“Health Care in Greece during economic hardship”

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Introduction

• Greek economic crisis: global concern owing to its side effects and risks involved for both the eurozone and the global economic community.

• Major sources of inadequacy are the severe structural weaknesses in:
  • Greek public administration,
  • economy
  • which lead:
    • to bureaucracy,
    • low quality of services,
    • high costs.
Background and rationale

- Since the beginning of the financial crisis in 2007, Greece has been affected more than any other European country.
- By 2010, the deepening financial downturn included a large fiscal deficit, a shrinking of GDP, budgets cuts and growing unemployment.
- Today, the continued deteriorating situation has affected to some extent the provision of services to the population, particularly the most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, the unemployed, the disabled and the uninsured.
- Although the health status of the population is fairly good compared to other neighbouring countries, it is of crucial importance for the Ministry of Health (MoH) to be able to assess the current conditions around access to care for vulnerable groups, and to plan for appropriate policy responses.
Progression of Greek GDP (2008 - 2012)

Source: Eurostat
Progression of Unemployment (2008 - 2012)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

8% 10% 13% 18% 24% 27%

Source: Elstat

Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Health
Progression of Long Term Unemployment

Source: Elstat
Progression of Youth Unemployment (2008 - 2012)

Source: Eurostat
Difficulty in seeing a doctor because of cost of seeing the doctor (EUROFOUND 2012)

1. Very difficult
   - Greece: 30.5%
   - European Union: 8.8%

2. A little difficult
   - Greece: 33.4%
   - European Union: 19.5%

3. Not difficult at all
   - Greece: 35.9%
   - European Union: 71.5%
Current actions to support access to healthcare services for vulnerable groups of the population

- POVERTY HEALTH INSURANCE BOOK
- HEALTH VOUCHER FOR THE UNINSURED
- IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME FOR POOR AND UNINSURED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
- IMMUNISATION OF ROMA CHILDREN
- COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF FREE MEDICINES
- HEALTHCARE PROVISION FOR YOUNG UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS
- EOPYY’S SOCIAL PHARMACIES
COLLABORATION WITH WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

- EXTENDED STUDY **BY THE END OF 2013** FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.
  - IDENTIFY THE UNEMPLOYED POPULATION IN GREECE (RESULTING TO LACK OF HEALTH COVERAGE)
  - DETECT THE VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS AT RISK
  - IDENTIFY REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES
  - PROVIDE PROSPECTIVE POLICY ACTIONS AND COST TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE ISSUE.
Suicide rates in Greece
Suicide rates in Europe 'linked' to financial crisis
By Nick Triggle
Health correspondent, BBC News

The financial crisis “almost certainly” led to an increase in suicides across Europe, health experts say.

Greek woes drive up suicide rate
Experts attribute rise to the country’s economic crisis following release of statistics that show a 40% jump since last year

Helena Smith in Athens
The Guardian, Sunday 18 December 2011 20.17 GMT
6.5/100,000 = 715 suicides

40% increase = 1001 suicides
Την επόμενη φορά που θα αυτοκτονήσει ένας συνάνθρωπος σου, θυμήσου πως Εσύ τον σκότωσες με την ψήφο σου.
Trends in suicidality amid the economic crisis in Greece

Konstantinos N. Fountoulakis · Christos Savopoulou · Melina Siamouli · Eleni Zaggelidou · Stamatia Mageiria · Apostolos Iacovides · Apostolos I. Hatzitolios

Three papers in The Lancet have suggested a link between suicide rates in Greece and the economic crisis. The evidence does not support such an association.

Completed suicide rates for Greece (1960–2009) suggest a fluctuation between 2.8 per 100 000 population in 1975 and 4.0 per 100 000 in 1985, with the rate being relatively stable for the years 2000–09 (3.5–3.6). In 2009 (when Greece began to see indices of extreme financial crisis), 392 people committed suicide. This number is similar to that of the year 1975, though the true suicide rate, and such an effect cannot therefore be responsible for the absence of an increased rate.

Reported attempts or suicidal thoughts are quite different from suicide itself. In a paper-and-pencil study from our group on 734 healthy individuals representative of the general economically active higher educational population (mean age 40–8 years; SD 11–5; range 25–67), 84 (11%) had a score on the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale above the threshold for depression, 36 (5%) had a past history of another 5 years, and an impressive increase in figures might be necessary, in view of the fluctuations seen over past decades.

DOI 10.1007/s00406-012-0385-9

Table: Number of deaths from suicide, falls, and accidental poisoning in Greece, 2000–09, and associated unemployment and growth rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total (cases)</th>
<th>Suicide (%)</th>
<th>Falls (%)</th>
<th>Poisoning (%)</th>
<th>Growth rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
## Table 1  Death rates for the years 2000–2010 in Greece

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Suicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Unemployment rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10 903 757</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>10 931 206</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>10 968 708</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>11 006 377</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>11 040 650</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>11 082 751</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11 125 179</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>11 171 740</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11 213 785</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11 260 402</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>11 305 118</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Range:
- Suicides: 2.94-3.61 (±23%)
- Unempl: 7.7-14.8 (±100%)

Correlation: 0.04

Epidemiol Community Health Dec 2012 (in press)
ELSTAT  [www.statistics.gr](http://www.statistics.gr)
Fountoulakis et al. J Epidemiol Community Health Dec 2012 (in press)
ELSTAT  www.statistics.gr
First reliable data suggest a possible increase in suicides in Greece.
Fountoulakis KN, Koupidis SA, Grammatikopoulos IA, Theodorakis PN.
PMID: 23920261 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
Suicides in Greece: a light at the end of the tunnel

George Michas research associate
## Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Suicide count†</th>
<th>Suicides/100 000 population†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>321</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012†</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data taken from the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT; www.statistics.gr). Rates were standardised
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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