



# **The child and adolescent psychiatry during the crisis: Transition from European welfare state to....?**

**Dimitris C. Anagnostopoulos MD, PhD**

Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry,  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

# Evidence for the impact of economic crises and recessions on health and health Systems

WHO Regional Office for Europe. Resolution. Health in times of global economic crisis: implications for the WHO European Region; 2009

## Domestic health spending

- Private expenditure on health almost always falls as disposable household incomes fall.
- Government expenditure on health often but not always falls, partly because government revenues fall or the health budget is disproportionately cut. Some governments, however, have in the past increased health and social sector spending during a recession.
- Capital investments (infrastructure, equipment) are postponed; funds are either saved or switched to other more pressing expenditure categories.

## Health service utilization

- Utilization at health facilities that charge for services falls – this is a consistent finding across countries.
- There is a switch to utilization of government and subsidized or not-for-profit facilities.
- There is a greater mismatch between demand for health services in public settings and rationing of supply, and lower quality of care as a result of budgetary and other resource constraints.

## Mortality and morbidity

- Negative impacts on health are frequently reported.
- In low-income countries, there is most commonly, an increase in infant and child mortality, and micronutrient deficiency and anaemia in women.
- In higher-income countries, there is an increase in mental illness, suicide rates and sometimes adult male mortality.
- A heavier burden of illness is imposed on the poor and vulnerable.
- In countries with a functioning social protection and assistance scheme in place, there is a modest or no negative impact on health, depending on how severe, long and entrenched the crisis is.

Source material

Based on: Evans D (2009). The impact of the economic and financial crisis on global health (Presentation at the high-level consultation on the financial and economic crisis and global health, Geneva, 19 January 2009).