

Special Issue

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Message from the Guest Editors

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted to tackle it may be risk factors for the development, exacerbation, and relapse of a range of mental disorders, especially among the most vulnerable groups. Worldwide, healthcare systems and public health policies have been challenged to develop and scale up novel treatment and prevention strategies. Numerous cross-sectional studies have pointed to healthcare professionals, who have been committed to treating COVID-19 patients during the different stages of the pandemic, as likely at risk of developing psychological distress and mental health problems, including acute traumatic stress, depression, anxiety, problematic alcohol use, and insomnia. Concurrently, a significant detrimental impact to those suffering from ongoing mental health conditions is likely due to decreased access to support and resources. Furthermore, this public health emergency had a key role also considering unhealthy behaviors such as alcohol and substance misuse. Those with substance use disorders are more likely to report COVID-19 and experience worse COVID-19-related outcomes, including higher risk of hospitalization and mortality.

Guest Editors

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

Editor-in-Chief

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