**Introduction:** The prison environment and health of people who experience incarceration increase the risks of contracting COVID-19. Aside from the risks of infection and transmission, one should also examine the impact on their mental health state and identify their needs, since prison inmates experience already disadvantages and inequalities to a large extent.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to explore the experiences of inmates with the pandemic and the restrictions, their insights into the pandemic and the impact of social distancing in prison on their emotional status and management.

**Methods:** We used in-depth interviews with 5 inmates and 6 prison employees of a state prison in Athens, to produce an analysis of the challenges that the inmates faced during the pandemic. The study took part from February till June 2022. Each participant was asked semi-structured questions and a thematic content analysis was performed.

**Results:** The results of the interviews revealed several key themes, that have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges that the participants faced were in relation to communication, feelings of heightened isolation and detachment from family, friends, and the normal rhythms of life in and out of prison. Furthermore, our study has shown that COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher levels of anxiety, lack of positive stimuli, of work and education, of day-to-day interaction, and of information.

**Conclusions:** This study highlights the dramatic reduction in opportunities for prisoners to rehabilitate themselves and build productive and meaningful lives. A decline in the emotional, psychological and physical well-being of the prisoners as well as resignation with their situation can be expected due to the lack in purpose. There is a need to improve the information and communication and support them with continuous psychological care, especially when prison services are confronted with additional health or other crises.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPP0163

### The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures on people with psychiatric disorders in a small town in Greece

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**Introduction:** A pandemic can have significant effects on people's emotional wellbeing. Infection control measures such as social distancing can lead people to feel isolated and to increased feelings of fear, anxiety, anger, and sadness. Recent research showed a worrying increase in depression and anxiety disorders, general distress, and sleep disorders. People who already suffer from a mental illness may be more vulnerable to stress caused by the pandemic and may experience a deterioration of already preexisting symptoms of anxiety and depression.

**Objectives:** The purpose of the present study was to assess the pandemic's psychological impact on people with preexisting mental illness, to investigate their COVID-19-related fear, anxiety, and depression in association with various variables and to explore their behavioral responses regarding the measures against the pandemic.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted from March to May 2022 in the outpatient mental health clinic of a provincial hospital in Greece. Participants were patients, who were not fully disorganized and have been diagnosed with a mental illness before the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the 50 adult patients, 11 lived in assisted living facilities. The study included sociodemographic questions, questions about fear of COVID-19, negative feelings, safety measures and behaviors, disease progression, and compliance with their therapists. DASS-21 scale was used to measure the 3 subscales of emotional states.

**Results:** Sadness was reported as the most unpleasant emotion of the lockdown, following by hopelessness and denial. Several participants (36%) reported high levels of COVID-19-related fear, mainly patients living in the community and not in assisted facilities (40.1% vs 18.2%) and males compared to females (42.1% vs 32.3%). The majority (70%) declared high compliance with the therapy. A moderate to severe deterioration in disease progression during the pandemic was observed in 28%, mainly in females compared to males (38.7% vs 10.6%). Based on DASS-21 the mean scores ranged from moderate to severe symptoms in depression (16.2/42), anxiety (14.3/42), and stress (18.4/42) without a statistically significant correlation with age, gender, and living situation. However, 34%, 22% and 56% screened positive for severe and extreme severe depression, anxiety, and stress, respectively.

**Conclusions:** The study revealed a substantial proportion of patients with mental disorders to experience unpleasant emotions and increased levels of psychological distress and highlights the need for supportive mental health services to address the increased mental health symptoms in people with pre-existing illnesses during a pandemic.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## COVID-19 and related topics 03

## EPP0164

### Post-traumatic stress disorder and post COVID 19 syndrome

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**Introduction:** Patients hospitalized in the case of COVID19 have had to face a complex and potentially very stressful situation. In this context a screening program for psychological distress in patients with COVID19 is necessary.

**Objectives:** To screen for post-traumatic stress disorder post COVID19 and to identify the epidemiological and clinical factors correlated with this disorder in post COVID19 patients.

**Methods:** A descriptive and analytical cross-sectional study that took place during the period from 1st March to 15th May 2021 with 154 patients who were hospitalized at the COVID19 unit at Hedi Chaker Hospital Sfax.

We used a pre-established form to record sociodemographic, clinical and therapeutic data. The post-traumatic stress disorder was assessed by the "Impact of Event Scale-Revised".

**Results:** The mean age was $66.62 \pm 13.34$ years with a male predominance of 60.4%. In our sample, 77.9% of the patients had a somatic history, of which hypertension was the most frequent pathology (46.1%). The average length of hospitalization was $9.5$ days $\pm 6.3$. The form was considered severe in 27.9 cases.

According to the IES-R scale, twenty-one patients (13.6%) had post-traumatic stress disorder, with a predominance of women (57.1%). A significant association was found between marital status and post-traumatic stress disorder. Thus, married or widowed patients are more likely to develop PTSD.

In the present study, we did not find statistically significant associations between the clinical characteristics of the disease (severity of the disease, length of hospitalization, functional signs) and post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Conclusions:** Psychological support interventions in surviving patients of COVID 19 is necessary aiming to increase resilience, manage coping strategies and decrease the deleterious impact of the pandemic on mental health.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPP0165

### Investigating Changes in the Psychological Health Before and During the COVID Pandemic: A Comparison Study among Turkish Immigrants living in Germany

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**Introduction:** It was stated in other studies that the prevalence of anxiety, depression, and anger increased among the general German population throughout the pandemic (Beutel et al., 2021; Rossi et al., 2020; Smith et al., 2021). Besides, there has been an increase in mental problems among individuals with psychiatric disorders and the immigrant population in society. Migrants are considered a vulnerable group during the outbreak due to low socio-economic status, job losses, and language difficulties.

**Objectives:** This paper aimed to investigate changes in the psychological health of Turkish immigrants living in Germany during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, sociodemographic differences as a key factor were analysed in this study. Individuals with lower incomes were expected to suffer more from mental health problems.

**Methods:** The participants of this research were mainly first and second-generation Turkish immigrants. They were pre-screened for a previous history of mental disorders and screening was performed with SCL-90-R. Of all 177 participants who completed the questionnaire between October 7, 2019, and February 2020, they were recruited again between August 10, 2020, and December 10, 2020, during the pandemic.

**Results:** According to the findings, a significant difference was found for depression (t=-5.36, p<.001), anxiety (t=-3.01, p<.001),

and hostility (t=-3.70, p<.001) between the mean scores of the participants before and during COVID-19 pandemic. It was found that the increase in depression and anxiety symptoms during the coronavirus pandemic was higher among participants with low-income levels (p<.001).

**Conclusions:** The mental health of our study participants worsened during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Turkish immigrants reported having higher depression, anxiety, and hostility scores in comparison with previous test scores conducted before the outbreak. Participants with low income were at the highest risk for COVID-19-related depression and anxiety.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPP0166

### Dynamic of Covid-19 representations: time, cultural and social factors

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**Introduction:** We have already noted in our studies (Pervichko et. al., 2020, 2021) that collective representations about Covid-19 disease, based on its totality, the catholicity of its impact on all spheres of people's lives, are socially and culturally conditioned: they have their own specifics in different countries, associated with many social, economic, political factors. Moreover, these perceptions change over time.

**Objectives:** To identify the differences in the Covid-19 representations in residents of different countries and at different stages of the pandemic.

**Methods:** Modified questionnaire of the internal picture of the disease (Broadbent, 2006), consisting of 8 questions about COVID-19 pandemic. All the items were rated using a 0-to-10 response scale. 1-5 items assess cognitive illness representations. Items 6 and 8 assess emotional representations. Item 7 assesses illness comprehensibility.

**Results:** To test of the research hypothesis, we used the data accumulated on our platform since April 2020. We selected sub-samples: Russian respondents who took the survey in April-May 2020 (1st wave) (1), June-September 2020 (decline) (2), October - December 2020 (3) (2nd wave), 1st half of 2021 (4). At the same time as sample 4, respondents from Azerbaijan (5) and Uzbekistan (6) were surveyed. Finally, there was another sample of Uzbekistan respondents surveyed in the 1st half of 2022 (7). Respondents of both sexes and different ages participated in each sample, with a total of 2908 people. The table 1 shows the sample means for all items in all samples.

In all seven samples, women are characterized by responses indicating their greater tension, stress, and psychological fatigue caused by life in a pandemic. In almost all samples, younger respondents demonstrate greater involvement in the disease and its experiences. Perhaps this is due to the fact that social restrictions affected young respondents to a greater extent.

It was shown that with each new wave, the indicators for the 2, 5, 8 grow, and 3, 4, 7 decreases. At the same time, since no one