Author's response to reviews

Title: Psychological Distress in French College Students: Demographic, Economic and Social Stressors. Results from the 2010 National Health Barometer

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Version: 4  Date: 26 February 2014

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Manuscript title: “Psychological Distress in French College Students: Demographic, Economic and Social Stressors. Results from the 2010 National Health Barometer”, by Thomas Saïas et al.

Answers to the Editor’s comments with modifications we would like to introduce to the text.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1. Why was sexual violence assessed as a lifetime variable and non-sexual violence was assessed within the past 12 months?

We have assessed sexual violence within the past year, as specific sexual violences have been proved to have a long-term impact on mental health, which has not been the case for non-sexual violence, as stated for instance in these publications:


2. For non-sexual violence, a contemptuous glance was included as an example. If this translates to "mean facial expression" careful consideration should be
given as to whether that item should be included in the violence category.

This item was used in order to identify psychological threat in general population, through a wide range of events. The links between psychological threat and psychological distress have been shown in France in


with no difference between the multiple variables included in this item.

Similarities between different behavioral threats have been shown e.g.


So that we have chosen to use similar questions, wide, in order to lower the threshold for positive scoring in psychological threat, to adjust precisely our models.

4. Were grades/school performance assessed? If so, those data would be important to include.

Grades/school performance were not assessed in this general population survey.

5. What sociodemographic variables are controlled for in the logistic regression analyses? Were these covariates chosen for a particular reason? How many logistic regressions were conducted and were p-values appropriately adjusted based on the number of tests?

Sociodemographic variables controlled for the logistic regression were: gender, age, work status, financial situation perception. They were chosen for their know association with psychological distress.

One logistic regression was conducted with all variables that were significantly associated in the bivariate analyses. Differences were considered significant at the 0.05 level and no adjustment for multiple comparisons was made. The present analysis is suitable for a descriptive purpose.

DISCUSSION

3. The prevalence of PD observed here (13.7%) is substantially lower than the prevalence found in prior studies with French college students using the same assessment instrument (25.7%). The discussion still does not adequately offer clear ideas about why these discrepancies are observed.

AND

6. The statement that "a less significant proportion of French students have to work to finance their studies, which could lead to the hypothesis that mental health issues will be less a problem" does not seem to follow from the data. The results note that a greater proportion of unemployed individuals screening positive for PD. Please revise.

AND

7. The following statement in the discussion is very unclear:
TEXT
8. There are contractions used in the article (e.g., sociodemographical factors and the second line of the discussion both use the term "didn't")
AND
9. Punctuation is often missing (e.g., periods are not used at the end of sentences).
AND
10. Grammar needs to be thoroughly checked and corrected throughout.
# The whole paper has been corrected for grammar, spelling and contractions by a native English speaker.