data was collected by trained community trackers from the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI), who were provided with training prior to data collection, as well as the PI. All participants performed a gamified foraging task using mobile tablets. The task, consent forms, information sheets and questionnaires were available offline and administered via mobile tablets handled by trackers and community peer navigators, as well as the PI. All data was saved directly to the mobile devices, which were password protected. Participants also answered carefully translated questionnaires to assess their mental well-being and experiences of adversity.	

Producers & Sponsors	
Primary Investigator(s)	Sweetness Dube, Africa Health Research Institute Jaco Dreyer, Africa Health Research Institute Nompumelelo Mkwanazi, Africa Health Research Institute Professor Alan Stein, Africa Health Research Institute, University of Oxford Dr MaryAnn Noonan, University of York Dr Nothando Ngwenya, Africa Health Research Institute Prof Miriam Klein-Fluggé, University of Oxford Boluwatife Cole, University of Oxford Carina Herbst, Africa Health Research Institute
Other Producer(s)	Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI)
Funding Agency/ies	Biomedical Research Council Depression Therapeutics Pump Priming Award (BRC) , Funder Africa Oxford Catalyst Grant (AfOx) , Funder Rhodes Trust , Funder

Sampling
Sampling Procedure Recruitment involved 339 healthy volunteers aged 18-24 years.

Data Collection
Data Collection Dates start 2005-02-06 end 2025-03-03

Accessibility
Access Conditions Access to the data requires accurate completion of the online data access application form accessible on the AHRI Data repository(< https://data.ahri.org/ >). Data users are required to abide by the data use conditions stipulated on the application for access to the data. Failure to do so may result in their data access privileges being revoked by the Data Custodian. In order to recognise the effort and intellectual contributions of AHRI investigators in producing and curating the data, users of AHRI data must acknowledge the source of the data and abide by the terms and conditions under which the data is accessed and must cite the dataset in publication using the citation provided as part of this documentation. All analytical datasets published on the AHRI Data Repository are assigned digital object identifier (DOIs) and the DOIs can be found on the Data Repository under Study Description tab - Access policy. AHRI data users are required to always cite the dataset using the relevant DOI.
Citation Requirements

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23664/AHRI.AEDS01-01.ADVERSEEVENTS.DATASET>

Files Description

Dataset contains 1 file(s)

AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1	
# Cases	764
# Variable(s)	30

Variables List

Dataset contains 30 variable(s)

File AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1							
#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
1	IIntID	IIntID	continuous	numeric-12.0	764	0	-
2	ca_attmp..	Conducting Contact Attempt	discrete	numeric-12.0	404	360	-
3	ca_attmp..	Attempt Date and Time	discrete	character-11	403	-	-
4	ca_attmp..	Were you able to speak to the participant?	discrete	numeric-12.0	403	361	-
5	ca_attmp..	Outcome of Contact Attempt - spoken to	discrete	numeric-12.0	361	403	-
6	ca_attmp..	Outcome of Contact Attempt - not spoken to	discrete	numeric-12.0	45	719	-
7	ca_attmp..	Please specify other reason	discrete	character-30	4	0	-
8	ca_attmp..	Reschedule next visit date	discrete	character-11	13	-	-
9	ca_attmp..	Conducting Contact Attempt	discrete	numeric-12.0	15	749	-
10	ca_visit..	Visit Date	discrete	character-11	360	-	-
11	ca_calc..	Fieldworker: Request handover of Non-Contact to Project Coordinator?	discrete	numeric-12.0	764	0	-
12	pg_game..	Game's unique ID	discrete	character-244	345	-	-
13	pd_weekb..	Week Block	discrete	character-10	419	0	-
14	pd_week	Week	continuous	numeric-12.0	419	345	-
15	bs_iintid	BS_IIntID	continuous	numeric-12.0	463	301	-
16	pd_sex	Participant's Sex	discrete	numeric-12.0	752	12	-
17	pd_dob	Participant's Date of Birth	discrete	character-11	759	-	-
18	pd_isigodi	Participant's Local Area / Isigodi	discrete	character-50	418	0	-
19	pd_cluster	Study Cluster	discrete	character-15	418	0	-
20	pd_age	Age - Calculated from Date of Birth and Visit Date	discrete	numeric-12.0	356	408	-
21	ac_date	Capacity assessment date by Field Team	discrete	character-11	350	-	-
22	ac_asses..	HAPPY with Step 1?	discrete	numeric-12.0	350	414	-
23	ac_asses..	Is this individual capable to participate?	discrete	numeric-12.0	350	414	-
24	ac_asses..	Calculated - capable to participate	discrete	numeric-12.0	764	0	-
25	srs_mh_r..	I would like help for me or my family for mental illness or risk of suicide	discrete	numeric-12.0	344	420	-
26	srs_sv_c..	Please tell us how you would like us to contact you	discrete	numeric-12.0	5	759	-
27	ar_supp..	Was support provided?	discrete	numeric-12.0	5	759	-
28	ar_follo..	Is follow up needed?	discrete	numeric-12.0	5	759	-

File AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1							
#	Name	Label	Type	Format	Valid	Invalid	Question
29	ar_follo..	Date of follow up	discrete	character-244	3	-	-
30	ar_resol..	Was it resolved?	discrete	numeric-12.0	5	759	-

Variables Description

Dataset contains 30 variable(s)

File : AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

IIntID: IIntID

Information [Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 19327-99900395] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=764 /-] [Invalid=0 /-] [Mean=45317690.836 /-] [StdDev=49692159.066 /-]

ca_attmp1_contact: Conducting Contact Attempt

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=404 /-] [Invalid=360 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	403	99.8%
2	No	1	0.2%
Sysmiss		360	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ca_attmp1_datetime: Attempt Date and Time

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=403 /-]

ca_attmp1_spoke_partic: Were you able to speak to the participant?

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-3] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=403 /-] [Invalid=361 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes, face-to-face	358	88.8%
2	No	45	11.2%
3	Yes, over the telephone	0	
Sysmiss		361	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ca_attmp1_cntct_outcome: Outcome of Contact Attempt - spoken to

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-96] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=361 /-] [Invalid=403 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Available - Willing to participate	360	99.7%
2	Current Resident - Not available	0	
4	Refused	0	
5	Out-migrated - Outside of PIPSA area	1	0.3%
6	Mentally Incapacitated	0	
7	Dead	0	
8	Temporarily away for more than 2 months	0	
9	Stay in currently Avoided BS/HH	0	
10	Out-migrated to unknown destination	0	
11	Out-migrated within PIPSA, but unable to visit	0	
12	Participant's age is not within the study range	0	
13	Participant is a Peer Navigator	0	
14	Schooling away from home - not available to participate	0	
96	Other	0	
Sysmiss		403	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

File : AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

ca_attmp1_no_cntct_outcome: Outcome of Contact Attempt - not spoken to

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 2-96] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=45 /-] [Invalid=719 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
2	Current Resident - Not available	11	24.4%
3	No-One home	4	8.9%
5	Out-migrated - Outside of PIPSA area	14	31.1%
6	Mentally Incapacitated	0	
7	Dead	0	
8	Temporarily away for more than 2 months	0	
9	Stay in currently Avoided BS/HH	0	
10	Out-migrated to unknown destination	7	15.6%
11	Out-migrated within PIPSA, but unable to visit	1	2.2%
12	Participant's age is not within the study range	1	2.2%
13	Participant is a Peer Navigator	0	
14	Schooling away from home - not available to participate	3	6.7%
96	Other	4	8.9%
Sysmiss		719	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ca_attmp1_cntct_out_oth: Please specify other reason

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=4 /-] [Invalid=0 /-]

ca_attmp1_resch_vsdate: Reschedule next visit date

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=13 /-]

ca_attmp2_contact: Conducting Contact Attempt

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=15 /-] [Invalid=749 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	0	
2	No	15	100.0%
Sysmiss		749	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ca_visitdate: Visit Date

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=360 /-]

ca_calc_willing_survey: Fieldworker: Request handover of Non-Contact to Project Coordinator?

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=764 /-] [Invalid=0 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	360	47.1%
2	No	404	52.9%

File : AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

ca_calc_willing_survey: Fieldworker: Request handover of Non-Contact to Project Coordinator?

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

pg_game_unique_id: Game's unique ID

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=345 /-]

pd_weekblock: Week Block

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=419 /-] [Invalid=0 /-]

pd_week: Week

Information [Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-44] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=419 /-] [Invalid=345 /-] [Mean=21.616 /-] [StdDev=12.915 /-]

bs_iintid: BS_IIntID

Information [Type= continuous] [Format=numeric] [Range= 10007-93112] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=463 /-] [Invalid=301 /-] [Mean=46790.963 /-] [StdDev=24140.518 /-]

pd_sex: Participant's Sex

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=752 /-] [Invalid=12 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Male	374	49.7%
2	Female	378	50.3%
Sysmiss		12	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

pd_dob: Participant's Date of Birth

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=759 /-]

pd_isigodi: Participant's Local Area / Isigodi

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=418 /-] [Invalid=0 /-]

pd_cluster: Study Cluster

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=418 /-] [Invalid=0 /-]

pd_age: Age - Calculated from Date of Birth and Visit Date

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 17-25] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=356 /-] [Invalid=408 /-]

ac_date: Capacity assessment date by Field Team

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=350 /-]

ac_assess_step1: HAPPY with Step 1?

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

File : AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

ac_assess_step1: HAPPY with Step 1?

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=350 /-] [Invalid=414 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes, seek signature	350	100.0%
2	No, not happy	0	
Sysmiss		414	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ac_assess_result_fw: Is this individual capable to participate?

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=350 /-] [Invalid=414 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	350	100.0%
2	No	0	
Sysmiss		414	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ac_assess_result: Calculated - capable to participate

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=764 /-] [Invalid=0 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	350	45.8%
2	No	414	54.2%

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

srs_mh_requested: I would like help for me or my family for mental illness or risk of suicide

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=344 /-] [Invalid=420 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	5	1.5%
2	No	339	98.5%
Sysmiss		420	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

srs_sv_contact_method: Please tell us how you would like us to contact you

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=5 /-] [Invalid=759 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Telephone	5	100.0%
2	Social Worker who visited your home	0	
Sysmiss		759	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ar_supp_given: Was support provided?

Information [Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]

Statistics [NW/ W] [Valid=5 /-] [Invalid=759 /-]

File : AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

ar_supp_given: Was support provided?

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	2	40.0%
2	No	3	60.0%
Sysmiss		759	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ar_follow_up_needed: Is follow up needed?

Information	[Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=5 /-] [Invalid=759 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	3	60.0%
2	No	2	40.0%
Sysmiss		759	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.

ar_follow_up_date: Date of follow up

Information	[Type= discrete] [Format=character] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=3 /-]

ar_resolved: Was it resolved?

Information	[Type= discrete] [Format=numeric] [Range= 1-2] [Missing=*]
Statistics [NW/ W]	[Valid=5 /-] [Invalid=759 /-]

Value	Label	Cases	Percentage
1	Yes	3	60.0%
2	No	2	40.0%
Sysmiss		759	

Warning: these figures indicate the number of cases found in the data file. They cannot be interpreted as summary statistics of the population of interest.