

time-series analyses and compared trends before and after the day of the first ED COVID-19 case (1<sup>st</sup> March 2020).

**Results:** In March 2020, there was a marked initial decrease of -12.8 (95%CI -21.9, -7.9) less monthly mental health ED visits. After April 2020, there was a subsequent increasing trend of 3.4 (95%CI 2.6, 4.2) additional monthly mental health ED visits.

**Conclusions:** After onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in paediatric psychiatric ED visits, especially due to suicide-related reasons. These data reinforce the crucial role of the ED in the management of acute mental health problems among youth and highlight the need for renovated efforts to enhance access to care outside of and during acute crises during the pandemic and its aftermath.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** Urgency; Child; psychiatry; Covid-19

### EPV0447

#### Young and lonely? Results from the COMET study

M. Di Vincenzo\*, L. Marone, A. Del Vecchio, V. Giallonardo, V. Del Vecchio, M. Luciano, G. Sampogna and A. Fiorillo

University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Department Of Psychiatry, Naples, Italy

\*Corresponding author.

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**Introduction:** The sudden changes in daily routine due to the containment measures adopted for facing the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on the mental health of the general population. In particular, young adults are exposed to a higher risk compared to the general population to suffer from the consequences of the pandemic, in terms of anger and irritability, depressive symptoms and somatic complaints, insomnia, lack of motivation and loneliness. In particular, loneliness can be particularly pronounced during young adulthood.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to describe the levels of loneliness in a sample of Italian young people during the national lockdown in 2020, evaluating clinical and socio-demographic differences and the role of coping strategies and levels of resilience.

**Methods:** A sub-analysis of a sample of adults aged 18-34 years has been drawn on a larger cross-sectional observational national trial (COMET, 2020) in which, among other psychopathological dimensions, the levels of loneliness have been assessed by the UCLA scale short version.

**Results:** Levels of loneliness were particularly severe in a third of cases (risk factors: unemployment, low income and vulnerability in mental health), in association with depression, anxiety, stress, OCD symptoms, higher rates of suicidal ideation, sleep disturbance and excessive use of Internet. Levels of loneliness tended to increase over time.

**Conclusions:** Overall, during the Italian COVID-19 lockdown young people have experienced quite high levels of loneliness: this dimension could represent a useful domain to assess in routine clinical practice.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 Loneliness Young Lockdown Pandemic Youth; Mental health Covid Mentalhealth Italy

### EPV0448

#### Coping strategies among medical and paramedic frontline healthcare workers during the coronavirus pandemic

I. Kammoun, O. Maatouk\*, R. Kammoun, M. Shiri, H. Nefzi, K. Ben Salah, M. Karoui and F. Ellouz

Razi hospital, Psychiatry G Department, Mannouba, Tunisia

\*Corresponding author.

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**Introduction:** The epidemic of COVID-19 has affected the psychological health of people, especially frontline medical and paramedical staff. Several coping strategies have been used to combat the impact of this virus on their lives.

**Objectives:** Describe the impact of coronavirus on mental health and identify coping strategies

**Methods:** We carried out a cross-sectional, descriptive and analytical study, conducted over a period of two months ( september and october 2020), in 22 hospitals in Tunisia, including frontline medical and paramedical staff. To evaluate anxiety and depression, we used the Beck Inventory. To identify coping strategies, we used the Brief COPE.

**Results:** We collected 78 professionals. The mean age was 29.86±5.4. The majority were medical residents (67.9%) working in covid units in 39.7% of cases. The rythm of work was daily in almost half of the cases, giving direct care to the patients tested positive in 76.9%. More than half had not received adequate training, and protective equipment was available in only 50% of cases. We found 35.9% of the staff who had to move for fear of infecting their families. More than half of the frontline staff were victims of stigma (57.7%). Depression and anxiety were tested minor in 40%. The most used coping strategy in the face of this distressing virus was social support (64.1%) followed by emotion-focused mechanisms (53.8%). Social support strategy was significantly correlated with prevention of anxiety (p=0.048)

**Conclusions:** Participants practiced and recommended various coping strategies to deal with stress, depression and anxiety emerging from COVID-19 pandemic.

**Disclosure:** No significant relationships.

**Keywords:** covid 19; coping strategies; healthcare workers; Anxiety and depression

### EPV0449

#### Measurement of COVID-19 related mental health problems

M. Arts<sup>1\*</sup>, S. Petrykiv<sup>1</sup> and L. De Jonge<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>GGZWNB, Psychiatry, Halsteren, Netherlands and <sup>2</sup>Leonardo Scientific Research Institute, Neuropsychiatry, Halsteren, Netherlands

\*Corresponding author.

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**Introduction:** The spread of the corona virus (COVID-19) has an enormous psychosocial impact on humanity across the globe, resulting in an increase in mental health issues. There are no specific diagnostic instruments that could identify COVID-19 related mental health problems. In recent months, new scales have been developed to identify COVID-19 related problems.

**Objectives:** Our objective was to investigate the clinical utility of these new assessment instruments.