

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Medicine and Medical Research
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JAMMR_128030
Title of the Manuscript:	The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SUS (Universal Health System) primary preventive dental care in Brazil during the first two years of the pandemic
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	The article is of good scientific interest. The selection of such a research area demonstrates author's concern about impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over primary preventive dental care. The article addresses an important and timely issue: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on preventive dental care in Brazil's Universal Health System (SUS). This study sheds light on the disruptions caused by the pandemic, offering valuable insights into public health policy and resource allocation. Data were obtained from the Outpatient Information System (SIA/SUS) and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), which are authoritative and credible sources, ensuring data reliability.	Thank you for the opportunity to review our manuscript. We will try our best to answer all the reviewer's concerns.
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The title is clear, concise and indicates focus of the study.	Thank you for your kind comment.
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	Abstract is structured and comprehensive. The objectives of the study should be focused.	Thank you. We improved the objective session of the manuscript.
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	Yes, the manuscript is scientifically correct.	Thank you for your kind comment.
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	References are relevant and sufficient.	Thank you for your kind comment.

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Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	Overall language improvement of the article is necessary.	Thank you. The language was improved all over the manuscript.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	<p>Limitations and Areas for Improvement</p> <p>1. Lack of Contextual Analysis While the manuscript highlights reductions in preventive dental procedures, it does not sufficiently explore the reasons behind these changes. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Were these reductions due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, workforce shortages, or a shift in public health priorities?○ How did regional differences (if any) influence the magnitude of these reductions? <p>Suggestion: Include a discussion of contextual factors contributing to these declines, supported by relevant literature or qualitative insights.</p> <p>2. Limited Methodological Details The methodology section lacks detail about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ How data were extracted and cleaned.○ The rationale for selecting the three indicators (educational activities, fluoride mouthwash, supervised toothbrushing).○ Eligibility criteria○ Sample size○ Whether any statistical tests were used to compare differences between years. <p>Suggestion: Provide a more robust methodological description, including statistical analyses and justification for the chosen indicators.</p> <p>3. Lack of Regional Comparisons The study mentions that data were collected across regions but does not present any comparative analysis between them. This is a missed opportunity to highlight disparities in how different regions were affected.</p> <p>Suggestion: Include a regional breakdown and analysis to provide a more nuanced understanding of the impact.</p> <p>4. Descriptive Analysis Limitation The study relies on descriptive analysis with annual percentage change (APC), which limits the ability to infer causation or statistical significance.</p> <p>Suggestion: Employ inferential statistical methods (e.g., trend analysis or regression) to strengthen the findings.</p> <p>5. Superficial Discussion and Implications The discussion section lacks depth in interpreting the findings and their implications for public health policy, particularly how to mitigate such disruptions in future crises.</p> <p>Suggestion: Expand the discussion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Analyze the broader implications of reduced preventive dental care (e.g., increased oral disease burden).○ Propose strategies to improve resilience in primary dental care systems. <p>6. Expand on Preventive Measures Analyzed</p> <p>Include other preventive measures, if possible, or justify why only these three were chosen.</p>	Thank you for your suggestions. We added new information in the material and methods and discussion section.

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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	