

ALBANIAN IMMIGRANTS AND PSYCHOSIS - CORRELATION BETWEEN IMMIGRATION FACTORS AND PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS IN PEOPLE PRESENTED AT TIRANA PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC

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Introduction: The present data are part of a wider study aimed at analyzing psychological aspects and mental health of Albanian immigrants presented at Clinic of Psychiatry-University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa", Tirana Albania. The experience of migration can negatively influence mental health (Furnham & Bochner, 1986) and immigrants may have an increased risk for mental health disorders and distress when compared to non-immigrants (Breslau, et al., 2007).

Aim: To see the correlation between immigration factors and most frequent psychotic symptoms of the participants in the study.

Methods: Study sample was made up of 41 Albanian individuals (M:F = 4.9:1), presenting at University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa" Tirana during six months, with psychotic symptoms and a history of Immigration. Mean age of the subjects was 33.7 years. Semi-structured interviews that utilized several cross culturally validated questionnaires were conducted with all participants, Personal and Psychiatric History Schedule and Structured Clinical Questionnaire for DSM-IV.

Results: The most commonly reported type of trauma was material deprivation (73%), followed by death or disappearance of family members (55%), witnessing violence (43%). Greater numbers of immigration factors were significantly associated with higher levels of persecutory delusions ($\chi^2=168.4$, $p=.001$), auditive commanding hallucinations ($\chi^2=42.1$, $p=.001$), and intrusive thoughts ($\chi^2=34.1$, $p=.001$).

Conclusions: It is the first study on mental health of Albanian immigrant people in Albania and very important for recommendations in future research in this target group.