

# Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Pediatric Emergency Calls in Rhode Island

*Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:00 AM (20 minutes)*

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected pediatric healthcare, leading to a decline in emergency department visits and hospital admissions for children globally. This decrease heightened the severity of cases, increasing reliance on Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This study, focusing on Rhode Island from March 2018 to February 2022, uses point-level locational data and spatial Poisson models. While overall pediatric emergency call likelihood remained consistent, the localized impact varied, with rural and suburban areas facing increased risks. The study highlights associations between pediatric calls and factors like poverty and renter occupancy, emphasizing the need for targeted pediatric emergency services in vulnerable areas.

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**Session Classification:** Paper Presentations

**Track Classification:** Innovation in Methods: Geospatial Analysis