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Does employment security modify the effect of housing affordability on mental health?

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ABSTRACT

This paper uses longitudinal data to examine the relationship of two of central social determinants of mental health -- employment security and housing affordability.

Data from ten annual waves of the longitudinal Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey (which commenced in 2000/1 and is ongoing) were analysed using fixed-effects linear regression. Change in the SF-36 Mental Component Summary (MCS) score of working age individuals (25-64 years) (51,885 observations of 10,776 people), associated with changes in housing affordability was examined. Models were adjusted for income, age, survey year, experience of serious injury/illness and separation/divorce. We tested for an additive interaction with the security of the household's employment arrangements.

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