



IEPA 2021 VIRTUAL
**Early Intervention
in Mental Health**

Title of Presentation:

How early can we detect youth at-risk for psychosis? Findings from the London Child Health and Development Study.

Abstract:

For the past 20 years, efforts to detect individuals with increased vulnerability for psychosis have focused on help-seeking youth who fulfil clinical high-risk (CHR) criteria, approximately 20% of whom go on to develop full psychosis. However, at the point of detection, this population is already characterised by significant functional disability and high levels of psychiatric comorbidity; moreover, only a third experience symptom remission. Such findings indicate the need for alternative early detection methods, which are not restricted to those accessing clinical services.

To this end, the London Child Health and Development Study (CHADS) was established in 2004 which piloted a novel school-screening procedure to identify children presenting well-established antecedents of schizophrenia. Following mass screening of 8,000 children aged 9-12 years and 1,500 of their caregivers, we recruited a subset of at-risk and typically-developing children for intensive laboratory assessments (N=123). The cohort has been assessed biennially throughout adolescence, with clinical outcomes measured at the most recent follow-up (age 17-21 years).

In her talk, Dr Cullen will provide an overview of the CHADS recruitment strategy, describe the results of analyses comparing at-risk children to their typically-developing peers on neuroimaging, biological, cognitive, and psychosocial measures, and present new findings relating to clinical outcomes measured at the most recent assessment phase.