

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It seems to me that the focus on the life course and, above all, the use of a novel and clear methodology that allows us to analyse intersectionality give great value to this work. I find it well written, clear and very timely.

I would like to make some observations and proposals for the authors to consider.

In the abstract:

- In the objective I consider it more appropriate to speak of inequality rather than difference. The term inequality appears in the key words, but it is not mentioned throughout the abstract.

- one would expect to find some of the main results obtained, which would make it possible to see whether there is an inequality impact or not.

Methods:

- Sample: it would be useful to have more information (e.g.: sampling method, source of information to obtain the sample,...) or provide the bibliographic reference where it is explained. Also the total sample size initially foreseen, in order to assess possible selection biases when knowing the sample size of the study.

- The bibliographic citation of the measures used is missing: GAD-7, CES-D and Impact to Event Scale-Revised.

- The final sample size should be stated, once the people who did not answer any of the items have been discarded. It would be advisable to have a profile of the group in order to know whether there may be a selection bias, which is important for a better interpretation of the results finally obtained.

- Age groups: the group of 65 and over is very large, it would be useful to know the differentiated results in the groups 65-74 and 75 and over.

- The variables community attachment, political party affiliation and marital status are not explained.

- It would have been nice to have a control variable referring to health (e.g. perceived health status), as patterns of inequality are known to vary according to health status.

Results:

- From the description of the sample, a selection bias towards people with a better socio-economic situation, more privileged, seems to be evident.
- A table with descriptive information on the study sample, both for the independent variables and the dependent variables, would be advisable,
- Figures: without reading the text it is not clear what the histograms represent, it would be good to identify it in the title of the figure, so that it is self-explanatory.

Discussion: I think that the usefulness of the work is focused more on better identifying the groups that should be prioritised in the intervention of mental health services, but I think it is also very useful for the definition of health promotion and preventive policies and interventions.