Covid-19 pandemic created disruption and social isolation for children and teenagers when most schools closed down in the spring of 2020 and transitioned to virtual platforms for learning. Many school sports and extracurricular activities were suspended during this time. The consequential social isolation and subsequent emotional toll in school-age children and teens have likely never been higher at any point in US history. There is recent evidence of increased psychiatric admissions during the pandemic period.

The primary objective was to compare the prevalence of hospital admissions with intentional ingestions in children ≥10 years between the pandemic (Mar 2020, to Feb 2021) to the pre-pandemic (Mar 2019, to Feb 2020) periods in a free-standing children’s hospital. The secondary objective was to describe and compare the demographic and clinical characteristics of hospitalized teens with intentional ingestions.

### RESULTS

- During the pandemic period, among 14,405, there were 143 (0.99%) cases of intentional ingestions compared to 101 cases out of a total of 15,885 admissions (0.64%) during the pre-pandemic period (OR: 1.57; 95% CI: 1.17-1.97).
- The most common medications ingested were analgesics followed by antidepressants.
- The primary objective was to compare the prevalence of hospital admissions with intentional ingestions in children ≥10 years between the pandemic (Mar 2020, to Feb 2021) to the pre-pandemic (Mar 2019, to Feb 2020) periods in a free-standing children’s hospital. The secondary objective was to describe and compare the demographic and clinical characteristics of hospitalized teens with intentional ingestions.