

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

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LTCcovid webinar

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

@LTCcovid, LTCcovid.org



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THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



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Austria



# LTCcovid Austria

Kai Leichsenring, Andrea Schmidt, Heidemarie Staflinger

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

## Number of COVID-19 cases in care homes and in the entire population in Austria (cumulated by June, November and December 2020)

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

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.



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# Brazil

Patrick Alexander Wachholz, @DrPatrickLTC

<https://ltccovid.org/2020/09/14/updated-report-covid-19-situation-in-brazilian-care-homes-and-actions-taken-to-mitigate-infection-and-reduce-mortality/>

# 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](mailto:patrick.wachholz@unesp.br)



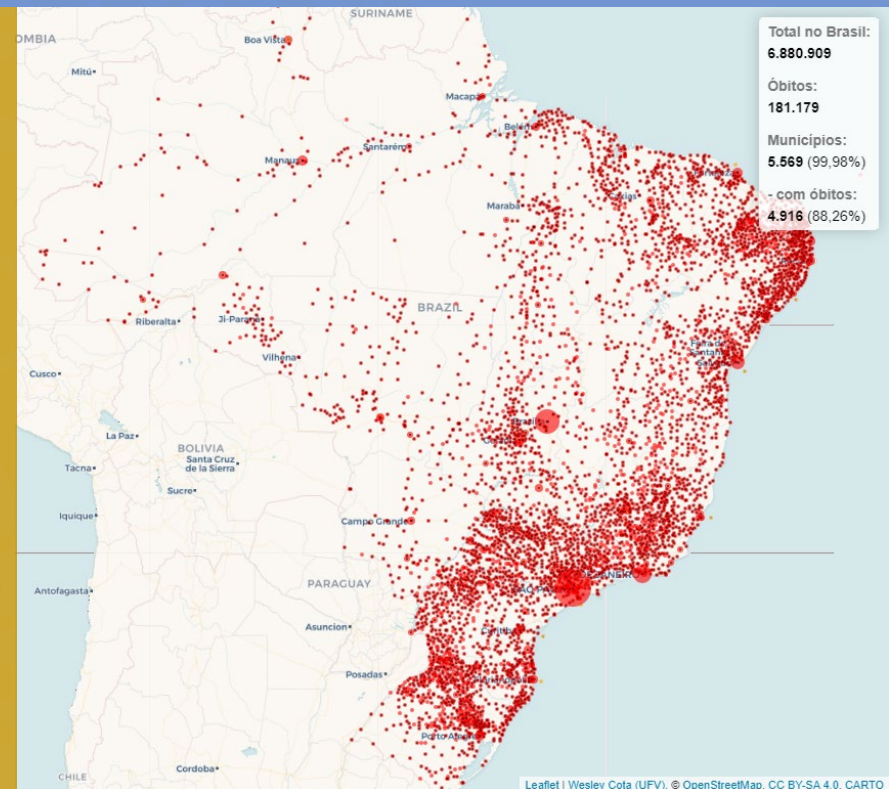
# COVID-19 in Brazil

- 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.'

Source: Wachholz et al, 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/y3fxrkfx>

- 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

State	Date	Number of residents	Resident Covid-19 confirmed cases	Residents Covid-19 confirmed deaths	Date	Number of residents	Workers Covid-19 confirmed cases	Resident Covid-19 confirmed cases	Residents Covid-19 confirmed deaths	Date	Number of residents	Workers Covid-19 confirmed cases	Resident Covid-19 confirmed cases	Residents Covid-19 confirmed deaths
CE					07/08/2020	1691	-	129	64					
ES					14/08/2020	1601	355	455	71	21/10/2020	2059	405	531	90
MG	01/05/2020	107	65	2	18/08/2020	1900			22					
MT					28/07/2020	188	-	9	2					
PE	17/06/2020	899		51	17/07/2020	732		108	60					
PI					29/07/2020	358	30	26	5					
PR					08/08/2020	2257	90	149	20	09/10/2020	2257	140	255	40
RJ	15/06/2020	2350	786	36	08/08/2020	191	50	83	17					
RN					13/07/2020	1141	-	78	14					
RR					14/07/2020	30	0	0	0					
RS					12/08/2020	2807	-	678	84	07/10/2020	11988	-	3328	380
SC	10/05/2020	5685	45	4	20/07/2020	6074	34	132	18	24/10/2020	6023	204	491	75
SP	01/05/2020	35026	1623	399	22/07/2020	40755	1142	2087	506	24/09/2020	45461	1316	2266	533
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>44067</b>	<b>2519</b>	<b>492</b>		<b>59725</b>	<b>1701</b>	<b>3934</b>	<b>883</b>		<b>67788</b>	<b>2065</b>	<b>6871</b>	<b>1118</b>

### Sources:

- Wachholz et al., 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1590/SciELOPreprints.1032>
- Wachholz et al., 2020. [https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Brief-summary-of-the-COVID-19-situation-care-homes-Brazil\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Brief-summary-of-the-COVID-19-situation-care-homes-Brazil_FINAL.pdf)
- Wachholz et al., 2020. [https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Brief-summary-of-the-COVID-19-situation-care-homes-Brazil\\_UPDATED-11.9.2020-formatted.pdf](https://ltccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Brief-summary-of-the-COVID-19-situation-care-homes-Brazil_UPDATED-11.9.2020-formatted.pdf)
- <https://coronavirus.rs.gov.br/informe-epidemiologico>
- Acknowledgments to Public Prosecutors Offices.



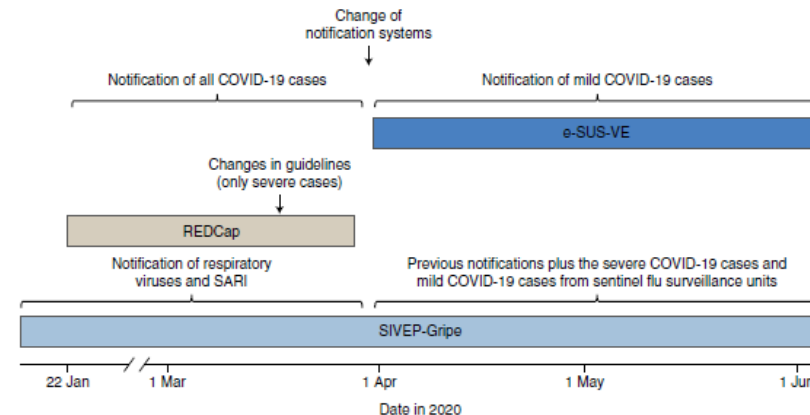
# What has/hasn't work

- 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>)

- 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.



**Fig. 1 | Timeline of national COVID-19 reporting systems in Brazil.** The REDCap system operated between late January and 25 March 2020. Aggregated numbers from e-SUS-VE and SIVEP-Gripe data for mild and hospitalized COVID-19 cases, respectively, are updated on a daily basis on the Portal do COVID-19 website (<https://covid.saude.gov.br/>).

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0928-4>

- 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>)

- 'Researchers cited in Brazilian Government Covid-19 vaccination plan say they did not endorse the document' (<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>)

# 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. .*



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# India

Suvarna Alladi, @alladi\_suvarna

# COVID-19 and dementia in India

Active (3.62%)

356546 (3273↓)

Discharged (94.93%)

9357464 (33136↑)

Deaths (1.45%)

143019 (391↑)



## 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.



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# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)
- Long-term implications of budget deficit resulting from Covid-19 (O'Shea, 2020)
- Provisional vaccine allocation: >65 in RCFs highest priority





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# Israel

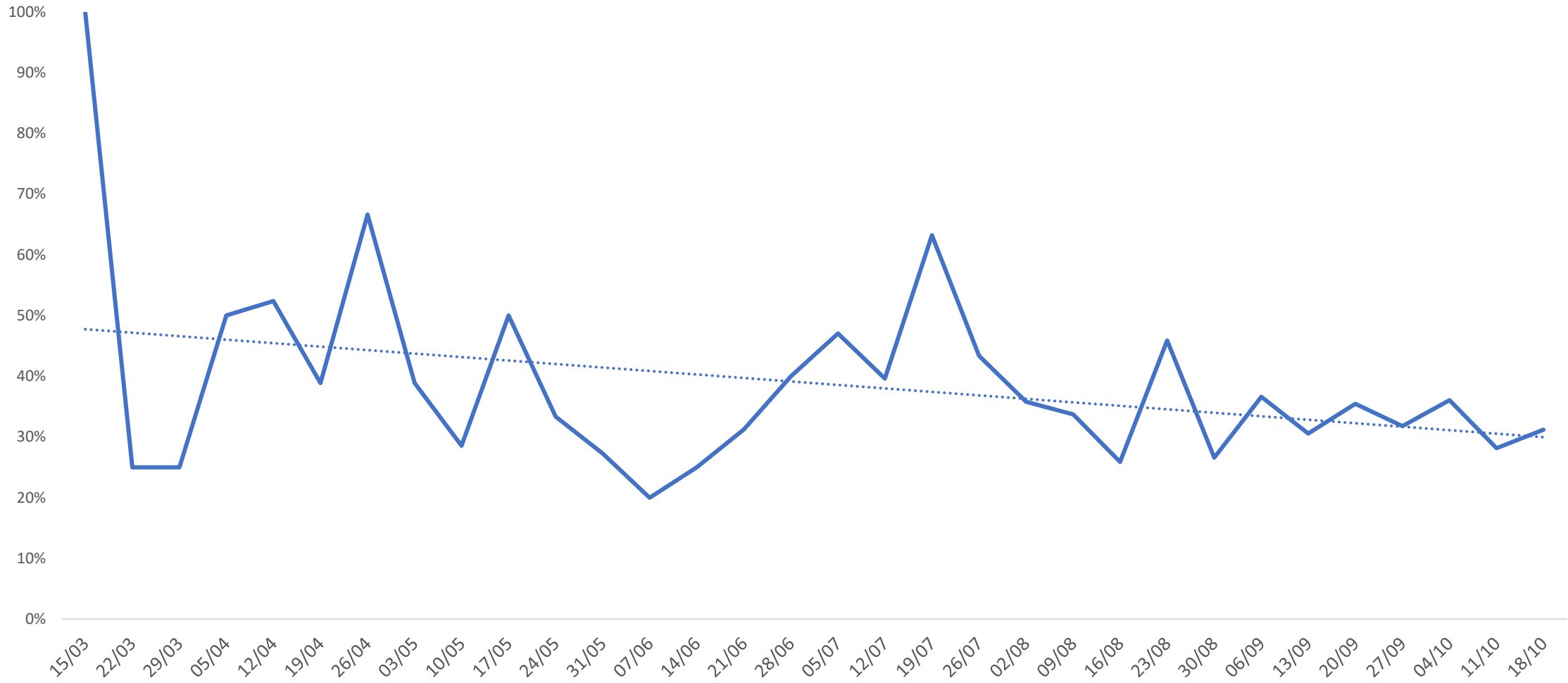
Sharona Tsadok-Rosenbluth and Brammli-Greenberg Shuli

# Covid-19 and LTCF's in Israel – Team Members

Sharona Tsadok-Rosenbluth<sup>1</sup>, Boaz Hovav<sup>2</sup>, Gal Horowitz<sup>3</sup> and Brammli-Greenberg Shuli<sup>4</sup>

- <sup>1</sup>Department of Health Systems Management, School of public health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Health Systems Management, Max Stern Yezreel Valley College
- <sup>3</sup> Ministry of Health, Public Health Services, Southern District, Israel
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Health Administration and Economics, Braun School of public health, Faculty of Medicine, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; [shuli.brammli@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto: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”



**מגן אבות  
ואימהות**

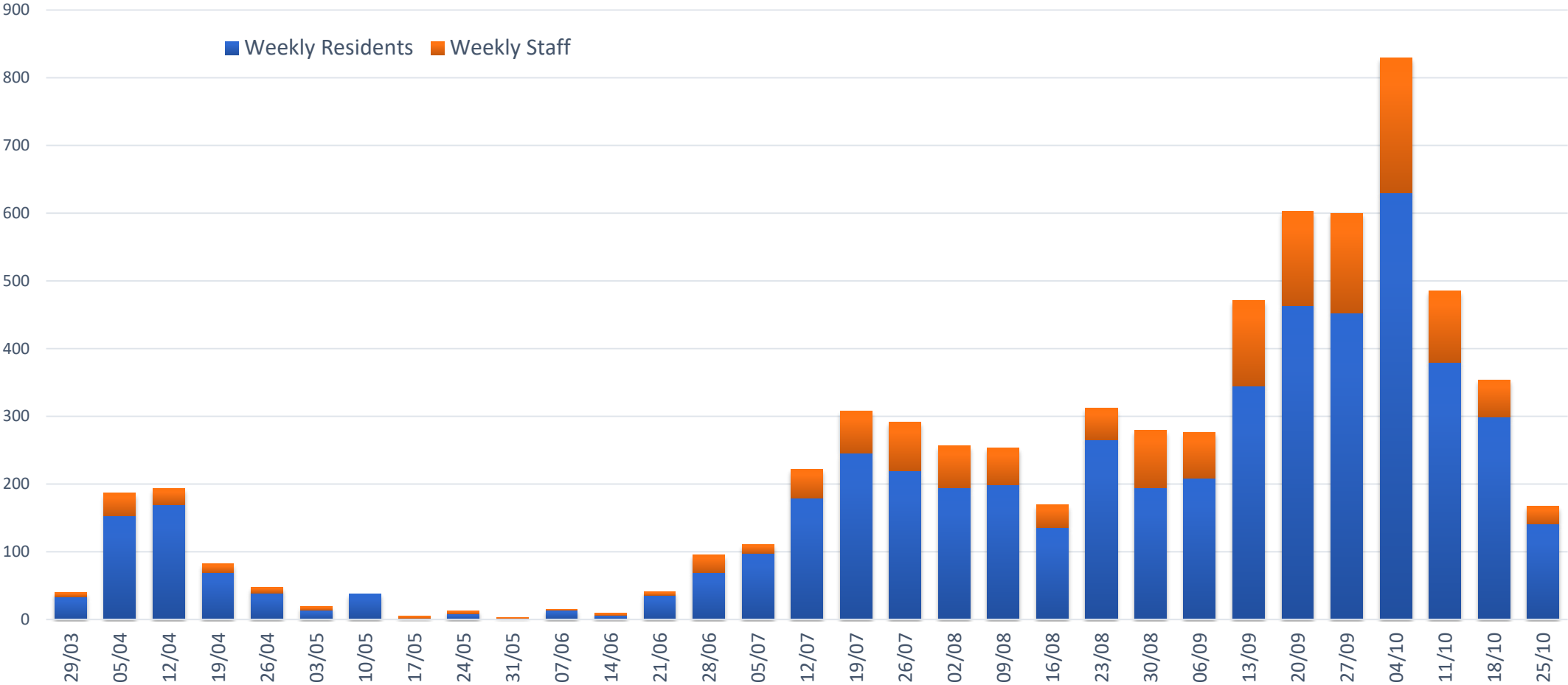
תכנית לאומית למתן מענה להגנה  
על דיירי מוסדות הנזיל השלישי

**המטה למאבק בקורונה**

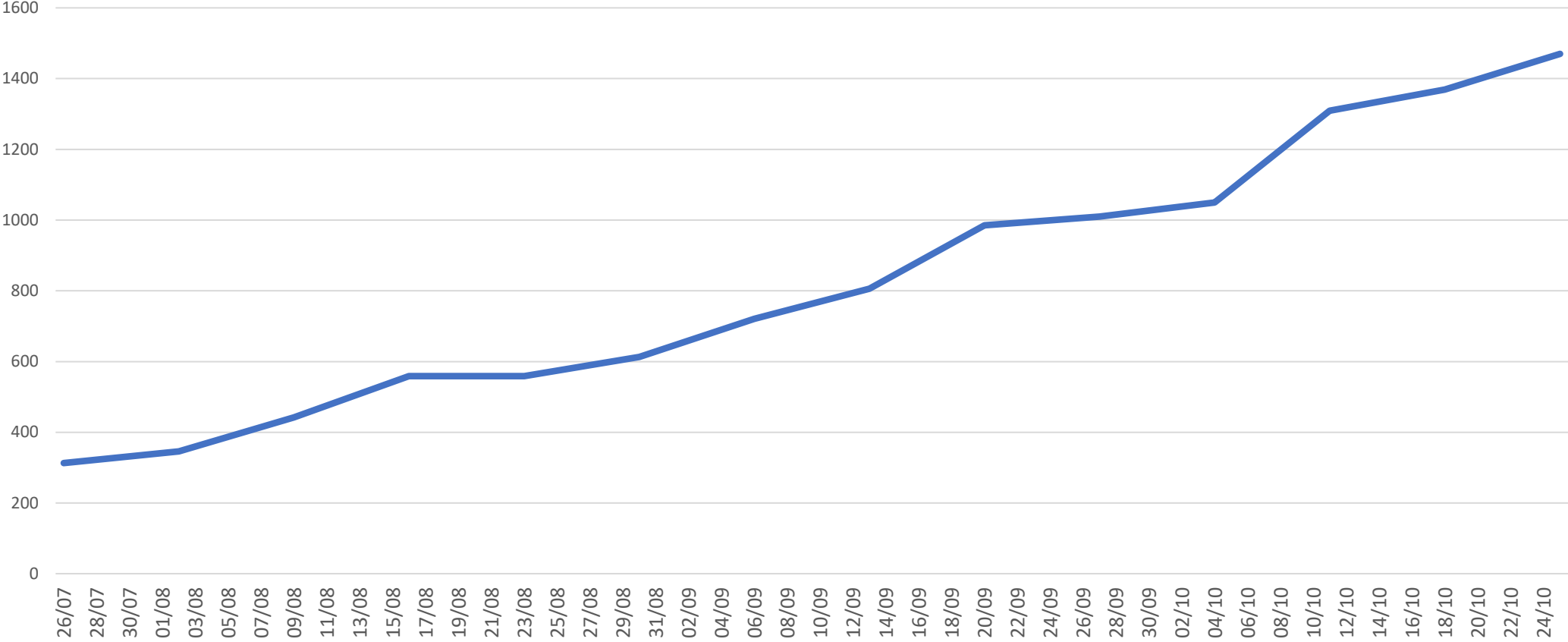
פרופ' חוני גמזו  
מנהל פרויקט מגן אבות ואימהות

משרד הבריאות | 20.4.2020

# SARS-CoV-2 confirmed cases of residents and staff members by week



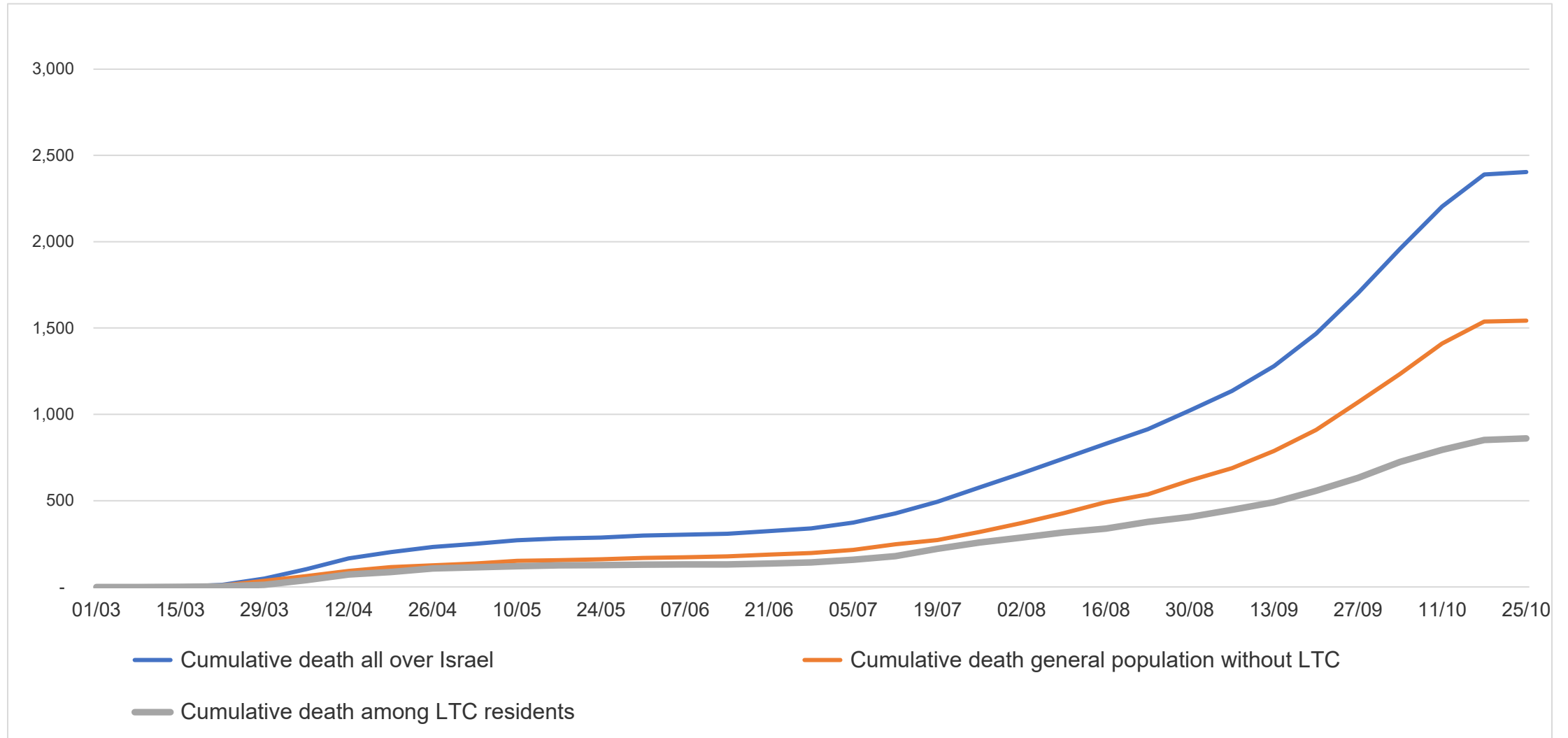
# LTC beds for mild and moderate Covid-19 patients



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



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



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# Italy

Elisabetta Notarnicola & Eleonora Perobelli

# What went **wrong** in the 1st wave in Italy

## Major issues in the 1st wave

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



**Prioritization** in the supply of PPE  
Still no plan to increase workforce supply



**Absence** of testing and screening for Covid-19 (in some cases was forbidden)



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.



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dell'Assistenza Sanitaria e Sociale



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# Latin-America

Peter Lloyd-Sherlock

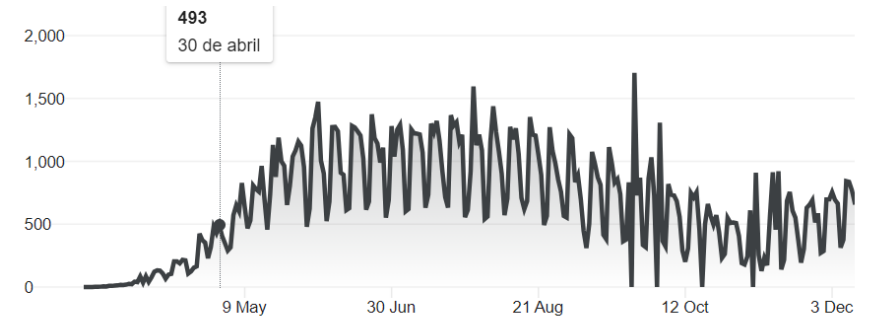




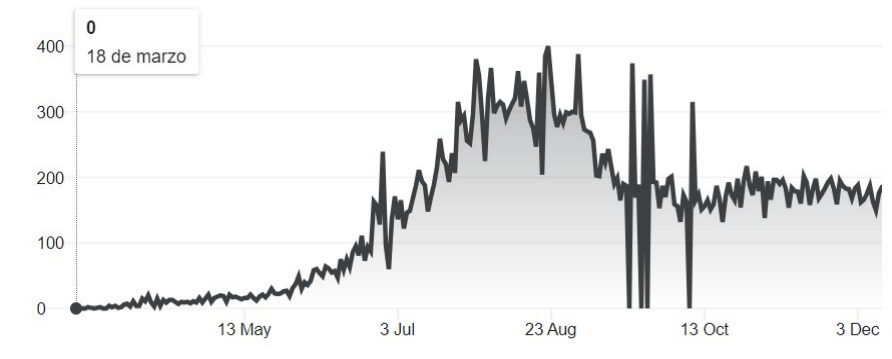
# Pandemic Waves

Peru: Wave 1 June to Sept

Brazil:



Colombia:





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# Malta

Maria-Aurora Fenech, @FenechMaria

## Malta & Gozo, 1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 recorded 7 Mar 2020

- 1) 32 LTC (4244 residents + 3021 caring staff)
- 2) 1 Larger LTC (1000+ residents & 1840 caring staff)

- **1<sup>st</sup> 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;
- **2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Luxemburg, 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.

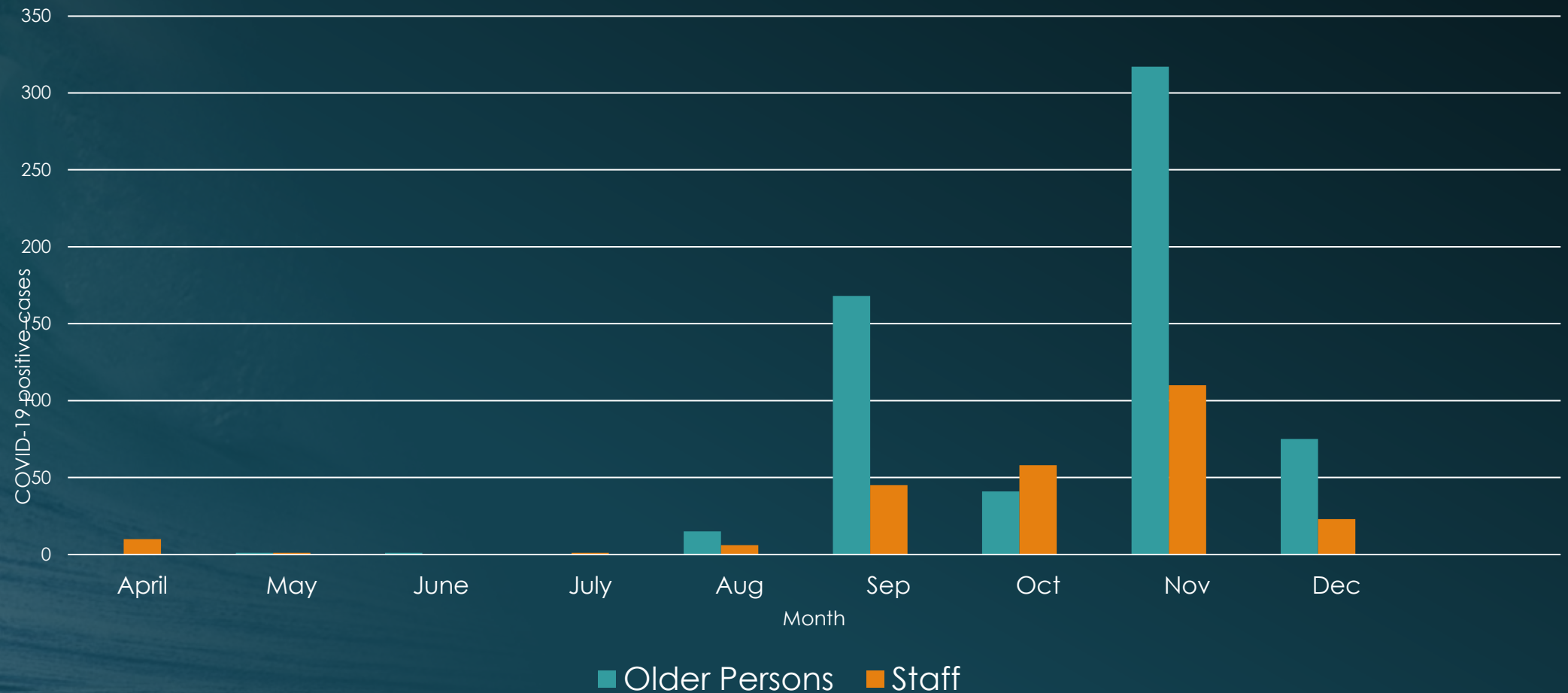
*Did we learn from the 1<sup>st</sup> wave, have things been better or worse in LTC/COVID during the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave, what has worked and what has not?*

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?*

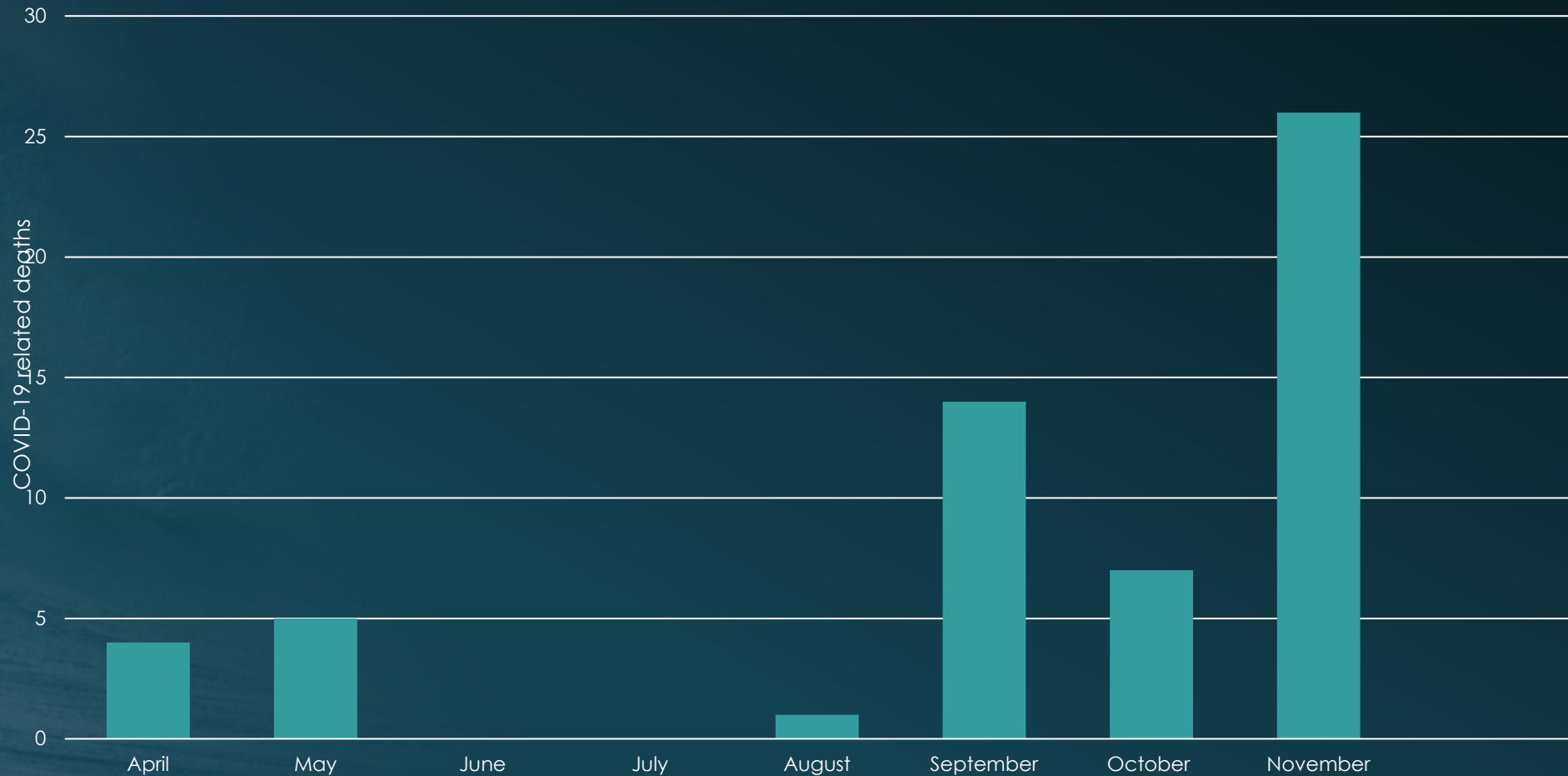
Clear strategy penned out by the authorities ; growing sceptics among the public and an equally growing number of caring staff not taking the vaccine; strong health promotion vaccination campaign is required.

# 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





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# Netherlands

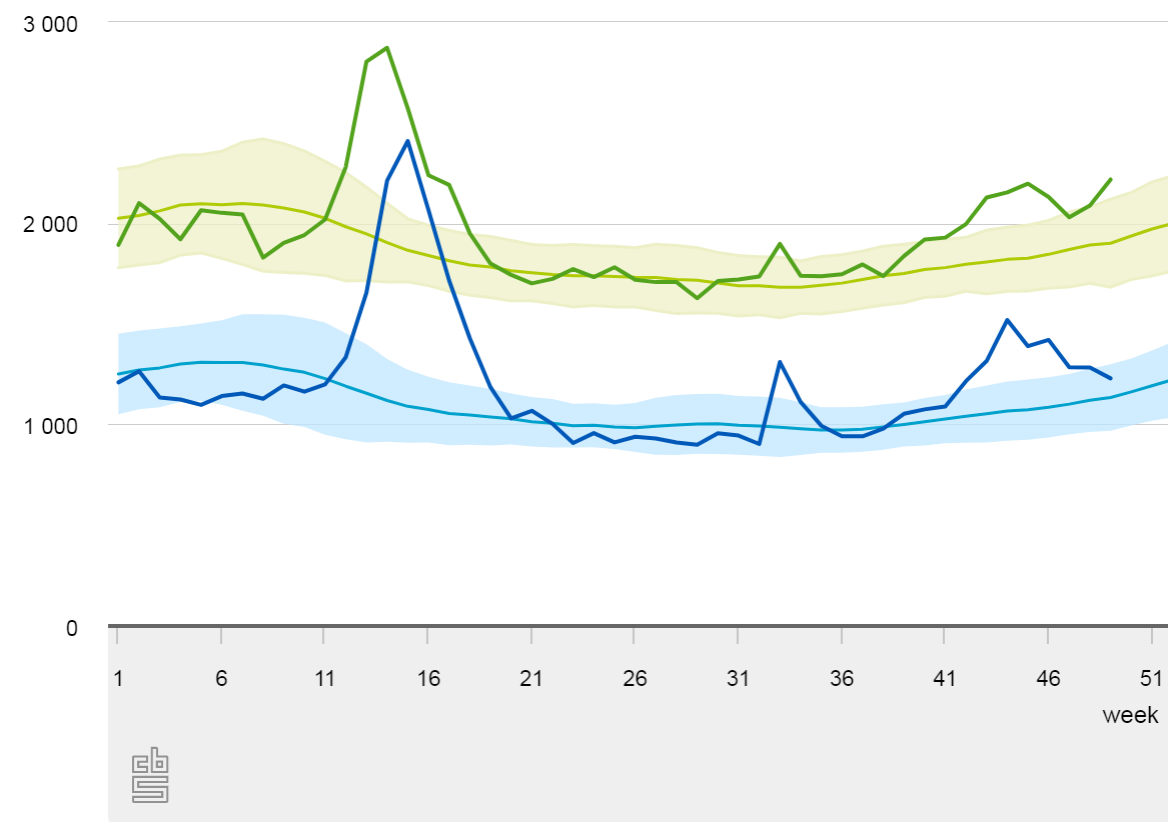
Florien Kruse, @FlorienKruse



# 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.

Overledenen per week, 2020\*



- Wlz-zorggebruikers overleden
- Wlz-zorggebruikers verwacht overleden
- Wlz-zorggebruikers verwacht (95%-interval)
- Overige bevolking overleden
- Overige bevolking verwacht overleden
- Overige bevolking verwacht overleden (95%-interval)

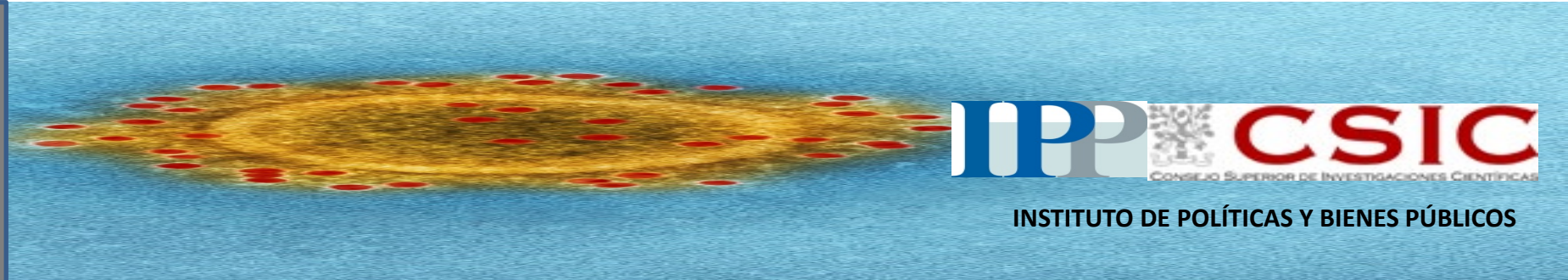
\* Voorlopige cijfers. Week 49 is een schatting.



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# 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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).
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wave has hit in a relatively milder way, but care homes still a cause for concern.

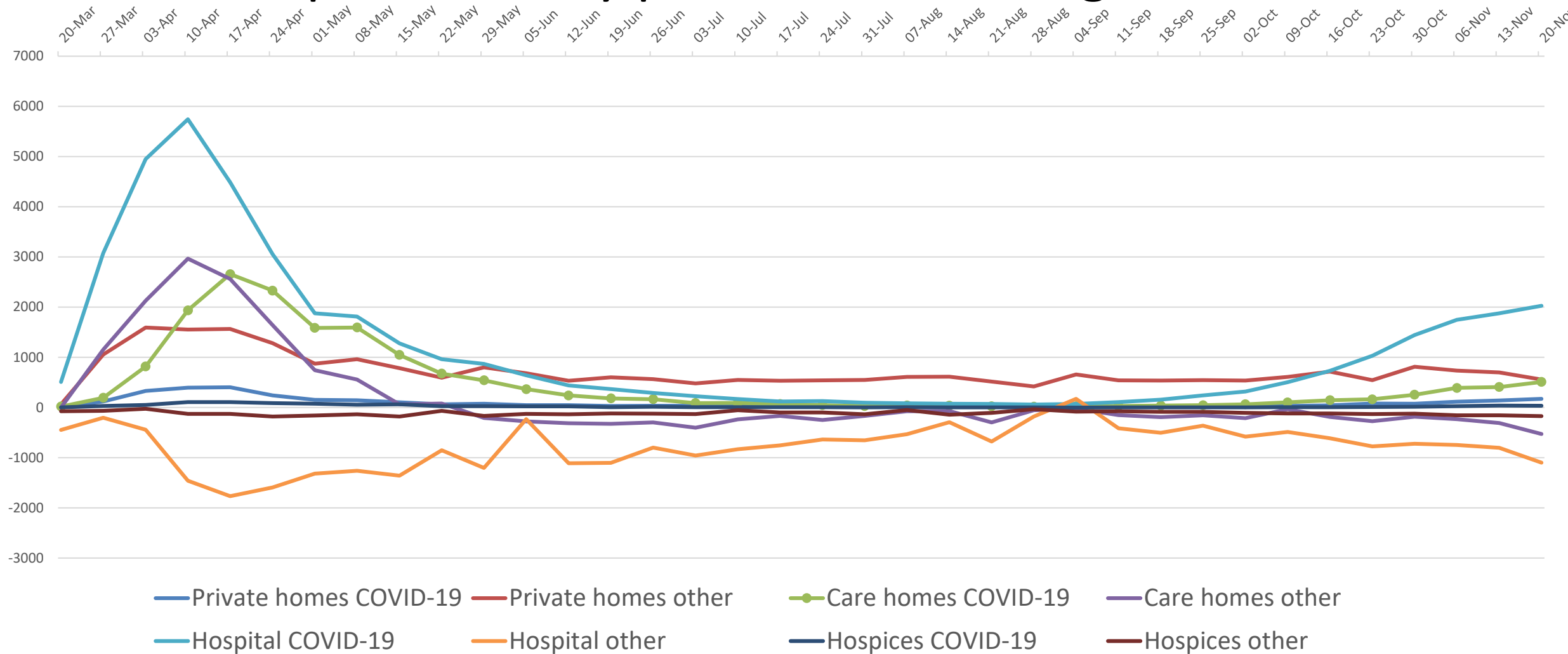


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# United Kingdom

David Bell, Adelina Comas-Herrera, Elizabeth Lemmon

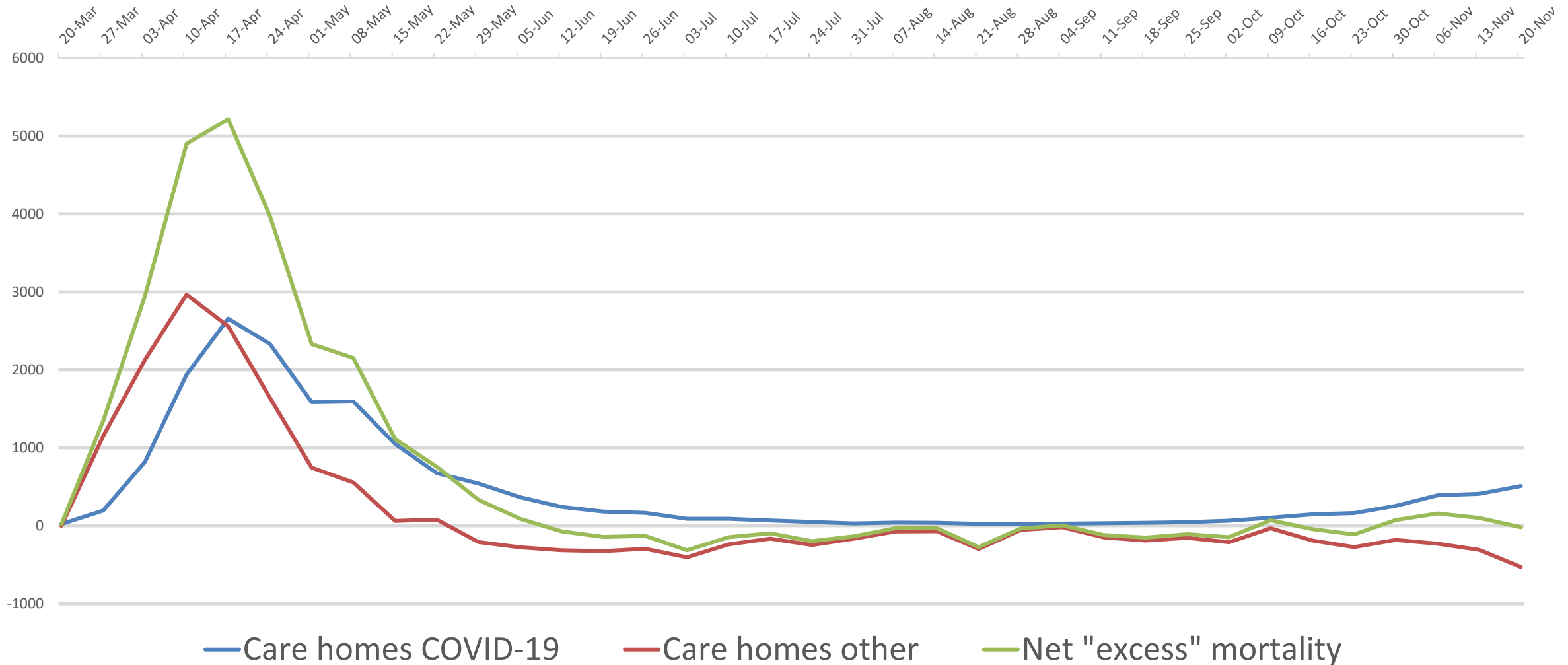
# Excess mortality in England during the COVID-19 pandemic by place of death, England



Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/mortality-surveillance/excess-mortality-in-england-latest.html>

Adelina Comas-Herrera, @adelinacoh

# Excess mortality in England during the COVID-19 pandemic in care homes, England



# COVID-19 IN SCOTLAND'S LTC SYSTEM

Elizabeth Lemmon  
University of Edinburgh  
David Bell  
University of Stirling

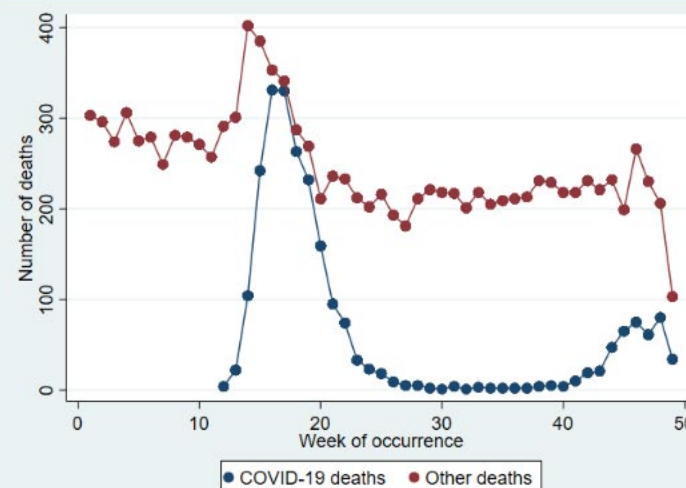
OF THOSE  
**2,393**

occured in care  
homes

BETWEEN WEEKS 12 AND 49

# 5,868

total confirmed or  
suspected COVID-19  
deaths



Elizabeth Lemmon  
David Bell



BUT, THERE WERE AT LEAST

2,686

suspected or  
confirmed COVID-19  
deaths of care home  
residents



*Elizabeth Lemmon  
David Bell*

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

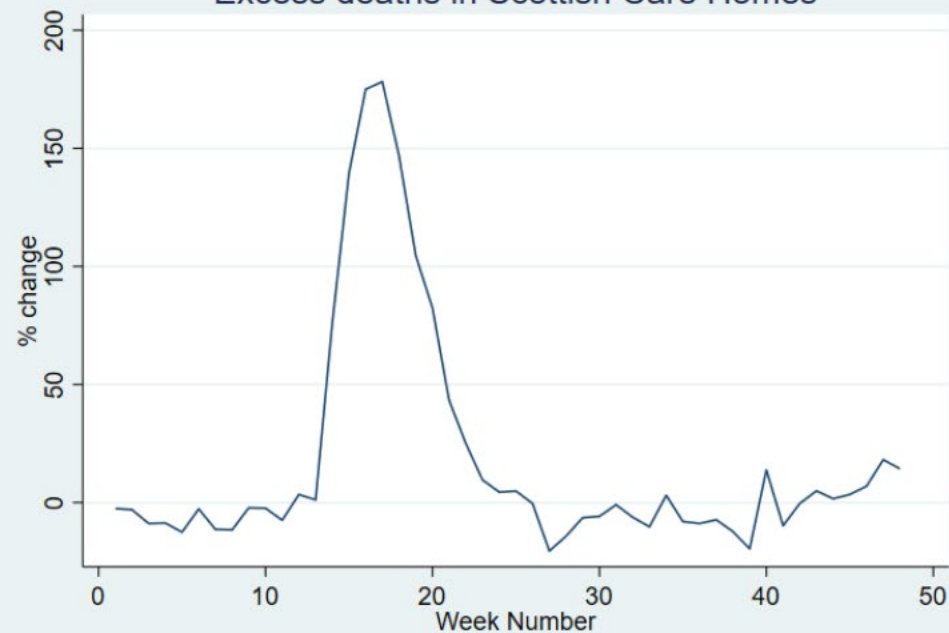
OVERALL, DEATHS IN CARE HOMES WERE

25%

higher compared to the previous 5-year average

Elizabeth Lemmon  
David Bell

Excess deaths in Scottish Care Homes



# 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.

*Elizabeth Lemmon  
David Bell*



Annie Innes said it was 'wonderful' to get the vaccine before Christmas

**A 90-year-old woman in South Lanarkshire has become the first care home resident to receive the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine.**

BBC News 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55293938>



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# United States of America

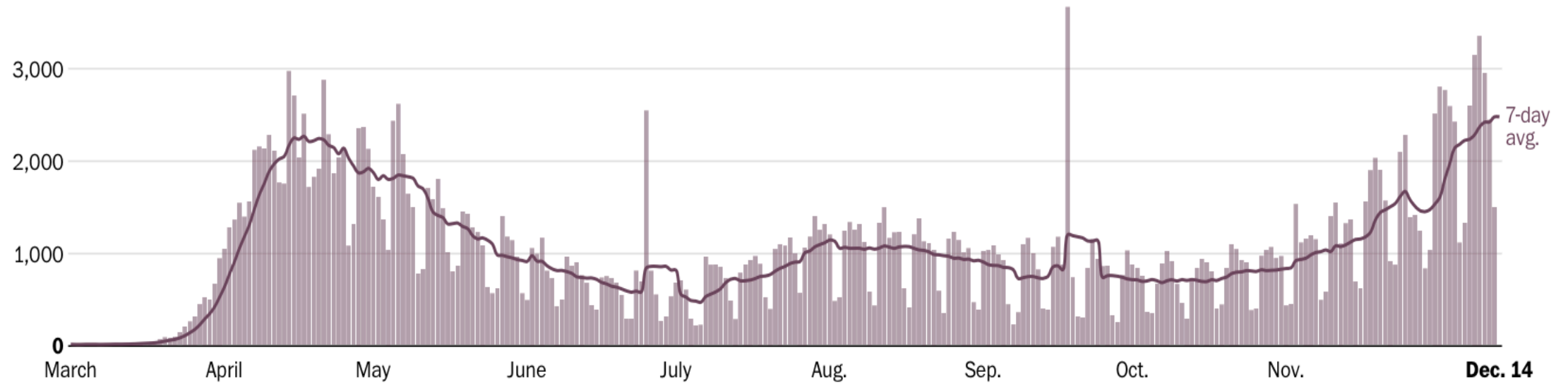
Greg Arling, Purdue University

David Anderson, Duke University

Mike Wasserman, @wassdoc

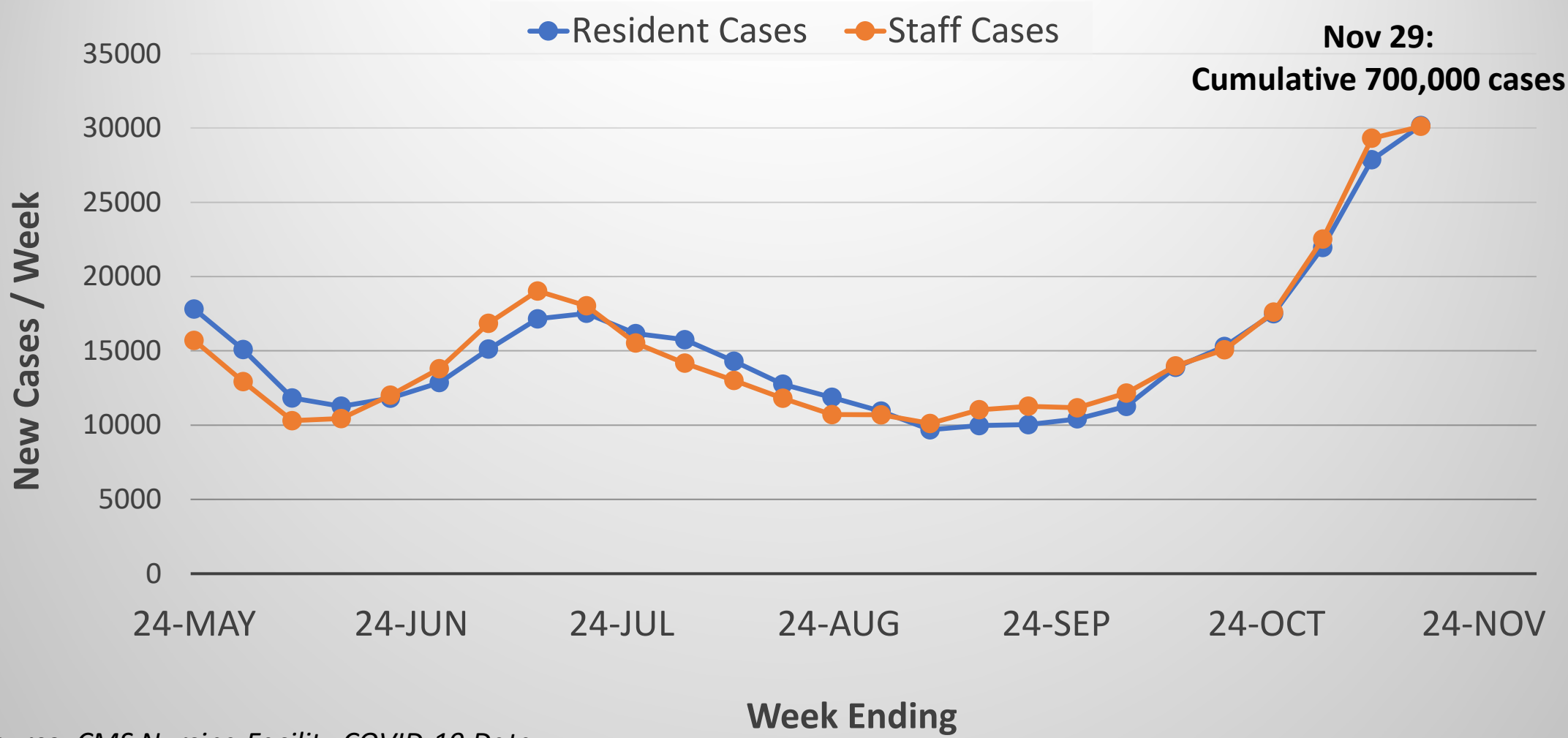
US – Daily COVID-19 Deaths in the Total Population  
(Washington Post, Accessed Dec 14)

**16.3 Million COVID-19 cases**  
**298,000 COVID-19 deaths**



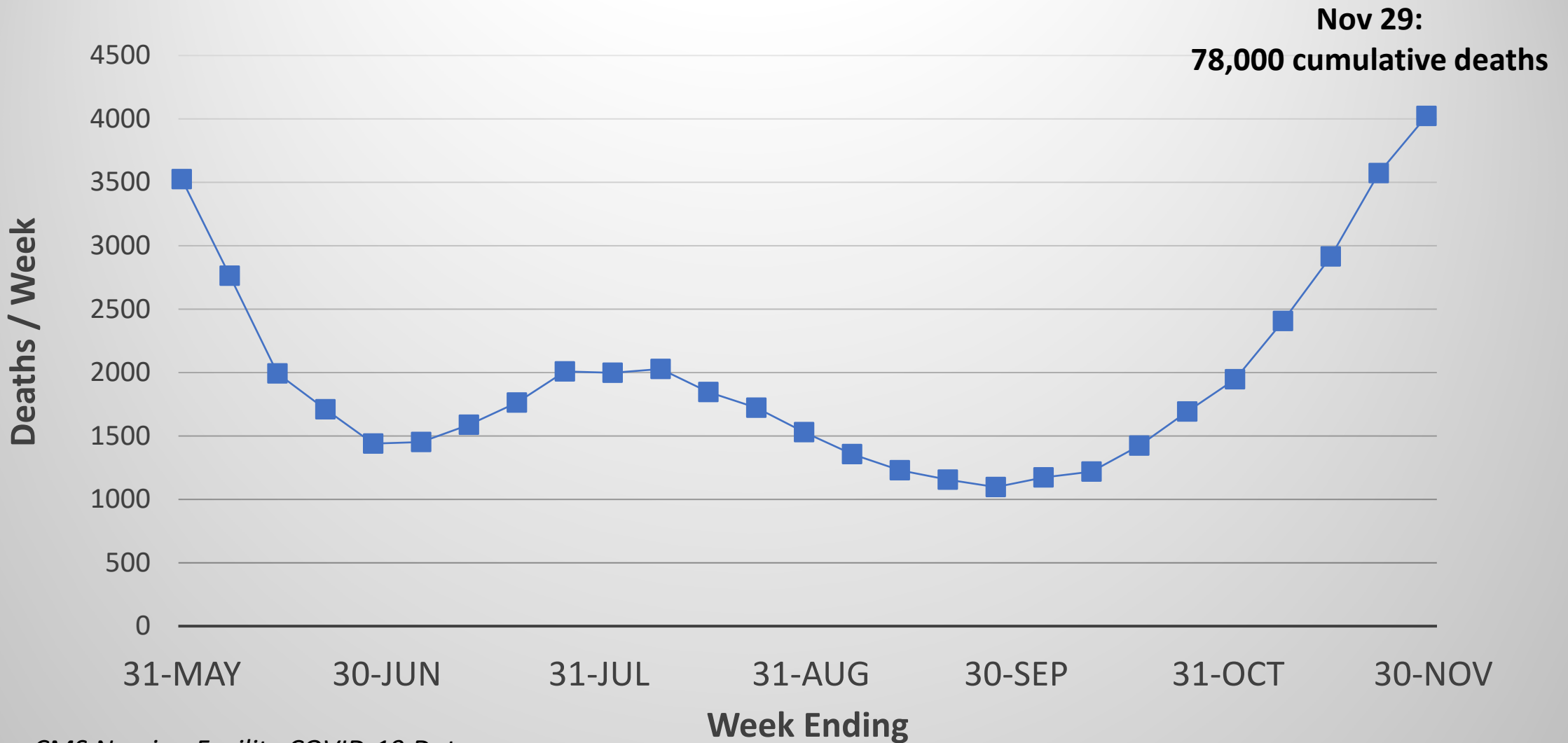
# United States - New Nursing Facility COVID-19 Cases / Week

Greg Arling



Source: CMS Nursing Facility COVID-19 Data

# United States - Nursing Facility Resident COVID-19 Deaths / Week *Greg Arling*



Source: CMS Nursing Facility COVID-19 Data



# 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

McGarry BE, SteelFisher GK, Grabowski DC, Barnett ML. COVID-19 Test Result Turnaround Time for Residents and Staff in US Nursing Homes. *JAMA Intern Med.* Published online October 30, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.7330



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

<https://www.caltcm.org/assets/CALTCM%20COVID19%20QUADRUPLE%20AIM%20FINAL.pdf>

<https://www.jnursinghomeresearch.com/2263-an-aspirational-approach-to-nursing-home-operations-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>





INTERNATIONAL  
LONG TERM CARE  
POLICY NETWORK

# Vaccination priorities and Long-Term Care

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### COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout: Long-Term Care Group Prioritization Plans (By Country)

	Care Home Residents	Care Home Staff	Care Partners of LTCF Residents	Unpaid Carers	Older People	People with Dementia	People using care in the community	People with Developmental Disabilities and Autism	Other Notable Populations
<b>USA</b>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
<b>Canada</b>	✓	✓			✓				✓ (indigenous communities)
<b>United Kingdom</b>	✓	✓			✓			✓ ("clinically vulnerable")	
<b>Australia</b>	✓	✓			✓				✓ (indigenous communities)
<b>Spain</b>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	

