

## **Effects of COVID-19 lockdowns on suicidal ideation in students in Israel**

In Israel, like in many other countries Covid 19 crisis is causing economic problems and recession. The economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic will be felt for a long time and is likely to increase poverty levels and worsen inequality, two facets of Israeli society that were “exceptionally high” even before the crisis hit, a report by the Taub Center for Social Policy said.

The inequality is estimated to have increased by about 1.5 to 4 percent in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Incidence of poverty is likely to increase by about 8 to 14 percent according to the authors of The State of the Nation 2020 report. Students who are about to enter work market, lost their sources of income and suffered from increasing poverty and instability, which severely affected their well-being. In Israel 84% of the students worked before COVID-19 crisis, 49% of the students lost their jobs. Our research designed to explore the effects of COVID-19 related lockdowns on suicidal ideation in students in Israel. The research demonstrates significant effects on suicidal rates during lockdown. Further research must evaluate the effects of poverty levels and inequality on suicidal ideation.

COVID-19 lockdowns in Israel had significant effects on the wellbeing of the population with possibly more severe effects on a specific group that suffered from instability and poverty. Hopefully, these lockdown-induced adverse changes can naturally normalize after lockdown ends.