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Mental Health Status and Fear of COVID-19 in Young Adult Male Inmates in Portugal

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Introduction: Incarcerated individuals are subject to a heightened risk of both mental and physical ailments. Hence, it is important to conduct regular assessments of their mental well-being and other potential health hazards.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to examine the subjective experience of fear related to COVID-19 and the psychological consequences of the pandemic among a cohort of young adult male convicts.

Methods: A research design using an institutional-based quantitative cross-sectional approach was used. The data collecting period was from July to September 2022, during which data was gathered at a juvenile correctional facility located in the center area of Portugal. The researchers used questionnaires to gather data pertaining to demographic and health attributes, fear related to COVID-19, as well as measures of depression, anxiety, stress, and resilient coping.

Results: The study included a cohort of 60 incarcerated males who had been imprisoned for a duration exceeding 2 years. The prevalence of stress was found to be the highest among offenders, with around 75% reporting this symptom. Anxiety was the second most often reported symptom, with 38.3% of inmates experiencing it, followed closely by depression, which was reported by 36.7% of the inmate population. The average score on the Fear of COVID-19 Scale was 17.38 \pm 4.80, suggesting that participants generally reported mild levels of fear. A total of 38 subjects, accounting for 63.3% of the sample, had low scores in resilience. The participants' responses indicated that their perceptions of mental health were within a fairly high range, with an average score of 3.62 \pm 0.87. Similarly, their perceptions of physical health were also moderately high, with an average score of 3.73 \pm 0.95. In terms of global health, participants reported a slightly lower average score of 3.27 \pm 0.82 for the preceding month. The Pearson correlation matrix revealed statistically significant associations between fear of COVID-19 and characteristics linked to mental health, with the strength of these associations ranging from moderate to high (p < 0.001). The identification of predictive variables for fear of COVID-19 was accomplished by the use of a multiple linear regression model. Four predictors were identified in the study, namely age, perception of mental health, and overall levels of anxiety and stress. These predictors together account for about 49.7% of the variance in the outcome variable.

Conclusions: The findings of our research indicate a significant prevalence of stress among incarcerated individuals, accompanied by moderate levels of anxiety and depression. Our research has the potential to provide valuable insights for policymakers, mental health professionals, public health specialists, and other relevant stakeholders in the identification and effective management of pandemic-induced anxieties and mental health symptoms.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

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Multidisciplinary users oriented approach in the community mental health care

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Introduction: For more than 25 years, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) has maintained and improved reform processes in the field of mental health (MH) care. In the last 13 years, the results of the reform are visible, and they focused on the quality of services oriented to people with mental disorders (PMD), as well as raising the quality of specific services to the general population. The developed network of community mental health centers (CMHC) as the leading concept of the reform (community psychiatry) enabled affordable, timely and adequate protection of mental health in whole country, while relying on other resources, primarily clinical and hospital capacities and centers for social work.

Objectives: Reform orientation had several directions: broad promotion and prevention, protection of the rights of the people with mental health disorders, quality education and more specific qualifications and competencies of mental health professionals and public promotion as a part of destignatization.

Methods: Overview of the mental health reform in last two decades. Results: In last more than 25 years reforming processes were focused mainly to users of mental health services. Specific legislative was created and recently upgraded trough Mental Health Protection Law, as unique document focused to users, mental health professionals and services, and general population as well. Users organization were formed and have important role in creation of further directions in the reform. Main principles in daily care for users are community based with case management and intersectoral collaboration trough joint discharge planning. Also, special focus is given to media reporting about mental health as well as to children and adolescents, prenatal psychiatry and elderly.

Conclusions: Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina made significant steps and visible changes in the quaity of mental health services focused to users needs. Further activities will be oriented to continuous destignatization of the people with mental health disorders, psychiatry and mental health professionals and further implementation of results achieved in reforming processes in our county.

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Factors associated with the quality of conflict management among anesthesia technicians

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