Review of: "Identifying Psychological Distress Patterns during the COVID-19 Pandemic using an Intersectional Lens"

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I'd want to commend the study's authors, especially for emphasizing such essential determinants for mental health. Another consideration that I would like to commend the authors on is the time frame. Many works do not reflect that the pandemic was a period of constant change and that there was heterogeneity in behavior and experience depending on the month of study (the authors wonderfully highlighted this in the introduction).

Having said that, I want to underline that the introduction effectively and objectively addresses the key risk factors in mental health and the purpose for the study. In terms of methodology, I believe it would have been necessary to describe the instruments utilized and why more than one was used.

The Conditional Inference tree method used is appropriate for the study area and ensures a certain level of robustness in data analysis, but it could be supplemented with other types of analyses, such as correlations and sociodemographic variables, that investigate the various factors analyzed in the three scales (e.g., if they are different items). The data were provided in prose in an objective and understandable manner; nevertheless, I believe that the graphical presentation may confuse laypeople in the region and that the bar graphs may have been presented separately.

Regardless of these details, I believe that the study addresses essential topics and gives a relevant time range, and that even with the passage of time between the data collection and publishing, this study can be useful in developing support plans for these affected people. It is therefore important to monitor these groups at risk.