

Social determinants of health in male forensic patients admitted at Weskoppies hospital

Authors: Dr Keabetswe Mogase, Dr Tshepiso Moeketsi, Prof Funeka Sokudela
Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Health Science, University of Pretoria

INTRODUCTION

Social factors are increasingly being used to determine health outcomes. The concept of social determinants of health have been used to shape policies that address disparities. There is a paucity of such studies in the forensic setting. This study aimed to use social determinants of health to identify social factors that are associated with being a male forensic patient.

METHODS

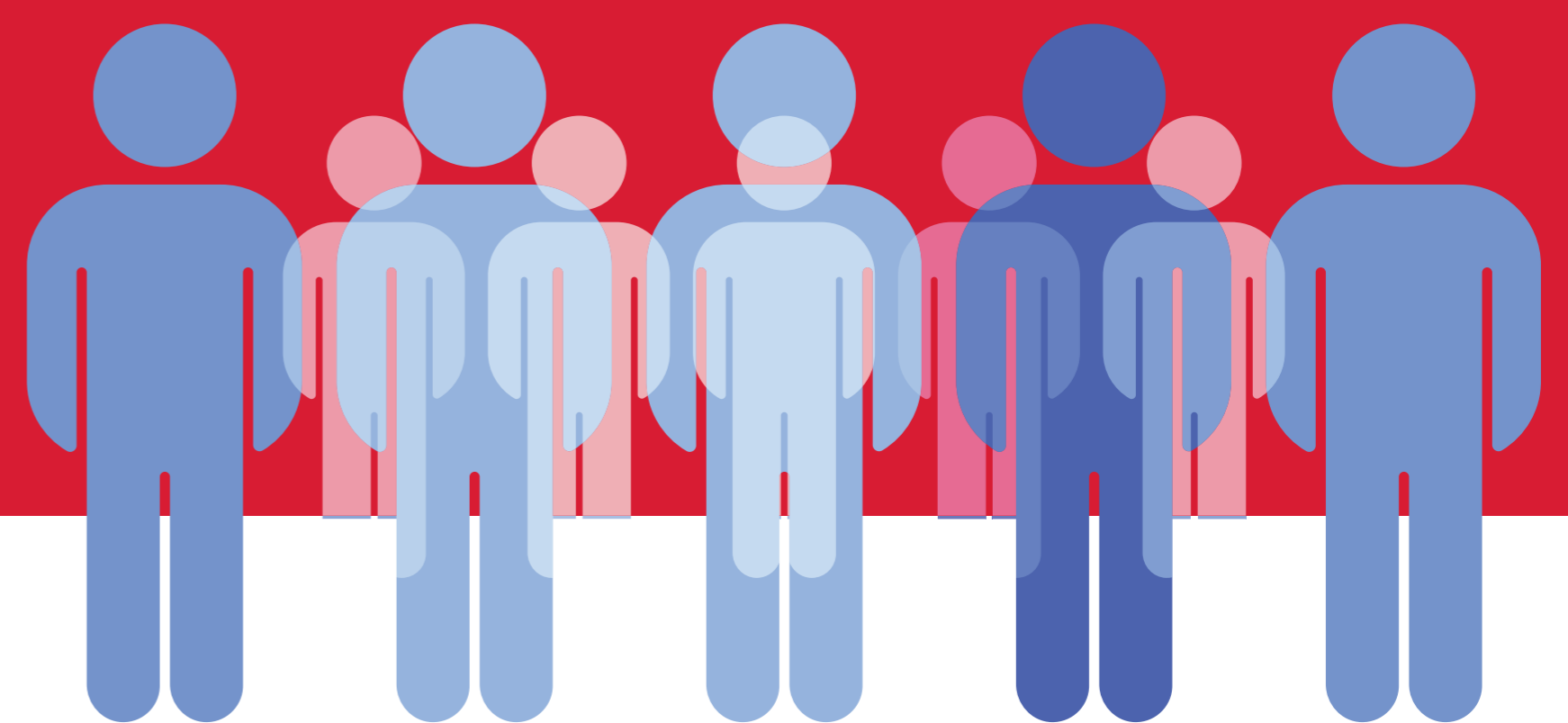
The study was a retrospective two-group (forensic and non-forensic) comparison clinical record review. Association was identified through independent and multivariate statistical analysis.

DISCUSSION

According to the current study, it seems that being black, unemployed and being exposed to other adverse social factors leads to being a forensic patient. Such social determinants of health ought to be targeted then, to improve health outcomes of psychiatric patients.

RESULTS

The study sample comprised of 296 patients, 56.4% (n=167) of which were non-forensic. Majority of the sample was black African, 50 years and older, single, unemployed and had attended main-stream schooling. Race ($p<0.01$), employment status ($p<0.02$), not completing high school ($p<0.01$), previous imprisonment ($p<0.01$), drug use ($p<0.01$) and not being on medication prior to admission ($p<0.01$) were significantly associated with being a forensic patient. Multivariate logistic regression analyses also confirmed these associations.



Characteristics	Odds Ratio (OR)	95% CI	P-value
Age Categories			
19-29	1.00		
30-39	1.38	.48 - 3.92	0.54
40-49	2.98	1.04 - 8.54	0.04
≥50	1.70	.61 - 4.70	0.31
prolonged stay			
no	1.00		
yes	0.15	.06 - .38	<0.01
Race			
Black African	1.00		
White	0.27	0.09 - .79	0.02
Coloured/Indian	0.17	0.02 - 1.89	0.15
Completed grd12			
no	1.00		
yes	0.30	.14 - .66	<0.01
Drug use			
no	1.00		
yes	2.49	1.17 - 5.30	0.02
Meds prior admission			
no	1.00		
yes	0.09	.02 - .35	<0.01

Factors associated with being Forensic patient using multivariate logistic regression

CONCLUSION

Collaborations between mental health, public health, law & policy makers as well as non-/governmental agencies may lead to change. Amelioration of these social determinants of health might prevent psychiatric patients from becoming forensic patients. Human rights of individuals with mental illness may thus be enhanced in the long run.

