

Mental Health

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

DAY-2 Poster Presentation





MENTAL HEALTH

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

Received date: 10-01-2023 | Accepted date: 16-01-2023 | Published date: 06-06-2023

A comparison of mainstream and social media reporting of suicide between men and women

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Purpose: The Werther Effect describes how suicides increase following publicized stories of suicide death, while the Papageno Effect refers to a decrease in suicides following publicized stories of crisis mastery and survival. A number of features of suicide-related media reporting are putatively harmful and putatively protective. This study aimed to identify differences in these features between media articles about suicide with different gender foci.

Methods: Articles published between 2011 and 2014 from 12 major Canadian publications, as well as social media posts from Twitter published from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 pertaining to suicide were identified. Each article and post were assigned to one of four gender foci: "male", "female", "both", or "neither". Articles and posts were also coded according to whether they contained each of 54 and 62 variables of interest, respectively. Logistic Regression analyses identified associations between gender focus and variables of interest.

Results: A total of 6,367 suicide-related articles and 787 tweets were examined in this study. Features of mainstream media articles most strongly associated with a male gender focus were mass murder-suicide (OR 83.33), firearm (OR 8.77), and celebrity suicide (OR 4.98). Features most strongly associated with female gender were asphyxia other than by car exhaust (OR 4.75), youth (OR 3.71), and assisted suicide (OR 3.52). The feature most strongly associated with male gender focus tweets was firearm (OR 19.61). Features most strongly associated with female gender were celebrity relations (OR 22.84), victims of aggression (OR 12.27), and self-poisoning (OR 7.94).

Conclusions: More research in this area is needed to clarify the factors that influence how suicide is portrayed in traditional and social media depending on gender.

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Biography

Tina Guo is currently a PGY-3 Psychiatry Resident at the University of Toronto. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences, followed by medical school, at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include the Relationship between Media and Suicide, Medical Education and Mentorship, and Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in the psychiatry population.

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Mental Health

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

Accepted Abstracts





MENTAL HEALTH

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

Received date: 28-10-2022 | Accepted date: 01-11-2022 | Published date: 06-06-2023

Have psychosocial stressors at work increased the prevalence of moral injury during the COVID-19 pandemic? A cross-sectional study in healthcare workers in Canada

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Statement of the Problem: Healthcare Workers (HCWs) on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic exhibit a high prevalence of depression and psychological distress. Moral Injury (MI) can lead to such mental health problems. MI occurs when perpetrating, failing to prevent, or bearing witness to acts that transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations. Since the start of the pandemic, Psychosocial Stressors at Work (PSWs) might have been exacerbated, which might in turn have led to an increased risk of MI in HCWs. However, research examining the associations between PSWs and MI is lacking. Considering that these stressors are frequent and modifiable occupational risk factors, they may constitute promising prevention targets. This study aimed (a) to evaluate the associations between PSWs and MI in HCWs during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Quebec, and (b) to explore potential differences between urban and non-urban regions.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The sample of this study consisted of 572 HCWs and leaders from the Quebec province, Canada. Prevalence Ratios (PR) of MI and their 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) were modelled using robust Poisson Regressions. Several covariates were considered, including age, sex, gender, socio-economic indicators, and lifestyle factors.

Findings: Results indicated HCWs exposed to PSWs were 2.22 to 5.58 times more likely to experience MI. Low ethical culture had the strongest association (PR: 5.58, 95% CI: 1.34-23.27), followed by low reward (PR: 4.43, 95% CI: 2.14-9.16) and high emotional demands (PR: 4.32, 95% CI: 1.89-9.88). In addition, workers from non-urban regions were less likely to report MI (11% versus 16%).

Conclusion and Significance: Identifying predictors of MI could contribute to the reduction of mental health problems and the implementation of targeted interventions in urban and non-urban areas. Moreover, prevention efforts deployed to reduce these mental health problems could promote the retention of professionals specializing in health, a category of workers extremely in demand.

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MENTAL HEALTH

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

Received date: 12-01-2023 | Accepted date: 14-01-2023 | Published date: 06-06-2023

Brain imaging in psychiatric patients: Controversy over usefulness and what advances?

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Psychiatric disorders are frequent and represent a real health problem increasingly encountered in the modern era. Diagnostic criteria are established for these disorders and listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual V (DSM-V) (1). However, conventional imaging techniques, mainly Cerebral Computed Tomography and MRI with its morphological sequences, are often insufficient to identify the anomaly. Thus, their major role remains restricted to ruling out a macroscopic organic cause of the psychiatric presentation to allow the initiation of therapy. In light of these data, controversies have arisen regarding the usefulness of neuroimaging in this area (2). Cerebral functional MRI sequences, associated with recent advances made in these fields of research, particularly in physio-pathological mechanisms, currently represent a promising tool for better approaching the microscopic patterns of these diseases (3).

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MENTAL HEALTH

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

Received date: 31-01-2023 | Accepted date: 01-02-2023 | Published date: 06-06-2023

Assessments of subjective cognitive complaints: Whose reports should we rely on – participant versus informant?

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Objectives: Older adults often report Subjective Cognitive Complaints (SCC), which relate to an individual's selfexperience of cognitive deterioration and contribute to the criteria for a diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment. SCC can be self-reported or reported by informants (family member or friend) who are close to the individual with the advantage of quickly and easily capturing daily cognitive and memory changes that standardized neuropsychological tests may not detect. However, no empirical examination was conducted to date using an appropriate methodology to investigate whose reports (i.e., participants' or informants') are more reliable, and at what stage researchers and clinicians should rely on which reports.

The aim of this study was to investigate the reliability of two widely used SCC assessment tools, the self-reported Memory Complaint Questionnaire (MAC-Q) and the Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE).

Methodology: Generalizability theory was applied to SCC assessment scales using longitudinal measurement design with five assessments spanning 10 years of follow-up.

Findings: The IQCODE demonstrated strong reliability in measuring enduring patterns of SCC with G=0.86. Marginally acceptable reliability of the 6- item MAC-Q (G=0.77-0.80) was optimized by removing one item resulting in G=0.80-0.81. Most items of both assessments were measuring enduring SCC with exception of one dynamic MAC-Q item. The IQCODE significantly predicted global cognition scores and risk of dementia incident across all occasions, while MAC-Q scores were only significant predictors on some occasions.

Conclusion & Significance: While both informants (IQCODE) and self-reported (MAC-Q) SCC scores were generalizable across sample population and occasions, self-reported (MAC-Q) scores may be less accurate in predicting cognitive ability and diagnosis of each individual.

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MENTAL HEALTH

May 22-23, 2023 | London, UK

Received date: 04-01-2023 | Accepted date: 06-01-2023 | Published date: 06-06-2023

Complementary and integrative approaches to sleep and Obesity disorders in children

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Sleep is a critical part of a child's physical as well as emotional development. It can have a huge impact on overall functioning of the child and optimal sleep may help with improved regulation of mood and behaviors (Arns et al, 2021). In typical preschool and school aged children the prevalence is sleep problems is around 25 % (Wiorjanan etal, 2007). Sleep disorders are very frequently associated with a range of child and adolescent psychiatric condition. Sleep quality can be affected by mood and developmental disorders and vice-versa. In fact, they are one of the most frequent symptoms in child and adolescent psychiatry (Arns et al, 2021). Not only does poor sleep affects child's quality of life, but it also affects the entire family's functioning and parents often seek help to address sleep difficulties in their child (Parker et al, 2019). Sleep difficulties can present in many ways including difficulty initiating sleep, maintaining sleep, and waking up early as well as other abnormal sleep related behaviors or parasomnias. Sleep wake cycles are controlled by endogenous circadian processes as well as exogenous environmental influences. Circadian rhythm abnormalities may play a role in sleep disorders, and these may arise out of complex biological and social factors (Arns, 2021). Environmental and social influences are especially crucial in adolescence with increasing use of light emitting devices at night as well as the rampant use social media in this age group. Thus, finding safe and effective ways to address sleep issues in children is critical for their wellbeing and development. In addition, interventions targeting sleep could potentially be an important therapeutic avenue to improve psychiatric disorders and psychosocial outcomes in children (Arns, 2021). There are many concerns about long term pharmacological treatment for sleep including dependence, tolerance, and adverse effects. One of the most frequently used pharmacological treatment for sleep disorders is melatonin which is an endogenous hormone (Parker et al, 2020).

Impaired sleep is associated with emotional dysregulation as well as disruption in physical development in children. Children with autism have abnormalities in melatonin secretion and may benefit from exogenous supplementation. Studies have demonstrated that melatonin supplementation for insomnia in many psychiatric disorders is safe and has minimal side effects with long term use. Sleep hygiene is one of the factors that can impact sleep and is a modifiable risk for children. Parent education of sleep hygiene has been shown to be helpful in reducing sleep problems in children.

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