

The Impact of Social Support on Anxiety and Depression under the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic: A Scoping Review and Meta-Analysis

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Abstract : Context: The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on mental health, with increased rates of anxiety and depression observed. Social support, a critical factor in mental well-being, has also undergone significant changes during the pandemic. This study aims to explore the relationship between social support, anxiety, and depression during COVID-19, taking into account various demographic and contextual factors. Research Aim: The main objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis to examine the impact of social support on anxiety and depression during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study aims to determine the consistency of these relationships across different age groups, occupations, regions, and research paradigms. Methodology: A scoping review and meta-analytic approach were employed in this study. A search was conducted across six databases from 2020 to 2022 to identify relevant studies. The selected studies were then subjected to random effects models, with pooled correlations (r and ρ) estimated. Homogeneity was assessed using Q and I^2 tests. Subgroup analyses were conducted to explore variations across different demographic and contextual factors. Findings: The meta-analysis of both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies revealed significant correlations between social support, anxiety, and depression during COVID-19. The pooled correlations (ρ) indicated a negative relationship between social support and anxiety ($\rho = -0.30$, 95% CI = [-0.333, -0.255]) as well as depression ($\rho = -0.27$, 95% CI = [-0.370, -0.281]). However, further investigation is required to validate these results across different age groups, occupations, and regions. Theoretical Importance: This study emphasizes the multifaceted role of social support in mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the need to reevaluate and expand our understanding of social support's impact on anxiety and depression. The findings contribute to the existing literature by shedding light on the associations and complexities involved in these relationships. Data Collection and Analysis Procedures: The data collection involved an extensive search across six databases to identify relevant studies. The selected studies were then subjected to rigorous analysis using random effects models and subgroup analyses. Pooled correlations were estimated, and homogeneity was assessed using Q and I^2 tests. Question Addressed: This study aimed to address the question of the impact of social support on anxiety and depression during the COVID-19 pandemic. It sought to determine the consistency of these relationships across different demographic and contextual factors. Conclusion: The findings of this study highlight the significant association between social support, anxiety, and depression during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, further research is needed to validate these findings across different age groups, occupations, and regions. The study emphasizes the need for a comprehensive understanding of social support's multifaceted role in mental health and the importance of considering various contextual and demographic factors in future investigations.

Keywords : social support, anxiety, depression, COVID-19, meta-analysis

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