

familiar to the conviviality of campus life, explained these effects as a result of the drastic loss of social connectedness.

Conclusions: The current study highlights the key role of mental health support for university students, mainly during crisis times, and calls for measures to improve communication between students and the educational institution, as well as to encourage social connectedness.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0159

Comparison of mental health presentations of 16–25-year-olds to the Emergency Department during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.493

Introduction: Studies reported an initial decrease in the number of presentations and incidence of self-harm in young people during the pandemic. As the pandemic progressed young people may have experienced increased levels of distress, contributing to worsened mental health. There is a need for mental health services to evaluate the presentations of young people presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) so that services can meet the needs of young people.

Objectives: To examine the mental health presentations of young people (aged 16-25) to the ED and how this may have changed since the start of the pandemic.

Methods: This study reviewed all 16–25-year-olds presenting to the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) who were triaged with a mental health issue in a 2 month period (September–October) over three years – 2019 (Period A), 2020 (Period B), 2021 (Period C). Approval for this service evaluation was granted by the Clinical Audit and Effectiveness Committee at the MMUH.

Results: Of 232 presentations across all periods, there was no significant difference in the number of presentations in each study period - Period A (n=76), Period B (n=79) and Period C (n=77). In all three periods, most presentations occurred out of hours (A: 57.9% [n=44]; B: 74.7% [n=59]; C: 68.8% [n=53]) statistically significant ($p=0.034$) from before (A) to during the pandemic (B and C). Out of hours arrival by ambulance was most common in Periods A and B (45.5% and 55.9%). Over all three periods discharge home was the most frequent outcome of assessment (A: 69.7% [n=53]; B: 70.9% [n=56]; C: 76.6% [n=59]). Overall, there was a decrease in self-harm presentations over the period (A: 47.4% [n=36]; B: 41.8% [n=33]; C: 40.3% [n=31]). The percentage of presentations with self-laceration increased during the pandemic (A: 33.3% [n=12]; B: 39.4% [n=13]; C: 48.4% [n=15]). There was a significant increase in attendees who were already taking psychotropic medications ($p<0.001$).

Conclusions: The findings suggest that the majority of 16–25-year-olds present out of hours and do not require admission.

Although the number of presentations remained similar, the increase in out of hours presentations and arrivals by ambulance in Period B may reflect increased distress in the initial stages of the pandemic, and restricted access to services. The higher rates of medication prescribing suggests that these young people are already receiving health care, but that their needs are not being fully met. Mental health services should be designed to provide access to mental health care out of hours when young people are most likely to require them.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0160

Research of the preferred style of coping stress in relation to locus of control among healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.494

Introduction: The locus of control is associated with a variety of psychological concepts, theories and researches, including learned helplessness, which is explained in way that person has learned to act helpless even when they actually have control over their situation or the ability to change a circumstance or outcome. In this scientific work, the aim is to examine the correlation between the locus of control and stress coping strategies in a group of health care workers. A sample is 110 respondents, of different age, gender, ages and educational degrees.

Objectives: In this research, the aim is to examine the connection between locus of control and coping strategies among healthcare workers during the Covid-19 epidemic. The research results showed that there are no statistically significant differences in the relationship between stress coping strategies and locus of control in relation to men and women and age. Also, there is a statistically significant difference in the stress coping strategy focused on avoidance in relation to the locus of control, i.e. it turned out that the coping strategy focused on avoidance is more pronounced in respondents with an internal locus of control than in those with an external locus of control.

Methods: The research was conducted at the Clinical Center of Montenegro, in Podgorica, in March 2022, through an online program, due to the epidemiological situation. The sample consists of 110 respondents, of both sexes and aged from 20 to 65 years old, who were chosen by the method of random selection. The CISS and RI-E scales were used.

Results: The research showed that there is a connection between the locus of control and strategies for overcoming stress, but that there are no statistically significant differences in the connection between strategies for overcoming stress and locus of control in relation to men and women and their age, as well as that there is a statistically significant difference in the strategy coping with stress focused on avoidance in relation to locus of control, i.e. it was shown that the coping strategy focused on avoidance is more pronounced in respondents with an internal locus of control than in those with an external locus of control.