Abstract

Deterioration of mental health (including increase in alcohol and substance abuse and violence) could be a serious negative effect of the COVID19 pandemic. The MHCOVID (*Mental Health and COVID*) project aims to provide reliable large-scale evidence about changes in mental health as a result of the COVID19 pandemic and the lockdown measures put in place worldwide. We perform a living, online systematic review of prevalence studies for any mental health condition in the general population. To evaluate the space-temporal changes in mental health we use advanced statistical methodology (Bayesian models that combine different sources of evidence) and novel ideas of crowdsourcing the review process, open science and open data.

Until May 2021, about 100 volunteer researchers have screened and evaluated more than 40 000 published articles, and are now extracting data from hundreds of studies.

In this presentation, we will show preliminary results from the MHCOVID project that answer the following questions:

- What is the prevalence of mental health problems in the general population worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How are mental health problems associated with the extent and intensity of the pandemic and the measures to contain the pandemic?
- Which demographic characteristics (such as sex and age) are associated with these prevalences?

The generic evidence-synthesis framework developed within the MHCOVID project can be used to explore epidemiological associations to address the current but also future crisis situations.

More details about MHCOVID can be found in the project's website

https://mhcovid.ispm.unibe.ch