

Psychotic-like Experiences: Preliminary Results From the Mental Health Module of the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Adults (DEGS1-MH)

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Psychotic and psychotic-like experiences (PLEs) are frequently found in the general population when assessed with self-report questionnaires. It is not clear how these assessments can help to predict the future development of mental disorders. The degree of certainty in appraisal or the experience-related distress may add prognostic power of clinical PLE assessments. This study was designed to provide baseline data of PLEs in a representative sample, which will be monitored for the future development. *Methods:* We studied the frequency of PLEs in a representative sample of 4483 participants of the German population recruited through the Mental Health Module of the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Adults (DEGS1-MH). Participants were asked if they had had psychotic or psychosis-like experiences over their lifetime. We used the psychosis section of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI), the Launay-Slade Hallucination Scale (LSHS) and the Peter's Delusion Inventory (PDI). *Preliminary Results:* 33.3% of the participants endorsed at least one item of the CIDI psychosis scale, 68.8% of the PDI and 49.0% of the LSHS. In the PDI assessments, conspiracy-related delusional experiences were most often experienced as distressing, while religious beliefs were experienced less distressing, but with high levels of conviction. *Discussion:* Our findings show frequent endorsement of lifetime psychotic or psychotic-like experiences in the general population in self-report questionnaires with varying degrees of distress and conviction. This provides the needed baseline assessment for follow-up studies observing the development of mental disorders with a view to determine the predictive values of these tests.