

Abstract

This work provides a basic introduction to the problematic of how the birth order affects human mental health. It explores the effects of birth order on three selected mental disorders: schizophrenia, anxiety and depression. The introduction provides explanation of basic terms and formulations for better orientation in this topic. There are several studies exploring the birth order effects on human mental health included in this work. The researches show, that in case of schizophrenia, the effect may apply to last born children, in the case of anxiety, the effect may apply to middle children and in the case of depression, it applies to firstborns. This work uses knowledge from fields of psychology, biology, evolutionary biology and human ethology.