

Investigating the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on interpersonal violence in South Africa

Item Type	Presentation
Authors	Prinsloo, M;Abrahams, N;Mhlongo, S;Dekel, B;Ketelo, A;Jabar, A;Jewkes, R;Parry, C;Matzopoulos, R
Rights	Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 United States
Download date	2025-04-28 19:24:05
Item License	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/11288/598205

Investigating the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on interpersonal violence in South Africa

Dr Megan Prinsloo¹, Dr Naeemah Abrahams², Ms Shibe Mhlongo², Dr Bianca Dekel², Ms Asiphe Ketelo², Dr Ardil Jabar¹, Prof Rachel Jewkes³, Prof Charles Parry⁴, Prof Richard Matzopoulos¹

¹Burden of Disease Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa, ²Gender and Health Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council, , South Africa, ³Research Strategy in the SAMRC Office of the President, South African Medical Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa, ⁴Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council, , South Africa

1C - Injury and the Covid-19 pandemic, E2, November 28, 2022, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Background

South Africa's (SA's) response to the Covid-19 pandemic included rapid testing, social distancing, quarantining and a stringent five-phased lockdown approach. The necessitated countrywide lockdown restricted movement to the purchase of essential items, and alcohol and tobacco sales bans. This overlapped with a substantial decrease in injury mortality and hospital trauma cases. It is unclear whether lockdown restrictions decreased overall exposure to violence in public spaces or whether it increased in the domestic setting, where women and children were possibly more vulnerable to some adult males as the main perpetrators of violence.

Methods

We conducted a retrospective review of post-mortem reports using a multistage random sample, stratified by province and mortuary size. The study period from April 2020 to March 2021 spans lockdown levels and alcohol bans. The sample comprises approximately 30,000 records from 81 mortuaries, which will be weighted to a national estimate. Age-specific and age-standardized mortality rates will be calculated for cause of death by sex for the study period and for combinations of lockdown-related restrictions and alcohol sales bans. Comparative rates for corresponding periods in 2009 and 2017 will be calculated.

Results

The injury mortality profile for SA and rates during the Covid-19 pandemic will be presented. This will identify any increase or decrease in the causes of injury by sex during the national response to the pandemic, particularly for interpersonal violence.

Conclusion

As the third nationally representative sample of injury-related mortality, the findings will guide future emergency crisis response in high injury settings such as SA.