



Ministero  
dell'Università  
e della Ricerca



Finanziato  
dall'Unione europea  
NextGenerationEU

*TELEHEALTH, ITS ROLE IN THE  
GREENING OF HEALTHCARE  
SYSTEMS, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCHERS:  
A THEORETICAL REFLECTION*

AUTHORS: MARCO LEZCANO, MARGHERITA PASINI  
& MARIA GABRIELLA LANDUZZI



# *TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE: WHAT ARE THEY? AND WHAT DO THEY BRING TO SOCIETY?*

## Benefits:

- **Reduction in travel time and costs** associated with accessing healthcare services (Mohammadzadeh et al., 2022; Tromans et al., 2024);
- **Reduction in hospital admissions** and unnecessary clinical visits (Ohligs et al., 2020; Day et al., 2023);
- **Support during emergency situations** resulting from natural disasters (Doarn & Merrel, 2014) or human-caused crises (Salih, 2025);
- **Contribution to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** generated by the healthcare system (Martinelli et al., 2021; Gadenz et al., 2025).



## What is the role of Telehealth?

New Mexico (2015 – 2017): 2020 teleconsultations → 618.74 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>, Average per consultation: 0.31 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> (Whetten et al., 2019);

Stanford Health Care center (2019 – 2021): 13% increase in use → 36% reduction of greenhouse gases. In 2021: 17000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (Thiel et al., 2013);

Multi-center survey in the USA (January 2022 – January 2023): urban residents 7982 g (95%CI, 6558 - 9406 g) CO<sub>2</sub>, rural residents 17454 g (95%CI, 12 349 - 22 558 g) CO<sub>2</sub> (Zurl et al., 2025);

See: Ravindrane R, Patel J. **The environmental impacts of telemedicine in place of face-to-face patient care: a systematic review.** Future Healthc J. 2022 Mar; 9(1):28-33. doi: 10.7861/fhj.2021-0148.

## *WHAT CAN WE DO AS RESEARCHERS?*

Develop theory grounded and valid assessment tools: e.g., acceptance, usability

Involve end-users in the design process at different levels: e.g., health policy-makers, healthcare professionals, patients

Develop services and technologies compatible with the currents in use

Evaluations of infrastructures and readiness of territories

Overlook for equitable access to the new service or technology

*THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!*

CONTACT: MARCO.LEZCANO@UNIVR.IT