

301. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN F CODES AND CRISES

Rachel Sitton, Principal Investigator, College of Social Work

Dr. William Nugent, Faculty Mentor

RESEARCH QUESTION

Is there a relationship between the **number of F codes** clients have and the **number of crises** that they experience?

- F codes are primary mental health diagnoses found in the ICD-10
- Crises include abduction, elopement, abuse, neglect, DCS report, arrest, serious injury, death, or mental health incident that requires an emergency response

METHODOLOGY

Data was gathered from a mental health agency in a southeastern state. The sample included all clients who had an incident report on file that depicted a crisis that met the specified criteria. Only incident reports from 2019 were analyzed. The F codes were collected from client electronic health records. The data was analyzed using a **negative binomial regression analysis** given the count nature of the dependent variable. A 90% confidence interval was used as opposed to 95% confidence interval in order to increase statistical power given the exploratory nature of the research.

BACKGROUND

- One study found that most participants, who were murderers, had **at least one Axis I diagnosis** and approximately half of them more than one Axis I diagnosis (Culhane et al., 2016)
- Another study concluded that “there is a relationship between the number of **Axis I diagnoses** and the number of **self-harm behaviors**” (Sansone et al., 2009)
- These studies imply that there is a relationship between mental health diagnoses and crises

RESULTS

- Sample size of 104
- The Pearson Chi-Square goodness-of-fit value was 0.245, which suggests that a negative binomial regression analysis is a reasonably **good fit** for the data.

Parameter	B	Std. Error	90% Wald Confidence Interval		Hypothesis Test			90% Wald Confidence Interval for Exp(B)		
			Lower	Upper	Wald Chi-Square	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper
(Intercept)	.069	.1201	-.129	.266	.329	1	.566	1.071	.879	1.305
Diagnoses	.119	.0619	.017	.220	3.667	1	.055	1.126	1.017	1.247
(Scale)	1 ^a									
(Negative binomial)	1 ^a									

Dependent Variable: Crises
Model: (Intercept), Diagnoses
a. Fixed at the displayed value.

DISCUSSION

Based on a critical alpha of 0.1, the relationship between the number of F codes clients are diagnosed with and the number of crises they experience is **statistically significant**. For each additional diagnosis, I found that the incident rate ratio increases by 1.13 that the client will have more crises, with a confidence interval of 1.02 to 1.25.

There are potential limitations to this study. The most prominent is the small sample size. Additionally, client diagnoses and crises could be underreported due to **stigma or fear**. There could be **confounding variables** such as poverty, interpersonal relationships, age, etc. The findings are likely **not highly generalizable** due to the small sample size and that it was collected from only one agency in one area.



IMPLICATIONS

Based on these findings, it might be helpful to consider the number of mental health diagnoses when determining client levels of risk. Professionals could take this into consideration when treating individuals with multiple diagnoses and offer these clients additional supports such as safety planning, more frequent contact, crisis resource information, etc. In conclusion, heightened awareness of this risk factor for crisis could lead to increased support for individuals that could benefit from it and, by extension, the prevention of crises.

REFERENCES

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- Sansone, R., Gaither, G., Songer, D., & Allen, J. (2005). Multiple psychiatric diagnoses and self-harm behavior. *International Journal Of Psychiatry In Clinical Practice*, 9(1), 41–44. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13651500510018293>