

#243 Timineri Yaboh

Advisor(s): Carla Boutin-Foster

Workforce disruption and the mental health impact during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Analysis of the COVID-19 Impact Survey

Rationale: COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the national work force, with over 42% either working from home or having left the workforce. Reports have also shown increases in mental health strain and depressive symptoms. Our purpose was to evaluate the association between workforce disruptions and depressive feelings during the pandemic's peak, as well as look at disparities within the workforce. **Methods:** Our cross-sectional study used April 2020 data from the COVID-19 Impact Survey, a public adult population-based survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. Respondents reported (1) whether they had cancelled or postponed work activities in response to the coronavirus, and (2) if they had experienced feelings of depression within the last week. Logistic regression models were used to determine the association between these two main variables, adjusting for age, gender, and race/ethnicity. **Results:** A total of 7,576 participants were included, the majority of which were ages 55 to 64 years old (20.7%), female (55.7%), and white (71.9%). Preliminary models showed that participants who cancelled/postponed their work activities were at higher odds of recently feeling depressed than those who did not (unadjusted OR=1.529, 95% CI=1.400,1.670; adjusted OR=1.288, 95% CI=1.166,1.423). Recent depressive symptoms were associated with being young, female, and white non-Hispanic (all with $p < .05$). Interaction terms in our main model showed race as significantly associated with workforce disruption (overall $p = 0.035$); this interaction did not affect our main association (OR=1.423, 95% CI=1.265,1.601). **Discussion:** Our analyses found that diminished work activity is correlated with recent depressive feelings. The effect of workforce disruption to mental health (as well as other socioeconomic factors) over time is worth further investigation. Race/Ethnicity should also be explored as related to work practices, as it might have important public health implicatio

Additional contributors to this project:

Marco Stillo

Michel Josaphat

Uchechukwu Nwokoma