

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

General anxiety disorder has surged among Australia's young people particularly after COVID, leading to school refusals.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

"current data points to nearly 100,000 children are not in education and many more only tangentially attached and not attending regularly."



Anxiety was the most common group of 12-month mental disorders in Australia, with one in four people experiencing it at some point in their lives.

The annual prevalence of mental ill health in 16 to 24-year-olds had surged 50 percent from 2020-21 — an unprecedented increase in 15 years.

Australia is the third-highest user of antidepressants in the developed world; its use of antidepressants and antipsychotic drugs has increased fourfold since the 1990s.

 2-3 KEY USERS:

Sophia is a college student and has a part-time job.

Emma is a high school student in a one-parent family.

James is a middle school student, and he is being bullied in school.

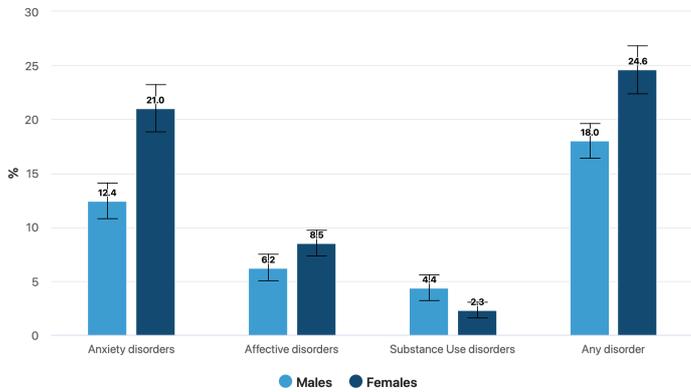
 2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Sophia is taking antidepressants to help with her anxiety symptoms, but she feels like the pills have made her worse when not taken.

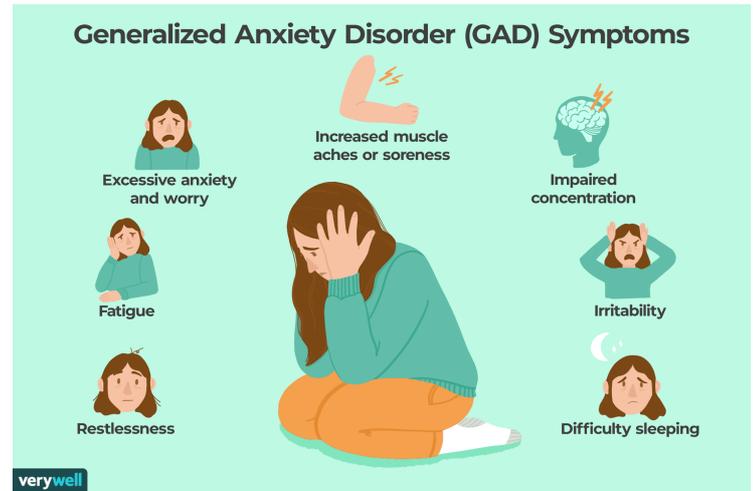
Emma is going to the school counseling service after getting diagnosed with anxiety. She is afraid of her mother's reaction.

James is experiencing emotional distress everyday when is time for school.

KEY IMAGES: (2-3 key images with annotation)



12-month mental disorders, by disorder group and sex, 2020-2021



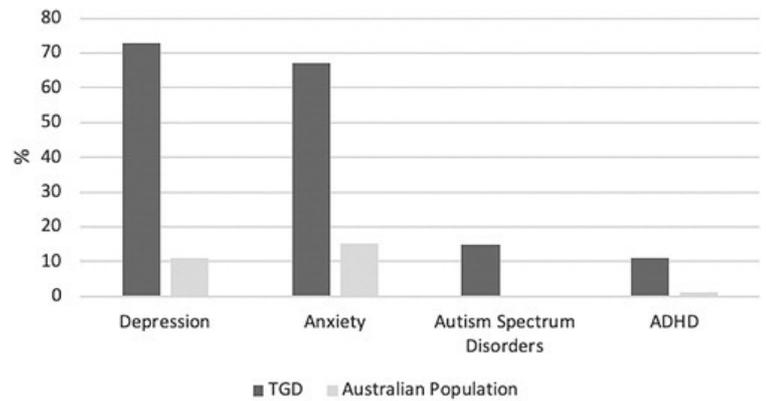
Generalized anxiety disorder symptoms.

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

Health care provider:
Counselor
Psychiatrist
Mental health hotline
Hospital

Antidepressants medicine
manufacturer

Government
School



Self-reported diagnoses in trans individuals versus the Australian population (age-matched)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/mental-health/national-study-mental-health-and-wellbeing/2020-21#mental-health-resources>
- <https://www.verywellmind.com/dsm-5-criteria-for-generalized-anxiety-disorder-1393147>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-02-20/anxiety-young-people-is-increasing-across-australia-covid/100829836>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-04/lifeline-records-highest-daily-calls-on-record/100350522>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-05/youth-mental-health-crisis-time-to-respond/101295194>
- <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/anxiety>
- <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/lgbt.2020.0178>

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