

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 83355

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

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05198640

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DSc, MD, PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Bulgaria

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2023-01-20

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-02-10 09:13

Reviewer performed review: 2023-02-12 08:54

Review time: 1 Day and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="radio"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="radio"/> Grade C: Good <input type="radio"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="radio"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="radio"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="radio"/> Grade B: Good <input type="radio"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="radio"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="radio"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="radio"/> Grade B: Good <input type="radio"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="radio"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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 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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper presents an excellent field study to examine the effects of pandemic in terms of cumulative COVID 19 cases, lockdowns etc. on mental health as defined by anxiety, depression and trauma (selected measure is the impact of event scale). It is performed in a large scale international sample which provides prerequisites for generalization of the conclusions. Expectedely the cumulative number of reported cases and lockdowns, among other restrictive measures had impact on mental health. Authors are advised to consider in the introduction behavioural and attitudinal responses (e.g. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgac093>) as potential outcome from mental health deterioration and corono-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.

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Reviewer's code: 05789857

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2023-01-20

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-02-13 01:52

Reviewer performed review: 2023-02-13 02:10

Review time: 1 Hour

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
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	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a great to see the global comparison on COVID-19 studies. The writing is ok. However, the biggest issue is that it is not clear how COIVD-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.