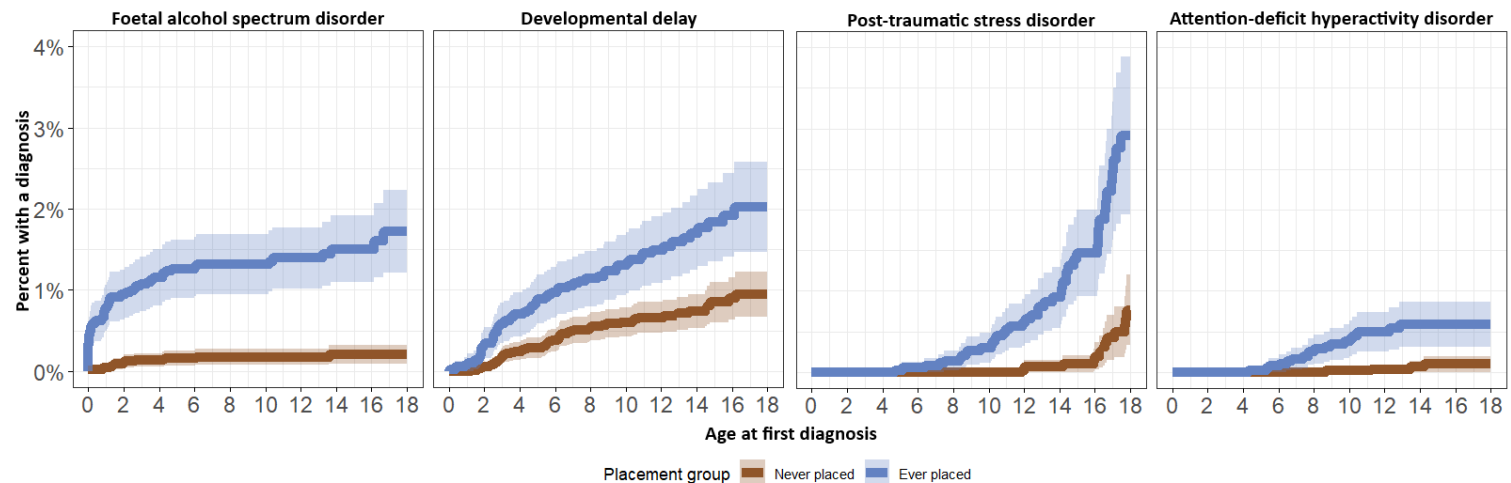


Mental and neurodevelopmental health and out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children born in Western Australia

Mental and neurodevelopmental conditions overall were **3 times more common** for children ever-placed in out-of-home care, compared to children never-placed.

Diagnoses for mental and neurodevelopmental conditions tended to occur earlier in ever-placed children's lives compared to never-placed children.

Health condition	Prevalence for ever-placed
Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder	11x higher
Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder	10x higher
Post-traumatic stress disorder	7x higher
Developmental delay	2x higher



- Post-traumatic stress disorder was diagnosed in very young children who had been removed, highlighting the importance of trauma-informed care.
- Neurodevelopmental conditions can have differing impacts on children's lives. The earlier a diagnosis can be made, the sooner parents and carers give their children the support they need.
- Support needs to consider each child's unique family, community, and cultural contexts.

The information comes from the Indigenous Child Removals WA Study of a sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children born in Western Australia between 2000 and 2013. WAAHEC approval 943, Department of Health HREC approval RGS3496. Funded by NHMRC Project Grant 1162968. The authors wish to thank the staff at DLSWA and the custodians of the Death Registrations, Midwives Notification System, Birth Registrations, WA Register of Birth Defects, Intellectual Disability Exploring Answers, Mental Health Information System, Hospital Morbidity Data Collection, and child protection datasets. For further information contact Professor Sandra Eades at sandra.eades@unimelb.edu.au or read about the study: <https://bit.ly/4dJ86qJ>