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THE BURDEN OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS TO GENERAL POPULATION'S MENTAL HEALTH IN A SUBURBAN AREA IN GREECE

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Introduction

It is clear that the global community is facing a high intensity economic crisis that has spread rapidly to developed countries all around the world, with dramatic effects. It has a severe impact not only on people's health but also to their mental well being and psychology.

Objectives

The objective of this study was to determine if there is a statistically significant increase in mental disorders due to the economic crisis and furthermore if there is a correlation with gender, type of job and income.

Δims

The main purpose of our research is to clarify whether the former condition and beliefs of each individual are related to how he witnesses and is affected from the crisis and if each individual considers himself responsible for what is happening.

Methods

Fifty seven (57) people, living in a suburban area, participated in the research by filling out a questionnaire of thirty (30) questions. Furtheromore, a brief semi structured interview was performed with each of the participants.

Results

Our research depicted that the psychological impact of the economic crisis mainly affected men (65%). The percentage of those presenting with a psychological disorder was more than double amongst unemployed (34%), compared to those having a steady income (16%).

Conclusions

Significant relevance appears to exist between the prevalence rates of depression and demographic factors such as gender, marital status as well as economic variables such as social class, income and employment.