

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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SEX + GENDER

Exploring the role of sex and gender on health research



CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

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Title

Social Well-Being Amongst Children With vs. Without Food Allergy Before and During COVID-19

Background

While anxiety has overall increased in children and their families during COVID-19, children who experience bullying at school – including those with food allergy – may experience a reprieve.

Objective

We aimed to describe the social well-being of children with and without food allergy before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods

Data were used from two cohorts, the provincial pre-pandemic cohort and the federal during pandemic cohort, both consisting of cases and non-food allergic controls. Parents completed a questionnaire on their child's anxiety/depressive symptoms, bullying and isolation. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, with $p < 0.05$ considered significant. This study was approved by the University of Manitoba Health Research Ethics Board.

Results

The pre-pandemic cohort included 65 (55.1%) cases and 53 controls (44.9%), with corresponding numbers from the pandemic cohort of 62 (60.8%) and 40 (39.2%). There were more boys than girls as cases in the pandemic cohort (72.1% vs. 27.9%). The pre-pandemic cohort was younger than the pandemic cohort (7.2 ± 4.8 vs. 9.2 ± 5.1 years, respectively). Sociodemographics were comparable between cohorts. The three most common food allergies were, amongst the pre-pandemic cohort: peanut/tree nut (81.5%), egg (29.2%) and fish (21.5%); and, amongst the pandemic cohort: peanut/tree nut (51.6%), milk (32.3%) and egg (27.4%). In the pandemic compared to the pre-pandemic cohort, anxiety was more common amongst both cases and controls (19.4% vs. 67.2%; $p < 0.001$ and 29.4% vs. 59.5%; $p < 0.005$); bullying decreased amongst cases, but not controls (31.0% vs. 6.9%; $p < 0.008$ and 20.0% vs. 16.2% $p = 0.66$); and isolation did not change significantly amongst cases, but did increase amongst controls (31.0% vs. 51.7%; $p = 0.07$ and

19.6% vs. 48.7%; $p < 0.005$).

Conclusion

More children are experiencing anxiety and depressive symptoms during the pandemic than pre-pandemic. Fewer children with food allergy are bullied during the pandemic, whereas more children without food allergy only were isolated.

Theme:

Community Health / Policy

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

No

Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?

Yes

Presenter Status:

Undergraduate Students

What was your role in the project?

Write Abstract

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