

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309600177>

Determinants of The Impact of The Economic Crisis on General and Oral Health in Greater Athens Area Greece

Poster *in* Value in Health · November 2016

DOI: 10.1016/j.jval.2016.09.1644

CITATIONS

0

READS

15

3 authors, including:



[John Yfantopoulos](#)

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

101 PUBLICATIONS 451 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



[Athanasios Chantzaras](#)

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

19 PUBLICATIONS 2 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Financial fairness in the Greek healthcare system and the impact of the economic crisis, 2008-2014

[View project](#)



Health Inequalities and Distributional issues of Population's Health [View project](#)

Determinants of the impact of the economic crisis on general and oral health in the greater area of Athens, Greece

Yfantopoulos J.¹, Chantzaras A.¹, Yfantopoulos P.²

¹ School of Economics and Political Sciences, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

² Department of Economics, University of York, York, UK.

Introduction

- Since the year 2009, the economic crisis has spawned profound economic, social and political consequences in Greece [1].
- There is an ongoing extensive discussion on the health and healthcare effects of the economic crisis. First evidence is alarming as it suggests the existence of increased mental health problems, suicides and epidemics, while the consequences for the healthcare system are more concerning due to the unprecedented public health expenditures cuts [2]
- Information on the impact of the crisis on oral health in Greece is scarce.

Objective

- To investigate the determinants of the impact of the economic crisis on general and oral health in the greater area of Athens, Greece.

Methods

- In a non-randomized, cross-sectional, observational study, 463 dental patients were enrolled from 5 private dental clinics in the greater area of Athens, between March and April 2014.
- Patients completed a self-administered questionnaire collecting data on socio-demographics, self-rated general and oral health status, and oral and general health-related quality of life, while a 5-point self-evaluation of the impact of the economic crisis on their oral and general health was also used.
- Descriptive statistics were used to summarize data.
- Binary logistic regression models with backward elimination (removal at 10% level) of poor predictors were employed to determine the most important factors influencing the health impact of the economic crisis.
- Statistical significance level was set at $\alpha=0.05$.

Results

- 61.7% of the sample were females.
- 36.2 years was the overall mean age.
- 60.1% and 54.6% of the sample reported at least some impact of the economic crisis on their general and oral health (Figure 1); the impact was statistically significantly higher on general health ($p=0.007$, based on a Wilcoxon signed-rank test).
- Females, older age, lower education and income, and unemployment were associated with higher reported health bearing of the crisis on both general and oral health (Figures 2-6).
- A year increase was associated with 14% ($p<0.001$) and 3.3% ($p<0.001$) increased odds of recording an impact on oral and general health, respectively. Participants of the highest income class were 82.3% ($p=0.001$) and 72.9% ($p=0.010$) less likely to report an impact on their oral and general health, respectively, than those belonging in the lowest (Tables 1 & 2).

Results

Figure 1. Health impact of crisis on oral and general health

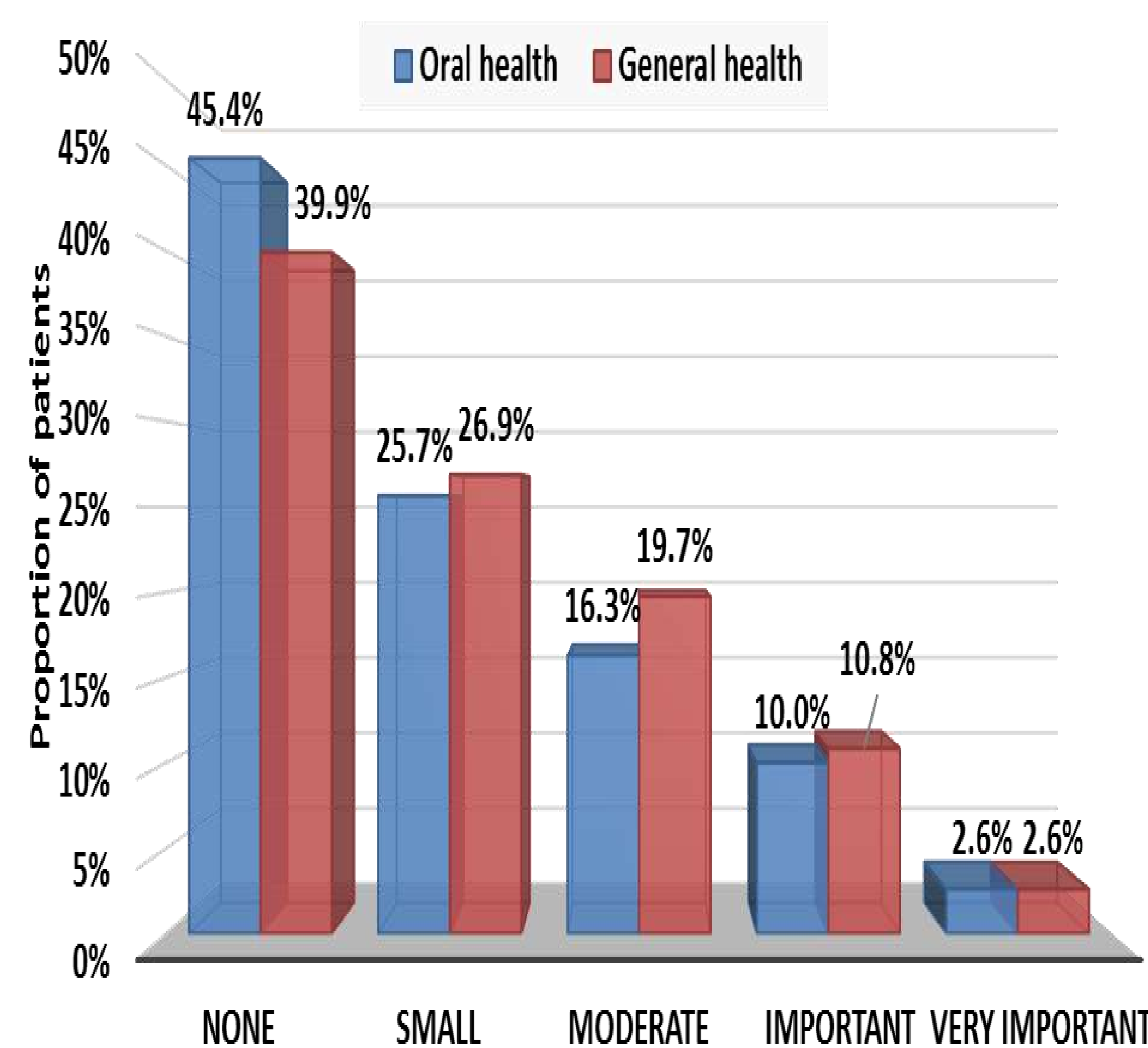


Figure 2. Health impact of crisis & gender

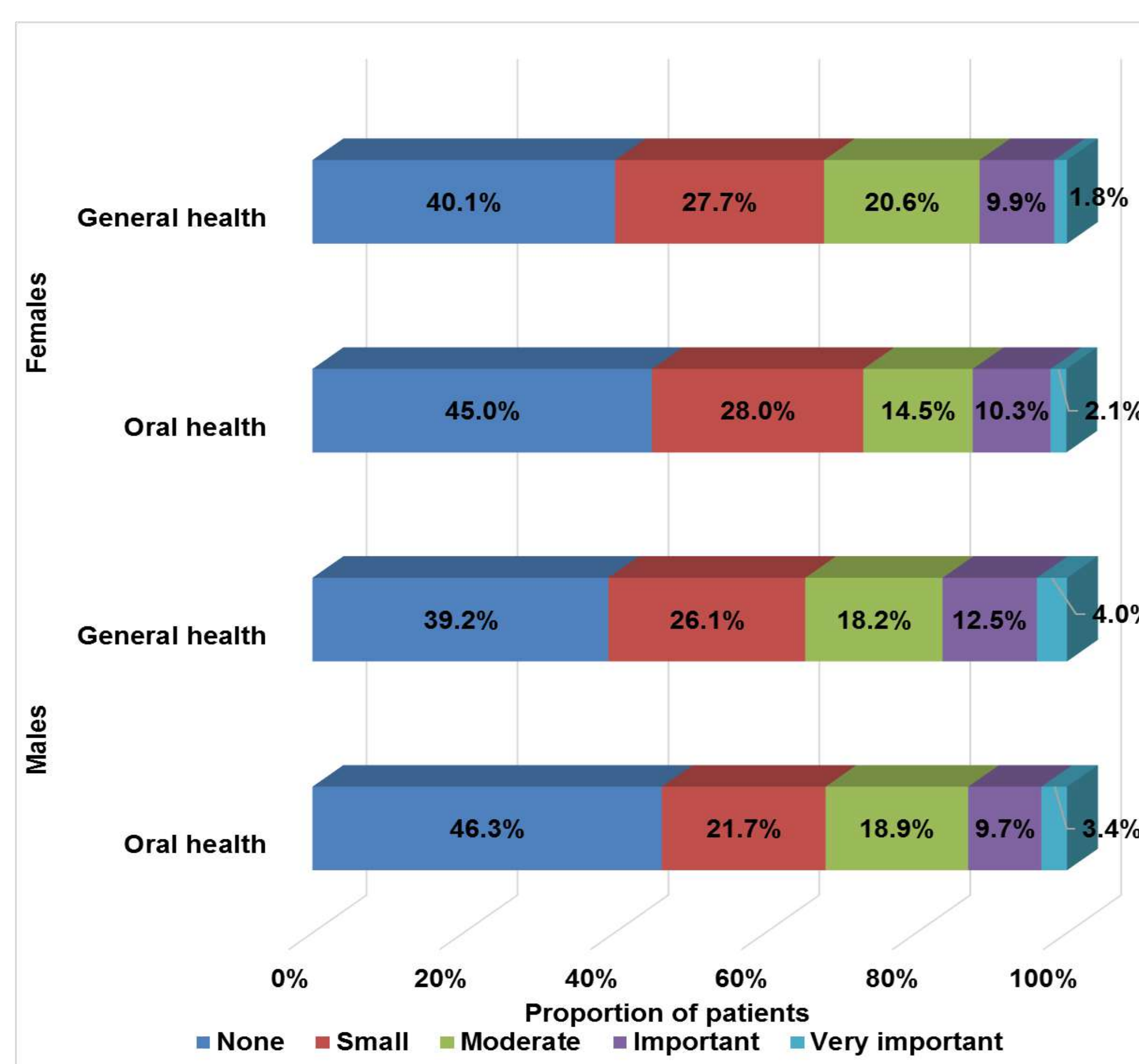


Figure 4. Health impact of crisis & age

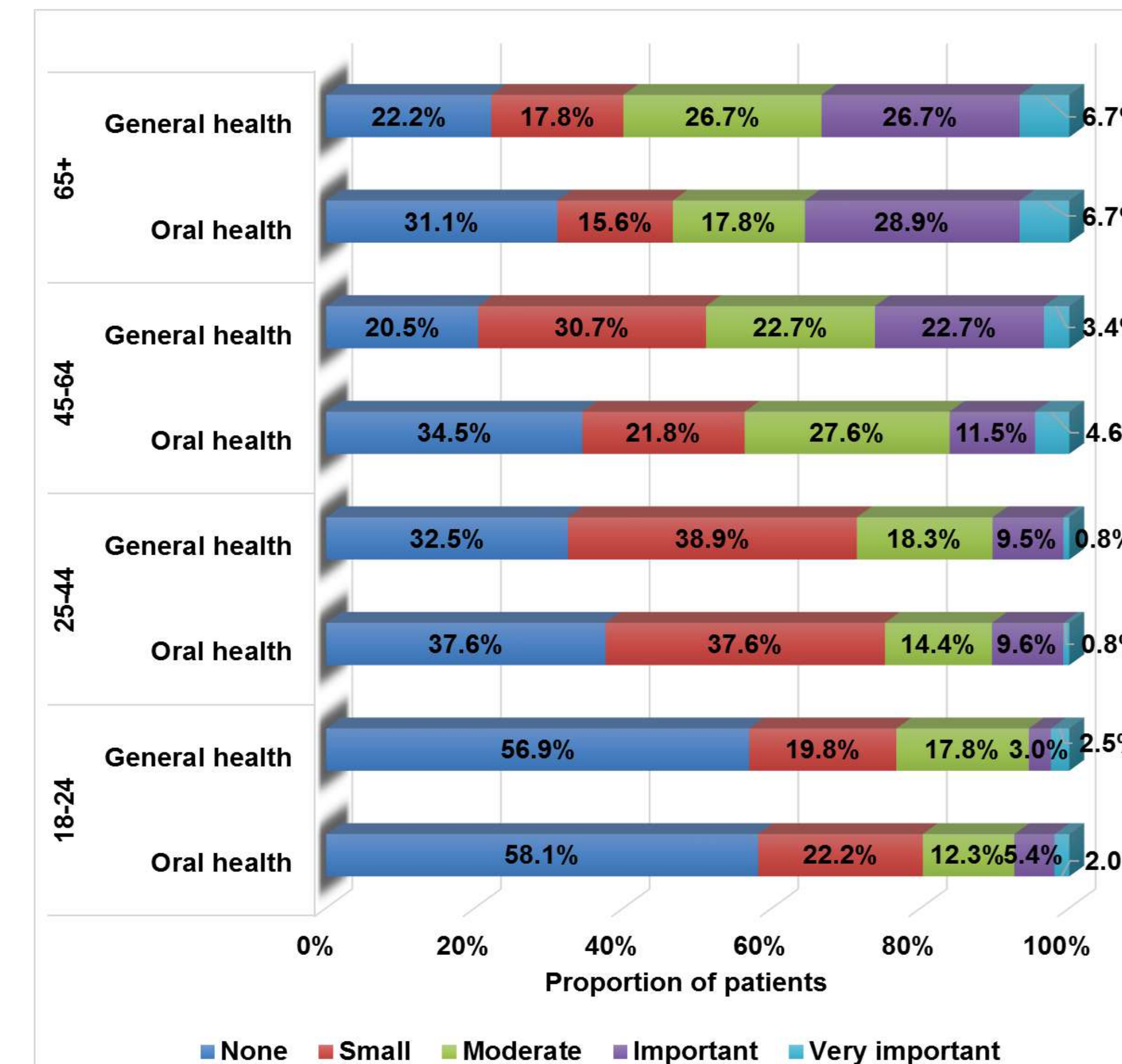


Figure 4. Health impact of crisis & education level

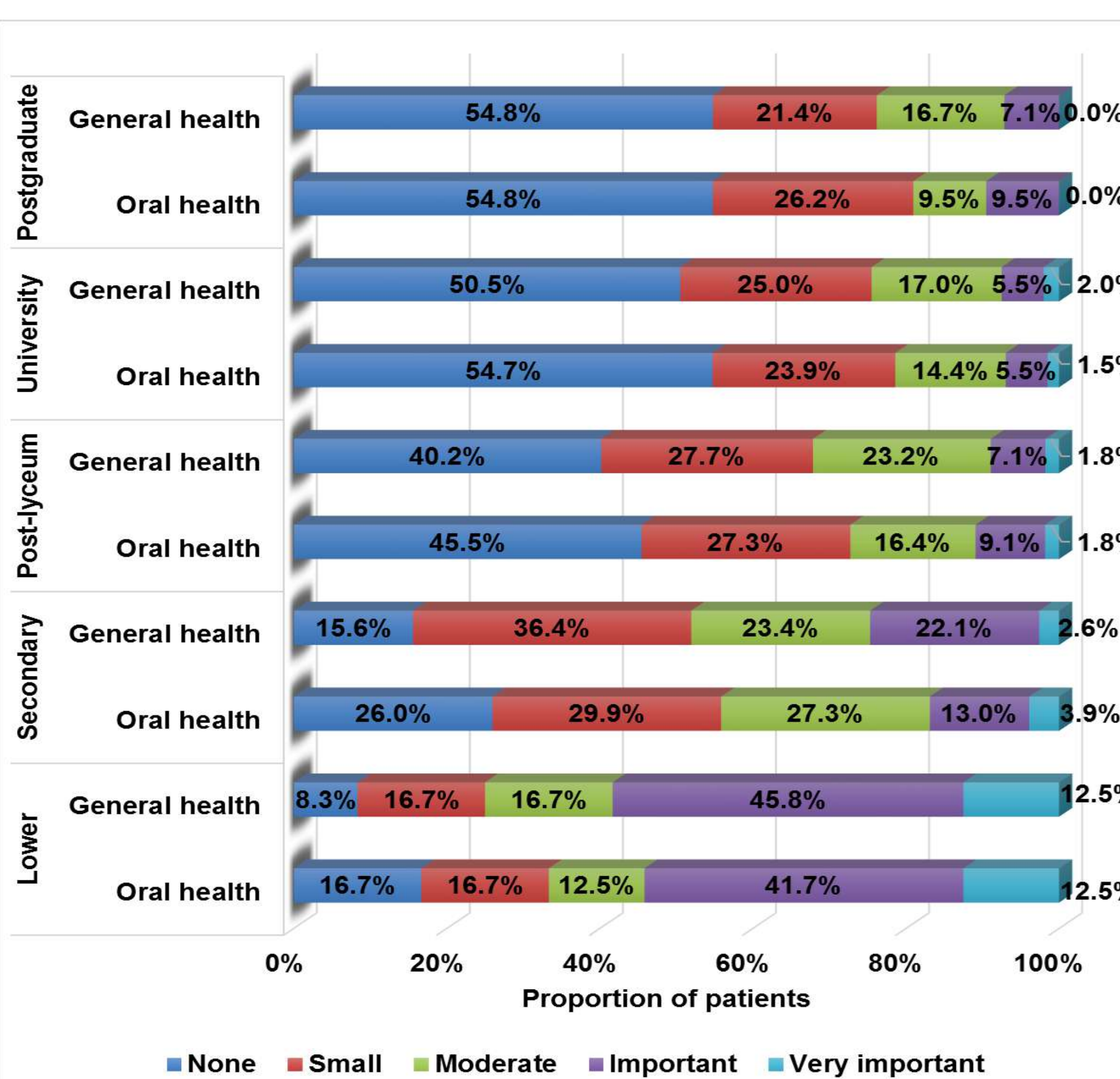


Figure 5. Health impact of crisis & income

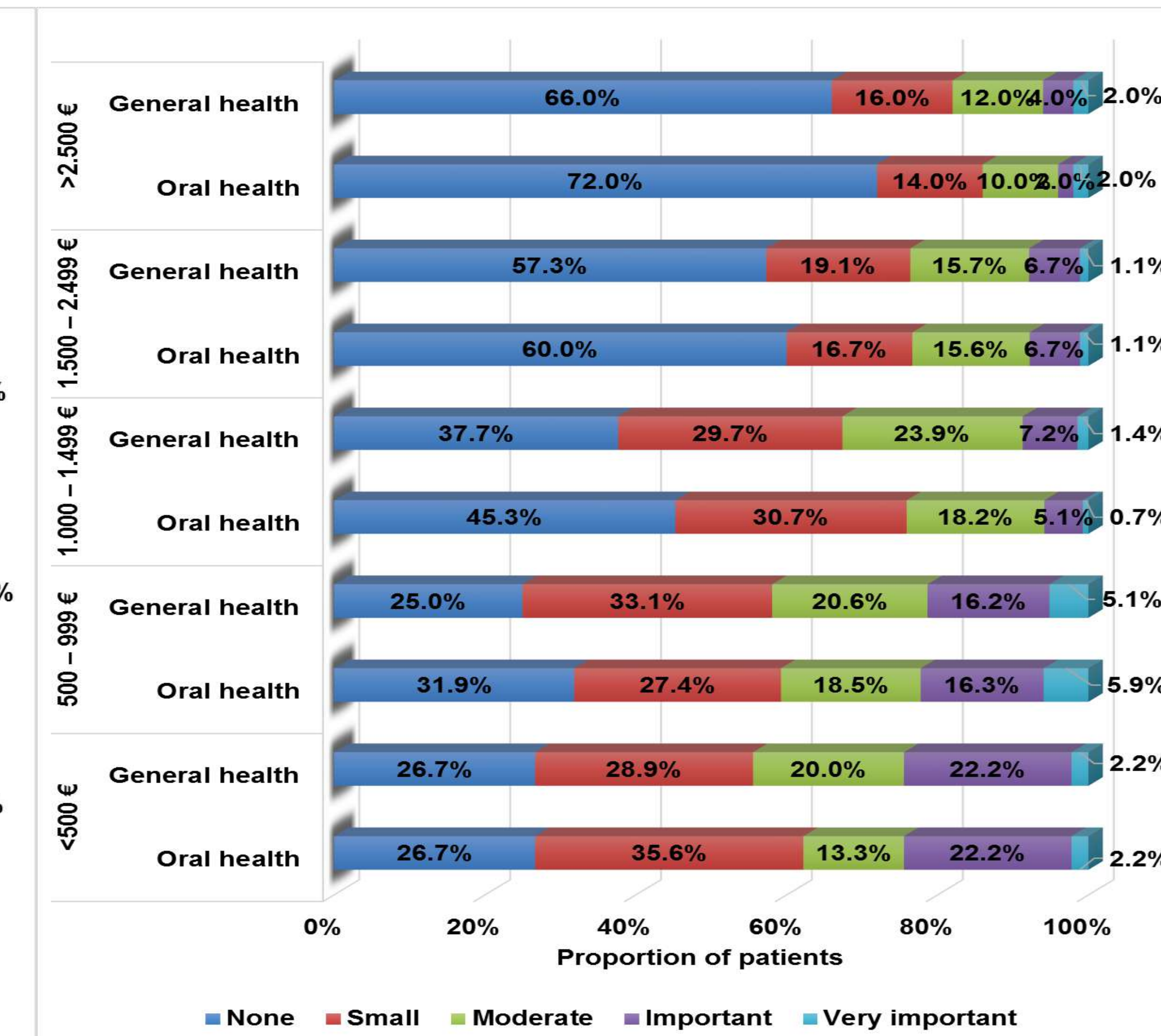


Figure 6. Health impact of crisis & employment

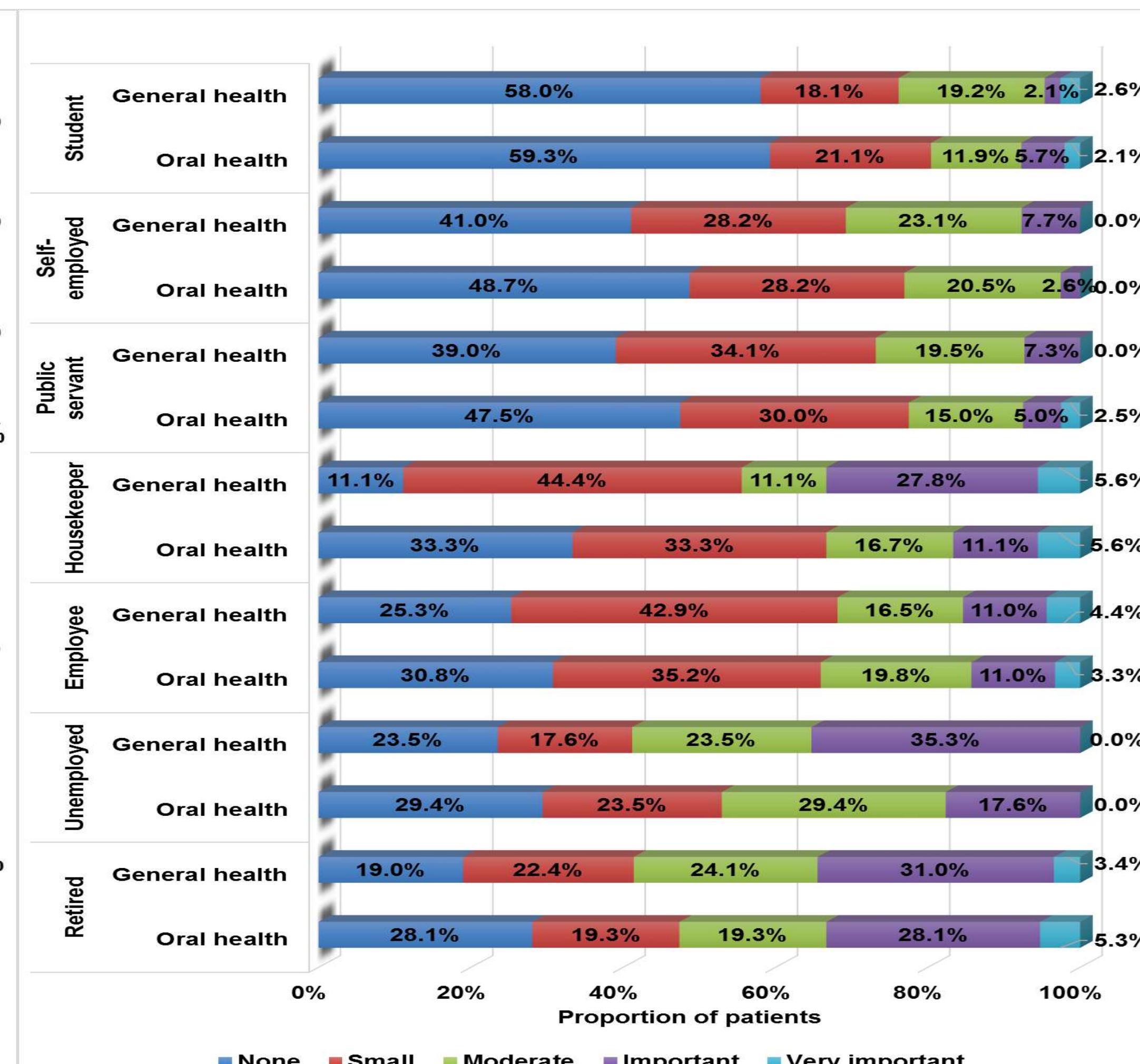


Table 1. Results of binary logistic regression with at least some impact of crisis on oral health as dependent variable

| | Sig. for b coefficient | OR | 95% C.I. for OR | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|------|
| | | | Lower | Upper | |
| Age | $p<0.001$ | 1.14 | 0.24 | 5.41 | |
| Income level | (< 500 € ref.) | $p<0.001$ | | | |
| | 500 – 999 € | $p=0.355$ | 0.68 | 0.31 | 1.53 |
| | 1,000 – 1,499 € | $p=0.042$ | 0.44 | 0.20 | 0.97 |
| | 1,500 - 2,499 € | $p=0.002$ | 0.26 | 0.11 | 0.60 |
| >2,500 € | $p=0.001$ | 0.18 | 0.07 | 0.47 | |
| Constant | $p=0.866$ | 2.48 | | | |

Table 2. Results of binary logistic regression with at least some impact of crisis on general health as dependent variable

| | Sig. for b coefficient | OR | 95% C.I. for OR | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|------|
| | | | Lower | Upper | |
| Age | $p<0.001$ | 1.03 | 1.02 | 1.05 | |
| Income level | (<500 € ref.) | $p=0.001$ | | | |
| | 500 – 999 € | $p=0.909$ | 1.05 | 0.45 | 2.45 |
| | 1,000 – 1,499 € | $p=0.393$ | 0.69 | 0.30 | 1.60 |
| | 1,500 - 2,499 € | $p=0.015$ | 0.34 | 0.14 | 0.81 |
| > 2,500 € | $p=0.010$ | 0.27 | 0.10 | 0.73 | |
| Education level | (Lower ref.) | $p=0.065$ | | | |
| | Secondary | $p=0.700$ | 1.39 | 0.26 | 7.31 |
| | Post-lyceum | $p=0.590$ | 0.63 | 0.12 | 3.33 |
| University | $p=0.598$ | 0.64 | 0.12 | 3.38 | |
| Postgraduate | $p=0.194$ | 0.33 | 0.06 | 1.77 | |
| Constant | $p=0.890$ | 1.15 | | | |

Conclusions

- The economic crisis exerts a significant health impact on Greek citizens, which appears to be marginally higher on general compared with oral health.
- Lower age and higher socio-economic status, as it is measured by income, exhibit a protective function against the health aggravating effects of the economic crisis in both general and oral health status.

References

- [1] Economou. C., Kaitelidou. D., Kentikelenis. A., Sissouras. A., & Maresso. A. (2014). The impact of the financial crisis on the health system and health in Greece. *Economic crisis, health systems and health in Europe: country experience*. Copenhagen: WHO/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.
- [2] Simou. E., & Koutsogeorgou. E. (2014). Effects of the economic crisis on health and healthcare in Greece in the literature from 2009 to 2013: a systematic review. *Health Policy*, 115(2), 111-119.