



INTERNATIONAL
LONG TERM CARE
POLICY NETWORK

Italy: Estimates of mortality of nursing home residents and staff linked to the COVID-19 pandemic

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This document is available through the website ltccovid.org, which was set up in March 2020 as a rapidly shared collection of resources for community and institution-based long-term care responses to COVID-19-19. The website is hosted by CPEC at the London School of Economics and Political Science and draws on the resources of the International Long Term Care Policy Network.

Corrections and comments are welcome at info@ltccovid.org. This document was last updated on 25 June 2020 and may be subject to revision.

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1. Key findings

- The only data available on Covid-19 related deaths are based on a survey from the National Health Institute;
- We currently only have data related to deaths in nursing homes (not in care homes);
- Testing policies are managed by regions: no national overview nor publicly available data on regional testing in nursing homes.

2. Introduction

The Covid-19 outbreak in Italian nursing homes is gathering strong attention from experts and the national media, since early evidence seems to show that the actual deaths linked to the virus are much higher than those reported in the official daily bulletins. This document sets out the information currently publicly available about the impact of COVID-19 on people who live and work in nursing homes, with a particular focus on mortality. There is still relatively little information to assess the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people who live and work in care homes. This document will be updated and expanded as new data becomes publicly available. For further data on the Covid-19 outbreak in Italian nursing homes, please refer to our country report:

Berloto, S., Notarnicola, E., Perobelli, E., Rotolo, A. (2020) Italy and the COVID-19 long-term care situation. Country report in LTCcovid.org, International Long Term Care Policy Network, CPEC-LSE, 30 April 2020. <https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LTC-COVID19-situation-in-Italy-30-April-2020.pdf>

Comments on both documents are welcome, please email perobelli.eleonora@unibocconi.it

3. Deaths of nursing home residents and staff linked to the COVID-19 pandemic

Please note that all data referred to the Covid-19 outbreak in nursing homes are based on the results of the National Health Institute (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS)'s survey¹, which was sent to 3,276 nursing homes out of the 4,629 operating on the national territory.

On June 17th ISS published the final results of the survey. Data are referred to the period between February 1st and May 5^h. As of May 5th, 1,356 nursing homes responded. The total mortality rate during that timeframe is 9.1% (considering all deaths). The Covid-19 related mortality rate (tests + suspected) is 3.1%.

We do not have any figure on deaths from the same period in previous year to investigate excess mortality.

No other official data on the outbreak in nursing homes at national level is publicly available.

¹ <https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/pdf/sars-cov-2-survey-rsa-rapporto-finale.pdf>

		Residents	Staff
	How are care homes defined in the official mortality statistics in your country?	Definition from the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT): “public or private residential home that offers LTC residential services (personal care and accommodation) to people in need.”	
	What is the total number of older people who live in care homes (as per the definition of care homes used in the official mortality data in your country) And how many staff work there?	273.204 ² residents in nursing homes (as defined by ISTAT, see above)	N.A.
	Numbers of tests carried out in nursing homes in your country	N.A. No national policy has been enacted for testing in nursing homes. Each region promoted its own policies on testing, no official figures on the number of tests carried out is publicly available.	N.A. No national policy has been enacted for testing in nursing homes. Each region promoted its own policies on testing, no official figures on the number of tests carried out is publicly available.
	Number of nursing home residents and staff who tested positive for COVID-19	<i>Only partial data from the survey:</i> 2,377: the data refers to 1,088 nursing homes	<i>Only partial data from the survey:</i> 278 nursing homes out the 1,320 that answered this question declared that someone in their staff was tested positive. We have no data on the actual number of care workers that tested positive.
	Number of nursing homes that have experienced outbreaks (compared to total number of care home)	N.A.	
	Number of nursing home residents transferred to hospital due to suspected or confirmed COVID	<i>Only partial data from the survey:</i> In the 1,342 nursing homes that answered the question on this, 5,292 residents were transferred to hospitals (3,9 per nursing home on	N.A.

² https://www.cergas.unibocconi.eu/wps/wcm/connect/73024a58-4ae1-4ccf-9280-47b58ea2e448/Cap5OASI_2019.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mWPGsIR

		average). The data refers to <u>any</u> transfer, hence we do not have the detail on the COVID-related share. Nonetheless, we have the number of transferred residents that tested positive (965) or had Covid-related symptoms (2,021): in total, 56,4% (2,986/5,292) of nursing home residents who were admitted at the hospital tested positive or had COVID-related symptoms.	
	Number of nursing home residents who died in hospital, deaths linked to COVID-19	N.A.	N.A.
	Number of nursing home residents and staff who died and tested positive (before or after death) for COVID-19	N.A.	N.A.
	Number of people who died in the nursing home, and tested positive for COVID-19	<i>Only partial data from the survey:</i> 680 over 9,154 (7,4%) registered deaths in the February, 1 st – May, 5 th timeframe.	N.A.
	Number of nursing home residents and staff who died from suspected/probable COVID-19	N.A.	N.A.
	Number of people who died in the nursing home from suspected/probable COVID-19	<i>Only partial data from the survey:</i> 3,092 over 9,154 (33,8%) registered deaths in the February, 1 st – May, 5 th timeframe.	Only partial data from the survey. No official figure. See Italy country report for further details
	Number of excess deaths in nursing homes compared to same time period in previous years	N.A.	N.A.
	Number of excess deaths of nursing home residents, compared to same period in previous years	N.A.	N.A.

4. Sources

All data referred to the COVID-19 outbreak in nursing homes are based on the results of the National Health Institute (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS)'s survey:

<https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/pdf/sars-cov-2-survey-rsa-rapporto-3.pdf>

The total number of older people who live in nursing homes is available here:

https://www.cergas.unibocconi.eu/wps/wcm/connect/73024a58-4ae1-4ccf-9280-47b58ea2e448/Cap5OASI_2019.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mWPGsIR