

Journal title: World Journal of Psychiatry

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Title: The Effects of Cumulative COVID-19 cases on Mental Health: Evidence from Multi-country Survey

Reviewer #1

Reviewer Comment	Author Response	Page (Line)
However, the biggest issue is that it is not clear how COVID-19 cases were linked to mental health outcomes. It would be better that authors provide the strong rationales why examine the link between Iv and DV in this study.	<p>This has been amended. We believe we have attributed clear rationale and links between COVID-19 cases and mental health outcomes. Further references have been added throughout the Introduction and Discussion. The links between these have been widely published and have been shown in our previous work.</p> <p>DOI: 10.1016/j.jad.2022.12.074</p> <p>DOI: 10.1093/eurpub/ckac131.189</p> <p>DOI: 10.1101/2022.06.30.22277052</p>	

Reviewer #2

Reviewer Comment	Author Response	Page (Line)
Authors are advised to consider in the introduction behavioural and attitudinal responses (e.g.	Thank you for highlighting this recent	

<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgac093>)

as potential outcome from mental health deterioration and corona-phobia as an emergent paramount consequence (e.g. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-04277-x>) from the disease threat as such as well as from often inadequate public health politics and decision making during pandemic.

research.

The authors note that when the protocol for this research was developed, the corona phobia-scale machine learning evidence was not available.

Therefore, this paper used scales available at the time and explored variables based on previous research. This was out of the scope of our research at the time. It may be considered for future works.