

Psychiatric Morbidity

Title: Patterns of Psychiatric Morbidity Among Attendants at the Mental Health Clinic in Irbid

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Abstract:

All psychiatric patients who attended the mental health clinic in Irbid during a ten-year period (1984-1993) were included in this descriptive study. The study aimed to determine the attendance rates of psychiatric patients and the incidence and prevalence of various psychiatric disorders by socio-demographic characteristics of patients. The study consisted of two parts. First, all available mental health patient files from 1984-1993 were reviewed, and the trend of psychiatric morbidity was examined. Secondly, the socio-demographic data of psychiatric patients who attended the clinic in 1993 were studied.

A total of 2,335 psychiatric patients attended the mental health clinic during the period of the study (1,285 males and 1,050 females). This study has shown that the overall attendance rate of psychiatric patients was higher in males than females and it was also higher in Irbid City than in peripheries. There was a gradual increase in the attendance rates over time and the highest attendance rate was among young adults (25-44years). The patients with the highest attendance rates suffered from schizophrenia, effective psychosis and anxiety disorders.

A total of 500 psychiatric patients attended the mental health clinic in 1993, Most of attendants (292) were male. The majority of them were young, unemployed, married, with an intermediate or secondary education level, and from Irbid City. The most common psychiatric disorders in 1993 were anxiety disorders, schizophrenia and effective psychosis. This study recommends improvement of the filing system in the mental health clinic and further epidemiological studies on psychiatric morbidity.