

TITLE: MEDICAL DOCTORS ATTITUDES TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS

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ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)

This study was aimed to assess doctors' attitudes towards individuals with mental disorders.

Methods. The study included 355 doctors and resident doctors, of whom 13.8% (n = 49) were men and 86.2% (n=306) were women, ranging in age from 24 to 67 years. Respondents completed questions of sociodemographic data, personal experiences with people with mental disorders, and questionnaire of Opening Minds Scale for Health Care Providers (OMS-HC), intended to assess health professionals' attitude toward people with mental disorders. An estimate of stigmatization of individuals with mental disorders was established and afterwards compared among different groups.

Results. The mean stigmatization was 61.39 (SD 10,25; 44-100) points for all respondents. Statistically significant (p=0.001)older respondents, from 40 years old and older (n=103) are more likely to stigmatize, the average of stigmatization was 64.35 (SD 10.66; 46-100) points. The mean stigmatization of resident doctors was 59.9 (SD 9.92; 46-98) points, which was statistically significantly (p=0.025) lower than the average stigmatization of doctors. The mean stigmatization of respondents who currently have mental disorders or a history of mental disorders was 58.33 (SD 8.17; 46-80) points, which was significantly lower (p=0.046) than respondents without mental disorders. There was no statistically significant difference in the estimate stigmatization between men and women (p=0.207), respondents who have and do not have friends and relatives with mental disorders (p=0.855), respondents who have and do not have patients

with mental disorders (p=0.286) and between physicians with different specialties (p=0.781).

Conclusions. The attitude of doctors towards patients with mental disorders is sufficiently stigmatized: 40 years old and older medical doctors are more likely to stigmatize individuals with mental disorders. However, resident-doctors and doctors who have/had a history of mental disorders are less likely to stigmatize.

BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

Egle Mikone completed psychiatry residency program at Lithuanian University of Health and Science, Kaunas Clinic in 2021, and obtained qualification in psychiatry. Dr. Mikone works and practises in neuroscience field. Participates countinuously in scientific research. Dr. Mikone is currently seeking national board certification in the United States of America.



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