

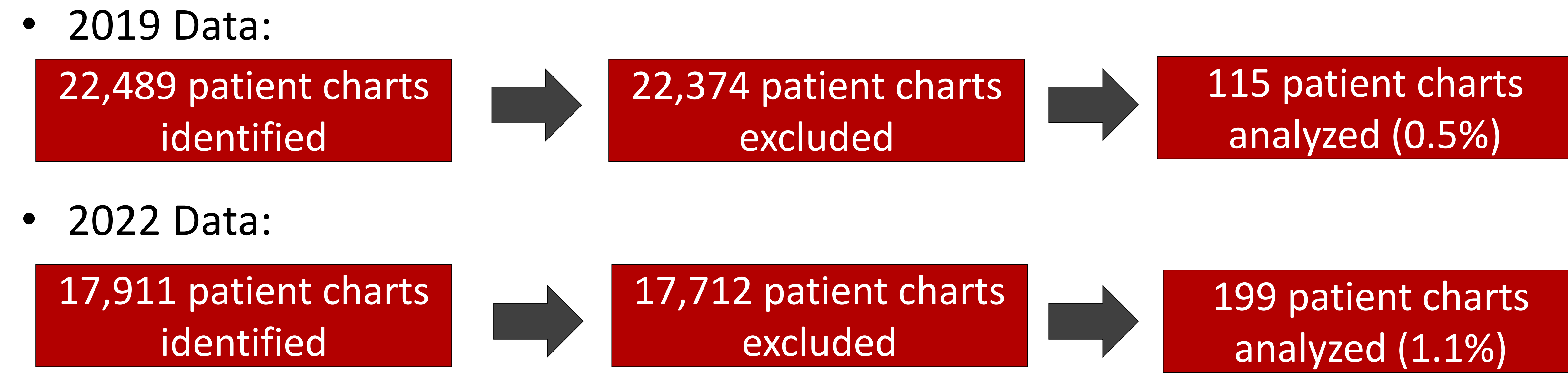
BACKGROUND

- Early intervention for someone who has mental health conditions is crucial in helping lower their risk for other life-long diseases (1)
- There is more qualitative research on the impact of COVID-19 than quantitative data through surveys or interviews (2,3)
- With more research, new ways of helping adolescents adapt and cope with many changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are possible (2)
- The objective of this research is to determine if there is a correlation between COVID-19 and the mental health of school aged children and adolescents

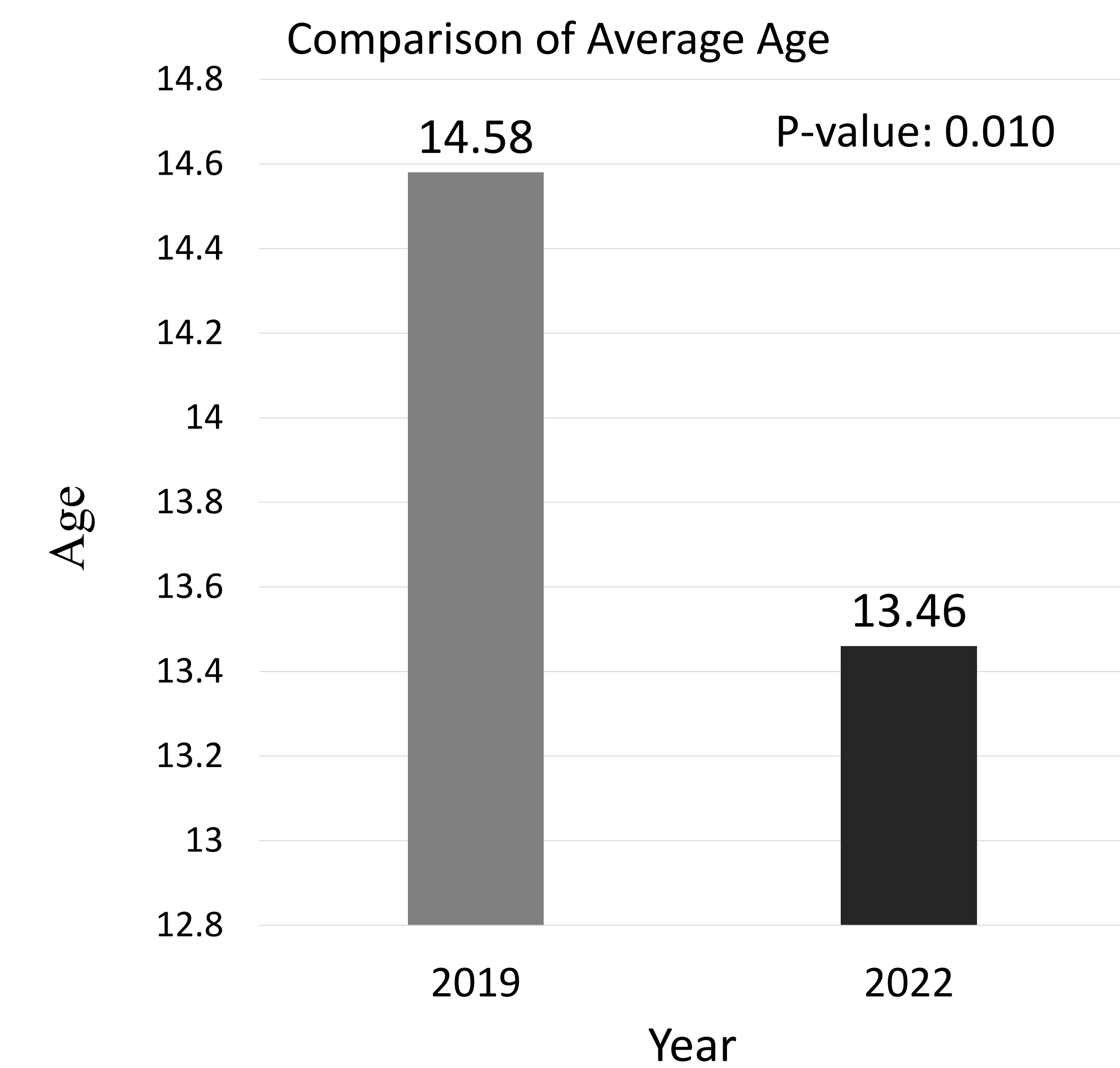
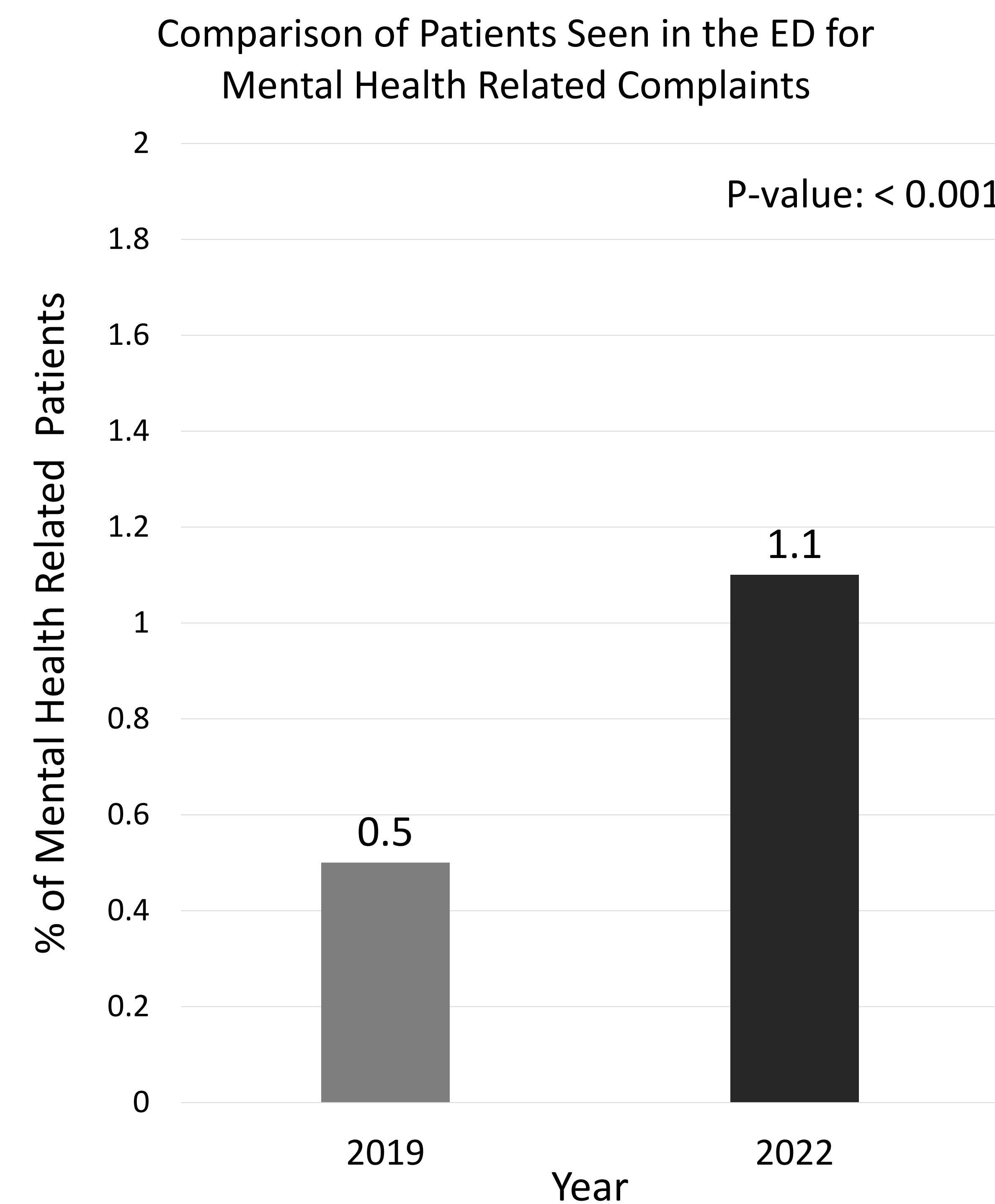
METHODS

- Design: Single-center retrospective chart review of Emergency Department (ED) patients at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital
- Data collected from January 2019 to May 2019 and January 2022 to May 2022
- Includes school aged children and adolescents (age 5-18) presenting to the ED with mental health related chief complaints who were transferred to another facility for further treatment or admitted to the hospital

RESULTS



- 2019 Data:
- 2022 Data:
- Emergency Department Diagnosis Inclusion Criteria:
 - Self-harm
 - Suicidal ideation
 - Attempted suicide/suicidal
 - Depression/major depressive mood disorder
 - Cutting
 - Psychotic disorder
 - Anxiety
 - Aggressive/violent behavior
 - Behavioral health issues
 - Disruptive mood dysregulation
 - Intentional overdose



CONCLUSION

- Significantly more patients seen in the ED in the year 2022 compared to 2019 for mental health related complaints
 - 1.1% vs. 0.5% in 2022 and 2019, respectively (P-value: < 0.001)
- A secondary outcome of data showed that in 2019 the average age of patients seen for mental health related issues was higher than those seen in 2022
- The statistically significant difference between pre- and post-pandemic patient numbers at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital ED suggests a correlation between the pandemic and the declining mental health of school aged children and adolescents
- More widescale quantitative data analysis needs to be assessed to strengthen conclusions about COVID-19's impact on mental health

References and Disclosures

The authors have no conflicts of interest or financial benefits to disclose

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