



**Healthy
Mind**

**Healthy
Future**



18th Annual Child Health Research Days
October 25 - 27, 2022

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

CHR D 2022: Abstract & Poster Submission Form

Submitter Name

Kailey Penner

Submitter Email

kailey.penner@umanitoba.ca

Presenter Status

- Undergraduate Students
- Masters Student
- PhD Student
- Post-Doctoral Fellows
- Residents
- Non-Trainee

Research Category

- Basic Science
- Clinical
- Community Health / Policy

Role in the project

- Design
- Perform Experiments
- Analyze Data
- Write Abstract

Title

Child Mental Health During COVID-19: Associations with Pre-Pandemic Variables and Parent Mental Health in the CHILD COVID-19 Add-on Study

Background

Children's mental health is expected to have been significantly impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to unique challenges families have faced. Yet, little is known about the specific impact on children, and limited pre-pandemic information is available to assess change due to the pandemic.

Objective

This study aimed to describe child mental health symptoms during the pandemic and associated risk and protective factors before and during COVID-19 using both child and parent reports.

Methods

Mothers (N=1431), fathers (N=1015), and children (N= 1671) from the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) birth cohort recruited from 2008-2012 were invited to participate in this COVID-19 study in November 2020. The CHILD database was utilized to assess pre-pandemic functioning in both parents and children (age 60 months), including child behaviour and parent wellbeing. During COVID-19, participants completed the CoRonavlrus Health Impact Survey (CRISIS) to assess changes related to COVID-19, including mental health (e.g., sadness, anxiety) and socio-demographic information.

Results

Child sadness (8.3%), anxiety (13.8%), restlessness (15.8%), difficulty concentrating (15.9%), and anger (10.6%) were prevalent and correlated with parent-proxy reports ($r_s = .42 - .51$, $p_s < .001$; Table 1). Elevated child sadness and anxiety were related to pre-pandemic and current parental mental health concerns, greater pre-pandemic child behavioural problems, female sex at birth (child), older child age, suspected/diagnosed COVID-19 (child), school remaining open, consistent mask usage, COVID-19-related changes to childcare, and lower hopefulness regarding the pandemic. Regression models were used to understand the unique contributions of variables.

Conclusion

Children more likely to experience concerns are those who struggled with mental health pre-pandemic and/or were exposed to at least one parent with pre-pandemic mental health concerns. Findings highlight modifiable targets for family interventions, including addressing parental mental health and child sleep to promote family wellbeing.

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

Yes No

Table 1_CHRD.pdf

Authors

- For each author, please click "[+] Add Item" and provide the author's information

Name	Email	Role	Profession
------	-------	------	------------

Kailey E. Penner	penner68@myumanitoba.ca	Presenting Author	Other
Dr. Emily E. Cameron	Emily.Cameron@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Other
Dr. Leslie E. Roos	Leslie.Roos@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Assistant Professor
Dr. Padmaja Subbarao	padmaja.subbarao@sickkids.ca	Co Author	Full Professor
Dr. Theo Moraes	theo.moraes@sickkids.ca	Co Author	Associate Professor
Dr. Stuart Turvey	sturvey@bcchr.ca	Co Author	Full Professor
Dr. Piush Mandhane	mandhane@ualberta.ca	Co Author	Associate Professor
Dr. Elinor Simons	Elinor.Simons@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Assistant Professor
Dr. Terrie E. Moffitt	terrie.moffitt@duke.edu	Co Author	Full Professor
Geoffrey L. Windsor	gwinsor@sfu.ca	Co Author	Other
Dr. Fiona S.L. Brinkman	brinkman@sfu.ca	Co Author	Full Professor
Dr. David Patrick	David.Patrick@bccdc.ca	Co Author	Full Professor
Dr. Deborah McNeil	dmcneil@ucalgary.ca	Co Author	Associate Professor
Dr. Meghan Azad	Meghan.Azad@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Associate Professor

Table 1

Frequency of elevated mental health symptom and correlation across raters

Characteristic	Parent-report (n, %)	Child self-report (n,%)	Correlation (r)
Sadness	135 (8.7)	134 (8.3)	.47**
Anxiety	262 (16.8)	222 (13.8)	.44**
Restlessness	167 (10.8)	254 (15.8)	.51**
Tired	64 (4.1)	155 (9.7)	.42**
Difficulty concentrating	280 (18.0)	256 (15.9)	.48**
Anger	139 (8.9)	170 (10.6)	.46**
Lonely	93 (6.0)	103 (6.4)	.48**

Note. Correlations presented are between the continuous mental health symptoms variables for both parent- and child-report.

* $p < .05$. ** $p \leq .01$