



Mothers lived through hell during lockdown. For some of us, it's not

over

Adapted from: <u>https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/jun/06/mothers-lived-through-hell-</u> <u>during-lockdown-for-some-of-us-its-not-over</u>

My son's behavior when he began preschool was concerning. As I desperately searched for answers, I realized I was on my own

- 1. My four-year-old son, Oscar, is a Covid kid. Born in 2017, he was two and a half when the world went into lockdown. Like the rest of his generation, he has spent a significant part of his formative years away from family, friends, classrooms and other aspects of public life.
- 2. Like everyone else at the start of the pandemic, we did our best: we pulled Oscar out of the small, at-home daycare he'd been attending for just three months and sheltered in place. I put my career aside and formed a pod with four other mothers. My husband and I took Oscar and his baby sister to parks, crossing our fingers they wouldn't come too close to other kids.
- 3. We tried to compensate, but the challenge of meeting our children's social needs and balancing our adult responsibilities was enormous.
- 4. I was eager to return to work and our family needed the income so when schools reopened for in-person learning this past September, we enrolled Oscar at our local preschool.
- 5. From the start, our son exhibited behaviors that his teacher and the administration described as concerning.
- 6. He couldn't write his name. This was the first problem they brought to our attention. His teacher told me he refused to hold a pencil in his hand, so she gave him a marker. Oscar took it and drew all over his face and the desk. The teacher showed me photographs she'd taken with her phone, which she described as "documentation".
- 7. I stood there, feeling a little on display. I wasn't sure what to do with this information. Oscar was by no means a child I'd describe as obedient, but we got things done and life in our house was happy and harmonious. He knew better than to draw on himself.
- 8. When they told me he wouldn't stand in line or sit at his desk, I thought, of course he won't. He's four! Wasn't it their job to teach him how to do these things?
- 9. And the day he stripped naked waiting in line for the bathroom, I was unruffled. "I'm surprised it hasn't happened earlier," I said. "My kid hates pants."
- 10. The difficulties persisted, and so we cooperated with eight weeks of behavioral interventions. Sticker charts, rewards and punishments none of it worked on Oscar.





- 11. In the beginning, I wanted to chalk it all up to giftedness. He was a chatty, precocious kid. Maybe he wasn't getting enough attention in a room of 20 kids. When I asked him why he wouldn't just do what was being asked of him, he told me it was too boring. *He's under-stimulated*, I thought.
- 12. Some months later, we got a more accurate portrait of my son. According to an educational evaluator, he moved around the classroom, completely nonverbal, ignoring all redirection. "Overwhelmed" was the word the evaluator used. He was sometimes destructive and distracting to the rest of the class. If an adult tried to redirect him, he became aggressive.
- 13. The week before Thanksgiving break, Oscar's principal called an emergency meeting. Over Zoom, she explained that the school lacked the resources to deal with him, and so they were reducing my son's time in the program from five to two hours, starting the very next day.
- 14. It was the necessary move for the school, but it wasn't the right intervention for our family and it had a deleterious effect on Oscar.
- 15. After his hours were reduced, getting him into the building every morning became a physical struggle. At the end of his abbreviated day, a different paraprofessional would hand my son off to me silently, and he'd sob quietly to himself the whole way home.
- 16. At home, my formerly cheerful kid became increasingly defiant. Normally kind and protective, he started hitting his baby sister. Even though he'd potty trained nearly a year before, he was wetting himself. He started chewing through his toys and clothes. He repeated odd phrases, such as "I like you but I don't like you" or "it's red but it's not red". He said "I don't know what's going to happen" and "I like you, Mommy" at least a hundred times a day.
- 17. After a flurry of evaluations, our bright and sensitive child was diagnosed with unspecified anxiety and ADHD, as well as oppositional defiant disorder, a stigmatizing and yet questionable diagnosis, particularly for a child as young as my son. Our school district's committee on preschool education administrators, educators and social workers employed by the district who have never met Oscar said he belonged in a small therapeutic group setting that would support his social emotional development.
- 18. I was on my own.
- 19. For nine months, I dedicated my life to the care of my special-needs son. Instead of earning an income or maintaining my career or cleaning my house or caring for my daughter or connecting with my husband or caring for myself, I fought for the care he needed.
- 20. I have felt so worried, hopeless and terrified that I, myself, became suicidal.
- 21. There came time when we stopped sending him to school. Oscar's behavior changed almost immediately. He stopped chewing stuff and wetting himself and hitting his sister. So long as he's in my care, he is as agreeable and disciplined as you'd expect from a four-year-old.





- 22. Of course, he needs to learn how to be around other children and adults, and away from Mommy. Teaching him how to be a part of the world without me is the one job I can't do.
- 23. That is why, after months of waiting, my husband and I decided to enroll Oscar in a private school for kids with special needs. The one available spot in a program within a 40-minute radius just happened to be an Oscar paradise: 200 acres of untouched forest, biodynamic gardens and bubbling streams where my son will float homemade boats, climb apple trees and bake bread.
- 24. The cost of the program is nearly \$70,000 per year, which is more than 80% of our family's income. We've hired a lawyer and intend to sue the district for reimbursement due to the lack of assistance we are optimistic we will win.

Leia o texto e responda às questões abaixo. Há apenas uma alternativa correta por questão.

Após ler o texto atentamente, escolha a alternativa que melhor descreve o ambiente social pós-pandêmico.

R: O comportamento das famílias mudou drasticamente.

In paragraph 5, the word concerning, in our son exhibited behaviors that his teacher and the administration described as concerning, means

R: worrying.

O parágrafo 14 nos diz que a redução do horário da escola,

R: foi nefasta tanto para Oscar quanto para seus pais.

No parágrafo 15, a melhor tradução para *At the end of his abbreviated day, a different paraprofessional would hand my son off to me silently, and he'd sob quietly to himself the whole way home* seria

R: No final de cada dia, com o horário abreviado, um paraprofissional diferente me entregava meu filho silenciosamente, e ele soluçava baixinho durante todo trajeto até que chegássemos em casa.

O parágrafo 16 nos informa que, uma vez em casa, Oscar

R: comportava-se de maneira inapropriada.

Nos parágrafos 18 e 19, podemos inferir que a mãe do menino

R: passou a dedicar total atenção ao seu filho.





No parágrafo 21, a mãe de Oscar afirma que ele

R: mudou seu comportamento quando ela o tirou da escola.

Os parágrafos 23 e 24 nos informam que a escola que Oscar passou a frequentar

R: atendia crianças portadoras de necessidades especiais.

How many violent attacks and sexual assaults on women are there?

By Lucy Gilder & Jennifer Clarke

Adapted from : https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-56365412

BBC News

Published 30

The deaths of Zara Aleena, Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa and many others have reignited a national conversation about the safety of women and girls.

Sarah Everard's killer was a serving officer in the Metropolitan Police Force, which has since published an action plan to tackle violence against women and girls across London.

But further changes have been called for - including a demand by MPs for action to address the "shocking" collapse in rape prosecutions in England and Wales.

According to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), between April 2020 and March 2021, 177 women were murdered in England and Wales, compared to 416 men.

Of these women, 109 were killed by a man and 10 by a woman. In 58 cases there was no known suspect. This means that - where the suspect was known - 92% of women were killed by men in the year ending March 2021.

In Scotland between 2019-20 and 2020-21, the number of murdered women dropped from 19 to 10, while the number of men killed increased from 47 to 48.

Records from the past decade show that 134 women were killed by men in Scotland. This means in cases where a suspect was identified during this period, 89% of female murder victims were killed by a man.





The most recent data from the ONS shows that 60% of the women killed in England or Wales knew their suspected killer, compared to 44% of male victims.

Around a third of suspects were a current or former partner. This is the most common relationship between victim and attacker where one exists.

In England and Wales, a total of 40,572 women were victims of sexual assault in the year ending September 2021, an increase of 13% from the previous year (35,029 offences). This is the highest number of sexual offences ever recorded within a 12-month period.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, there was a decrease in recorded cases of rape and sexual assault against women. This is likely because of lockdown restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic.

Police statistics do not report the gender of the attacker in sexual assault offences.

In the year ending September 2021, 41,332 women were victims of rape, also the highest annual figure recorded to date. This is an increase of 10% from the previous year (37,502 offences).

The ONS said there were "notable increases" in the number of reported sexual offences after Sarah Everard's disappearance.

In the last year, 2,298 cases of rape or attempted rape were recorded by the police in Scotland.

Despite the record increase in the number of offences being reported, the End Violence Against Women Coalition believes the real total is much higher:

"We know that these figures are still just the tip of the iceberg," says director Andrea Simon.

"Many women do not feel able to report [sexual assault] to police, for reasons ranging from societal cultures of victim-blaming, to myths and stereotypes that impact how survivors are treated."

The BBC News text says that the number of violent attacks and sexual assaults on women has been growing daily. In Brazil, the problems does not differ much from the one found in England, Scotland and in many different European countries.

Write a text using the minimum of 250 and the maximum of 300 words, saying what you think about violent attacks and sexual assaults on women and how the government and society should act with regard to such crimes; what kind of punishment and preventive measures should be taken towards sexual assaults?

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