

ECHO - PERCEPTIONS AND IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AMONG DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS LIVING IN SHELTERS

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INTRODUCTION

- Scarc data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and healthcare access, and implementation of preventive measures in disadvantaged populations, including homeless people
- **AIM** : To investigate the health status, perceptions and practices towards the COVID-19 pandemic and related policy measures in homeless populations

Methodology

- **Study design**

Repeated cross-sectionnal multicentric mixed-methods study

- **Period:** Spring 2020 (1st lockdown) and Spring 2021

- **Sampling frame**

2020: 18 shelters in Paris, Lyon and Strasbourg areas

2021: 23 shelters and day centers

- **Inclusion criteria**

≥ 18 yrs

No cognitive disorders

- Ethical Research Committee of the University of Paris

Data collection

- **Epidemiologic investigation**

 - Online or paper questionnaire

 - Face-to-face administration by trained interviewers

 - Available telephone interpreters

- **Qualitative interviews**

 - Semi-structured interviews

 - Interview guide

 - Interviews conducted by researchers in Paris and Lyon

Explanatory Sequential Mixed Methods



Study population - 1st round (2020) n=535

	n (%)
Sex	
Men	403 (75,3)
Women	132 (24,7)
Age groups	
18-24 yrs	114 (21,4)
25-34 yrs	213 (39,9)
35-49 yrs	131 (24,5)
≥50 yrs	76 (14,2)
NAs	1 (0,2)
Age (yrs) median (sd)	31 (12,1)
Partner in the centre	
No	439 (86,3)
Yes	70 (13,8)
NAs	26 (4,9)
Children in the centre	
No	396 (79,4)
Yes	103 (20,6)
NAs	36 (6,7)

	n (%)
Country of birth	
France	57 (10,7)
Other	475 (89,3)
NAs	3 (0,6)
Country of origin	
Europe	116 (21,9)
Africa	277 (52,3)
Eastern Mediterranean	125 (23,6)
Other	12 (2,3)
NAs	5 (0,9)
Administrative status	
No permit	349 (74,1)
Permit	122 (25,9)
NAs	7 (1,5)
Employment status	
Daily job	71 (13,8)
Occasional job	67 (13,0)
No job	376 (73,2)
NAs	21 (3,9)

Results – Prevention & addictions

- ++ knowledge of COVID-19 symptoms
- ++ adherence to preventive and management measures (testing, isolation)
- 40% vaccine hesitancy
- High prevalence of substance use: tobacco (43%), alcohol (26%) and other recreational drugs (12%)
- Tobacco use associated with:
 - male (aOR=5.88)
 - No stable partner (aOR=1.89)
 - Born in Europe (aOR=3.82)
 - Time in France 5+ yrs (aOR=2.30)
 - Uninsured (aOR=2.10)
 - Exposed to assault (aOR=2.26)

SCAN ME !



Results - Depression

- 30% symptoms of moderate to severe depression (PHQ-9 \geq 10)
- Depression associated with associated with:
 - being female (aOR: 2.15; CI: 1.26-3.69)
 - being single (aOR: 1.60; CI: 1.01-2.52)
 - having a chronic illness (aOR: 2.32; CI: 1.43-3.78)
 - facing food insecurity (aOR: 2.12; CI: 1.40-3.22)
- Reduced rates of depression in participants over 50 yrs (aOR: 0.28; CI: 0.13-0.64)

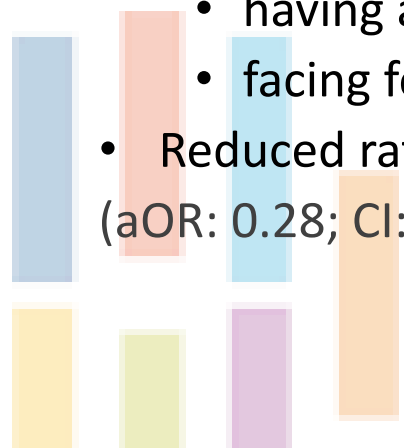
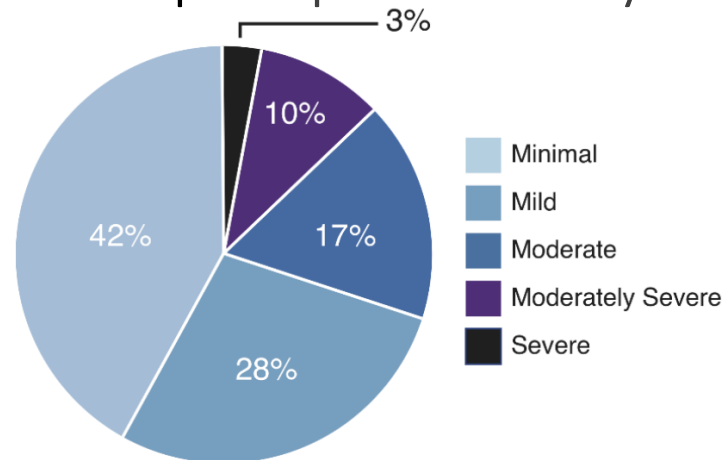


Figure 1. The severity of depression amongst ECHO study participants during the Spring 2020 (n = 527), based on the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9). Depression categories: Minimal = 0-4; Mild = 5-9; Moderate = 10-14; Moderately Severe = 15-19; Severe 20-27.



Results - qualitative

- n=26 semi-structured interviews
- Inductive thematic analysis approach
- Four themes identified:
 1. **Learning of lockdown implementation:** the sudden implementation of lockdown reminded violent or traumatic circumstances in the homeless participants
 2. **Accommodation during lockdown:** conflicting visions on sheltering were expressed
 3. **Influences of media and public communication:** the abundant flow of information impacted the participant's well representation on the pandemic
 4. **Individual impact of lockdown:** the lockdown limited daily life activities as well as perceived health.

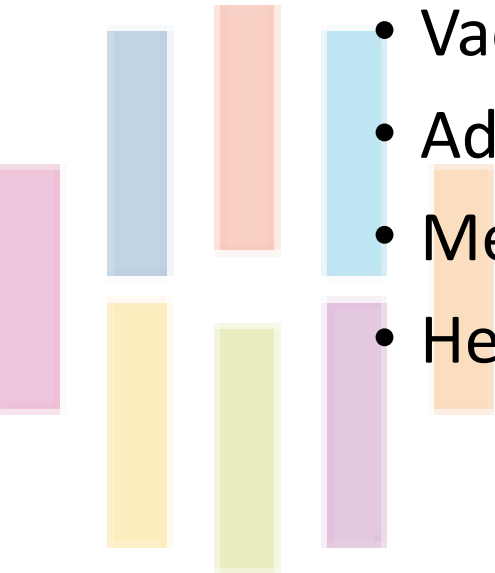
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Perspectives

– ECHO 2nd round (2021) – analyses ongoing (n>500)

- Healthcare access
- Implementation of preventive measures
- Vaccine hesitancy and practices
- Addictions
- Mental health
- Health literacy



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