

## **O27 Social and mental health of accompanied and unaccompanied minors on Lesbos, Greece**

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**Objective:** Among the ongoing global refugee crisis, an estimated 400 million children are currently displaced worldwide, many experiencing chronic instability, trauma, and uncertainty. These children represent one of the most vulnerable populations globally, with their mental health and overall well-being at significant risk. Understanding and addressing the psychosocial needs of displaced children is therefore a critical public health priority. This study investigates domains of Quality of Life (QoL) in two distinct groups of forcibly displaced children living on Lesbos, Greece: those residing with their caregivers in the Closed Control Access Centre (CCAC) Mavrovouni, and unaccompanied minors (UAMs) accommodated in designated shelters.

**Methods:** We conducted a mixed-methods study incorporating both quantitative and qualitative components. To systematically assess health-related QoL, we used different Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System® (PROMIS®) CATs and Short Forms. PROMIS scores were analyzed against normative reference values from the US using one-sample Wilcoxon signed-rank tests. Potential associated variables were explored through multivariable linear regression. Interviews were conducted for UAMs to qualitatively identify factors shaping their lived experience and well-being.

**Results:** A total of 111 children participated: 94 living with caregivers and 17 UAMs. Across all age groups, children reported significantly worse outcomes in multiple PROMIS domains compared to reference populations. Notably, children aged 1–4 years showed elevated Depressive Symptoms but reported relatively positive Peer Relationships. Children aged 5–18 demonstrated significantly higher levels of Anger, Anxiety, Depressive Symptoms, and Pain Behavior. Adolescents (8–18 years) reported higher scores on Meaning and Purpose. Longer durations in the camp setting were significantly associated with worsening mental health outcomes, particularly elevated Anxiety and Depressive Symptoms. UAMs highlighted separation from family as a key factor negatively impacting their mental well-being, while emphasizing hope, future goals, and social connections as critical sources of resilience.

**Conclusions:** Displaced children, especially those living without family, show alarming levels of psychological distress, with prolonged displacement worsening these issues. Besides some methodology challenges, PROMIS enabled any standardization of assessment of mental health domains, underscoring its value in vulnerable populations. Targeted interventions are urgently needed to protect and improve the mental health and overall QoL of these children.