Death Anxiety and Associated Demographic Correlates in a Sample of University Students

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ABSTRACT Demographic correlates of death anxiety (ageing anxiety, religiosity, gender and academic study year) were quantitatively examined among students in a Nigerian university. A total of 250 undergraduate students (females = 49.2%, mean age = 21.95, SD = 3.51) were conveniently surveyed using a standardized questionnaire. The questionnaire measured death anxiety, ageing anxiety, religiosity, gender and academic study year. Data were analyzed with Pearson Correlation, One-Way ANOVA and independent samples t-test. Results showed that ageing anxiety positively associated with death anxiety. Results also revealed that death anxiety was not significantly influenced by religiosity, gender and academic study year. The study recommends further research on aspects of ageing anxiety that may be linked to the fear of death to aid the design of effective interventions to reduce levels of death anxiety among university students.