

Review-2 Comments

Research Topic:

THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL ISOLATION DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF GERIATRIC PATIENTS IN AN OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN ILLINOIS

First and foremost, I would like to thank the author for their effort in examining the effects of social isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of elderly patients in an Illinois outpatient clinic.

When conducting research, one of the most important things to keep in mind is to carefully choose an appropriate sample technique. To achieve validity and reliable study results, it is essential to use a big enough cohort of participants in conjunction with a strong and adequate sampling technique. As a result, it is crucial that this study fully outlines the methodology used to choose the 50 responders from among the whole population of elderly patients presenting for care at the Springfield, Illinois, outpatient psychiatric clinic of Southern Illinois University (SIU). It is also necessary to clarify whether any particular statistical computations were used throughout the sampling procedure.

Additionally, it is imperative that the author disclose whether the selected participants had any pre-existing mental health conditions previous to their involvement in this research investigation. Given that the predominant demographic of this study comprises older adults aged 60 to 89, and that a significant portion of their inquiries pertain to their encounters with depression, stress, loneliness, and various other mental health concerns throughout the final 18 months of lockdown, it is imperative to acknowledge and mitigate the potential for recall bias. This consideration is given because to the possibility that participants may encounter challenges accurately recollecting their psychological and emotional conditions during the course of the pandemic.