Psychological distress in migrants in Australia over 50 years old: A longitudinal investigation

Author/s: Chou | Year: 2007 | Publication type: Journal article | Peer reviewed: | Topic area/s: Mental Health


Key Words: length of residency, psychological distress, adaptation

Research aim:
Study examined whether origin of countries and visa types predicted psychological distress over a period of 1 year and whether their association changed after factors in health, social roles, cohort effect and social support were adjusted.

Results/Conclusion:
GHQ-12 scores did deteriorate over a period of 1 year among older migrants to Australia. In multiple regression analyses, origin of countries and visa types were significant predictors of future GHQ-12 scores. Baseline GHQ-12 scores, age, gender, living alone, days in Australia, poor self-rated health, the presence of heart disease, diabetes, and asthma, being a student or economically inactive, widowhood or divorce, as well as education were also significant predictors of GHQ-12 scores at 1-year follow-up.

Implications:
The Status of refugees predicts future psychological distress in older migrants even when other known correlates of psychological distress are controlled

Cultural Group(s):

Location of study:
Australia (national)

Age group:
50+

Number included in study:
431 Wave 1, 359 in Wave 2 (same people as wave 1)

Type of participants:
migrants

Research approach:
Quantitative

Type of data:
Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:
General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12)

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: