

Evaluating CAMHS presentations to the Emergency Department, University Hospital Southampton: A comparison of Jan-Sep 2019 with Jan-Sep 2020

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During the Covid-19 pandemic, a **pathway was formed to offer urgent community CAMHS assessment**, replacing hospital admission for low-medium risk young people presenting to the ED in mental health crises. Professionals felt the nature of the work changed during this first wave.

Was there a change in number or nature of presentations?

Data source

People <18yo presenting to UHS ED with a mental health crisis in the periods:

PRE-COVID – Jan-Mar 2020 compared to Jan-Mar 2019

LOCKDOWN – Apr-Jun 2020 compared to Apr-Jun 2019

POST-LOCKDOWN – Jul-Sep 2020 compared to Jul-Sep 2019

- Electronic notes were reviewed
- Questionnaire for professionals involved in the pathway

Percentage of total presentations to ED that were CAMHS-related went UP!

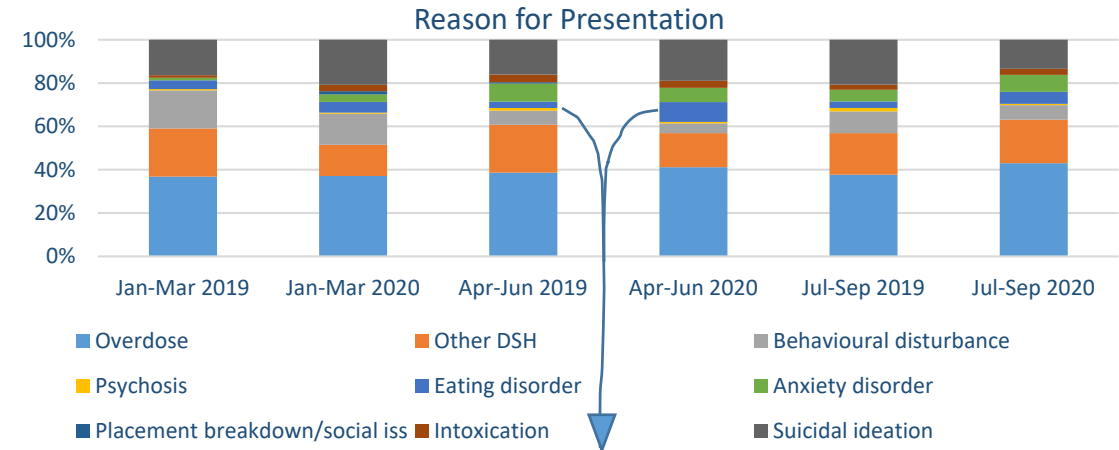
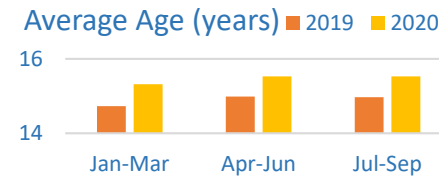
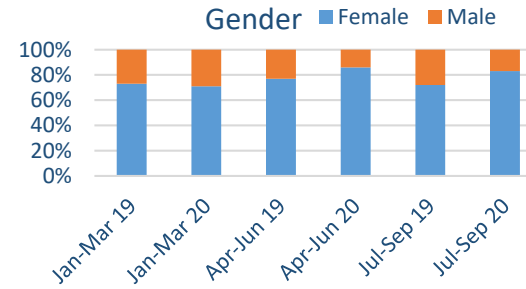
Jan-Mar 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2019	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2019	Jul-Sep 2020
3.0%	3.5%	3.0%	4.8%	2.3%	3.7%

Use of the Mental Health Act went UP!

Jan-Mar 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2019	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2019	Jul-Sep 2020
1.5%	4.1%	5.9%	4.1%	2.6%	12.1%

Repeat attendances went UP!

Number of 'repeat attendances' to UHS ED		
	% of total attendances in 2019	% of total attendances in 2020
Jan-Mar	11.7%	16.8%
Apr-Jun	31.5%	40.5%
Jul-Sep	20%	43.6%



Eating disorder presentations rose from **3%** in Apr-Jun 19 to **9.2%** in Apr-Jun 20

Questionnaire for Professionals

"I suspect that the numbers were quite similar, although it felt as though our service was under more pressure, owing to the complexity of the cases that we were seeing." CAMHS Liaison

"...it feels like a much larger part of the workload." Paediatrics

"I think that we have had more presentations to ED with a level of complex systemic level of needs that has required a higher degree of interagency input/planning." Community CAMHS

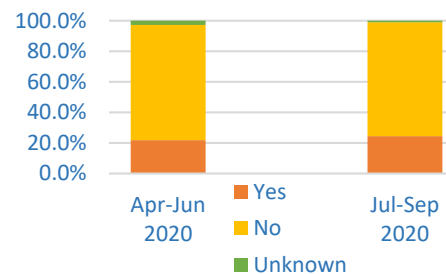
"[The Covid-19 CAMHS Pathway] got patients out of ED & hospital in a timely way." Paediatrics

Did you think there was a difference in the CAMHS presentations to ED in 2020 compared with 2019?



Legend: Yes (blue), No (orange), Not answered (grey)

Covid-19 CAMHS Pathway Used



20-25% of young people presenting to ED in a mental health crisis were discharged for an urgent community CAMHS assessment via the Covid-19 CAMHS Pathway

During the first six months of the Covid-19 pandemic, UHS ED saw:

- **More girls** relative to boys presenting in crisis
- **More CAMHS presentations** relative to all paed
- **More eating disorder presentations** during lockdown
- **More use of the Mental Health Act** post-lockdown

The questionnaire revealed professionals' views of increased complexity & the pathway's ease of use

Future recommendations: rolling data collection to ascertain ongoing impact of Covid on young people