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Compulsive Buying in The United Arab Emirates: Variations Across Age, Gender, Income, Nationality and Residence

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Abstract

Compulsive buying is not yet considered a psychiatric diagnosis, but it still warrants public health concern, as it is associated with depression, anxiety and some personality disorders.

Aims: To establish variations of compulsive buying in the United Arab Emirates across age, gender, income, nationality and residence.

Methods: 395 participants responded to the Richmond Compulsive Buying Scale. Correlations with age, gender, income, nationality and residence were examined.

Results: Women, residents of Dubai/Abu Dhabi and citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council countries are at greater risk of compulsive buying.

Conclusion: UAE authorities must direct counselling efforts towards members of collectives more vulnerable to compulsive buying.

Keywords: compulsive buying, United Arab Emirates, mental health, gender, nationality