

BASIC RESOURCES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRENGTHS AS PREDICTORS OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS

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Loss of personal resources is expected to have a negative effect on well-being in all ages, however, in very old age, this effect may be exacerbated. Centenarians, who are confronted with accumulated age-related losses, may be at higher risk of experiencing depressive symptoms. This study investigated the link between basic resources (i.e., health, social network) and depressive symptoms and whether it was mediated by psychological strengths (i.e., meaning, optimism) in 119 centenarians and near-centenarians (Age = 99.7 years). Results indicated that meaning in life fully mediated the link between health and depressive symptoms, and the link between social network size and depressive symptoms. Similarly, optimism mediated the link between network and depression, but no mediation effect was found when considering health as basic resource. In sum, basic resources are only indirectly associated to depressive feelings, with psychological strengths playing an important intervening role in very old age.

CENTENARIANS' EXPERIENCE OF THE COVID PANDEMIC IN SWITZERLAND

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Being considered as individuals with elevated risk of severe health reactions to the COVID19 infections, governments around the world have put in place wide-ranging measures to protect very old individuals from the virus. In the present study, we investigated centenarians' experience of the COVID19 pandemic, to reach a better understanding of their vulnerability and resilience. As part of the SWISS100 study, we conducted telephone interviews with 30 centenarians and 40 family members. While almost all centenarians felt not, qualitative data suggested the existence of two groups: One included centenarians lived rather withdrawn and isolated before the crisis and therefore did not experience major changes. The other group included centenarians who suffered substantially from no longer being able to see family and friends and missed valued activities. Family members reported challenges, including centenarians' decline in mental and physical health. Findings highlight the importance of different vulnerability profiles and lock-down side effects.

Session 1420 (Symposium)

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ADULT DAY SERVICES

Chair: Katherine Marx

Co-Chair: Laura Gitlin

Discussant: Tina Sadarangani

Adult day service (ADS) centers serve an important role in care provision for people living with dementia (PLWD). These programs provide socialization, activities, and access to many therapies for PLWD. Additionally, they offer respite to family caregivers so they can work, run errands, and recharge. In March 2020, like much of the nation, ADS sites across the nation were shut down. This left many PLWD and their caregivers without access to the services they depended on to manage day to day care. It also left many sites without a revenue source to pay employees and maintain buildings. Almost a year later, many states have still not reopened ADS and sites that have reopened have done so with a lower census, increased costs, and the lingering fear of a second closure. Much focus has been on the care of older adults in nursing homes or other residential long-term care settings but the challenges of ADS and the people they serve has been mostly ignored. The purpose of this symposium is to highlight the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on ADS centers. Holly Dabelko-Schoeny will present data gathered from ADS Centers across Ohio. Lauren Parker, will then present data from ADS sites across the United States that examines the effect of COVID-19 on closures and programming during the closures. Katherine Marx will present the effect of ADS closures on family caregivers of persons living with dementia. Finally, Joseph Gaugler will explore this from a policy perspective and provide recommendations moving forward.

CARING FOR A FAMILY MEMBER LIVING WITH DEMENTIA WHEN ADULT DAY SERVICES CLOSE

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Adult Day Service (ADS) centers play an important role in community services that help families keep a person living with dementia (PLWD) at home. We interviewed 33 family caregivers about their experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the shutdown of the ADS centers where the PLWD attends. All 33 (100%) reported that the ADS center was shut for a period of time (range: 2 weeks – remain closed). Caregivers reported a decline in their physical health (33%,n=11) and mental health (52%,n=17) and an increase in feelings of loneliness (48%,n=16). For the PLWD, the caregivers noted, a decline in physical (48%,n=16) and mental (55%,n=18) health and an increase in behaviors (39%,n=13). The shutdown of most ADS centers across the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic has had implications not only for the ADS sites but for the families that entrust them with the care for a family member.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ADULT DAY SERVICES' CLOSURES AND PROGRAMMING

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