

## Prevalence of smell and taste alterations in times of the Covid-19 pandemic, Argentina

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### Abstract

Alcohol is a psychoactive substance with dependence-producing properties that has been widely used in many cultures for centuries. Worldwide, 3 million deaths every year result from harmful use of alcohol, this represent 5.3 % of all deaths. Overall 5.1 % of the global burden of disease and injury is attributable to alcohol. Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20–39 years approximately 13.5 % of the total deaths are alcohol-attributable. There is a causal relationship between harmful use of alcohol and a range of mental and behavioural disorders, other non-communicable conditions as well as injuries. Beyond health consequences, the harmful use of alcohol brings significant social and economic losses to individuals and society at large.

**Methodology and Theoretical Orientation:** Women who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are at greater risk for physical and mental health problems including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and alcohol dependency. On their own IPV, PTSD and alcohol dependency result in significant personal, social and economic cost and the impact of all three may compound these costs. Researchers have reported that women with these experiences are more difficult to treat and many do not access treatment and those who do, frequently do not stay because of difficulty maintaining helping relationships. However, these women perspective have not been previously studied. The purpose of this study is to describe the experience of seeking help for alcohol dependency by women with PTSD and a history of IPV in the context in which it occurs.

There is evidence on the deterioration of smell and taste in patients with COVID-19. Differences were found in the prevalence of these symptoms in different populations. Based on the pattern of presentation, as of April 16, 2020, the definition of a suspected case in Argentina incorporated these symptoms. The objective of this study is to establish the prevalence of these deficits in patients with COVID-19. Multicenter study. Confirmed COVID-19 cases older than 18 years, RT-PCR swabs, between May 15 and August 31, 2020 participated. Participants completed an online survey, which included sociodemographic questions, on COVID-19 symptoms, comorbidities and in relation to perception of loss of smell and taste. 241 patients participated, 79% reported loss of smell and 54% of taste. In 32% of the cases the loss of smell was the first symptom. The proportion of men and women who reported olfactory dysfunction was similar and the same happened in relation to the loss of taste. The prevalence of these symptoms coincides in relation to the age of the patient. A high proportion of patients with COVID-19 present olfactory and taste dysfunction in the Argentine population.

**Findings:** The dissemination of the olfactory and gustatory test adapted to cultural smells, which can be carried out at home, is important. In the future we will develop the implementation of a massive disposable and digitized test. Multicenter study. Confirmed COVID-19 cases older than 18 years, RT-PCR swabs, between May 15 and August 31, 2020 participated. Participants completed an online survey, which included sociodemographic questions, on COVID-19 symptoms, comorbidities and in relation to perception of loss of smell and taste. 241 patients participated, 79% reported loss of smell and 54% of taste. In 32% of the cases the loss of smell was the first symptom. The proportion of men and women who reported olfactory dysfunction was similar and the same happened in relation to the loss of taste. The prevalence of these symptoms coincides in relation. A high proportion of patients with COVID-19 present olfactory and taste dysfunction in the Argentine population. The dissemination of the olfactory and gustatory test adapted to cultural smells, which can be carried out at home, is important. In the future we will develop the implementation of a massive disposable and digitized test. Cholera is a major health problem facing most developing countries. Globally, 132, 121 cholera cases were reported in 2016. About 54% of these cases were recorded in Africa.

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## Biography

Deanna L Mulvihill is a Senior Nurse Therapist and a researcher who has developed a technique called Rebinding of the Body which helps people recover from trauma, learn self-help techniques and lead more productive lives. Her intersubjective ethnographic study has been published in a text called, "Women, Trauma and Alcohol Dependency, Connection and disconnections in alcohol treatment for women". She has published several articles in child and family psychiatry including an extensive literature review called "The Health Impact of Childhood Trauma". Presently, she has a small private practice and she works as a consultant for Cogenz and Thought Leadership and Innovation Foundation. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing in 2009. Her dissertation was "Seeking and Obtaining Help for Alcohol Dependence by Women who have Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and a History of Intimate Partner Violence. Her intersubjective ethnographic study has been published in a text called, "Women, Trauma and Alcohol Dependency, Connection and disconnections in alcohol treatment for women". She has published several articles in child and family psychiatry including an extensive literature review called "The Health Impact of Childhood Trauma". Presently, she has a small private practice and she works as a consultant for Cogenz and Thought Leadership and Innovation Foundation. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing in 2009. Her dissertation was "Seeking and Obtaining Help for Alcohol Dependence by Women who have Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and a History of Intimate Partner Violence. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing in 2009. Her dissertation was "Seeking and Obtaining Help for Alcohol Dependence by Women who have Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and a History of Intimate Partner Violence.

## About Research Lab



LAAS, located in Toulouse, France, is a research unit of the CNRS, the French National Center for Scientific Research, within the Department of Information and Engineering Sciences and Technologies. LAAS is associated to the University of Toulouse (Université Paul Sabatier, Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse, Insti-

tut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse). The research topics of LAAS, fundamental or applied, are focused on the study of complex systems at different scales with a multidisciplinary and systemic vision and an integrative approach. With 750 researchers, university faculty, engineers, technicians, post-docs and PhD students, LAAS is one of the key players in Systems research in the Midi-Pyrénées region, in France and in Europe. University of Toulouse (Université Paul Sabatier, Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse). The research topics of LAAS, fundamental or applied, are focused on the study of complex systems at different scales with a multidisciplinary and systemic vision and an integrative approach. With 750 researchers, university faculty, engineers, technicians, post-docs and PhD students, LAAS is one of the key players in Systems research in the Midi-Pyrénées region, in France and in Europe.

## About Institution



The University of Toulouse was a university in France that was established by papal bull in 1229, making it one of the earliest universities to emerge in Europe. Suppressed during the French Revolution in 1793, it was re-founded in 1896 as part of the reorganization of higher education. It finally disappeared in 1969, giving birth to the three current Toulouse universities: the University Toulouse-I-Capitole, the Toulouse-II-Jean-Jaures University and the University Toulouse-III-Paul-Sabatier. The current consortium of Universities and other institutions of higher education and research in the Toulouse area is also known as federal university from Toulouse Midi-Pyrenees.

The three Universities, along with other Toulouse schools, are participating in the reconstruction of a University of Toulouse - a joint structure of 107,000 students including 4,500 doctoral students, approximately 17,000 staff, 145 research laboratories. The mission called "UT2022" was entrusted to Patrick Lévy, former president of the University of Grenoble-Alpes, accompanied by the president of the federal university from Toulouse Midi-Pyrenees, Philippe Raimbault. This development, strongly desired by the elected officials of the Occitanie region and Toulouse Metropolis, aims to give greater visibility to Toulouse higher education in international rankings.

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