

P01-579

UTILISATION OF PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION AND COUNSELING IN SENIOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

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Introduction: Unemployment is associated with various psychosocial strain factors. Previous studies show correlations between unemployment and impaired mental health. Present examinations on this set of problems mainly focused on younger unemployed, while specific psychosocial strains of senior unemployed persons were scarcely presented.

Objectives: Investigation on psychiatric services for senior long term unemployed persons

Aims: To examine the exigency and feasibility of specific mental health interventions for senior long term unemployed persons

Methods: Senior long term unemployed participants in a vocational reintegration program underwent psychiatric examination and counseling. Placement officers recommended participation by choice to their clients and diagnostic examinations including clinical interviews and questionnaires were performed. Clients then received either direct treatment by the project staff, e.g. focal short-term therapy, or were placed in appropriate treatments. Numbers of clients who consented and who refused participation, dropout rates, psychiatric diagnoses and treatment placements were recorded.

Results: Attendance in the program was recommended to 161 clients to the date of this report. 136 clients consented with participation and 90 were included into examination. 21% discontinued participation in the course of examination. Of the unemployed persons surveyed, 96% received a psychiatric diagnosis and 80% multiple psychiatric diagnoses. 7% were placed to inpatient-treatment and 31% to ambulatory treatment.

Conclusion: Psychiatric services were highly requested and senior unemployed persons are specifically affected by mental disorders that presumably interfere with vocational reintegration. According to this, vocational reintegration programs should be flanked by psychiatric services to give consideration to the specific psychosocial strains of unemployed persons.