

The impact of terror on health.

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Introduction

Studies from other countries that have been the target of terrorist attacks, have shown that terror has a negative impact on health and wellbeing. While the impact is the highest on people who are directly confronted with an attack, indirect exposure also causes substantial negative effects and consequences. The most important of these are post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and fear. However, besides a mental impact, there are also physical issues that can arise. Research has shown for example that on 9/11 the number of heart attacks had increased substantially.

Aim

The aim of this study is to determine the effect of the attacks of 22/03/2016 and the terror threat on the health and wellbeing of people in Brussels (and Belgium). Of interest is also how the population has coped with this threat: do they drink more, are they more religious, et cetera? With the analysis it will also be possible to find what factors give someone more protection against terror, and what factors make someone more vulnerable. Finally, we hope to find out what expectations the population has of the government when it comes to protection and measures concerning terror. With a monitorinstrument that will be reused throughout the time, we hope to be able to see the evolution of the impact of terror on health. The combination of all these factors should also allow us to be able to give some recommendations for policymakers, specific social groups and people who are extra vulnerable for terror and its effects.

Methods

1. A survey that will question people about their experience with terror and their subjective health.
2. A data-analysis of objective data of illness.
3. Qualitative research with focusgroups.

Results (not yet available)

Publications (not yet available)