





# **Developmental Milestone Attainment of Israeli Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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#### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted human life, affecting multiple factors of children's health

Child development is routinely screened in Israel at Maternal Child Health Clinics (MCHC)

We aimed to study changes in developmental milestone attainment during COVID-19 in a large nationwide cohort

#### **Methods**

We analyzed a cohort of 882,365 children aged 0-6 years, who visited MCHCs between 1/2014 and 10/2021 (>4.9M visits)

Children with abnormal developmental potential were excluded

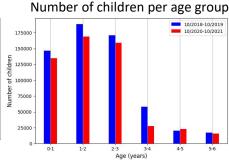
We compared normative attainment age of 59 milestones in four developmental domains before and during the pandemic [1]

#### Results

The number of developmental visits decreased during the pandemic by ~12%

Milestones were attained at older age during COVID era, compared to pre-COVID



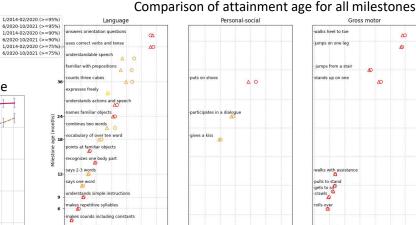


Delays were most prominent

Example - language milestone

Composes a sentence of at least two words

in language and social milestones at older age (>18 months)



20 30 40 Age (months)







### **Conclusions**

We observed changes in milestone attainment age during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may indicate delayed development in the language and social skills of children.

## References

[1] Sudry et al., JAMA Network Open. 2022;5(3):e222184.