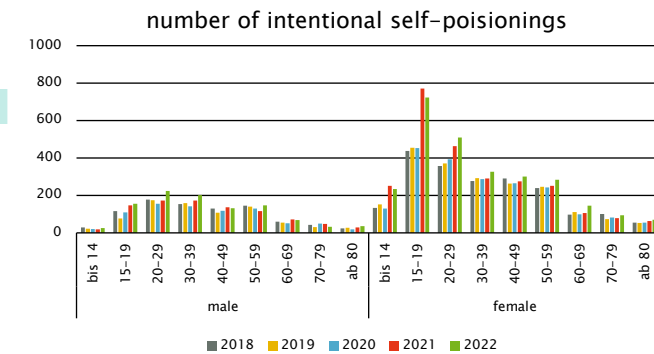
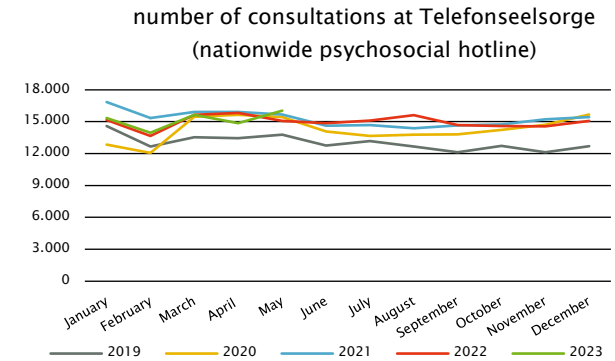
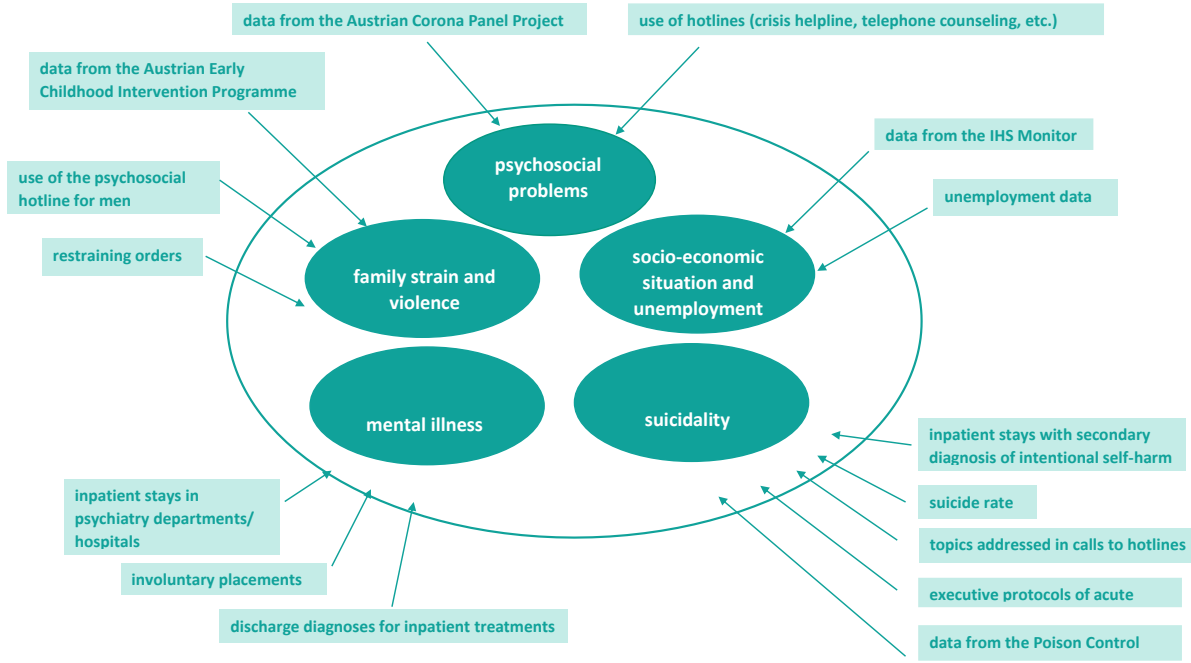
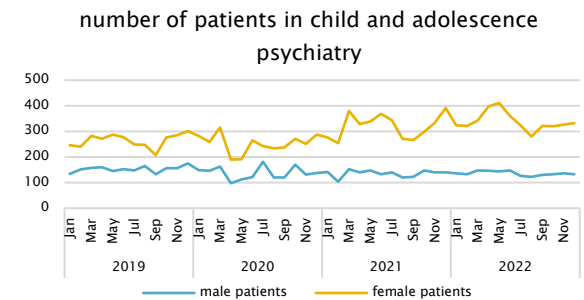
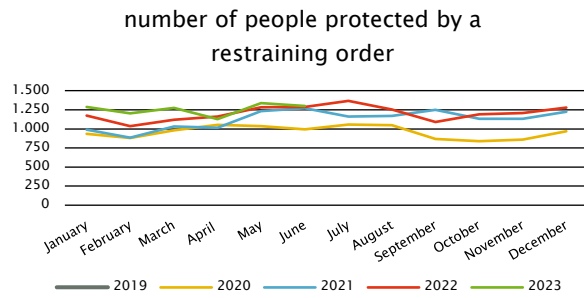


# Surveillance of mental health in Austria: concept and latest data

Sophie Sagerschnig, Michaela Pichler (Gesundheit Österreich)

Like in other countries a **regular surveillance of psychosocial health** was **established in Austria in 2020**. In addition to regular survey data, high-frequency observation of routine data can be used to detect changes in psychosocial health at an early stage. In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, a concept for an **"early warning system" based on the observation of existing data sources** was developed on behalf of the **Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection**. The psychosocial burden of Austrians can be estimated through **five main indicator groups**: family strain and violence, mental illness, suicidality, the socio-economic situation and unemployment and general psychosocial problems. All these indicator groups are interlinked. The detailed indicators are formed on the basis of different data sources (see figure). The included data sets are now continuously processed, validated and interpreted. Selected results are presented in factsheets at regular intervals.



**Conclusion:** Following a pragmatic approach, quickly and cheaply, a wide range of data sources that have never been analyzed jointly before has been combined in one place for analysis. Despite the limitations of the surveillance system, the **joint analysis of various indicators** makes it possible to **depict developments in the mental health** of the Austrian population in a **timely manner** and to **identify population groups which are especially affected**. As the system was only implemented recently, it is **still developing** and ongoing improvements are being made regarding the data included and statistical methods used.

