

**Objectives:** 1) To learn about the mental health challenges for children, adolescents, and young adults returning to school after the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

2) To identify the factors and challenges that parents and caregivers face during the COVID regarding the return of their children to school.

**Methods:** We conducted a literature search using relevant medical subject heading (MeSH) terms in PubMed, PubMed Central, Web of Science, and Medline databases. We identified all published relevant articles until June 4, 2021. After a thorough review of relevant published articles until October 30, 2022, we included 5 articles in our qualitative synthesis.

**Results:** A cross-sectional study in China measured depression, anxiety, and social support in back-to-school students via PHQ-9, GAD-7, and SSQ, respectively. They found a significant rise in anxiety and depression among these students. This correlation was weak at higher social support. Data collected from 15 children's hospitals found that students want to participate actively in returning to school and the recovery process as they are concerned about their future, family, and society. Another 2021 cross-sectional study in Texas revealed that parents are concerned about their children's health and prefer an onsite-virtual hybrid learning setup over in-person learning (Limbers C. A. et al. *The Journal of school health* 2021; 91(1), 3–8.). Parents in Italy favored school reopening with reduced student numbers (70.1%), social distancing within classes (45.3%), and masks as they were concerned about their children due to COVID (Pierantoni, L et al. 2021; *Acta paediatrica (Oslo, Norway : 1992)*, 110(3), 942–943). Fewer White parents were supportive of a mask mandate for students and staff members (62.5%) than parents of ethnicities like Hispanic (79.5%,  $p = 0.026$ ) and other racial/ethnic groups (66.9%,  $p = 0.041$ ) (Gilbert, L. K. et al. *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report* 2020; 69(49), 1848–1852).

**Conclusions:** The return to school after COVID is challenging for students and parents due to the rise in anxiety and depression in children. Social support has been found to be protective of children's mental health. Future well-designed studies should identify challenges and factors that can help safeguard children's mental health and develop appropriate policies.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPP0576

### Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of older adults, people with dementia, and carers in lower- and middle-income countries: An international qualitative study

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**Introduction:** The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health problems in many countries, yet little evidence has focused on older adults.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to qualitatively explore the impact of the pandemic on the mental health and well-being of older adults living in Uganda

**Methods:** Semi-structured interviews with older adults, family carers, and people living with dementia, plus focus groups with

care professionals were conducted remotely via the telephone. Data were collected at two time points between March and July 2021. Non-professionals were asked about their experiences of the pandemic and their mental well-being. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. All transcripts were also translated into English and a selection were second-coded by the another team.

**Results:** A total of 30 interviews were conducted with older adults, people with dementia, and unpaid carers participating at baseline ( $n=30$ ). Using inductive thematic analysis, we generated three overarching themes: Mental health needs overridden by need for basic necessities; Social isolation; Increased worry about restrictions and pandemic in dementia. For most people, limited access to basic necessities, including food, featured more prominently in responses than any direct acknowledgement of how the pandemic has affected their mental well-being. Participants were upset and worried about being socially isolated, with carers concerned about the welfare of many people with dementia and often feeling emotionally exhausted.

**Conclusions:** Older adults, carers, and people living with dementia in Uganda not only require support to cope with the mental health impact of the pandemic, but most importantly require improved financial governmental support to be able to access sufficient food and other basic necessities, as a group their health is poor and associated risk of deterioration high

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## EPP0577

### Implementation of Global Action Plan On the Public Health Response to Dementia (GAPD) in Sub-Saharan Africa: Comprehensive Reviews

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**Introduction:** Despite the fact that, age is a strongest know risk factor for onset of dementia, and developing countries are projected to have highest number of ageing population, few national dementia strategies have been put in place to address this impending scourge. In 2017, World Health Organization(WHO) released and called for countries to adapt and contextualize the Global Action Plan on the Public health response to dementia, few Sub-Saharan countries have slowly adopted plan. The outcome of the unprecedented increase populations with dementia will be immense. The substantial increase in morbidity and mortality pose a threat to the over stretched health care system and undermine the potential to achieve sustainable development goal (SDGs).

**Objectives:** Understanding the implementation of Global Action Plan on the Public health response to dementia in the developing countries

**Methods:** This paper is a view of published and grey literature relevant to Global Action Plan On the Public Health Response to Dementia (GAPD) in sub-Saharan Africa. The overall approach to the review had an exploratory and inductive focus. Articles were categorized around a guiding conceptual framework. Like; A description of structural arrangements and content of national dementia strategy development and normative underpinnings within policy frameworks