

Review

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and previous pandemics, epidemics and economic crises on mental health: systematic review

Michaela Asper, Walter Osika, Christina Dalman, Elin Pöllänen, Otto Simonsson, Pär Flodin, Anna Sidorchuk, Laura Marchetti, Fatima Awil, Rosa Castro and Maria E. Niemi

Background

A rise in mental illness is expected to follow the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also been projected to lead to a deep global economic recession, further adding to risk factors.

Δims

The aim of this review was to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and previous pandemics, epidemics and economic crises on mental health.

Method

Searches were conducted in PubMed, Web of Science, PsycINFO and Sociological Abstracts. We included studies of all populations exposed to the COVID-19 pandemic, and other similar pandemics/epidemics and economic crises, compared with non-exposed time periods or regions. The outcome was mental health.

Results

The 174 included studies assessed mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (87 studies), 2008 economic crisis (84 studies) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic (three studies). Outcomes were divided into affective disorders, suicides, mental healthcare utilisation and other mental health. COVID-19 pandemic studies were of lesser quality than those for the economic crisis or SARS epidemic. Most studies for all

exposures showed increases in affective disorders and other mental health problems. For economic crisis exposure, increases in mental healthcare utilisation and suicides were also found, but these findings were mixed for COVID-19 pandemic exposure. This is probably because of quarantine measures affecting help-seeking and shorter follow-ups of studies of COVID-19 pandemic exposure.

Conclusions

Our findings highlight the importance of available, accessible and sustainable mental health services. Also, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations should be particular targets of policy interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords

COVID-19; suicide; depressive disorders; anxiety disorders; epidemiology.

Copyright and usage

© The Author(s), 2022. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted re-use, distribution and reproduction, provided the original article is properly cited.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound effects on population health, resulting from both actual COVID-19 infection and collateral effects of the pandemic. A rise in mental illness was expected to follow the pandemic, caused by COVID-19-related factors such as fear, bereavement, social isolation and socioeconomic impact. Also, many people were projected to experience increased levels of alcohol and drug use, insomnia and anxiety. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the largest global economic shock in decades. Therefore, the impact of economic recessions on mental health and well-being may further contribute to the negative effects of the pandemic. Indeed, negative mental health effects from previous epidemics and economic crises have also been reported. For the pandemic and economic crises have also been reported.

Collecting high-quality data on the mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has therefore been identified as an immediate research priority, and international comparisons will be especially helpful in this regard.² The aim of this report is to systematically review the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on mental health, and provide information about possible effects that may add to this as a result of an eventual economic crisis following the pandemic. Therefore, we intend to map information on the impact of previous pandemics/epidemics similar to COVID-19, and the impact of earlier economic crises, to guide the prevention and management of negative mental health effects following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Method

The searches were designed in collaboration with a university librarian, and conducted on 6 January 2021 in PubMed, Web of Science, PsycINFO and Sociological Abstracts (see search strings in Supplementary Appendix 1 available at https://doi.org/10.1192/bjo.2022.587). The searches were restricted to the years 2000–2021 and the English language, and reference lists of systematic reviews were scanned.

Inclusion criteria were as follows:

- (a) population: general population and/or any specific populations;
- (b) exposure: COVID-19 or pandemics and epidemics similar to COVID-19 (Middle East respiratory syndrome, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), H1N1 influenza (swine flu)), or economic crises (see search strings in Supplementary Appendix 1 for details);
- (c) comparator: pre-pandemic/epidemic or pre-crisis measures or unaffected geographical areas;
- (d) outcome: mental health outcomes (see search strings in Supplementary Appendix 1 for details);
- (e) type of study: longitudinal cohort and repeated cross-sectional studies.

Study selection and data extraction

The titles and abstracts were independently screened by two researchers, in pairs (M.A., E.P., W.O., O.S., P.F., M.E.N., R.C., L.M. and F.A.). Disagreement was resolved through discussion among the pair or by consulting a third researcher within the team. Articles included for full-text screening were assessed against the inclusion criteria by two researchers. This review followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, and the review protocol has been pre-registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO; identifier CRD42021252774; available from https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php? RecordID=252774). The data were collected by one researcher (M.A., E.P., O.S., P.F., M.E.N., R.C., L.M., F.A. or C.D.). The extracted data were then checked by another researcher (M.A. or M.E.N.).

Risk-of-bias quality assessment

The quality of the included studies was assessed with the Newcastle–Ottawa Scale, and the assessment ratings for each individual study can be found in the table in Supplementary Appendix 2. The assessment was done independently by two researchers (M.A. and M.E.N.); disagreement was resolved by discussion between them. The study quality was defined as high (7–9 points), fair (5–6 points) or low (\leq 4 points).

Qualitative synthesis and harvest plots

Because of the large variation in outcomes measures reported in the included studies (relative risk, mean score, P-values only, frequencies, no numerical data in the results reported, etc.), we chose to conduct a qualitative synthesis instead of a meta-analysis, as recommended in the literature. 10,111 Graphical display of the directions of association across multiple variables is recommended for qualitative synthesis, 10 and we have therefore visualised the direction of associations between the exposures and outcomes of interest in harvest plots in Figs 2-4.12 Further, we performed a grouping by potential moderators: study setting (the country of study origin, further combined into geographical regions) and study size (subdivided into the smaller studies with <1000 participants, mediumsized studies with 1000-10000 participants and larger studies with >10 000 participants). The grouping by study size mirrors an assessment of a 'small-study effect' (i.e. if significant associations are found mainly in small underpowered studies, compared with the results of larger studies),¹³ which is indicative of publication bias.

Results

Figure 1 shows the results of the selection process. We screened 6686 studies by title and abstract. The full texts of 559 studies were assessed for eligibility, and 174 studies met our selection criteria and were included. Articles excluded at the full-text stage are listed in Supplementary Appendix 3, with reasons for exclusion.

Details about the included studies are given in Tables 1–3 in Supplementary Appendix 4. A qualitative summary of the findings is provided below, divided by type of exposure (COVID-19, economic crises or SARS) and outcome (affective disorders, suicides, other mental health problems and healthcare utilisation). For each exposure–outcome combination, the summary presents the direction of reported associations as well as study populations and settings.

COVID-19 exposure

Altogether, 87 studies were included assessing mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, where 43 focused on affective disorders, four assessed suicides, 30 assessed other mental health outcomes and ten examined mental healthcare utilisation.

Affective disorders

Among the studies on affective disorders (Fig. 2(a)), 31 found increases during the COVID-19 pandemic $^{14-44}$ and two found increases in subgroups of participants. 45,46 These were conducted population-based samples (151-336 52 pants); 17,18,22,29,33,39,40,43 more specific healthy populations of various ages, life stages or occupations (93–7527 participants); 14,15,21,23–27,34,36–39,41,42 and patients/populations with various somatic or psychiatric diagnoses (46-1 854 742 participants). ¹⁶,19,20,28,30-32,35 The studies were conducted in Hong Kong, ²⁶,33 the USA, ¹⁵,17-19,22,24,30,34,40,42</sup> the UK, ²¹,29,30,34,39 Germany, 31,43 China, 36,37 Italy, 14,20,25 Australia, 32,38 Bangladesh, 23 India,²⁷ Switzerland,⁴⁴ South Sudan,⁴¹ Canada,³⁰ France,³⁰ Singapore,³⁵ Serbia²⁸ and The Netherlands.¹⁶ Among these studies, four were of high quality^{21,27,29,31} and 27 were of fair quality. 14-20,22-26,28,30,32-44 A fair-quality study of adolescents and parents from The Netherlands found increased negative affect only in parents, 45 and a fair-quality study of people with cancer from the UK found increased rates of depression only among those with certain cancer types.⁴⁶

Altogether, five studies with more defined samples of various ages, occupations and health conditions, with 25–3983 participants, found no change in affective disorders. They were conducted in Canada 47 the USA 48,49 The Netherlands 50 and Italy. Four of these studies were of fair quality, 47,48,50,51 and one was of low quality. 49

Some studies found unchanged or lower rates of affective disorders, ^{52–55} and lower incidence of medication prescriptions. ⁵⁶ These were conducted on populations of 164–241 458 participants, including postpartum women in Israel, ⁵² patients in general practice in the UK, ⁵⁶ medical students from the Republic of Kazakhstan, ⁵⁴ patients from a sleep clinic from Japan ⁵³ and university students in China. ⁵⁵ Three of these studies were of fair quality ^{53–55} and two were of high quality. ^{52,56}

Suicides

Four studies assessed pandemic-period suicide rates in whole populations from Connecticut (USA),⁵⁷ Queensland (Australia),⁵⁸ Japan⁵⁹ and Peru,⁶⁰ and found these had either decreased^{57,60} or remained unaltered (Fig. 2(b)).^{58,59} All four studies were of high quality.

Other mental health outcomes

There were 30 studies that assessed other mental health outcomes (Fig. 2(c)). Altogether, 12 studies were conducted on population-based samples and found decreases in mental health. $^{61-72}$ These studies were conducted on populations ranging from 1003 to 17 452 individuals in the USA, 61,67,68 the UK, $^{62-65,69}$ New Zealand, 66 Denmark, 70 Canada 71 and China. 72 Four of these studies were of high quality, 62,65,67,69 seven were of fair quality, 61,63,64,66,68,71,72 and one was of low quality.

Ten other studies in more defined samples ranging from 21 to 3505 individuals also found deteriorations in mental health. ^{73–82} These included populations of different ages and occupations, ^{73–76,78,79,82} and patients with various somatic or psychiatric diagnoses, ^{77,80–82} and were conducted in the USA, ^{77,78,82}

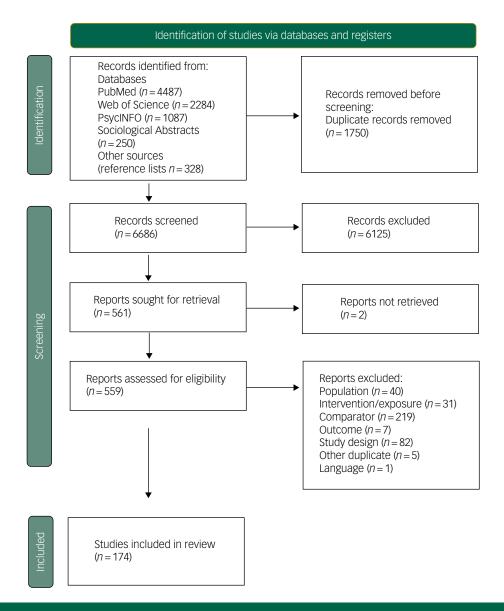


Fig. 1 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 flow diagram for new systematic reviews, including searches of databases and registers.

Spain, 74 Switzerland, 75 Croatia, 79 the UK 73,76 and Italy. 80,81 One was of high quality 77 and nine were of fair quality. $^{73-76,78-82}$

Eight of the studies did not find changes in mental health among study populations of 46–1870 participants. These populations were of various ages and occupations, both healthy and with somatic or mental health diagnoses, conducted in the USA, $^{83-86}$ Sweden, 87 Germany 88 and The Netherlands. 89,90 Of these studies, two were of high quality 83,89 and six were of fair quality. $^{84-88,90}$

Healthcare utilisation

Figure 2(d) presents a harvest plot for associations between COVID-19 and healthcare utilisation. Altogether, five studies that assessed admissions for mental health problems found decreases: emergency department presentations decreased at three health services in Australia⁹¹ and two hospitals in Italy; ^{92,93} psychiatric emergency services presentations decreased in Paris, France; ⁹⁴ and presentations to a paediatric emergency department decreased in the USA. ⁹⁵ All of these five studies were of high quality.

On the other hand, although acute care presentations for mental health diagnoses in the UK decreased, the patients admitted had more severe conditions. ⁹⁶ Admissions for mental health problems

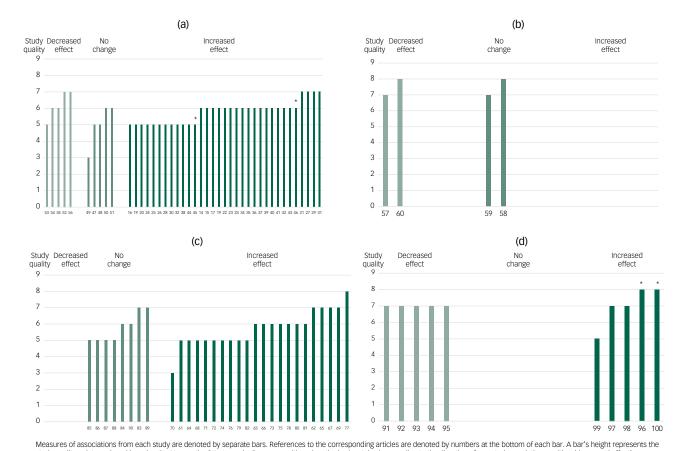
increased at an acute medical unit,⁹⁷ and there was acceleration in urgent referrals to secondary mental health services in the UK.⁹⁸ In Italy, psychological morbidity worsened among 145 palliative care professionals.⁹⁹ An emergency department in New Zealand experienced overall decreases in mental health presentations, but relative increases in overdoses and self-harm.¹⁰⁰ Four^{96–98,100} of these studies were of high quality and one was of fair quality.⁹⁹

Economic crisis exposure

Altogether 84 studies were included assessing mental health impacts of the 2008 economic crisis. Among these, 15 studies focused on affective disorders, seven assessed mental healthcare utilisation, 37 assessed suicides and 25 assessed other mental health outcomes.

Affective disorders

Figure 3(a) presents a harvest plot for associations between economic crises and affective disorders. All 15 studies reporting affective disorders as an outcome were population-based surveys. The findings from 12 of these studies, with populations ranging from 2011 to 81 313 participants, were that there was a significant



study quality points assigned by using the Newcastle–Ottawa scale. Bars are positioned on the horizontal axis according to the direction of reported association as either 'decreased effect' (see light bars on the left side), 'no change' (see darker bars in the middle), and 'increased effect' (see darkest bars on the right side). *, studies in which for some participant subgroups an increased effect was observed, while in other subgroups there was no change.

Fig. 2 Harvest plot for the associations reported between exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic and (a) affective disorders, (b) suicides, (c) other mental health outcomes and (d) healthcare utilisation. Labels on the x-axis refer to the reference list entries for the studies.

increase in affective disorders. $^{101-112}$ These studies were conducted in Canada, 101 Hong Kong, 102 the USA, $^{103-105,108-111}$ Europe, 103 Spain 106 and Australia. 107,112 Two of these studies were of high quality 103,104 and ten were of fair quality. $^{101,102,105-112}$

A study on 815 adults aged over 50 years found no increase in depression among those most affected by the stock market crash, despite an increase in antidepressant medication use. Also, a study on 25- to 75-year-olds in the USA found that mental health improved. Among 106 158 participants aged over 15 years from 21 European countries, no effect of the crisis was found on depressive feelings. One study was of high quality, and two were of fair quality. One study was of high quality.

Suicides

Altogether, 37 studies assessed suicide in relation to the 2008 economic crisis, and all of these studies were of high quality (Fig. 3(b)). Altogether, 19 studies found increased suicide rates at the level of the total population after the start of the crisis. These were conducted on the populations of Italy (Milan)¹¹⁶ (suicides as a result of mental and behavioural disorders, Italy¹¹⁷), Greece, $^{118-123}$ Spain 124 (suicide attempts in Spain 125), the European Union, $^{126-128}$ Canada, 126 England, $^{128-130}$ the USA $^{131-133}$ and South Korea. 134

Some studies reported increases in suicide rates in specific population subgroups, 135,136 among men $^{137-139}$ or attributable to specific factors such as unemployment. These studies were conducted in Greece, 135,136 Italy, 140 Australia, 141 Spain, 138,142,143 Barcelona (Spain), 144 the UK, 137 Ireland 139 and the USA. 136,145 A

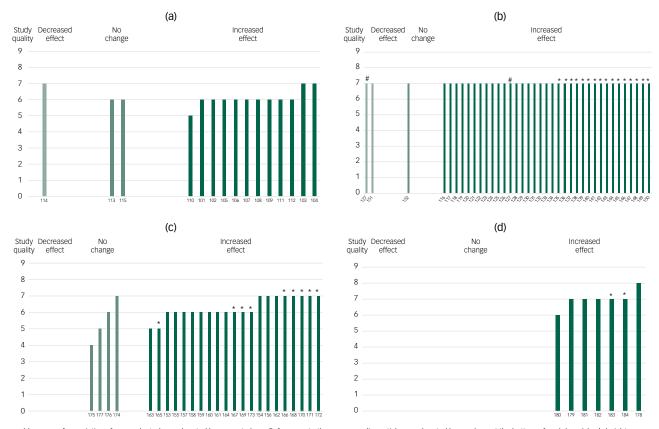
study from 29 countries in the European Union found a general relationship between the economic environment and suicide rates. ¹⁴⁶

A study conducted on the male population of 20 countries in the European Union found job losses to be a determinant of suicide risk, and greater spending on active labour market policies and social capital mitigated risks. ¹⁴⁷ A study from 27 European countries, 18 North and South American countries, eight Asian countries, and one African country found that suicide rates increased in the European and North and South American countries, particularly in men and in countries with higher levels of job loss. ¹⁴⁸ In Italy, periods of economic fluctuations were associated with male suicides, whereas severe economic downturns were associated with increased rates overall, ¹⁴⁹ and gross domestic product was associated with suicides because of financial problems. ¹⁵⁰

Finally, one study in Piraeus, Greece, found a slight decrease in suicide rates, ¹⁵¹ and a study including all European Union countries found decreased rates in Austria. ¹²⁷ Also, a study in Crete, Greece, found no overall increase in suicide rates. ¹⁵²

Other mental health outcomes

Most of the 25 studies assessing other mental health outcomes (Fig. 3(c)) were conducted on nationally or regionally representative samples, and the clear majority found evidence for increased mental distress. ^{153–162} The studies that presented results at the population level included 3479–306 664 participants from Sweden, ¹⁵³ the UK, ¹⁵⁵ Italy, ¹⁵⁶ Spain, ¹⁵⁷ England, ^{154,159} Australia, ¹⁶⁰ Iceland, ¹⁶² the Valencian Community in Spain ¹⁵⁸ and 36 mainly European



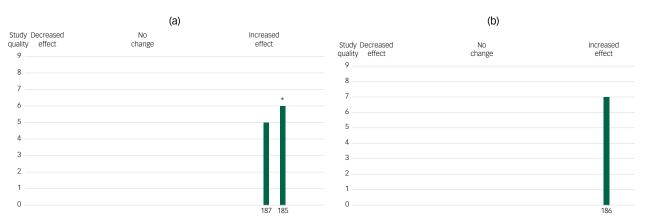
Measures of associations from each study are denoted by separate bars. References to the corresponding articles are denoted by numbers at the bottom of each bar. A bar's height represents the study quality points assigned by using the Newcastle—Ottawa scale. Bars are positioned on the horizontal axis according to the direction of reported association as either 'decreased effect' (see light bars on the left side), 'no change' (see darker bars in the middle), and 'increased effect' (see darkest bars on the right side). #, a multicountry study conducted in the EU, where an overall increase in suicide rates was found, but a decrease in rates was found in Austria, hence the study appearing twice in (b). *, studies in which for some participant subgroups an increased effect was observed, while in other subgroups there was no change.

Fig. 3 Harvest plot for the associations reported between exposure to the economic crisis and (a) affective disorders, (b) suicides, (c) other mental health outcomes and (d) healthcare utilisation. Labels on the x-axis refer to the reference list entries for the studies.

countries. 161 Three of these studies were of high quality 154,156,162 and seven were of low quality. $^{153,155,157-161}$ Also, two studies on more defined populations of 2050 medical researchers in Greece, 163 and 13 000 children aged 4–17 years in the USA, 164 found decreases in mental health. Both studies were of fair quality.

Some of the population-based studies, ranging from 3755 to 11 743 participants, showed decreases in mental health only

among particular population groups, \$^{165-171}\$ or under higher rates of precarious employment and lower health spending. These studies were conducted in Spain, \$^{167,169,171}\$ Ireland, \$^{165}\$ Iceland, \$^{166}\$ France \$^{168}\$ and the UK. \$^{170}\$ In the USA, retail sales for angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors/serotonin–noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors were not associated with unemployment, but there were positive associations for



Measures of associations from each study are denoted by separate bars. References to the corresponding articles are denoted by numbers at the bottom of each bar. A bar's height represents the study quality points assigned using the Newcastle-Ottawa scale. Bars are positioned on the horizontal axis according to the direction of reported association as either 'decreased effect', 'no change' or 'increased effect' (see darkest bars on the right side). *, study in which for some participant subgroups an increased effect was observed, while in other subgroups there was no change.

Fig. 4 Harvest plot for the associations reported between exposure to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic and (a) other mental health outcomes and (b) suicides. Labels on the x-axis refer to the reference list entries for the studies.

opioids and phosphodiesterase inhibitors. ¹⁷² Five of these studies were of high quality. ^{165,168,170–172} and three were or fair quality. ^{165,167,169}

Also, one study with a cohort of 3321 mothers and 4089 children in Australia found that girls experienced an increase in mental health problems, but not boys or mothers. This study was of fair quality.

Four studies found no changes in mental health outcomes. They were conducted on a population-based sample in the UK; 174 a nationally representative sample of adults aged over 50 years in Ireland; 175 a study of 21 European countries; 176 and a study of children aged 11–15 years from Israel, the USA and 31 countries in Europe. 177 One of these studies was of high quality, 174 two were of fair quality 176,177 and one was of low quality. 175

Healthcare utilisation

Figure 3(d) presents a harvest plot for economic crises and health-care utilisation. Five of the seven studies assessing changes in health-care utilisation for mental health problems found increases in rates. They addressed in-patient admissions for affective disorders in Italy, ¹⁷⁸ hospital admissions owing to depression in Taiwan, ¹⁷⁹ primary care patients in Spain, ¹⁸⁰ general practice patients in the UK ¹⁸¹ and hospital morbidity data in Spain. ¹⁸² Four studies were of high quality ^{178,179,181,182} and one was of fair quality. ¹⁸⁰

Two studies did not find overall increases in mental healthcare utilisation: in the UK, rates of self-harm among patients increased in Derby and among males in Manchester, but not in in Oxford; ¹⁸³ in the USA, physician visits owing to mental health disorders decreased after the onset of the crisis, but the use of psychotropic medications increased. ¹⁸⁴ Both of these studies were of high quality.

SARS exposure

Our review also yielded three studies addressing changes in mental health before and after the onset of the SARS epidemic in Hong Kong (Fig. 4(a) and (b)). All of these studies were conducted on adults of older age. 185–187 One study based on a stratified random sample showed no changes in depression among men, but an increase in depression among women. Another study found an excess in suicide rates among older adults. 186 Finally, a study of a random sample of women showed increases in depression and perceived stress. 187 All of these studies were of fair quality.

Potential moderators

Table 1 in Supplementary Appendix 5 presents all reported exposures and outcomes, subdivided by potential moderators (geographical region and study size) separately, for each direction of change. The majority of both small and large studies, and studies from all geographical regions, reported increased negative effects on mental health, and thus neither the influence of geographical region differences nor the 'small-study effect' were considered to pose any risks for the interpretation of our results.

Discussion

This systematic review resulted in 174 studies assessing the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (87 studies), 2008 economic crisis (84 studies) and SARS epidemic (three studies). Most studies reported effects on affective disorders. Mostly, these studies found increased rates, as might be expected because of increased prevalence of risk factors. For the COVID-19 pandemic, these include uncertainty; loss of income; inactivity; limited access to basic services; increased access to food, alcohol and online gambling; and decreased social support. However, some populations experienced improvements in affective disorders. These populations

included postpartum women, university students, patients from general practice and patients from a sleep clinic. Future studies may delineate the ways in which these populations differed in terms of risk and protective factors, perhaps in part because of the various pandemic responses.

Our findings showed that mental healthcare utilisation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic did not increase in the same manner as it did in result of the economic crisis; regulations on travel and quarantine may have resulted in mental healthcare visits becoming more difficult and impractical. 189 Further, we found two studies that showed an increase in severity of mental health problems among those using services during the pandemic, indicating a shift away from seeking mental healthcare for milder problems, with a parallel increase in severity. Retaining existing mental health services, scaling up effective practices and promoting new practices that expand access and provide cost-effective delivery, as well as utilising to peer support and remote health delivery, should be prioritised during the COVID-19 pandemic. 188 Indeed, previous reports of the mental health effects of the SARS epidemic have illustrated that the negative consequences can even be maintained in the long term,⁵ thus further emphasising the importance of accessible prevention and treatment strategies.

Overall, we found that socioeconomic factors and unemployment resulting from the economic crisis had negative effects. Previous studies have also reported on the deleterious consequences of economic crises on mental health;⁵ that the main risk factors mediating these effects include unemployment, indebtedness, precarious working conditions, inequalities, lack of social connectedness and housing instability;¹⁹⁰ and that the negative impact of economic hardship on mental health may also continue further in bi-directional manner.¹⁹¹ Also, in line with our findings, previous work has suggested that men at working age are at particular risk.¹⁹⁰ It may thus be expected that these population groups will also be negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

Contrary to the large number of studies assessing suicide rates in relation to the economic crisis, our review did not find many studies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The few studies we did identify showed either that rates decreased or remained unaltered, in contradiction to studies on the economic crisis. Follow-ups of included studies on the pandemic are short, but in the longer term, an increase in suicide rates as a result of the pandemic might be expected because of the increase in many of the known risk factors for suicide, including social isolation, substance misuse, economic hardship, unemployment and uncertainty. ¹⁹²

A limitation of our study was the necessity to narrow the scope of our search strategies to search terms found in titles and abstracts, which was done because of the large number of published studies on the topic. This may have resulted in us missing some relevant studies. Also, we were not able to conduct searches in non-English-language publications or grey literature, which is also a limitation. However, a 'small-study effect' is unlikely to be present in our review, as shown in the analysis of study size as a potential moderator. Altogether, this indicates that the risk of publication bias, even if present, could be considered as low. Furthermore, our findings reflect what others have noted: toward the end of 2020, mental health was one of the most common topics for research being conducted on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, although the quantity was not matched by quality¹⁹³ - our included studies on the economic crisis were overall of better quality than those on the COVID-19 pandemic. Strengths of our study was its systematic nature and broad scope, which allowed us both to see emerging early evidence and possible longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health.

Our findings highlight the importance of making mental health services available, accessible and sustainable for those in need. Also, seeing as the socioeconomically disadvantaged are at increased risk of adverse mental health outcomes, these populations should be particular targets of policy interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, our review covers a broad range of mental health outcomes, both in clinical and general populations, in association with worldwide crises, which provides an invaluable basis for future systematic reviews that are more specific in their topics. Since most studies identified though our review were conducted in high-income countries, it would be invaluable to conduct more studies in low- and middle-income countries. Finally, we expect future research, with longer-term follow-up periods, to be able to elucidate the specific effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. In addition, international comparisons of mental health outcomes may allow detailed analyses on the differential mental health effects of the pandemic and economic mitigation measures taken by different countries.

Michaela Asper, MSc, Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; Walter Osika, PhD, Centre for Psychiatry Research, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; and Stockholm Health Care Services, Region Stockholm, Sweden; Christina Dalman, PhD, Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; Elin Pöllänen, MSc, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; Otto Simonsson, PhD, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; Pär Flodin, PhD, Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; Anna Sidorchuk, PhD, Centre for Psychiatry Research, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; and Stockholm Health Care Services, Region Stockholm, Sweden; Laura Marchetti, MA, Mental Health Europe, Belgium; Fatima Awil, LMM, Mental Health Europe, Belgium; Fatima Awil, LMM, Mental Health Europe, Belgium; Maria E. Niemi (2), PhD, Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Correspondence: Maria E. Niemi. Email: maria.niemi@ki.se

First received 30 Sep 2021, final revision 1 Sep 2022, accepted 9 Sep 2022

Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available online at https://doi.org/10.1192/bjo.2022.587

Data availability

 $Data\ availability\ is\ not\ applicable\ to\ this\ article\ as\ no\ new\ data\ were\ created\ or\ analysed\ in\ this\ study and a sum of the control of t$

Author contributions

M.E.N., W.O. and C.D. conceived of the study and obtained funding. M.A. and M.E.N. coordinated the searches, screening and data extraction, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. A.S. assisted in writing the first draft of the manuscript, coordinated the presentation of results and assisted in compiling the tables and figures. M.A., M.E.N., W.O., O.S., P.F., E.P., F.A., L.M. and R.C. screened the titles, abstracts and full texts, and conducted data extraction. All authors have critically revised the manuscript for important intellectual content, approved the manuscript for publication and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Funding

Funding for this research was provided through the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant number 101016233). The funder had no role in the design, completion or writing up of the study.

Declaration of interest

None.

References

- 1 Simon FAJ, Schenk M, Palm D, Faltraco F, Thome J. The collateral damage of the COVID-19 outbreak on mental health and psychiatry. *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 2021; 18(9): 4440.
- 2 Holmes EA, O'Connor RC, Perry VH, Tracey I, Wessely S, Arseneault L, et al. Multidisciplinary research priorities for the COVID-19 pandemic: a call for action for mental health science. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2020; 7(6): 547–60.

- 3 World Health Organization (WHO). COVID-19 Disrupting Mental Health Services in Most Countries, WHO Survey. WHO, 2021 (https://www.who.int/ news/item/05-10-2020-covid-19-disrupting-mental-health-services-in-mostcountries-who-survey).
- 4 World Bank. Global Economic Prospects, June 2020. World Bank, 2020.
- 5 Parmar D, Stavropoulou C, Ioannidis JP. Health outcomes during the 2008 financial crisis in Europe: systematic literature review. BMJ 2016; 354: i4588.
- 6 Maunder RG. Was SARS a mental health catastrophe? Gen Hosp Psychiatry 2009; 31(4): 316–7.
- 7 Marazziti D, Avella MT, Mucci N, Della Vecchia A, Ivaldi T, Palermo S, et al. Impact of economic crisis on mental health: a 10-year challenge. CNS Spectr 2021; 26(1): 7–13.
- 8 Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *Int J Surg* 2021; 88: 105906.
- 9 Wells GA, Shea B, O'Connell D, Peterson J, Welch V, Losos M. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for Assessing the Quality of Nonrandomized Studies in Meta-Analyses. Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, 2021 (http://www.ohri.ca/programs/clinical_epidemiology/oxford.htm).
- 10 McKenzie JE, Brennan SE, et al. Chapter 12: Synthesizing and presenting findings using other methods. In Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions version 62 (updated February 2021) (eds J Higgins, J Thomas, J Chandler, M Cumpston, T Li, M Page). Cochrane, 2021.
- 11 Campbell M, McKenzie JE, Sowden A, Katikireddi SV, Brennan SE, Ellis S, et al. Synthesis without meta-analysis (SWiM) in systematic reviews: reporting guideline. BMJ 2020; 368: I6890.
- 12 Ogilvie D, Fayter D, Petticrew M, Sowden A, Thomas S, Whitehead M, et al. The harvest plot: a method for synthesising evidence about the differential effects of interventions. BMC Med Res Methodol 2008; 8: 8.
- 13 Page MJ, Higgins JPT, Sterne JAC. Chapter 13: Assessing risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis. In Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions version 62 (updated February 2021) (eds J Higgins, J Thomas, J Chandler, M Cumpston, T Li, M Page). Cochrane, 2021.
- 14 Meda N, Pardini S, Slongo I, Bodini L, Zordan MA, Rigobello P, et al. Students' mental health problems before, during, and after COVID-19 lockdown in Italy. J Psychiatr Res 2020; 134: 69–77.
- 15 Krendl AC, Perry BL. The impact of sheltering-in-place during the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults' social and mental well-being. J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci 2021; 76(2): e53–8.
- 16 Pan KY, Kok AAL, Eikelenboom M, Horsfall M, Jörg F, Luteijn RA, et al. The mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people with and without depressive, anxiety, or obsessive-compulsive disorders: a longitudinal study of three Dutch case-control cohorts. Lancet Psychiatry 2021; 8(2): 121.0
- 17 Ettman CK, Abdalla SM, Cohen GH, Sampson L, Vivier PM, Galea S. Prevalence of depression symptoms in US adults before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Jama Netw Open* 2020; 3(9): e2019686.
- 18 Daly M, Sutin AR, Robinson E. Depression reported by US adults in 2017–2018 and March and April 2020. J Affect Disord 2021; 278: 131–5.
- 19 Puhl RM, Lessard LM, Larson N, Eisenberg ME, Neumark-Stzainer D. Weight stigma as a predictor of distress and maladaptive eating behaviors during COVID-19: longitudinal findings from the EAT study. *Ann Behav Med* 2020; 54(10): 738–46.
- 20 Villani ER, Vetrano DL, Damiano C, Paola AD, Ulgiati AM, Martin L, et al. Impact of COVID-19-related lockdown on psychosocial, cognitive, and functional well-being in adults with down syndrome. Front Psychiatry 2020; 11: 578686.
- 21 Gallagher S, Wetherell MA. Risk of depression in family caregivers: unintended consequence of COVID-19. BJPsych Open 2020; 6(6): e119.
- 22 Wanberg CR, Csillag B, Douglass RP, Zhou L, Pollard MS. Socioeconomic status and well-being during COVID-19: a resource-based examination. J Appl Psychol 2020; 105(12): 1382–96.
- 23 Hamadani JD, Hasan MI, Baldi AJ, Hossain SJ, Shiraji S, Bhuiyan MSA, et al. Immediate impact of stay-at-home orders to control COVID-19 transmission on socioeconomic conditions, food insecurity, mental health, and intimate partner violence in Bangladeshi women and their families: an interrupted time series. *Lancet Glob Health* 2020; 8(11): E1380–E9.
- 24 Lee CM, Cadigan JM, Rhew IC. Increases in loneliness among young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic and association with increases in mental health problems. J Adolesc Health 2020; 67(5): 714–7.
- 25 Zanardo V, Manghina V, Giliberti L, Vettore M, Severino L, Straface G. Psychological impact of COVID-19 quarantine measures in Northeastern Italy on mothers in the immediate postpartum period. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet* 2020; **150**(2): 184–8.
- 26 Wong SYS, Zhang D, Sit RWS, Yip BHK, Chung RY, Wong CKM, et al. Impact of COVID-19 on loneliness, mental health, and health service utilisation: a

- prospective cohort study of older adults with multimorbidity in primary care. *Br J Gen Pract* 2020; **70**(700): e817–e24.
- 27 Saraswathi I, Saikarthik J, Senthil Kumar K, Madhan Srinivasan K, Ardhanaari M, Gunapriya R. Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on the mental health status of undergraduate medical students in a COVID-19 treating medical college: a prospective longitudinal study. *PeerJ* 2020; 8: e10164.
- 28 Stojanov A, Malobabic M, Milosevic V, Stojanov J, Vojinovic S, Stanojevic G, et al. Psychological status of patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis during coronavirus disease-2019 outbreak. *Mult Scler Relat Disord* 2020; 45: 102407.
- 29 Kwong ASF, Pearson RM, Adams MJ, Northstone K, Tilling K, Smith D, et al. Mental health before and during COVID-19 in two longitudinal UK population cohorts. *Br J Psychiatry* 2021; 218(6): 334–43.
- 30 Thombs BD, Kwakkenbos L, Henry RS, Carrier ME, Patten S, Harb S, et al. Changes in mental health symptoms from pre-COVID-19 to COVID-19 among participants with systemic sclerosis from four countries: a Scleroderma Patient-centered Intervention Network (SPIN) cohort study. J Psychosom Res 2020; 139: 110262.
- 31 Jacob L, Smith L, Koyanagi A, Oh H, Tanislav C, Shin JI, et al. Impact of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on anxiety diagnosis in general practices in Germany. J Psychiatr Res 2021; 143: 528–33.
- 32 Titov N, Staples L, Kayrouz R, Cross S, Karin E, Ryan K, et al. Rapid report: early demand, profiles and concerns of mental health users during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. *Internet Intervent* 2020; 21: 100327.
- 33 Zhao SZ, Wong JYH, Luk TT, Wai AKC, Lam TH, Wang MP. Mental health crisis under COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong, China. Int J Infect Dis 2020; 100: 431–3
- 34 Huckins JF, daSilva AW, Wang W, Hedlund E, Rogers C, Nepal SK, et al. Mental health and behavior of college students during the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic: longitudinal smartphone and ecological momentary assessment study. J Med Internet Res 2020; 22(6): e20185.
- 35 Lim SL, Woo KL, Lim E, Ng F, Chan MY, Gandhi M. Impact of COVID-19 on health-related quality of life in patients with cardiovascular disease: a multiethnic Asian study. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* 2020; **18**(1): 387.
- 36 Li HY, Cao H, Leung DYP, Mak YW. The psychological impacts of a COVID-19 outbreak on college students in China: a longitudinal study. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2020; 17(11): 3933.
- 37 Chen IH, Chen CY, Pakpour AH, Griffiths MD, Lin CY. Internet-related behaviors and psychological distress among schoolchildren during COVID-19 school suspension. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2020; 59(10): 1099–102.e1.
- 38 Magson NR, Freeman JYA, Rapee RM, Richardson CE, Oar EL, Fardouly J. Risk and protective factors for prospective changes in adolescent mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. J Youth Adolesc 2021; 50(1): 44–57.
- 39 Creese B, Khan Z, Henley W, O'Dwyer S, Corbett A, Vasconcelos Da Silva M, et al. Loneliness, physical activity and mental health during Covid-19: a longitudinal analysis of depression and anxiety in adults over 50 between 2015 and 2020. Int Psychogeriatr 2021; 33(5): 505–14.
- 40 Twenge JM, Joiner TE. US census bureau-assessed prevalence of anxiety and depressive symptoms in 2019 and during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Depress Anxiety 2020; 37(10): 954–6.
- 41 Zhang Y, Xiang D, Alejok N. Coping with COVID-19 in United Nations peacekeeping field hospitals: increased workload and mental stress for military healthcare providers. BMJ Mil Health 2021; 167(4): 229–33.
- 42 Zhang B, Zaman A, Silenzio V, Kautz H, Hoque E. The relationships of deteriorating depression and anxiety with longitudinal behavioral changes in google and YouTube use during COVID-19: observational study. *JMIR Ment Health* 2020; 7(11): e24012.
- 43 Peters A, Rospleszcz S, Greiser KH, Dallavalle M, Berger K. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-reported health. *Dtsch Arztebl Int* 2020; 117(50): 861–7.
- 44 Elmer T, Mepham K, Stadtfeld C. Students under lockdown: comparisons of students' social networks and mental health before and during the COVID-19 crisis in Switzerland. PLoS One 2020; 15(7): e0236337.
- 45 Janssen LHC, Kullberg MJ, Verkuil B, van Zwieten N, Wever MCM, van Houtum L, et al. Does the COVID-19 pandemic impact parents' and adolescents' wellbeing? An EMA-study on daily affect and parenting. PLoS One 2020; 15(10): e0240962.
- 46 Gallagher S, Bennett KM, Roper L. Loneliness and depression in patients with cancer during COVID-19. *J Psychosoc Oncol* 2021; 39(3): 445–51.
- 47 McArthur C, Saari M, Heckman GA, Wellens N, Weir J, Hebert P, et al. Evaluating the effect of COVID-19 pandemic lockdown on long-term care residents' mental health: a data-driven approach in New Brunswick. J Am Med Dir Assoc 2021; 22(1): 187–92.
- 48 Pinkham AE, Ackerman RA, Depp CA, Harvey PD, Moore RC. A longitudinal investigation of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of individuals with pre-existing severe mental illnesses. *Psychiatry Res* 2020; 294: 113493.

- **49** Sturman ED. Coping with COVID-19: resilience and psychological well-being in the midst of a pandemic. *J Soc Clin Psychol* 2020; **39**(7): 561–70.
- 50 van der Velden PG, Contino C, Das M, van Loon P, Bosmans MWG. Anxiety and depression symptoms, and lack of emotional support among the general population before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. a prospective national study on prevalence and risk factors. J Affect Disord 2020; 277: 540–8.
- 51 Baiano C, Zappullo I, The Lab NG, Conson M. Tendency to worry and fear of mental health during Italy's COVID-19 lockdown. *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 2020; 17(16): 5928.
- 52 Pariente G, Wissotzky Broder O, Sheiner E, Lanxner Battat T, Mazor E, Yaniv Salem S, et al. Risk for probable post-partum depression among women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Arch Womens Ment Health 2020; 23(6): 767–73.
- 53 Ubara A, Sumi Y, Ito K, Matsuda A, Matsuo M, Miyamoto T, et al. Self-isolation due to COVID-19 is linked to small one-year changes in depression, sleepiness, and Insomnia: results from a clinic for sleep disorders in Shiga prefecture, Japan. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2020; 17(23): 8971.
- 54 Bolatov AK, Seisembekov TZ, Askarova AZ, Baikanova RK, Smailova DS, Fabbro E. Online-learning due to COVID-19 improved mental health among medical students. *Med Sci Educ* 2020; 31(1): 183–92.
- 55 Li WW, Yu H, Miller DJ, Yang F, Rouen C. Novelty seeking and mental health in Chinese university students before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown: a longitudinal study. Front Psychol 2020; 11: 600739.
- 56 Williams R, Jenkins DA, Ashcroft DM, Brown B, Campbell S, Carr MJ, et al. Diagnosis of physical and mental health conditions in primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic: a retrospective cohort study. *Lancet Public Health* 2020; 5(10): e543–50.
- 57 Mitchell TO, Li L. State-level data on suicide mortality during COVID-19 quarantine: early evidence of a disproportionate impact on racial minorities. Psychiatry Res 2021; 295: 113629.
- 58 Leske S, Kõlves K, Crompton D, Arensman E, de Leo D. Real-time suicide mortality data from police reports in Queensland, Australia, during the COVID-19 pandemic: an interrupted time-series analysis. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2021; 8(1): 58–63.
- 59 Isumi A, Doi S, Yamaoka Y, Takahashi K, Fujiwara T. Do suicide rates in children and adolescents change during school closure in Japan? The acute effect of the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic on child and adolescent mental health. *Child Abuse Negl* 2020; 110(Pt 2): 104680.
- 60 Calderon-Anyosa RJ, Kaufman JS. Impact of COVID-19 lockdown policy on homicide, suicide, and motor vehicle deaths in Peru. Prev Med 2021; 143: 106331.
- 61 Sutin AR, Stephan Y, Luchetti M, Aschwanden D, Strickhouser JE, Lee JH, et al. BMI, weight discrimination, and the trajectory of distress and well-being across the coronavirus pandemic. Obesity (Silver Spring) 2021; 29(1): 38–45.
- 62 Pierce M, Hope H, Ford T, Hatch S, Hotopf M, John A, et al. Mental health before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: a longitudinal probability sample survey of the UK population. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2020; 7(10): 883–92.
- 63 Banks J, Xu XW. The mental health effects of the first two months of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK. Fiscal Stud 2020; 41(3): 685–708.
- 64 Gray NS, O'Connor C, Knowles J, Pink J, Simkiss NJ, Williams SD, et al. The influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental well-being and psychological distress: impact upon a single country. Front Psychiatry 2020; 11: 594115.
- 65 Daly M, Sutin AR, Robinson E. Longitudinal changes in mental health and the COVID-19 pandemic: evidence from the UK Household Longitudinal Study. *Psychol Med* [Epub ahead of print 13 Nov 2020]. Available from: https://doi. org/10.1017/S0033291720004432.
- 66 Sibley CG, Greaves LM, Satherley N, Wilson MS, Overall NC, Lee CHJ, et al. Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown on trust, attitudes toward government, and well-being. Am Psychol 2020; 75(5): 618–30.
- 67 Twenge JM, Joiner TE. Mental distress among U.S. adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. J Clin Psychol 2020; 76(12): 2170–82.
- 68 McGinty EE, Presskreischer R, Han H, Barry CL. Psychological distress and loneliness reported by US adults in 2018 and April 2020. JAMA 2020; 324(1): 93–4.
- 69 Niedzwiedz CL, Green MJ, Benzeval M, Campbell D, Craig P, Demou E, et al. Mental health and health behaviours before and during the initial phase of the COVID-19 lockdown: longitudinal analyses of the UK Household Longitudinal Study. J Epidemiol Community Health 2020; 75(3): 224–31.
- 70 Sonderskov KM, Dinesen PT, Santini ZI, Ostergaard SD. The depressive state of Denmark during the COVID-19 pandemic. Acta Neuropsychiatr 2020; 32(4): 226–8
- 71 Bierman A, Schieman S. Social estrangement and psychological distress before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: patterns of change in Canadian workers. J Health Soc Behav 2020; 61(4): 398–417.
- 72 Ran MS, Gao R, Lin JX, Zhang TM, Chan SKW, Deng XP, et al. The impacts of COVID-19 outbreak on mental health in general population in different areas in China. *Psychol Med* [Epub ahead of print 10 Dec 2020]. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291720004717.

- 73 Shen J, Bartram D. Fare differently, feel differently: mental well-being of UK-born and foreign-born working men during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Eur Soc* 2021; 23(suppl 1): S370–83.
- 74 Reverté-Villarroya S, Ortega L, Lavedán A, Masot O, Burjalés-Martí MD, Ballester-Ferrando D, et al. The influence of COVID-19 on the mental health of final-year nursing students: comparing the situation before and during the pandemic. *Int J Ment Health Nurs* 2021; 30(3): 694–702.
- 75 Macdonald B, Hülür G. Well-being and loneliness in Swiss older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: the role of social relationships. *Gerontologist* 2021; 61(2): 240–50.
- 76 Savage MJ, James R, Magistro D, Donaldson J, Healy LC, Nevill M, et al. Mental health and movement behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic in UK university students: prospective cohort study. Ment Health Phys Act 2020; 19: 100357
- 77 Ohliger E, Umpierrez E, Buehler L, Ohliger AW, Magister S, Vallier H, et al. Mental health of orthopaedic trauma patients during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. *Int Orthop* 2020; 44(10): 1921–5.
- 78 Copeland WE, McGinnis E, Bai Y, Adams Z, Nardone H, Devadanam V, et al. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on college student mental health and wellness. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2021; 60(1): 134–41.e2.
- 79 Dragun R, Veček NN, Marendić M, Pribisalić A, Đivić G, Cena H, et al. Have lifestyle habits and psychological well-being changed among adolescents and medical students due to COVID-19 lockdown in Croatia? *Nutrients* 2020: 13(1): 97.
- 80 Castellini G, Cassioli E, Rossi E, Innocenti M, Gironi V, Sanfilippo G, et al. The impact of COVID-19 epidemic on eating disorders: a longitudinal observation of pre versus post psychopathological features in a sample of patients with eating disorders and a group of healthy controls. *Int J Eat Disord* 2020; 53(11): 1855–62.
- 81 Giordano A, Siciliano M, De Micco R, Sant'Elia V, Russo A, Tedeschi G, et al. Correlates of psychological distress in epileptic patients during the COVID-19 outbreak. *Epilepsy Behav* 2020; 115: 107632.
- 82 Gomez S, Anderson BJ, Yu H, Gutsche J, Jablonski J, Martin N, et al. Benchmarking critical care well-being: before and after the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Crit Care Explor 2020; 2(10): e0233.
- 83 Breslau J, Finucane ML, Locker AR, Baird M, Roth E, Collins RL. A longitudinal study of psychological distress in the United States before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Prev Med* 2021; 143: 106362.
- 84 Penner F, Ortiz JH, Sharp C. Change in youth mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic in a majority Hispanic/Latinx US sample. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2021; 60(4): 513–23.
- 85 Rutherford BR, Choi CJ, Chrisanthopolous M, Salzman C, Zhu C, Montes-Garcia C, et al. The COVID-19 pandemic as a traumatic stressor: mental health responses of older adults with chronic PTSD. Am J Geriatr Psychiatry 2021; 29(2): 105–14.
- 86 Benham G. Stress and sleep in college students prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stress Health 2021; 37(3): 504–15.
- 87 Kivi M, Hansson I, Bjälkebring P. Up and about: older adults' wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic in a Swedish longitudinal study. *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci* 2021; **76**(2): e4–9.
- 88 Schäfer SK, Sopp MR, Schanz CG, Staginnus M, Göritz AS, Michael T. Impact of COVID-19 on public mental health and the buffering effect of a sense of coherence. *Psychother Psychosom* 2020; 89(6): 386–92.
- 89 van Tilburg TG, Steinmetz S, Stolte E, van der Roest H, de Vries DH. Loneliness and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic: a study among Dutch older adults. J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Social Sci 2021; 76(7): e249–55.
- 90 van Gorp M, Maurice-Stam H, Teunissen LC, van de Peppel-van der Meer W, Huussen M, Schouten-van Meeteren AYN, et al. No increase in psychosocial stress of Dutch children with cancer and their caregivers during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pediatr Blood Cancer 2021; 68(2): e28827
- 91 Dragovic M, Pascu V, Hall T, Ingram J, Waters F. Emergency department mental health presentations before and during the COVID-19 outbreak in Western Australia. *Australas Psychiatry* 2020; **28**(6): 627–31.
- 92 Stein HC, Giordano B, Del Giudice R, Basi C, Gambini O, D'Agostino A. Pre/post comparison study of emergency mental health visits during the COVID-19 lockdown in Lombardy, Italy. *Psychiatry Clin Neurosci* 2020; 74: 605–7.
- 93 Capuzzi E, Di Brita C, Caldiroli A, Colmegna F, Nava R, Buoli M, et al. Psychiatric emergency care during coronavirus 2019 (COVID 19) pandemic lockdown: results from a department of mental health and addiction of Northern Italy. *Psychiatry Res* 2020; 293: 113463.
- 94 Pignon B, Gourevitch R, Tebeka S, Dubertret C, Cardot H, Dauriac-Le Masson V, et al. Dramatic reduction of psychiatric emergency consultations during lock-down linked to COVID-19 in Paris and suburbs. *Psychiatry Clin Neurosci* 2020; 74: 557–9.

- 95 Leff RA, Setzer E, Cicero MX, Auerbach M. Changes in pediatric emergency department visits for mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic: a crosssectional study. Clin Child Psychol Psychiatry 2021; 26(1): 33–8.
- 96 Abbas MJ, Kronenberg G, McBride M, Chari D, Alam F, Mukaetova-Ladinska E, et al. The early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on acute care mental health services. *Psychiatr Serv* 2021; **72**(3): 242–6.
- 97 Grimshaw B, Chaudhuri E. Mental-health-related admissions to the acute medical unit during COVID-19. Clin Med (Lond) 2021; 21(1): e77–9.
- 98 Chen S, She R, Qin P, Kershenbaum A, Fernandez-Egea E, Nelder JR, et al. The medium-term impact of COVID-19 lockdown on referrals to secondary care mental health services: a controlled interrupted time series study. Front Psychiatry 2020; 11: 585915.
- 99 Varani S, Ostan R, Franchini L, Ercolani G, Pannuti R, Biasco G, et al. Caring advanced cancer patients at home during COVID-19 outbreak: burnout and psychological morbidity among palliative care professionals in Italy. J Pain Symptom Manage 2021; 61(2): e4–12.
- 100 Joyce LR, Richardson SK, McCombie A, Hamilton GJ, Ardagh MW. Mental health presentations to Christchurch Hospital emergency department during COVID-19 lockdown. *Emerg Med Australas* 2021; 33(2): 324–30.
- 101 Wang J, Smailes E, Sareen J, Fick GH, Schmitz N, Patten SB. The prevalence of mental disorders in the working population over the period of global economic crisis. *Can J Psychiatry* 2010; 55(9): 598–605.
- 102 Lee S, Guo WJ, Tsang A, Mak AD, Wu J, Ng KL, et al. Evidence for the 2008 economic crisis exacerbating depression in Hong Kong. J Affect Disord 2010: 126(1–2): 125–33.
- 103 Riumallo-Herl C, Basu S, Stuckler D, Courtin E, Avendano M. Job loss, wealth and depression during the Great Recession in the USA and Europe. Int J Epidemiol 2014; 43(5): 1508–17.
- 104 Tapia Granados JA, Christine PJ, Ionides EL, Carnethon MR, Diez Roux AV, Kiefe CI, et al. Cardiovascular risk factors, depression, and alcohol consumption during joblessness and during recessions among young adults in CARDIA. Am J Epidemiol 2018; 187(11): 2339–45.
- 105 Cagney KA, Browning CR, Iveniuk J, English N. The onset of depression during the great recession: foreclosure and older adult mental health. Am J Public Health 2014; 104(3): 498–505.
- 106 Chaves C, Castellanos T, Abrams M, Vazquez C. The impact of economic recessions on depression and individual and social well-being: the case of Spain (2006–2013). Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol 2018; 53(9): 977–86.
- 107 Sargent-Cox K, Butterworth P, Anstey KJ. The global financial crisis and psychological health in a sample of Australian older adults: a longitudinal study. Soc Sci Med 2011; 73(7): 1105–12.
- 108 Mehta K, Kramer H, Durazo-Arvizu R, Cao G, Tong L, Rao M. Depression in the US population during the time periods surrounding the great recession. J Clin Psychiatry 2015; 76(4): e499–504.
- 109 Pruchno R, Heid AR, Wilson-Genderson M. The great recession, life events, and mental health of older adults. Int J Aging Hum Dev 2017; 84(3): 294–312.
- 110 Wang H, Wang C, Halliday TJ. Health and health inequality during the great recession: evidence from the PSID. Econ Hum Biol 2018; 29: 17–30.
- 111 Dagher RK, Chen J, Thomas SB. Gender differences in mental health outcomes before, during, and after the great recession. PLoS One 2015; 10(5): e0124103.
- 112 Shi Z, Taylor AW, Goldney R, Winefield H, Gill TK, Tuckerman J, et al. The use of a surveillance system to measure changes in mental health in Australian adults during the global financial crisis. Int J Public Health 2011; 56(4): 367–72.
- 113 McInerney M, Mellor JM, Nicholas LH. Recession depression: mental health effects of the 2008 stock market crash. J Health Econ 2013; 32(6): 1090–104.
- 114 Forbes MK, Krueger RF. The great recession and mental health in the United States. Clin Psychol Sci 2019; 7(5): 900–13.
- 115 Reibling N, Beckfield J, Huijts T, Schmidt-Catran A, Thomson KH, Wendt C. Depressed during the depression: has the economic crisis affected mental health inequalities in Europe? Findings from the European social survey (2014) special module on the determinants of health. Eur J Public Health 2017: 27(suppl 1): 47–54.
- 116 Merzagora I, Mugellini G, Amadasi A, Travaini G. Suicide risk and the economic crisis: an exploratory analysis of the case of Milan. PLoS One 2016; 11(12): e0166244.
- 117 De Vogli R, Vieno A, Lenzi M. Mortality due to mental and behavioral disorders associated with the great recession (2008–10) in Italy: a time trend analysis. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(3): 419–21.
- 118 Zilidis C, Papagiannis D, Rachiotis G. Regional variation and socio-economic determinants of suicide mortality in Greece before and during economic crisis. Appl Sci (Basel) 2020; 10(17): 6117.
- 119 Madianos MG, Alexiou T, Patelakis A, Economou M. Suicide, unemployment and other socioeconomic factors: evidence from the economic crisis in Greece. Eur J Psychiatry 2014; 28(1): 39–49.

- 120 Vlachadis N, Vlachadi M, Iliodromiti Z, Kornarou E, Vrachnis N. Greece's economic crisis and suicide rates: overview and outlook. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2014; 68: 1204–5.
- 121 Branas CC, Kastanaki AE, Michalodimitrakis M, Tzougas J, Kranioti EF, Theodorakis PN, et al. The impact of economic austerity and prosperity events on suicide in Greece: a 30-year interrupted time-series analysis. BMJ Open 2015; 5(1): e005619.
- 122 Papaslanis T, Kontaxakis V, Christodoulou C, Konstantakopoulos G, Kontaxaki MI, Papadimitriou GN. Suicide in Greece 1992–2012: a time-series analysis. Int J Soc Psychiatry 2016; 62(5): 471–6.
- 123 Kontaxakis V, Papaslanis T, Havaki-Kontaxaki B, Tsouvelas G, Giotakos O, Papadimitriou G. Suicide in Greece: 2001–2011. Psychiatriki 2013; 24(3): 170–4.
- 124 Lopez Bernal JA, Gasparrini A, Artundo CM, McKee M. The effect of the late 2000s financial crisis on suicides in Spain: an interrupted time-series analysis. *Eur J Public Health* 2013; 23(5): 732–6.
- 125 Córdoba-Doña JA, San Sebastián M, Escolar-Pujolar A, Martínez-Faure JE, Gustafsson PE. Economic crisis and suicidal behaviour: the role of unemployment, sex and age in Andalusia, southern Spain. Int J Equity Health 2014; 13: 55.
- 126 Reeves A, McKee M, Stuckler D. Economic suicides in the great recession in Europe and North America. Br J Psychiatry 2014; 205(3): 246–7.
- 127 Stuckler D, Basu S, Suhrcke M, Coutts A, McKee M. Effects of the 2008 recession on health: a first look at European data. *Lancet* 2011; 378: 124–5.
- 128 Laanani M, Ghosn W, Jougla E, Rey G. Impact of unemployment variations on suicide mortality in Western European countries (2000–2010). J Epidemiol Community Health 2015; 69(2): 103–9.
- 129 Saurina C, Bragulat B, Saez M, López-Casasnovas G. A conditional model for estimating the increase in suicides associated with the 2008–2010 economic recession in England. J Epidemiol Community Health 2013; 67(9): 779–87.
- 130 Barr B, Taylor-Robinson D, Scott-Samuel A, McKee M, Stuckler D. Suicides associated with the 2008–10 economic recession in England: time trend analysis. BMJ 2012; 345: e5142.
- 131 Agrrawal P, Waggle D, Sandweiss DH. Suicides as a response to adverse market sentiment (1980–2016). PLoS One 2017; 12(11): e0186913.
- 132 Kerr WC, Kaplan MS, Huguet N, Caetano R, Giesbrecht N, McFarland BH. Economic recession, alcohol, and suicide rates: comparative effects of poverty, foreclosure, and job loss. Am J Prev Med 2017; 52(4): 469–75.
- 133 Carriere DE, Marshall MI, Binkley JK. Response to economic shock: the impact of recession on rural-urban suicides in the United States. J Rural Health 2019; 35(2): 253–61
- 134 Chan CH, Caine ED, You S, Fu KW, Chang SS, Yip PS. Suicide rates among working-age adults in South Korea before and after the 2008 economic crisis. J Epidemiol Community Health 2014; 68(3): 246–52.
- 135 Rachiotis G, Stuckler D, McKee M, Hadjichristodoulou C. What has happened to suicides during the Greek economic crisis? Findings from an ecological study of suicides and their determinants (2003–2012). BMJ Open 2015; 5(3): e007295.
- 136 Alexopoulos EC, Kavalidou K, Messolora F. Suicide mortality patterns in Greek work force before and during the economic crisis. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2019; 16(3): 469.
- 137 Coope C, Gunnell D, Hollingworth W, Hawton K, Kapur N, Fearn V, et al. Suicide and the 2008 economic recession: who is most at risk? Trends in suicide rates in England and Wales 2001–2011. Soc Sci Med 2014; 117(100): 76–85.
- 138 Ruiz-Perez I, Rodriguez-Barranco M, Rojas-Garcia A, Mendoza-Garcia O. Economic crisis and suicides in Spain. Socio-demographic and regional variability. Eur J Health Econ 2017; 18(3): 313–20.
- 139 Corcoran P, Griffin E, Arensman E, Fitzgerald AP, Perry IJ. Impact of the economic recession and subsequent austerity on suicide and self-harm in Ireland: an interrupted time series analysis. Int J Epidemiol 2015; 44(3): 969–77.
- 140 Mattei G, Pistoresi B. Unemployment and suicide in Italy: evidence of a longrun association mitigated by public unemployment spending. Eur J Health Econ 2019: 20(4): 569–77.
- 141 Milner A, Morrell S, LaMontagne AD. Economically inactive, unemployed and employed suicides in Australia by age and sex over a 10-year period: what was the impact of the 2007 economic recession? Int J Epidemiol 2014; 43(5): 1500–7.
- 142 Iglesias-García C, Sáiz PA, Burón P, Sánchez-Lasheras F, Jiménez-Treviño L, Fernández-Artamendi S, et al. Suicide, unemployment, and economic recession in Spain. Rev Psiquiatr Salud Ment 2017; 10(2): 70–7.
- 143 Rivera B, Casal B, Currais L. Crisis, suicide and labour productivity losses in Spain. *Eur J Health Econ* 2017; 18(1): 83–96.
- 144 López-Contreras N, Rodríguez-Sanz M, Novoa A, Borrell C, Medallo Muñiz J, Gotsens M. Socioeconomic inequalities in suicide mortality in Barcelona during the economic crisis (2006–2016): a time trend study. BMJ Open 2019; 9(8): e028267.

- 145 Cylus J, Glymour MM, Avendano M. Do generous unemployment benefit programs reduce suicide rates? A state fixed-effect analysis covering 1968–2008.
 Am J Epidemiol 2014: 180(1): 45–52.
- 146 Fountoulakis KN, Kawohl W, Theodorakis PN, Kerkhof AJ, Navickas A, Höschl C, et al. Relationship of suicide rates to economic variables in Europe: 2000–2011. Br J Psychiatry 2014; 205(6): 486–96.
- 147 Reeves A, McKee M, Gunnell D, Chang SS, Basu S, Barr B, et al. Economic shocks, resilience, and male suicides in the great recession: cross-national analysis of 20 EU countries. Eur J Public Health 2015; 25(3): 404–9
- 148 Chang SS, Stuckler D, Yip P, Gunnell D. Impact of 2008 global economic crisis on suicide: time trend study in 54 countries. BMJ 2013; 347: f5239.
- 149 Mattei G, Pistoresi B, De Vogli R. Impact of the economic crises on suicide in Italy: the moderating role of active labor market programs. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol 2019; 54(2): 201–8.
- 150 Mattei G, Ferrari S, Pingani L, Rigatelli M. Short-term effects of the 2008 great recession on the health of the Italian population: an ecological study. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol 2014; 49(6): 851–8.
- 151 Paraschakis A, Michopoulos I, Efstathiou V, Christodoulou C, Boyokas I, Douzenis A. A comparative analysis of suicides in Greece's main port city area of Piraeus before (2006–2010) and during (2011–2015) the country's severe economic crisis. J Forensic Leg Med 2018; 56: 5–8.
- 152 Basta M, Vgontzas A, Kastanaki A, Michalodimitrakis M, Kanaki K, Koutra K, et al. 'Suicide rates in Crete, Greece during the economic crisis: the effect of age, gender, unemployment and mental health service provision'. BMC Psychiatry 2018; 18: 356.
- 153 Blomqvist S, Burström B, Backhans MC. Increasing health inequalities between women in and out of work–the impact of recession or policy change? A repeated cross-sectional study in Stockholm county, 2006 and 2010. Int J Equity Health 2014; 13: 51.
- 154 Thomson RM, Katikireddi SV. Mental health and the jilted generation: using age-period-cohort analysis to assess differential trends in young people's mental health following the great recession and austerity in England. Soc Sci Med 2018; 214: 133–43.
- 155 Thomson RM, Niedzwiedz CL, Katikireddi SV. Trends in gender and socioeconomic inequalities in mental health following the great recession and subsequent austerity policies: a repeat cross-sectional analysis of the Health Surveys for England. BMJ Open 2018; 8(8): e022924.
- 156 Odone A, Landriscina T, Amerio A, Costa G. The impact of the current economic crisis on mental health in Italy: evidence from two representative national surveys. Eur J Public Health 2018; 28(3): 490–5.
- 157 Urbanos-Garrido RM, Lopez-Valcarcel BG. The influence of the economic crisis on the association between unemployment and health: an empirical analysis for Spain. Eur J Health Econ 2015; 16(2): 175–84.
- 158 Tamayo-Fonseca N, Nolasco A, Moncho J, Barona C, Irles M, Más R, et al. Contribution of the economic crisis to the risk increase of poor mental health in a region of Spain. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2018; 15(11): 2517.
- 159 Katikireddi SV, Niedzwiedz CL, Popham F. Trends in population mental health before and after the 2008 recession: a repeat cross-sectional analysis of the 1991–2010 health surveys of England. BMJ Open 2012; 2(5): e001790.
- 160 Parker PD, Jerrim J, Anders J. What effect did the global financial crisis have upon youth wellbeing? Evidence from four Australian cohorts. *Dev Psychol* 2016; 52(4): 640–51.
- 161 Gonza G, Burger A. Subjective well-being during the 2008 economic crisis: identification of mediating and moderating factors. J Happiness Stud 2017; 18: 1763–97.
- 162 Gudmundsdottir DG. The impact of economic crisis on happiness. Soc Indic Res 2013; 110(3): 1083–101.
- 163 Sifaki-Pistolla D, Chatzea VE, Melidoniotis E, Mechili EA. Distress and burnout in young medical researchers before and during the Greek austerity measures: forerunner of a greater crisis? Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol 2018: 53(7): 727–35.
- 164 Golberstein E, Gonzales G, Meara E. How do economic downturns affect the mental health of children? Evidence from the national health interview survey. Health Econ 2019; 28(8): 955–70.
- 165 Houdmont J, Kerr R, Addley K. Psychosocial factors and economic recession: the Stormont study. Occup Med (Lond) 2012; 62(2): 98–104.
- 166 Hauksdóttir A, McClure C, Jonsson SH, Olafsson O, Valdimarsdóttir UA. Increased stress among women following an economic collapse–a prospective cohort study. Am J Epidemiol 2013; 177(9): 979–88.
- 167 Bartoll X, Palència L, Malmusi D, Suhrcke M, Borrell C. The evolution of mental health in Spain during the economic crisis. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(3): 415–8.

- 168 Malard L, Chastang JF, Niedhammer I. Changes in major depressive and generalized anxiety disorders in the national French working population between 2006 and 2010. J Affect Disord 2015: 178: 52–9.
- 169 Rajmil L, Medina-Bustos A, Fernandez de Sanmamed MJ, Mompart-Penina A. Impact of the economic crisis on children's health in Catalonia: a before-after approach. BMJ Open 2013; 3(8): e003286.
- 170 Lindström M, Giordano GN. The 2008 financial crisis: changes in social capital and its association with psychological wellbeing in the United Kingdom - a panel study. Soc Sci Med 2016; 153: 71–80.
- 171 Ruiz-Pérez I, Bermúdez-Tamayo C, Rodríguez-Barranco M. Socio-economic factors linked with mental health during the recession: a multilevel analysis. Int J Equity Health 2017; 16(1): 45.
- 172 Kozman D, Graziul C, Gibbons R, Alexander GC. Association between unemployment rates and prescription drug utilization in the United States, 2007–2010. BMC Health Serv Res 2012; 12: 435.
- 173 Bubonya M, Cobb-Clark DA, Christensen D, Johnson SE, Zubrick SR. The great recession and children's mental health in Australia. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2019; 16(4): 537.
- 174 Boyce CJ, Delaney L, Wood AM. The great recession and subjective well-being: how did the life satisfaction of people living in the United Kingdom change following the financial crisis? PLoS One 2018; 13(8): e0201215.
- 175 Barrett A, O'Sullivan V. The wealth, health and well-being of Ireland's older people before and during the economic crisis. Appl Econ Lett 2014; 21(10): 675–8.
- 176 Sarracino F, Piekalkiewicz M. The role of income and social capital for Europeans' well-being during the 2008 economic crisis. J Happiness Stud 2021: 22(4): 1583–610.
- 177 Rathmann K, Pförtner TK, Hurrelmann K, Osorio AM, Bosakova L, Elgar FJ, et al. The great recession, youth unemployment and inequalities in psychological health complaints in adolescents: a multilevel study in 31 countries. *Int J Public Health* 2016; 61(7): 809–19.
- 178 Wang Y, Fattore G. The impact of the great economic crisis on mental health care in Italy. Eur J Health Econ 2020; 21(8): 1259–72.
- 179 Bonnie Lee C, Liao CM, Lin CM. The impacts of the global financial crisis on hospitalizations due to depressive illnesses in Taiwan: a prospective nationwide population-based study. J Affect Disord 2017; 221: 65–71.
- 180 Gili M, Roca M, Basu S, McKee M, Stuckler D. The mental health risks of economic crisis in Spain: evidence from primary care centres, 2006 and 2010. Eur J Public Health 2013; 23(1): 103–8.
- 181 Kendrick T, Stuart B, Newell C, Geraghty AW, Moore M. Changes in rates of recorded depression in English primary care 2003–2013: time trend analyses

- of effects of the economic recession, and the GP contract quality outcomes framework (QOF). *J Affect Disord* 2015; **180**: 68–78.
- 182 Medel-Herrero A, Gomez-Beneyto M. The impact of the 2008 economic crisis on the increasing number of young psychiatric inpatients. Rev Psiquiatr Salud Ment 2019: 12(1): 28–36.
- 183 Hawton K, Bergen H, Geulayov G, Waters K, Ness J, Cooper J, et al. Impact of the recent recession on self-harm: Longitudinal ecological and patient-level investigation from the multicentre study of self-harm in England. J Affect Disord 2016: 191: 132–8.
- 184 Chen J, Dagher R. Gender and race/ethnicity differences in mental health care use before and during the great recession. J Behav Health Serv Res 2016: 43(2): 187–99.
- 185 Lai DWL. Impact of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) on depressive symptoms of older Chinese in Hong Kong. Hallym Int J Aging 2008; 10(2):77–84.
- 186 Cheung Y, Chau P, Yip PS. A revisit on older adults suicides and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic in Hong Kong. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry 2008; 23(12): 1231–8.
- 187 Yu HYR, Ho SC, So KFE, Lo YL. Short communication: the psychological burden experienced by Hong Kong midlife women during the SARS epidemic. Stress Health 2005: 21(3): 177–84.
- 188 Moreno C, Wykes T, Galderisi S, Nordentoft M, Crossley N, Jones N, et al. How mental health care should change as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2020; 7(9): 813–24.
- 189 Yao H, Chen JH, Xu YF. Patients with mental health disorders in the COVID-19 epidemic. Lancet Psychiatry 2020; 7(4): e21.
- 190 Martin-Carrasco M, Evans-Lacko S, Dom G, Christodoulou NG, Samochowiec J, Gonzalez-Fraile E, et al. EPA guidance on mental health and economic crises in Europe. Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci 2016; 266(2): 89–124.
- 191 Ten Have M, Tuithof M, Van Dorsselaer S, De Beurs D, Jeronimus B, De Jonge P, et al. The bidirectional relationship between debts and common mental disorders: results of a longitudinal population-based study. Adm Policy Ment Health 2021; 48(5): 810–20.
- 192 Franklin JC, Ribeiro JD, Fox KR, Bentley KH, Kleiman EM, Huang X, et al. Risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behaviors: a meta-analysis of 50 years of research. Psychol Bull 2017; 143(2): 187–232.
- 193 Else H. How a torrent of COVID science changed research publishing in seven charts. Nature 2020; 588(7839): 553.





