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## *Mental Health*

### *Summary*

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The article evaluates the service trends by assessing the available data across mental health agencies for children across Ontario, Canada. The authors recognize the increasing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable groups, including children, youth, and families, in accessing mental health services within their localities. The article endeavors to compare the demand for mental health services among vulnerable persons before and during the covid period. The article focuses on specific variables of the study, including abuse and trauma among children and youths. Besides, the study also considered the existing demographic data relating to service utilization before and during the pandemic.

The study utilized the interRAI ChYMH assessment utilizing a total of 47,417 evaluations involving 38,557 children aged between 4 and 18 years from 55 mental health service facilities across Ontario, Canada. Trained assessors assisted in completing the assessments with the Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) 9.4 utilized in the data analysis. The results point to a decline in the number of individuals seeking mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic period attributed to anxiety and fears arising from the possibility to contract COVID-19 and a potential decline in accessing primary healthcare services. Besides, the study points to a decline in cases of bullying while an increase in violence with no significant differences in cases of abuse among children.

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## *Learning aspects*

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The article provides various learning points, including an in-depth analysis of the COVID-19 effects on the acquisition of mental healthcare services in Ontario, Canada. Through the article, screening procedures for vulnerable persons need recognition and determination to improve their situations. Again, the article informs on evidence-based practices for sustaining mental health services across Ontario in light of the pandemic while addressing the social inequalities and disparities among vulnerable persons.

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## *References*

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