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Title: PSYCHO-BEHAVIOURAL RESPONSE OF RESIDENTS IN AL-NASR CAMP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

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Background: COVID-19 pandemic, declared on March 11, 2020, constitute an extraordinary health, social and economic global challenge. The impact on people's mental health is expected to be high. This paper sought to assess mental health in AL-Nasr camp(Amman, Jordan). This demographic was selected due to being under represented in general research surveys, while also suffering from low income and overcrowding, and so mental parameters were expected to be high, and even more so with the rise of the pandemic in these areas.

Objective: This study aims to measure the prevalence of depression, anxiety and stress levels in AlNaser camp during COVID19 pandemic.

Method: This cross-sectional study included 372 participants of camp's residents. Data was collected using an interviewer questionnaire that captured general demographic parameters, and DASS scale (Depression Anxiety Stress Scales-21) which assess depression, anxiety and stress levels. Data were then analyzed using SPSS version 25.

Results: A high percentage of respondents reported Extremely Severe levels of Depression (74.3%) according to DASS, (70%, 69%) reported Extremely Severe Anxiety, Stress levels, respectively. Around 32% of participants had COVID19 last 2 years, data showed no significant association between COVID diagnoses and DASS scores. Unlike expected, there was no significance association between income and levels of Depression, Anxiety, and Stress, even though the level of participants' monthly income was low in 67% of participants (less than 300JD). However, the data showed statistical significance in depression and anxiety levels in participants who have persisting COVID symptoms after the initial 2 weeks. Most of residents weren't afraid from eating outside, contacting with people were abroad or with flue symptoms. However, most of them wear masks, wash hands frequently, cover when sneeze and stay home if sick.

Conclusion: Overcrowded camps such as AlNaser camp suffer from elevated levels of Depression, Anxiety, and Stress. And would benefit greatly from counseling programs and raising awareness about mental illness.

Keywords: COVID 19, DASS, Depression, Stress, Anxiety