

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

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

AHRI.AEDS01-01.AdverseEvents.Dataset

TITLE

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

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	ZA

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

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

v1.0.0

Scope

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
MeSH subject headings	Africa Health Research Institute	www.ahri.org

KEYWORDS

Keyword	Vocabulary	URI
Decision-making, adverse childhood events, young people	Africa Health Research Institute	www.ahri.org

Coverage

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 and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

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PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation
Africa Health Research Institute	AHRI

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Abbreviation	Role
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

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2005-02-06	2025-03-03

Access policy

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

Dube, S., Dreyer, J., Mkwana, N., Stein, A., Noonan, M. A., Ngwenya, N., Klein-Fluggé, M., Cole, B., & Herbst, C. (2026). Cross-cultural perspectives on young people's decision-making, adversity, and mental health [Dataset]. Africa Health Research Institute.

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

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

AHRI.AEDS01-01.AdverseEvents.Dataset

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation
Africa Health Research Institute	AHRI

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1	764	30

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Cases: 764

Variables: 30

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V25	llntID	llntID	
V26	ca_attmp1_contact	Conducting Contact Attempt	
V27	ca_attmp1_datetime	Attempt Date and Time	
V28	ca_attmp1_spoke_partic	Were you able to speak to the participant?	
V29	ca_attmp1_cntct_outcome	Outcome of Contact Attempt - spoken to	
V30	ca_attmp1_no_cntct_outcome	Outcome of Contact Attempt - not spoken to	
V31	ca_attmp1_cntct_out_oth	Please specify other reason	
V32	ca_attmp1_resch_vsdate	Reschedule next visit date	
V33	ca_attmp2_contact	Conducting Contact Attempt	
V34	ca_visitdate	Visit Date	
V35	ca_calc_willing_survey	Fieldworker: Request handover of Non-Contact to Project Coordinator?	
V36	pg_game_unique_id	Game's unique ID	
V37	pd_weekblock	Week Block	
V38	pd_week	Week	
V39	bs_iintid	BS_llntID	
V40	pd_sex	Participant's Sex	
V41	pd_dob	Participant's Date of Birth	
V42	pd_isigodi	Participant's Local Area / Isigodi	
V43	pd_cluster	Study Cluster	
V44	pd_age	Age - Calculated from Date of Birth and Visit Date	
V45	ac_date	Capacity assessment date by Field Team	
V46	ac_assess_step1	HAPPY with Step 1?	
V47	ac_assess_result_fw	Is this individual capable to participate?	
V48	ac_assess_result	Calculated - capable to participate	
V49	srs_mh_requested	I would like help for me or my family for mental illness or risk of suicide	
V50	srs_sv_contact_method	Please tell us how you would like us to contact you	
V51	ar_supp_given	Was support provided?	
V52	ar_follow_up_needed	Is follow up needed?	
V53	ar_follow_up_date	Date of follow up	
V54	ar_resolved	Was it resolved?	

Total: 30

IINTID: IIntID**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 764 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 19327 Maximum: 99900395 Mean: 45317690.836 Standard deviation: 49692159.066
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 19327 - 99900395 Format: Numeric

CA_ATTMP1_CONTACT: Conducting Contact Attempt**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 404 Invalid: 360
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

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

CA_ATTMP1_DATETIME: Attempt Date and Time**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 403 Minimum: 2025-02-03 Maximum: 2025-03-10
 Type: Discrete Width: 11 Range: - Format: character

CA_ATTMP1_SPOKE_PARTIC: Were you able to speak to the participant?**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 403 Invalid: 361
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 3 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes, face-to-face	358	88.8%

2	No	45	11.2%
3	Yes, over the telephone	0	0%
Sysmiss		361	

CA_ATTMP1_CNTCT_OUTCOME: Outcome of Contact Attempt - spoken to

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 361 Invalid: 403

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 96 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

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

CA_ATTMP1_NO_CNTCT_OUTCOME: Outcome of Contact Attempt - not spoken to

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 45 Invalid: 719

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 2 - 96 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
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	0%
7	Dead	0	0%
8	Temporarily away for more than 2 months	0	0%
9	Stay in currently Avoided BS/HH	0	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	0%
14	Schooling away from home - not available to participate	3	6.7%
96	Other	4	8.9%
Sysmiss		719	

CA_ATTMP1_CNTCT_OUT_OTH: Please specify other reason

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 4 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Width: 30 Range: - Format: character

CA_ATTMP1_RESCH_VSDATE: Reschedule next visit date

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 13 Minimum: 2025-02-08 Maximum: 2025-02-22

Type: Discrete Width: 11 Range: - Format: character

CA_ATTMP2_CONTACT: Conducting Contact Attempt

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 15 Invalid: 749

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	0	0%
2	No	15	100%
Sysmiss		749	

CA_VISITDATE: Visit Date

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 360 Minimum: 2025-02-06 Maximum: 2025-03-03
 Type: Discrete Width: 11 Range: - Format: character

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

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 764 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	360	47.1%
2	No	404	52.9%

PG_GAME_UNIQUE_ID: Game's unique ID

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 345
 Type: Discrete Width: 244 Range: - Format: character

PD_WEEKBLOCK: Week Block

Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1

Overview

Valid: 419 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Width: 10 Range: - Format: character

PD_WEEK: Week**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 419 Invalid: 345 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 44 Mean: 21.616 Standard deviation: 12.915

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 44 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
Sysmiss	

BS_IINTID: BS_IIntID**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 463 Invalid: 301 Minimum: 10007 Maximum: 93112 Mean: 46790.963 Standard deviation: 24140.518

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 10007 - 93112 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
Sysmiss	

PD_SEX: Participant's Sex**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 752 Invalid: 12

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

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

PD_DOB: Participant's Date of Birth**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 759 Minimum: 1999-04-07 Maximum: 2007-11-21
 Type: Discrete Width: 11 Range: - Format: character

PD_ISIGODI: Participant's Local Area / Isigodi**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 418 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 50 Range: - Format: character

PD_CLUSTER: Study Cluster**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 418 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 15 Range: - Format: character

PD_AGE: Age - Calculated from Date of Birth and Visit Date**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 356 Invalid: 408
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 17 - 25 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
Sysmiss	

AC_DATE: Capacity assessment date by Field Team**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 350 Minimum: 2025-02-06 Maximum: 2025-03-03

Type: Discrete Width: 11 Range: - Format: character

AC_ASSESS_STEP1: HAPPY with Step 1?**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 350 Invalid: 414

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes, seek signature	350	100%
2	No, not happy	0	0%
Sysmiss		414	

AC_ASSESS_RESULT_FW: Is this individual capable to participate?**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 350 Invalid: 414

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	350	100%
2	No	0	0%
Sysmiss		414	

AC_ASSESS_RESULT: Calculated - capable to participate**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1**

Overview

Valid: 764 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	350	45.8%
2	No	414	54.2%

SRS_MH_REQUESTED: I would like help for me or my family for mental illness or risk of suicide**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 344 Invalid: 420

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

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

SRS_SV_CONTACT_METHOD: Please tell us how you would like us to contact you**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 5 Invalid: 759

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Telephone	5	100%
2	Social Worker who visited your home	0	0%
Sysmiss		759	

AR_SUPP_GIVEN: Was support provided?**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 5 Invalid: 759

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	2	40%
2	No	3	60%
Sysmiss		759	

AR_FOLLOW_UP_NEEDED: Is follow up needed?**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 5 Invalid: 759

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	3	60%
2	No	2	40%
Sysmiss		759	

AR_FOLLOW_UP_DATE: Date of follow up**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1****Overview**

Valid: 3

Type: Discrete Width: 244 Range: - Format: character

AR_RESOLVED: Was it resolved?**Data file: AEDS01-01Adverse Events Dataset v.1**

Overview

Valid: 5 Invalid: 759

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	3	60%
2	No	2	40%
Sysmiss		759	

Download related resources

Other materials

DDI:AEDS01-01Adverse_Events_Dataset

Title	DDI:AEDS01-01Adverse_Events_Dataset
Filename	AEDS01-01Adverse_Events_Dataset.pdf
