

Study examines COVID-19 stress, coping strategies, and well-being

June 1 2020



Emre Umucu, Ph.D., (pictured) assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling, and Beatrice Lee, an incoming rehabilitation counseling faculty member, examined the perceived stress levels and coping mechanisms related to COVID-19, and how coping affects well-being in people with self-reported chronic conditions and disabilities. Credit: Laura Trejo/UTEP Communications

Active coping, denial, emotional support, humor and religion are among the coping strategies that help people with chronic conditions and disabilities deal with stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recently published study written by researchers at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Emre Umucu, Ph.D., assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling, and Beatrice Lee, an incoming rehabilitation counseling faculty member, examined the perceived stress levels and coping mechanisms related to COVID-19, and how coping affects well-being in people with self-reported chronic conditions and disabilities.

Umucu said their exploratory work has provided some preliminary information on how these individuals perceive COVID-19 and how the [coping strategies](#) they are using are related to their well-being.

Their findings were recently published in the *Rehabilitation Psychology*.

"Given that COVID-19 is a new and highly evolving stressor for everyone, especially for people with chronic conditions and disabilities, it is important to understand how individuals cope with it," said Umucu, director of UTEP's Veteran Well-Being Lab (V3). "Measuring and quantifying COVID-19-related stress and coping strategies in individuals with chronic conditions and disabilities can help clinicians and researchers understand the potential negative effects of COVID-19 among people with [chronic conditions](#) and disabilities."

More information: Emre Umucu et al, Examining the impact of COVID-19 on stress and coping strategies in individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions., *Rehabilitation Psychology* (2020). [DOI: 10.1037/rep0000328](#)

Provided by University of Texas at El Paso

Citation: Study examines COVID-19 stress, coping strategies, and well-being (2020, June 1) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-covid-stress-coping-strategies-well-being.html>

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