

Intimate partner violence referrals increased after COVID-19 emergence

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An increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) referrals was seen after

the emergence of COVID-19, particularly for emotional abuse, according to a study published online March 22 in *Pediatrics*.

Rehana Rahman, M.S.W., from Boston Children's Hospital, and colleagues describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on consultation and referral patterns of an IPV program at a large, urban children's hospital. Variations in patterns of consultations and referrals were examined in the 11 months prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (April 1, 2019, to Feb. 29, 2020) and following its [emergence](#) (April 1, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021).

The researchers found that during the [period](#) following COVID-19 emergence, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of face-to-face consults (28 to 2 percent) alongside a significant increase in the total number of consults (240 to 295), mainly for [emotional abuse](#) (195 to 264). There was also a significant increase observed in psychoeducation referrals (199 to 273), while a significant decrease was seen in referrals to community resources (111 to 95). The only practice setting to demonstrate significant differences in the overall number of and specific reasons for [consultation](#), as well as associated referral types before and after COVID-19 emergence, was the primary care setting.

"The fact that providers were able to identify and connect these patients/families even in the setting of a move to remote care should encourage clinicians that it is possible to provide these services across a range of settings and with a variety of resources," the authors write.

More information: Rehana Rahman et al, Intimate Partner Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Pediatrics* (2022). [DOI: 10.1542/peds.2021-055792](#)

Maya Ragavan et al, Healing-Centered Care for Intimate Partner Violence Survivors and Their Children, *Pediatrics* (2022). [DOI:](#)

[10.1542/peds.2022-056980](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-056980)

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