

## **Research Assessment #9**

**Date:** January 28th, 2022

**Subject:** Pediatric Telehealth Expansion in Response to COVID-19

**MLA Citation:**

Williams, Stormee, et al. "Pediatric Telehealth Expansion in Response to COVID-19." *Frontiers*, Frontiers, 1 Jan. 1AD, [www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fped.2021.642089/full](http://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fped.2021.642089/full).

**Assessment:**

After reading the article discussing telehealth expansion in response to COVID-19, I was opened to many new perspectives of how much telehealth has changed due to the pandemic hitting. Additionally, this study definitely allowed me to understand how much of the technology aspect of medicine has greatly evolved. Not only that, many doctors have had to add in their own personal time so that they can aid the patients through telehealth even if they may not be completely familiar with the whole process.

The article also mentioned statistics of pre-covid to post-covid eras which let me grasp the knowledge of how much telehealth has become more utilized and efficient due to the pandemic. Many people can not go out to other hospitals when they need assistance due to the pandemic so telehealth allows them to meet with their doctor virtually and get a consultation. Although there are many limitations to this topic, it is still very doable and necessary due to the ongoing pandemic. Some subspecialties probably find it

harder to work through telehealth as they may need to work with the patients in person rather than over a screen. Personally, I think an example of this subspecialty would be Rheumatology. I say this because rheumatology is a field of medicine that works with joints, bones, rheumatic diseases, etc. For this reason, telehealth services would be helpful for minor rheumatic problems but for ones that require a proper consultation, the doctor may need to take a look at their leg or arm, etc. Furthermore, the expansion of telehealth services has allowed more convenience such as saving more money as they will not have to take their car to the hospital or drive to see their doctor.

In the article, the purpose of the study was, "to assess pediatric healthcare volume demand and subsequent expansion before and after the advent of COVID-19 within one large pediatric healthcare system serving greater Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. Findings from this study could provide evidence and direction for extent of adoption of pediatric telehealth delivery post the COVID-19 pandemic" (Williams). I decided to incorporate this entire quote from the article itself because it really shows all that they were trying to accomplish through their pediatric study. The main meaning behind the analysis they did was to see the comparison between the number of telehealth visits as well as the number of pediatric specialties which do this through telehealth services.

The article did mention a few limitations of this study which I found

fascinating as it allowed me to understand that there were gaps in their research, however, they did mention how further research can allow them to answer any unanswered questions that follow up from this research.

Furthermore, this article will greatly help me in my ISM journey as it will let me use this to the best of my ability with my mentor. I'm extremely excited to see what my mentor has to teach me, especially more about the technology, telehealth aspect of the medical field.