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REVIEW PAPER

ARTYKUŁ PRZEGLĄDOWY

DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A LITERATURE REVIEW

DETERMINANTY ZABURZEŃ ZDROWIA PSYCHICZNEGO W SPOŁECZNOŚCI PODCZAS PANDEMII COVID-19: PRZEGLĄD LITERATURY

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Summary

This study aimed to identify the determinant factors to mental health disorders in the community

during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and

Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guide was used in this study. The article search was conducted

through PubMed, Proquest, Cambridge University Press, and SpringerLink by using the

keywords "Determinant Factors" and "Mental Disorder" or "Mental Health" and COVID-19"

or "Corona Virus Diseases 2019". The articles were selected from the studies published from

2019 to 2021. According to the research results, younger people are three times more likely to

experience mental disorders than older people. Women tend to experience mental disorders

twice as much as men. People who are afraid of being infected are three times more likely to

experience mental health problems than people who are not afraid of being infected. People

with chronic diseases tend to experience health problems twice as much as people who do not

have chronic diseases (OR 1.30-1.84). The results of this literature review can help nurses

determine and control factors that affect mental health in the community during the COVID-19

pandemic and to achieve good outcomes in order to prevent more serious conditions due to

COVID-19.

Keywords: sociodemographic factors, COVID-19, determinants, mental disorder, mental

health

Streszczenie

Niniejsze badanie miało na celu identyfikację czynników determinujących, które powodują

zaburzenia zdrowia psychicznego w społeczności podczas pandemii COVID-19. Wytyczne

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) zostały

wykorzystane w badaniu. Przeprowadzono wyszukiwanie literatury w bazach PubMed,

Proquest, Cambridge University Press i SpringerLink, używając słów kluczowych

"Determinant Factors" i "Mental Disorder" lub "Mental Health" oraz "COVID-19" lub

"Corona Virus Diseases 2019". Do przeglądu wybrano artykuły opublikowane w latach 2019-

2021. Wyniki badań wskazują, że osoby młodsze są trzykrotnie bardziej narażone na zaburzenia

psychiczne niż osoby starsze. Kobiety mają tendencję do doświadczania zaburzeń

psychicznych dwa razy częściej niż mężczyźni. Osoby obawiające się zarażenia są trzykrotnie

bardziej narażone na problemy ze zdrowiem psychicznym niż osoby, które nie obawiają się

zarażenia. Osoby cierpiące na choroby przewlekłe doświadczają problemów zdrowotnych dwa

razy częściej niż osoby, które nie cierpią na choroby przewlekłe (OR 1,30-1,84). Wyniki

niniejszego przeglądu literatury mogą pomóc personelowi pielęgniarskiemu w określeniu i

kontrolowaniu czynników wpływających na zdrowie psychiczne w społeczności podczas

pandemii COVID-19 oraz w uzyskaniu dobrych wyników i zapobieganiu powikłaniom

związanym z COVID-19.

Słowa kluczowe: czynniki socjodemograficzne, COVID-19, determinanty, zaburzenia

psychiczne, zdrowie psychiczne

Introduction

COVID-19 is a new type of virus that first appeared in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China,

and has spread worldwide [1]. This virus attacks the respiratory tract caused by infection with

the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) [2]. The World Health

Organization (WHO) has declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to be a global pandemic

[3]. The impact of COVID-19 is not only on the physical aspect but also the mental aspect of

health (such as stress, depression, and anxiety). During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have

been more prone to stress, depression, and anxiety.

A large proportion of people in various countries reported that their mental health was

adversely affected during the first wave of the pandemic [4]. The prevalence of distress was

reported to have increased during the second wave in autumn and winter 2020, which coincided

with the re-tightening of restrictions to contain the pandemic. The third pandemic wave in early

2021 (February to May) was less severe than the first and second waves in terms of

hospitalizations and deaths [5].

The prevalence of stress, depression, and anxiety as a result of COVID-19 is 29.6%,

31.9%, and 31.9%, respectively [6]. In studies carried out in China in the early stages of the

COVID-19 outbreak, the prevalence of severe psychological disorders was 53.8%, moderate-

severe anxiety symptoms were reported by 28.8% of the population, moderate-severe

depression symptoms were 16.5%, and moderate-severe stress was 8.1% [7]. In Arab studies,

23.6% of the general public reported psychological effects, 28.3% reported depressive

symptoms, 24% reported anxiety, and 22.3% reported stress [8]. In studies conducted in

Indonesia, as many as 63% of the people experienced anxiety, and as many as 66% reported

depression [9]. Early on in the pandemic, research from China, the US, and Europe

demonstrated that mental health deteriorated. For example, the UK had a more significant

increase in psychological discomfort than was experienced in prior upward trends, with the

prevalence rising from 18.9% in 2018-2019 to 27.3% in April 2020, one month into lockdown

[5].

There is still little research to identify the determinants of mental health disorders due

to COVID-19 in Indonesia. Research conducted by Ilpaj et al. [10] indicated that the mental

health impacts of COVID-19 included fear and anxiety, changes in sleeping and eating patterns,

feelings of depression and difficulty concentrating, boredom and stress, drug and alcohol abuse,

and the emergence of psychotic disorders. Other research shows that COVID-19 causes

moderate to severe stress, anxiety, and depression [11].

The impact caused during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to various problems such as

economic instability and unemployment. This can bring about an increase in the incidence of

stress and anxiety. Identifying the determinants of mental health disorders during the pandemic

is very important. These determining factors include age, gender, level of education, experience

related to the SARS virus, and fear of infection [12]. Individuals can maintain mental health by

identifying the determinants of mental health disorders. Efforts can be made by overcoming

anxiety, stress, and depression, always thinking positively, sorting and choosing information

related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and fostering good relationships with family and others.

Aim of the work

This study aims to identify the determinant factors that have been causing mental health

disorders in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Methods

Search strategy

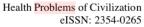
The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guide was used in this study. The research was conducted for the articles by utilizing the PubMed, Proquest, Cambridge University Press, and SpringerLink by using the keywords "Determinant Factors", "Mental Disorder", "Mental Health", "COVID-19" and "Corona Virus Diseases 2019" (Table 1).

Table 1. Search list

Number of articles found in each database	Keywords
PubMed = 92	Determinant factor AND Mental disorders or
Proquest = 443	mental health AND COVID-19 or Corona Virus
Cambridge University = 324	Diseases 2019
SpringerLink = 213	Diseases 2019

Study selection

Selections were chosen from research articles published since 2020. The articles focused on people affected by COVID-19 and by mental health problems, including people that remain at risk of mental health problems and people that have suffered from them. Excluded were articles that discuss the physical aspects of the impact of COVID-19 and articles written in languages other than English (Figure 1).



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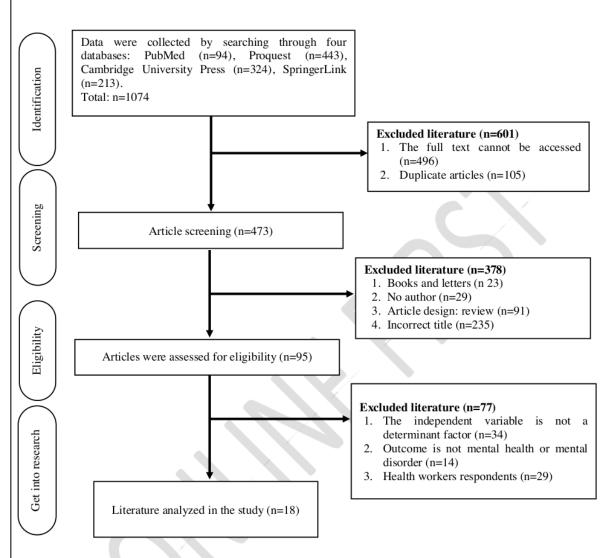


Figure 1. Study flow chart with PRISMA

Data extraction

Information from each study was categorized according to author/year, design/sample/country, primary findings, and study quality.

Literature review results

Study characteristics

The determinant factors that have affected people's mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic can be divided into two aspects, namely, sociodemographic and nonsociodemographic factors. There are 14 studies that state that sociodemographic determinants consist of age, gender, place of residence, education level, and income/economics: Bonsaksen et al. [13]; Guo et al. [14]; Kantor et al. [15]; Makhashvili et al. [16]; Mani et al. [17]; Mazza et al. [18]; Newby et al. [19]; Smith et al. [20]; Stanton et al. [21]; Venugopal et al. [22]; Verma et al. [23]; Cuiyan et al. [24]; Wong et al. [25]; and Zoghby et al. [26]. Ten studies describe non-sociodemographic determinants, namely: fear of infection, history of chronic diseases, working from home, family conflict, and lack of family support (Guo et al. [14], Mazza et al. [18], Newby et al. [19], Stanton et al. [21], Venugopal et al. [22], Wong et al. [25], Zoghby et al. [26], Choi et al. [27], Liu et al. [28], and Winkler et al. [29]) (Table 2).

Table 2. Characteristics of the study based on the determinants

Determinants	Studies	
Sociodemographic factors:	Bonsaksen et al. [13]	
Age	Guo et al. [14]	
Gender	Kantor et al. [15]	
Place of residence	Makhashvili et al. [16]	
Education level	Mani et al. [17]	
Income/economics	Mazza et al. [18]	
	Newby et al. [19]	
	Smith et al. [20]	
	Stanton et al. [21]	
	Venugopal et al. [22]	
	Verma et al. [23]	
	Cuiyan et al. [24]	
	Wong et al. [25]	

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	Zoghby et al. [26]	
	Guo et al. [14]	
	Mazza et al. [18]	
Non-sociodemographic factors:	Newby et al. [19]	
Fear of infection	Stanton et al. [21]	
History of chronic diseases	Venugopal et al. [22]	
Work from home	Wong et al. [25]	
Family conflict	Zoghby et al. [26]	
Lack of family support	Choi et al. [27]	
	Liu et al. [28]	
	Winkler et al. [29]	

Sociodemographic factors that influence mental health

Age, gender, place of residence, education level, and income / economic factors have affected people's mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is argued that age is a determining factor in experiencing mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic (OR=-0.03-2.85) as younger people are three times more likely to experience mental disorders than older people [13,14,17,18,23,25]. Gender is another determinant of mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic (OR=0.60-1.70), with women being twice as likely to experience mental disorders as men [13,17,18,23,25]. A place of residence is also one of the determinants of mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic, on the grounds that people who live in urban areas are more likely to experience mental health problems than people who live in rural areas [15]. Another determining factor is an education level. The studies show that people with higher education are more likely to suffer mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to people with lower education level (OR=0.50-1.26) [15,17,18,23,25]. Finally, people earning higher income are three times more likely to experience mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic than people with lower income (OR=0.70-2.95) [13-15,17,18,23] (Table 3).

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Table 3. Determinant factors that affect mental health

Author, year	Design, sample, country	Main findings	Study quality*
Bonsaksen et al. 2020 [13]	Cross-sectional study 4,527 respondents Norway	Age (OR: 0.85, 95% CI: 0.80-0.90), gender (OR: 1.69, 95% CI: 1.32-2.16), social support (OR: 0.42, 95% CI: 0.43-0.52), economic concern (OR: 2.95, 95% CI: 2.51-3.57)	7/8 (87.5%)
Choi et al. 2020 [27]	Cross-sectional study 500 respondents Hong Kong	Fear of infection (OR: 2.20, 95% CI: 1.63-2.97), not having a mask (OR: 1.96, 95% CI: 1.50-2.56), unable to work from home (OR: 1.41, 95% CI: 1.13-1.77)	7/8 (87.5%)
Guo et al. 2020 [14]	Cross-sectional study 2,331 respondents China	Age (OR: 0.97, 95% CI: 0.778-1.197), income change (OR: 1.53, 95% CI: 1.23-1.84), chronic disease (OR: 1.84, 95% CI: 1.35-2.50), family conflict (OR: 1.98, 95% CI: 1.66-2.37)	7/8 (87.5%)
Kantor et al. 2020 [15]	Cross-sectional study 1,000 respondents United States	Gender (OR: 0.67, 95% CI: 0.51-0.89), place of residence (OR: 1.32, 95% CI: 0.98-1.79), religion (OR: 0.85, 95% CI: 0.63-1.14), occupation (OR: 1.61, 95% CI: 1.05-2.45), education (OR: 0.88, 95% CI: 0.24-3.17),	6/8 (75%)
Liu et al. 2020 [28]	Cross-sectional study 898 respondents United States	Fear of infection (OR: 2.87, 95% CI: 1.67-4.94), family support (OR: 0.46, 95% CI: 0.32-0.66)	7/8 (87.5%)
Makhashvili et al. 2020 [16]	Cross-sectional study 2,088 respondents Georgia	Age $(p<0.001)$, economics $(p<0.001)$, occupation $(p<0.001)$	7/8 (87.5%)
Mani et al, 2020 [17]	Cross-sectional study 922 respondents Iran	Age (OR: 2.88, 95% CI: 1.81-4.59), gender (OR: 1.74 95% CI: 1.31-2.31), marital status (OR: 1.35, 95% CI: 0.55-3.31), education (OR: 1.26, 95% CI: 0.75-2.12), economics (OR: 0.88, 95% CI: 0.61-1.28)	6/8 (75%)
Mazza et al, 2020 [18]	Cross-sectional study 2,812 respondents Italy	Age (OR: 0.99, 95% CI: 0.02-0.005), education (OR: 0.78, 95% CI: 0.355-0.123), gender (OR: 0.63, 95% CI: 1.893-0.445), occupation (OR: 0.719, 95% CI: 0.648-0.011), marital status (OR: 1.087, 95% CI: 0.837-1.003), family support (OR: 0.908, 95% CI: 0.405-0.210), work from home (OR: 1.050, 95% CI: 0.214-0.313), chronic disease (OR: 1.473, 95% CI: 0.198 0.576)	7/8 (87.5%)
Newby et al. 2020 [19]	Cross-sectional study 2,812 respondents UK	Age $(p=0.00)$, gender $(p=0.00)$, education $(p=0.08)$, occupation $(p=0.030)$, chronic disease $(p=0.08)$, fear of infection $(p=0.03)$	6/8 (75%)
Smith et al. 2020 [20]	Cross-sectional study 932 respondents	Age (OR: 0.83, 95% CI: 0.46-1.49), gender (OR: 2.21, 95% CI: 1.54-3.21), marital	6/8 (75%)

Author, year	Design, sample, country	Main findings	Study quality*
	UK	status (OR: 1.10, 95% CI: 0.76-1.60), family support (OR: 0.77, 95% CI: 0.51-1.15), economics (OR: 0.69, 95% CI: 0.40-1.18)	
Stanton et al. 2020 [21]	Cross-sectional study 1,491 respondents Australia	Age $(p \le 0.0010$, Gender $(p = 0.189)$ marital status $(p \le 0.001)$, education $(p = 0.002)$, income $(p = 0.047)$, chronic disease $(p = 0.001)$	7/8 (87.5%)
Venugopal et al. 2020 [22]	Cross-sectional study 453 respondents India	Age $(p=001)$, gender $(p=0.055)$, place of residence $(p=0.000)$, marital status $(p=0.000)$, education $(p=0.000)$, occupation $(p=0.000)$, family support $(p=0.000)$, work from home $(p=0.039)$	7/8 (87.5%)
Verma et al. 2020 [23]	Cross-sectional study 354 respondents India	Age (OR: 0.746, 95% CI: 0.317-1.757), gender (OR: 1.26, 95% CI: 0.767-2.076), marital status (OR: 1.002, 95% CI: 0.452-2.224), income (OR: 1.1, 95% CI: 0.556-2.161), occupation (OR: 1.914, 95% CI: 0.072-3.418), education (OR: 1.16, 95% CI: 0.472-2.840)	7/8 (87.5%)
Cuiyan et al. 2020 [24]	Cross-sectional study 1,210 respondents China	Age $(p=0.006)$, gender $(p=0.004)$, marital status $(p=0.003)$, family support $(p\le0.00)$, occupation $(p=0.004)$, education $(p=0.004)$	7/8 (87.5%)
Winkler et al. 2020 [29]	Cross-sectional study 3,021 respondents Czech Republic	Fear of infection (OR: 1.66, 95% CI: 1.38-1.99), economics (OR: 1.44, 95% CI: 1.21-1.71)	6/8 (75%)
Wong et al. 2020 [25]	Cohort study 263 respondents Hong Kong	Age (OR: -0.03, 95% CI: -0.08-0.02), gender (OR: 0.99, 95% CI: 0.30-1.68), education (OR: 0.50, 95% CI: -0.11-1.12), marital status (OR: 0.26, 95% CI: -0.38-0.90), family support (OR: 0.70, 95% CI: -0.16-1.56), chronic disease (OR: 0.38, 95% CI: -0.27-1.03)	9/11 (82%)
Zoghby et al. 2020 [26]	Cross-sectional study 510 respondents (age >18 years) Egypt	Age $(p=0.036)$, gender $(p=0.003)$, place of residence $(p=0.001)$, maritime status $(p=0.740)$, education $(p=0.699)$, working in the medical field $(p=0.052)$, and chronic disease $(p=0.011)$	7/8 (87.5%)

Note: * Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) critical appraisal.

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Non-sociodemographic factors that influence mental health

The studies show that people who are afraid of being infected are three times more likely

to experience mental health problems than people who are not afraid of being infected

(OR=1.66-2.87) [27-29]. People with chronic diseases tend to experience health problems twice

as often as people who do not have chronic diseases (OR=1.3-1.84) [14,18,25]. Also someone

who works from home is more prone to experience mental health problems compared to

someone who works outside of home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, family

conflicts are determinant to mental health problems in society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

People with less family support tend to experience mental health problems more often during

the COVID-19 pandemic (OR=0.04-0.90) [13,18,20,28,29].

Discussion of the review results

Sociodemographic factors that influence mental health

The research results show that young people were more likely to experience mental

health disorders than older people. This is evidenced by previous research that shows that young

adults (18-30 years old) are very vulnerable to experiencing stress because, at that age, they

tend to get a lot of information from social media related to COVID-19 [30]. It has been proved

that because of the fear that arises, any news or information related to COVID-19, whether

verified or not, that is relayed through social media and television will increase panic and fear

in the community [27].

The studies also demonstrate that women are more likely to experience mental health

disorders than men. Women tend to be more prone to stress, anxiety, and depression, which can

also increase post-traumatic symptoms [31]. Also mothers who suffer miscarriages or

experience partner violence are at high risk for developing mental health problems. Moreover,

during the COVID-19 pandemic, infected pregnant women were giving birth without their

husbands/partners accompanying them, and the babies were immediately separated from the

mothers to avoid the COVID-19 infection. This has also brought about profound mental health

disorders in mothers both in short-term and long-term [31].

The results of the research indicate that people living in urban areas are more likely to

experience mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic than people from rural

areas. Life in an urban area with a dense population affords less opportunity for social

interaction between individuals and can cause an individual to experience loneliness, anxiety,

and depression [32]. A crowded environment, noise, and lack of greenery in urban areas can

also increase mental health disorders.

The studies [15,17-19,21-26] show that people with higher education experience mental

health disorders more than people with lower education. Those with a higher education tended

to experience more stress during the COVID-19 pandemic because they had higher self-

awareness of their health condition. Not only that, a higher level of education can also be linked

to the greater curiosity about health information during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has

negatively affected some people's mental health.

The results of this study [13,14,16,17,20,21] reveal that people who earn higher income

are more likely to experience mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic

compared to people with lower income. A good economic situation makes it easy to have access

to information and to healthcare services. This in turn may lead to mental health problems

caused by being exposed to frightening information such as death incidents that occur every

day.

Non-sociodemographic factors that influence mental health

experience mental health problems more than people who are not afraid. Feeling afraid and worried was to be expected during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research indicate that people's mental health has begun to deteriorate since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which was caused by the fear of being infected with COVID-19 [27] and worrying about infecting their close ones [5,12]. A person who is more worried and afraid of contracting COVID-19 is more likely to have poor mental health [27], as worrying about COVID-19 and feeling depressed can deteriorate a person's mental health [28]. During the pandemic, people

The results of the studies show that people who are afraid of being infected tend to

dangerous effects of the pandemic. In addition, discrimination and stigma related to infectious

were afraid that they or their family members would fall ill but they did not know yet fully the

diseases can make people afraid of being infected, which in turn affects their mental health.

Makhashvili et al. stated that people's lack of trust in the media regarding COVID-19

information could also cause their mental health to deteriorate [16].

The studies [18,19,21,25,26] show that someone who was suffering from a chronic illness during the COVID-19 pandemic was more likely to experience mental health problems in comparison to someone who was healthy. Chronic diseases such as cardiovascular, neurological, and respiratory diseases were usually found in people who experienced mental health disorders during the pandemic. People who suffer from chronic illnesses and think of themselves as having poor health are more susceptible to other diseases, especially COVID-19, resulting in stress on their mental health.

The research results also indicate that people who work from home experience mental health problems more than people who do not work from home. People who stay at home continuously and feel lonely can experience increased anxiety and depression [15]. People

experience stress, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because of

being lonely [28]. There has been an increase in poor mental health during the COVID-19

pandemic among respondents living alone [14]. There is an increase in PTSD symptoms due to

several factors, including the lack of social support [13].

Family conflict is a determining factor in mental health [33]. During the COVID-19

pandemic, many family conflicts occurred due to termination of employment relationships

[34,35]. Families whose members lost their jobs, suffered a loss of income and found it difficult

to meet their family's needs. This is what makes families experience financial distress and

become vulnerable to conflict within the family [36]. Positive coping, having good social

strengths, and family support can offer protection from stress or mental disorders during

COVID-19 [37].

Conclusions

The determinants of mental health disorders found in the community during the

COVID-19 pandemic include age, gender, place of residence, income/economics, chronic

diseases, family conflict, and family support. It is hoped that the results of this literature review

can help nurses determine and control factors that affect mental health in the community during

the COVID-19 pandemic in order to achieve good outcomes and to prevent more serious

conditions due to COVID-19. In addition, the results of this study can also be a source of

literature and information for academic and clinical nursing, as mental health is important for

facing not only COVID-19 but also future health threats. Of course, the results of this research

depend on the database analyzed, so expanding the database will provide a more comprehensive

view. The benefit of this research after the COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of preparing

community resilience to face disasters in the future. Community resilience under challenging

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situations is greatly influenced by factors such as skills in dealing with conflict, the importance

of support, and togetherness. The implications of this research can be aimed at regional

governments by providing health promotion budgets that focus on community resilience in

facing disasters. Meanwhile, nurses and other healthcare professionals (such as midwives,

physiotherapists, pharmacists and doctors) are making health promotion plans to improve the

community's mental health. Further research can be developed using experimental methods on

how conflict management or social support affects mental health.

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