

## Press release

Please fill in this form and return it to [graduateschoolhealth@au.dk](mailto:graduateschoolhealth@au.dk) in Word format no later than three weeks prior to your defence.

### Basic information

Name: Maria Keilow                      Email: [mkw@vive.dk](mailto:mkw@vive.dk) Phone:

Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Carsten Obel

Title of dissertation: Children's mental health and educational opportunity – exploring socioeconomic aspects of ADHD

Date for defence: 30/6/2020 at (time of day): 14:00-16:00 Place: Zoom

Press release (Danish)

Børns mentale helbred og uddannelsesmuligheder - en undersøgelse af de socioøkonomiske aspekter af ADHD

En ud af fem børn og unge lider af mentale problemer, og forekomsten af sådanne problemer er højere blandt børn, der bor i familier med færre socioøkonomiske ressourcer. ADHD er en af de mest almindelige adfærdsforstyrrelser hos børn og er kendetegnet ved symptomer som uopmærksomhed, hyperaktivitet, rastløshed og impulsivitet. ADHD's negative konsekvenser for de berørte børn og deres familier kan være omfattende.

Med udgangspunkt i ADHD som case giver dette projekt ny indsigt i, hvordan børns mentale problemer og familiens socioøkonomiske ressourcer interagerer og dermed påvirker børns uddannelsesmuligheder og videre livschancer.

Projektet anlægger en tværfaglig tilgang, og arbejdet baserer sig på eksisterende forskning og metode fra både samfundsvidenskab og sundhed. Undersøgelserne bruger data fra de danske sundheds- og uddannelsesregistre kombineret med kohorte- og spørgeskemadata. De fire studier i projektet undersøger sammenhængen mellem sociale risikofaktorer og børns risiko for at udvikle ADHD samt karakteriserer forholdet mellem børns socioemotionelle vanskeligheder og deres skolefaglige præstationer. Desuden evalueres effekten af hhv. medicinsk ADHD-behandling og en generel lærerrettet klasseledelsesintervention.

Projektets resultater understreger kompleksiteten af de uddannelsesmæssige udfordringer, som børn med mentale problemer står overfor samt behovet for at anerkende og forstå både de socioøkonomiske og sundhedsmæssige forhold i barnets liv.

Ph.d.-projektet er gennemført af Maria Keilow fra 2017-2020 og er støttet af Aarhus Universitet, Health og VIVE – Det Nationale Forsknings- og Analysecenter for Velfærd.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 30/6/2020 kl. 14:00. Grundet Covid-19 afholdes forsvaret online via Zoom. Tilmelding til deltagelse i forsvaret kan ske pr. mail til [mkw@vive.dk](mailto:mkw@vive.dk), hvorefter et link til Zoom fremsendes.

Titlen på projektet er "Children's mental health and educational opportunity – exploring socioeconomic aspects of ADHD".

Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Maria Keilow, e-mail: [mkw@vive.dk](mailto:mkw@vive.dk).

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Professor Cecilia Høst Ramlau-Hansen (chairperson and moderator of the defense), Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark

Associate professor Margot Jackson, Department of Sociology, Brown University, Rhode Island, USA

Professor, Head of Research Anton Pottegård Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Press release (English)

## Children's mental health and educational opportunity – exploring socioeconomic aspects of ADHD

One in five children and adolescents suffer from mental health problems, and the incidence of such problems is higher among children living in families with fewer socioeconomic resources.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common childhood-onset behavioral disorders. ADHD is characterized by impairing symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity, restlessness, and impulsivity, and the negative impact on the lives of affected children and their families can be extensive.

Using ADHD as the main case, this project provides new insights on how children's mental health problems and family socioeconomic resources interact to form life chances through educational opportunity. The project takes an interdisciplinary approach, and the work builds on previous research and statistical methods from both social sciences and health. The studies use data from Danish national health and education registers combined with cohort and survey data.

The studies included in the thesis investigate the association between social disadvantage and children's risk of ADHD and characterize the relationship between children's socioemotional difficulties and their performance at standardized academic tests. In addition, the project evaluates the effect of medical ADHD treatment and a general teacher-targeted classroom management intervention, respectively.

The research stresses the complexity of the educational challenges that children with mental health problems face and the need to recognize and understand both the socioeconomic and health conditions of their families.

The Ph.d. project was carried out by Maria Keilow from 2017-2020 and was funded by Aarhus University and VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research.

The defence is public and takes place on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 14:00. Due to the Covid-19 situation, the defense will be held online via Zoom. To attend the defence, please email [mkw@vive.dk](mailto:mkw@vive.dk) to receive a Zoom Link.

The title of the project is "Children's mental health and educational opportunity – exploring socioeconomic aspects of ADHD".

For more information, please contact PhD student Maria Keilow, email: [mkw@vive.dk](mailto:mkw@vive.dk).

Assessment committee:

Professor Cecilia Høst Ramlau-Hansen (chairperson and moderator of the defense), Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark

Associate professor Margot Jackson, Department of Sociology, Brown University, Rhode Island, USA

Professor, Head of Research Anton Pottegård Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

### Permission

By sending in this form:

- I hereby grant permission to publish the above Danish and English press releases.
- I confirm that I have been informed that any applicable inventions shall be treated confidentially and shall under no circumstances whatsoever be published, presented or mentioned prior to submission of a patent application, and that I have an obligation to inform my head of department and the university's Patents Committee if I believe I have made an invention in connection with my work. I also confirm that I am not aware that publication violates any other possible holders of a copyright.

