

Telehealth by Certified Psychiatric Providers Compared to Emergency Department Healthcare Providers on Psychiatric Patient Outcomes: A Scoping Review

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Purpose

This project aims to determine how telehealth can impact behavioral health patient care in the emergency department.

Specific Aims

- Provide data on the number of readmissions after using telehealth
- Determine the length of stay in ED vs. the standard of care
- How can telehealth determine the disposition of mental health patients.
- Evaluate patient and staff satisfaction after using telehealth

Background

- Mental health patients experience extended wait time before placement, known as patient boarding.
- Patient boarding became a concern after deinstitutionalization within the inpatient psychiatric hospitals.
- Since deinstitutionalization, emergency department (ED) visits for mental health patients have risen from 1.4 to 2.5 million annually in the United States.
- Patient boarding has led to an ER wait time of 7-24 hours and symptom exacerbation and elopement.
- Studies indicate that telehealth can reduce wait time, reduce admission rate, and decrease the recidivism rate.
- Patients receiving telehealth for mental health services vs. the standard of care have led to a decrease in cost.

Methods

Study Design

- Scoping Review

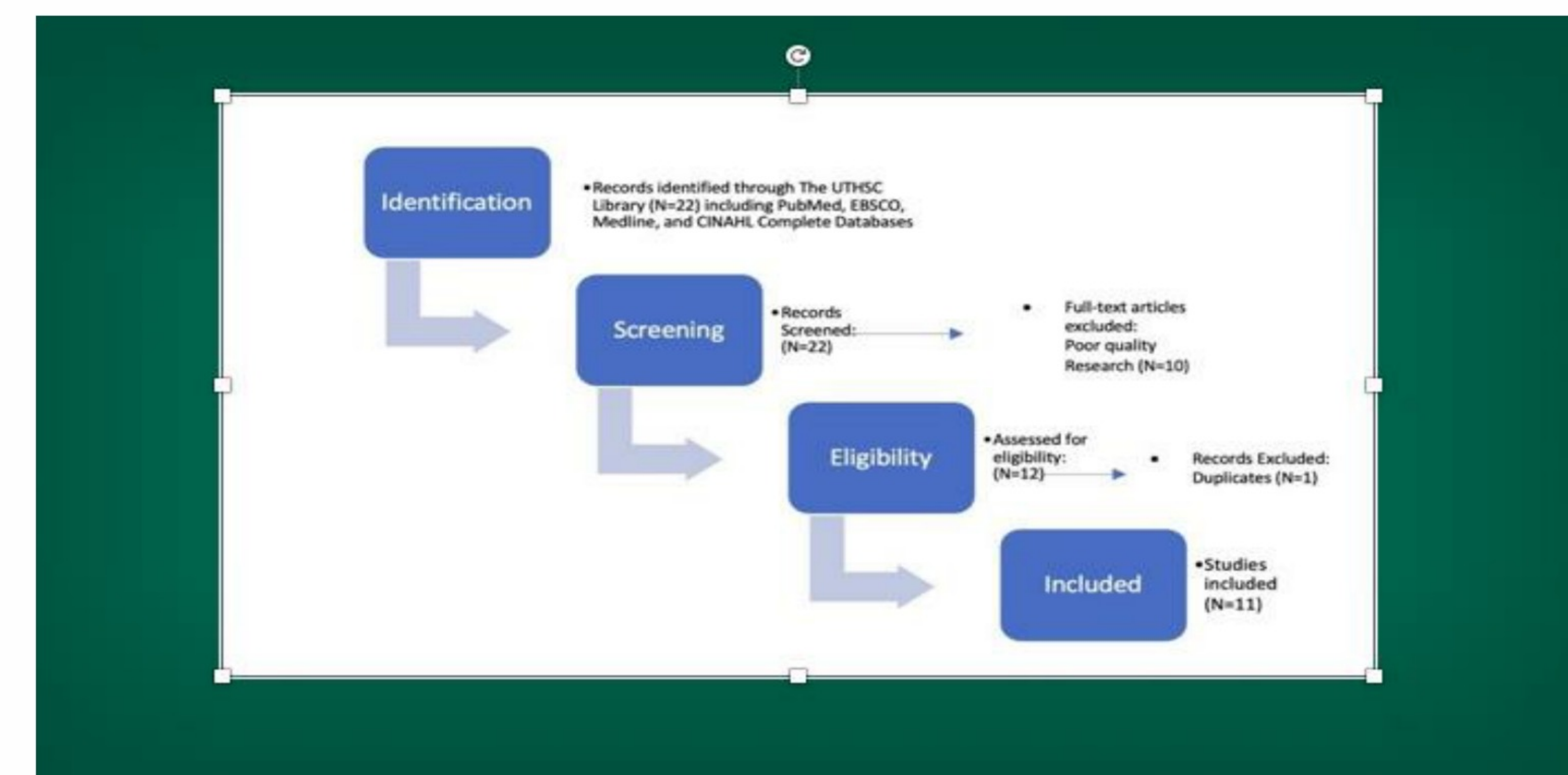
Study Duration

- August 3, 2020-December 31, 2022

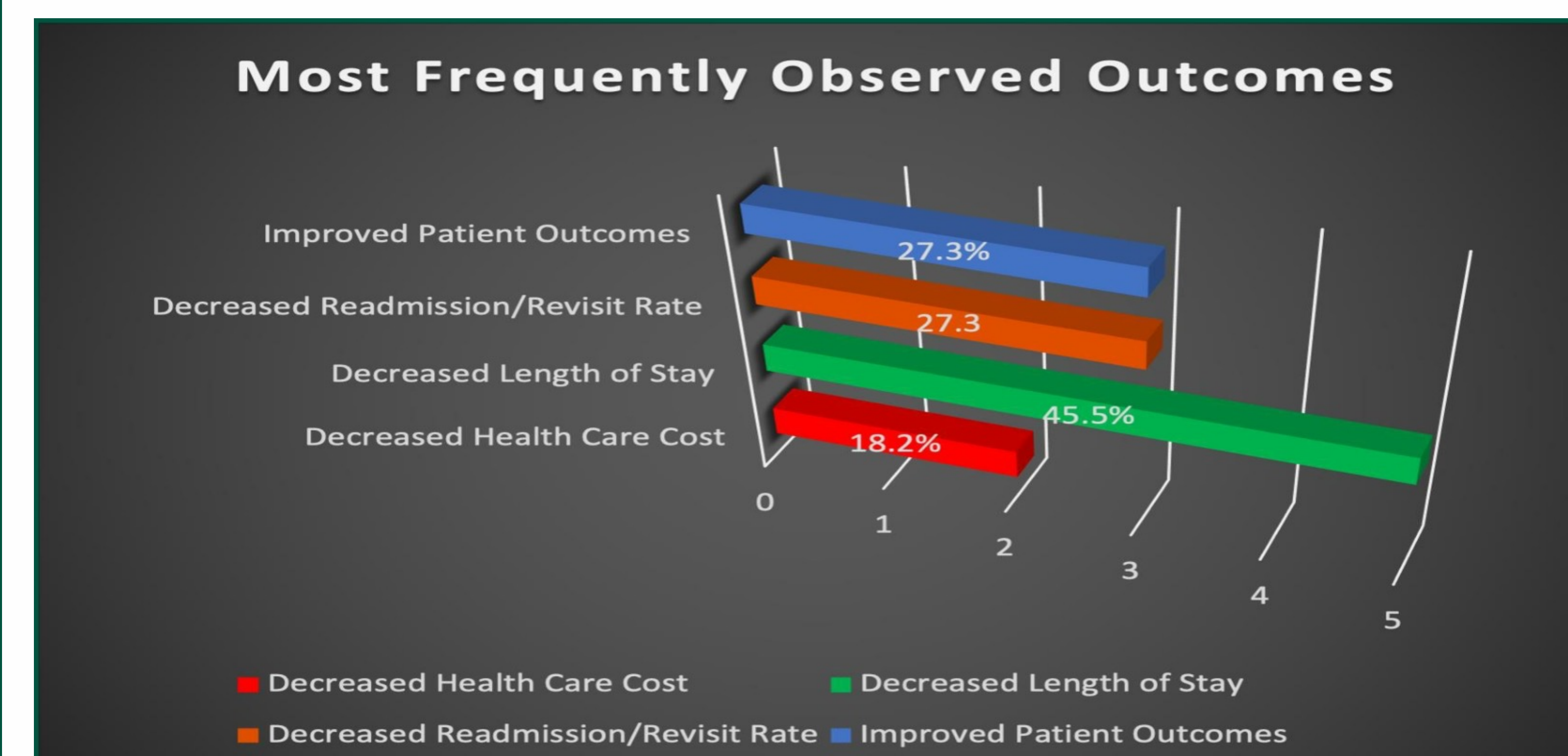
Study Population

- Patients ages 18 and older
- Meet criteria for DSM diagnosis
- Articles ten years older or less

Flow Diagram of Selection Process



Results



Implications for Practice

Future Studies

- Future investigations should be conducted with a focus on long-term patient outcomes who receive treatment via telepsychiatry services when presenting to the Emergency Department.
- Outcomes including length of stay, disposition, and patient and staff satisfaction should be measured
- A larger sample size should be utilized

Standardized Processes

Patients with psychiatric diagnoses who present to the Emergency Department should be seen by certified psychiatric providers via telehealth

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