

Journal of Research on Adolescence publishes special issue on the impact of COVID-19 on adolescents worldwide

MIDDLETON, WI, August 27, 2021 – This special issue aims to increase our understanding of the role the pandemic plays in changes to adolescents’ daily lives. Twenty-one empirical articles from four continents demonstrate the emotional, social, and academic changes in adolescents’ well-being, focusing on pandemic-related factors and processes that may account for these changes. These studies examine how the pandemic’s ever-changing circumstances relate to long-term consequences on the adjustment of adolescents.

Due to government-sanctioned restrictions, school closures, and physical distancing guidelines, adolescents’ daily lives appear to be disrupted in multiple developmental contexts. Together, these studies cover the entire period of adolescence, with ages ranging from 9 to 22, and examine changes in four key domains of functioning: emotional adjustment and psychopathology, family processes, peer processes, and academic functioning. These articles include two contributions from Asia, nine from Europe, nine from North America, and one from South America. Many articles use longitudinal data to analyze the functioning of adolescents’ pre-pandemic compared to mid-pandemic.

The overall results of these studies show that youth with higher mental health problems before the pandemic are consistently at increased risk for mental health problems during the pandemic. Low peer-connectedness and loneliness are crucial factors for youth mental health problems during the pandemic. Training of emotion regulation skills pre- and during a pandemic is a promising intervention and prevention strategy to promote coping and adaptive emotion regulation to buffer some of the negative effects of the pandemic on mental health and academic engagement.

The pandemic continues to differentially impact communities around the globe, bringing waves of devastation and disruption to today’s youth. The Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) [COVID-19 Response Team](#) uses this research to consider the pandemic’s impact relative to developmental implications within community and policy contexts, educational contexts, social contexts and family contexts.

To access the special issue: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Adolescent Emotional, Social and Academic Adjustment, [click here](#).

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About the [Society for Research on Adolescence \(SRA\)](#)

SRA is an interdisciplinary community that fosters inclusive, innovative science to leverage policy and practice for the well-being of all adolescents. We promote high-quality research that considers the biological, psychological, and sociocultural aspects of development in context. We aim to lead and shape scientific and public discourse on youth and adolescence and to guide parenting, schooling, programs, and policies. In order to achieve these goals, we foster the professional development and growth of all members and are relevant, visible, diverse, and global in perspective.

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