

using SPSS, and pre-post survey results were compared using appropriate statistical tests.

Results: The workshop was attended by 40 pharmacy personnel and 31 completed the survey. All participants agreed that the exercise was well structured, realistic, allowed them to test their response plans and systems, and helped improve their understanding of their role and function in disaster response. After the workshop, participants' perceptions of their ability to prevent, respond, and recover from a disaster all significantly improved ($p=0.004$, 0.013 , and 0.013 respectively). However, perceptions of their preparedness for a disaster did not significantly change ($p=0.197$).

Conclusion: This study adds to the evidence of the effectiveness in training and preparing the pharmacy workforce. The TTX improved the understanding and perceived capabilities of pharmacy personnel in responding and recovering from emergencies.

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Integration and Disjuncture within the Israeli Health System During COVID 19 Pandemic

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Introduction: The Israeli health system had a critical role in leading the response to the COVID-19 pandemic facing a wide-range of challenges following the length and the unique characteristics of this health emergency. This study evaluated the weaknesses and strengths of the different parts of the system, relying on WHO building blocks to promote better coping with large-scale health emergencies.

Method: The experiences of 13 high-level senior experts in the Israeli health system who directly managed COVID-19 were examined, using in-depth semi-structured interviews conducted during 2021. Critical and snowball sampling were used to select participants. Interviews were recorded and transcribed. Data analysis was conducted using ATLAS.TI 22 software and reviewed by peers. The interviews were analyzed using the thematic analysis method. A theme expresses a broad central idea that tends to appear and reoccur in the analytical material in different forms of expression. Specifications and ideas were discussed among the researchers while engaging in repeated rereading of the transcriptions until saturation was achieved with the final themes.

Results: The role of the Ministry of Health in integrating the health response and importance of spokespersons providing professional information increase trust as a crucial role of community health services in emergencies having political tensions reflected in the medical response. The Israeli Health system differ from hospital systems abroad by the relationships between preparedness during routine and emergency response. The importance of trust was highlighted.

Conclusion: The study demonstrates a deep understanding of the way the Israeli health system dealt with the pandemic, revealing needs, resources, weaknesses and strengths. The results offer a rare opportunity to learn how integration of service-delivery can be improved within the health system in all levels. These lessons should be translated to advance better handling of future emergencies.

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Health Problems and Healthcare use During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on Vulnerable Groups.

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic and the countermeasures taken form a threat to the physical and mental health of the population, especially for more vulnerable groups. In this study, which is part of the Integrated Health Monitor COVID-19, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the healthcare use of the Dutch population and specific vulnerable groups was examined.

Method: In this study two data-sources were combined. The first consists of electronic patient records of general practices (GP) participating in the Nivel Primary Care Database. These records are representative of the Dutch population and provide insight into acute complaints, chronic conditions, medication prescriptions and primary care use. For the current study, primary care use in pre-COVID years (2018 and 2019) was compared to that in 2021. This data was coupled with microdata from Statistics Netherlands, containing such information as socio-economic status and migration background. Analyses were conducted using longitudinal mixed-effects regression models.

Results: Results show that risk factors play a role in the utilization of primary care. Women and those with a low household income visited the GP more often for mental complaints. Individuals with a migrant background visited the GP more often for coughing, fatigue, and social problems. Those with pre-existing chronic physical conditions were seen less often by their GP for shortness of breath. Among those with pre-existing mental problems GPs more often registered shortness of breath, yet less problems with access to care or social problems.

Conclusion: Combining GP registry data with relevant background data has deepened our understanding of changes in health problems and healthcare use among the general population during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study provides insight into how specific vulnerable groups are affected more strongly, and emphasizes the importance of monitoring these groups during a health crisis.

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