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## Introduction

- Non-accidental trauma (NAT) and abuse compromises thousands of ED visits per year
- According to the WHO, 1.5 billion children were restricted from attending schools during the pandemic
- The pediatric population is at higher risk of abuse or behaviors leading to abuse with economic uncertainty and psychological strain

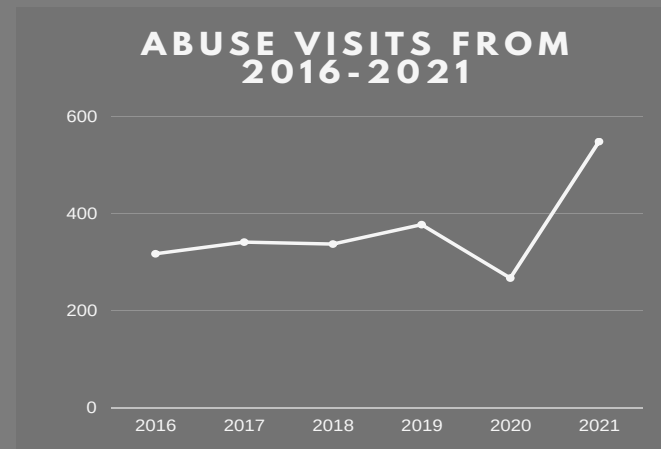
## Objectives

- To evaluate trends during the COVID-19 Pandemic for ED visits concerning for abuse, NAT, and also for associated Injury Severity Score (ISS) at our level 1 pediatric trauma center

## Methods

- Trauma registry examined for all abuse visits in patients ages 0-18 from 2016-2021
- ISS scores for patients suspected or confirmed to have suffered physical abuse were evaluated from 2019-2021

## Results



- Total of 2,141 visits to ED related to abuse
- Average visits from 2016-2019: 343
- Total visits 2020: 267
- Total Visits 2021: 548
- Average ISS from 2019-2021, respectively: 5.71, 7.3, 5.42

## Conclusions

- Decrease in reported abuse in 2020 during lockdown was followed by a surge in reported or confirmed cases of abuse following the lifting of restrictions in 2021
- Average ISS was higher during lockdown, possibly indicating physical abuse victims sustained more severe trauma
- Closure of many services mandated by law to report suspected child abuse such as schools, churches, extracurricular activities, and others could play a significant role in the lack of adequate detection of abuse
- Need increased abuse detection mechanisms during stay-at-home restrictions to protect from increased frequency and severity of pediatric abuse