

Reviewer-1 Comments

Enclosed herewith is my commentary regarding the research paper titled "The Impact of Social Isolation Arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Mental Health of Elderly Patients in an Outpatient Clinic in Illinois."

Mental health comprises emotional, psychological, and social well-being. About 28% of older adults in the United States, or 13.8 million people, live alone, according to a report by the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (**US Census 1967 to present**). Older people face unique physical and mental health challenges which need to be recognized, including heart disease, osteoarthritis or osteoporosis, respiratory diseases, vision or hearing loss, risk for some types of cancer, isolation, affective and anxiety disorders, dementia, and psychosis (**Pan American Health Organization**). More than 20% of older people aged 60 years and over suffer from a mental or neurological disorder (excluding headache disorders). These disorders in older people account for 17.4% of years lived with disability (YLDs) (World Health Organization, 2022).

1. Give proper citation. Census are decennial, e.g., 1970, 1980 etc. Moreover, it is unclear if the author is looking at the pooled data or trends from once census to the other.

2. Incomplete citation. Include year and page.

Loneliness is often stigmatized, trivialized, or **ignored**. With the rapidly growing number of older adults in industrialized countries,

1. Cite the reference

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 1967 to present; Table AD3. Living arrangements of adults 65 to 74 years old, 1967 to present; Table AD3. Living arrangements of adults 75 and over, 1967 to present.

1. Give complete reference. It is unknown when it is published or accessed electronically.