The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the level of depression among health care workers: Cross-sectional Study

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Background: The outbreak of the novel Corona Virus Infectious Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread rapidly to many countries leading to thousands of deaths globally. The burden of this pandemic has affected the physical and mental health of the frontline health care workers (HCWs) who are exposed to high risk of infection and psychological stressors. Aims: The aim is to measure the level of depression among healthcare workers in Saudi Arabia during COVID-19 pandemic to establish interventional strategies. Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study was used to conduct the current study. The data of this study was recruited between 15 June and 15 July 2020 from healthcare providers who work in both public and private healthcare sectors in Riyadh and Eastern province in Saudi Arabia utilizing a self-administered questionnaire. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Group (IRB Log No. RC20.06.88-2). Data were collected by using The Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale SDS. A total of 900 healthcare providers working in the healthcare setting during COVID-19 pandemic were invited to participate in the study. A total of 650 healthcare providers participated in the study by completing and submitting the survey. Results: Almost 30% suffered from depression which can be divided into three categories; mild depression (26.2%), moderate/major (2.5%) and severe/extreme (0.8%). The finding shows that the level of depression among respondents at the age range of 31-40 years old was significantly higher than the level of depression among respondents with the age above 50 years old. Non-Saudi healthcare workers experienced more depression than Saudi workers.

It also shows how nurses suffered from depression compared to their physician colleagues. Those who did not suffer from sleeping disorder perceived more depression as compared to those who are having sleeping disorder. Conclusion: It is recommended that health care facilities should implement strategies to reduce the prevalence of mental health problems among healthcare providers and eventually it will improve their performance in provision of safe and high-quality care for patients.

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Abstract

Background: The outbreak of the novel Corona Virus Infectious Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread rapidly to many countries leading to thousands of deaths globally. The burden of this pandemic has affected the physical and mental health of the frontline health care workers (HCWs) who are exposed to high risk of infection and psychological stressors.

Aims: The aim is to measure the level of depression among healthcare workers in Saudi Arabia during COVID-19 pandemic to establish interventional strategies.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study was used to conduct the current study. The data of this study was recruited between 15 June and 15 July 2020 from healthcare providers who work in both public and private healthcare sectors in Riyadh and Eastern province in Saudi Arabia utilizing a self-administered questionnaire. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Group (IRB Log No. RC20.06.88-2). Data were collected by using The Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale SDS. A total of 900 healthcare providers working in the healthcare setting during COVID-19 pandemic were invited to participate in the study. A total of 650 healthcare providers participated in the study by completing and submitting the survey.

41 Results: Almost 30% suffered from depression which can be divided into three categories; mild

42 depression (26.2%), moderate/major (2.5%) and severe/extreme (0.8%). The finding shows that the level

43 of depression among respondents at the age range of 31-40 years old was **significantly** higher than the

44 level of depression among respondents with the age above 50 years old. Non-Saudi healthcare workers

45 experienced more depression than Saudi workers. It also shows how nurses suffered from depression

46 compared to their physician colleagues. Those who did not suffer from sleeping disorder perceived more

47 depression as compared to those who are having sleeping disorder.

48 Conclusion: It is recommended that health care facilities should implement strategies to reduce the

49 prevalence of mental health problems among healthcare providers and eventually it will improve their

50 performance in provision of safe and high-quality care for patients.

51

52 **Keywords:** COVID-19; Depression; mental health; sleeping disorder; health care workers; health care

53 facilities; Saudi Arabia

54

Background

56 Mental health is one of the important issues that receives attention from the World Health Organization

57 (WHO) as it was included in the Sustainable Developmental Goals for 2030. Over the last decade, mental

58 health problems increased by 13% worldwide [1]. The most common mental health conditions are

59 depression and anxiety which cost around US $ 1 trillion every year from global economy [2]. Mental

60 health problems have a serious impact on all aspects of life such as interacting with others, family

61 members, co-workers and even with patients. Despite that, the global median expenditure is less than 2%

62 of the governmental health expenditure. The spread of COVID-19 pandemic caused huge stress on

63 general population, however, the case was worse for healthcare workers due to their close interaction with

64 COVID-19 patients [2].

65 Frontline healthcare workers (HCWs) are dealing with suspected and positive cases of COVID-19

66 patients on daily basis which puts them at high risk of infection and death [3]. Such exposure has a

67 substantial impact on their mental health [4, 5, 6]. One of the most common mental health problems is

68 depression. Depression can cause significant physical, emotional and behavioral problems [7, 8, 9]. More

69 than two thirds of healthcare workers serving in Turkey experienced high level of depression [10]. Being

70 a female, a nurse, and having a history of psychiatric illness were identified as risk factors for mental

71 health problems [10]. Many mental conditions can be treated or minimized by adopting some changes in

72 the workplace, at home or in the community. However, evidence-based decisions need to be taken prior to

73 implementing any strategy. Therefore, studies in this field are needed in order to examine the nature of

74 the mental issues and how to reduce it. Since the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, researchers have

75   conducted numerous studies to assess the impact of the COVID-19 on the physical and mental wellbeing

76   of individuals. The target population varies according to the purpose of the study. Some studies examined

77   the impact of the disease on COVID-19 patients [11]; some focused on general populations [12, 13, 14],

78   and some studies were specific to frontline healthcare workers [15, 16, 17].

79   The psychological burden of health care workers had received attention in research publications.

80   Numerous studies reported consistent results of health workers' stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms

81   due to COVID-19 [18]. Healthcare workers experience more psychological symptoms than non-

82   healthcare workers. These symptoms include insomnia, anxiety, depression and obsessive -compulsive

83   [14]. Moreover, studies also showed that HCWs experience emotional exhaustion, burnout, stress, and

84   suicide [19]. A study conducted in the Second Xiangya Hospital in China where 13 medical staff were

85   interviewed to assess the mental health care during COVID-19 pandemic. Results showed how nurses

86   presented signs of psychological distress, yet they refused receiving any psychological help considering

87   that not a problem. They focused on the need of more uninterrupted rest and enough protective equipment

88   [15]. When frontline HCWs in Wuhan itself where surveyed, findings showed that HCWs were under

89   moderate to severe stress and many reported elevated anxiety and depression [15]. Italian healthcare

90   providers also demonstrated high anxiety and depression levels during COVID-19 pandemic [19]. This

91   was a cross-sectional study which surveyed healthcare providers including doctors and nurses utilizing

92   quality of life and health-related Visual Analogue Scales, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, Beck Depression

93   Inventory and PTSD Checklist [19]. Findings of the current Italian study found that female healthcare

94   providers were found to have higher levels of depression symptoms [19].

95   According to previous published literature, working in hospitals in general was associated with

96   depression symptoms among healthcare providers [20]. Depression symptoms were reported more during

97   COVID-19 pandemic among frontline healthcare providers [20]. In addition, high burnout level among

98   Saudi and non-Saudi healthcare providers, it is crucial to deal with the issue for public health in Saudi

99   Arabia and UAE [21]. Healthcare providers are more vulnerable to depression due to high turnover,

100   heavy workload and fear of infections due to contagious nature of disease such as COVID-19 [22].

101   As this pandemic continues to spread, its physical, emotional and mental impact on Saudi population and

102   globally continues contributing to increase depression and emotional level [23]. Working in healthcare

103   facilities have high amounts of psychological distress in doctors, nurses, and other health-care providers

104   [24]. Results of previously conducted study in Saudi Arabia showed that healthcare workers had high

105   level of depression and anxiety indicating greater psychological distress. In the study female healthcare

106   workers had more depression than their male colleagues, physicians had lesser psychological distress

107   compared to other healthcare providers and Non-Saudi had higher psychological distress than Saudi

108   professionals [24]. COVID-19 has spread all over the world affecting many individuals', especially

109 healthcare providers. Previous studies have shown that clinicians in China suffered mental health
110 problems from COVID-19 pandemic [25]. In one of the studied which was conducted in 34 Chinese
111 hospital surveyed 1,257 healthcare workers found that frontline healthcare workers and female nurses had
112 higher risk of developing mental health issues and needed psychological support or medical interventions.
113 Reports have also revealed that healthcare providers suffered from mental health problems during Sever
114 Acute Respiratory Syndrome SARS [26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32]. Similarly, the prevalence of mental
115 illnesses during Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) epidemic was high among healthcare
116 providers in Saudi Arabia [33]. Previous studies showed high prevalence of COVID-19 cases in Saudi
117 Arabia ranging from mild to severe characteristics [34, 35]. Furthermore, during COVID-19 pandemic
118 studies have also shown that anxiety among healthcare providers in Saudi Arabia was high due to looking
119 after COVID-19 patients [36]. Due to the lack of social support and communication, maladaptive coping,
120 and lack of training on how to deal with such pandemic were identified as risk factors for developing
121 psychological problems such as depression, anxiety, insomnia and distress, especially to those healthcare
122 workers who interact directly with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients [15]. Individuals with
123 pre-existing psychiatric disorders reported deterioration of their mental health conditions due to COVID-
124 19 [3]. Level of social support for medical staff is a significant predictor for self- efficacy and sleep
125 quality and negatively associated with anxiety and stress [37]. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic along
126 with the measures to control it can lead to mental issues such depression. While the cases of COVID-19
127 attending healthcare centers and hospitals has been rapidly increasing along with extended hours of work
128 can place huge mental pressure on healthcare providers. Given the cultural variations in responding to
129 pandemics, it is highly important to investigate how healthcare providers in Saudi Arabia react
130 emotionally and mental to COVID-19. This may help the government to initiate supportive programs to
131 decrease and control healthcare providers depression and anxiety which may contribute to improve their
132 psychological well-being. This study intends to investigate the level of depression among healthcare
133 providers in Saudi Arabia
134
135 **Methods**
136 **Study design**
137 A descriptive cross-sectional non-interventional design was used for the purpose of this study.
138 Anonymous self-administered, paper and pencil survey was used to collect data from the targeted setting.
139 The researchers obtained the ethical approval to conduct the study from the Institutional Review Board at
140 Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Group (IRB Log No. RC20.06.88-2). Participation in the study was
141 voluntary and participants were ensured that information gathered for the study would be kept
142 confidential and will be used for the study purposes only and consent letter was requested for this study as

143   well. Level of depression is the dependent variable in the current study which will be measured by the

144   Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale SDS. The soci-demographic profile of the participants is the

145   independent variable. The initial sample size was estimated using G*Power3 and based on multiple linear

146   regression using the independent two-tailed t-test, confidence level of 95%, margin rate of error at 5% and

147   power of 80.0%, medium effect size of .30 (determined based on the review of current literature), and a

148   10 % increase to address the non-response rate, the minimum required sample size for this study was 353

149   subjects. A total of 900 surveys were distributed among healthcare providers, 650 returned back the

150   completed surveys giving a response rate of 72%.

151   Saudi and non-Saudi healthcare providers were eligible to be a participant in this study if all of the

152   following criteria are met: (1) is 18 years of age or older (2) works in inpatient or outpatient healthcare

153   setting (3) is responsible for providing direct bedside patient care, and (4) has spent at least three months

154   in current healthcare unit. Healthcare providers who work in private and public healthcare sectors in

155   Riyadh, Saudi Arabia were invited to participate in the study by completing and returning back the

156   questionnaire. Data collection continued for two weeks between 2 to 15 April, 2020.

157

158   **Data collection instrument**

159   The Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale SDS was used to collect data from the participants. It consists of

160   20 items which has been widely used as a screening tool for depression in multiple populations. The SDS

161   statements are framed in a positive and negative pattern with 4-Likert point scale ranging from 1 a little of

162   the time, 2 some of the time, 3 good part of the time and 4 most of the time. The scale score may range

163   from 20 to 80, scores from 20 to 49 indicating no depression, 50 to 69 indicating depression and scores

164   from 70 to 80 indicting severe depression [38]. The scale has shown good validity and acceptable

165   reliability for clinical and research purposes with alpha value 0.84 [38]. Additional part to the

166   questionnaire about the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents was added in the current

167   study. This included age, gender, marital status, economic status, nationality, profession, working area,

168   years of working experience and type of healthcare facility.

169

170   **Data analysis**

171   Frequencies and percentages for nominal/ordinal level variables was employed. Chi-square analysis has

172   been conducted to determine the association between demographic profile and depression. Unpaired

173   Independent t-test and one-way ANOVA analysis to compare healthcare providers' level of depression

174   and predict the factors of depression among the study populations. P-value of ≤ 0.05 were accepted as the

175   significance level for all inferential statistical tests.

176 **Results**

177 **Demographic profile analysis**

178 Demographic profile has been analyzed and the findings are presented in the Table 1. Several
179 demographic profiles have been chosen namely the type of health care facility, age, gender, nationality,
180 health specialty, hospital department, years of experience, sleeping disorder before covid-19 and mental
181 disorder. In terms of type of health care facilities, 444 (68.7%) of participants work in private facilities
182 while only 202 (31.3%) work in governmental hospitals. By looking at the age, about 177 (46.6%) of the
183 respondents were at the age range 31-40 years old, followed by 123 (32.4%) were 20-30 years old, 63
184 (16.6%) were 41-50 years old and a few number of workers 17 (4.5%) were above 50 years old. The
185 percentage of females (n=475, 74%) was larger than the percentage of males (n=167, 26%). Almost three
186 quarters of the respondents 450 (70.4%) were non-Saudis while 189 (26%) were Saudis. By studying at
187 the health specialty, 323 (50.2%) of the respondents were nurses, 114 (17.7%) were physicians, and 207
188 (32.1%) were from other specialties. Approximately 243 (38.3%) of the respondents work in Intensive
189 Care Unit (ICU), followed by 206 (32.4%) work in other departments, 134 (21.1%) work in wards and 52
190 (8.2%) work in Emergency department. By studying at the year of experience, 280 (44.3%) have 1 to 5
191 years of work experience, followed by 177 (28%) with 6 to 10 years of work experience and 175 (27.7%)
192 with over 11 years of work experience. Respondents were asked about sleeping disorder before COVID-
193 19, about 532 (86.9%) did not have sleeping disorder while 80 (13.1%) had sleeping disorder before
194 COVID-19. Lastly, in terms of mental disorder, about 592 (96.7%) did not have mental disorder, while 20
195 (3.3%) had mental disorder.

196

197 **Level of depression**

198 The Level of depression has been divided into four categories as shown in Table 2, which they are
199 normal, mild depression, moderate/major and severe/extreme. Almost over three quarters of respondents
200 did not suffer from depression which comprised 459 (70.6%). Furthermore, the findings revealed less
201 than 30% suffer from depression which falls into three categories; mild depression 170 (26.2%),
202 moderate/major 16 (2.5%) and severe/extreme 5 (0.8%) as shown in Figure 1.

203

204 **The association between demographic profile and depression**

205 Chi-square analysis has been conducted to determine the association between demographic profile and
206 depression as shown in Table 3. Several demographic profiles have been selected which are health care
207 facilities, age, gender, nationality, health specialty, work area, years of experience, sleeping disorder
208 before COVID-19 and mental disorder. The findings have presented in Table 4 further revealed age
209 [$X2$=12.89, df=6, p<0.05], nationality [$X2$=8.321, df=2, p<0.05], health specialty [$X2$=9.54, df=4, p<0.05]

210 and sleeping disorder before COVID-19 [$X2$=12.127, *df*=2, *p*<0.05] have significant association with

211 depression. However, healthcare facility [$X2$=2.377, *df*=2, *p*>0.05], gender [$X2$=3.683, *df*=2, *p*>0.05],

212 hospital department (work area) [$X2$=10.216, *df*=6, *p*>0.05], years of experience [$X2$=7.134, *df*=4,

213 *p*>0.05] and mental disorder [$X2$=5.919, *df*=2, *p*>0.05] insignificantly influenced depression. The findings

214 showed that among respondents at the age range of 31-40 years old, the level of depression was

215 [46.6±39.59] significantly higher than respondents with the age above 50 years old [4.5±32.37]. In terms

216 of nationality, non-Saudi [70.4±40.68] suffered from depression compared to Saudi [29.6±40.08]. Other

217 healthcare providers' specialties [32.1±41.70] were more depressed than physicians [17.7±39.70]. Those

218 who did not suffer from sleeping disorder [86.9±39.93] perceived depression compared to those who are

219 having sleeping disorder [13.1±41.20].

Discussion

221 Depression and anxiety are common and cited problems that generally encounter individuals and more

222 specifically frontline healthcare workers [21, 27]. Our study aimed to measure the level of depression

223 among healthcare workers in Saudi Arabia during COVID-19 pandemic and to measure the level of

224 depression based on demographic profile. Several limitations should be taken into account while

225 interpreting the results of the current study. A cross-sectional design was used to recruit healthcare

226 providers from Riyadh capital city in Saudi Arabia, so caution must be practiced while generalizing its

227 results to all healthcare providers in the county. Additionally, current findings rely heavily on subjective

228 perception of healthcare providers rather than objective methods or clinical diagnosis and therefore

229 further studies on prevalence of depression among healthcare providers should be conducted subjectively

230 during and after the pandemic.

231 In our study, the prevalence of depression among healthcare workers was 29.5% which is close to its

232 percentage in Turkey (31.8%) [27]. Since the spread of COVID-19 in Wuhan and Hubei in China,

233 psychological distress was reported in 70% of healthcare workers [9]. In Iran, the prevalence of

234 depression among HCWs was reported as 30% [28]. The classifications of depression levels in this study

235 is similar to other studies that found the higher percentage of those with depression symptoms had mild

236 depression, followed by those with moderate depression, and the least percentage was the HCWs who

237 suffer from severe depression [17]. For instance, in other studies, healthcare providers from Saudi Arabia

238 and Egypt reported high level of depression, anxiety and stress during COVID-19 pandemic [37]. Young

239 female healthcare providers had scored higher on depression and stress scales especially those who were

240 recruited from Egypt. Researchers have suggested psychological support interventions programs targeting

241 healthcare providers.

242 It is expected that the percentage in China is higher than in other countries due to lack of information on
243 how to deal with this new virus at the beginning of its onset. Upon the spread of the infection to other
244 countries, some information about the virus and precautions became available which minimized the
245 uncertainty. The fear of being infected by COVID-19 is the core cause of anxiety and other mental health
246 problems. Some of the reported risk factors for that are spending long hours in hospitals with COVID-19
247 patients, suboptimal hand cleanliness, and lack of protective equipment [15, 34]. The findings show that
248 the level of depression was significantly high for HCWs whom age is between 31 to 40 years respondents
249 compared to those who are above 50 years old. This could be related to social responsibilities for this age
250 group who are usually married, have children or family members who are at old age and considered as the
251 most vulnerable group. Nationality variable was not studied previously in similar studies. The results
252 show a significantly higher level of depression among non-Saudi HCWs as compared to Saudi HCWs. In
253 addition to the stress and anxiety associated with working in hospitals with COVID-19 patients, non-
254 Saudi encounter more stressors such as not being able to visit their families, return to their home
255 countries, the fear and worries of getting infected, facing death alone, or having a family member dying
256 while they are away from home. These tragedies have happened in reality and they are leading to higher
257 levels of anxiety and depression to non-Saudi HCWs. Consistent with other studies, nurses are
258 experiencing more depression than other HCW [15]. Although physicians are dealing with COVID-19
259 patients, nurses are closer to the patients in terms of interaction and spending longer periods. Besides the
260 exposure to this virus, this could create more psychological stress and worries which would lead to
261 depression. Our findings of the association between having previous sleep disorders and depression is
262 slightly different than other studies. Our results show that those who did not suffer from sleeping disorder
263 perceived more depression than those who are having sleeping disorder. In contrast, other studies found
264 that having previous mental health or neurological conditions has been associated with increase of
265 depressive and anxiety symptoms [9, 10]. Moreover, [10, 11, 12] these studies had also found that
266 individuals with pre-existing psychiatric problems reported more mental health problems during COVID-
267 19 pandemic. In our study, there was an association between having previous mental health problems and
268 depression where it is very close to significant association (p= 0.052). In general, the study findings
269 suggest that COVID-19 pandemic has a negative impact on the mental health of HCWs as it exposes them
270 at risk of developing depression and insomnia. Health care systems need to focus not only on caring for
271 COVID-19 patients, but also on those who provide care for them in order to continue the care provision
272 effectively and safely. Some of the suggested interventions are:
273 1. Develop strategies in the workplace to optimize the mental health of HCWs such as creating places to
274 exercise, mindfulness, meditation, and places for rest and sleep especially for those who work long
275 hours.

276   2. Ensure availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all HCWs. This will reduce the worries
277   of being infected and will increase the sense of security and safety

278   3. Monitor strict adherence to all safety precautions while dealing with patients and colleagues at
279   workplace.

280   4. Modify the HCWs' work schedule to have shorter shifts to allow workers to rest and socialization
281   with their families.

282   5. Allow HCWs to use technology and telehealth when there is no need for direct contact with patients
283   to minimize the exposure to infection.

284   6. Encourage HCWs to seek help and consultation whenever they start feeling any anxiety, depression,
285   insomnia or other mental health problems. This will reduce the complication of cases and help them
286   receiving the appropriate treatment earlier.

287 These interventions may improve the mental health of the HCWs and prevent further complications if
288 they were addressed early. The current study findings should be interpreted taking into full considerations
289 its limitations. The study sample is composed represent private facilities more than government hospital
290 (68.7% Vs. 31.3% respectively), and the percentage of non-Saudis were higher than Saudis (70.4% Vs.
291 29.6% respectively). This may limit the generalization of results.

292

293 **Conclusion**

294 Overall, level of depression has been divided into four levels. The findings revealed less than 30% suffer
295 from depression which fall into three categories; mild depression 170 (26.2%), moderate/major 16 (2.5%)
296 and severe/extreme 5 (0.8%). Several demographic profiles have been selected which are healthcare
297 facilities, age, gender, nationality, health specialty, hospital department, years of experience, sleeping
298 disorder before Covid-19 and mental disorder. The findings further revealed age, nationality, health
299 specialty and sleeping disorder before Covid-19 have significant association with depression. However,
300 healthcare facilities, gender, hospital department, years of experience and mental disorder insignificantly
301 influenced depression. Those who did not suffer from sleeping disorder perceived more depression as
302 compared to those who are having sleeping disorder. It is recommended that health care facilities develop
303 and implement some strategies to reduce the prevalence of mental health problems especially depression
304 and insomnia. The impact of these strategies may improve the mental health of HCWs and eventually
305 improve their performance in provision of safe and high quality care for patients.

306

307 **List of Abbreviations**

308 COVID-19: Coronavirus disease 201; SARS-CoV-2: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2;
309 WHO: World Health Organization; IRB: Institutional Review Board; HCWs: Health care works; SPSS:

310 Statistical Package for the Social Sciences; SD: Standard deviation; IQR: Interquartile range; SDS: Self-
311 Rating Depression Scale.
312

Ethics approval and consent to participate

314 This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB Log No. RC20.06.88-2).
315

Consent for publication

317 Participation in the study was voluntary and participants were ensured that information gathered for the
318 study would be kept confidential and will be used for the study purposes only.
319

Availability of data and materials

321 Not applicable
322

Competing interests

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Authors' contributions

330 ABBAS AL MUTAIR: Conceptualization, writing-original draft preparation, supervision, ethical
331 approval; ALYA AL MUTAIRI: Formal analysis, Data analysis, Interpretations, supervision; ZAINAB
332 AMBANI: Methodology, writing-review and editing; ABBAS SHAMSAN: Resources, data curation,
333 writing-original draft preparation; SANA ALMAHMOUD: Resources, data curation, writing-review and
334 editing; SAAD ALHUMAID: Resources, data curation, writing-original draft preparation.
335

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Table_1

Demographic profile of the respondents

Table 1. Demographic profile of the respondents

Demographic Profile	*n*	%
Type of health care facility		
Government	202	31.3
Private	444	68.7
Age		
20-30 Years Old	123	32.4
31-40 Years Old	177	46.6
41-50 Years Old	63	16.6
Above 50 Years Old	17	4.5
Gender		
Male	167	26.0
Female	475	74.0
Nationality		
Saudi	189	29.6
Non-Saudi	450	70.4
Health specialty		
Physicians	114	17.7
Nurses	323	50.2
Others	207	32.1
Hospital Department		
ER	52	8.2
Wards	134	21.1
ICU	243	38.3
Others	206	32.4
Years of experience		
1-5 Years	280	44.3
6-10Years	177	28.0
11 Years and Above	175	27.7
Sleeping disorder before COVID-19		
Yes	80	13.1
No	532	86.9
Mental Disorder		
Yes	20	3.3
No	592	96.7

3

Table_2

Level of depression

Table 2. Level of depression

Level	Frequency	Percent
Normal	459	70.6
Mild Depression	170	26.2
Moderate/Major	16	2.5
Severe/Extreme	5	0.8
Total	650	100.0

Table_3

The Association between demographic profile and Depression

Table 3. The Association between demographic profile and Depression

Variables	Normal		Mild		Moderate		Severe		Value	df	sig.
	N	%	N	%	n	%	n	%			
Type of health care facility											
Government	152	75.2	40	19.8	9	4.5	1	0.5	2.377[a]	2	0.305
Private	306	68.9	127	28.6	7	1.6	4	0.9			
Age*											
20-30	94	76.4	25	20.3	4	3.3	4	2.3			
31-40	133	75.1	33	18.6	7	4.0	4	2.3	12.892[a]	6	**0.045**
41-50	53	84.1	9	14.3	1	1.6					
Above 50 years	15	88.2	2	11.8							
Gender											
Male	129	77.2	35	21.0	1	0.6	2	1.2	3.683[a]	2	0.159
Female	329	69.3	128	26.9	15	3.2	3	0.6			
Nationality*											
Saudi	130	68.8	50	26.5	8	4.2	1	0.5	8.321[a]	2	**0.016**
Non Saudi	325	72.2	113	25.1	8	1.8	4	0.9			
Health specialty*											
Physicians	83	72.8	21	18.4	8	7.0	2	1.8	9.543[a]	4	**0.049**
Nurses	237	73.4	78	24.1	5	1.5	3	0.9			
Others	137	66.2	67	32.4	3	1.4					
Hospital Department											
ER Department	35	67.3	13	25.0	3	5.8	1	1.9			
Ward	98	73.1	32	23.9	4	3.0			10.216[a]	6	0.116
ICU Department	173	71.2	58	23.9	8	3.3	4	1.6			
Others	148	71.8	57	27.7	1	0.5					
Years of experience											
1-5Years	206	73.6	68	24.3	5	1.8	1	0.4	7.134[a]	4	0.129
6-10Years	111	62.7	56	31.6	7	4.0	3	1.7			
11 Years and Above	136	77.7	35	20.0	3	1.7	1	0.6			
Sleeping disorder before Covid-19*											
Yes	55	68.8	19	23.8	5	6.3	1	1.3	12.127[a]	2	**0.002**
No	394	74.1	123	23.1	11	2.1	4	0.8			
Mental Disorder											
Yes	10	50.0	8	40.0	2	10.0			5.919[a]	2	0.052
No	438	74.0	135	22.8	14	2.4	5	0.8			

Table_4

Descriptive analysis (frequency, percentage, mean and SD)

Table 4. Descriptive analysis (frequency, percentage, mean and SD)

Demographic Profile	*N*	%	Mean	SD
Type of health care facility				
Government	202	31.3	37.99	13.97
Private	444	68.7	41.74	11.51
Age*				
20-30 Years Old	123	32.4	38.12	12.79
31-40 Years Old	177	46.6	39.59	13.76
41-50 Years Old	63	16.6	36.98	11.07
Above 50 Years Old	17	4.5	32.37	11.38
Gender				
Male	167	26.0	38.01	12.91
Female	475	74.0	41.37	12.18
Nationality*				
Saudi	189	29.6	40.08	13.79
Non Saudi	450	70.4	40.68	11.89
Health specialty*				
Physicians	114	17.7	39.70	14.30
Nurses	323	50.2	40.09	12.10
Others	207	32.1	41.70	11.85
Hospital Department				
ER Department	52	8.2	41.84	13.50
Ward	134	21.1	40.06	11.58
ICU Department	243	38.3	38.83	14.23
Others	206	32.4	42.26	10.12
Years of experience				
1-5Years	280	44.3	40.93	11.82
6-10Years	177	28.0	42.25	13.03
11 Years and Above	175	27.7	37.53	12.46
Sleeping disorder before Covid-19*				
Yes	80	13.1	41.20	15.18
No	532	86.9	39.93	12.04
Mental Disorder				
Yes	20	3.3	43.91	15.27
No	592	96.7	40.07	12.35
*Significance at alpha 0.05				

Figure 1

Level of depression among study participants