

Background:

An OECD benchmark (2020) shows that Germany has, in effect, an above-average healthcare infrastructure to face COVID-19. Nevertheless, at the beginning of the pandemic, there were restrictions and uncertainties in the use of health-related services. The following analysis examines the subjective perception of respondents with their healthcare provision whether there were sociodemographic differences.

Methods:

Data from an online cross-sectional survey conducted between 29 April and 8 May 2020 were used (N = 1,570; 18-74 years). Bivariate test methods were used for analysis, stratified by age group, subjective social status (SSS) and chronic illness. The subjective perception was assessed via subjects' subjectively perceived worries, fears and difficulties of not receiving an adequate healthcare provision during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, an index was constructed with a range of values from 3 to 12 (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.886$). A higher index implies a poorer perception of the healthcare provision.

Results:

Compared to the groups 50-59-year-olds and 60 years and older the 18-29-year-olds (MRank 431.1) had a significantly ($p < 0.05$) poorer perception of their healthcare provision during COVID-19. In addition, probands with low SSS were found to have a significantly ($p < 0.05$) worse perception (MRank 423.0) than subjects with medium SSS (MRank 374.1). Chronically ill subjects suffered significantly poorer perception (MRank 406.1; $p < 0.05$) compared to healthy subjects (MRank 366.0).

Conclusions:

Vulnerable groups with poorer perceptions of their health care provision during COVID-19 can be identified. More investigation is needed to identify subjective or COVID-19 related predictors that cause this subjective perception.

Reference

OECD (2020). Beyond Containment: Health systems responses to COVID-19 in the OECD.

Available: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=119_119689-ud5comtf84&title=Beyond_Containment:Health_systems_responses_to_COVID-19_in_the_OECD (Accessed: 14.04.2021)

Key messages:

- It was found that respondents perceived their subjective healthcare provision during COVID-19 differently, according to sociodemographic stratification.
- Especially younger, chronically ill, and socioeconomically deprived respondents experienced a poorer perception of their healthcare provision during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subjectively perceived healthcare provision during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic

Niels Hannemann

N Hannemann¹, NA Götz¹, L Schmidt¹, B Babitsch¹

¹New Public Health, Osnabrück University, Osnabrück, Germany
Contact: niels.hannemann@uni-osnabrueck.de