



Hospital Partner Reports 2020-21

The Hospital for Sick Children

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The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) is recognized as one of the world's foremost pediatric healthcare institutions and is Canada's leading center dedicated to advancing children's health through the integration of patient care, research and education. The Department of Psychiatry at the Hospital for Sick Children provides a variety of services and programs addressing the mental health care and needs of children, youth and their families; including Consultation-Liaison; Urgent Care Clinic; Inpatients and Day Hospital, a tertiary/quaternary care ambulatory program, and a TeleLink Mental Health Program. A vigorous research program spanning several different content areas is supported by both MDs and by allied health.

SickKids' Dept. of Psychiatry was hit hard by the pandemic but was able to pivot to virtual care rapidly, in fact, more rapidly than other Departments in the Hospital. The demand for psychiatric services increased roughly 20 to 30% across all areas and the organization of service delivery had to adapt to this increase in demand without added resources. Important changes occurred in the Eating Disorders program which came under the collaborative purview of Psychiatry with Adolescent Medicine.

The hospital-wide mental health strategy that focusses on the integration of mental, physical and behavioural health was officially adopted and its implementation was initiated. The implementation plan emphasizes improving mental health services across the hospital, including patients and families in the co-design of services and research, improving mental health literacy across the hospital, and expanding our capacity for mental health research.

