

Special Issue

Domestic Violence during and after the Lockdown: The Shadow Pandemic

Message from the Guest Editors

COVID-19 has significantly affected many aspects of our lives and has had a dramatic effect on a global DVA/ IPV upsurge as well, leading the WHO, alarmingly, to name it the *Shadow Pandemic*. Being forced to be in the same enclosed place, social isolation, and multiple related stressors, including financial challenges, has led to an increase in abusive behaviours, as well as gender violence and crimes. Indeed, several studies found that pandemic lockdowns had an exacerbating effect on IPV rates worldwide. Similarly, domestic violence support and emergency services experienced a significant increase in calls and requests for help. This caused an additional strain on services already under major stress and with limited capacities and investment. We are looking for contributions from different fields and methodologies addressing new challenges, as well as proposed solutions, related to this dramatic increase in domestic violence rates at a time of further reduced capacity of service providers (health, police, social care, legal advisors, courts, charities, etc.).

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 April 2024)



Behavioral Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 3.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/138945

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