

An overview of school refusal in France

The first national health survey

Laelia Benoit, MD, PhD

Edith Chan Sock Peng, Alexandra Rouquette, Caroline Barry, Paul Nadin, Bruno Falissard, Laelia Benoit.

French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), U1178, CESP, Villejuif, France.

How we made it possible: together



How we made it possible: crowdfunding



Thellie.org

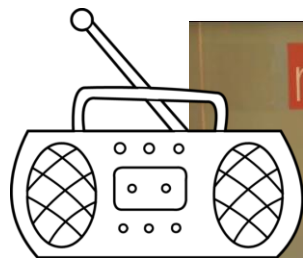


12 660 € collectés

Grâce à la générosité de 73 contributeurs, la campagne lancée par [Laelia Benoit](#) a atteint son objectif de collecte, le vendredi 6 juillet 2018.



How we made it possible : mainstream media



DR LAELIA BENOIT
PÉDOPSYCHIATRE À LA MAISON DES ADOLESCENTS DE COCHIN À PARIS
RFLFR



Le Monde

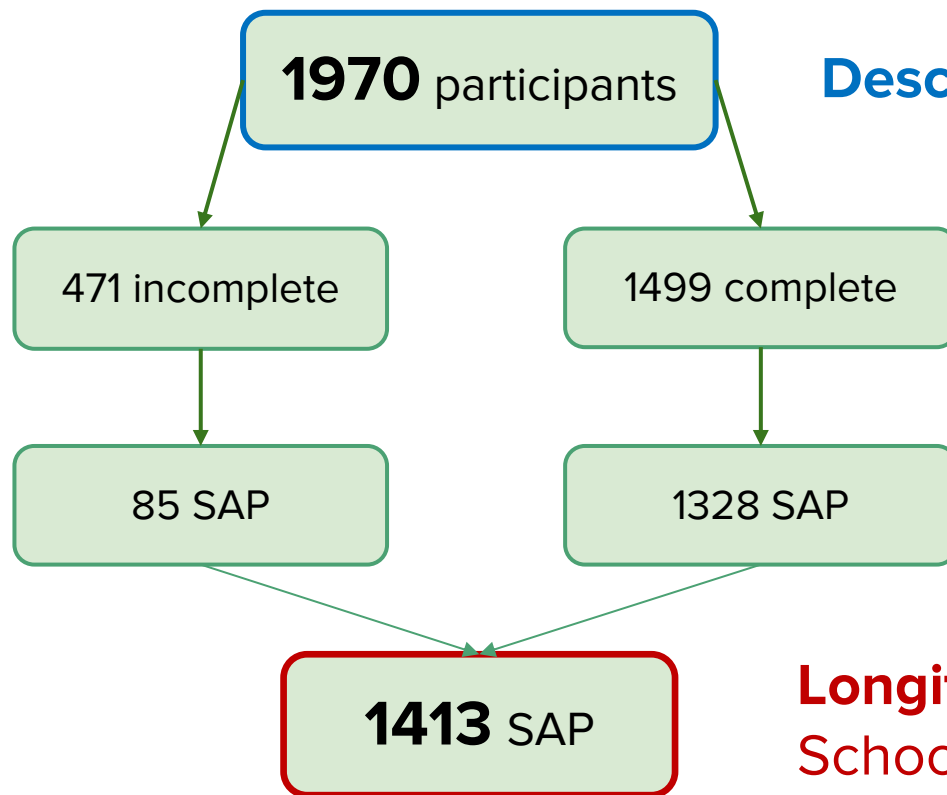
SCIENCES

Laelia Benoit, aux côtés des enfants face à la peur de l'école

Cette pédopsychiatre montre comment les sciences sociales éclairent l'étude de l'autisme ou de la psychose. Elle lance une enquête participative sans précédent sur la phobie scolaire.



Survey results



Description of the population

Longitudinal analysis:
School pathways after SAP beginning

School attendance in a year

Veillez sélectionner au moins une réponse

➤ School attendance over the years

Cette année-là mon enfant a été :

5 ans	<div><div>Veillez choisir ...</div><div><div>Veillez choisir ...</div><div>Présent toute l'année et à l'aise à l'école</div><div>Présent toute l'année mais s'est senti mal à l'école</div><div>Absent moins de 2 semaines</div><div>Absent entre 2 semaines et 1 mois</div><div>Absent moins de 1 trimestre</div><div>Absent moins de 2 trimestres</div><div>Absent plus de 2 trimestres</div><div>Absent toute l'année scolaire</div><div>Veillez choisir ...</div></div></div>
6 ans	
7 ans	
8 ans	
9 ans	
10 ans	
11 ans	
12 ans	<div><div>Veillez choisir ...</div></div>

School attendance in a year



100% Attendance + well-being



100% Attendance + distress



Less than 2 weeks missed this year

School attendance problem (SAP)
= **more than 2 weeks missed in a year***



2 weeks – 1 month missed this year



Less than 3 months missed this year



Less than 6 months



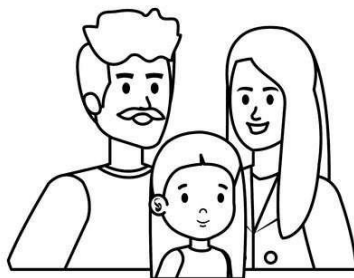
More than 6 months



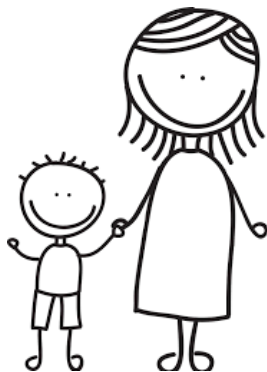
Out of school during the all year

* Knollmann, M., Reissner, V., & Hebebrand, J. (2019). Towards a comprehensive assessment of school absenteeism: Development and initial validation of the inventory of school attendance problems. *European child & adolescent psychiatry*, 28(3), 399-414.

Population - Family context - N = 1970



69% children
**live with their
two parents**



Survey participants:
95,2% **mothers**



In 94,6% of the families
at least one parent works



High level of education

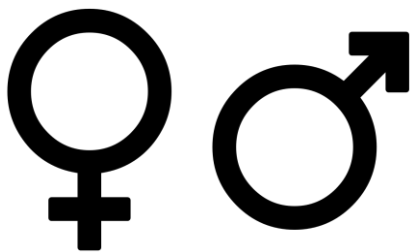
51,2% families: at least one
parent completed **3 years of
university** (licence)

[France: 22,4% of the 25-64 y.o. in 2018]

87,9% parents **completed high
school**

[France: 54,7% of the 25-64 y.o. in 2018]

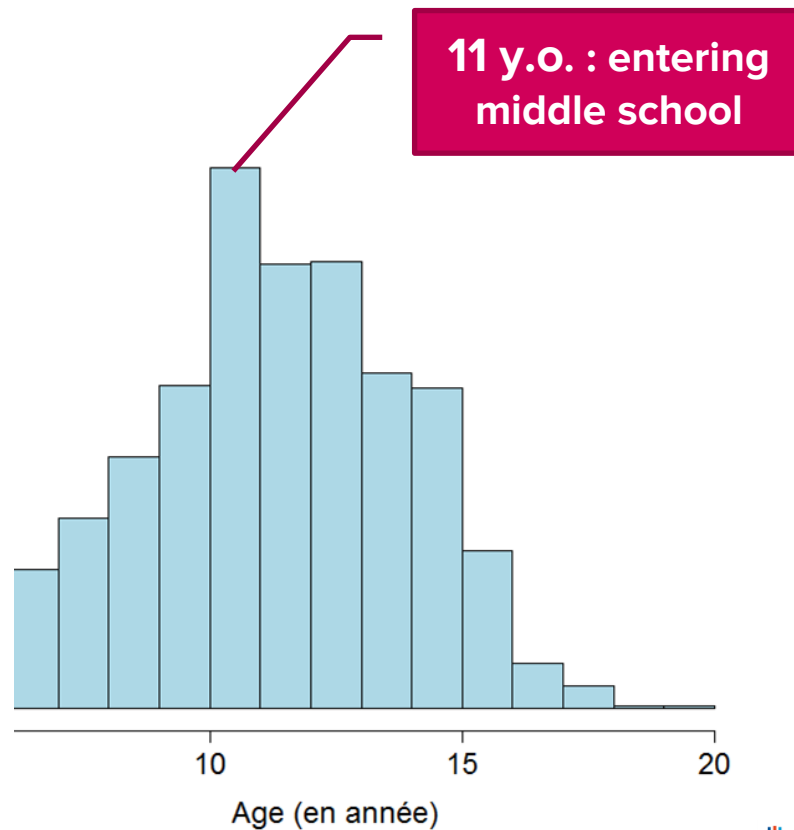
Population – Children – N = 1970



49.5%
girls

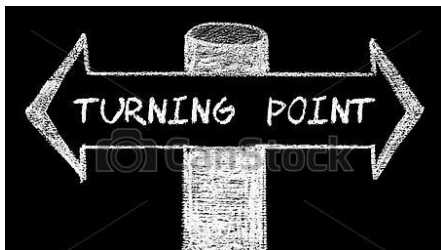


50.5%
boys



Events that occurred before SAP beginning

N = 1970



Within 2 years before SAP beginning

Changing school 19%

Death of a loved one 18,8%

Move 13,5%

Family structure change 9,6%



Bullying 39,1%

Physical violence 12,8%

Stolen belongings, theft 2,8%

Sexual abuse, rape 2,7%

Not any aggression 36%



School Pressure

By the school 31,2%

By himself 30,7%

By the parents 12,3%

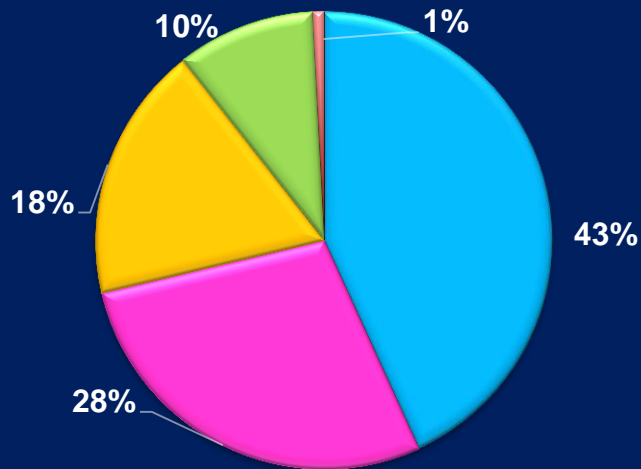
No, I don't think so 36,1%

Associated diagnoses – N = 1970

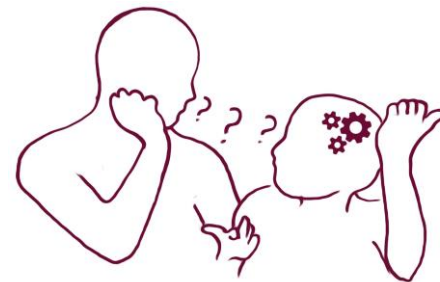
High IQ	696 (49.4%)
Reading disability (dyslexia)	185 (13.1%)
Written language disability (dysgraphia)	134 (9.5%)
Math disability (dyscalculia)	67 (4.7%)
Dyspraxia – Developmental Co-ordination Disorder	136 (9.6%)
Depression	492 (34.9%)
Bipolar disorder	19 (1.3%)
ADHD	160 (11.4%)
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	81 (5.7%)
Psychosis - Schizophrenia	8 (0.5%)
Post Traumatic Syndrom Disorder (PTSD)	120 (8.5%)
Social Phobia	412 (29.2%)
General Anxiety Disorder (GAD)	79 (5.6%)
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	20 (1.4%)
Eating disorder – anorexia nervosa - boulimia	110 (7.8%)

Access to care - N = 1970

First health care professional



- Family doctor (GP or pediatrician)
- Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- School health care professional (doctor, nurse, psychologist)
- Other



- 50.6% children see a psychiatrist
- 50.9% take medication
- Medical expenses without reimbursement: 187.2 €/month

School pathway – N = 1970

- **56% children benefited from school flexibility**
- 35% changed school

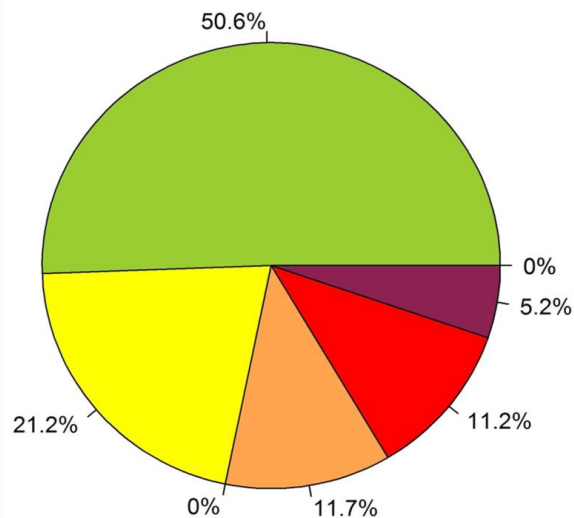


No help has been provided by the school	632 (32%)
Planned progressive return to school : reduced schedule	598 (30.3%)
Individual lessons with a public school teacher at home or at school (SAPAD)	241 (12.2%)
A member of school staff became the tutor of my child	161 (8.2%)
Grade repetition	154 (7.8%)
Personnalized individual program (PAI, PAP)	100 (5.1%)
Bypassing a class	59 (3%)
Vocational guidance towards another educational track	52 (2.6%)
Disciplinary procedure	49 (2.5%)
Information about parental support groups	49 (2.5%)
Half time home schooling (CNED)	40 (2%)
Exclusion from school	40 (2%)

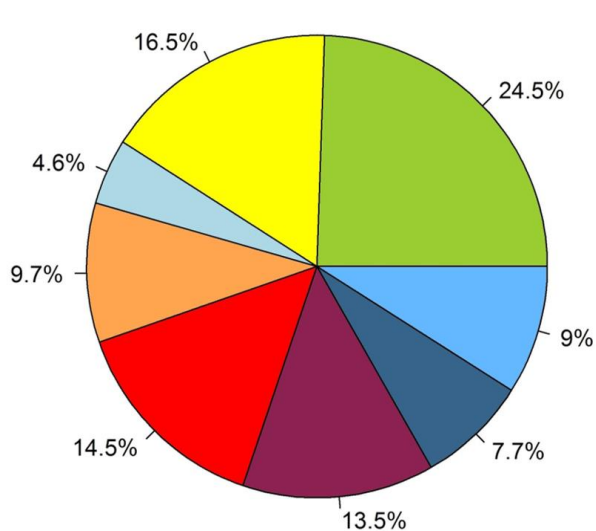
Longitudinal analysis



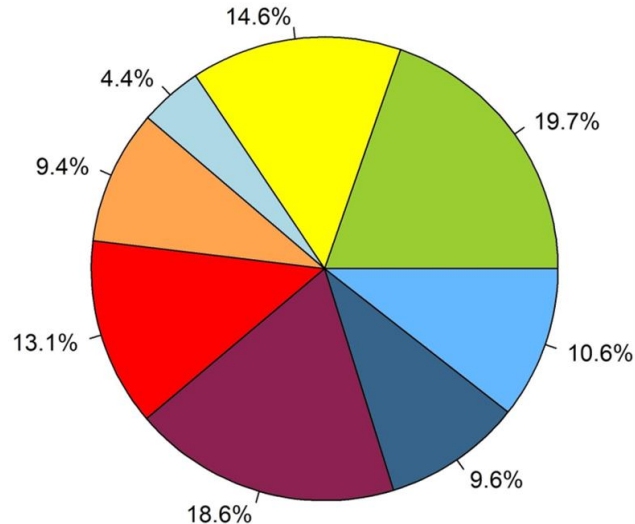
Longitudinal analysis: after SAP beginning



Year 1



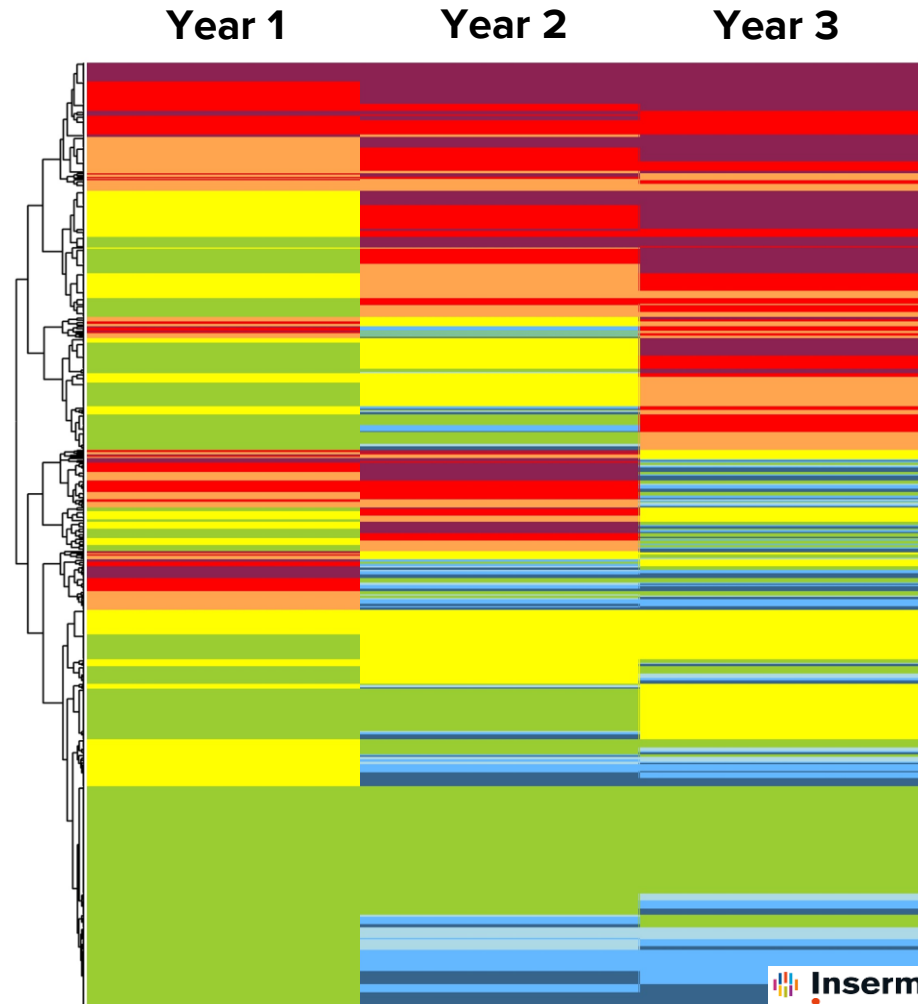
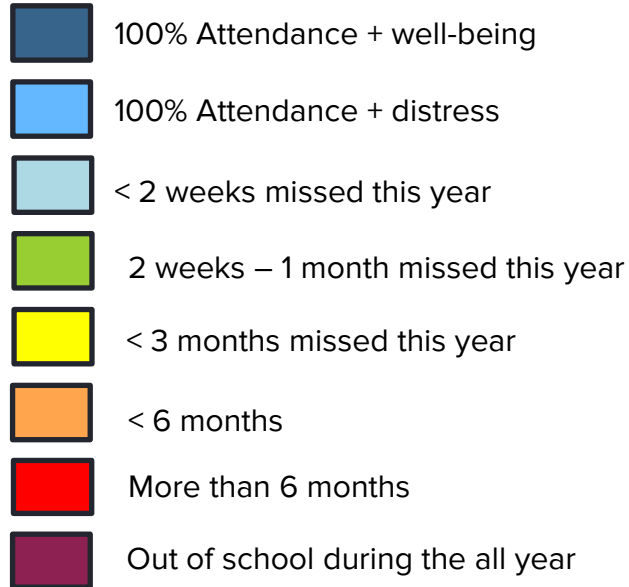
Year 2



Year 3

3 years long follow-up

N = 801



3 years long follow-up, N = 801



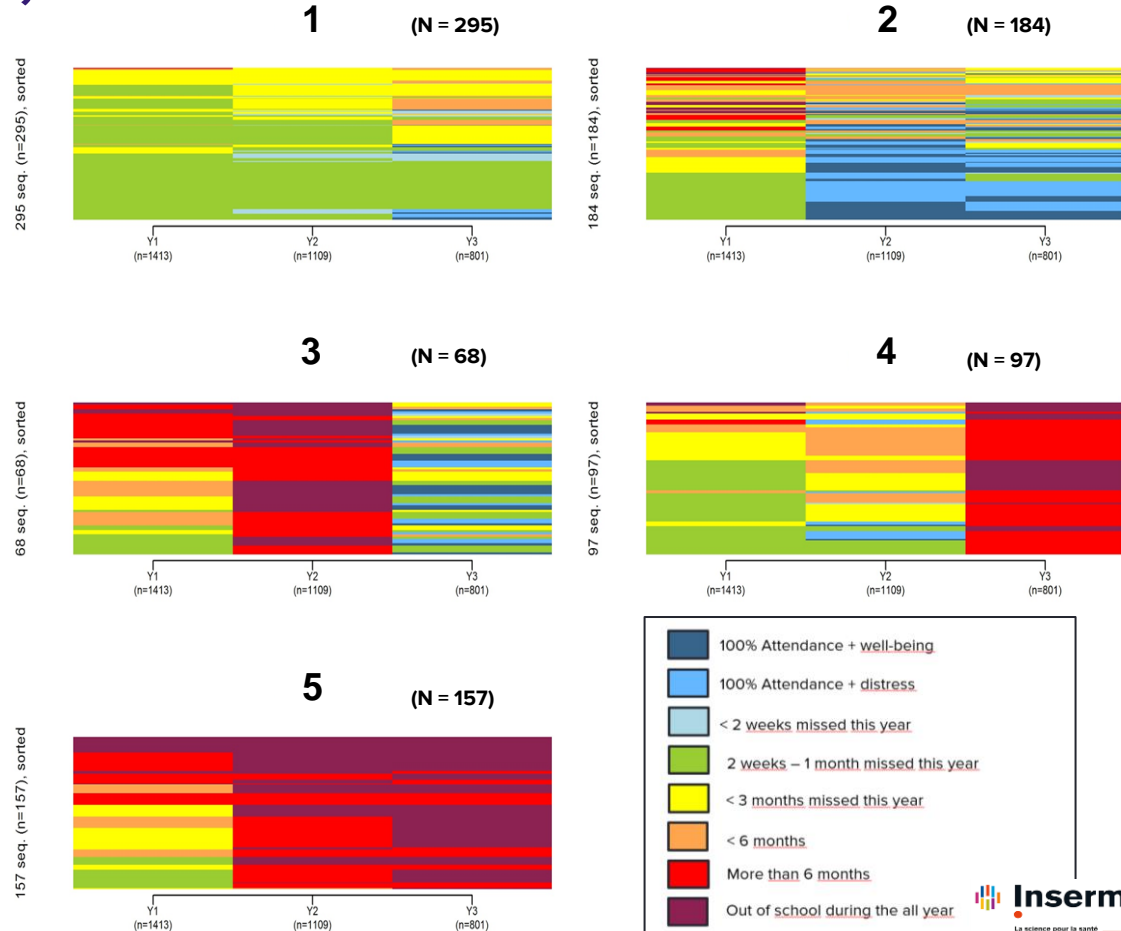
mean age at the beginning of SAP: 9,5 y.o.

- **Cluster 1** : *chronic "mild" SAP*
- **Cluster 2** : *rapid improvement*



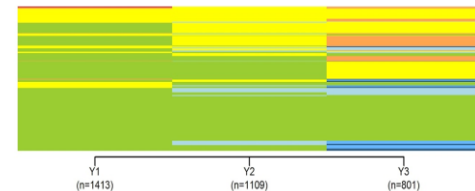
mean age at the beginning of SAP: 12 y.o.

- **Cluster 3** : *slow but significant improvement*
- **Cluster 4** : *progressive worsening*
- **Cluster 5** : *rapid worsening*





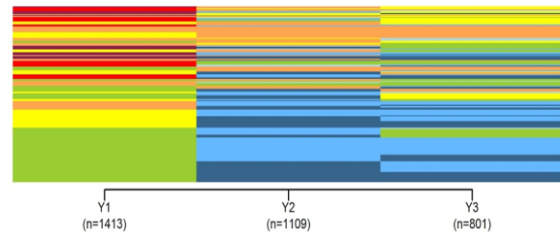
Cluster 1 - chronic “mild” SAP



9,3 y.o.	Cluster 1 N = 295	Cluster 2 N = 184	Cluster 3 N = 68	Cluster 4 N = 97	Cluster 5 N = 157
Complaints about school					
Claims that he/she doesn't like the school	127 (43%)	62 (33.7%)	20 (29.4%)	33 (34%)	44 (28%)
Claims that he/she doesn't like the teachers	82 (27.8%)	45 (24.4%)	11 (16.2%)	24 (24.7%)	24 (15.3%)
Claims that he/she doesn't like classmates	94 (31.8%)	45 (24.4%)	16 (23.5%)	30 (30.9%)	27 (17.2%)
Somatic symptoms					
Headache	204 (69.1%)	103 (56%)	37 (54.4%)	59 (60.8%)	90 (57.3%)
Stomach ache	265 (89.8%)	142 (77.2%)	55 (80.8%)	80 (82.5%)	127 (80.9%)
School flexibility	154 (52.2%)	105 (57%)	47 (69.1%)	67 (69%)	98 (62.4%)



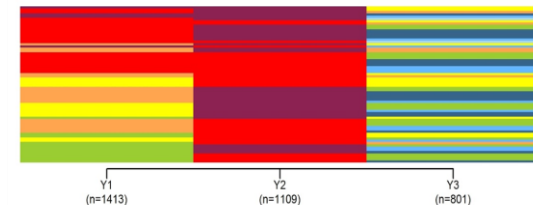
Cluster 2 – Rapid improvement



9,7 y.o.	Cluster 1 N = 295	Cluster 2 N = 184	Cluster 3 N = 68	Cluster 4 N = 97	Cluster 5 N = 157
Pre-existing disease before SAP beginning that required medical follow-up (ex: asthma)	65 (22%)	52 (28.3%)	7 (10.3%)	15 (15.5%)	22 (14%)
Written learning disability	30 (10.1%)	24 (13%)	3 (4.4%)	5 (5.1%)	9 (5.7%)
We felt understood by the school personnel (welcoming attitude and availability) - Yes	53 (18%)	34 (18.5%)	24 (35.3%)	22 (22.7%)	24 (15.3%)
At least one parent adapted his work schedule (part time work, night work, remote work)	29 (65.9%)	11 (68.75%)	4 (66.6%)	8 (66.6%)	5 (29.4%)



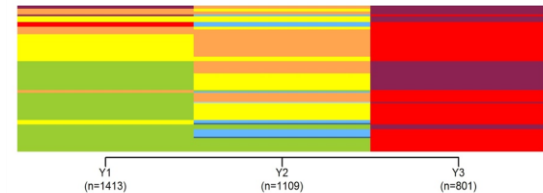
Cluster 3: slow but significant improvement



12 y.o.	Cluster 1 N = 295	Cluster 2 N = 184	Cluster 3 N = 68	Cluster 4 N = 97	Cluster 5 N = 157
My child had gender or identity questioning	3 (7.5%)	5 (16.1%)	5 (55.5%)	1 (7.1%)	7 (21.9%)
We felt understood by the school personnel (welcoming attitude and availability) - Yes	53 (18%)	34 (18.5%)	24 (35.3%)	22 (22.7%)	24 (15.3%)
Follow up by a psychiatrist	184 (62.4%)	116 (63%)	55 (80.8%)	76 (78.3%)	119 (75.8%)
Medication	160 (54.2%)	100 (54.3%)	50 (73.5%)	60 (61.9%)	93 (59.2%)
Hospitalization in psychiatry	44 (51.8%)	30 (47.6%)	19 (70.3%)	27 (61.3%)	46 (59.7%)
School flexibility	154 (52.2%)	105 (57%)	47 (69.1%)	67 (69%)	98 (62.4%)



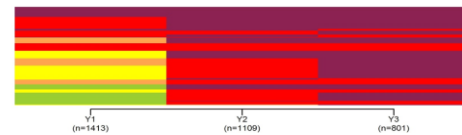
Cluster 4: progressive worsening








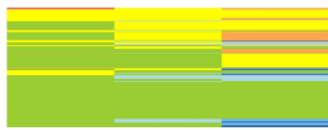
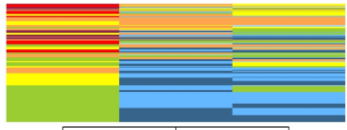
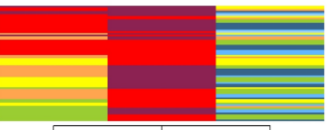
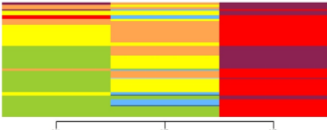

11,4 y.o.	Cluster 1 N = 295	Cluster 2 N = 184	Cluster 3 N = 68	Cluster 4 N = 97	Cluster 5 N = 157
My child gets angry every time that he/she is required to go at school	79 (26.7%)	41 (22.3%)	15 (22%)	40 (41.2%)	38 (24.2%)
Meeting between the parents and the school doctor	103 (34.9%)	62 (33.7%)	30 (44.1%)	51 (52.6%)	65 (41.4%)
Meeting between the parents and the educational counsellor	164 (55.6%)	81 (44%)	43 (63.2%)	63 (64.9%)	89 (56.7%)
School flexibility	154 (52.2%)	105 (57%)	47 (69.1%)	67 (69%)	98 (62.4%)



Cluster 5: rapid worsening



	Cluster 1 N = 295	Cluster 2 N = 184	Cluster 3 N = 68	Cluster 4 N = 97	Cluster 5 N = 157
Social Phobia	74 (25.1%)	51 (27.7%)	27 (39.7%)	34 (35%)	71 (45.2%)
Excessive use of screens					
Smartphone	96 (34.2%)	59 (33.3%)	16 (28.1%)	36 (39.6%)	61 (40.4%)
Video games	99 (34.9%)	56 (31.7%)	18 (28.2%)	31 (34.1%)	63 (41.8%)
Social media, internet	76 (28.2%)	44 (24.9%)	13 (20.4%)	25 (27.5%)	54 (35.8%)
School flexibility					
Home schooling	12 (7.8%)	8 (7.6%)	7 (14.9%)	7 (10.4%)	20 (20.4%)
Home lessons (private or public teacher)	10 (6.5%)	10 (9.5%)	8 (17%)	5 (7.4%)	12 (12.2%)
Hospitalization	90 (31%)	68 (37.2%)	30 (46.2%)	45 (46.9%)	77 (49.1%)
Notification to Public Prosecutor	18 (6.1%)	15 (8.1%)	0 (0%)	8 (8.2%)	20 (12.7%)

 Cluster 1 N = 295	 Cluster 2 N = 184	 Cluster 3 N = 68	 Cluster 4 N = 97	 Cluster 5 N = 157
 <p>Y1 (n=1412) Y2 (n=1108) Y3 (n=801)</p>	 <p>Y1 (n=1413) Y2 (n=1108) Y3 (n=801)</p>	 <p>Y1 (n=1413) Y2 (n=1108) Y3 (n=801)</p>	 <p>Y1 (n=1413) Y2 (n=1108) Y3 (n=801)</p>	 <p>Y1 (n=1413) Y2 (n=1108) Y3 (n=801)</p>
<p>Chronic “mild” SAP</p> <p>Not so mild !</p> <p>Excessive use : screens</p> <p>Poor school flexibility</p> <p>Predictive of worsening?</p>	<p>Rapid improvement</p> <p>Well-cared children: diseases and learning difficulties are diagnosed early</p> <p>High degree of parental flexibility</p> <p>Early psychological care High degree of school flexibility</p>	<p>Slow but significant improvement</p> <p>Family dialogue about psychological challenges</p> <p>Good relationship between parents and school</p> <p>High degree of school flexibility</p> <p>Early intensive care</p>	<p>Progressive worsening</p> <p>Oppositional Defiant Disorder?</p> <p>Excessive use: screens, cannabis</p> <p>Education counsellor and medical doctor involved</p> <p>School and mental health care involved</p>	<p>Rapid worsening</p> <p>Social phobia</p> <p>Excessive use : screens</p> <p>Attempts of home schooling</p> <p>Hospitalization attempts</p> <p>Social services and juvenile court involved</p>

Thank you for your attention

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