

#264 Marco Stillo

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**Social Determinants of Health and Isolation; A Baseline Analysis of the SUNY Downstate COVID-19 Cohort Study**

**Purpose:** The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis exacerbated by comorbid risk factors and social determinants of health (SDoH –i.e. racism, sexism, housing instability, employment risks, and poverty). One aspect of the pandemic now being explored is the long-term psychological effects of extended social distancing and isolation. Our goal is to examine how SDoH and comorbidities are associated with isolation. **Methods:** We used baseline data from the COVID Cohort Study, an adult patient-based survey begun within 4 clinics of SUNY Downstate Medical Center in spring 2020. Social isolation was measured by asking patients if they felt a lack of companionship during the pandemic. SDoH included race, gender, the necessity to work, and concern in the next 2 months over (a) stable housing and (b) the ability to pay the bills. Comorbidities include hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and general lung disease. Logistic regression models were run using each of the SDoH as predictors to social isolation, adjusting for age, insurance type, febrile illness in the household, and comorbidities. **Results:** All logistic analyses were conducted on a sample of 1,279 -1,296 participants, composed mainly of woman (74.5%) averaging 55 years old of non-Hispanic black/African-American/Caribbean descent (91.3%). Those concerned with paying their bills had a significantly greater odds of expressing a lack of companionship vs. those who were not concerned (N=1,284; OR=2.518 [95% CI=1.347,4.617]). All analyses also showed a strong association between social isolation and (1) febrile illness in the household (p~0.015) or (2) CVD (p~0.007). **Discussion:** Our findings highlight the impact of financial burden on social isolation, and consequently, on mental health. We hypothesize that follow-up assessments will show that prolonged financial burden and isolation together are strongly associated with deteriorating mental health, and thus necessitate current interventions.