International experiences: 2nd, 3rd COVID-19 waves, vaccines and beyond in the long-term care sector

LTCCovid webinar
14th December 2020
@LTCCovid, LTCCovid.org
Austria
LTCCovid
Austria

Kai Leichsenring, Andrea Schmidt, Heidemarie Staflinger
Number of COVID-19 cases in care homes and in the entire population in Austria (cumulated by June, November and December 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cases in care homes</th>
<th>Cases per 1,000 residents in care homes</th>
<th>Total cases per 100,000 population</th>
<th>Total cases</th>
<th>Total deaths</th>
<th>Total deaths in care homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 June 2020</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>195.4</td>
<td>17,380</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS data (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Nov 2020</td>
<td>5,118</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>1,293.8</td>
<td>164,866</td>
<td>2,018</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI data (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Dec 2020</td>
<td>10,790</td>
<td>154.1</td>
<td>3,494.4</td>
<td>311,002</td>
<td>4,260</td>
<td>1,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS data (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: BMI, BMSGPK, AGES. Abbreviations: BMI – Ministry of the Interior; EMS – epidemiological reporting system. Notes: (1) EMS data are based on official register data from counties and laboratories, while BMI data are gathered from the regional governments via daily videoconferences; Austria has about 8.9 mio. inhabitants.
Brazil

Patrick Alexander Wachholz, @DrPatrickLTC

Brazil

Did we learn something at all?

PATRICK ALEXANDER WACHHOLZ
Botucatu Medical School – São Paulo State University (Unesp), Brazil

Twitter: @DrPatrickLTC
Email: patrick.wachholz@unesp.br
COVID-19 in Brazil

- On July 29, Brazil hit a peak daily caseload of over 69,000, with around 1,600 deaths.
- By late October averages were falling off to 20,000 cases and 425 deaths per day.
- Brazil is now at risk of a second wave without even leaving the first wave.

‘Escalation in the infection/deaths rates has taken place against the background of a major political crisis. There has been a politicisation of the pandemic, and contradictory public health messages from different levels of government have led to significant confusion among the public.’


- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has opposed lockdowns and encouraged Brazilians to ‘get back to their normal lives, so the economy can recover.’

Source: https://covid19br.wcota.me/
LTCF in Brazil

- Brazilian Unified Social Assistance System (SUAS, 2018)
  - 1,451 facilities
  - 78,000 residents

- **FUNDING SOURCES**
  (IPEA, 2008) = 3,548 facilities
  - 65.2% philanthropic (not-for-profit-?)
  - 28.2% private, for-profit
  - 6.6% public, not-for-profit

- **CURRENT ESTIMATES**
  - More than 5,000 LTCF
  - Over 300,000 residents
  - Large proportion of not registered facilities

### COVID-19 occurrence estimates in Brazilian care homes, May - October, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of residents</th>
<th>Resident Covid-19 confirmed cases</th>
<th>Resident Covid-19 confirmed deaths</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of residents</th>
<th>Workers Covid-19 confirmed cases</th>
<th>Resident Covid-19 confirmed deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CE</td>
<td>07/08/2020</td>
<td>1691</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>07/08/2020</td>
<td>1691</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>14/08/2020</td>
<td>1601</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>14/08/2020</td>
<td>1601</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG</td>
<td>18/08/2020</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>18/08/2020</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>29/07/2020</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29/07/2020</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>17/06/2020</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>17/06/2020</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>29/07/2020</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29/07/2020</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>06/08/2020</td>
<td>2257</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>06/08/2020</td>
<td>2257</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RJ</td>
<td>15/06/2020</td>
<td>2350</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>15/06/2020</td>
<td>2350</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN</td>
<td>13/07/2020</td>
<td>1141</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>13/07/2020</td>
<td>1141</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>14/07/2020</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14/07/2020</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS</td>
<td>12/08/2020</td>
<td>2807</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>07/10/2020</td>
<td>1198</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>10/05/2020</td>
<td>5685</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20/07/2020</td>
<td>6074</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>01/05/2020</td>
<td>15026</td>
<td>1623</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>12/07/2020</td>
<td>40735</td>
<td>1142</td>
<td>2087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>44067</td>
<td>2519</td>
<td>492</td>
<td></td>
<td>59725</td>
<td>1701</td>
<td>4934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- https://coronavirus.tsc.gov.br/informe-epidemiologico
- Acknowledgments to Public Prosecutors Offices.
- Estimates of the percentage of deaths occurring in care homes, based upon information available for other countries (weighted percentage of 44.7%) was 107,538 COVID-19 deaths. ([http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1413-81232020259.14552020](http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1413-81232020259.14552020))

- Rates of infection/deaths in Brazilian LTCF have been lower than in other countries.
  - Early suspension of external visits to LTCF (?)

- Despite the window of opportunity for creating public policies informed by evidence, virtually no progress or improvement in the LTC sector has been implemented.

- What to expect from vaccinations in Brazil?
  - 'Growing parcel that does not want to be vaccinated against Covid-19 in Brazil.' ([https://tinyurl.com/y5xq8nvr](https://tinyurl.com/y5xq8nvr))
  - 'Researchers cited in Brazilian Government Covid-19 vaccination plan say they did not endorse the document' ([https://tinyurl.com/yxvezg36](https://tinyurl.com/yxvezg36))
  - 'The Brazilian government informed that has already guaranteed 300 million doses of vaccines: Fiocruz/AstraZeneca (100.4 million doses until July/2021, plus 30 million doses/month in the second half of 2021); Covax Facility (42.5 million doses); and Pfizer (70 million doses under negotiation). ([https://tinyurl.com/y3ewdhav](https://tinyurl.com/y3ewdhav))

Source: [https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0928-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0928-4)
COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS

Results from an online survey with Brazilian care homes conducted between May 5 - August 11, 2020:

- n=368 care homes, which accommodated a population of 11,903 older adults. Southeast region concentrates the largest proportion of included facilities (53.8%), mostly for-profit (39.7%).

- 166 care homes (45.1%) - regardless of the type of funding - declared that they had not received subsidies or external financing for the preparation and facing of the pandemic, including training, purchase of protective equipment, and infrastructure adaptations for the respiratory isolation of suspected cases.

- 237 out of 368 managers (64.4%) answered that their facilities already had the necessary infrastructure to accommodate COVID-19 suspected cases.

- 314 care homes (85.3%) adhering to 14 or more IPC guidance recommendations; three were classified as low adherent, and 35 (9.5%) were missing cases.

Source: Wachholz et al. Unpublished data
India

Suvarna Alladi, @alladi_suvarna
COVID-19 and dementia in India

Lockdown period
- Problems in accessing care, disruptions in functional activities and struggles in enforcing infection prevention measures
- The **unchanging reality of caregiving** was highlighted by caregivers.

> "Not really much of an effect was not going well before and it is not going well now either."

Cluster transmission phase
- An increase in proportion of persons with severe dementia from baseline (39.4% vs 19.7%)
- A relatively high percentage of persons with dementia developed anxiety (CI = 24.53%) and eating disturbances (CI = 26.92%), without having these symptoms at baseline.
- There was a near doubling in numbers of caregivers experiencing mild to severe depression, anxiety and stress at follow up.
Ireland

Maria Pierce, @MariaFPierce
LTC/COVID-19 IN IRELAND (DEC 2020)

- Lowest incidence of Covid-19 in Europe currently
- 1,861 Covid-19 related deaths; >90% are older people
- 283 Covid-19 related deaths (Oct to Dec 7th); 35% linked to nursing homes, reduced from 1st wave
- Restrictions on nursing home visits a major concern
- Group based supports for older people remain closed
- Residential respite not available since March
- Long-recognised cracks in LTC system in Ireland amplified by Covid-19 (e.g. funding bias to NHs; ‘arms-length’ governance)
- Provisional vaccine allocation: >65 in RCFs highest priority
Israel

Sharona Tsadok-Rosenbluth and Brammli-Greenberg Shuli
Covid-19 and LTCF’s in Israel – Team Members

Sharona Tsadok-Rosenbluth¹, Boaz Hovav², Gal Horowitz³ and Brammli-Greenberg Shuli⁴

¹Department of Health Systems Management, School of public health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
²Department of Health Systems Management, Max Stern Yezreel Valley College
³Ministry of Health, Public Health Services, Southern District, Israel
⁴Department of Health Administration and Economics, Braun School of public health, Faculty of Medicine, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; shuli.brammli@mail.huji.ac.il
Proportion of LTCFs Covid-19 deaths within total Covid-19 deaths in Israel per week

Source: Centralized Management of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Long-Term Care Facilities in Israel

– work in progress
“Fathers & Mothers Shield”
SARS-CoV-2 confirmed cases of residents and staff members by week

Weekly Residents
Weekly Staff
LTC beds for mild and moderate Covid-19 patients

Source: Centralized Management of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Long-Term Care Facilities in Israel – work in progress
Cumulative Covid-19 related death in Israel

Cumulative death all over Israel
Cumulative death general population without LTC
Cumulative death among LTC residents

Source: Centralized Management of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Long-Term Care Facilities in Israel – work in progress
Italy

Elisabetta Notarnicola & Eleonora Perobelli
What went **wrong** in the 1st wave in Italy

**Major issues in the 1st wave**

- Absence of coordination with acute care;
- Nursing homes were required to behave as **“Covid hospitals”** and to treat ill elderly without any transfer to specialized services

Prioritization of resources (both financial and physical) to acute care and **neglect** of nursing homes in the supply strategy

**Absence** of testing and screening or Covid-19 (in some cases was forbidden)
## Lessons learnt

### Major issues in the 1st wave

- **Absence** of coordination with acute care
- Nursing homes were required to behave as *“Covid hospitals”* and treat ill elderly without any transfer to specialized services

### Improvements in 2nd wave

- **Guidelines and protocol** for integration with specialized Covid-care centers
- **Prioritization** in the supply of PPE
  - Still **no plan** to increase workforce supply
- **Structured and spread testing and screening campaign** (though only in some Regions)
Vaccination Plan

• Nursing homes residents and personnel (over 570,000 people) will be among the first groups to obtain the vaccine, together with healthcare staff;

• No guidelines have been promoted yet.
Latin-America

Peter Lloyd-Sherlock
Pandemic Waves

Peru: Wave 1 June to Sept

Brazil:

Colombia:
Malta

Maria-Aurora Fenech, @FenechMaria
Malta & Gozo, 1st COVID-19 recorded 7 Mar 2020
1) 32 LTC (4244 residents + 3021 caring staff)
2) 1 Larger LTC (1000+ residents & 1840 caring staff)

1st WAVE: 7 Mar – 29 May 2020, 9 deaths (2 females, 7 males; 56-97 years; no deaths recorded within LTC; an 11-week lock down within LTC);
- Public Health Emergency lifted on the 30 Jun 2020; not re-instated;
- First commercial flights resumed on 1 Jul from ‘safe corridor’ countries and from 15 Jul, travellers from 50 countries had been allowed to touch down with ad hoc testing; mass events took place but were successively curbed;

2nd WAVE: 21 Aug - ongoing, 169 deaths to date (2 of these deaths were aged 46/54 years, the other deaths were within the 64-98 years age bracket, 28.4% of these deaths (end of Nov), were within LTC, 75-98 years);
- Since 12 Dec 2020, travellers from the 41 countries below have to present a negative PCR COVID-19 result performed no longer than 72h prior to arrival. Those who fail to do so could be submitted to testing and may also have to quarantine.
  - Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy (except Sicily & Sardinia), Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vatican City

Vaccines
Malta has agreements with, Pfizer, Moderna, Astrazeneca, CureVac, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi GSK;
An advanced purchasing agreement, secured 1.6 million doses from the first 3 companies and 700,000 doses from the last 3;
The authorities are awaiting final EMA assessment, expected by the 29 Dec, before use is approved in Malta;

Vaccination timeline
Phase 1: Jan (Pfizer & Moderna); caring staff, residents of care homes and mental care institutions and all older persons (85+).
Phase 2: Feb; all other front liners and older persons (80+).
Phase 3: Child carers, persons with chronic diseases and older persons (75+).
Phase 4: Adults (55+).
Phase 5: Rest of the population.

Did we learn from the 1st wave, have things been better or worse in LTC/COVID during the 2nd wave, what has worked and what has not?
Mixed messages and pandemic burnout, difficulties in continuing with live-in arrangements in LTC – sustainability in terms of costs, living away from families, laissez-faire attitude of the public, crowded accommodation of ‘foreign’ caring staff, lack of mandatory testing at the airport, strong and continuous Public Health Education campaigning; strategy adopted and the massive operation put in motion by Social Care Standards Authority for both screening and managing diagnosed cases.

How do you expect vaccinations will play out in the LTC sector in your country, any issues to be aware of?
Clear strategy penned out by the authorities; growing sceptics among the public and an equally growing number of caring staff not taking the vaccine; strong health promotion vaccination campaign is required.
COVID-19 Positive Cases of Older Persons and Caring Staff during April - Dec 14th 2020 in residential care settings in Malta
Number of COVID-19 related deaths in older persons in residential care settings, April - November 22, 2020, Malta
Netherlands

Florien Kruse, @FlorienKruse
Netherlands

- Although the sector was better prepared for a new outbreak, the second wave has still hit hard.
- Protocols, personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing are more accessible than in the first wave.
- Nursing homes are given discretionary space to make visiting policies appropriate to their situation.
- Staff shortages, working pressure and staff wellbeing are still a great concern. However, unlike in the first wave, various policies aim to tackle this.
- Nursing home residents are represented by client councils. However, nursing homes have not consistently included client councils in crisis management.
Spain

Francisco Javier Moreno Fuentes (CSIC)
Care homes greatly affected in Spain:
- One of the countries with the most victims in care homes (and per capita mortality).
- Between 51% and 68% of victims in Spain during 1st. wave lived in residences.

How can we explain this? What can we learn? Analysis based on:
- Background of preparedness for the crisis.
- Measures adopted to minimize impact of the pandemic once it hit.
- Distribution of responsibilities between the private and public sectors.
- Impact of multilevel governance [Intergovernmental coordination].
- Patterns of interaction between care homes (linked to social services) and healthcare system [Intra-governmental coordination].
- Mistakes and “good practices” (strengthen links with health services, test residents and staff, take ill patients out of care homes and into intermediate centers).

2nd. Wave has hit in a relatively milder way, but care homes still a cause for concern.
Excess mortality in England during the COVID-19 pandemic by place of death, England


Adelina Comas-Herrera, @adelinacohe
Excess mortality in England during the COVID-19 pandemic in care homes, England


Adelina Comas-Herrera, @adelinacohe
COVID-19 IN SCOTLAND’S LTC SYSTEM

Between weeks 12 and 49
5,868 total confirmed or suspected COVID-19 deaths

Of those 2,393 occurred in care homes

Elizabeth Lemmon
University of Edinburgh
David Bell
University of Stirling
BUT, THERE WERE AT LEAST 2,686 suspected or confirmed COVID-19 deaths of care home residents.

THAT IS 46% of all COVID-19 related deaths.

1ST VERSUS 2ND WAVE: 50% vs 35%.
IN WEEK 17, DEATHS WERE 178% higher in care homes compared to the previous 5-year average.

OVERALL, DEATHS IN CARE HOMES WERE 25% higher compared to the previous 5-year average.
Take home messages

- COVID-19 has had a **devastating impact** and exposed the vulnerability of the LTC sector.

- **Difficulties**: Initial focus on hospitals, discharges to care homes, testing policies.

- The need for **better data** is urgent.

- No focus on **care at home**.

All data sources from National Records of Scotland and the Care Inspectorate Scotland.
A 90-year-old woman in South Lanarkshire has become the first care home resident to receive the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine.
United States of America

Greg Arling, Purdue University
David Anderson, Duke University
Mike Wasserman, @wassdoc
(Washington Post, Accessed Dec 14)

16.3 Million COVID-19 cases
298,000 COVID-19 deaths
United States - New Nursing Facility COVID-19 Cases / Week

Resident Cases
Staff Cases

Nov 29: Cumulative 700,000 cases

Source: CMS Nursing Facility COVID-19 Data
United States - Nursing Facility Resident COVID-19 Deaths / Week

Source: CMS Nursing Facility COVID-19 Data

Nov 29:
78,000 cumulative deaths

Greg Arling
United States Long Term Care and COVID

- Fragmented regulatory environment
- Multiple payers and types of LTC
- ~40% of US Deaths in LTC facilities
- Significant impediments to rapid, responsive testing
- Vaccines are being prioritized for highest risk groups including LTC residents
  - Unknown if vaccines remove risk of transmission
    - Changes vaccination targeting strategy

CALTCM’s Long Term Care Quadruple Aim for COVID-19 Response

- Sufficient and properly used PPE
- Readily available testing of staff and residents
- Stellar Infection Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness/Incident Command Mode

Mike Wasserman, @wassdoc

https://www.caltcm.org/assets/CALTCM%20COVID19%20QUADRUPLE%20AIM%20FINAL.pdf
Vaccination priorities and Long-Term Care

Shoshana Lauter, @shoshlauter (CPEC, LSE)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Care Home Residents</th>
<th>Care Home Staff</th>
<th>Care Partners of LTCF Residents</th>
<th>Unpaid Carers</th>
<th>Older People</th>
<th>People with Dementia</th>
<th>People using care in the community</th>
<th>People with Developmental Disabilities and Autism</th>
<th>Other Notable Populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• (indigenous communities)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• (“clinically vulnerable”)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• (indigenous communities)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>