

# The forgotten: Immigrant women with psychotic disorders. Comparison of traumatic burden between immigrant and local women with psychotic disorder, an intersectional approach

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## Introduction

Intersectionality is a sociological term used to describe the impact and complex interconnection of multiple identities and forms of oppression on experiences of inequality (1). In particular, immigrant women with psychosis are at higher risk of suffering poor health conditions due to simultaneous and multi-level interaction between different social determinants (gender, ethnicity, migrant status...). Despite migration has been robustly associated with traumatic events exposure and increased risk for psychosis, few studies describe traumatic burden in immigrants with psychotic disorder (3,4). This lack of evidence is even more accentuated within the woman population (5).

## Aim

To describe and compare trauma exposure prevalence between immigrant and local women with psychotic disorder in a Mental Health Service located in Barcelona.

## Methods

Women who have presented, according to DSM-V, one or more non-affective psychotic episodes, were recruited leading to a total sample of n=54. Trauma exposure was assessed by Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ), Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5), The Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale and Cumulative Trauma Scale and Cumulative Trauma Scale (CTS). Demographic characteristics of patients and clinical data were also recorded. Comparative analysis was performed using Chi-Square Test for qualitative variables and t-Student test for continuous variables.

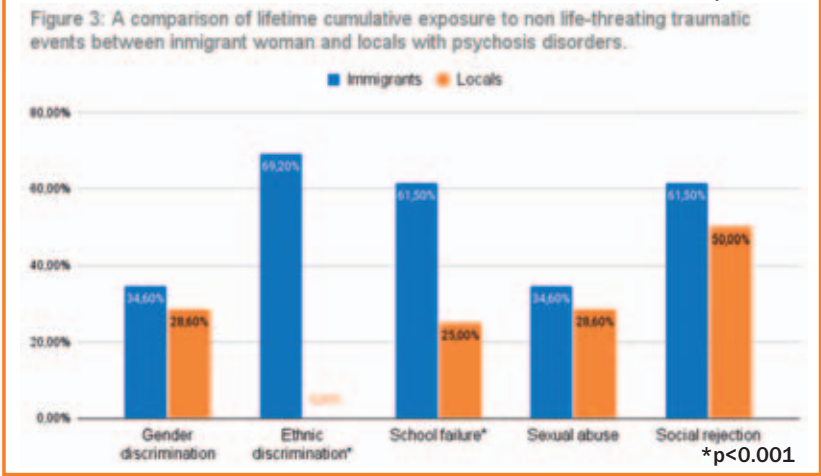
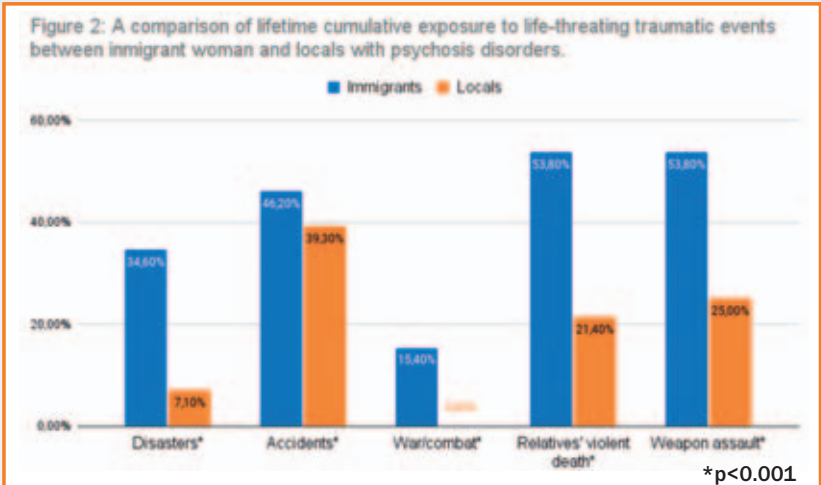
## Results

From a total of 54 women, 26 were immigrants and 28 were locals. Exposure to traumatic events showed a significant differences between immigrants and locals in mean total scores of: Total child trauma score (in particular: Child emotional abuse, Child physical abuse and emotional neglect) [Figure 1](#). Concerning stressful life events exposure in the last year, significant differences were found in the Holmes and Rahe scale between groups. Immigrant women presented an almost two times higher number of events (9.08) compared to locals (5.1). In addition, the total distress score was significantly higher also in the immigrant group with a mean of 301.2 compared to the locals with 176.2. [Figure 1](#). Likewise, remarkable differences in lifetime cumulative trauma exposure were detected using the CTS. The mean of total exposure was 2 times higher in the immigrant women (31.8) compared to the native-born group (12.96). In addition, these differences were more pronounced when total traumatic distress was compared between groups with a mean of 78.31 in the immigrants and 33.6 in the locals group ([Figure 1](#)). Lastly, we present differences in the nature of traumatic events exposure between groups in [Figure 2 and 3](#).

Figure 1: Comparison of psychological trauma between immigrant women (case) and native born woman (control) with psychosis disorder.

Variable		Group	Obs	Mean/SD	Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]	Contrast statistics
Holmes & Rahe	Number of events	Case	26	9.08 (4.2)	0.82	-6.93- (-4.61)	$F_{27}=0.918$ $p=0.00$
		Control	28	5.1 (3.9)	0.75		
	Total score	Case	26	301.2(140.0)	27.4	-201.54(-48.43)	$F_{27}=0.11$ $p=0.00$
		Control	28	176.2(140.1)	26.47		
CTQ	Total	Case	26	13.77 (5.49)	1.07	-25.03(-5.7)	$F_{27}=0.28$ $p=0.002$
		Control	28	9.75(5.46)	1.03		
	Emotional A	Case	26	13.77 (5.49)	1.07	-7.02- (-1.04)	$F_{27}=0.21$ $p=0.01$
		Control	28	9.75(5.46)	1.03		
	Physical A	Case	26	12.27(7.15)	1.40	-8.29- (-1.82)	$F_{27}=10.72$ $p=0.003$
		Control	28	7.21(4.5)	0.85		
	Sexual A	Case	26	7.50(4.67)	0.95	-2.85- (2.57)	$F_{27}=0.07$ $p=0.916$
		Control	28	7.36(5.22)	0.98		
	Emotional N	Case	26	13.69(5.15)	1.01	-5.84- (-0.25)	$F_{27}=0.009$ $p=0.03$
		Control	28	10.64(5.09)	0.93		
	Physical N	Case	26	8.77(3.45)	0.68	-3.44- (0.542)	$F_{27}=0.05$ $p=0.15$
		Control	28	7.32(3.83)	0.72		
CTS	Number of events	Case	26	31.84(18.24)	3.57	-10.41- (-5.27)	$F_{27}=1.3$ $p=0.00$
		Control	28	12.96(10.55)	1.99		
	Total distress	Case	26	78.31(37.83)	7.41	-62.51- (-26.81)	$F_{27}=6.29$ $p=0.00$
		Control	28	33.64(25.56)	4.83		

Obs/Freq: Number of cases observed; Std. Error: Standard Error; Conf.: Confidence; CAPS-5/EGEP-5: Global Assessment of Post-traumatic Stress Questionnaire-5; PTSD: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder; CTQ: Childhood Trauma Questionnaire; Emotional A: Emotional Abuse; Physical A: Physical Abuse; Sexual A: Sexual Abuse; Emotional N: Emotional Neglect; Physical N: Physical Neglect; Holmes & Rahe: Holmes & Rahe Social Readjustment Scale, CTS: Cumulative Trauma Scale.



## Conclusions

There are important and significant differences in trauma exposure between immigrant and local women with psychotic disorder. Traumatic burden in immigrant women with psychotic disorder should be considered by clinicians and politicians in order to design more accurate programs and policies to assess this population.

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