

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Trends in Home Health Physical Therapy

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Objectives

By the end of the presentation, attendees will ...

the general trends of home health usage during the pandemic

the trends of discharge to home health during the pandemic

the changes in home health expenditure during the pandemic

Introduction

- In March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.
- Hospital admissions began to decline due to cancelation of elective procedures and patient deferral of health services.

- An emphasis was placed on home care discharge following acute care because of...
 - the rise in COVID-

Purpose

Methods

Search Engines:

- CINAHL, PubMed, ProQuest, and Wiley

Search Limits:

- Peer-reviewed articles, English, human subjects, and published between 2019-2022

Methods

Search Terms:

OR

AND

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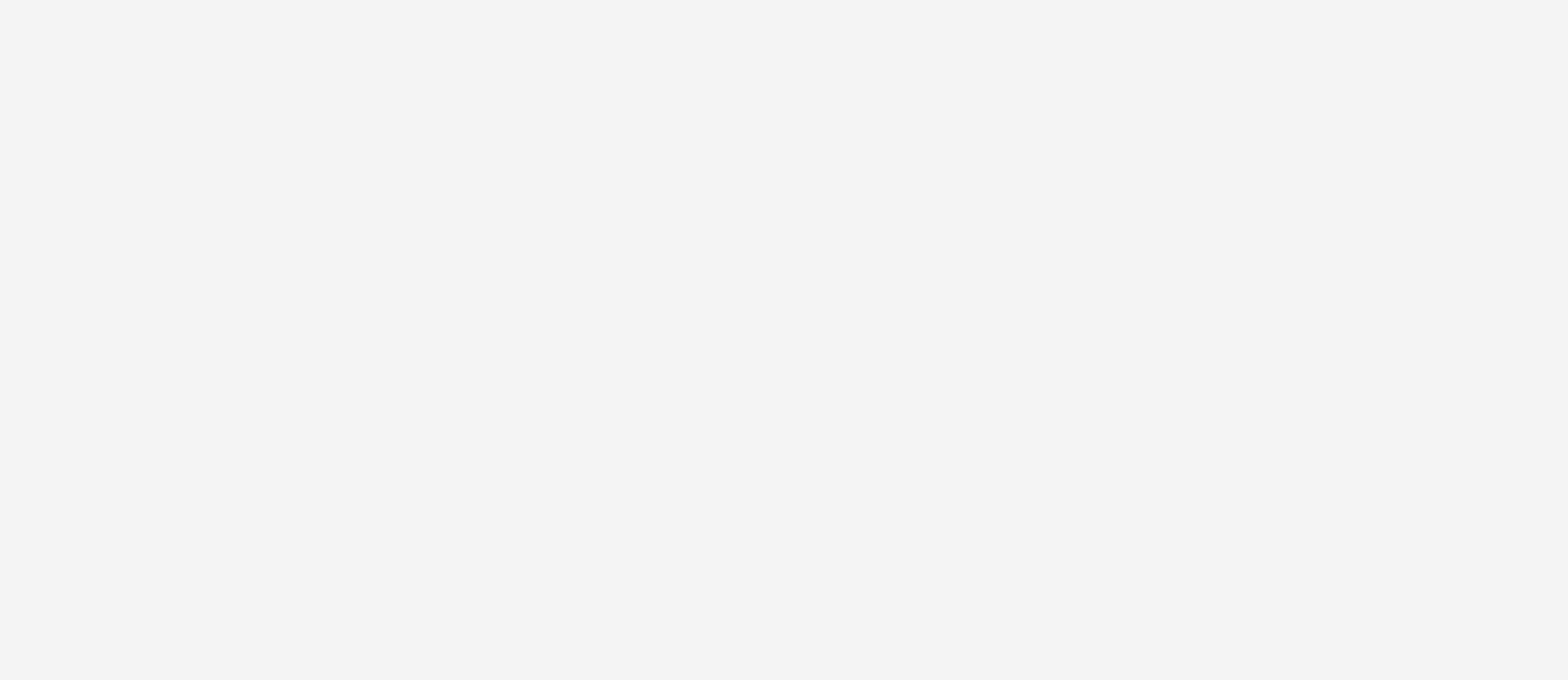
OR

AND

Methods

Search Criteria:

- Adults (18+)
- Trends in home health during the COVID-19 pandemic



- Total monthly spending for home health declined by 41%.
 - \$28 million/month (2019) to \$16.5 million/month (Oct. 2020)

Key Findings

	March '20	April '20	May '20
Admissions ²	-10.2%	-37.8%	---
Discharges ²	+4.0%	-16.6%	-32.0%
PT Services ²	-11.9%	-40.2%	---

Ontario, Canada publicly funded home care



Key Findings



Key Findings

	Pre-Pandemic Time	April 2020

Conclusion

There is limited research available relevant to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trends in home health physical therapy in adults. Further research is indicated.

Limitations

- Inadequate long-term patient follow-up
- Limited amount of pandemic-based home health research
- Specificity of data location
- Use of data for adults 65 years+ only

Future Research

- Patient health outcomes following home health care
- Effects of service changes on unpaid caregivers
- Services placed on hold during the pandemic
- Timely access of home health therapy
- Physical therapist workforce during the pandemic

Clinical Relevance

- The shifts in home health services during the COVID-19

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Questions?