

From In Person to Virtual: Change in Service and its Effect on Children's Behavior During Pandemic

BACKGROUND

- Families with children who have developmental disabilities often use behavioral services to address child externalizing behaviors. It is now well established from a variety of studies that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted families and children with developmental disabilities. For the purpose of this study, risk factors consisted of race, parent income, and parental education. Participants included individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities.

Aims

- With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic preventing or altering access to these services, this study employed survey methodology to examine whether change in access to services moderated the relations between multiple risk factors and child externalizing behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods

- Participant responses were gathered via a self-report online survey (N = 88). The RISE (Response of Individuals to Stressful Experiences) was used to understand the impact of COVID-19 in relation to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Data for this study was collected via a larger study evaluating the response of those with developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The degree to which change in service during COVID-19 mediated the relation of risk factors for children with developmental disabilities on challenging behaviors pre and post pandemic, was found not significant.

