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MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN: EXPERIENCE OF REGIONAL SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

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Abstract. The increase in morbidity and disability of the child population due to mental and behavioral disorders leads to significant losses for society. The purpose of the study is to analyze the state and dynamics of children's mental health indicators in the Vologda region in 2010-2019. The information base consists of statistics and cohort children's health monitoring who live in the region. In 2010-2019 the primary incidence of mental disorders in children and adolescents decreased, but the primary disability caused by these diseases increased in the Vologda region, in contrast to the North-Western Federal district as a whole. Monitoring data showed that the risk of mental health disorders is higher in premature babies with perinatal damage to the nervous system. In 2019, the prevalence of serious mental health problems among children in the 2014 cohort was low, but about 50% of them had problems with memory, attention, and speech formation. In order to improve the children's mental health, it is necessary to improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, solve the problem of staff shortages in the children's psychiatric service and improve their skills.

Keywords: children's health; mental disorders; morbidity; children's disability; regional sociological research; cohort monitoring.

JEL code: J13; I15.

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