



Community-Based Mental Health Screening Programmes in Urban South African Centers: Prevalence Rates and Utilization Outcomes

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Abstract

Community-based mental health screening programmes have been implemented in urban South African centers to address the unmet need for early detection and intervention of mental health disorders. A comprehensive search strategy was employed across multiple databases, including PubMed, PsycINFO, and Web of Science. Inclusion criteria were defined based on the specified time period, study design, and population characteristics. Screening programmes demonstrated a prevalence rate of mental health disorders ranging from 15% to 30%, with significant variability observed across different urban centers in South Africa. Community-based mental health screening programmes have shown promise in identifying individuals at risk, but there is considerable variation in service utilization outcomes across different settings. Further research should focus on evaluating the effectiveness of these programmes and exploring strategies to improve access and engagement with services among diverse populations. Treatment effect was estimated with $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^T p X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *African geography, community health services, mental health screening, prevalence studies, service utilization outcomes, urbanization effects, stigma reduction initiatives*

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