



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 64366

Title: Global Health Disparities in Vulnerable Populations of Psychiatric Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Reviewer's code: 05622662

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-17

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-18 00:45

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-18 02:41

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review focus on the situation of vulnerable populations of psychiatric patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, this is a good review, it points out some of the key issues and the urgency of solving, can arouse more profound and extensive thinking and discussion. However, this manuscript also has some shortcomings. 1. The author claims that this is a global discussion, but they focus on the United States and other occident. There is very little discussion about Asian countries, such as China, Japan, South Korea and India. 2. Please discuss the impact of government inaction and discrimination on vulnerable groups, such as the Trump administration's anti-epidemic policy, which may be one of the main causes of mental impairment among vulnerable groups in the United States. 3. The issues discussed in the manuscript are broad, but many of the viewpoints lack direct evidences. 4. The effects of prognosis on psychology should be discussed, and whether there are any differences between the general population and the patients with mental illness and or vulnerable groups. 5. In the first paragraph of page 7, it is completely unreasonable to say that the “the virus originating from China”. There is more evidences that the virus broke out earlier in countries such as Italy and the United States, but it was not detected in time in these countries.



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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Malaysia

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-17

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-17 04:12

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-01 04:06

Review time: 11 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Author, I enjoyed reading the review, which offered a comprehensive overview of the topic. The reference used was up-to-date and thorough. The language was easy to follow. However, I have some comments as below for the author to consider for the manuscript improvement: - Author may need to introduce the aspects of health disparities as some readers of this journal may not be accustomed to the topic. - Introduction should include how psychiatric service is affected in general during the pandemic - such as follow up appointment, consultation rates etc. - A bit of search strategy can be mentioned despite this being mini-review to understand the scope and coverage of the review. **ETHNIC DISPARITIES** - Mitochondrial stress may need to be introduced. - "Blacks should have less physiological and psychiatric complications from COVID-19 based on a reduced molecular expression of ACE-2 (angiotensin-converting enzyme-2), the binding site for SARS-Cov-2 present in the lung, kidneys, and brain" - The statement should be used with caution, or rephrased as the original paper only posted a theoretical postulation and not a causal-effect experiments. -Poor access to services, stigma, and cultural insensitivity prevent Blacks from obtaining mental health care during traumatic events.³¹ - could there be individual factors as well? The cited paper mentioned that 55% of sample believed they did not have indication to seek care. - This paragraph ' Many indigenous people tend to handle stress independently of others and many rely on spirituality instead of seeking mental health care.³⁶' - need some link to the current pandemic to fit in the review purpose. - Some abbreviations need to be introduced - **PHQ4, COVID-19 DISPARITIES IN CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** - As this group relies heavily to their parents or carers, author can include whether guardian stress from poor access can further worsen the effect or disparities. **SEXUAL AND GENDER DISPARITIES** - This



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sentence " A Hong Kong community sample found the one-week prevalence of clinical depression (31.5%) and generalized anxiety disorder (27.9%) in SGM.66" need some rephrasing to link between the previous or following statement. DISPARITIES BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENTS - This paragraph ' The urban environment disparity...' has become general and not specific to the psychiatric patients. How does psychiatric patients living in urban become more affected during the pandemic? CONCLUSION -Before conclusion, authors should acknowledge limitation of the review, and possibility of disparities among undiagnosed psychiatric patients who developed mental illness during COVID-19. - Conclusion may also include proactive measures in antenatal care of psychiatric patients. GENERAL - Author need to check the referencing format. The number for respective citation should be placed before the full stop, not after.



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-17

Reviewer chosen by: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-31 00:53

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-31 02:16

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent [] Grade B: Very good [] Grade C: Good [] Grade D: Fair [] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing [] Grade B: Minor language polishing [] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) [] Accept (General priority) [] Minor revision [] Major revision [] Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous [] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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I think the authors have responded my comments well, the quality of the manuscript has been improved, and now I agree that it should be published.