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RE-SUBMISSION, REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Multidimensional and Fluctuating Experiences of Loneliness from Childhood to Young Adulthood
in Northern Finland

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Abstract

Loneliness is a negative, involuntary experience, common among children and adolescents. It has been recently suggested that young adults are especially prone to loneliness, as they experience many transitions while establishing their own lifestyles; however, there is a lack of research on the experience of loneliness among this age group. In the present study, the lived experiences of past and current loneliness from childhood to young adulthood in people (aged 27–28 years) born in Northern Finland were examined. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 35 participants who self-reported that they were very lonely in adolescence. Their responses were analyzed with a theory-guided, qualitative content analysis method, in which the meanings of loneliness over their

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