Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Long-Term Care in the United States

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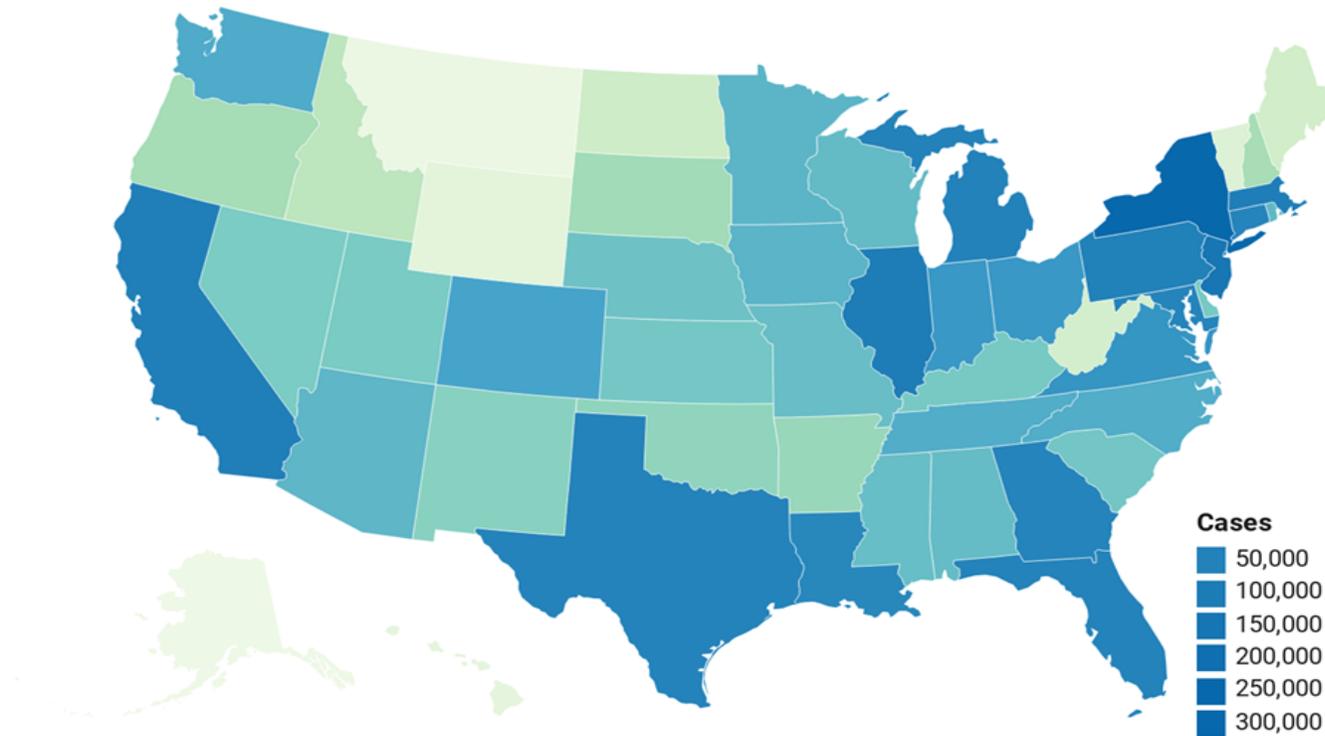
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Outline

- Current situation in the United States long term care (LTC) system

- Testing and reporting within nursing homes

- Short and long-term policy reforms needed in LTC

Current Situation, United States (US)

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by US State

Cases
- 50,000
- 100,000
- 150,000
- 200,000
- 250,000
- 300,000

These data represent a snapshot in time (May 14). The number of news cases is rapidly changing.

Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE • Created with Datawrapper

- Confirmed cases = 1,417,774

- Total deaths = 85,898
  - 1/3 of deaths are in long term care facilities

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Challenges to Response in US Long Term Care

- Inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Lack of transparency with reporting

- Litigious environment

- No visitor policies (majority of states)

Image Source: SEIU HCII

Contributing Factors

Image Source: AP/ Jean-Francois Badias
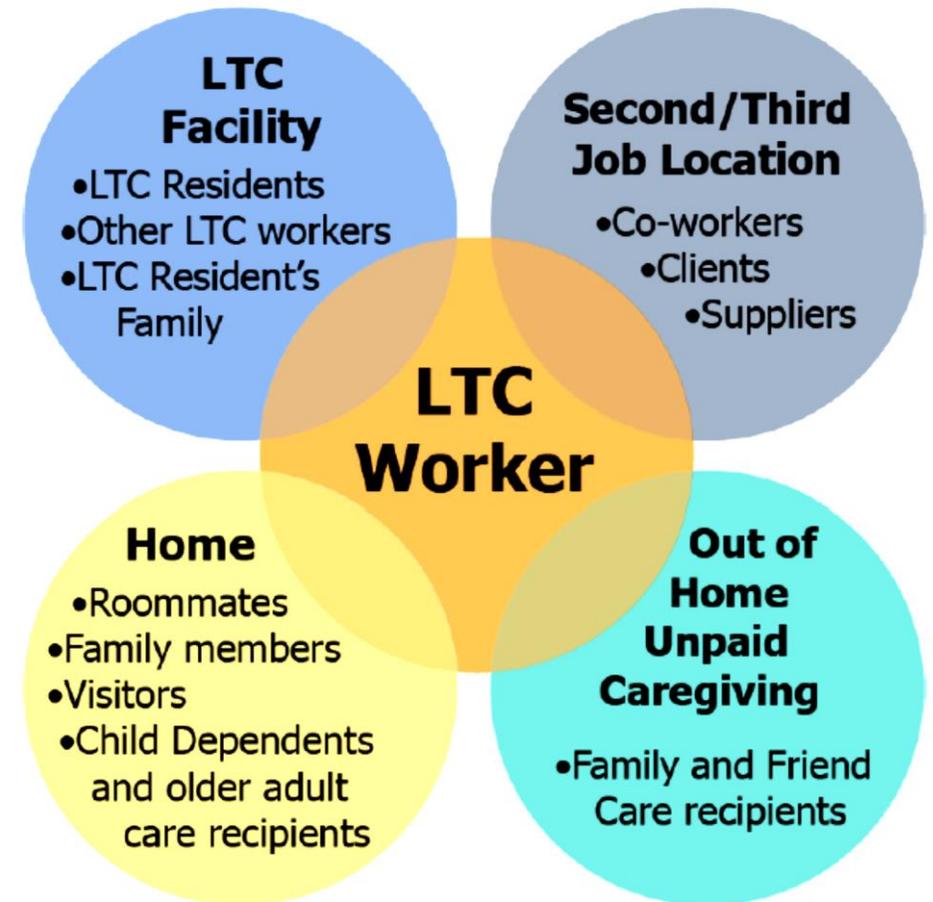
- Fractured LTC system in the US
  - Mix of public and private funding
  - Overlapping of state and federal government regulation

- Federal policy response limited to acute care
  - Major public health failure
  - Who is leading the charge?
    - Local and state governments
    - Professional societies
    - All under resourced

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Inadequate Reporting of Cases in LTCs

Long-term care facilities with at least one coronavirus case

States that provide some facility data

States that provide no facility data

Data as of May 9.

Image Source: New York Times

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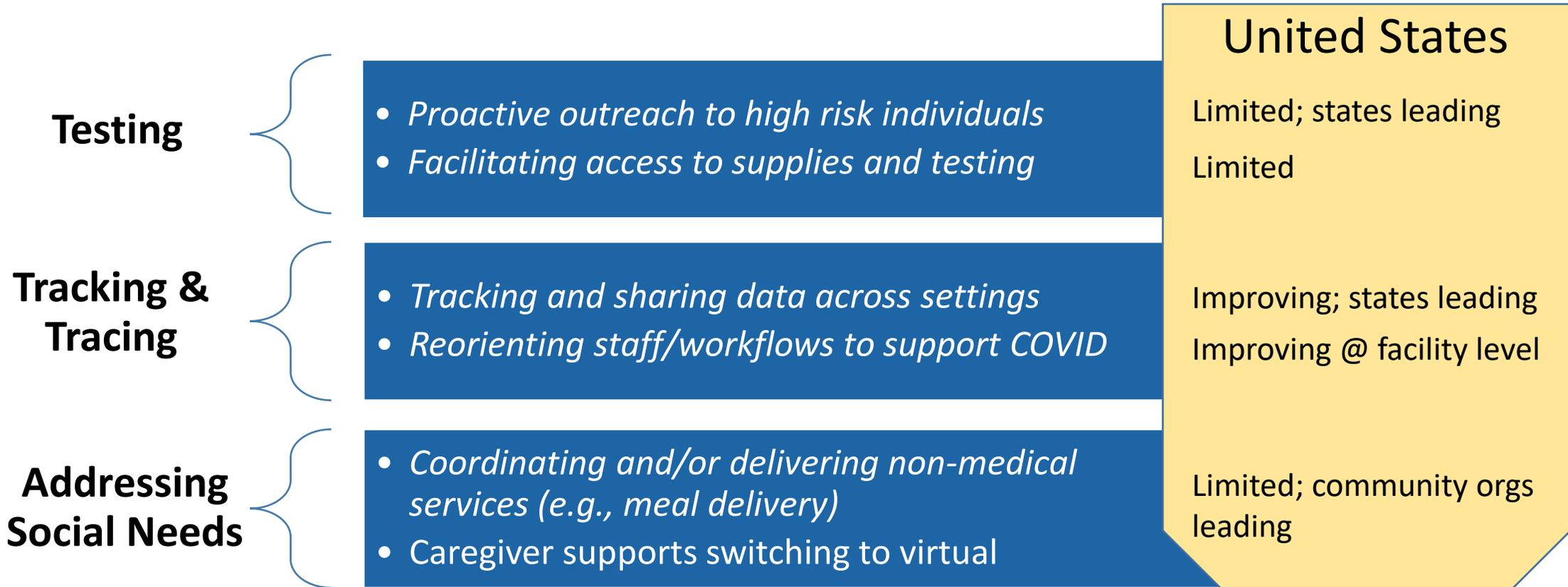
LTC Workers in Time of COVID-19

From 30 nursing homes in Northeast US:

- LTC job was full-time (RNs, LPNs, CNAs)

- 70% of workers agreed or strongly agreed:
  "When you are sick, you still feel obligated to come into work."

- One-sixth had a second job (20 hours/week)

- 60% double- or triple-duty caregiving roles
  - In and outside home

LTC Facility
- LTC Residents
- Other LTC workers
- LTC Resident's Family

Second/Third Job Location
- Co-workers
- Clients
- Suppliers

LTC Worker

Home
- Roommates
- Family members
- Visitors
- Child Dependents and older adult care recipients

Out of Home Unpaid Caregiving
- Family and Friend Care recipients

How are Health Organizations Adapting?

Ideal: Health care delivery organizations leveraging robust care coordination and data infrastructures to address their patients' COVID and non-COVID-related needs

Testing
- *Proactive outreach to high risk individuals*
- *Facilitating access to supplies and testing*

Tracking & Tracing
- *Tracking and sharing data across settings*
- *Reorienting staff/workflows to support COVID*

Addressing Social Needs
- *Coordinating and/or delivering non-medical services (e.g., meal delivery)*
- Caregiver supports switching to virtual

United States

Limited; states leading

Limited

Improving; states leading

Improving @ facility level

Limited; community orgs leading

Structural Reforms Needed for Covid-19

Facility policies

- Systematic and repeated testing of staff & residents / screening
- Adequate PPE
- Case reporting
- Sick and leave benefits

State/Federal policies

- Medicaid reimbursement to support temporary hazard pay
- Telehealth expansion
- Monitor and intervene to avoid industry financial collapse

Family strategies

- Temporarily shift unpaid care work into capable, non-essential employees

Transforming LTC System through Research

Describe Challenges

- Identify where to target scarce resources (not stars)

Test New Models of Care

- *Demo early warning system for LTC facility workers*
- *Stand up & test "Post-Acute Care at Home" care model*
- Evaluate impacts of expanded tele-health

Partnerships to Achieve Scale

- *Health System, Departments of Public Health, Academic, LTC associations; LTC providers and firms*
- *Local, State (Medicaid transformation), CMS, Private*

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Van Houtven, Boucher, Dawson, US Country Report LTCCovid.org

Van Houtven CH, DePasquale N, Coe NB. Essential Long-Term Care Workers Commonly Hold Second Jobs and Double- or Triple-Duty Caregiving Roles. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2020 Apr 27. doi: 10.1111/jgs.16509. [Epub ahead of print]

COVID-19 ADVICE:
Sophie: "I survived Scarlet Fever, don't let COVID-19 take me out!"

COVID-19 ADVICE:
Ruth: "Hold your head up high, we will get through this!"

COVID-19 ADVICE:
Earl and Cecile: "To save lives, we went to war. You were asked to lay on the couch to save ours."

Image Source: Arbors at Chicopee, Mass.

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