



Title: Social epidemiology of suicide-related 112 calls in COVID-19 crisis: A Bayesian spatio-temporal approach

Acronym: SEPISCOV

Project leader: Miriam Marco

Host organisation: Universidad de Valencia

Main purpose of the project: This project analyzes the spatio-temporal variations of suicide-related 112 calls in the Valencian Community in a 6-year period (2018-2023) at the municipal level, to inform about the impact of the pandemic in suicide calls and improve the management of resources and the implementation of local prevention and intervention strategies.

Design/methodology/approach: Spatio-temporal autoregressive Bayesian models will be used to capture both spatial and temporal relationships, incorporating covid-related variables and sociodemographic covariates. We will map area-specific incidence and temporal trends. Differential analysis will be performed taking into account the sex of the victim and the type of caller (victim or witness).

Potential results: This study provides COVID-19-related variables and community-level risk factors related to the spatio-temporal variations of suicide calls, assessing potential differences according to the sex and type of caller. Its methodological approach will allow to predict the evolution of suicide calls and design maps useful for a graphic and clear reporting.

Social relevance of the research: This research will inform social agencies about the impact of the pandemic in the suicide-related calls. It also provides a community tool to design action protocols, evaluate the success of preventive measures, and allow a more adjusted and informed distribution of social resources for the prevention and management of suicide.

Originality/value of the project: This project uses a methodological complex approach still infrequent in Social Sciences (Bayesian spatio-temporal methods). It constitutes an innovative and pioneering scientific proposal that will improve our understanding of the effects of the current public health crisis in mental health issues and social concern about suicide.