

be developed with respect to sensitivity to detect signs of depression among long-term unemployed.

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EV0530

Who's lost in waiting?

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Introduction Early intervention services (EIS) can significantly reduce the rate of relapse, risk of suicide and number of hospital admissions for people with first episode of psychosis (FEP). However, care pathways in FEP can be complex, thus extending the period before patients commence appropriate treatment. Recently in the UK, guidelines have set a limit of two-weeks before patients with a FEP receive treatment at EIS.

Objectives We explored the impact of this new policy on referrals to an EIS in the area City and Hackney, London, which has one of the highest incidence of psychosis in the UK.

Methods Referrals from 6 months of 2015 have been compared with the data from the same period of 2016, once the waiting standard had been implemented.

Results We observed more than a two-fold increase in the monthly number of referrals (9.4 in 2015; 20 in 2016) and this wasn't due to a rise of inappropriate referrals (2.23% in 2015; 1.53% in 2016). Moreover the number of referrals doubled further when, in addition, the City & Hackney EIS went from a 18–35-year-service to an "ageless" adult service.

Conclusion The recent focus on FEP in the UK might have increased awareness and reduced stigma, leading to the increment in referrals. Also, shortening the waiting time made the service more accessible for those that would have gave up in front of a longer waiting list. Interestingly enough a peak in the number of referrals has been observed from September 2016 when another standard was implemented.

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EV0531

Social stigma in severe mental illness in Tunisia: Clinical and socio-demographic correlates

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Introduction Mental patients generally internalize some of the negative conceptions about how most people view them: they might be considered incompetent or untrustworthy or believe that people would not want to hire, or marry someone with mental illness. A lot of research on stigma has been conducted in western countries; however, little is still known on the situation in Arab-Muslim societies.

Objectives To evaluate social stigma as viewed by patients suffering from severe mental illness (SMI)

Methods This is a cross-sectional study on clinically stabilized patients with schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder (BD) according to DSM IV, who were interviewed in our out-patients clinic with

the help of a semi-structured questionnaire, containing 8 opinions on the social inclusion and stigmatization of psychiatric patients, with special reference to the local cultural context (e.g.: "It is better to hide mental illness in order to preserve the reputation of my family")

Results We included 104 patients, 51% with schizophrenia and 49% with BD. Mean age was 38.4 years (18–74 years); 59.6% were males. Overall social stigma scores were high. Social stigma in patients was correlated with gender, age, place of residence and diagnosis. Patients with BD showed significantly less social stigma than patients with schizophrenia.

Conclusion Our results show the need for a better understanding of this phenomenon in patients with SMI, but also within Tunisian society, in order to elaborate anti stigma strategies adapted to the local context.

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Prevalence of tobacco smoking among school teachers in Greece

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Abstract

Introduction Teachers serve as models for young people and significantly influence their health behavior.

Aim We were interested in conducting the first epidemiological survey about tobacco smoking among Greek teachers.

Methods A total of 1032 teachers of the two biggest cities of Greece participated in the study. A questionnaire was created to include questions regarding tobacco smoking, history of tobacco use, nicotine dependence as well as health attitudes. Frequencies and relative frequencies were determined for all the questions. Pearson's Chi² and Chi² adjusted tests were used to examine the potential association of current smoking status with gender, age and school level in a statistical significance level of 0.05.

Results Prevalence of current smokers in the sample was 25.6%. Cigarette emerged as the tobacco product of choice reported by 88.3% of the respondents, followed by e-cigarette (5.2%), cigar (2.4%), hookah (2.4%) and pipe (1.7%). The highest prevalence of current smoking was found in the age group of 40–49 years old (46.1%). Current smoking proportion was higher among female (26.0%) than male teachers (24.9%). Intention to quit smoking was reported by 18.1% of the sample.

Conclusions As compared to other countries, teachers in Greece have a moderate percentage regarding tobacco smoking. A concerted effort must be made towards smoking cessation in this population with gender specific interventions. It is of great importance for teachers to act as public health promoters, as performers of tobacco prevention curricula and as leaders in the implementation of school tobacco control policies.