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# PSORIASIS, WORK, AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN A LOW-RESOURCE SETTING

## A NATIONAL SURVEY HIGHLIGHTING GLOBAL HEALTH INEQUITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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## INTRODUCTION

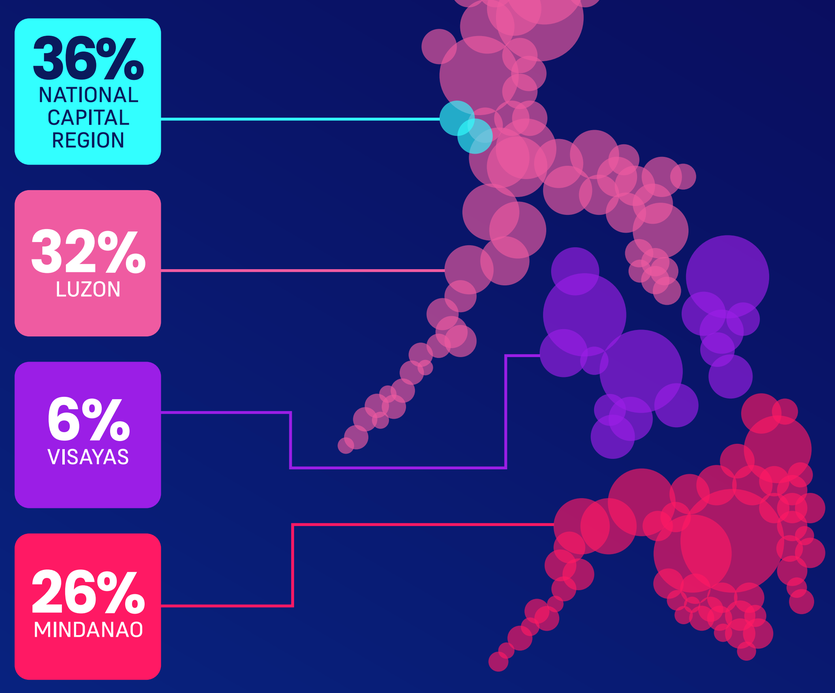
Psoriasis is a chronic immune-mediated disease with significant physical, psychological, and socioeconomic burden. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) like the Philippines, limited access to dermatologic care and high out-of-pocket costs may worsen its impact on employment and productivity. This study evaluated the relationship between psoriasis, employment status, quality of life, and potential health disparities.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

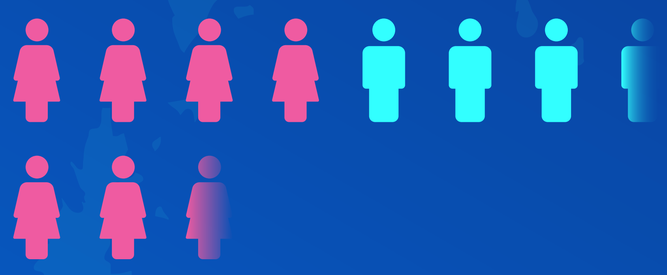
A cross-sectional online survey was conducted in 2024 among Filipino adults with dermatologist-diagnosed psoriasis, recruited through national patient organizations. Data included demographics, employment, disease severity (self-assessed Simplified Psoriasis Index [saSPI]), treatment, comorbidities, quality of life (EQ-5D-5L), and capability (ICECAP-A). Descriptive statistics, Spearman's correlation, and multivariable linear regression were used to identify predictors of impaired quality of life and capability.

## RESULTS

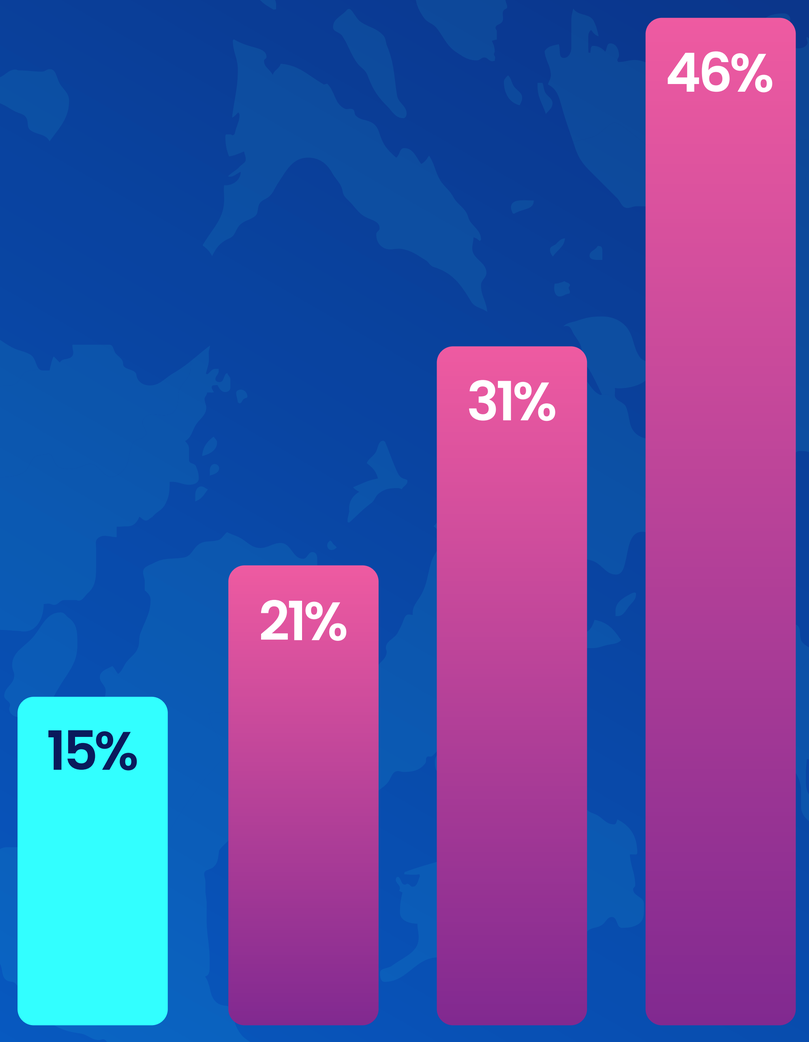
### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS ACROSS THE PHILIPPINES



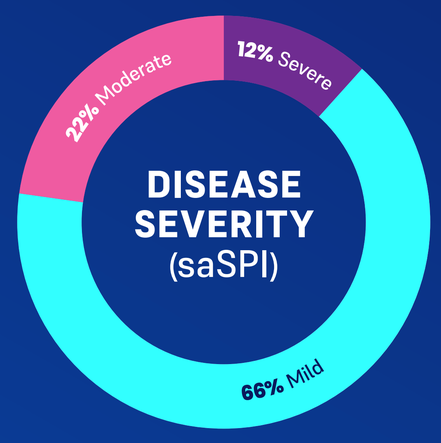

### 480 Participants




### EMPLOYMENT IMPACT (%)



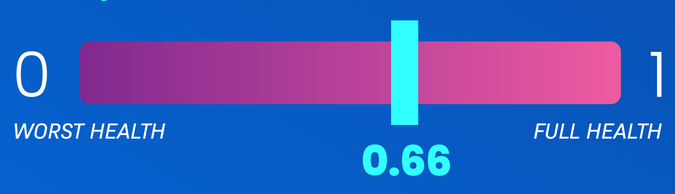

### DISEASE SEVERITY (saSPI)




**18%** reported clear skin or almost clear skin

### IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING

**Quality of life (EQ-5D-5L)**




**Capability well-being (ICECAP=A)**




### TREATMENTS USED*

- **74%** Topical therapies
- **37%** Oral systemic therapies
- **12%** Biologic therapies
- **8%** Phototherapy

*Participants can receive more than one treatment

## CONCLUSION

Psoriasis in the Philippines significantly affects employment and economic participation, even among patients with mild disease. Unemployment and reduced work capacity are under-recognized consequences driven by visible disease, comorbidities, and limited access to effective treatment.

In LMICs, the burden extends beyond clinical severity to economic vulnerability, highlighting the need for better access to advanced therapies, expanded dermatology services, occupational and psychosocial support, and targeted policies to improve health and economic outcomes.

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