



AWAY FROM HOME



CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (CAPSS)

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Far Away from Home

What is the Far Away from Home Study?

National policy specifies that young people who require admission to hospital for psychiatric care should be cared for in units appropriate to their age-group. Unfortunately, some young people are admitted to units located far away from their home or to adult wards. This may mean considerable separation from family and friends or receiving suboptimal care that is not specifically tailored for their age. At an already difficult time, it is possible that such admissions may worsen the distress that young people and their families experience. On the other hand, it is also possible that some young people may have a better experience of care when they have been able to be admitted to a ward or unit of their preference.

Introduction to the study

At present, we know little about how many young people are admitted far away from home or to adult wards or the factors that contribute to such admissions. This research aims to understand and improve the experience of care for these young people. The “Far Away from Home” study aims to find out how many young people in England are admitted far away from home (that is to a general adolescent unit further than 50 miles from their home or to a different NHS region) or to adult wards.

How long will it go on for?

The study will collect information, over 13-months, from consultant child and adolescent psychiatrists on new cases of young people admitted far away from home, to a different NHS region, or to adult wards, with some new information requested at a 6-month follow-up.

Who should be contacted if I have any questions about this study?

Please contact CAPSS: CAPSS@rcpsych.ac.uk

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<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/research-and-evaluation/current-research/capss>

CASE DEFINITION

Young people aged 13-17 years admitted to a general adolescent unit at distance from their home (over 50 miles away or outside their commissioning area*) or to an adult ward.

Includes

Admissions to either:

- any adult psychiatric ward
- a general adolescent unit over 50 miles away from their home
- a general adolescent unit outside their commissioning area

Excludes

- Admissions to highly specialised regional units such as: Eating disorder units; Learning disability / ASD units; Forensic / Secure units; PICU.
- An admission that you have previously reported to CAPSS.

Duration

February 2021 to August 2022 (13-month CAPSS surveillance period and 6-month follow-up)

Principal Investigator

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Co-investigators

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Ethics approval

This study has been approved by South Birmingham Research Ethics Committee (20/WM/0265) and Section 251 HRA-CAG permission (20/CAG/0127).

Funding

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration East Midlands (ARC-EM)

*** NHSE Commissioning Region areas**

East of England

East Midlands

London

North East

North West

South East (Kent / Surrey / Sussex)

South Central (Oxford / Bucks / Berks/ Hants / IoW)

South West

West Midlands

Yorkshire & Humber